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BARRE GAZETTE

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Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

The New Braintree 275th Committee hosted a parade on Oct. 3 to celebrate the town's milestone. The Historical Society's float paid homage to the town's agricultural roots and resilience in the face of adversity.

New Braintree celebrates 275 years

By Paula Ouimette
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NEW BRAINTREE – As the church's bell tolled to announce the arrival of 1 p.m., cannon fire echoed across the green and the town's much anticipated 275th anniversary celebration began.

On Oct. 3, the Olde Home Day celebration planned by the town's 275th Anniversary Committee, started with a parade from Barre Cut Off Road to Memorial Drive.

The parade featured community organizations, local businesses, police and fire departments from across the region, a bicycle parade and a miniature horse from Soulful Eyes Equine Rescue.

Performances were given by the Quabbin Marching Band, Quabbin Community Band and the Holyoke Caledonian Pipe Band, as well as a 20-member kazoo band.

Following the parade, Olde Home Day continued

See OLDE HOME DAY, page 7

Williamsville Road residents sign petition

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Select Board received a resident petition from Ben Johnson of Williamsville Road for a commercial vehicle weight restriction on Williamsville Road from Valley Road to the Hubbardston line.

He said he obtained 33 signatures at 23 different homes supporting a commercial vehicle weight restriction of 2 ½ tons. He said only four people he visited declined to sign the petition.

Johnson presented the petition and cover letter to the Select Board at their Monday, Oct. 5 meeting.

He said Hubbardston Road, Route 62, was a better route for the trucks since it is a state road and less populated.

He said School Street, which is part of the route from the center of Barre to Hubbardston and Templeton along with Williamsville Road, had even denser populations than Williamsville Road. He did not solicit signatures from those residents.

He said trucks speed on the road and many are very loud. He has a decibel meter and recorded levels exceeding 85 decibels.

He said several exceeded 100 decibels. The engine noise and braking made it difficult to carry on a conversation in his house. He said it was his opinion that some of the trucks "choose to be loud."

Johnson said a section of Williamsville Road recently got paved and it was long overdo. He went to Department of Public Works Commission meeting in 2020 and got berated.

Select Board Chairman Maureen Marshall said the Board contacted the Massachusetts Department of Transportation regarding the procedure to restrict weight of commercial vehicles.

The DOT required an engineering study, a traffic survey, a viable detour route and had the authority to approve or not approve the restriction.

In response to the speeding issue, Police Chief James Sabourin said he will set up a speed trailer on Wiliamsville Road.

Johnson concluded he

See BARRE, page 6

SB interviews town clerk candidates

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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RUTLAND – The Select Board interviewed two candidates for town clerk at their meeting last Monday following the retirement of former Town Clerk Anita Carlson. The position is now an appointed one rather than an elected one. The candidates interviewed were Elizabeth Hendrickson and Ben Barakian, who is the current acting town clerk.

Elizabeth Hendrickson

Hendrickson said she has more than 20 years of municipal experience, starting in the town manager's office in 2004, before moving to a town clerk's office in 2010 and becoming the assistant town clerk in 2016, a position she has held since. Hendrickson holds a certified town clerk certification.

Hendrickson is a resident of Rutland and said she has an appreciation for the role of town clerk.

"I love helping the customers, the residents," Hendrickson said.

She said some of the challenges that come with the position usually come around elections. Hendrickson said she hopes in the future, the state can come up with some resources to help voters understand what the town clerk actually does, and the processes behind the election.

She said that she would think of ways to streamline the voting process.

She could not name any specific challenges that may apply to Rutland, and said with the financial constraints of the town, she'd have to look into any issues that arise because of it and figure out the best way to handle it.

Hendrickson said the most rewarding part of the job as town clerk is helping a frustrated customer, or getting a compliment from the public or staff, saying the recognition is most rewarding.

When asked where she feels most confident, Hendrickson said it's her knowledge of elections, and she described herself as being least confident in public speaking, but working on it. She also said she believes each part of the town clerk's job is important.

For record preservation, she said that she'd have to look over what records the town has and how and where they should be preserved for ease of access. Hendrickson said the qualities of a town clerk include being dependable, organized, responsible and service oriented.

When asked how she'd handle a problem on election day, she said if it was with a person, take them off to the side and ask how she could help and if it were equipment, let the voters know they are working on it.

Benjamin Barakian

Barakian said he has about three and a half years of experience in the town clerk's office as the assistant town clerk, has worked

See RUTLAND, page 10

Legislators and local leaders speak against MWRA request

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – A public hearing was held by the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission to discuss a request from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to transfer an additional 20 million gallons of water per day from the Quabbin Reservoir to the eastern Massachusetts communities the reservoir serves.

The reason cited is to accommodate the expansion of its service area.

Legislators and local officials, along with residents spoke strongly in opposition of this request at the Sept. 30 hearing, citing fairness, equity and history, among other themes. State leaders in attendance included Rep. Aaron Saunders, Sen. Jake Oliveira, Sen. Jo Comerford and Sen. Peter Durant.

Saunders spoke of the history of the Quabbin, saying "The Quabbin is not merely a distant water source."

He spoke about how it displaced residents and reshaped the region of the state for the benefit of millions of people in metro Boston, and how to this day, the residents and communities protect and steward the water. He said the lands of the Quabbin are taken from the tax bases of communities and residents live with water restrictions to preserve the water, but they cannot access it when their own wells run dry.

"This is the context in which I urge the commission to reject the MWRA's application as presented," Saunders said.

He also noted that the request of 20 million gallons is the largest request ever made in 40 years of the interbasin transfer being law.

Saunders also spoke about the interbasin transfer act, which is the legal process for the request being made. He said under the statute, the donor and receiving communities need to have access to the same information to weigh their decisions, but in this case, the donor communities are not being told what the need for the water is, which communities will be getting it, and how much water is going to each individual community.

He said the eastern Massachusetts communities will have all that information.

"The MWRA's attempt to leverage the very law designed to protect our communities to instead deprive us of basic information about a proposed transfer adds immeasurable insult to generations of injury," he said of the request.

"Quabbin region residents are being asked to comment on the extraction of 20 million gallons of water per day without knowing where the water will go, who will receive it, how much each community needs, or what public benefit supposedly justifies the burden," he said.

Oliveira spoke about the levels of the Quabbin being the lowest they have been in his lifetime.

"If you go to the Quabbin Reservoir right now, you can see how low the water is," he said.

He said the request of 20 million gallons is equivalent to one John Hancock building in Boston, and there is no clear guidance on who will receive the water. He urged the commission to hold a future hearing on the decision in western Massachusetts so people from the region can attend.

Oliveira also spoke about the interbasin transfer law, saying "the spirit of the law is intentionally being broken right now, and if this makes its way to a court of law, I guarantee that they would probably side with the legislators."

Comerford spoke about the commission's responsibility to safeguard the water future for the entire commonwealth, and spoke about how the Quabbin towns face restrictions on economic development

See QUABBIN, page 11

SB discusses private road plowing

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board met Monday where residents from Plum Tree Lane were requesting the town plow the road this coming winter, but since the road is owned by a third party entity, the town does not maintain it.

The board weighed the possibility of placing an article on the Oct. 27 special town meeting related to whether residents would be willing to fund the plowing of that street.

According to residents of the road, the town was originally supposed to take over

See HUBBARDSTON, page 14

Autumn colors begin to show



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

Trees are starting to show some color on Barre North Common.

News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
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Legion Auxiliary meets Oct. 12

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2 Barre holds their October meeting for the auxiliary on Monday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Legion Post, 457 South Barre Road. The refreshment committee consists of Melissa, Karen, and Laurie.

Early voting

Town Clerk Ellen Gliddne announces early voting for the Nov. 3 state election. The town will hold In Person Early Voting at the Henry Woods Building, located at 40 West St. first floor on the following dates: Saturday, Oct. 17 and Saturday, Oct 24 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 20 through Thursday, Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 27 through Thursday, Oct. 29 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Vote by mail applications are also available at the Town Clerk's Office or online at www.townofbarre.com.

The last day to apply for a vote by mail ballot will be Tuesday, Oct. 27 by 5 p.m. The last day to register to vote will be Saturday, Oct. 24 by 5 p.m. The Town Clerk's Office located at 40 West St., will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Oct. 24.

Barre Food Pantry

The Barre Food Pantry's two distributions in October will occur on successive days, Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 10-11:30 a.m. and Thursday, Oct. 15 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Oct. 14 or in the evening on Thursday, Oct. 15, whichever is the more convenient for them. To maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Oct. 14 and 15 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

People should visit the Barre Food Pantry website at http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm and the Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/ for updates.

Historical Society hosts 250th exhibit Oct. 18

RUTLAND – The Rutland Historical Society hosts a 250th exhibit on Sunday, Oct. 18, from 1-3 p.m.in the Rutland Historical Society, 232 Main St.

People are invited to browse the artifacts and displays and learn what life was like for the founding fathers and early residents during the American Revolution. Light refreshments will be available.

Rutland Library offers patrons many passes to local places

RUTLAND – Library passes are available at the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St.

This year, the library added the Ecotarium pass to their offerings in addition to Old Sturbridge Village, Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts State Parks, New England Botanical Garden at Tower Hill and during the summer the Rutland Town Pool (thanks to the Rutland Recreation Department).

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Rutland Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

Bicycle or walk takes place Oct. 16

RUTLAND – A bicycle or walk on Friday, Oct. 16 at 1 p.m. the Wachusett Greenways section of the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail in the Rutland, Oakham and Barre. Each event can accommodate up to 25 participants. Meet in Rutland at the rail trail parking area on Route 122, one mile west of the Route 122A intersection. This parking is marked with white reflectors along the road. It has a portable restroom and is at the intersection with the Midstate Trail.

They'll ride 4 plus miles west through Oakham to the rail trail terminus parking along Route 122 in Barre, then back east 8+ miles to Glenwood Road in Rutland then west back to the starting point. Feel free to ride the roughly 16-mile round trip or stop where they parked on Route 122 for a ride of about 8 miles.

For those who prefer walking, they'll travel 2 to 4 miles, some east and some west along the trail.

An annual gift in any amount (suggest $40) to Wachusett Greenways makes the donor a member and helps with operating expenses maintenance, portable restrooms and more.

People may consider an additional gift to Wachusett Greenways for any of these funds: Mass Central Rail Trail Construction Fund – to help build the trail; Edward P. Yaglou MCRT Maintenance Fund – to conduct heavier restoration projects and Mass Central Rail Trail Stewardship Endowment Fund – permanent fund to sustain Wachusett Greenways' care for the trail.

People may mail their gift to: Wachusett Greenways, P.O. Box 121, Holden, MA 01520.

New volunteers are always welcome. People may call Colleen at 508-479-2123 or email colleen.abrams@verizon.net.

Food Pantry distributions Oct. 14 and 15

BARRE – Once or twice a year a month begins on a Thursday.

This makes the third Thursday of the month the day right after the second Wednesday. October 2026 is such a month.

As a result, the Barre Food Pantry's two distributions in October will occur on successive days, Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 10-11:30 a.m. and Thursday, Oct. 15 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Oct. 14 or in the evening on Thursday, Oct. 15, whichever is the more convenient for them.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the spread of respiratory viruses

Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but with the continued prevalence of ultra-contagious viruses the Board decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as they have since March of 2020.

To maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Oct. 14 and 15 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

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

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

On Tuesday night, Oct. 13 at 5 p.m. the Barre Food Pantry will be gathering volunteers at the Barre Congregational Church to unload incoming groceries from their truck, to sort through donated groceries, to pre-fill grocery bags and in other ways to prepare for the distribution the following morning. If people can help pitch in for an hour on the Oct. 13, they should call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921.

People should not arrive to volunteer on Oct. 14 and 15 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-4212, Mary Beschta at 978-355-4212 or Dave Petrovick at 978-852-1696.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, people should visit the Barre Food Pantry website at http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm, and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/ for updates.

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 Oct. 12. 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 – Columbus Day No Meal Served

TUESDAY – Pork rib-i-que, mac n cheese, green beans. Mandarin oranges, sandwich roll

WEDNESDAY – Sloppy Joe, herbed potatoes, mixed vegetables, fresh fruit, sandwich roll

THURSDAY – Chicken Cacciatore, Gemelli pasta, roasted broccoli and carrots, blueberry crisp, diet = applesauce, Italian bread

FRIDAY – Fish with crumb topping, lemon seasoned potatoes, Tuscany style vegetables, Jello, sandwich roll, tartar sauce

*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.

Senior Center lists events in October

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center, located at 29 Forest St., will offer the following programs during the month of October.

Activities and events include Coffee and Craft on Oct. 10 at 9 a.m. (There is a $5 fee and sign up is required); SHINE representative on Oct. 13 and 26 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. by appointment only; Veteran's Agent on Oct. 14 from 10-11 a.m.; Blood Pressure Clinic on Oct. 14 at 11 a.m.; Free Drawing/Painting Class on Oct. 15 at 11 a.m.; Ed Spater, Medicare Specialist on Oct. 15 and 29 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. by appointment only; Tech Help with Alex on Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. Tri Valley Nutrition Program –Healthy Eating on a Budget on Oct. 27 at 1 p.m.; Fraud Prevention by Joseph Early's Office on Oct. 28 at 11 a.m.; Blood Pressure/Glucose Clinic on Oct. 28 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and a Free Art Class on Oct. 29 at 11 a.m.

Weekly programs and activities include daily coffee; Walking Club on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.; Food Distribution (for North Brookfield and Brookfield residents) on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.; lunch on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at noon; Crafting Group on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.; Gentle Yoga on Thursdays at 1 p.m. ($5 fee); and Functional Fitness on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. ($5 fee).



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Finance Committee seeks members

The Oakham Finance Committee is looking for new members. Finance experience is preferred, but not mandatory. Complete the volunteer application form available on the Oakham Town Website and submit it to admin@oakham-ma.gov or mail it to Maribel LaRange, Town of Oakham, 2 Coldbrook Road, Oakham, MA 01068.

Rescheduling of override presentations

The Proposition 2 1/2 override informational presentations got rescheduled to Thursday Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 12:30 p.m. Both will be held in the main room of the Senior Center.

Celebration for Rev. Tim Hanley

On Sunday, Oct. 18 during the regular 10 a.m. worship service there will be a celebration of Rev. Tim Hanley of his over 50 years of ministry. The Oakham Congregational Church will award him the title Pastor Emeritus. A special coffee hour will follow the service in Fellowship Hall.

Church breakfast

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, hosts a breakfast to benefit local food pantries on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m. The menu includes pancakes (plain, blueberry and chocolate chip), sausage, scrambled eggs, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

There will be a free will donation to benefit the local food pantries.

Senior news

The Council on Aging monthly meeting takes place Friday, Oct. 9 at noon in the voting room Town Hall. Proposition 2 1/2 informational presentations takes place Thursday, Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 10 at at 12:30 p.m. in the main room at the Senior Center. Wachusett Mountain, Princeton. Admission will be paid by COA. People should call 508-882-4073 to sign up. Podiatry clinics meet Mondays, Oct. 19 and Oct. 26 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. by appointment only. They should call 508-882-4073 to request an appointment. A Harvest Potluck luncheon takes place Friday, Oct. 30 at 12:30 p.m. in the Oakham Congregational Church. People should call 508-882-4073 to sign up.

Also the COA is still looking for those interested in attending the Healthcare Options informational presentation to be held on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at noon in the Senior Center. 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 9 a.m. *note change of time, $3 per class and Functional fitness class Fridays in New Braintree Town Hall at 10:30 a.m. an additional $1 will be collected separately for use of the building at both these classes. A separate sign in will be kept by the town at each class as well. Walking groups and weigh in are on Thursdays at noon.

Congregate hot meals

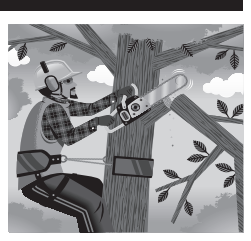
Congregate hot meals are held Monday through Thursday at 11:15 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m.-12.15 p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

Christ Memorial Church to hold tag sale on Oct. 17

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The tag sale at Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will be held Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., rain or shine.

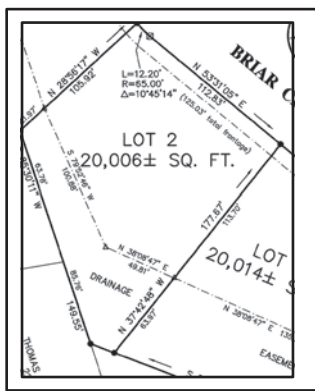
There will be plants, puzzles, books, clothes, kids' stuff, kitchen and household items, treasures and more. Name your own price. Help support the North Brookfield Food Collaborative by bringing non-perishable items. Use the Spring Street door should the weather force the tag sale inside.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Quabbin Regional School District Building, Grounds, Safety and Technology Subcommittee Oct. 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Quabbin Regional School District Committee – Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Water Commission – Oct. 13 at 5 p.m.

DPW Commission – Oct. 13 at 6 p.m.

Cable Advisory Committee – Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

Conservation Committee – Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

Library Trustees – Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Historical Commission – Oct. 15 at 2 p.m.

Select Board – Oct. 19 at 5 p.m.

Cemetery Commission – Oct. 22 at 11 a.m.

Government Structure and Cost Advisory Committee – Oct. 26, Nov. 30 and Dec. 28 and Jan. 25, 2027 at 1 p.m.

Finance Committee – Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. and Jan. 5, 2027 and Jan. 19, 2027 at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board – Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.

Board of Health – Nov. 9 at 5 p.m.

HARDWICK

Board of Health – Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.

Planning Board – Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Gilbertville Public Library – Oct. 14 at 3 p.m.

Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Capital Planning Committee – Oct. 19 at 3 p.m.

Gilbertville Water District – Oct. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission – Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Paige Library Trustees – Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Board of Parks Commissioners – Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.

Candidate's Night for upcoming State Election – Oct. 14 at 6 p.m.

Cable Advisory Committee – Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

Council on Aging – Oct. 15 at 4 p.m.

Select Board – Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

First Meeting House Preservation Committee – Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Assessors – Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.

Planning Board – Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Community Preservation Committee Annual Public Hearing – Oct. 27 at 6 p.m.

Board of Health – Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.

Special Town Meeting – Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.

Agricultural Commission – Oct. 28 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Office Hours Rep. Berthiuame and Sen. Durant's offices – Oct. 8 from 10-11 a.m.

OAKHAM

Cultural Council – Oct. 8 at 5 p.m.

Board of Health – Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.

Library Trustees – Oct. 22 at 5 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Oct. 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.

Cemetery Commission – Oct. 13 at 11 a.m.

Petersham School Committee – Oct. 13 at 4 p.m.

Board of Health – Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Petersham Historic District – Oct. 15 at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging – Nov. 9 at 1 p.m.

RUTLAND

Planning Board Public Hearing – Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Back Roads Studio Tour

Weekend celebrates local artists and crafters

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Lisa Janice (LJ) Cohen of Dragonbelly Ceramics in Gilbertville, opened her home studio during the Back Roads Studio Tour this past weekend.



Sue Morello of Sheldon Farms Baskets in Barre is shown with some of her baskets

This past weekend, the Back Roads Studio Tour highlighted eight artists and crafters by offering the public the opportunity to tour their home studios over two days.

The tour drew visitors from across New England, giving them a chance to talk with the artist, and learn about their work.

The northernmost part of the tour was at Petersham Leathers, a studio owned by Sylvia Brown in Petersham.

The studio is located in a barn that was part of the Twin Dairy Farm operated by F.W. Elliott and family, until a fire in the 1960s. Brown still has a glass milk bottle on display in her workspace.

Brown has been working with leather for more than five decades, and she still has the first project she ever completed – a bedspread for her doll, complete with a fringe.

Brown makes handbags, briefcases, belts and luggage, but she specializes as a tailor working to fit leather garments. Her work is especially popular with motorcyclists.

Brown also makes handbags out of sheets of cork, a renewable resource and an alternative to leather.

The next stop on the tour was to Sheldon Farms Baskets in Barre, where Sue Morello displayed baskets of all shapes and sizes, as well as handmade soap and Christmas ornaments.

Many of Morello's baskets feature hand-painted designs, and some are accented with braided sea grass.

Morello has been making baskets for 35 years, and she is a well-known teacher of the craft, offering classes at libraries and other locations across the region.

The tour then headed further south to Gilbertville, a village in Hardwick, where Lisa Janice (LJ) Cohen has Dragonbelly Ceramics.

Cohen said the studio got its name from one of her signature mugs, which a friend described as looking like a dragon that stood up on its back legs to walk away.

These mugs have a rounded "belly" shape and pinched "feet" at the bottom. Each mug has a unique texture, which Cohen creates using vintage laces she finds.

During the tour Cohen was making "salt pigs," which are pig-shaped holders for salt to keep handy in your kitchen.

The Back Roads Studio Tour headed further west this year, reaching the town of Ware, at the studio of painter and sculptor, John Collins.

Collins demonstrated his sculpting technique with a bust of a model (and her pet bearded dragon) as well as an owl. The walls of Collins' studio are decorated with his oil paintings of "people, pets and prized possessions."



Sylvia Brown of Petersham Leathers in Petersham sewed a leather purse during the Back Roads Studio Tour.

Collins also used the tour to showcase the vast collection created by his late mother. Like her son, she also created sculptures and oil paintings, and many of her paintings were completed entirely with a palette knife.

The Back Roads Studio Tour featured three studios in North Brookfield, including Elisabeth Hyder's Brookfield Paperworks studio.

Hyder specializes in paper crafts, and during the tour she helped visitors make their own paste paper – a technique that combines acrylic paint with cornstarch (or flour) and water to crate a colorful paste.

Hyder creates a number of different works of art with her paste paper, from boxes to collages, to Christmas trees, and even tiny boats.

At Buck Hill Studio, Russell Buzzell displayed a lifetime of work that spanned from his youth to his professional career as an illustrator.

Buzzell's studio is located on the same road as the family farm where he grew up and enjoyed caring for animals. It's here that he developed a deep love for

See BACK ROADS TOUR, page 10

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Historical Society hosts apple program

The Hubbardston Historical Society presents Christie Higginbottom, who will speak on the Infinite Variety of Fruit: Historic New England Apples on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 1-3 p.m. in the Williamsville Chapel, 4 Burnshirt Road. Suggested donation is $10 per person. Participants will learn about and taste the Nonesuch and other historic apple varieties. People may email hubbhistory1767@gmail.com to RSVP.

Scarecrow and pumpkin contest

First Meeting House Preservation Committee host a scare crow and pumpkin contest on Saturday, Oct. 24 at 10 a.m. in the First Meeting House, Main St. There will be prizes and certificates for different categories. There is no preregistration for the Scare crow contest or Pumpkin contest. People should bring their entry to the common at the First Meeting House 2 Main St. There will be prizes and certificates for different categories. The entry fee for the scare crow contest is $5 entry fee, pumpkin contest entry fee $1 and vote for your favorites with a $1 per vote fee. In addition, there will be fall themed games, Do It Yourself crafts, grave yard tour and scavenger hunt. Hot cider and hot chocolate will be served.

BOH vaccine clinic

The Hubbardston Board of Health contracted with Walgreen Pharmacy to hold a vaccine clinic for ages 6 and up on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Senior Center, Main Street. Vaccines offered include flu, COVID, shingles, measles, pneumonia, tetanus and others. People may sign up for vaccines at the senior center or call the Town Clerk at 978-928-1400, extension 202. People should include their name and what vaccine and how many. This helps that the right amount of vaccines are available at the clinic.

Cultural Council seeks applications

The Hubbardston Cultural Council, part of the Massachusetts Local Cultural Council network, will be accepting grant applications for the 2026–2027 cycle until Thursday, Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m. The HCC will begin reviewing applications in November. The Council invites individuals, nonprofits, schools and other local organizations to submit proposals for creative, educational and community-based cultural programming. People may visit the hubbardstonma.gov/170/Cultural-Council for more information and to apply for a grant. For further information or to arrange an interview with representatives of the Hubbardston Cultural Council, people should email Laura Foley at laura@lauramfoley.com or call 978-820-0046.

Senior 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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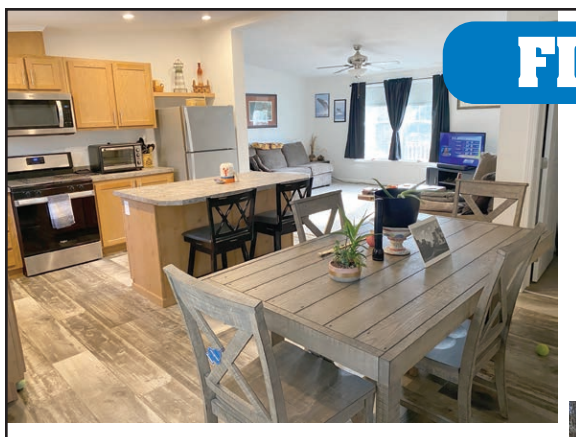
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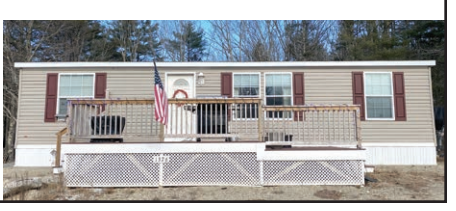


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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY *Matters*

By Russell Gloor

When will Congress repay Social Security money taken years ago?

Dear Rusty:

I seem to remember that Congress borrowed a total of 4 trillion dollars from SS back in the 1980s and 1990s. When will this be repaid with interest?

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

I'm afraid your recollection is not correct – no politicians (Congress or Presidents) have ever taken money from the Social Security Trust Funds – not in the 1980s, nor 1990s, not ever.

Congress and Presidents are prevented by law from using Social Security money for any purpose other than paying SS benefits to beneficiaries and for paying the operating costs of administering the program.

Some significant changes to the Social Security program were, indeed, made in the years you mention, but those changes essentially saved Social Security from defaulting on monthly SS payment obligations.

In 1983, Congress and President Reagan enacted some income tax on received SS benefits for those with higher incomes and which added to Social Security's revenue, thus avoiding a benefit cut.

Then in 1993, Congress and President Clinton expanded that legislation to increase the taxation of received Social Security benefits to provide additional SS revenue.

What you may be remembering is the political rhetoric from those days, which opined that Congress had stolen, squandered or borrowed (and should repay) Social Security money used for other purposes.

And that rhetoric originated because of the way received SS revenue from payroll FICA tax is invested.

Social Security revenue, when received, is immediately invested in special-issue government bonds, which pay interest (just like normal government "T-bills").

The difference is that these SS bonds are redeemable, with interest, upon demand and as needed by SSA to pay monthly benefits. This means that SS gets additional interest income from these investments accounting for about $69 billion in extra SS income in 2025.

Some folks, however, feel that because the U.S. Treasury gets the actual cash received for those SS investments, that the money is used by the Treasury for other purposes. Which is, of course, true – just as the government uses all income received from all revenue sources to pay for government programs.

So, rather than viewing those SS bonds as investments, some view them as "money borrowed" and sometimes call the bonds "worthless IOUs." This, of course, is not at all the case, because every dollar invested in those special issue government bonds has been (and still is) used only for valid Social Security purposes and results in extra SS revenue from interest.

Nevertheless, those accusations were prevalent in the 1980s and 1990s when the changes to tax SS benefits were enacted. Indeed, we still regularly hear and refute similar rhetoric these days in our capacity as Social Security Advisors.

We've written many articles on this topic, all of which are available at the AMAC Foundation's two main websites at www.amacfoundation.org, and www.SocialSecurityReport.org.

To answer your specific question "when will this (money) be repaid with interest?" The answer is - there is nothing to repay. All monies ever received for Social Security purposes have been invested in special interest-bearing government bonds, which are redeemed (with interest paid) weekly as needed to pay Social Security benefits to those who have earned and are entitled to them.

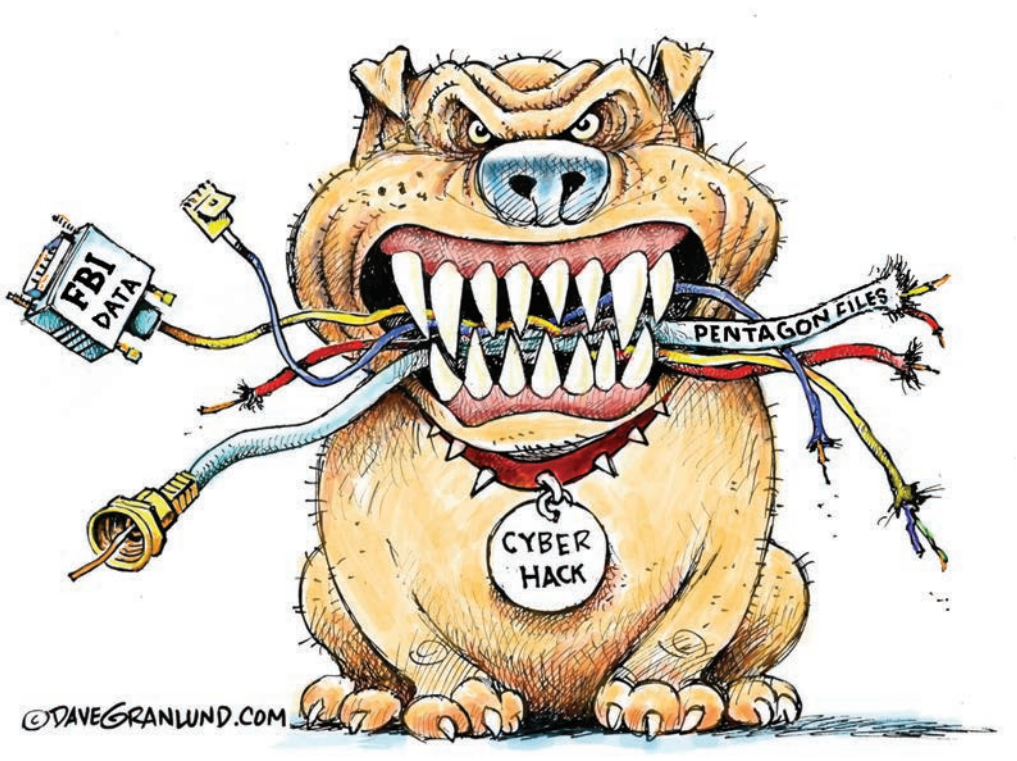
These bonds are secured by the "full faith and credit of the U.S. government," a financial designation which is globally considered to be "exceptionally low risk."

FYI, the SS Trust Fund reserves held about $2.5 trillion in investments as of the end of 2025, down from about $2.9 trillion in 2020. The Trust Fund total is now being regularly depleted because incoming SS revenue has not been sufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since 2021, so Trust Fund reserves are now being used to pay full benefits.

And therein lies the crux of the Social Security solvency issue, which is why the program so urgently needs Congressional reform before the SS reserves in the Trust Funds run dry in 2032, after which everyone would see a cut in their monthly SS benefits. Congress must enact SS reform now.

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.

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In Past Pages

Look Back
Historical Society Tea – 1989



For nine years, the summer sunshine has graced the portico of the Barre Historical Society for its annual Garden Party. Last Sunday's memorable event served to bring friends and acquaintances together for an afternoon of conversation and reminiscence. In addition to the refreshments and conviviality, the building itself was open for touring – proudly showing itself off to visitors from far and near. Folks gather for tea beneath the stately columns of the building's façade.
File photo

5 years (Oct. 14, 2021)

There was a groundbreaking ceremony last Friday, Oct. 8 for a Habitat for Humanity home on Ragged Hill Road in Hubbardston. The property is being built on land the town deeded to Habitat for Humanity to build an affordable housing unit in town. State Senator Anne Gobi and State Representative Don Berthiaume were among the attendees.

At the Hardwick selectmen's meeting Tuesday, Selectmen Chairman Kelly Kemp said the board was told last Wednesday that the $5 million they were relying on from the state for financial assistance for the sewer project, "was not available." Town Administrator Nicole Parker said the Executive Office of Administration and Finance told her they will consider releasing the funds, but said they "never give this money to municipalities." Kemp said they needed to involve state Sen. Anne Gobi, D-Spencer, who helped to earmark these funds on behalf of the town. "Without this money, the other money doesn't exist either. We have to push more…that $5 million is there," Kemp said. The board will be meeting with town counsel in executive session on Oct. 13 to determine if mediation is an appropriate step for the town in their appeal to reinstate the funding from the USDA for the project.

The Hubbardston Select Board went over the eight article Special Town Meeting warrant at its Oct. 4 meeting and voted to recommend seven of the articles. They opted to hold off on recommending article 6 for a grant of $100,000 from Community Preservation Act funds to preserve the Evangelical Congregational Church in town. The board may take a vote before the special town meeting Tuesday, Oct. 19. The project would include removal of old siding and replacing with composite side. The awarding of the money is was contingent on a structural engineering report. Acting town administrator David Nixon said he thought because it was town money, the church would need to follow procurement laws. He will find out for sure before the special town meeting. Town counsel said the article was okay to appear on the warrant. The first article funds

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Letter to Editor

Petition circulates

To the Editor

The Coalition of Massachusetts Family Action, MCFL, Massachusetts Citizens for Life and the Massachusetts Family Institute are working together to Repeal Massachusetts Chapter188, the law which recently made it legal to abort a child, to end the life of a fully viable child, without reason till the moment of first breath in short abortion till birth.

The law previously allowed up to 24 weeks. Now the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor Maura Healy under the new Chapter 188 change make it legal to perform an abortion right up to birth for any reason.

Until Chapter 188, Massachusetts generally limited abortion after 24 weeks for four situations: to save the mother's life, to protect her physical or mental health, a lethal fetal anomaly or a grave diagnosis incompatible with sustained life outside the womb without extraordinary intervention.

These abortions had to be done in a hospital, except in an emergency. Chapter 188, signed Aug. 10, 2026 struck those four conditions. After 24 weeks, the statue now says an abortion may be performed "based upon the professional judgement of the physician"

A statewide effort is now underway to suspend and repeal this new Abortion Law called Chapter 188. All over the state hundreds of volunteers are working hard to get 50,000 signatures.

That number would stop the bill for two years and place it on the 2028 ballot for the people to vote on.

Members of the Saint Francis of Assisi Parish are working with the Coalition to collect signatures. The weekend of Oct. 10 and Oct. 11, they will have petitions for anyone to sign after all Masses.

On Saturday, Oct. 10 from 9 a.m.-noon a signing table will be located on the Barre Common across from St. Joseph's chapel.

Volunteers will also be at the Quabbin Plaza in Barre as follows: Friday, Oct. 9 from 3-6 p.m.;Monday, Oct. 12 from 3-6 p.m. and on Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 11a.m.-1 p.m.

For more information, people may visit http://Repeal188.com. We sincerely believe this is best for both mothers and babies.

Thank you,
Judith E. McCaffrey
Oakham

BARRE GAZETTE

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

We have had some very pleasant days this week of the weather.

I have been bringing in the house plants that I plan to save and giving away the ones I am not. The cactus that my friend Carol gave me has produced several plants and is in full bud ready to burst in bloom.

My handyman will bring in the huge pot that I keep in the den. I wonder if I should take the potting soil out of the wooden planter for the winter? One gardening friend thought it would to keep the wood from rotting.

I will have to use the magnifying glass to type and check my spelling so I imagine the editor will have fun with his column this week.

I don't want to not write a column as my followers miss me if I do. My eyes are still not what they should be.

I found this recipe in a book that Claudia Provencal submitted for hunter's stew. It makes a lot for a group of 112, but I imagine it can be reduced.

HUNTER'S STEW

Two 28 oz. cans of tomatoes
One bag of carrots, diced
8 potatoes, sliced
three stalks of celery, diced
2 lbs. lean ground beef
3 cups water
16 ox. jar of spaghetti sauce

Brown hamburg and drain out oil. Put rest of vegetables, water and sauce in a pot and cook with the hamburg until tender.

This and That

I was sorry to hear of the passing of my friend and former neighbor, Nancy Kujala Avila of Auburn. She used to email me every day and was a great customer of my watercolor cards.

She used to play the organ at the First Parish Unitarian Church and went to local schools. We were neighbors when I livd on Parsons Road. Her father used to own the Comet Mg. Co. Doll Stroller Company, which employed many local people.

I am changing a few things around in the house to make life easier. I decided to bring my ironing board into the cellar where my washer and drier is. I seldom have to iron and when I do, I will iron down there.

Recently had a nice visit with Jim and Jean White of Oklahoma. They brought us some nice Finnish coffee bread and peach jam. I served apple pie and root beer floats. They come each year in the fall.

My handyman picked me some Hubbardston cranberries where Ken started a local cranberry bog. The secret is out and many locals pick cranberries there. He started another bog, but the beavers flooded that one.

I was sorry to miss the program on Deborah Samplson of the Historical Society but my days of attending meetings are over. They are having a program on apples on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 1-3 p.m. at the Williamsville Chapel.

They will talk about the Hubbardston Nonesuch apple which was propagated in Hubbardston. During the Bicentennial several grafted trees were planted around town.

I wonder how many there are now? We have a grafted one here on Ragged Hill Road.

A relative of mine on the Parker side of the family brought the tree to town.

He lived at the home of David Simmerer so the first apple tree was planted at his farm. I have the Parker book, which tells about the apple.

Have a nice week and the foliage will start to turn soon.

PAST PAGES from page 4

prior fiscal year invoices. The second article seeks $22,000 for police department salaries to cover an officer attending the police academy. The third article transfers funds from free cash to stabilization. Article 4 seeks additional money for right of ways for the town common project. Article 5 seeks $33,000 CPA funds for the new playground debt service. Article 7 also asks for $15,000 of CPA funds for the restoration of the veterans' monuments currently on the Common. The final article submitted by the planning board seeks to amend the commercial marijuana bylaw.

10 years (Oct. 15, 2016)

Not Available

25 years (Oct. 11, 2001)

It's that time of year again when hardy New Englanders thoughts turn to hunkering down for the winter to come. The Barre Historical Society has an item of its own to tuck away this autumn and a brand new place to secure it, a special treasure that captured the hearts and minds of many. On Saturday, Oct. 20 Barre's own Concord stagecoach will be formally installed in its new and permanent home, the coach house built for it earlier this year. Built in 1859 by the Abbott-Downing Co. in Concord, New Hampshire, the Barre stagecoach is the 472nd such vehicle of more than 3,000 produced by that manufacturer and only 70 are still known to exist – 50 of those east of the Mississippi River.

State Sen. Stephen M. Brewer (D-Barre) said he has met with area officials and others in recent days to try and answer questions about the closure of the Quabbin Reservoir and exactly what they might expect. Last week, members of the Massachusetts National Guard took up security positions at key points withing the Quabbin and the Wachusett Reservoirs to guard against any potential terrorist attack. Quabbin Park remains closed to both pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

The descendants of the colonial Scotch-Irish couple Aaron and Agnes Crawford came from around the world to meet in Oakham on Sept. 29, some 285 years after their ancestors first came to this area and slightly more than two weeks after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and on the Pentagon. They came from Australian, France, Ohio, Arizona, Washington DC, New York City and Florida. They also came from Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Maine. They came from Oakham and towns throughout Massachusetts. There were more than 125 people swapping travel stories and family history in the basement of the Oakham Congregational Church and display room of Oakham Memorial Town Hall.

38 years (Oct. 15, 1998)

The Barre Commons Advisory Committee took the second step toward the management of the Department of Emergency Management Grant to rehabilitate the Barre Common. On Oct. 13, Sarah Dyer, Lois Mortell, Charlie Chase and Eric Carlson participated in an informative meeting at the State Archives Building in Boston. Carlson is the representative from the engineering firm of Guertin Associates. The Guertin firm is under contract with the town to complete the engineering plans for the Common. The purpose of this meeting was to review the DEM Grant requirements to understand the management of the grant funds and to examine the guidelines and procedures for reimbursement of the project.

On Columbus Day at 4 p.m., the 70 works of art by 30 members of the Barre Arts Association residing in seven towns were ready to be taken down. The BAA Fall Show had been a highly successful event chaired by Gail Murphy and Susan Coles. On Saturday, 118 visitors walked through the front door of Barre Town Hall. Sunday saw 175 visitors. Monday was not so busy with 17 arrivals. As the show neared finish, Joshua Smith, BAA president was tallying the votes for visitors' choices of "Best in Show." Top vote getter was an oil painting by Pat McInnes of East Brookfield.

At the Oct. 1 meeting of the Barre Historical Society, Carole Garriepy was the featured speaker. She chronicled her two year project of writing her book, "Queen Lake – A History." It is a fascinating book filled with the reminiscences of people who have lived nearby and camped there through the years. Garriepy interviewed over 60 people.

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Dark-eyed junco

Every fall I look for the return of the dark-eyed juncos, also known as "snow birds" in the middle latitudes.

Over most of the eastern United States, they appear as winter sets in and then retreat northward each spring to breed. Other juncos are year-round residents, retreating into woodlands during the breeding season or, like those of the Appalachian Mountains, moving to higher elevations during the warmer months.

I have not seen any yet, but I keep an eye out for them. Often my first sighting of the year is along the side of the road when I spot their white tail feathers as they fly.

Dark-eyed juncos are little sparrows with gray plumage and white outer tail feathers and white underneath. Females and juveniles are slightly browner and duller.

They breed in forests including coniferous and deciduous types and can be found at elevations from sea level to over 11,000 feet. Typically, the female lays between three to six eggs per clutch. She usually lays one egg per day until the clutch is complete

Their diet primarily consists of seeds and insects, adapting to available food sources throughout the year.

Juncos are social birds, often seen in flocks during winter and they exhibit a distinctive hopping behavior on the ground. They flit about forest floors of the western mountains and Canada, then flood the rest of North America for winter.

They are among the most abundant forest birds of North America. They come to feeders and like many sparrows feed on the ground to glean seeds dropped there by other birds.

They prefer open, partially wooded areas with understory for cover. They also have a twittering call or trilling song. If flushed from the ground, they appear gray or dark brown overall with visible white outer tail feathers.

The dark-eyed Junco is one of the most common birds in North America and can be found across the continent from Alaska to Mexico, from California to New York. A recent estimate set the junco's total population at approximately 630 million individuals.

The oldest recorded dark-eyed Junco, originally banded in 1991, was at least 11 years, 4 months old when it was recaptured and rereleased during banding operations in the same state of West Virginia in 2001.

Large flock of sparrows

Recently, while driving to the bus stop to pick up my grandson, I flushed a large flock of sparrows along the side of the road. A large number of them flew across the road in front of the car. It happened quickly so I was not able to identify them. They were not juncos as they did not have white tail feathers

New bird feeder

A man, who attends meals at the Oakham Senior Center, built a feeder from tubing someone gave him.

He filled it with seed and put it outside. It took a few days for the birds to arrive, but he has a lot of birds coming to it now.

eBird sightings

Recent eBird sightings included a Cape May warbler on Oct. 6 in Belchertown and an American redstart and a black-bellied plover, both spotted in the northeast Quabbin area on Oct. 6.

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

Congregational church holds turkey supper

RUTLAND – A turkey supper hosted by the First Congregational Church of Rutland, 264 Main St., Rutland Saturday, Nov. 7 with serving from 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Menu includes turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, rolls and apple crisp. Cost is $15 per adult, $7 per children age 5-12 and free children under 5.

People may make a reservation by calling the church office at 508-886-4453. Take out dinners are available.



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Ellenor Downer
Editor
BG 10/08/26

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Turley Publications will print your Summer event FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which will be published November 19, 2026. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Photo by Kim Mongeau

Quabbin Watershed Stewards pose at the Eagle Hill School's Trustee House in Hardwick overlooking the Quabbin Reservoir.

Quabbin Watershed Stewards discuss issues

HARDWICK – On Wednesday, Sept. 23, the Quabbin Watershed Stewards met in Hardwick at Eagle Hill School's Trustee House.

Thirty-three people attended, including four of the local representatives: Senator Jo Commerford, who led the meeting, Senator Peter Durant, Representative Susannah Whipps, and Representative Jason Saunders, as well as officials from Hardwick, New Salem, Petersham, Barre, Pelham, Shutesbury and Orange.

The discussion included strategies for obtaining more equitable PILOT payments for Quabbin towns and for preventing the additional 20 million gallons per day that the MWRA is asking to withdraw from the Quabbin.

Many of the meeting attendees planned to be at the public hearing Wednesday, Sept. 30 ,at the Belchertown Town Hall, that the MWRA is holding about the increased water withdrawal. Boston and 50 surrounding towns already take 200 million gallons of water every day from the Quabbin.

The goal of the Quabbin Watershed Stewards is to protect the water, the forest, and the towns surrounding the reservoir and to seek compensation equity for the lands removed from the local tax base. More information can be found at quabbinequity.org.

The Joy of reading

Eagle Hill School hosts story times with sign language

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Eagle Hill School teachers Amanda Damon and Jane Alwis, along with several students, visited the Gilbertville Public Library for a Joy of Reading story time, inspired by the late Dolly Parton.

Parton was an advocate for early literacy, and formed the Imagination Library over 30 years ago, a nonprofit organization that gives free books to children from birth to age 5 in the U.S., Canada, U.K., Australia and Ireland.

According to the Imagination Library website, Parton said she formed the organization to give all children the tools they need to pursue their dreams, just like she did.

"The seeds of these dreams are often found in books and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world," Parton said.

Held on Sept. 25 (or 9/25 in reference to Parton's hit song, "9 to 5"), the Joy of Reading story time included lessons in American Sign Language, puppet play, as well as fresh baked cookies from the school and hot chocolate.

Damon and students from her American Sign Language I and II classes signed while reading classic books, including "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle. They also taught people in the audience how to sign for the different words in the books, so they could join in.

Damon gave some background on American Sign Language, and explained some of the differences between it and British, Australian and New Zealand Sign Language. One being that American Sign Language has a one-handed alphabet, meaning all of the letters are formed using one hand instead of two.

The signer's dominant hand (the hand they typically write with), is used for one-handed signs, and for making motions for two-handed signs.

"Your dominant hand is your moving hand," Damon said.

Damon said she wears a hair scrunchie on the wrist of her dominant hand to help her communicate clearly with her students.

American Sign Language also relies on facial expressions to communicate, which Damon and the students demonstrated while signing.

"It's not just hands," Damon said. "It's a lot of facial expressions."

After story time, the students and audience members created and acted out an improvised story using the library's impressive collection of animal puppets.

Alwis also shared books she brought from her home country of Australia.

The Joy of Reading story time was also held at the Paige Memorial Library on Sept. 29.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Eagle Hill School teacher Amanda Damon used American Sign Language while reading "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle at the Gilbertville Public Library last Friday.

BARRE from page 1

understood the town did not have the money to conduct the engineering survey and traffic study required by DOT. He said he "did not expect it [commercial vehicle weight restriction] to happen."

Swearing in police comfort dog

Town Clerk Ellen Glidden officially swore in Barry, a black Labrador Retriever and comfort K9 for the Barre Police Department. His handler said he is eight months old and currently going through training to be a therapy dog.

Barry already visited the senior center and school classrooms. The Town Clerk said he was a "great election worker."

Grants

The Barre Fire Department received a $60,000 grant. The Highway Department got a grant for $540,00 to reclaim Root Road and Chamberlain Hill Road.

Sign agreement

The Select Board voted to sign the agreement with Tighe and Bond or the South Barre Neighborhood Property and Infrastructure Assessment under Community Development Block Grant funding.

Other business

The Select Board approved the use of the Barre Town Hall for the Barre Winter Market on Nov. 14; Dec. 12; Jan. 9, 2027; Feb. 13, 2027; March 13, 2027 and April 10 2027 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. subject to providing appropriate insurance.

They accepted the resignation from Nadia Maxwell, Administrative Assistant for Board of Assessors, submitted on and effective Sept. 24, 2026 via text message.

The Select Board approved the holiday schedule. Christmas Day: Friday, Dec. 25, per the personnel policy, holiday to be observed on each employee's previous scheduled workday or as otherwise provided for in a collective bargaining agreement or employment contract. The Henry Woods Building will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24

New Year's Day Friday, Jan. 1, 2027 per the personnel policy, holiday to be observed on each employee's previous scheduled workday or as otherwise provided for in a collective bargaining agreement or employment contract. Town Hall will be closed on Dec. 31.

They also appointed Laurie Lovett-Parsons and Penelope Dillon Election Workers as recommended by the Town Clerk.



Visit us at www.turley.com



Robert N. Glidden (seated) was honored with the U.S. Postal Services' "250 Years of Delivering" Forever stamp.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Judy Kohn waved from the Tri-Parish Community Church's parade float.

OLDE HOME DAY
from page 1

with live music, touch-a-truck, food trucks, children's lawn games and obstacle course, pie eating and pie baking contests, line dancing demonstrations led by J.P. Ellory, dance demonstrations by Next Step Studio of the Performing Arts, a Farmers Market and a K-9 demonstration.

The New Braintree Fire Association's held a Duck Race down Utley Road to help raise money to purchase necessary equipment for the Fire Department.

During Olde Home Day, state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume presented Town Clerk and 275th Committee member Jessica Bennett with a historically accurate copy of the Declaration of Independence. This presentation was to commemorate not only the town's 275th anniversary, but also the nation's 250th.

Durant and Berthiaume also presented a citation to Select Board members Dennis Letendre Jr., Joe Chenevert and Michael McQueston.

A special presentation was made to Robert N. Glidden, a longtime resident, business owner, and the town's former police chief.

This presentation was made by resident and U.S. Postal Service employee Michelle Gallagher, who said the "250 Years of Delivering" Forever stamp was dedicated to Glidden and his service to the town.

Glidden moved to New Braintree in 1958 when he was 20 years old. Here, he and his wife Carolyn raised their two sons and one daughter.

Glidden started RN Glidden Landscaping at his home in 1960, and ran it until 2000 when his son Richard took over.

Gallagher said in 2024 at 90 years old, Glidden was still operating the front loader.

Glidden spent 30 years on the town's Police Department with 25 of those years as police chief.

"He secured the town's first police cruiser," Gallagher said, which was a station wagon.

Glidden also served as a volunteer firefighter in the 1970s, and is credited with saving the Police Department's radio system from the Town Hall's 1977 fire.

"Mr. Glidden has dedicated his life to the people of New Braintree," Gallagher said.

Olde Home Day ended with a performance by the band Disco Lemonade and a bonfire.



Matt Koziol of Farmer Matt led the businesses in the parade.



The Friends of the New Braintree Library marched in the parade.



The Barre Masonic Family was represented by members of Mt. Zion Lodge of Masons, Barre Assembly (International Order of the Rainbow for Girls) and Cradle Rock Chapter (Order of the Eastern Star).



Bicycles helped to lead the parade.



Rutland Police Department's K-9 Storm gave a demonstration with Officer Justin Lawlor.





New Braintree embraced its farming roots during Olde Home Day.



Annabelle Ickler and Amelia Ickler held the banner for the Quabbin Regional High School Marching Band.



State Sen. Peter Durant (right) and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, presented a historically accurate copy of the Declaration of Independence to Town Clerk Jessica Bennett.

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, OCT. 8

CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS take place today from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. This four part chorus is always looking for singers who enjoy a good time and don't mind working hard for a beautiful blend. This season's picks are: "A Doc" arranged Christmas medley; "Come to the Woods" by Jake Runestad; "Feels Like Home;" "Carol of the Bells;" "Down in the River to Pray;" "Hallelujah Chorus" and Sign No More, Ladies," an original from Tom Martin.

QUABBIN DAYS MONTH LONG PHOTO CONTEST takes place during the month of October. Residents of Athol, Belchertown, New Salem and Pelham are invited to grab their cameras or smartphones and capture what makes the Quabbin Region so special as part of this month-long photography event being held in conjunction with Quabbin Days. The contest is being conducted in partnership with four libraries – the Athol Public Library, Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown, New Salem Public Library, and Pelham Library, and is open to residents of those communities. Photographs entered in the contest must be taken during the month of October 2026 and may be taken in any of the 12 towns that make up the Quabbin Region. The deadline for submitting photographs is on Saturday, Oct. 31 at midnight.

FRIDAY, OCT. 9

QUABBIN DAYS takes place today through Monday, Oct. 12. The celebration will feature special events, programs, local businesses, history, art, photography and the natural beauty of the 12-town Quabbin Region. The October 9-12 weekend also coincides with what is traditionally one of the prime fall foliage periods in the Quabbin Region, making it an ideal time for visitors to explore its scenic roads, trails, small towns, historic sites, local businesses and cultural attractions. Residents and visitors can find detailed information about Quabbin Days events, participating organizations and activities on the continually updated calendar at www.QuabbinDays.org. Organized by the Friends of Quabbin, Quabbin Days is a regional celebration encompassing the 12 towns that make up the Quabbin Region. This year's celebration is continuing to grow as businesses, libraries, historical organizations, museums, community groups and state agencies come on board with special programs and activities.

ECOLOGIST will speak today from 11 a.m. in the Harvest Forest Fisher Museum, 324 North Main St., Petersham. The public talk is entitled "Increasing wildfire, ecological legacies, and the future of the Alaskan boreal forest." The event is part of the fifth annual Charles Bullard Lecture series hosted by Harvard Forest and the Harvard University Salata Institute's Center for the Environment. The event is free and the public is welcome. No advanced registration is required. Light refreshments will be served. Harvard Forest welcomes individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If they require accommodations or have questions about the event, they may call Clarisse Hart, Outreach Director, at 978-756-6157 or email hart3@fas.harvard.edu.

Where is this?



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Barre. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com with their answer by noon on Monday, Oct. 12. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, James Laramee and Mike Sullivan correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was a the Rutland Village marker at the rest area at the corner of Routes 122 and 122A in Rutland.

SATURDAY, OCT. 10

DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter of Eastern Star takes place today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. People may create their favorite pancake with chips, nuts, fruit and more. The complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice, coffee and always real maple syrup. Cost is adults $10 and children 6 and under $5. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, OCT. 11

GUIDED WALK sponsored by Advocates for Conservation of Oakham's Rural Nature and Safety takes place today from noon-1 p.m. at the Department of Conservation and Recreation site, located on Coldbrook Road, Oakham and adjacent to the proposed Battery Energy Storage System. Another guided walk to the same location will take place on Sunday, Nov. 8 from noon-1 p.m.

RESCHEDULED PLANTING DAY takes place today from 10 a..-4 p.m. at the gazebo in Gilbertville. Volunteers are needed. The Hardwick Conservation Commission rescheduled its volunteer work day from Saturday, Sept. 26 due to weather.. This restoration project is on the slope of the Ware River next to the gazebo in Gilbertville (Hardwick). Volunteers will help plant native plants to stabilize the slope and attract pollinators. They should wear sturdy boots and bring work gloves, water and a hand trowel for planting. Parking is across the street at the Hardwick House of Pizza, 2 Main St., Gilbertville. People may signup for the whole day or shifts from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 1-4 p.m. To sign up or for questions, people should email Becky at b2b3bottomley@gmail.com.

MONDAY, OCT. 12

QUABBIN DAYS HIKE sponsored by East Quabbin Land Trust takes place today from 10 a.m.-noon with a meeting location at the Quabbin Reservoir Park Tower parking lot. This is a 3.5 mil moderately difficult hike on hilly, uneven terrain and passes through wooded areas and meadows. People should register by emailing atrevvett@eqlt.org. Participants should wear sturdy footwear, bring hiking poles, dress for the weather and bring water.

FRIDAY, OCT. 16

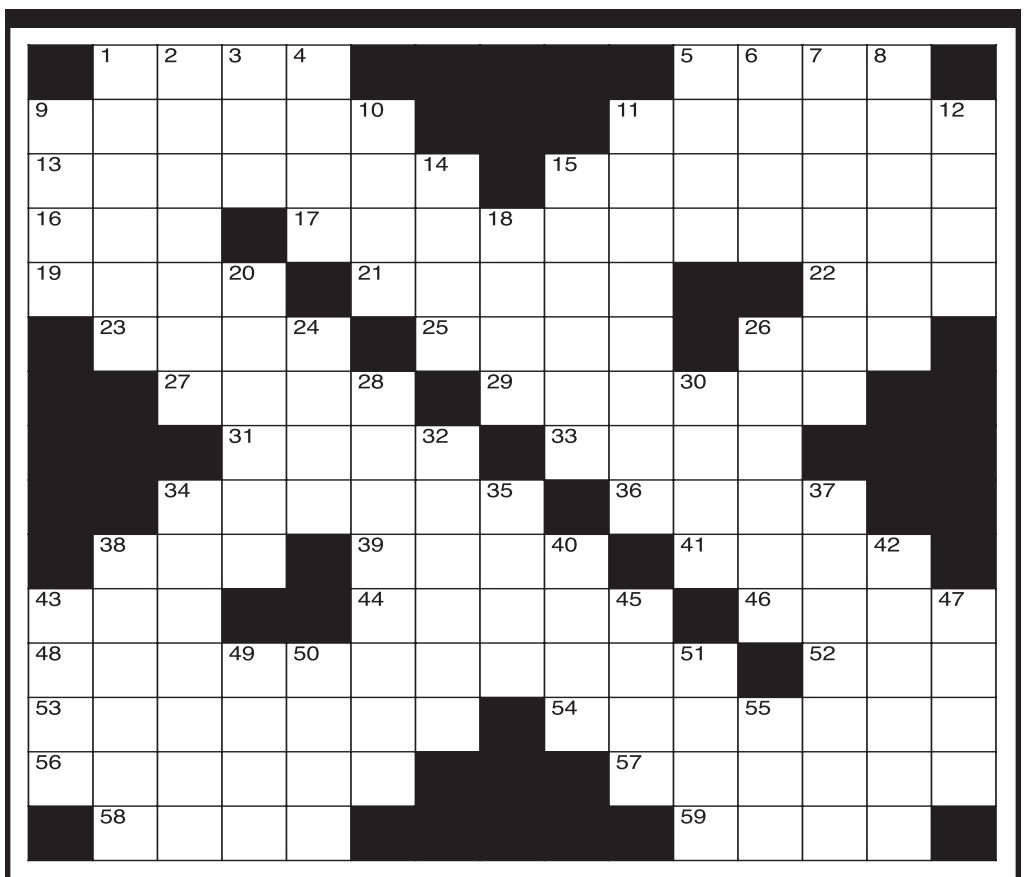
BICYCLE OR WALK takes place today at 1 p.m. on the Wachusett Greenways section of the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail in Rutland, Oakham and Barre. The event accommodates up to 25 participants. People should meet in Rutland at the rail trail parking area on Route 122, one mile west of the Route 122A intersection. This parking is marked with white reflectors along the road. It has a portable restroom and is at the intersection with the Mid state Trail.The ride is 4 plus miles. People may ride the roughly 16 miles or ride back to the parking lot for about 8 miles. For those who prefer walking, they'll travel 2 to 4 miles, some east and some west along the trail. They'll gauge the distance according to participants choice.

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

ED THE WIZARD brings "Reading is Magic "today at 2 p.m. to the Hardwick's Town House, 40 Common St., Hardwick. This is a family-friendly, interactive magic show brought by the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council and the libraries of Hardwick. This magic show is full of comedy and suspense and emphasizes the importance of building and maintaining reading skills.

BENEFIT DINNER for the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard sponsored by Wilbraham Knights of Columbus Council 10195 takes place today at 5 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Parish Church, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. The Survival Center helps feed and cloth over 400 individuals each month in Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow, Indian Orchard and 16 Acres. The menu contains homemade chicken Parmesan and pasta Italian dinner with salad, bread, coffee and cannoli. The event includes raffles, musical entertainment. Tickets are limited and cost $20. Tickets may be picked up at after Mass in the St. Cecilia rotunda starting on Saturday,

See CALENDAR, page 11



CLUES ACROSS

1. Difficult
5. Coarsely ground corn
9. A group of similar things ordered one after another
11. Loved Romeo
13. Something to solve
15. Pelvic areas
16. Informal debt instrument
17. Ineffective
19. A device attached to a workbench
21. Related on the mother's side
22. "Fresh Prince of __ Air"
23. Astronomer Sagan
25. C. Utah city
26. Turkey
27. Informal terms for money
29. Awakens
31. Those who favored Prohibition
33. Blabbed
34. Looked through
36. Rhode Island rebellion
38. A type of "cast"
39. One's duty
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Removed someone's head
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most unnatural
56. "Dennis" is a notable one
57. Ointments
58. Examination
59. Leaked fluid

CLUES DOWN

1. Brave
2. A state of excitement
3. Jest at
4. Sandwich store
5. Chapter of the Koran
6. Dismounted from a horse
7. Small vehicle
8. Irked
9. A disreputable man
10. Monetary unit of Samoa
11. A list of woes
12. Weight unit
14. Alone, single
15. Broadway legend Bernadette
18. Monetary unit of Serbia
20. Worn by exposure to the weather
24. A body of traditions
26. Students seek one
28. Hydrophilic amino acid
30. Nasal mucus
32. Branch of U.S. Congress
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Grant an exemption to
38. Set up in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. One of an ancient people inhabiting Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unhealthy

ANSWERS ON PAGE 11



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have have MS is not one of them.

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at nationalmsscociety.org.

MS
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

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.

Quabbin Visitor Center lists upcoming programs

BELCHERTOWN – The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, announces the schedule for upcoming programs.

All ages are welcome. All programs are free, but registration is required; outdoor programs are limited to 25 people.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Please wear appropriate footwear and protect yourself against ticks.

Dogs are not allowed anywhere at the Quabbin Reservoir.

Follow link to register or visit https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events

Quabbin Park

Explore Quabbin Park via the Combination Shoreline/Enfield Lookout/Webster Road Loop on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join DCR staff for a 3.6-mile looped hike in Quabbin Park. Participants will begin at the Observation Tower parking area located at Quabbin Hill and travel to Hank's Meadow and down to the water, dropping roughly 350 feet in elevation.

The trail then travels along the water before participants will ascend uphill back to where they began. Along the way they will stop at the Enfield Lookout which offers the best view of the reservoir in Quabbin Park.

Exploring the Road to Millington

This 3-mile round trip hike will introduce you to some of the residents of the lost village of Millington as you learn what daily life was like in the years leading up to the Quabbin Reservoir project on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Meet at Quabbin Gate 29 on Elm Street and Route 202 in New Salem.

Participants will stop to see the Keystone Bridge along the way.

Ware River Bridge Series: North

The Ware River Bridge Series: Rail Trail North will

See DCR EVENTS, page 12

sports@turley.com @turleysports acebook.com/turleysports

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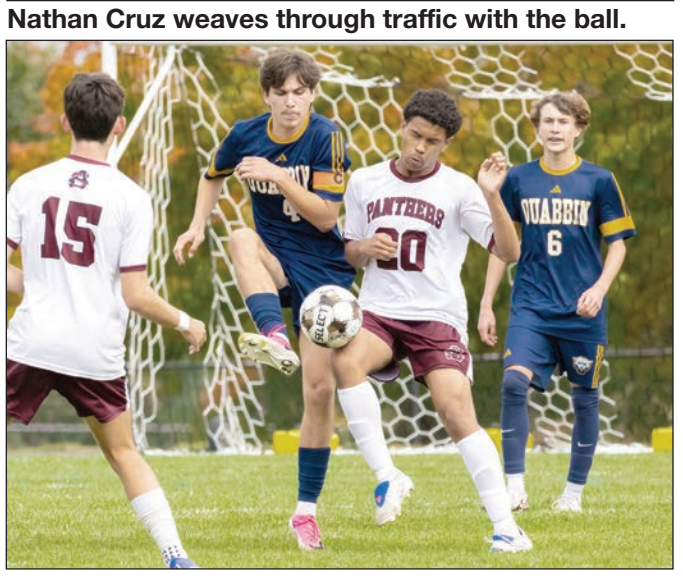
Nathan Cruz weaves through traffic with the ball.

Panthers win two straight

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School boys soccer team picked up two big wins last week. The Panthers defeated Ayer Shirley 2-0 last Tuesday followed by a 2-1 win over Tahanto Regional on the road. The wins helped bring Panthers well above .500 and Quabbin is now 5-2-1 with an eye now on grabbing a state tournament spot coming in the next couple of weeks. Quabbin is back in action on Monday, Oct. 12, hosting Quaboag at 4 p.m.



Goalie Silas Stukuls Barrieau jumps up to punch the ball away.



Owen Twarog gets a leg up on the opponent to kick the ball away.



Matthew Labrousse battles for the ball near the sideline.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Logan Bruley works the ball upfield.



Gavin Rivard scans for his passing options.

Panthers shut out against W Boylston

BARRE – Last Friday night, Quabbin Regional High School football was defeated at home by West Boylston 41-0.

West Boylston scored three touchdowns in the first quarter and two in the second quarter to jump out to a huge lead. The Panthers were not able to get any major offensive threats going and ultimately suffered the shutout.

Quabbin football is now 1-3 on the season and looks to turn things around at Oxford High School on Friday, Oct. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Their next home game is against Narragansett Friday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Owen Marion goes for a header.



Elijah Hodge punts the ball away.

Pioneers fall at home, but rebound to pair of wins

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder boys soccer had a 5-1 loss at home against Southwick Regional, but rebounded to defeat Smith Vocational 2-1 and then Monson 2-0 last Friday night to improve to 7-2-1 overall on the season. The Pioneers were then off for six days before returning action on Thursday, Oct. 8 against the High School of Commerce at 4 p.m.



Brody Wetnicka looks to settle the ball and turn play around

Quabbin girls remain undefeated

BARRE – After battling to a 3-3 tie at the start of the season, Quabbin Regional High School girls soccer has now won seven straight games, including two win last week. The Panthers defeated Ayer Shirley 6-0, then took down Fitchburg at home last Thursday 5-2. Quabbin is now 7-0-1 and now needs just one more win to qualify for the Division 4 State Tournament. The Panthers are back in action on Monday, Oct. 12, hosting Quaboag at 2 p.m.



Goalie Mia Gleason leaps to make the catch and the stop.



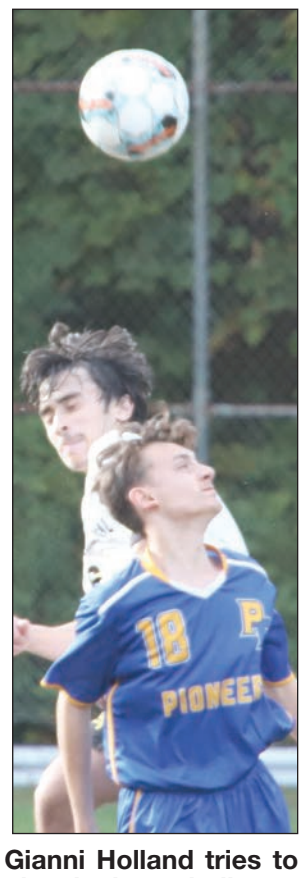
Alison LaRoche lines herself up to head the ball.



Alison LaRoche tracks the ball as she readies to kick it upfield.



From left, Saylor Bissonnette, Alison LaRoche and Allie Lipiec celebrate a goal by Bissonnette.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Owen Marion goes for a header.

Gianni Holland tries to play the loose ball.



Owen Pear sends a free kick up the field.

Quabbin Days to be celebrated at Paige Memorial Library Oct. 10

HARDWICK – Quabbin Days is a time to celebrate all that the Quabbin Region has to offer and will be held at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, on Saturday Oct. 10, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Come visit the Paige Memorial Library and learn about the many things to explore in Hardwick.

Costume swap

A Halloween costume swap will be held on Saturdays, Oct. 10 and 17 from 11 a.m.-noon. Drop off costume pieces that you or your family members are not using and take home new-to-you pieces that others brought in.If you can, please drop off donations before Oct. 8 so that library staff can organize them.

Jewelry making

Think Pink on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. for a jewelry making class in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month

.

Grouch Day

Thursday, Oct. 15 is National Grouch Day at the library from 2-7 p.m. Come moan, sulk and complain among friends.

Leave a vinegar message for all to read. Come have a horrible time and munch unpleasant snacks, compete in a complaining contest and generally dislike each other's company.

Ed the Wizard

Ed the Wizard presents magic and fun, Saturday, Oct. 17 at 2:30 p.m. brought to you by the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council and the Libraries of Hardwick at the Hardwick Town House, 40 Common St.

Ed the Wizard brings awe and excitement with vanishes, sleights of hand, and humorous hi-jinx. Easy magic effects will be shared; learn to perform for family and friends.

Needle felting

Needle felt a mushroom on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. Come make a cute felted mushroom decoration perfect to sit on a shelf or hang. All materials provided. A $3 donation will help cover material costs.

Halloween tattoos

Come in for a Halloween tattoo during library hours Oct. 27, 28 and 29. Get a spooky, temporary glitter tattoo.

First-come, first served, so this activity will be available as time permits.

Face painting

Face painting at the Paige Memorial Library will be held on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Liz will be ready with her brushes, so come get your face painted for Halloween.

A donation will help cover material costs. Sign up for a spot ahead of time by emailing or calling.

Appointments are available every 10 minutes.

Trail of Treats

The Paige Memorial Library will be at the Trail of Treats on the Hardwick Common – Saturday, Oct.31, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Ongoing programs

Join the Paige Memorial Library for Wednesday morning Story Hour and activities beginning with "getting to know you time" at 10:30 a.m. and story and activities at 11 a.m. Homeschoolers are welcome and can access books and materials through our library and through Interlibrary Loan.

The Friends' Book Sale is ongoing. 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.

The library staff would like to start a teen group where creative teens can come together and make art, discuss music and culture, and relax.

Anyone interested should let the library staff know.

Share ideas for books, the library of things, programs, speakers, or more. Please email, call or stop in.

For more information, visit www.paigelibrary.com, find the Paige Memorial Library on Facebook, email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704.

Information for Hardwick residents on early voting/state election

HARDWICK – There will be early voting in person for the Nov. 3 state election at the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, 307 Main St., Gilbertville, on the following dates and times: Saturday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 20, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 28, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Thursday, Oct. 29, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. is also the last day and hour to register to vote for the Nov. 3 state election.

The deadline for vote by mail applications is 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 27.

In addition, absentee ballot applications are also available for those who will not be present on the day of the state election. That deadline is noon, Monday, Nov. 2.

Please contact Ryan J. Witkos, Hardwick Town Clerk at 413-477-6700 or clerk@hardwick-ma.gov for more information.

Rep. Berthiaume/Sen. Durant office hours

NORTH BROOKFIELD – State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's office invites Constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas, or issues that they may need assistance.

On Thursday, Oct. 8 they will hold an office hour at the North Brookfield Senior Center, from 10-11 a.m.

People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting. 774-402-4742



John Collins of Ware was also working on a sculpture of a model and her bearded dragon. Reference photos of the model are shown in the background.

BACK ROADS TOUR from page 3

nature and wildlife.

While the farm's massive barn is no longer standing, it is forever memorialized in Buzzell's paintings, which show it through all the seasons.

Jeff Palmer Designs showcased the woodworking of Jeff Palmer, from furniture to spoons.

During the tour, Palmer was joined by his wife Brenda, who helped talk with visitors that came to the workshop.

Palmer began woodworking when he was 12 years old, and his passion is making furniture. He displayed his pieces in a small barn for people to browse, from tables to cabinets, to woodturned bowls and spoons.

The Palmers also displayed the Pokémon-themed artwork created by their daughter.

Furthest east on the Back Roads Studio Tour was Lou Meyerdierks' studio, Pieceful Primitives, in Spencer. Here, Meyerdierks displayed her wool applique home décor, rug hooking, needle punch and counted cross stitch.

She had plenty of festive items (including felt Santa Claus figurines) just in time for the start of the holiday gift-giving season.



Lou Meyerdierks of Pieceful Primitives in Spencer held up one of her wool table runners.

For more information about the Back Roads Studio Tour and the featured artists and crafters, visit backroadsstudiotour.org.

RUTLAND from page 1

elections since 2018 and has served on multiple boards and committees.

Barakian said the challenge he is facing right now with the town's financial situation is having limited hours to get jobs done, but being able to rank and prioritize things to get done in a timely manner. He said the 20 hours per week is difficult because the same amount of people need the services as before the hours were cut.

Barakian said other challenges of the position is that the office is responsible for many things including elections, and the ways to vote that are not in person take up a lot of staff hours.

Barakian said one of the rewarding parts of the job is when somebody has been searching around for a particular document in other towns and the clerk's office is able to produce it, helping that person get another piece of the puzzle they're trying to solve, as he described it.

Barakian said the most important parts of the job are elections and vital records, while the least important are things that only come up a handful of times a year, like raffle permits.

He said his strongest quality is organization skills, and one to work on is delegating certain jobs throughout the office. He said it's important for the clerk to have the trust of the voters and the residents since the clerk's office is keeping their records. Barakian said he's started a project to make sure vital documents that are permanent records are stored in the vaults in the office, and moving things that don't need to be in the vaults out of them.

When asked about how to handle an issue on election day, he said there is a back-up plan to execute the elections, including going to the source and calling contacts if there are power or cyber issues.

"Ballots will be voted on that day in some way, shape or form," he said.

The board came to a consensus to make a decision on an appointment at their next regularly scheduled meeting, Oct. 13.

STM articles

The board went over a list of potential articles that could be placed on the Nov. 16 special town meeting warrant. There are over 20 articles that could be presented at the meeting including nine budget amendments and appropriations, four capital requests, three bylaws/local options and some miscellaneous items.

The financial figures are estimates, and include $30,000 for fire overtime, $25,000 for police overtime, $39,770 to hire a new firefighter, $15,570 for an accounting consultant and $21,000 to repair a filter at the water treatment plant.

Other financial articles include the creation of an ambulance receipts reserved for appropriation account, a trash enterprise fund and transfers to pay prior year invoices including a $17,408 bill from KP Law and a $144 bill from Verizon.

Potential capital requests and their amounts include $8,890 for repairs to the generator at the public safety building, $13,000 for HVAC repairs at the public safety building, $200,000 for phase one of an attic renovation at the public safety building and $6,000 for highway machinery maintenance.

Bylaws and local options include amendments to the senior tax work off policy, a floodplain overlay zoning bylaw, the adoption of a room occupancy tax and a charter committee item. Miscellaneous items include dispositions of town owned properties and a gift acceptance.

The board will hold joint meetings with the Finance Committee to discuss articles.

DPW items

The board read through an email of updates from Department of Public Works Director Christopher Kolofsky including the ordering of signage for the new intersection at Route 68 and Wachusett Street, the completion of paving projects on side streets off Pommogussett Road and the total expending of the street light budget and their shut off, as the DPW requested $44,000 and were budgeted only $12,000.

There are two yard waste days from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Oct. 17 and 31.

Proclamation

The board signed a proclamation to designate Main Street as Smile Street every Oct. 2 for World Smile Day.

Job Connection
HELPING YOU FIND HELP

If you have job postings to fill, get them the exposure they need.

Join us in highlighting what positions you have available in our Job Connection!

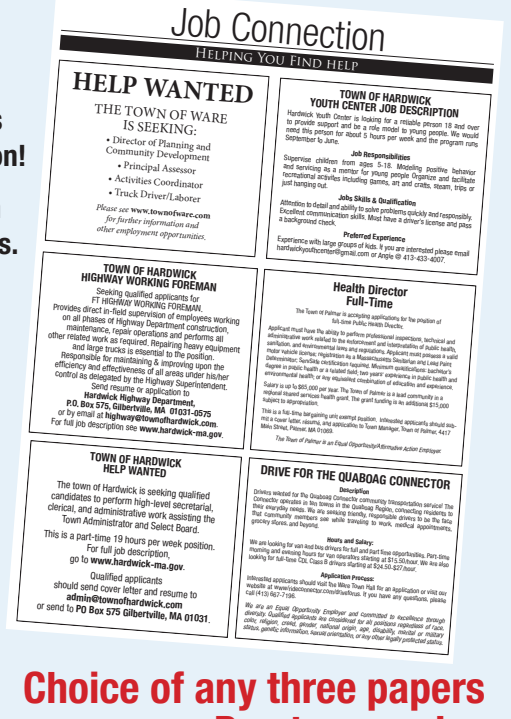
Each week this available jobs section will run in your community newspapers.

5.25" x 4"
$150 for three papers
$40 for each additional paper

5.25" x 8"
$300 for three papers
$80 for each additional paper

10.75" x 8"
$600 for three papers
$160 for each additional paper

10.75" x 15.75"
$1,200 for three papers
$320 for each additional paper


Job Connection
HELPING YOU FIND HELP
HELP WANTED
THE TOWN OF WARE IS SEEKING:
• Director of Planning and Community Development
• Principal Assessor
• Activities Coordinator
• Truck Driver/Laborer
Please see www.townofware.com for further information and other employment opportunities.
TOWN OF HARDWICK YOUTH CENTER JOB DESCRIPTION
TOWN OF HARDWICK HIGHWAY WORKING FOREMAN
Health Director Full-Time
TOWN OF HARDWICK HELP WANTED
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Buy two weeks, get the third week FREE

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www.turley.com

Call Dan today 413.297.5886 or 413.283.8393

Digital Accordion Orchestrato perform at The Center

HARDWICK – Come witness one of the nation's most unique and versatile musical ensembles this October with a performance by the New England Digital Orchestra at The Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road, on Friday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m..

Formed in 2015 by its conductor, internationally recognized accordionist and music educator Anselmo "Sam" Falcetti of Wilbraham, the New England Digital Orchestra is the first ensemble of its kind in the nation, and one of only two known in existence throughout the world.

Drawing members from four of the six New England states, the NEDO is unique because of its ability to produce a wide variety of instrumental sounds and musical styles, all using digital accordions. Whether it's Broadway tunes, Hollywood soundtracks, rock 'n roll, country hits, classical compositions, Big Band swing, or patriotic favorites, music lovers get a taste of each at a NEDO concert.



Submitted Photo

Sam Falcetti and the New England Digital Orchestra will perform at The Center at Eagle Hill on Friday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are $20 for all. The Center also offers discounted $10 tickets to EBT cardholders through Massachusetts' Card to Culture Program.

For tickets and information, visit www.thecenterateaglehill.org or call the Box Office at 413-477-6746.

QUABBIN from page 1

while getting little payment in return.

"Your decisions today have generational impacts…I urge you to reject the MWRA's application," Comerford said.

She also recommended against future water transfers until fundamental questions are answered, saying, "I ask the commission today to recommend against any future water transfers from the Quabbin until the commonwealth has resolved fundamental questions of equity, stewardship and a common water future for all in Massachusetts."

She said the region has chronic population decline, limited infrastructure and a dearth of economic activity, and asked what would happen when the region runs out of resources to protect the water.

Comerford said the towns took formal votes during town meetings and select board letters asking for more representation on the MWRA board of directors, since the region has no seat, and for more payment in lieu of taxes funding.

"The MWRA and its advisory board responded negatively with disinterest, disinformation and even open disdain," Comerford said.

Durant said the water system is under stress and extracting with no compensation is not good, and he also spoke of the proposed battery energy storage system in Oakham.



Turley Staff Photo

Representatives from the communities surrounding the Quabbin Reservoir attended a public hearing on Sept. 30.

Stephen Garabedian of the Belchertown Conservation Commission said he believes the application is a done deal, saying the governor wants this water to develop a former naval base and turn it into 6,000 housing units. He said since there are no resources for water near Boston, they are turning to the Quabbin.

"Water flows toward money," he said.

Some leaders, including Patty Gamborini of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Sue Cloutier of New Salem asked about desalination plants, and whether one could be built on the coast of Boston. Cloutier said when she was in eighth grade, she did a study on desalination happening in Florida, saying the technology is there.

Matthew Broderick of the Oakham Planning Board said a third of their town was taken for the watershed, and the town takes its stewardship seriously, and they are also in support of protecting their self interests and the reservoir from the BESS facility.

"Our confidence in the stewardship of the MWRA has been severely eroded," he said, and noted there could be severe impacts if the BESS system experiences an accident.

Ed Comeau of Belchertown said the Quabbin is 12 feet below capacity, and the Quabbin/Wachusett system is still a good reserve, but with climate change and changes in precipitation, it could take years to build back to the levels the reservoir was once at.

The commission will make a decision about this request at a future public hearing, which is yet to be scheduled as of this publication.

CALENDAR from page 8

Sept. 26.

VACCINE CLINIC sponsored by the Hubbardston Board of Health contracted with Walgreen Pharmacy today from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to offer vaccines for ages 6 and up in the Senior Center, Main Street. Vaccines offered include flu, COVID, shingles, measles, pneumonia, tetanus and others. People may sign up for vaccines at the senior center or call the Town Clerk at 978-928-1400, extension 202. People should include their name and what vaccine and how many. This helps that the right amount of vaccines are available at the clinic.

SUNDAY, OCT. 18

15TH ANNUAL STATION LOOP RAMBLES takes place today from 9:30 a.m. There is a kids run, five-mile classic and 5K run/walk. All events incorporate part of the Mass. Central Rail Trail and start on Depot Road, at the intersection of West and Hardwick Roads, New Braintree. The 5 mile classic is a hilly road and trail race with a flat fast finish on the Mass. Central Rail Trail. The kids run and 5K run/walk are entirely on a flat course on the Mass. Central Rail Trail. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Race begins and ends at the site of the former New Braintree Train Station, travels past scenic farmland through deep woods and skirts the Ware River. Start time is 9 a.m. for kids run, 9:40 a.m. 6 to 12 years old (¼ mile), 10 a.m. 5 mile classic and 10:05 a.m. 5K run/walk. Awards ceremony is at 11 a.m.

Entry fee is free ages 5 and under, $10 ages 6-12, $25 early bird online registration by Oct. 17, $30 day of adult registration and $35 family registration for up to four members. People may register www.eqlt.org/station-loop-ramble/. People may call 413-477-8229 for more information.

Obituary

Joel R. Walker, 67



BARRE – Joel R. Walker, 67, of Barre, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2026.

Joel was born on Aug. 10, 1959 in Leominster. He attended St. Leo's Elementary School in Leominster, before moving to Barre where he graduated from Quabbin Regional High School in 1977. As a junior in high school, he attended Mount Wachusett Community College in his senior year.

For most of Joel's life, he fought a courageous, private, and often exhausting battle with mental health challenges. He carried this heavy burden with immense strength trying to shield others from the depths of his pain.

Those that knew him best not only saw his struggles, but also his profound resilience and his fierce capacity to love with incredible tenderness that he continued to offer the world even on his hardest days.

Joel is survived by his mother, Pauline Carlson of Barre; a brother, Steven Walker and his wife Kathy of Shelbourne Falls; two sisters Shirley Chalmers (Walker) and her husband Steve of Spencer and his youngest sister, Susan (Walker) Derrick of Jefferson; many nieces and nephews and even great nieces and nephews that he cared about.

A private memorial service for Joel will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made in his name to the Grandview Tenants Association 146 Ruggles Lane, Barre, MA.01005. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre.

Pillsburyfuneralhome.com

DEATH NOTICE

Walker, Joel R.
Died Sept. 27, 2026
Private Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

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. WO26P3273EA
Estate of:
Beverly Ann Despres
Also known as:
Beverly A Despres
Date of Death: 04/29/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Patricia Ann Schaaf of Wheelwright, MA** and **Suanne Despres of Ware, 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 **Patricia Ann Schaaf of Wheelwright, MA** and **Suanne Despres of Ware, 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 11/10/2026. 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: October 05, 2026

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

10/08/2026

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON **October 17, 2026** AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

2017 Hyundai TUCSON
VIN KM8J3CA4XHU400713
2015 BMW 5 Series
VIN WBA5B3C54FD545903
2012 Nissan Altima
VIN 1N4AL2AP9CN465229
2007 Volvo S40
VIN YV1MS382972275605
2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500
VIN 3GCUYDED4KG102252
2010 BMW X5
VIN 5UXFE8C56AL311173

The sale will be held at Early's on Park Ave.
536 Park Avenue
Worcester. MA 01603

10/01, 10/08, 10/15/2026

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P	R	O	B	L	E	M	■	P	E	R	I	N	E	A
I	O	U	■	I	N	O	P	E	R	A	T	I	V	E
V	I	S	E	■	E	N	A	T	E	■	■	B	E	L
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■	T	E	S	T	■	■	■	■	■	B	L	E	D	■

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.

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

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Aug. 30

12:02 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital

8:50 a.m. Erratic Operator, West Street, Officer/Chief Advised

9:14 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Hancock Road, Transported to Hospital

4:13 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Ruggles Lane, Report Filed

Monday, Aug. 31

6:14 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Root Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

10:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, Old Westminster Road, Transported to Hospital

12:54 p.m. Erratic Operator, Exchange Street, Gone on Arrival

4:23 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, School Street North, Call Transferred

5:43 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Old Coldbrook Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

5:45 p.m. Assault, South Street, Transported to Hospital

5:51 p.m. Safety Concern, Vernon Avenue, Criminal Complaint

Summons Curnew, Walter Sr. 85, South Barre

Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with

Tuesday, Sept. 1

9:52 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Sanderson Road, Investigated

3:13 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Lane Road, Peace Restored

5:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning

7:15 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, Sept. 2

9:53 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Hubbardston Road, Referred to Other Agency

4:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning

5:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Walnut Hill Road, No Action Required

6:18 Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed

Summons Andrews, Brittany Alexis, 28, Athol

Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker/No

8:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

10:45 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, School South Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Thursday, Sept. 3

5:10 a.m. Noise Complaint, Hancock Road, Negative Contact

8:39 a.m. Safety Concern, Town Farm Road, Call Transferred

3:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued

3:41 p.m Motor Vehicle Stop, Sunrise Avenue, Citation Issued

Friday, Sept. 4

6:56 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Report Field

12:10 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Coldbrook Road, Gone on Arrival

1:56 p.m. Erratic Operator, West Street, Gone on Arrival

2:57 p.m. Property Damage, Summer Street, Report Field

3:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, South Street, Transported to Hospital

5:09 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Trafalgar Square, Negative Contact

Saturday, Sept. 5

11:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning

6:11 p.m. Safety Concern, Railroad Tracks, Officer Spoke to Party

8:37 p.m. Noise Complaint, Sunrise Avenue, Unfounded

10:01 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Aug. 30

8:23 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, North Brookfield Road, Vehicle Towed

1:58 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Robinson Road, Investigated

4:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Panic Attack, Crawford Road, Transported to Hospital6

5:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

5:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued

Monday, Aug. 31

12:36 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Maple Street, Party Departed without Incident

2:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

Tuesday, Sept. 1

10:56 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, South Road, Removed from Scene

6:04 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party

7:15 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, Sept. 2

12:02 p.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, Bechan Road, Officer/Chief Advised

4:30 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Lincoln Road, Information Given

Thursday, Sept. 3

7:26 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Old Turnpike Road, Referred to Other Agency

8:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check/No Fire Department, New Braintree Road, Negative Contact

10:03 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, New Braintree Road, Officer Spoke to Party

10:58 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Crawford Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Sept. 4

12:10 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Coldbrook Road, Gone on Arrival

Saturday, Sept. 5

11:10 a.m. Larceny or Theft, East Hill Road, Investigated

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Aug. 30

8:07 a.m. Speak to Police, Gardner Road, Report Filed

5:47 p.m. Safety Concern, Old Boston Turnpike, Officer Spoke to Party

Monday, Aug. 31

7:31 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Transported to Hospital

8:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Williamsville Road, Written Warning

10:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, Old Westminster Road, Transported to Hospital

11:50 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Gardner, Morgan Road, Negative Contact

2:20 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Hubbardston Police Department, Officer Spoke to Party

Fraud or Forgery, Madison Way, Officer Spoke to Party

5:45 p.m. Assault, South Street, Transported to Hospital

5:53 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Hubbardston Police Department, Returned

Summons Welch, Andrew Joseph, 34, Hubbardston

Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with, Subsequent Offense

5:06 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Chippewa Street, Transported to Hospital

11:09 p.m Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Williamsville Road, No Action Required

Tuesday, Sept. 1

11:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, New Westminster Road, Transported to Hospital

5:55 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, New Westminster Road, Report Filed

7:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, Elm Street, No Transport Required

10:53 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Old Boston Turnpike, Party Departed without Incidents

Wednesday, Sept. 2

11:24 a.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Unfounded

6:56 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, South Cove Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Thursday, Sept. 3

10:35 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

2:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party

3:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Williamsville Road, Criminal Complaint

Friday, Sept. 4

4:16 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Westminster Road, Transported to Hospital

6:56 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Report Filed

2:49 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, New Templeton Road, Information Given

3:29 p.m. Structure Fires, Morgan Road, Fires Extinguished

3:32 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Negative Contact

3:48 p.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Call Transferred

Saturday, Sept. 5

11:24 a.m. ACO Lost and Found/Wildlife, Williamsville Road, No Action Required

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Aug. 30

3:33 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Wachusett Street, Officer/Chief Advised

8:23 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, North Brookfield Road, Vehicle Towed

3:29 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Kenwood Drive, Investigated

4:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Panic Attack, Crawford Road, Transported to Hospital

11:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Barre Paxton Road, Public Assist

Monday, Aug. 31

11:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Maple Avenue, No Transport Required

2:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Maple Avenue, No Transport Required

5:35 p.m. Public Assist, In wood Road, Officer/Chief Advised

8:16 p.m. Organ Failure, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital

9:40 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Failure, Summer hill Drive, Negative Contact

10:13 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Vista Circle, Negative Contact

10:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

11:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Tuesday, Sept. 1

8:48 a.m. Fire – Public Service Call, Main Street, Public Assist

3:19 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Juniper Lane, Officer Spoke to Party

4:16 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Maple Avenue, Cancelled

4:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Criminal Complaint

Summons Rotten, Laura M., 57, Worcester

Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with Uninsured Motor Vehicle

4:37 p.m. Erratic Operator, Kenwood Drive, Gone on Arrival

5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachusett Street, Citation Issued

5:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Criminal Complaint

Summons Clark, Megan Dawn, 36, Rutland

Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle

6:04 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party

11:43 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Memorial Drive, No Transport Required

Wednesday, Sept. 2

3:33 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Main Street, Investigated

9:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachusett Street, Written Warning

9:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warring

9:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

1:45 p.m. Complaint, Glenwood Road, Officer Spoke to Party

3:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, Emerald Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

3:55 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Thurston Hill Road, Checked/Secured

4:53 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Information Taken

5:51 p.m. Stolen Vehicle, Bushy Lane, Report Filed

7:53 p..m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Main Street, Unfounded

10:18 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma – Past Assault, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

10:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizure, Moulton Mill Road, Mutual Aid Transported

Thursday, Sept. 3

9:27 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Campbell Street, Transported to Hospital

9:30 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Report Filed

3:13 p.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, Rutland Police Department, Returned

3:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Glenwood Road, Investigated

4:51 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, Fernwood Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal

7:47 p.m. Assault and Battery, Miles Road, Report Filed

8:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Pleasantdale Road, Mutual Aid Transported

7:47 p.m. Assault and Battery, Miles Road, Report Filed

8:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Sept. 4

10:18 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Forest Hill Drive, Officer/Chief Advised

11:02 a.m. Missing Person, Rutland Police Department, Officer Spoke to Party

11:06 a.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Investigated

12:52 p.m. Identity Theft, Pleasantdale Road, Report Filed

3:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

4:42 p.m. Fire – Illegal Burn, Kosta Avenue, Fire Extinguished

10:13 p.m. Noise Complaint, River Road, Negative Contact

Saturday, Sept. 5

10:34 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Information Taken

12:06 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency

4:46 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Bushy Lane, Report Filed

10:06 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Miles Road, Returned

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Sept. 21-28, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 59 building/property checks, 15 directed/area patrols, 10 radar assignments, six traffic controls, 12 emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one complaint, one stolen motor vehicle, one vandalism, one disturbance, 10 safety hazards, one utility issue, two animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Sept. 21

8:15 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

2:47 p.m. Assist Citizen, Summit Road, Officer Handled

3:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

4:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Vehicle Towed

5:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued

7:17 p.m. Medical Alarm, Delargy Road, Call Canceled

8:42 p.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Services Rendered

Tuesday, Sept. 22

5:09 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

5:37 p.m. Stolen Motor Vehicle, High Street, Officer Handled

6:43 p.m. Medical Emergency, East Street, Transported to Hospital

8:51 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick Road, Merge

Wednesday, Sept. 23

10:02 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Spoken To

11:57 p.m. 911 Vandalism, Hardwick Pond Road, Negative Contact

Thursday, Sept. 24

7:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered

8:28 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Patient Refusal

9:01 p.m. Fire/Alarm, Lower Road, Investigated

9:47 p.m. Complaint, Patrill Hollow Road, Officer Handled

Friday, Sept. 25

4:25 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled

Saturday, Sept. 26

11:51 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Removed Hazard

12:17 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Removed Hazard

12:17 p.m. 911 Utility Issues, Sessions Road, Referred to Other Agency

12:18 p.m. Safety Hazard, Creamery Road, Services Rendered

2:36 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Referred to Other Agency

3 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Referred to Other Agency

4:14 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered

4:17 p.m. Safety Hazard, Collins Road, Referred to Other Agency

5:46 p.m. Disturbance, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, Sept. 27

12:15 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital

6:06 a.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Officer Handled

7:10 a.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Removed Hazard

2:53 p.m. Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

5:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, No Action Required

Monday, Sept. 28

6:50 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Removed Hazard

During the week of Sept. 28-Oct. 5, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 45 building/property checks, seven directed/area patrols, nine radar assignments, four traffic controls, 11 emergency 911 calls, eight citizen assists, four assist other agencies, three disturbances, five safety hazards, one motor vehicle accident, one burglary, one motor vehicle investigation, one animal call and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Sept. 28

9:48 a.m. Medical Emergency, Church Street, Transported to Hospital

10:37 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered

11:40 a.m. Safety Hazard, Jackson Road, Services Rendered

3 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Pond Road, Services Rendered

3:39 p.m. Assist Citizen, Jackson Road, Officer Handled

4:17 p.m. Medical Emergency, Turkey Street, Patient Refusal

11:41 p.m. Welfare Check, Hardwick Road, Spoken To

Tuesday, Sept. 29

8:27 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Spoken To

9:42 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled

1:43 pm. Safety Hazard, Brook Road, Removed Hazard

1:49 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Barre Road, Peace Restored

3:19 p.m. Assist Citizen, Jackson Road, Services Rendered

3:24 p.m. Disturbance, Main Street, Officer Handled

5:40 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

7:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Sept. 30

3:21 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed

3:38 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital

9:52 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

1:15 p.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Jackson Road, Report Taken

1:18 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

10:03 p.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Removed Hazard

Thursday, Oct. 1

11:47 p.m. Welfare Check, Broad Street, Officer Handled

Friday, Oct. 2

8:18 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Patient Refusal

10:21 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, River Run, Officer Handled

10:59 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

3:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, River Run, Negative Contact

10:24 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Upper Church Street, Services Rendered

Saturday, Oct. 3

9:16 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered

11:41 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Lower Road, Investigated

2:44 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, Oct. 4

2:21 p.m. Disturbance, Broad Street, Services Rendered

8:30 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Clapp Road, Officer Handled

DCR EVENTS, from page 8

be held on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Parking is at the kayak/canoe launch on Worcester Road (Route 122), Barre.

This long, leisurely hike begins at the parking lot and travels down a densely vegetated trail past an old timber harvest, ending at the site of a former covered bridge. The bridge is no longer there, but the view of the river is as picturesque as it gets and well worth the visit.

The hike is 4 miles round trip and passes the historic Riverside Cemetery.

Rutland Prison Camp

On Thursday, Nov. 5 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. explore the Rutland Prison Camp, 299 Intervale Road, Rutland for an approximately 1.25 mile easy hike. There is uneven ground.

Join DCR staff as they explore the remains of this surprisingly successful social experiment. Ticks are still active so protection is advised, as is wearing orange during hunting season.

Group hike near Muddy Pond

Explore the Ware River Watershed for a group hike near Muddy Pond on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join DCR staff for a 4.1-mile looped hike in the Ware River Watershed. The route climbs/descends roughly 140 feet in elevation.

The foot path participants will travel on is non-technical. The last mile of the hike is on a scenic section of the Mass Central Rail Trail.

Participants will meet at the Route 122 rest area parking lot in the town of Oakham. The rest area is in the shape of a banana with grass and picnic tables.

The hike begins and ends north of Muddy Pond.

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HUBBARDSTON
from page 1

the road some time in the early 1990s, but there were some issues with the entity that owned the road, which is now defunct. Some residents said the Planning Board of 30 years ago allowed the bond to expire without agreed upon paving work being done, so the residents should not have to bear the burden of paying for road repairs. The town will not plow the road because it is in poor condition and can damage their vehicles.

According to Select Board Chair Katie Young, the town hired a contractor last year who took care of the road, but that contractor will not do it again because of the condition. The board also said since the property is of low value, it would actually cost the town more money than it would make them to pursue tax title.

Select Board member Terry Tyler said their banks should have acknowledged to the homeowners that this was a private road that would not be maintained by the town. The Select Board noted that there are no funds appropriated in the budget to plow that road this year.

Marc Fleischer, a resident of the street, said during the meeting that in a letter sent by Department of Public Works director Travis Brown, it instructed the residents to repair it to Brown's satisfaction, which is not a concrete standard that can be met. Fleischer also suggested asphalt millings be placed on the road in the time being, but Brown noted the pile at the highway department is town property, and is not given away to private residents who ask. Brown said one of the reasons it's not maintained is because of the possibility of a DPW employee getting hurt on the road, and the liability behind that.

One resident of the road said that the access is important for emergency vehicles, particularly because she has medical issues.

"This is life or death for me," she said.

Because there were no funds appropriated, the board voted to not place an article on the special town meeting warrant related to the plowing of the private road.

STM articles

There will be some financial transfers on the special town meeting warrant, according to interim Town Administrator Tim Bragan. There will be an article preventing going to another special town meeting should the town not have enough for heating oil, a $50,000 stabilization that will die on June 30 of next year, and roll back into free cash.

There will also be the paying of unpaid bills from prior fiscal years totaling about $16,000.

Bragan said he and department heads came up with ways to cut down a deficit of about $275,000. He said the DPW budgeted $130,000 for snow and ice, but with the winter relief funds from the state, they are not expecting to use that much.

He said the police chief has decided to hold off on asking for a new vehicle, but there will be a $20,000 request for technology upgrades.

There will be an article asking for funds to repair a trailer to be used in emergency management situations or clinics, community preservation fund requests for structural and historical studies at the first meetinghouse, the updated Quabbin Regional School District agreement, bylaws prohibiting unapproved camping and overnight parking on conservation land and a zoning bylaw change.

Consent agenda

The board accepted a consent agenda including the resignations of Greg Goldsmith as Electrical Inspector and Joseph Moisan from the Cultural Council, the appointments of Jonathan Reed as Electrical Inspector, Dennis Rogers as election worker and Melinda Palmer as a library trustee.

Native American boat

Christina Ellis, the executive assistant, said an email had been sent from the Nipmuck Tribe saying they would be interested in taking the boat, and they are in contact with the Worcester History Museum.

Upcoming events

There will be a historical society apple tasting/information event on Oct. 17 from 1-3 at the chapel, the fall festival at the first meetinghouse on Oct. 24 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the STM on Oct. 27 at the Hubbardston Center School Gym at 7 p.m., trick or treating on Oct. 31 from 5-8 p.m., a costume party at the Rod and Gun Club on Oct. 31 from 6-9 p.m. and election day on Nov. 3 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. at the elementary school gym.

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