

BARRE GAZETTE

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New electricity program coming to Rutland

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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RUTLAND – Starting in October, a new municipal aggregation program will launch in Rutland, where residents using National Grid Basic Service will be automatically enrolled.

The service will come from Direct Energy, and consulting service Good Energy which gave a presentation on Aug. 19.

Per the frequently asked questions sheet distributed at the public meeting, residents using National Grid should have received a letter in the mail about the new service, with instructions on how to opt-out. The deadline to opt out before the program begins is Sept. 12, but one can opt-out at any time with no penalty.

The representative from Good Energy said people should check contracts with their current providers in case there are early termination fees. The FAQ notes the reason this is an automatic enrollment program comes from a Massachusetts state law designed to give a town

See RUTLAND,
page 3

Annual Dinghy Dash returns to Brigham Pond



Turley Photos by Camren Robertson

Cherry Jackson, Avery Jackson and Ari Jackson paddled the Sailor's Sundae on Brigham Pond during the 9th annual Dinghy Dash. The Sailor's Sundae won "Most Creative Vessel."

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HUBBARDSTON – The 9th annual Dinghy Dash took place this past Saturday at Brigham Pond.

Participants in the Dinghy Dash made their own boats out of cardboard and duct

tape and tried to see if they could withstand the pond.

Katie Young runs the annual Dinghy Dash, which has always been held at Brigham Pond.

This year's event consisted of entries divided into three categories: single occupant adult, single occupant youth and group vessel.

Trophies were awarded to each category as well as gift card awards. There are also awards for best sink, extended voyage and the most creative vessel.

The participants of the Dinghy Dash put a lot of effort into their boats, choosing creative themes and names of their cardboard

and duct taped vessels. The course was set with bright yellow flag buoys on the pond.

While timed, the boaters had to complete the course by going around the buoys and back to the starting point.

Providing support on the pond during the Dinghy

Dash were members of the Hubbardston Fire Department. Members of the Fire Department were on a water raft to aid boaters in case they had their boats surrendered to the water.

Spectators surrounded

See DINGY DASH,
page 6

First Meetinghouse committee discusses warrant articles

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HUBBARDSTON – The First Meetinghouse Preservation Committee met last Tuesday to discuss placing articles on the special town meeting warrant, which closes on Sept. 17 with a town meeting date of Oct. 27.

The articles discussed

include building assessments and leveraging town funds for a Mass Historical Commission grant.

At the Aug. 18 meeting, committee member Susan Worth updated the rest of the board about her meeting with the Community Preservation Committee, as the First Meetinghouse committee has been working to get funds approved from the

Community Preservation Act account to leverage toward the MHC grant.

At that meeting, Worth said, the CPC recommended hiring a consultant to sequence necessary repairs, and to understand every part of the building is interconnected, and to not go into it with blinders.

Worth said there also seems to be consensus

between both committees that a structural assessment is needed, saying it has been talked about at various times since April 2025, so nearly a year and a half.

The assessment would look at current conditions, physical problems, recommendations for repair and cost estimates.

The other study would be done by an expert in historic

buildings, and would look at the sequence of construction, history, significance and the people behind the construction.

Worth said at the next CPC meeting on Sept. 17, she will recommend some of their funds to go toward consultants. Worth sits on both committees.

Since the special town meeting warrant closes on

the same day of the meeting, Select Board member Katie Young, who is the liaison for the committee, said they can submit placeholder articles, but they have to be close to what they are expecting to ask for.

Typically, the money amounts are in the motions, which are a separate draft

See HUBBARDSTON,
page 7

Change of manager approved for Whistle Stop

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – A public hearing was held Monday to approve a change of manager license for the Whistle Stop restaurant, which recently re-opened two weeks ago, to allow for

liquor to be sold on site.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the applicant made their payments and passed the CORI check. The license will now be sent to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission of Massachusetts before it is finalized.

Cable access/YouTube

At the Aug. 24 meeting, the board discussed the contract with a vendor who helps run the YouTube channel and cameras during Select Board meetings live.

There was confusion among the board members at the meeting of Aug. 10 about whether that vendor

had a contract. It was not on file anywhere, so it was unclear how much the vendor was being paid.

During the meeting, Caggiano received a text from the vendor, saying it is \$100 per meeting. According to Caggiano, the

See HARDWICK, page 8

School district prepares for first day of school

By Paula Ouimette
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – Superintendent Timothy McCormick said the administrative team "hit the ground running" back in May to fill staff vacancies over the summer for the start of the school year.

At the Aug. 17 School Committee meeting, McCormick said they have filled 15 positions to date.

He gave the School Committee an update on staff training, including Investigative History, a high-quality instructional material curriculum.

"We're excited about this," McCormick said.

This curriculum is for grades three through seven, and is made possible with support from the One8 Foundation.

McCormick said the school district is also phasing in its second Career Pathway in healthcare and social assistance. He said healthcare is one of the top job sectors in the region right now.

"There is a definite need for people to go into these Career Pathways and again, we want to set up our students for success," he said.

McCormick said the school district received a \$15,000 support grant for this program, and he expects to phase it in for the 2027-2028 school year.

He said they have also received a \$50,000 grant for an Advanced Manufacturing Pathway, which just concluded its first year with "great success."

McCormick said this grant will offset some salaries and supplies. He said the school district is using a new student information system called School Insights. He said information will be sent out to families to register their students.

McCormick said the school district is also launch-

See FIRST DAY OF
SCHOOL, page 7

UMASS professor discusses drought and water supplies



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

UMASS Amherst Professor Konstantinos Andreadis provided a presentation on drought and water supplies at the Belchertown Town Hall.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Town Hall hosted a presentation on drought and water supplies this past week.

Giving the presentation is Professor Konstantinos Andreadis of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Andreadis has been with UMASS Amherst for nine years and his research focuses on hydrology, water resources, drought, and climate impacts.

Many Belchertown res-

See DROUGHT, page 10



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News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Aug. 27 is last day for early voting

The last day to vote via early voting is Thursday, Aug. 27 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This date was omitted in the dates for early voting. Also Aug. 20 was incorrectly listed as a date for early voting under Public Meetings.

Lions Club Car Show

The Barre Lions Club annual car show takes place Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., rain or shine on the Barre Common. All types of vehicles are welcome. The entry fee is \$15 to show and spectators are free. They'll be a DJ, a huge raffle table, T-shirts, a 50/50 and swag bags for all entrants. People's Choice plaques will be awarded at the end of the show. For more information, people may email barremalionsclub@aol.com.

Barre Historical Society yard sale

The Barre Historical Society and Museum, Common Street, will hold a yard sale fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 12. They organized areas of interest such as: a collectibles table of antique or slightly more valuable items, a jewelry table, kitchen wares including pots and pans, dishes, dish sets, serving platters, etc., smaller pieces of quality furniture, vintage stereo items, quality clothing, electronics and tools, Christmas and other holiday decorations and so much more. The Historical Society seeks both a coffee setup and a lunch sponsor to keep their hard-working volunteers energized at the upcoming fundraiser yard sale day on Sept. 12.

Life Saving Awards

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, the Barre Police Department will be awarding Life Saving Awards to multiple Barre Police, Barre Fire and a civilian, at the Select Board scheduled for that evening.

Fr. H. Edward Chalmers

Father H. Edward Chalmers on Monday, Aug. 31 at 6:30 p.m. will offer a reflection on the history of the Franciscans in Medjugorje at St. Francis of Assisi Parish St. Joseph's Church, 29 South St., Barre. The program is in the church hall and people should use the side door.

Paige Memorial Library lists ongoing programs

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, has celebrated the Hardwick Community Fair, the Hardwick Fair-y Village, and Summer Reading which ended with a fun Field Day.

Library staff are grateful to the Friends of the Paige Library and to all the volunteers who made those activities possible.

As summer winds down and schools open, the Paige Memorial Library will continue to offer programs and resources for all. Homeschoolers can access books and materials through the library and through Interlibrary Loan.

Ongoing programs

The library's Wednesday morning Story Hour and activities begin at 11 a.m. with "getting to know you time" at 10:30 a.m. The Book Sale is also ongoing, though smaller.

The Book Club and the Cookbook Club meet monthly. The Paige Writers meet every other week. Friends of the Paige Memorial Library, the Movie Committee, the new Hardwick Gardening Club, and the PML Volunteers are open to new members.

Upcoming events

Coming in September will be the Wendell Warriors African Drumming Workshop with Jafar Manselle and Massachusetts Good Neighbor Day on Sept. 26.

For more information, stop by the library; visit www.paigelibrary.com or Facebook; email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com; or call 413-477-6704.

www.turley.com

‘Glow Ball’ tournament fundraiser to be held Aug. 29

BARRE – Quabbin Area Little League is holding its annual “Glow Ball” fundraising event for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute on Saturday, Aug. 29 at Felton Field, 120 Old Coldbrook Road.

The Quabbin Area Little League's summer baseball program, the Jimmy Fund Baseball League, culminates each year with a dedicated fundraising event. This initiative is entirely focused on generating vital funds for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, supporting their critical research and patient care programs.

Check-in starts at 5 p.m. and games start at 7 p.m. The game features specialized glow-in-the-dark balls, and all participants are adorned with luminous

bracelets and necklaces, creating an electrifying visual experience.

This six-team, double elimination tournament is a glow-in-the-dark modified wiffle ball game.

The game itself is designed for rapid-paced play, allowing for a five-inning game to conclude in approximately 35 minutes. There are no age restrictions, no prior skill level is required, and all necessary equipment is provided.

For a nominal fee of \$10, anyone can participate and enjoy this unique, community-focused event.

This year, they are elevating the experience further by incorporating black light technology, reducing reliance on traditional glow

sticks. Field lines will be marked with fluorescent paint, and in addition to glow accessories, players will receive black light-reactive face paint.

They encourage participants to wear fluorescent or white clothing to maximize the vibrant visual effect under the black lights.

Following registration, teams are formed in a “sandlot” style, guided by six designated captains, ensuring a balanced and fair competition. The festive atmosphere commences upon arrival, promising an evening of spirited play and community engagement.

Food and drinks will be available for cash purchase.



Submitted photo

The Worcester Winds, a dectet of two flutes, two clarinets, two oboes, two bassoon and two French horns, performs Aug. 30 at 3 p.m. in the First Congregational Church, 144 North Main St., North Brookfield.

Worcester Winds performs Aug. 30

N O R T H B R O O K F I E L D – Worcester Winds, a wind dectet of professional music teachers and musicians from Worcester County, performs a concert on Sunday, Aug. 30 at 3 p.m. in the First Congregational Church,

144 North Main St.

Admission is free, and the concert is funded in part by the North Brookfield Cultural Council, a local agency, which receives funding from Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Conducted by Luis

Torres, the group consist of two flute, two clarinets, two oboes, two bassoons and two French horns. They will perform music by Arnold, Debussy, Bizet, Bernard, Pierme, and Maestro Torres. For more information, people may visit worcesterwinds.org.

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 Aug. 31. Lunches are back at the senior center, but require a pre-sign up. Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MONDAY – Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, peaches, Italian bread

TUESDAY – Meatballs with onion gravy, bowtie pasta, roasted Brussels sprouts, Ricke Krispy Treat, marble rye bread

WEDNESDAY – Marinated pork loin, cornbread stuffing, California vegetables, cinnamon struesel cake, diet = Lorna Doones, dinner roll

THURSDAY – Barbecue chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, fresh fruit, corn muffin

FRIDAY – Hot dog on bun, baked beans, Coleslaw, baked apples, mustard

*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$3.00 per meal helps keep the program running.

Final ‘Concerts on the Common’ performance to be held on Aug. 29

N O R T H B R O O K F I E L D – North Brookfield Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with North Brookfield Cultural Council, will be hosting Concerts on the Common this summer season.

A Mass Cultural Council grant is making

these concerts possible for all residents to enjoy.

The final concert will be held on Saturday, Aug. 29 from 3-5 p.m. with the Superchargers, a fun rock and roll band.

This concert is free and food will be available for purchase, but folks are welcome to bring their own.

Feel free to bring chairs, blankets, bug spray and sunscreen – whatever makes you comfortable.

The playground is right on the common, located on Grove Street in town. There will also be games for families to enjoy and some surprise craft tables during some concerts.



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Sunday School resumes Sept. 13

Sunday School Superintendent Heather Stewart announces the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Sunday School resumes Sunday, Sept. 13 at 10 a.m. All children are welcome to attend. There will be special refreshments following the Sunday worship service and Sunday School.

Final concert

The final concert of the summer concert series features The Otters on Thursday, Aug. 27 at 6:30-8 p.m. The concert was postponed due to weather last Thursday Popcorn and cold drinks will be sold.

Election information

The State Primary Election will be held Tuesday, Sept. 1 with the polls open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Early voting and the last day to register to vote is Saturday, Aug. 22 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Early voting also will take place Monday, Aug. 24 from 2-7 p.m. at the Oakham Town Hall.

COA cookout

The COA will be hosting a Labor Day cookout on Friday, Sept. 4 at 12:30 p.m. People should call the Senior Center at 508-882-4073 to sign up for an accurate head count.

Town wide yard sale

The town wide yard sale sponsored by the Oakham Historical Association will be held Saturday, Aug. 22 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.. To be on the map, people should send \$15 to Oakham Historical Association. P.O. Box 236, Oakham, MA 00168. Checks must be received by Monday, Aug. 17 to be placed on the map. People may call Kathy Young at 508–882–3137 with any questions.

Senior Center news

Blood pressure/glucose screening clinic takes place Tuesday Aug. 25 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. no appointment is required. 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.

Library hosts story time and science playgroup

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library. 45 Memorial Drive, restarts their monthly preschool story hour on Monday, Sept. 14 at 11:30 a.m.

Children enjoy a story, craft and independent playtime. All are welcome and parental supervision is required.

The library will host the CFCE MOC coordinated science playgroup on Monday, Sept. 28 at 10:30 a.m.. The target age group is 6 and under.

All are welcome and parental supervision is required.

Editorial deadline reminder

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



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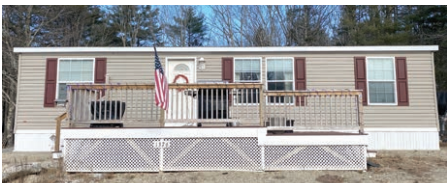


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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Early voting – Aug. 27 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Government Structure and Cost Advisory Committee – Aug. 31 at 1 p.m.
Election Day – Sept. 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Board of Assessors – Sept. 1 at 6 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – Sept. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – Sept. 2 at 12:30 p.m.
Board of Registers – Sept. 3 at 6 p.m.
Select Board – Sept. 8 at 5 p.m.
Library Trustees – Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – Sept. 10 at 1 p.m.
Board of Health – Sept. 14 at 5 p.m.
Water Commission – Sept. 14 at 5:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – Sept. 14 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board – Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Master Plan Steering Committee – Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m.
Capital Planning Committee – Aug. 31 and Sept. 21 at 3 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – Sept. 1 at 6:30 p.m. and Sept. 3 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – Sept. 2 at 12:30 p.m.
Board of Health – Sept. 3 at 6:15 p.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – Sept. 9 at 3 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – Sept. 15 at 5:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Open Space Committee – Aug. 27 at 7 p.m.
Select Board – Aug. 31 and Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – Sept. 1 and Sept. 28 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board – Sept. 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Library Trustees – Sept. 3 at 7 p.m.
First Meeting House Preservation Committee – Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
Community Preservation Committee – Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

State Primary Early Voting – Aug. 27 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Election Day – Sept. 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Rep. Donnie Berthiaume Office Hours – Sept. 8 at 1:30 p.m.

OAKHAM

Board of Health – Aug. 27 and Sept. 10 at 6 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – Aug. 28 at 10 a.m.
State Primary – Sept 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Aug. 27 at 5:30 p.m. and Sept. 12 at 9 a.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals – Aug. 27 at 7 p.m.
State Primary Election – Sept. 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Open Space and Recreation Committee – Sept. 1 at 6 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Sept. 1 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Sept. 1 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – Sept.. 8 at 11 a.m.
Council on Aging – Sept. 14 at 1 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – Sept. 17 at 6 p.m.
Board of Assessors – Oct. 2 at 9 a.m.

RUTLAND

Events Committee – Aug. 27 at 6 p.m.
State Primary – Sept. 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Planning Board – Sept. 2 at 6 p.m.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

The Creamery Road bridge that connects the towns of Hardwick and New Braintree reopened after being closed for over two years.

Creamery Road bridge opens to traffic

HARDWICK / NEW BRAINTREE – The Department of Transportation announced the completion of the new Creamery Road bridge, which connects the towns of Hardwick and New Braintree over the Ware River.

This 100-foot single lane bridge replaced the previous bridge that was built in 1939, and closed in April 2024 due to structural and safety concerns. This closure resulted in a four-mile detour.

The project included new concrete bridge railings, guardrails and improvements to both approaches to the bridge. It also provides improved conditions for wildlife passage beneath the bridge.

MassDOT reported that the project was completed on budget and on schedule.



The new bridge spanning the Ware River opened for traffic last week.



The one-lane bridge connects Creamery Road in Gilbertville to Unitas Road in New Braintree.

RUTLAND from page 1

more buying power.

Residents who use another supplier are not automatically enrolled, but they can join by using the rutlandcommunityelectricity.com site or calling 508-356-4681. Opt-out forms and other information about the program are available on that site.

Residents can also return by mail the opt-out card found in the letter or call the supplier at 866-968-8065.

The options

There are three options residents can choose from. People who take no action will be put into the Rutland Standard program, which costs 16.239 cents per kilowatt hour, and adds 10% renewable energy to the state minimum. The state minimum is 69%, so this option provides 79%.

Rutland Basic is the cheapest option at 15.837 cents per kilowatt hour, and provides the minimum renewable energy.

Rutland Plus is the most expensive at 16.904 cents per kilowatt hour and provides 100% renewable energy. The representative said this is the most expensive option because the renewable energy market is still growing.

Residents can switch between the options at any time.

The renewable energy comes mostly from Massachusetts, with some in neighboring New England states, mostly from solar, wind and some hydropower, according to the representative. She also said on average, about 1% of customers choose the 100% option.

According to the Good Energy representative, all

of the options are cheaper than the current National Grid Basic cost, but National Grid updates their prices every six months.

The Rutland Community Electricity prices are locked until November 2027, where a new contract will likely be negotiated, but the representative noted savings cannot be guaranteed.

The delivery portion of the bill also does not change because that is still controlled by National Grid.

Town Administrator Heather Butler said this program was designed to bring stable pricing, and the plan was approved by a Select Board meeting in August 2025. Outreach for the program was provided by mail, a press release and posted in the town hall, per the Good Energy representative.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Art Show takes place Sept. 26

The Cultural Council of Hubbardston is holding an Art Show at the Meeting House, on the Common, on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The show will focus on local artisans and sponsors are the Council on Aging and the Cultural Council, both of Hubbardston. The theme is based on historical barns of Hubbardston. Those who wish to exhibit should call Cindy at 978-928-5526 for information or to reserve a spot at the event. All are welcome.

Field Day

The Annual Field Day sponsored by the Hubbardston Lions Club takes place on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Curtis Field, 20 Gardner Road, Hubbardston. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 20. There will be food, games, live music and vendors. For more information or to reserve a space, people may email sue.hubblions@gmail.com or text 603-361-1217.

Historical Society

On Friday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. the Hubbardston Historical Society offers a History at Play presentation with Deborah Sampson, entitled “A Revolution of Her Own” at the Williamsville Chapel 4 Burnshirt Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program starts at 7 p.m.. People may RSVP to hubbhistory1767@gmail.com. This program is partially funded by the Hubbardston Cultural Council.

Game night

First Meeting House, 2 Main St., holds a game night fundraiser on Friday, Aug. 28 from 5-8 p.m. Suggested donation \$20 a family, \$5 a single person. People can unplug, reconnect with board games and card games. This is family fun and a chance to meet fellow towns people. play an old favorite or learn a new game. This is a great way to finish the summer before school starts Light refreshments are available.

Fall boutique and yard sale

Hub bardston Seniors are collecting items for their fall boutique and yard sale. Items may be dropped off at the Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St. is now collecting items from now through Sept. 25 for their fall boutique to be held Sept. 25, 26 and 27. Gently used, clean clothing, shoes, pocket-books, and other items are welcomed. The seniors remind donors that the items should be in good condition; items they would buy for themselves. Key times to drop off items are Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. This annual fundraiser has been a big success and all the profits go toward upgrading and keeping the Senior Center in great condition. Some of the proceeds go toward special events for the town’s seniors; many programs are free of charge. Also, on these dates there will be a huge Yard Sale that will include a bake sale, luncheon and other items for all ages such as toys, gifts, household goods and games. Electronics and large or fabric furniture will not be accepted.

Senior Center news

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.

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.

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Opinion



Preservation questions are popular this time of year

Dawn, who gardens in Tolland, asked a few questions of the Garden Lady this past week.

You see, this is the first year in three years that Dawn has a had a productive garden. Her former garden was too far from the house to be tended. It was tricky to irrigate and animals often found their way through or under the fence.

Dawn’s hard work ended up being a hearty meal for woodchucks and more. Now, with raised beds close to her house, she is grateful for a bountiful harvest.

First, she wanted to be reminded how to roast tomatoes.

I enjoy roasting my cherry tomatoes; it’s a great way to use them up when they produce like gangbusters.

Depending on the size, I either cut them in half or quarters and put them no more than two rows deep in a roasting pan. I sprinkle a teaspoon or two of extra virgin olive oil over the tomatoes and then I add half an onion and two-three cloves of garlic.

After mixing all the ingredients together, I bake at 400 degrees for about an hour, stirring midway. You know when it is done when the skins pucker and there is very little liquid left. Now you can either eat it this way, say over pasta or rice, or you can zip it up with a few basil leaves and you have made your own sauce.

No need to de-seed or remove the skins. Just think, all that added fiber and goodness, with less work to boot!

You can tailor your roasting to suite your own taste buds as well. Some folks add chopped peppers or eggplant.

Certainly you can use any type of tomato, too and add additional herbs or spices.

Speaking of peppers, Dawn also wanted to know how to roast peppers. It’s a little different from tomatoes.

Peppers roast best when they are fully ripe – i.e., when they have changed color. I have mentioned it before, but my favorite roasting pepper is “Carmen,” a long bell pepper with thick walls.

Simply wash the fruits and position them whole in a single layer under the broiler, turning frequently until they bubble up and char slightly. This can also be accomplished on a gas grill or as my husband will attest, over the flame of your kitchen gas stove.

Once charred, place them in a paper bag or covered container. The steam will soften the skin to the point it can be rubbed off,

revealing yummy, thick flesh.

Pull off the stem and remove the seeds and voila! Roasted red peppers are yours to freeze.

I just blot mine dry and put them in single servings in plastic freezer bags. The fruit is easily thawed by placing the bag into a shallow basin of water; likewise, you can pop the pepper popsicle on to a plate and let it thaw in the fridge.

Roasted peppers are fantastic on homemade pizza or blended into hummus.

I shared with Dawn that I was making pickles. She went on to say that hers never turn out well, so I

texted her a copy of a recipe given to me by a dear coworker over 20 years ago. I am still making them.

I’m not sure who originally gave Ron the recipe, but here it is for anyone wanting to use up an abundance of cucumbers. I’ve made it with full size cukes as well as picklers.

I would recommend that you fill your canning jars, be it quart or half gallon, with the cucumbers first. They can be packed tightly.

Then, add plain water to the jar all the way to the rim. Dump the water out into a large measuring cup to see just how much liquid you need.

Then you can adjust the other ingredients to the ratio in the recipe. I learned this trick the hard way after wasting ingredients because I didn’t need quite a double recipe.

Ron’s Pickle Recipe
Ingredients:
14-16 cucumbers
8 teaspoons pickling spice
6 dill tops
6 cloves garlic
2 teaspoons sugar
4 tablespoons Kosher salt
1 cup vinegar
5 cups water
Instructions:
Combine all ingredients into canning jars. Shake and leave on counter for 36 hours. Refrigerate for two days before eating. Will keep in the fridge for a few months although the flavor will intensify with storage.

Enjoy the harvest as much as Dawn is!

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.

NEWS & FEATURES

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

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



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

In Past Pages

5 years (Sept. 2, 2021)

At their meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 25, Hardwick selectmen approved emergency medical services agreements with Ware and Barre, who will be sharing coverage of the town. Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley joined the meeting virtually to discuss the emergency medical services agreement between Hardwick and Ware. Quink said the agreement contract has been reviewed by both towns and KP Law. Quink requested a brief meeting with all involved parties, saying there has been confusion about which town is covering Hardwick at the moment. She said they do not have a signed agreement with Barre for EMS services yet, so they should be following the original agreement with Ware.

The Baker-Polito Administration recently announced \$9.7 million in grants from the Skills Capital Grant Program to 47 educational organizations across the Commonwealth to update equipment and expand student enrollment in programs that provide career education. One of the 47 recipients was Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School, the area’s popular vocational-technical school, serving more than 1,400 students from 18 cities and towns. These awards mark \$102 million in total funding provided to high schools, colleges and other educational organizations since the program’s inception in 2015. Of that, Monty Tech has received more than \$2 million, improving eight of the school’s twenty-one training programs. The Skills Capital Grant Program was original-

Look Back
Vietnam Veteran Memorial – 2022



File photo

This sign marks the future location of a Vietnam Veteran Memorial to be erected on Hubbardston’s Common.

ly launched in 2015 with the goal of replacing outdated equipment and technology, mainly at vocational technical high schools and community colleges. Since then, the program has evolved into a crucial component of local workforce training efforts by expanding the number of young people and adults trained and experienced with the newest technologies used by local employers.

Thomas Henry, a resident of Wilbraham, is the newest addition to the marketing team at North Brookfield Savings Bank. North Brookfield Savings Bank announces the hiring of Thomas Henry as digital

marketing manager, graphic designer to the bank’s marketing department headquartered in North Brookfield. “Tom’s extensive background and broad knowledge in the financial services industry strengthens our Marketing Team, allowing us to continue to grow our presence within Massachusetts and Connecticut,” said North Brookfield Savings Bank President Marco Bernasconi. “I am confident he will be a key team member to our continued success.” Henry is a graduate of Franklin Pierce University and holds a bachelor’s degree in graphic communications.

See PAST PAGES, page 5

We were bitten by Medicare’s IRMAA this year; What should I so?

Dear Rusty:

My wife and I file our taxes jointly.

In 2024, I took an IRA Required Minimum Distribution, which was significantly more than I was required to take.

My Medicare premiums were not affected in 2025 and our Social Security payments were not reduced. Then, our joint filing in 2025 kept us below the IRS’ “Modified Adjusted Gross Income level. Yet in 2026 our Medicare payments increased and our Social Security payments were reduced.

If my MAGI is below the maximum for 2025, will my regular SS payments/Medicare reductions be restored in 2027? Is there any action I need to take to



ensure this will happen or will our Medicare payments and reduced SS payments be our new norm?

Signed: Worried Retiree

Dear Worried Retiree:

FYI, your Medicare premiums in 2026 were affected by the large RMD you took in 2024, which caused a Medicare provision known as the “Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount” to apply for 2026.

When determining the Medicare Part B premium

for next year (each fall), Medicare uses the income you reported to the IRS two years prior to calculate your Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium for upcoming year.

If you exceed the base “IRMAA” income threshold two years ago, then your Medicare premiums for the next year will include a supplemental amount on top of the “standard” Medicare premium for that year.

See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 5

BARRE GAZETTE

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

It is hard to believe this will be the last column for August.

Where did the month go. Students will be going back to school and where was the summer. Because it was so hot and humid this year I guess it went bye very quickly.

I am still working on items in the garage and found the Murdock newsletter. He sent so many interesting newsletters that I saved them all. Eugene married, Christine Ohlson who also was a resident of town,

Her mother Ida Mae Lindsey Ohlson wrote some nice poems on love. I may use some of them in this column various times.

I had a surprise visit from a step brother I had not seen for a long while. If he did not say “Hi Sis” I would of not known him. He is the only

brother I have left from three.

My friend from New Hampshire sent me this recipe for summer squash and it sounds like an easy one. She also sent me the one called Mock crab cakes made with zucchini, which I have published many times in this column as they are so good.

BAKED SUMMER SQUASH

2 summer squash
1/4 cup olive oil
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese (don’t get the kind in a jar)
1/3 cup bread crumbs
salt and pepper to taste

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Slice up squash and toss with olive oil. In another bowl combine bread crumbs, cheese and seasoning. Combine with squash.

Cover the baking dish with foil and bake for about

30 minutes. Remove foil and bake another five minutes.

This and That

I wanted to mention a couple of things that happened recently. The electric company shuts off the power for a second on either Saturday or Sunday. If I am using my computer, it will not come on again unless I shut off the power strip and then turn it on. Sometimes that happens with the television also. So the hint is to shut off the power strip and put it back on instead of calling a repairman.

The good news is that my handyman and his pal, Buddy, the dog, won his division in the Dingy Dash on Saturday. He sent me a photo of the two of them and it was so cute. The dog even had a vest on.

Have a good week.

PAST PAGES from page 4

10 years (Sept. 4, 2016)

Not Available

25 years (Aug. 31, 2001)

In a move that he insists should have happened twenty years ago, David Tatlock, finally hammered his eclectic interests into a walk in and on line bookstore. I tis located in his wooden garage building on his property in Petersham. It features books as he claims in just about any category imaginable; also framed photographs, posters, prints, maps and a regal assortment of postcards of Portugal, New England, cats and vintage motorcycles. The website www.petershambookloft.com was tooled a few months ago and according to Tatlock, “It’s me cut up in pieces, all my passions in life are there: books, Portugal, vintage bikes and vintage motor mc racing. It is riddled with pictures I have taken since November, my last time on the Iberian Peninsula.”

Chalk up another success story for the Petersham Lions Club in their record of bringing Old Home Day to the community. With perfect weather, though chilly for the evening events, townsfolk and visitors shared in a variety of things that fed, entertained and impressed. Turning to a helicopter for something new and exciting, the Lions sponsor a whirly bird that took a passenger at a time up and over the center of town. The only drawback was the noise generat-

ed, which made it difficult to hear commentary for ground events.

Three Quabbin Regional High School students learned this summer a little bit more about what it takes to be successful in the law enforcement field by participating in a week long student trooper program at the Massachusetts State Police Academy in New Braintree. The program, sponsored by the American Legion, is designed, according to its director, Lt. Raymond Chapdelaine, to give students ages 15 to 17, who are interested in a law enforcement career, an idea what academy life is like. “We’re trying to fit a five-month program into a week,” Chapdelaine said. All three Quabbin students, Jason Marth, Adam Potvin and Charlene Van Cott all graduated with flying colors.

38 years (Sept. 3, 1988)

An exchange teacher from Chin, Li Xiumei pronounce “Lishomay” was formally welcomed at a grand banquet Aug. 24 at Yen Yen Restaurant in Gardner hosted by the Quabbin Regional School District. Li will be helping teach Chinese classes at the high school and will be visiting lecturer at all schools in the district. She will be staying in Hardwick at the hoe of Diane Mammone, Chinese and Asian studies teacher at Quabbin. At the banquet, Li said she was pleased with the warm welcome she received from everyone since she stepped of the plane at Bradley International Airport on

Aug. 21. Li’s journey from her home in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia took 40 hours.

Businesses that fail to file a business certificate with the town clerk will be fined, according to Barre Town Clerk Ellen Glidden. She sent letter out to about 40 or 50 businesses last month informing them that it is a state law that businesses must be registered with the town. The letter said, “Violations are subject to a fine of not more than \$300 for each month, which the violation continues.” According to Glidden, there are 156 businesses registered with the town. She knows that there are many more that aren’t registered, based on a recent listing of businesses by the Barre Business Association. Glidden said businesses must complete a two page business certificate and send it to her along with a check for \$20 made payable to the Town of Barre.

Permission has been given by the 225th Anniversary Committee to members of the Barre High School alumni to sponsor Barre’s Old Home Day on Sunday, July 18, 1999. The 225th Anniversary Committee will sponsor many events all day on July 17 including a parade and fireworks. The committee for Olde Home day plans to have a pancake breakfast, church services, a barbecue, children’s activities, horse and carriage rides and music. All public buildings and schools will be open for tours as will the Chas. G. Allen Co. and the former Barre Wool Combing Co.

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

The amount of the supplement depends on how much you exceed the base IRMAA threshold by (FYI, the base IRMAA threshold for 2026 for a married couple filing jointly was \$218,000). If your 2024 income exceeded that initial IRMAA threshold, you paid a higher Medicare premium, which also reduced your SS monthly payment because Medicare is deducted from your SS benefit. IRMAA uses a sliding scale to determine how much more than the standard Medicare

premium you will pay.

However, that will all automatically correct itself going forward. In other words, when determining your premiums for 2027, Medicare will look at your 2025 income. If your 2025 MAGI is less than the base IRMAA threshold, you and your wife will both automatically revert to paying the standard 2027 Medicare Part B and Part D premiums.

You don’t need to take any action for that to happen; it will all be automatic.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with

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

A DAY FOR REMEMBERING

There are days for remembering that generously impose themselves on your life, This is a poem about a day I recently spent in the embrace of such a thought, It was to honor the sixtieth anniversary of my marriage which ended 9/26/2021.

My day began in the same way it has for the last forty-five years, Simple morning routines so practiced that I don’t even think about them, A brief glance at the daily news that also seems to never change.

I look at the pictures hanging all around my place, They speak to me of how far I’ve come, and the many blessings I’ve known, My thoughts gather on the picture of us on the steps of St. Stephen’s Church, Sixty years ago, today.

I’ve often wondered if the life we live is somehow following a script, Or are we simply wandering like dry leaves on the winds of fate, Rather, I think we choose what happens to us on one level or another, mostly.

Today, I chose to visit all the significant places that touched our life together, First to the old Classical High School building in Worcester where we met, They kindly let me walk the corridor where first you walked into my life.

Next to St. Stephen’s, and a surprise, all six doors were locked, at 10:30 am, This house of prayer that once gave me peace when there was nowhere else to turn, Now, unavailable to a pilgrim seeking the comfort of perfect memories to hold.

I supposed that urban life has made this so, but what a sad commentary, To think that peace and answers we seek are locked and shuttered to those in need, I can’t imagine that the one we’d ask for those answers would approve.

Undaunted by locks and distance, I drove to our first home in Vernon, Connecticut, The road that leads there, wooded then, now blighted with urban sprawl, Names like Wendy’s, MacDonald’s, Macy’s, all new in just the last sixty years.

As I drive up Allan Drive and see our little place, it all looks so different now, Trees that shaded the lot, now gone, up in smoke in someone’s wood stove, The swimming pool now filled in and covered with grass, so much change.

I see the owner walking in the back yard and stop to say hello, He graciously listens while I tell him how we moved here sixty years ago today, He allows me to peek into our little apartment, and the memories come flooding back.

My God, how young we were, so full of hope and courage and belief in each other, How far we came from that day to this, and the only thing missing is you, How I wish you could be with me on this journey back in time.

I drove this day to every stop along the way, the houses we built and the family we raised, So full of life, both ups and downs, we worked steadfast side by side, Making them places of beauty and welcome to all who came to visit.

How sweet it all was and how quickly it seemed to pass until God called you home, Home, to His home, to grace its climes with the joy you brought to ours, In the five years since, I’ve made a new life that I hope you find worthwhile.

Just this day, I find that everything in life has passed me by, and I miss it so, Not because I’d like to change anything we did, it was a life of purpose and caring, Just to share these memories with you, one last time, on A Day for Remembering.

– B. Splaine

Annual Ware Grange Fair returns on Aug. 28-29

WARE – The Ware Grange Fair will be held on Friday, Aug. 28 and Saturday, Aug. 29 at the Grange Hall on Route 9, 297 Belchertown Road.

This year’s fair will feature a fun dog show, Kids’ Corner workshop, children’s field events, games, raffles, bake sale, live music, a barbecue dinner and an auction.

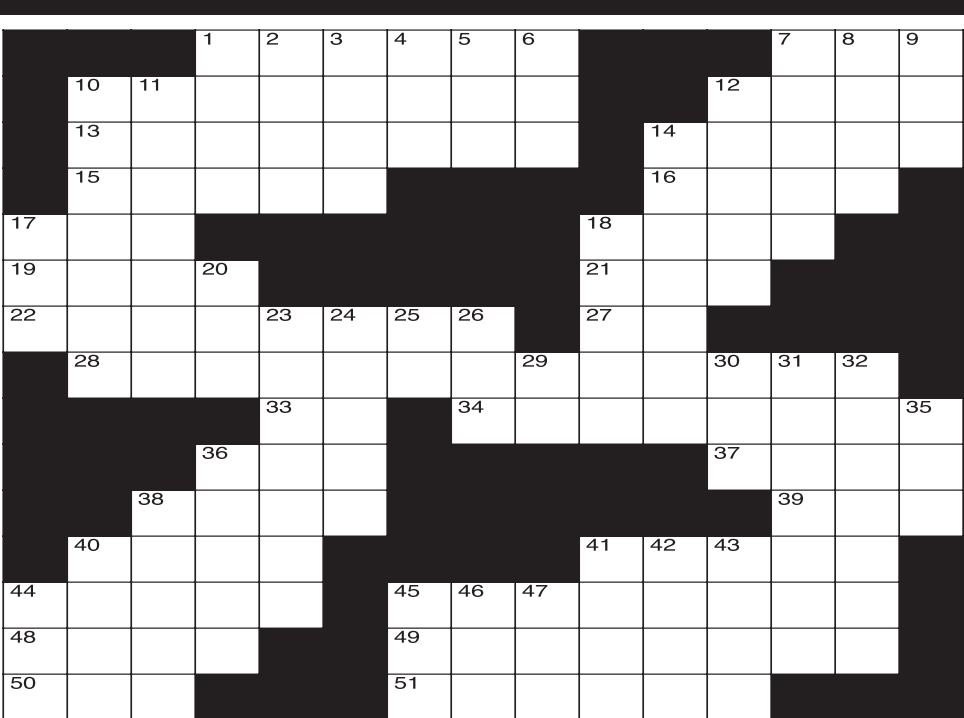
Exhibits may be entered on Thursday, Aug. 27 from 5-7 p.m. or Friday, Aug. 28 from 9-11 a.m.

The exhibit hall opens to the public Friday evening from 5-7 p.m., and there will be a bake sale, raffles and penny sale. The fair continues on Saturday with exhibit hours from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and various events throughout the day.

An auction of fruits, vegetables, baked items, etc., will begin at 6 p.m. Raffle and penny sale winners will be drawn after

A barbecue dinner will be held from 4-5:30 p.m.

For more information, details on exhibiting, or to make reservations for the barbecue, call 413-284-1135 or visit waregrange.org.



CLUES ACROSS

1. A vast desert in Africa
7. Reciprocal of a sine
10. Type of phone
12. Biblical figure
13. One who renounces a religious belief
14. Warren and Monroe are two
15. Wild ox
16. Dismounted a horse
17. Cave dweller
18. Where infants sleep
19. Popular type of shoe
21. Clumsy large person
22. Evil-like
27. Integrated circuit

CLUES DOWN

1. Slovenly person
2. In addition
28. Austin-based athlete
33. Postscript
34. Follows 18
36. People of Gambia
37. Popular actor
38. Platform for a lectern
39. Taxi
40. American songwriter Sammy
41. Iranian city
44. Heavy clubs
45. One who is expelled
48. In bed
49. Lifelessness
50. Former CIA
51. Most slick

- 3.hovels
4. Pie ___ mode
5. Subway rodent
6. They ___
7. Indigenous S. American people
8. Fine sand
9. Central nervous system
10. Nightclub entertainment
11. The perfect example of something
12. Supreme Islamic leader
14. Pain
17. Binary-coded decimal
18. Projecting corner of an angle
20. “Succession” actor Brian
23. Dinner table decor

24. Ancient settlement in modern Turkey
25. You can call Paul Simon this
26. Opposite of a pro
29. Atomic #28
30. Type of drug (abbr.)
31. Arrives at
32. Nullifies
35. Bird’s beak
36. Partner to “oohed”
38. Ray-finned fishes
40. Taxis
41. Sat on and controlled
42. Sea eagles
43. Remain as-is
44. Chinese revolutionary
45. Tooth caregiver
46. Snake-like fish
47. Compensate

ANSWERS ON PAGE 7

NOTICE

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

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

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

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.



Turley Photos by Camren Robertson
 Mike Stoll took first place with the EQLT in the single occupant adult category.



Volunteers retrieved a sunk dinghy.

DINGY DASH from page 1

Brigham Pond to watch the Dinghy Dash, and music was played during each entry's paddle.
 This annual event in Hubbardston is loved and adored during the summer.
 "A way to have some fun," Young said. "The last hurrah of summer."
 The Dinghy Dash is proudly supported by Billy

Goat Boats in Orange.
 Returning for his second year participating in the Dinghy Dash was 23-year-old Cole Murphy. During his first year, Murphy designed a boat inspired by the familiar spaceship, the Starship Enterprise.
 This year, Murphy designed a new boat with a sail, which took him a total of 10 hours to complete. He was ready to take on the

course at Brigham Pond.
 Prior to the first boat, a surprise entrant made his way to the starting point – a duck, which got some attention from spectators.
 The first participant on the water was Hunter Young and his boat "Full Send." The boat began tipping back, but Young kept rowing and was able to complete the majority of the course.
 The heckling at the



Joe Hicks, William Bukowski and Heather McCaul entered "Biplane over the Rainbow." This dinghy won the "Extended Voyage"



Cole Murphy stood next to his dinghy, "Wind and a Prayer," which won "Best Sink."

Dinghy Dash is all part of the fun. To make it more amusing someone began playing music from the "Titanic" movie as Young's boat began surrendering to the water.
 "The most committed sink," Katie Young said.
 Hunter Young has participated in the Dinghy Dash a few times over the years. His first year was with his father and it took them about 30 minutes to complete the

course.
 Mike Stoll was next with his vessel called "EQLT," which featured the head of a bald eagle in front. Stoll is the current record holder for fastest completion of the Dinghy Dash.
 On his first voyage, with the song "The Final Countdown" playing, Stoll completed the course in 2 minutes, 34 seconds. This attempt awarded Stoll first place in the adult single occupant category.
 Stoll participated in the Dinghy Dash again in the adult single occupant category in his vessel "Lone Wolf's 2". He finished the course in 3 minutes, 26 seconds.
 First prize for the group vessel category was the

Jackson family in their creative vessel, Sailor's Sundae. The group of three finished the course in 5 minutes, 20 seconds. The Jackson's were also awarded the most creative vessel.
 The best sink went to Cole Murphy and his vessel Wind and a Prayer. The extended voyage went to Heather McCaul and her vessel Biplane over the Rainbow.
 The Dinghy Dash was a fun event and will return to Brigham Pond in Hubbardston next year. Results of the Dinghy Dash, this year and previous years, can be found on the Facebook page "Hubbardston Celebration", or on the website www.hubbardstonma.gov/251/Dinghy-Dash.

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Cole Murphy was on his way to earn the title of "Best Sink."



Hunter Young sank during the Dinghy Dash

Parish hosts annual chicken BBQ

NORTH BROOKFIELD – St. Carlo Acutis Parish will host its annual Chicken BBQ & Family Fair Sept. 12-13 at Saint Joseph’s Church 296 North Main St.

Come join the parish for plenty of fair style food on Saturday evening and a delicious Chicken BBQ dinner served on Sunday from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Tickets for the Chicken BBQ are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children age 12 and

under. Chicken BBQ tickets can be purchased at the parish office.

There will be karaoke music on both days. They will also have assorted raffles including a scratch ticket raffle which features the grand prize of a book (50) \$30 lottery scratch tickets, and a bake sale.

The Family Picnic begins on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 5 p.m. on the church lawn after the 4 p.m. Mass. From 5-7 p.m., there will be kara-

oke music, fair style food and raffles.

On Sunday, Sept. 13 from noon-3 p.m. there will be karaoke music, fair style food, bake sale and raffles. From 12:30-1:30 p.m. the Chicken BBQ will be served, either eat in or take-out.

For Chicken BBQ tickets and more information, please call the parish office Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 508-867-6469.

St. Aloysius and St. Augustine Mission to host Mass, lunch and social

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Church in Gilbertville and St. Augustine Mission in Wheelwright will hold a Mass, lunch and social

on Sunday, Sept. 20 with Mass at 11 a.m. and lunch at 11:45 a.m. at Hardwick Winery Pavilion, 3305 Greenwich Road.

Donation is \$25 and ben-

efits the Parish Renovation Funds.

There will be raffles as well. People may call Karen at 413-477-6452 for tickets.

HUBBARDSTON from page 1

from the articles.

The committee discussed whether to separate the structural assessment, historical assessment and request for \$150,000 leveraged from CPC for the grant into one article, or to make them all separate.

Committee member Rick Green said the town may not have an appetite for a longer article, and other committee member Jonathan Brinker said even if one were to fail, the structural assessment would give them something to work with in the future.

Young noted that it is important to propose this correctly on the town meet-

ing floor, saying that they are doing two studies now, but can use the findings as a roadmap in the next decade, so the project does not stall or go backwards.

The committee voted to separate all three articles, and the plan is to put the structural study first on the list so it can be voted on first.

Upcoming events

The committee is hosting a game night on Friday, and there is a suggested donation with it. There is also an event on Oct. 24, where there will be pumpkin and scarecrow contests, which will each cost a fee, along with fees for voting slips, as another fundraiser.

Parking

The committee discussed plans to implement a temporary parking lot with asphalt millings so residents do not park on the side of the building because of some planned gutter extensions.

Committee member Mike Stoll noted that any major repairs that could disturb the building or drainage would not be beneficial, but the temporary lot should be okay.

Committee member Carol Whitney said that area had historically been used to park buggies or carriages, so it should not constitute a major change under the preservation restriction.

BACK TO SCHOOL from page 1

ing a new website.

First day of school

Kindergarten open house will be held Monday, Sept. 1 and the first day of school for students in grades K-12 is Tuesday, Sept. 2. The first day of preschool is Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Administrators’ reports

High School Principal Brian Beck recognized senior Taylor Harris for cleaning and organizing the care closet at the school.

Beck said the high school daily bell schedule will run Monday through Friday, instead of on a rotating schedule. He said this change came from staff and student feedback.

He said Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays are the same schedule and Tuesdays and Thursdays will have rotation.

Elementary Principal Arthur Murphy said the school library received an update over the summer. He said the books were organized and new furniture was added.

The library will also be home to the school’s Star Bucks store, where students can receive rewards for positive behavior.

Director of Student Services Dr. Michael Baldassarre said the school district receives clinical services and social emotional support from clinicians through the Behavioral Health Network. He said a new memorandum of

understanding has been signed and this should help to ensure more consistent staffing for the students.

Baldassarre said 34 staff members have now been trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Schools. He said Murphy will become a TCI trainer, authorized by Cornell University.

“It’s not just a system of intervention, it’s a system that was designed to create a culture in a school that provides staff with common language, common understanding and common methodology,” he said.

Baldassarre said the first Special Education Parent Advisory Council meeting will be held virtually on Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. He said the SEPAC is now a member of the state organization, MassPAC.

The school district was awarded a 240 grant in the amount of \$136,740. Other special education grants the school district is expected to receive include: Title I, \$100,005; Title II, \$14,308; Title III (in partnership with Tantasqua Regional School District), \$2,055; and Title IV, \$10,000.

Recognition

McCormick recognized Sophia Giangrande and Emily Litchfield, recent graduates from the high school, who worked as paraprofessionals with the school district this summer.

“It was a great opportunity for both of them,” McCormick said. “We were very excited to have both of them involved in the programming.”

McCormick also recognized Facilities Director Joe Holway for his leadership and building a “high-functioning team.”

Public participation

Margaret Hanson recognized students who planted a tree on Aug. 5 in honor of late teacher, Damian Sarrette. The students organized the tree planting prior to leaving for college.

“I just want to thank them for making the time to do that and honor him that way,” she said.

School Committee goals

The School Committee members shared ideas for the committee’s goals for the 2026-2027 academic year. The committee will select its goals at its September meeting.

Ideas for goals included re-evaluating tuition agreements with other school districts, focusing on North Brookfield Public Schools as a standalone district, educational goals and superintendent/administrator goals.

Student handbook approval

The School Committee voted to accept the student handbook as presented.

Beck said changes to the handbook include the new bell schedule, new National Honor Society bylaws, alternatives to suspensions and more.

A new cell phone policy will be reviewed and adopted prior to the start of the school year.

Obituary

Earlene L. (Ferren) Lajoie, 92

OAKHAM – Earlene L. (Ferren) Lajoie, 92, passed away peacefully on Monday, Aug. 17, 2026, with her children and grandchildren by her side.

She was born in Berlin, New Hampshire, raised in Worcester, Massachusetts and made her home in Oakham for the past 66 years with her husband, the love of her life, who she was married to for 69 years, the late Lionel A. Lajoie Jr. Earlene was the daughter of Jesse L. and Lorena A. (Chandler) Ferren.



Earlene was a graduate of North High School in Worcester and she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Worcester State Teacher’s College, now Worcester State University and taught for several years at Thorndyke Elementary School in Worcester. Earlene was a very active member of the Oakham Congregational Church, where she served as Sunday School Director and substitute organist. She was a Cub Scout Den Mother and 4-H Leader.

Earlene enjoyed traveling, vacationing in Maine, going to Disney World with her children and grandchildren, boating, gardening, spending time at her home on Cape Cod and most recently staying at Cocoa Beach, Florida for a few winter months each year. She was a very skilled quilter and belonged to the Gardner Quilt Club. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend.

She loved having each grandchild, one at a time, come to her house to have a special day where she would teach them how to sew and make a special pillow for them to take home.

She would take them for a special back-to-school shopping day and out to lunch, all of the boys one day and all of the girls another in August every year. She never missed a horse show, ball game, recital or school function that her grandchildren were involved in.

Relatives and friends are invited to gather with Earlene’s family during a Calling Hour on Tuesday, Aug. 25 from 10-11 a.m. at Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main St., Holden.

A Funeral Service will immediately follow at 11 a.m. in the funeral home. Interment will follow at Pine Grove Cemetery, Old Turnpike Road, Oakham.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Earlene’s name may be made to: Oakham Congregational Church 4 Coldbrook Road, Unit #12 Oakham, MA 01068.

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. WO26P2770EA
Estate of:
Paul R Foucher
Date of Death: 06/30/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kaitlyn M Foucher of Oakham, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Kaitlyn M Foucher of Oakham, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/22/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a**

timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A **Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Kathryn M. Bailey**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 24, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate

08/27/2026

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 002673
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:
Jules Fogue Souop
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*):
Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC.

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Barre, numbered 118 Peach Street, given by Jules Fogue Souop to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc, dated October 16, 2023, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69763, Page 202, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **October 5, 2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on August 19, 2026.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

08/27/2026



Ware Grange Fair program books available

WARE – The Ware Grange Fair program books are now available online at waregrange.org.

Program books are also available by mail by calling 413-284-1135 or emailing waregrange164@gmail.com.

Plan your exhibits by checking out the categories of exhibits in the fair program book. Exhibitors may enter in a variety of categories including vegetables, fruits, eggs, cut flowers, baked goods, fancywork,

arts and crafts and photography.

The Ware Grange Fair will be held Plan your exhibits now for the fair which takes place Aug. 28 -29. See the Ware Grange website for schedule and details.

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PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

1

Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2

Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3

Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Barre Gazette

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

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

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

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, AUG. 27

VENDORS FOR CRAFT FAIR are needed for the Rutland Friends of the Council on Aging craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 14 at the Rutland Senior Center, Glenwood Road, Rutland. Those interested can get information at calling 508-886-7945.

CRAFTERS needed for the GFWC Northboro Junior Woman’s Club is now accepting crafters’ applications for the 49th Annual Harvest Craft Fair to be held on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Robert E. Mexican Middle School, 145 Lincoln St., Northboro. This is a juried show requiring that all items are handmade. Please visit NJWC’S website for applications and more show details at www.northborojuniors.org/craft-fair.html. The Northboro Junior Woman’s Club is a non-profit organization that has been active in Northboro for over 40 years. They support community projects in Northboro as well as internationally.

FRIDAY, AUG. 28

GAME NIGHT takes place today from 5-8 p.m. at First Meeting House, 2 Main St., Hubbardston. This is a fundraiser for the First Meeting House. Suggested donation \$20 a family, \$5 a single person, People can unplug, reconnect with board games and card games. This is family fun and a chance to meet fellow towns people. play an old favorite or learn a new game. This is a great way to finish the summer before school starts Light refreshments are available.

SATURDAY, AUG. 29

RUTLAND BROOK HIKE in Petersham sponsored by East Quabbin Land Trust takes today at 8:30 a.m. Due to limited parking, participants will carpool from the EQLT office, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick or 8:45 a.m. at the Barre Common. People should RSVP to coordinate rides atrevelt@eqlt.org.

SUNDAY, AUG. 30

WORCESTER WINDS, a wind dectet of professional music teachers and musicians from Worcester County, performs a concert today at 3 p.m. in the First Congregational Church, 144 North Main St., North Brookfield. Admission is free and the concert is funded in part by the North Brookfield Cultural Council, a local agency, which receives funding from Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Conducted by Luis Torres, the group consist of two flute, two clarinets, two oboes, two bassoons, and two French horns. They will perform music by Arnold, Debussy, Bizet, Bernard, Pierne, and Maestro Torres. For more information people may visit worcestertwinds.org.

MONDAY, AUG. 31

FATHER H. EDWARD CHALMERS today at 6:30 p.m. will offer a reflection on the history of the Franciscans in Medjugorje at St. Francis of Assisi Parish St. Joseph’s Church, 29 South St., Barre. The program is in the hall and they should use the side door.

Where is this?



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

This week’s mystery photo is from Hubbardston. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com with their answer by noon on Monday, Aug. 31. Bill Bowles, Jessica Geary, Quinn Geary and James Laramee correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the playground at Hardwick Elementary School, Lower Road, in the Gilbertville section of Hardwick.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL hosted by Recovery Center of HOPE in recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day takes place today at Veterans Park, Route 9, Ware at 6:30 p.m. The vigil will remember those lost to overdose, honor those impacted by overdose and stand together in hope and community. The Recovery Center of HOPE will provide candles for the vigil, as well as purple candles to bring home and place in a window as a visible sign of overdose awareness. All are welcome. There will be gathering beforehand at the Recovery Center of HOPE, 52 Main St., Ware from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for food, soft drinks and fellowship.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

ANNUAL CAR SHOW sponsored by the Barre Lions Club takes place today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., rain or shine. All types of vehicles are welcome. The entry fee is \$15 to show and spectators are free. They’ll be a D.J., a huge raffle table, tee-shirts, a 50/50 and swag bags for all entrants. People’s Choice plaques will be awarded at the end of the show. For more information, people may email barremalionsclub@aol.com.

BARBECUE AND FAMILY FAIR for St. Carlo Acutis Parish takes place today with a family picnic from 5 p.m. and Sunday, Sept 12 at St. Joseph’s Church, 296 North Main St., North Brookfield. There will be plenty of fair style food and a chicken barbecue on

served on Sunday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Cost for the chicken barbecue is \$15 per person for adults and \$8 for children age 12 and under. Barbecue tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office by calling 508-867-6469 Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be Karaoke today from 5-7 p.m. and Sunday from noon-3 p.m. There will be raffles. A bake sale will be held Sunday.

MONDAY, SEPT. 14

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME takes place today at 11:30 a.m. at the New Braintree Public Library. 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. Children enjoy a story, craft and independent playtime. All are welcome and parental supervision is required.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

ANNUAL FIELD DAY sponsored by the Hubbardston Lions Club takes place today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Curtis Field, 20 Gardner Road, Hubbardston. Rain date Sunday, Sept. 20. There will be food, games, live music and vendors. For more information or to reserve a space, people may email [sue.hubblions@gmail.com](mailto:hubblions@gmail.com) or text 603-361-1217.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 20

St. Aloysius Church in Gilbertville and St. Augustine Mission in Wheelwright will hold a Mass, lunch and social on Sunday, Sept. 20 with Mass at 11 a.m. and lunch at 11:45 a.m. at Hardwick Winery Pavilion, 3305

Greenwich Road, Hardwick. Donation is \$25 and benefits the Parish Renovation Funds. There will be raffles as well. People may call Karen at 413-477-6452 for tickets.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

HISTORY AT PLAY with a presentation by Deborah Sampson, entitled “A Revolution of Her Own” takes place today at 7 p.m. in the Williamsville Chapel 4 Burnshirt Road, Hubbardston. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program starts at 7 p.m. People may RSVP to hubbhistory1767@gmail.com. This program is partially funded by the Hubbardston Cultural Council.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

ART SHOW sponsored by the Cultural Council of Hubbardston and the Council on Aging in the Meeting House, on the Common, Hubbardston, takes place today from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The show will focus on local artisans. The theme is based on historical barns of Hubbardston. Those who wish to exhibit should call Cindy at 978-928-5526 for information or to reserve a spot at the event. All are welcome.

PRINCETON ART’S 35TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT “Songs and Stories: The Mess and Magic of Making Musicals” takes place today at the First Congregational Church, 14 Mountain Road, Princeton at 7 p.m. The day begins with an interactive afternoon workshop for young people in fourth through eighth grades. For more information email contact@princetonarts.org and ask for From Page to State workshop registration information. The program is made possible by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation.

MONDAY, SEPT. 28

SCIENCE PLAYGROUP coordinated by CFCE MOC takes place today at 10:30 a.m. at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. The target age group is 6 and under. All are welcome and parental supervision is required.

Calendar Policy

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



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Barre Gazette ~ November 5, 2026

Barre Gazette will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to dflynn@turley.com or drop off a photo to **Barre Gazette, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069**

All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 20, 2026.

There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact Dan Flynn no later than October 13th (413) 297-5886.

HARDWICK from page 1

text said they would send over the contract for the board to see.

Select Board member William Tinker brought up whether the job had to be done through a vendor, and if they could have an in-house employee or a senior work off resident learn how to operate the camera.

Select Board member Zack Spencer said the vendor has an account that has information for other towns they serve, and if something were to happen to the vendor, the town would have to start over, so he said the town should have full access to it.

The board will continue the discussion at a future meeting.

Digital records management

Tinker said in 2028, the state is mandating that towns keep digital records of everything, and suggesting a pilot program with the treasurer/

collector and accountant to start digitizing their warrants and making them searchable, and easy to find.

Select Board Chair Jeffrey Schaaf said it may not be in the board’s purview to get into the day-to-day operations of the offices, since the department heads do what they think is necessary.

According to Tinker, if the town implements this policy to make records searchable, it would save time on public records requests, and the town clerk would be able to find records without searching through the dozens of boxes in his office.

He said they have a machine that can do optical character recognition, which makes each part of the document searchable to anybody who has it, including residents getting their record request.

Tinker described it as standardizing and streamlining operations. He also suggested standardizing the names of the folders so they are easier to find.

According to Caggiano, a lot of those records, including Select Board packets and warrants, are already digitized and saved into specific folders that can be accessed.

Additional meetings

Around the beginning of the fiscal year, the board voted to have additional meetings to conduct financial oversight like reviewing warrants, but there have not been any additional meetings since that vote was taken.

The board voted 2-1 to cancel all additional meetings, and call them on an

as-needed basis.

Schaaf said in budget season, there is a need for more meetings to build the budget, but it is the middle of summer now, and there’s nothing to put on an agenda.

Tinker said that he has made agenda requests that could be put on the additional meetings, but they get declined, and he voted in opposition to their cancellation.

School lease

The board signed the lease agreement for the Hardwick Elementary School. It was reviewed by the town counsel who recommended it be signed.

Town Administrator’s report

Caggiano said there was \$253,000 of winter recovery from the state, and the town used about \$50,000 of it for a roadside mower, and it was submitted by her and Highway Superintendent Martin Gryszowka.

Some of the other money will be used for road projects including Highland Terrace and put into free cash.

She said the new highway clerk also gave her notice since the town of West Brookfield increased her hours there.

Caggiano said fire calls are up, and the budget will have to be looked at around fiscal year 2028.

There were two interviews for executive assistant, and a recommendation should be coming at the board’s Sept. 14 meeting. The executive assistant will do meeting minutes, but until then, Spencer will.

SPORTS

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Quabbin Little League raises banner



Submitted photo

Last month, the Quabbin Area Little League baseball all-stars celebrated winning their district championship. The team, shown here at Felton Park, entered the state tournament was defeated twice to be eliminated from further contention. In the Little League World Series this year, Massachusetts was actually represented in Williamsport, PA by a team from Bridgewater.

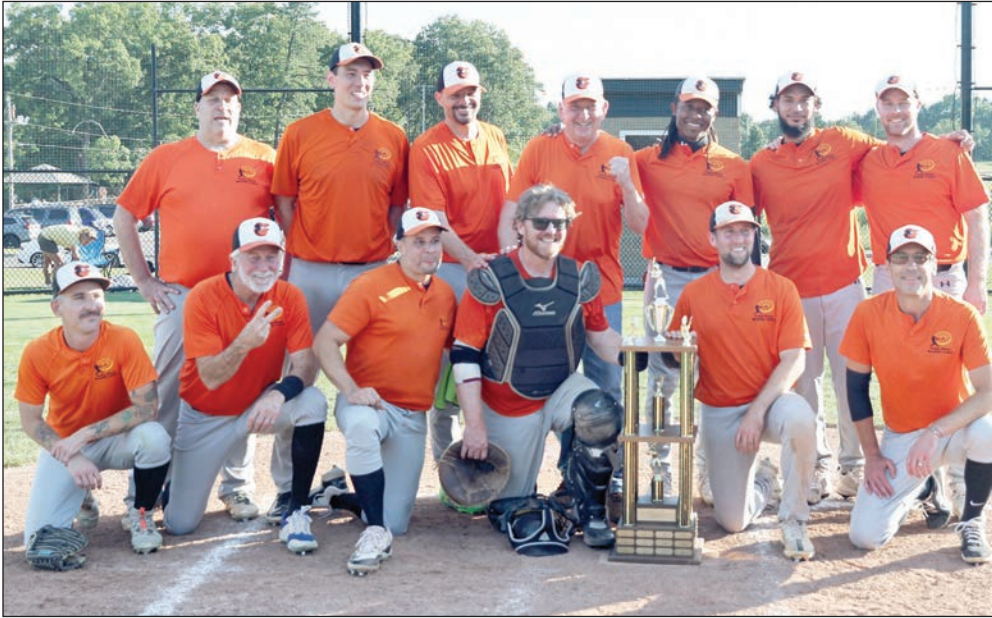
Committee announces next Hall induction

BARRE – Tickets for the 11th Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame Induction are now available for the Nov. 7 ceremony to be held at Teresa’s Restaurant, 315 Palmer Road, Ware, MA. A social hour will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the induction ceremony.

Seven individuals and a pair of championship teams will be honored. Dating back to the first induction in 2002, this will bring the total number of individual inductees to 72 in addition to 11 teams.

The induction class includes Louis Panaccione ’75, Eugene Rich ’95, Matthew Brunelle ’08, Stephany Halfrey ’15,

See HALL INDUCTION, page 10



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

The Orioles are the 2026 Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League champions.

Orioles repeat as Valley Wheel champions

WILBRAHAM – On Saturday, Aug. 15 at Spec Pond in Wilbraham, the Orioles defeated the Angels 15-8 in the championship game.

The Orioles were propelled by nine runs in the first two innings. While the Angels would manage some offense later in the game, it was not enough to come all the way back in the matchup. The Angels were this year’s pennant winners, taking first place with an 11-4 record. The Orioles won the championship for the second year in the row. They defeated the Twins in last year’s championship game.



Henry Henriquez is focused as he swings.



The Angels’ Tom Cygan swings and connect.



Andy Roland fires a pitch for the Angels.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Teddy Bear Pools becomes the first new playoff champions in more than a decade.

Teddy Bear Pools takes playoff title in Tri-County

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE—For the first time since 2012, the Tri-County League championship title belongs to a baseball team other than PeoplesBank.

The third-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas ended the second-seeded PeoplesBank twelve year dynasty after sweeping the best of three semifinal series. Teddy Bear then captured the championship trophy for the first time since the 1980’s with an 8-4 victory over the top-seeded St. Joseph’s Saints in last Sunday’s night decisive game three held at St. Joe’s Park in Thorndike.

“Before the start of the

regular season, I thought we had the most talented team in this league,” said Teddy Bear player/manager Ryan Magni. “We have a couple of outstanding college baseball players on our roster, which made the biggest difference. It does feel great to win the championship title, but I do have a lot of respect for St. Joe’s.”

Ryan Magni played for St. Joe’s for eight years before switching sides a couple of years ago. His younger brother, Brandon, was the St. Joe’s starting first baseman in game three.

Ryan Magni started the game in centerfield before replacing righthander Brendan Fournier on the mound in the bottom of the



Jacob Hayes fires over to first.

seventh inning.

St. Joe’s scored two runs against the righthander in their final at-bats. The game came to an end when Brandon Magni hit a ground ball to the second baseman against his older brother.

“I’ve faced my brother many times over the years,” Ryan Magni said. “I didn’t have my best stuff tonight, but I didn’t make it very easy for him.”

St. Joe’s, who lost to Peoplesbank in last year’s championship series, was looking to win the TCL title for the first time since 2006.

“They just capitalized on our mistakes in tonight’s game,” said St. Joe’s manager Paul Marcinek. “It would’ve been nice if we could’ve scored a few more runs. We did win the regular



Alex Gochinski takes a swing.

See TRI-COUNTY, page 10

Sports

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

PALMER – To wrap up the summer, Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes hosted its monthly King of the Hill Tournament for the month of August.

This month’s tournament featured eight entries with the top six qualifiers advancing to the stepladder. After three games of qualifying, finishing in first place was Sean Comerford with a total score of 385.

In game two of the qualifier, Comerford scored 136 to pull himself back into contention. Mike Forgue finished in second place with a qualifying score of 376. Kristen Havens of Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes finished in third place with 376.

Forgue won the tiebreaker to earn the second seed.

Finishing in fourth place was John Havens with 370.

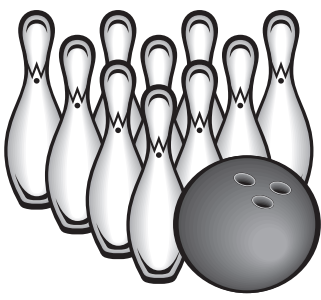
John Eckert received the fifth stepladder spot with a 368, and Nick Maslon got the sixth and final seed with a 367. Maslon finished strong with 107 to get into the ladder.

Each match was a one-game match until the finals, which will be a two-game match. The first stepladder match was between #6 seed Nick Maslon and #5 seed John Eckert. Maslon advanced after defeating Eckert, 109-91.

Maslon bowled against John Havens. Maslon advanced again after defeating Havens, 97-76.

Match three was between Maslon and K. Havens. The final score was 94-88 in favor of Kristen Havens.

The semi-final match was between K. Havens and Mike Forgue. The match came down to the tenth and final frame as Forgue surpassed Havens by one pin, 91-90. Forgue advanced to the two-



game final against #1 seed Sean Comerford.

In game one, Comerford bowled a strike in the last frame to score 110. Forgue began the final match with 101.

In game two, Comerford scored 99 for a two-game total of 209 to win the August King of the Hill. Forgue finished in second place and combined for 182 during the final.

Comerford will return in September to defend his crown at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes. In addition to the return of the King of the Hill, the fall league season also returns in September.

West baseball defeats Northeast for gold medal

MALDEN – Between July 29 and Aug. 1, the baseball Bay State Games took place in Malden. The West came out as this year’s gold medal recipients. Here is a recap of the championship game between the West and Northeast:

West got on the board in the first inning after Jaeden Azevedo hit into a double play, but one run scored. Jared Burke hit a sacrifice fly, which helped Northeast tie the game at one in the top of the second.

West took the lead in the bottom of the fifth. An error scored one run, to give West the lead, 2-1. Tyler Neville led things off on the mound for West. The starting pitcher gave up five hits and one run over six innings, striking out seven and walking two. Chase Richmond stepped on the hill first for Northeast. The starting pitcher gave up six hits and four runs (two earned) over five and two-thirds innings, striking out four and walking four. Logan

Millet tossed one inning of zero-run ball for West in relief. The reliever surrendered zero hits, striking out none and walking none. Camden Witzcak went 1-for-2 at the plate and led the team with one run batted in. Leadoff hitter Hunter Donahue led West with three hits in three at bats. West turned one double play in the game. Richmond and Ronny Leonor each collected two hits for Northeast. Burke led the team with one run batted in. Northeast turned two double plays in the game.

HALL INDUCTION
from page 9

Thaddeus J. Gumula Contributor and Athletic Director, Coach Cheryl Adams, Coach Debra Spinelli, 1979 Field Hockey Team and 1998-99 Boys Varsity Basketball Team.

Tickets are \$50 and may be obtained by calling Hall of Fame Chairman Ted Gumula at (413) 348-0414 or through the mail by contacting: Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 874 Barre, MA 01005. The last date to purchase tickets will be Oct. 23.

All checks must be payable to Quabbin Regional School District.

DROUGHT from page 1

idents attended this informative presentation to learn about the research that has been done on droughts. Belchertown Conservation Administrator Julie Meyer welcomed everyone and introduced Professor Andreadis, who began his presentation by sharing some statistics.

There are 412 billion gallons of water that make up the capacity of the Quabbin Reservoir. For the Town of Belchertown, 3,300 people are on town water. 12,100 people are getting their water from a private well.

The first main question Andreadis addresses is where the water comes from. There is surface water and groundwater, which is not visually seen. Andreadis explained that groundwater is not an underground river or lake.

There are two kinds of aquifer: sand & gravel and fractured bedrock. When it comes to the wells in Belchertown, Andreadis’ research found out that around 99% of the wells in Belchertown are a bedrock aquifer.

The water comes from the cracks in the bedrock, but it is difficult to know where the cracks are. Andreadis presented a map of all the wells located in Belchertown. What the map reveals is areas where the bedrock is deep and areas where bedrock is closer to the surface.

However, research lacks detail on where the cracks are and where the water is located. Drillers don’t know how much water is coming out.

Andreadis would then show a well chart of data collected from the U.S. Geology Survey monitoring in the neighboring town of Pelham. The chart shares 21 years of daily measurements and explains when the wells fill.

According to graph, the well fills from the months of November to April. Then it starts emptying from May to September.

“General behavior on how groundwater works,” Andreadis said.

Though the area had a decent amount of rain during the month of July,

Andreadis says rain in July is not a deposit. Most of the July rain is taken by the trees and goes back to the sky.

Based on records, Andreadis says the median depth of the water is about 20 feet. The amount of water a well can get depends on how many cracks a well would hit going down.

Those who are on a well may have concerns of their well going dry. Andreadis presented a graph example if a well went dry, which explained how some wells are deepened and gain access to more water.

Andreadis said if a well does dry it doesn’t mean there is no more water. Sometimes wells have to go deeper and is able to access more cracks, which is where water gets in.

Professor Andreadis talked about a template for a well completion report. Folks may want to identify what kind of well they have, how deep it is, and see where the water stands.

As for water supply, Andreadis did a compare and contrast slide of different water supplies. As for who’s watching the water. For the 3,300 residents in Town currently on Town water, it is being watched by a licensed operator.

For the other 12,100 residents, they’re the ones watching the water. For Town water, it is being treated and tested by law. For the others on wells, it is whatever the users arrange. For Town water, there is approximately 750,000 gallons in the tanks. For well users, it is what stands in the well.

Andreadis would then discuss drought, which has no strict definition. It all starts with the lack of rain, according to Professor Andreadis. Drought consists of thirsty lawns, burnt lawns, low rivers, and low wells.

People and businesses feel the effects of drought more in recent years. The challenge is these versions of drought don’t all start and end together at the same time.

“They don’t start together, they don’t end together,” said Andreadis.

According to studies with status effective on July

2026, Massachusetts is at a Level 2 drought, known as significant drought. Worst level would be a Level 4, “Emergency Drought”. Even though the State had received 4.5 to 9 inches of rain in July, Towns are still in a drought.

Andreadis shared another USGS report for rain fall precipitation, and it has been low precipitation in the last few years. Another distinct difference in ground-water is it tends to go down, even though river flow goes up. In other words, ground-water doesn’t react as quickly.

Another reminder Andreadis gave to the audience is “droughts are changing.” These changes revolve around dry years, which are not unfamiliar in Massachusetts. The air gets warmer and warmer air takes more water.

One example of a high drought year was shared in Andreadis’ presentation. The UMASS Professor shared a picture of the Quabbin Reservoir back in 1967, with an elevation at 498.17 feet, at 45% capacity. The worst drought on record.

As for what people can take away from this presentation, Andreadis suggests folks should find their well report, test on a reasonable, and tell someone if something goes wrong with their well.

“‘You are the operator of your own water systems,’” Andreadis said.

During the questions & answers segment, many residents came up and thanked Andreadis for the informative presentation. One resident asked about the idea of possibility of accessing the Quabbin Reservoir. Ed Comeau of the Communications Committee came up to speak on that subject and said it would be an expensive project for the Town.

Andreadis says people have to consider that things are shifting. For example, folks know weather is getting warmer. What is unknown is getting more or less rain. Studies are also confident that the area may have more rain arriving in a heavy burst, but not sure on when the next burst will arrive.

Messages

Edit

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PO Box 575, Gilsum, MA 01301-0575
For full job description see www.townofhardwick.com

TOWN OF HARDWICK HELP WANTED

The town of Hardwick is seeking qualified candidates to perform high-level secretarial, clerical, and administrative work assisting the Town Administrator and Select Board.

This is a part-time 19 hours per week position. For full job description go to www.hardwick-ma.gov.

Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to selectboard@townofhardwick.com or send to PO Box 575 Gilsum, MA 01301.

YOUTH CENTER JOB DESCRIPTION

Hardwick Youth Center is seeking for a creative person to help with the youth center and to be involved in youth programs. The youth center is located in the town of Ware, MA. The youth center is open from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The youth center is open from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The youth center is open from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Job Responsibilities

- Supervise children from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Monitor behavior and discipline.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the youth.
- Provide a positive and fun environment for the youth.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the youth.
- Provide a positive and fun environment for the youth.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the youth.
- Provide a positive and fun environment for the youth.

Job Skills & Qualifications

- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Must be a resident of the town of Ware, MA.
- Must be a high school senior or graduate.
- Must be a member of the town of Ware, MA.
- Must be a member of the town of Ware, MA.
- Must be a member of the town of Ware, MA.
- Must be a member of the town of Ware, MA.

Preferred Experience

- Experience with youth programs.
- Experience with youth programs.
- Experience with youth programs.
- Experience with youth programs.
- Experience with youth programs.
- Experience with youth programs.
- Experience with youth programs.
- Experience with youth programs.

Health Director Full-Time

The town of Hardwick is seeking for the position of Health Director. The Health Director will be responsible for the health of the town of Hardwick. The Health Director will be responsible for the health of the town of Hardwick. The Health Director will be responsible for the health of the town of Hardwick.

Job Responsibilities

- Supervise the health of the town of Hardwick.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the town of Hardwick.
- Provide a positive and fun environment for the town of Hardwick.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the town of Hardwick.
- Provide a positive and fun environment for the town of Hardwick.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the town of Hardwick.
- Provide a positive and fun environment for the town of Hardwick.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the town of Hardwick.

Job Skills & Qualifications

- Must be at least 21 years old.
- Must be a resident of the town of Hardwick, MA.
- Must be a high school senior or graduate.
- Must be a member of the town of Hardwick, MA.
- Must be a member of the town of Hardwick, MA.
- Must be a member of the town of Hardwick, MA.
- Must be a member of the town of Hardwick, MA.

Preferred Experience

- Experience with health programs.
- Experience with health programs.
- Experience with health programs.
- Experience with health programs.
- Experience with health programs.
- Experience with health programs.
- Experience with health programs.
- Experience with health programs.

DRIVE FOR THE QUABOAG CONNECTOR

The town of Hardwick is seeking for the position of Drive for the Quabog Connector. The Drive for the Quabog Connector will be responsible for the drive for the Quabog Connector. The Drive for the Quabog Connector will be responsible for the drive for the Quabog Connector. The Drive for the Quabog Connector will be responsible for the drive for the Quabog Connector.

Job Responsibilities

- Drive for the Quabog Connector.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the Quabog Connector.
- Provide a positive and fun environment for the Quabog Connector.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the Quabog Connector.
- Provide a positive and fun environment for the Quabog Connector.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the Quabog Connector.
- Provide a positive and fun environment for the Quabog Connector.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the Quabog Connector.

Job Skills & Qualifications

- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Must be a resident of the town of Hardwick, MA.
- Must be a high school senior or graduate.
- Must be a member of the town of Hardwick, MA.
- Must be a member of the town of Hardwick, MA.
- Must be a member of the town of Hardwick, MA.
- Must be a member of the town of Hardwick, MA.

Preferred Experience

- Experience with drive for the Quabog Connector.
- Experience with drive for the Quabog Connector.
- Experience with drive for the Quabog Connector.
- Experience with drive for the Quabog Connector.
- Experience with drive for the Quabog Connector.
- Experience with drive for the Quabog Connector.
- Experience with drive for the Quabog Connector.
- Experience with drive for the Quabog Connector.

TRI-COUNTY from page 9

season championship with a 16-4 record, and we have nothing to be disappointed about.”

Marcinek was assisted by Brian Hayes this season.

With one-out in the top of the first inning, Teddy Bear had runners on first and third when right fielder Willie Landman hit a ground ball up the middle. St Joe’s shortstop Jacob Hayes made an outstanding diving stop before tagging second base and throwing a strike to Magni completing the inning ending double play.

Jacob Hayes, who’s a member of the UMass Dartmouth baseball team along with his brother Jackson, belted a double to right center leading off the bottom half of the opening frame. Brandon Magni followed with a ground-ball single into left field putting runners at the corners. St. Joe’s took a 1-0 lead when centerfielder Pat Fitzgibbons hit a bloopier just out of the second baseman’s reach which scored Hayes. Magni also crossed the plate following a throwing error by the catcher.

Fournier, who graduated from Chicopee High School in 2017, retired 17 of the final 18 St. Joe’s batters that he faced. St. Joe’s only base runner during that stretch was Fitzgibbons, who hit a triple to right field with one-out in the sixth inning.

“I struggled in the first inning, but I started throwing more off speed pitches that kept them off balance. My teammates also made the plays behind me,” said Fournier, who was the win-

ning pitcher. “I’ve been playing in this league for almost ten years, and it feels great to finally win a championship.”

Teddy Bear cut the deficit in half against righty Jack Feltovic in the third inning.

With one-out, catcher Mike Toth, who graduated from Granby High School, was hit-by-a-pitch. Second baseman Ramon Jimenez singled to right field putting runners at first and third. Then Landman hit a sacrifice fly to right.

Jimenez graduated from Chicopee High School before playing Division 1 college baseball at Boston College and Central Connecticut. He was intentionally walked in his other three plate appearances.

The visiting team took the lead for the first time two innings later.

Ryan Magni and Jimenez reached base via walks, which was sandwiched between a Mike Toth fly-ball single, which loaded the bases with one out. Left fielder Josh Frometa (2-for-3) blasted a triple to center giving his team a 4-2 lead.

“The bases were loaded and I was looking for a pitch to drive,” said Frometa, who played baseball at Chicopee High and A.I.C. “It was a huge hit at that point of the game, and it feels great to win the championship title.”

After scoring an unearned run in the sixth, Teddy Bear scored three more runs in the top of the seventh against lefthander relief pitcher Jackson Hayes. The key hit during that frame was a bases loaded double by first baseman

Will Kennedy, who played for St. Joe’s several years ago.

Teddy Bear entered the bottom of the seventh inning holding an 8-2 advantage.

St. Joe’s DH Adam Zebian drew a walk against Ryan Magni leading off the final frame. Zebian was replaced at first base by pinch runner Adam Przybycien. Left fielder Ryan O’Leary followed with a triple to center scoring Przybycien. O’Leary scored on an infield hit by catcher Nate Carrillon, who graduated from South Hadley High School.

Ryan Magni settled down and got out of the jam by retiring the next three batters, including his younger brother.

Teddy Bear Pools & Spas will be looking to defend their championship title in the summer of 2027, but challengers like St. Joe’s and People’sBank will be looking to knock them off the top of the mountain.



Nate Carrill makes a throw down to second.



Quabbin Middle High School hosts open house

Sixth Grade back to school night is Thursday, Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Quabbin Regional Middle High School auditorium. This is for all incoming sixth graders. The first day of school for students is Monday, Aug. 31. Seventh through 12th grade open house is Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. More information regarding the schedule will be available nearer the date of the open house.

- BARRE
- OAKHAM
- HUBBARDSTON
- HARDWICK
- NEW BRAINTREE

July 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026 (1 DAY)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Aug. 27 1st day Staff (Curr. Day #1)
Aug 28 Prof. Dev. Day (Curr. Day #2)
Aug. 31—1st Day Students

September 2026 (20 DAYS)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Sept. 4—Labor Day Holiday
Sept. 7—Labor Day Holiday

October 2026 (21 DAYS)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Oct. 12—Columbus Day Holiday
Oct. 21—Early Release



Quabbin Regional School District

November 2026 (16 DAYS)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Nov. 3—Prof. Dev. Day (Curr. Day #3)
Nov. 5—END 1st QUARTER
Nov. 11—Veteran's Day
Nov. 25-27—Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2026 (16 DAYS)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Dec. 23—Jan. 1—Winter Break

January 2027 (19 DAYS)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Jan. 1 New Year's Day Holiday
Jan. 13—Early Release
Jan. 18—M.L. King, Jr. Holiday
Jan. 26—End of 2nd QUARTER

February 2027 (15 DAYS)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Feb. 15—20 February Break

March 2027 (23 DAYS)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Mar. 17—Early Release

April 2027 (17 DAYS)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Apr. 6—End of 3RD QUARTER
Apr. 19—23—April Break

May 2027 (20 DAYS)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

May 19—Early Release
May 31—Memorial Day Holiday

June 2027 (12/17 DAYS)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

June 15—Early Release***
June 16—Last day (NO SNOW DAYS)
June 18—Juneteenth Day observed
June 24—Last day (5 SNOW DAYS)

2026—2027 School Calendar

Key:

- = Curriculum Day—No School for Students
- = No School—Holiday/Vacation
- = Early Release for Students
Extended Day for Faculty

***Please Note: June early release day is subject to change. It will be held on the day before the last day of school

Approved by the QRSD School Committee 1/8/2026

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Quabbin School District hires two new administrators

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha announces two new administrators this school year.

Nick Burgos assumes the role of Assistant Principal for Grades 8 and 9 at Quabbin Regional Middle High School. He comes from the South Hadley School District where his experience includes working directly with some of the most vulnerable students.

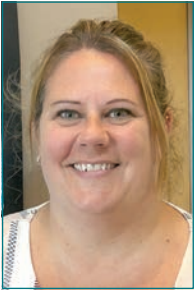
He has worked as a special education teacher in a variety of settings including sub separate programming and inclusive environments. He brings passion and understanding that all students have differences and deserve to have those differences celebrated and recognized.

He is rooted in the belief that all students can be successful and they are the center of the work that they do Prior to becoming a certified teacher, Assistant Principal Burgos started in a support staff position, which has provided him with much learning and insight in how to motivate and engage students.

He is a native New-Englander. He acknowledges that his first love is his



Nick Burgos



Jillian Madden

family, but his second is the New England Patriots. On the weekends, he can be found on various adventures with his wife and three-year-old son.

He shares his great appreciation to the Quabbin Regional Middle High School staff and community members who have welcomed him with support, open arms and warm smiles. He shares, “I feel incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of something truly special here at Quabbin Regional and look forward to meeting and working with this community.”

Hardwick Elementary School will be led by Principal Jillian Madden.

Principal Madden is excited to continue her professional journey within the Quabbin Regional School District and return to Hardwick, where she previously taught. “I have always felt welcomed

within the district, but it is especially exciting to return and work alongside the staff who were part of the beginning of my journey in Quabbin,” Principal Madden said.

Madden brings extensive teaching experience as she has served in the roles of classroom educator in public schools and within a specialized school setting with challenged youth. She has also worked as a curriculum specialist and most recently, she held the role of intervention specialist at Quabbin Regional Middle School.

Outside of school, Principal Madden enjoys spending time with her family including her fourth-grade daughter. She also enjoys staying involved in soccer, both coaching and playing the sport.

Principal Madden is truly eager to begin the 2026-2027 school year, her excitement and desire to serve the students and staff of Hardwick Elementary School is contagious.

Both administrators welcome the opportunity to meet students and families. They can be reached by calling the school offices or via email.

BBB offers school shopping tips

As the back-to-school season approaches, parents and students are gearing up for the annual shopping spree.

Whether they prefer in-person shopping or browsing online, staying informed and prepared can make this busy time more manageable and cost-effective. Better Business Bureau has tips to help navigate back-to-school shopping.

BBB recommends the following tips when looking for school-related items, either in person or online:

Create a shopping list before heading to the store. This helps shoppers stay focused and avoid impulse purchases.

Shop early. To avoid crowds and ensure getting the best selection, start shopping early in the season.

Compare prices between retailers, save coupons, sign up for email alerts and redeem any cash-back or rebate offers. This will help shoppers get the best deals and stay within budget.

Check store policies. Be aware of return policies, especially for electronics and clothing, in case they need to make exchanges or returns.

Research big-ticket items. Read reviews. Look for reviews from credible sources to understand the

pros and cons of different models.

Check specifications. When buying new equipment, check with their child’s school to learn about any technical requirements and determine if any changes are necessary to the home’s high-speed internet. Before purchasing an expensive laptop, tablet or computer accessory, research the brands, warranty, customer reviews and prices at various stores to ensure the best deal. Also, look up the retailer’s reputation on BBB.org.

Look for student discounts. Many tech companies offer discounts for students. Verify eligibility and take advantage of these savings.

Shop smart with sales and tax-free weekends

Plan ahead. Mark calendar for upcoming sales and tax-free weekends. These are ideal times to buy school supplies, clothing and electronics without paying sales tax. Check out this resource from the Federation of Tax Administrators to see what states offer.

Make a priority list. Decide which items are most crucial to purchase during these sales to maximize your savings.

Combine discounts. Look for opportunities to combine store sales with manufacturer rebates or coupons.

Don’t hesitate to ask. When shopping in person, inquire if there are any available discounts, especially for bulk purchases or floor models.

Leverage loyalty programs. Sign up for store loyalty programs, which can offer exclusive discounts and points on purchases.

Use student IDs. Some store discounts are avail-

able to students with either a “edu” email address or a student ID. If you’re a student or have a student in the family, ask if there are any student discounts available.

Visit school supply drives. Many communities and organizations host school supply drives where people can either donate or receive supplies. Check with local schools, community centers or non-profits.

Team up with other parents. Consider pooling resources with other parents to buy supplies like paper towels, tissues, wipes, hand sanitizer in bulk, which can be more cost-effective. Check out warehouse clubs for bulk deals on school supplies and snacks.

When shopping online, be wary of ads that feature items that imply that they may want or need them based on search history. Scammers could be trying to drive people to a different website. Take note of the ad and go to the store’s website by directly typing into the search bar. Note the website’s privacy policy and contact information and always use a credit card when purchasing.

Shop on reputable websites. Ensure you are purchasing from well-known and trusted websites. Look for HTTPS in the URL.

Use secure payment methods. Opt for secure payment methods like credit cards or payment services that offer buyer protection.

By following these tips, it can make back-to-school shopping experience smoother, safer and more economical. Whether people are shopping for essentials or splurging on big-ticket items, a little planning and research can go a long way in ensuring you get the best value for your money.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

More than a check up, vital role of annual well-child visits

By Dr. Ana Stankovic
Chief Medical Officer,
UnitedHealthcare
of New England

As families prepare for the upcoming school year, many are focused on school supplies, schedules and getting back into routines.

But one of the most important back-to-school steps happens before the first day of class: scheduling a well-child visit.

Because many pediatric and family practice schedules often fill quickly throughout the summer, now is an ideal time for parents to make appointments. These preventive visits help ensure children and adolescents are ready for the year ahead, not only academically, but physically, emotionally and developmentally.

What is a well-child visit?

Well-child visits are annual preventive appointments with a pediatrician or family medicine provider. Sometimes referred to as physicals, these visits help track a child's over-

all health and development, including:

Growth and developmental milestones

Immunizations and preventive screenings

Vision and hearing checks

Emotional and behavioral health

Beyond these clinical measures, well-child visits also give parents a chance to complete school or sports forms and raise any concerns before the school year begins.

More importantly, they create dedicated time for families and providers to discuss a child's overall wellbeing, connecting physical health with emotional wellness and any developmental concerns that may affect success in school and at home.

Mental health is part of overall health

The broader view of a checkup may be especially important when it comes to mental health. A child's emotional wellbeing may be closely linked to their physical health. According

to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately one in five children ages three to 17 in the U.S. has a diagnosable mental, emotional or behavioral disorder. Mental health needs can look different depending on age and stage of development.

Young children may experience separation anxiety or behavioral outbursts. School-age children may struggle with focus, stress or social challenges.

Teens may show changes in mood, sleep or engagement. While many of these changes are a normal part of growing up, they can also signal when additional support may be needed.

The good news is that early conversations with a pediatrician can make a difference. A well-child visit is a natural time to check in and help children understand that it's okay to talk about how they're feeling.

These conversations may also help normalize emotional health as an essential



part of routine care.

To help support these conversations and preventive care visits, families are encouraged to review their health plan benefits and available resources as many plans include behavioral health support and programs like Child and Family Behavioral Coaching, which may help families navigate everyday emotional and behavioral challenges.

Importance of dental and vision care

Don't forget to take advantage of vision and

include routine cleanings and exams that help catch concerns before they become more serious.

Tooth decay or cavities, is one of the most common chronic diseases among children and may contribute to missed days at school. Help monitor teeth and gum health with dental exams twice a year. Ensure your children are brushing for 2 minutes twice a day and flossing daily.

Don't forget a healthy diet

Proper nutrition is essential when it comes to supporting your child's physical and emotional health, plus their growth and development. That includes meals with a variety of vegetables, whole fruits, grains, dairy and proteins. It's best to avoid foods high in added sugars, saturated fats and sodium.

Scheduling a well-child visit is a simple but important step that gives families the opportunity to address concerns support a child's overall well being throughout the year.

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Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, July 19 11:07 a.m. Safety Concern, Old Coldbrook Road, Officer Spoke to Party 11:59 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Wheelwright Road, No Transport Required 3:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Grove North Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal 4:34 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Natick, Call Transferred 7:20 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Natick, Negative Contact	School North Street, Officer/Chief Advised 11:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued 5:52 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Varney Lane, No Transport Required 6:05 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Cut Off Road, Officer Spoke to Party 8:46 p.m. Unwanted Party, Worcester Road, Peace Restored 11:30 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Oakham Road, Negative Contact	Vehicle Activity, Nourse Lane, Officer/Chief Advised 10:59 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital
Monday, July 20 8:05 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Unfounded 10:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued 10:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued 11:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued 1:16 p.m. Complaint, Town Farm Road, Officer Spoke to Party 2:19 p.m. Complaint, Hancock Road, Information Given 2:24 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Hardwick Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal 3:44 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital 5:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning 6:50 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, High South Street, Report Filed	Wednesday, July 22 12:37 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Vernon Avenue, Fire Extinguished 11:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, South Street, Transported to Hospital 12:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued 1:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued Charges: License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Lights Violation, Motor Vehicle, License Not in Possession, Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit 5:07 p.m. Erratic Operator, Vernon Avenue, Negative Contact	Friday, July 24 4:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning 5:07 p.m. Complaint, Barre Town Common, Officer Spoke to Party 5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed 10:19 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Old Coldbrook Road, No Action Required
Tuesday, July 21 11:39 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner road, Investigated 4:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning 4:15 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Mutual Aid Transport 7:45 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Cushman Pond, Negative Contact	Thursday, July 23 2:35 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Mechanic Street, Vehicle Towed 11:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Root Road, Transported to Hospital 2:07 p.m. Suspicious Person/	Saturday, July 25 9:24 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital 12:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Varney Lane, No Transport Required 3:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, summer Street, Transported to Hospital 4:47 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Old Coldbrook Road, Transported to Hospital 4:51 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Old Coldbrook Road, Report Filed 5:31 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Butterworth Road, Information Given 7:31 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, South Street, Transported to Hospital 10:31 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hardwick, Mutual Aid Transport
7:59 a.m. Animal – ACO Call,		

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, July 19 11:39 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner road, Investigated 4:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning 4:15 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Mutual Aid Transport 7:45 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Cushman Pond, Negative Contact	Tuesday, July 21 12:02 p.m. Notification, Grove Street, Officer/Chief Advised	Service – Seizures, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital 11:18 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Lombard Road, Information Given 4:45 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Old Westminster Road, Officer Spoke to Party 4:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning 5:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, South Cove Road, Transported to Hospital 6:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
Monday, July 20 2:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Moosehorn Hill Circle, Mutual Aid Transport 1:06 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Ragged Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency 4:50 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Locke Road, Report Filed 6:22 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Old Boston Turnpike, Call Transferred 7:16 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Williamsville Road, Officer Spoke to Party	Wednesday, July 22 7:40 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Chippewa Street, Officer Spoke to Party	Saturday, July 25 1:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, Removed from Scene 8:38 a.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Negative Contact 9:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Pitcherville Road, Transported to Hospital 9:41 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Pitcherville Road, No Action Required
Thursday, July 23 10:23 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital 11:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Root Road, Transported to Hospital 3:38 p.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Area Search Negative 6:18 p.m. Erratic Operator, Pitcherville Road, Officer/Chief Advised 9:08 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Miles Road, Peace Restored	Friday, July 24 6:02 a.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Negative Contact 8:02 a.m. Emergency Medical	

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, July 19 6:16 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), South Road, Information Given 7:49 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Barre Road, Unfounded 11:15 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Bechan Road, Transported to Hospital	Wednesday, July 22 5:07 p.m. Erratic Operator, Vernon Avenue, Negative Contact 7:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital 9:59 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Unfounded	Saturday, July 25 4:03 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Lincoln Road, Officer/Chief Advised 4:10 p.m. Follow-up Investigation, Lincoln Road, Removed from Scene 10:31 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hardwick, Mutual Aid Assist
Tuesday, July 21 8:54 p.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, Happy Hollow Road, Report Filed	Thursday, July 23 11:34 a.m. Notification, East Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency	

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, July 19 11:15 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Bechan Road, Transported to Hospital 4:15 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Mutual Aid Transport 5:35 p.m. Erratic Operator, Glenwood Road, Officer/Chief Advised	Warning 5:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued 5:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning 6:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued 6:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued 7:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital 8:25 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Miles Road, Negative Contact 9:59 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Unfounded 10:26 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Central Tree Road, Information Given	Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued 1 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued 1:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning 1:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued 1:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning 2:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning 2:59 p.m. Complaint, Hope Way, Officer Spoke to Party 5:05 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Welch Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party 5:11 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Miles Road, Returned 6:03 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Miles Road, Officer Spoke to Party 6:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning 6:48 p.m. Complaint, Inwood Road, Officer/Chief Advised 7:23 p.m. Complaint, Oakridge Drive, Officer Spoke to Party 7:49 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised 9:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Newman Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal 9:48 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Negative Contact
Monday, July 20 2:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Moosehorn Hill Circle, Mutual Aid Transported 3:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Brooke Haven Drive, Transported to Hospital 4:50 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Locke Road, Report Filed 8:57 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Miles Road, Officer/Chief Advised	Thursday, July 23 3:55 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Irish Lane, Transported to Hospital 12:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Highland Park Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal 1:55 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, No Action Required 5:45 p.m. Notification, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital 9:08 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Miles Road, Peace Restored	
Tuesday, July 21 12:34 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital 7:08 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Rebecca Ann Drive, Transported to Hospital 11:34 a.m. Property Damage, Swartz Road, Investigated 11:47 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Barre Paxton Road, Officer/Chief Advised 12:22 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital 12:59 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Lizzy Lane, Investigated 4:39 p.m. Illegal Dumping, East County Road, Report Filed 5:29 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital	Friday, July 24 10:05 a.m. Public Assist, River Road, Dispatch Handled 11:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning 11:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued 11:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning 11:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning 11:47 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised 12:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued 12:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning 12:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle	
Wednesday, July 22 12:37 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Vernon Avenue, Fire Extinguished 3:01 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital 5:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written		

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Aug. 17-24, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 51 building/property checks, 12 directed/area patrols, nine radar assignments, two traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, eight citizen assists, four assist other agencies, one safety hazard, four complaints, one burglary, two motor vehicle investigations, one disturbance, one motor vehicle accident, five animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.	to Hospital 6:20 p.m. 911 Fire/Auto, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital 7:34 p.m. Complaint, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Negative Contact 8:37 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Summit Road, Report Taken	Street, Officer Handled 5:13 p.m. Complaint, Prouty Road, Officer Handled 5:28 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Muddy Brook Road, Voice Message Left 5:50 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Dispatch Handled 7:01 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Muddy Brook Road, Referred to Other Agency 8:06 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Report Taken 11:55 p.m. Complaint, Broad Street, Officer Handled
Monday, Aug. 17 8:14 a.m. Safety Hazard, Ruggles Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency 2:58 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled 3:17 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Jackson Road, Officer Handled	Thursday, Aug. 20 4:48 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Charity Hill Road, Transported to Hospital 8:22 a.m. Assist Citizen, Pine Street, Spoken To 8:26 a.m. Assist Citizen, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled 10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued 10:54 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Lower Road, Referred to Other Agency 5:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, River Run, Negative Contact 7:43 p.m. Assist Citizen, River Run, Spoken To 10:50 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Bridge Street, Officer Handled	Saturday, Aug. 22 9:23 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered 11:32 a.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital 2:06 p.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Broad Street, Officer Handled
Tuesday, Aug. 18 7:47 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Collins Road, Services Rendered 10:33 a.m. Welfare Check, Joslyn Road, Transported to Hospital 10:40 p.m. Fire/Alarm, Old Petersham Road, Investigated	Friday, Aug. 21 7:59 a.m. Complaint, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled 8:51 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Spoken To 9:53 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Spoken To 3:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main	Sunday, Aug. 23 9:16 a.m. Unattended Death, Taylor Hill Road, Services Rendered 5:09 p.m. Assist Citizen, Taylor Hill Road, Spoken To 6:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Hardwick Road, Investigated
Wednesday, Aug. 19 10:30 a.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Report Taken 5:52 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, North Street, Transported		Monday, Aug. 24 7:51 a.m. Fire/Alarm, Lower Road, Services Rendered

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Aug. 17-24, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 19 building/property checks, 13 directed/area patrols, four radar assignments, five traffic controls, three emergency 911 calls, one safety hazard, seven citizen assists, one harassment, one complaint, one disturbance, one investigation, four animal calls and two motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.	Road, Transported to Hospital 6:57 p.m. Assist Citizen, Moore Road, Merge 9:04 p.m. Harassment, Pierce Road, Officer Handled	Emergency, Gilbertville Road, Transported to Hospital 1:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, Worcester Road, Services Rendered
Tuesday, Aug. 18 12:11 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital 9:08 a.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Dispatch Handled	Wednesday, Aug. 19 8:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, West Brookfield Road, Officer Handled 9:50 a.m. Investigation, West Brookfield Road, Investigated	Friday, Aug. 21 6:35 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
Monday, Aug. 17 9:48 a.m. Safety Hazard, Mara Road, Removed Hazard 4:28 p.m. Complaint, Padre Road, Officer Handled 5:11 p.m. Disturbance, Moore	Thursday, Aug. 20 9:06 a.m. 911 Medical	Saturday, Aug. 22 11:05 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled 1:56 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered
		Sunday, Aug. 23 10:57 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

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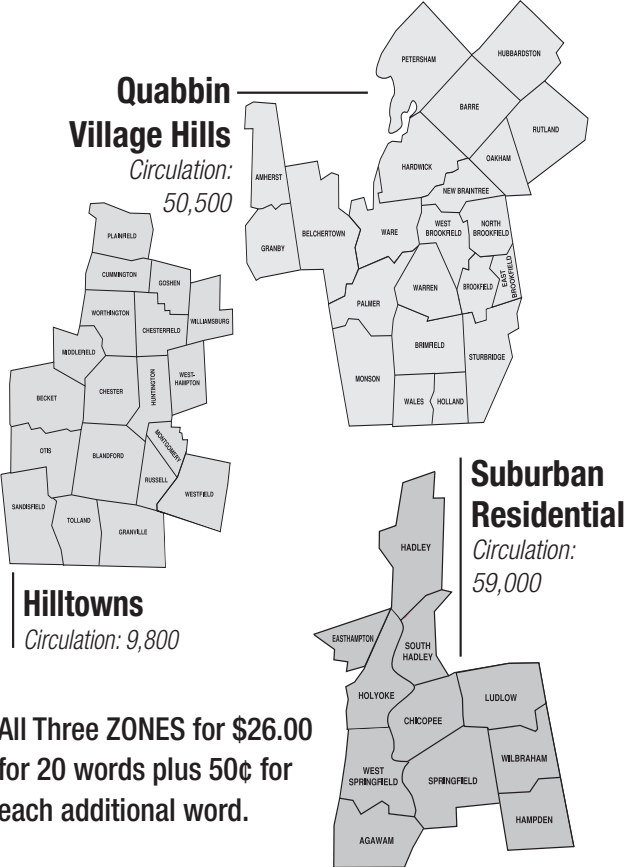
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