

BARRE GAZETTE

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Board honors town's oldest female resident

By Paula Ouimette
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis presented Eleanor Ryan with the Golden Cane award, recognizing her as the town's oldest female resident.

She was born on June 8, 1923, and she said, "growing up on a farm," was the secret to her reaching her 101st birthday.

Joining the board at the Oct. 8 meeting was state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, who each presented Ryan with a citation.

Recognition

The Board of Selectmen received a letter from Tim Nason of the Board of Water Commissioners regarding the discovery and removal of invasive water chestnut plants in Doane Pond.

The letter stated that David Maher from Valley View School notified the commissioners about the plant, and that he and students from the school were given permission to remove the plants from the pond.

"The Board of Water Commissioners thanked and commended Mr. Maher and the Valley View students for their hard work in identifying and removing this invasive species of plants, thus protecting our watershed and drinking water reservoir, Horse Pond," Nason's letter stated. "By these students and Mr. Maher volunteering their time has saved the town thousands of dollars in remediation of this invasive plant species."

Water Superintendent Jamie Flamand said Maher and the students were a "big help" in removing the invasive plant, which he said he had never seen before. Flamand said Maher and the students worked to remove the water chestnuts from the water by canoe every day for a month.

"Right now, it's only Doane Pond, and them ripping it out keeps it from getting actually in Horse Pond, which is our reservoir," Flamand said, adding that Maher and the students will continue to remove the plant as they see it. "I think it's a great thing."

Highway Department report

Randy Morgan, interim Superintendent of the Highway Department, provided an update to the Board of Selectmen.

Morgan said since he's been in the position, he has been using American Rescue Plan Act funds to complete necessary tree work. He has also purchased pipe needed for drainage work on Oakham Road.

The department staff also cleaned out the Huck's building and completed normal roadside cleanup, weed whacking and trimming.

Morgan said swale work was completed on West Brookfield Road, and he is also working with National Grid to fix a trench that they dug on Main Street.

"They're going to fix that," he said.

Morgan said he will also be meeting with a representative from National Grid about the possibility of the utility company removing some problem trees.

Morgan was joined by Town Administrator Michael Szlosek to look at the town's four bridges.

He said he is also seeking estimates for catch basin work, adding that 10 of them need to be raised up to road level.

Morgan said salt and sand both need to be ordered for winter, and

Firefighters respond to house and brush fire



Photos Courtesy of Oakham Fire Department

This house at 290 Rutherford Road, Oakham shows smoke and flames in the connecting structure from the garage to the house.

By Ellenor Downer
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OAKHAM – On Saturday, Oct. 12 the Oakham Fire Department thought Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center received a call of a reported fire at 10:59 a.m. at 290 Rutherford Road.

Mutual aid assistance was called to assist the Oakham Fire Department. Crews arrived to heavy fire conditions between the garage and house along with a fast moving brush fire headed toward another house.

Oakham crews along with mutual aid partners quickly and aggressively attacked the fire. Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Leicester ALS, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Orange, Paxton, Rutland, Spencer and Department of Conservation and Recreation Fire. Holden covered the Rutland station.

A request for National Grid came at 11:53 a.m. The nearby Camp Putnam pond, located just over the Oakham line in New Braintree, was used for a water draft site.

The back side of the two story wood frame house with an attached garage and extension to the home was on fire and there was concern of it spreading to a propane tank. No one was home at the time of the fire. The fast



Firefighters from many towns were on the scene to fight the structure and brush fire.

moving brush fair covered about five acres and winds spurred its advance

The garage was a loss and at 11:42 a.m. the garage collapsed in the back. Crews were able to keep the fire damage to the Karlin family house to a minimum.

At 1:24 p.m. command

reported the fire was out and started breakdown line. At 3:09 p.m. command requested equipment return to the scene for a brush fire flare up. At 3:49 p.m. command requested a New Braintree tanker and brush truck. Command terminated at 5:05 p.m. with all unites clear and returning.

DCR completes rehabilitation of access road to fishing area



The Department Conservation and Recreation held a ribbon cutting ceremony at newly rehabilitated access road at Quabbin Reservoir's Gate 43.

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK/PETERSHAM – State legislators and members of the Quabbin Fishermen's Association joined the Department of Conservation and Recreation at a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the rehabilitation of an access road at Gate 43 to Fishing Area 3 at the Quabbin Reservoir.

On Oct. 8, DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo was joined by Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi, state Senators Peter Durant and Jake Oliveira, state Representatives Todd Smola and Aaron Saunders and QFA President Clayton Sylla to talk about the successful completion of the project, and its significance to the region.

Arrigo said the DCR's mission is "to protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all."

"I know that this project is a great example of our mission," Arrigo said.

The project involved reclaiming and repaving approximately 1.75 miles from outside Gate 43 to just before the bridge. The total cost was \$652,000 and was made possible through funds from the American Rescue Plan Act filed by Smola, and DCR through the Massachusetts Water Resources Trust Fund.

The improved road makes it easier for visitors to access and enjoy this popular outdoor recreation destination that families and individuals use for fishing, walking, running and bike riding. It also connects visitors to opportunities for wildlife observation, while appreciating the natural scenery of the Quabbin Reservoir.

"At DCR, we are dedicated to making our properties welcoming and accessible for all users to



enjoy and connect with our natural Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi talks about the importance of safe access to recreational sites.

and recreational resources," Arrigo said. "We are pleased to see this important access road revitalized to provide access to the Quabbin Reservoir, a valuable natural and recreational resource for the community."

Arrigo credited the dedication of local officials for making sure this project was completed, with a special thanks given to Smola.

Arrigo welcomed Gobi to the podium, who said it was nice to look around and see all of the support from the community, especially the fishermen.

"Our fisherman are extremely important," Gobi said. "They are the eyes and ears of the Quabbin."

Gobi said she is grateful to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for its commitment in providing safe access to recreational

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Friends of MLH meets with community foundations

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – The Friends of Mary Lane Hospital recently held a meeting to discuss the possibility of selecting a new charitable foundation to oversee the handling and management of trust funds.

Cindy Allen Bourcier, chair of the Friends group, said she was hoping the meeting would also spark discussion about land restrictions on the 21 acre site on South Street, in addition to exploring two community foundations that could oversee the various trusts associated with the hospital.

"We have been researching all options," Bourcier said at the Oct. 2 meeting.

Two of these options include the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

"We need to get this into the hands of a well-established foundation," Bourcier said of the trust funds, which are currently overseen by the Baystate Health Foundation with Bank of America as trustee.

Bourcier said learned from a recent meeting with Emily Gabrault from the Attorney General's Office that it is possible that both Baystate Health Foundation and Bank of America could voluntarily step away from their respective roles.

Community foundations
Bourcier introduced both Peter Dunn, president and CEO of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and Megan Burke, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. Both Dunn and Burke have been in their roles for over a year, and both have extensive experience in the field.

"Community foundations are in some ways, a hybrid," Dunn said. "We're created to be a place that

grows philanthropy. We exist to help these communities get better through philanthropy."

Dunn said that people want to see their communities do better and they do so by giving.

Dunn said the Greater Worcester Community Foundation was created about 50 years ago and its funds range from \$10,000 up to \$20 million through 600 different charitable funds.

"Last year we distributed about \$10 million in grants," he said.

The foundation is also the largest provider of scholarships to students in central Massachusetts.

Dunn said the foundation is "really passionate" about helping nonprofits do their best work, including investing \$1 million in over 20 Massachusetts land trusts.

Dunn said the foundation and its team spend as much time working on grants as they do communicating with people in the communities they serve, in order to build trust.

Burke said the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts operates almost the same as the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, and that all 15 of the commonwealth's community foundations work together, rather than compete.

"We learn from each other," Burke said.

Burke said her foundation has about \$280 million in assets from 687 funds, serving the counties of Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden. She said the foundation is the biggest supplier of scholarships for students in these counties.

"A community foundation is a foundation for the community," Burke said. "We're here for everybody in the community."

Burke said there are "no bad choices" when selecting which community foundation to work with to oversee the trusts association with Mary Lane Hospital.

Friends of Mary Lane Hospital

member Stephen Granlund asked if it would be possible for both community foundations to work together, since Mary Lane Hospital was intended to serve the healthcare needs of residents in both Hampshire and Worcester counties.

Dunn said this was an interesting concept, but that the Attorney General's Office would likely prefer to work with just one community foundation.

Land restrictions
Bourcier said the Friends' mission is to protect the Mary Lane Hospital land and support the intent of Lewis Gilbert's will. Granlund said land restriction was critical for the site.

Those present discussed zoning at the site, which is currently listed as suburban residential. This zoning allows for a lot of uses, Town Manager Stuart Beckley said, including a hospital.

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SPORTS

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Lauren Colleton makes her way down the field.



Edén Fortier is pressured from behind.

Panthers get by West Boylston

BARRE – Last Monday afternoon, Quabbin girls middle school soccer scored one goal in the first half and it held up as the Panthers defeated West Boylston 1-0. The Panthers are 4-1 on the season.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Emma Stauder sends the goal kick away.



The Quabbin defense tries to guard against a goal.



Adalyn Cranston tries to get around a pair of defenders.

Middle school boys soccer action



BARRE – Last Monday afternoon, Quabbin boys middle school soccer faced off with West Boylston. Heading into the matchup, the boys were 2-1-1. The final score of this game was not reported as press time.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Walker Larson corral a loose ball.



Flint Silas and Lucas Gaspar look to keep Quabbin in control.



Nolan Herrick sends a pass back.



Brady White sends a clearing pass away.



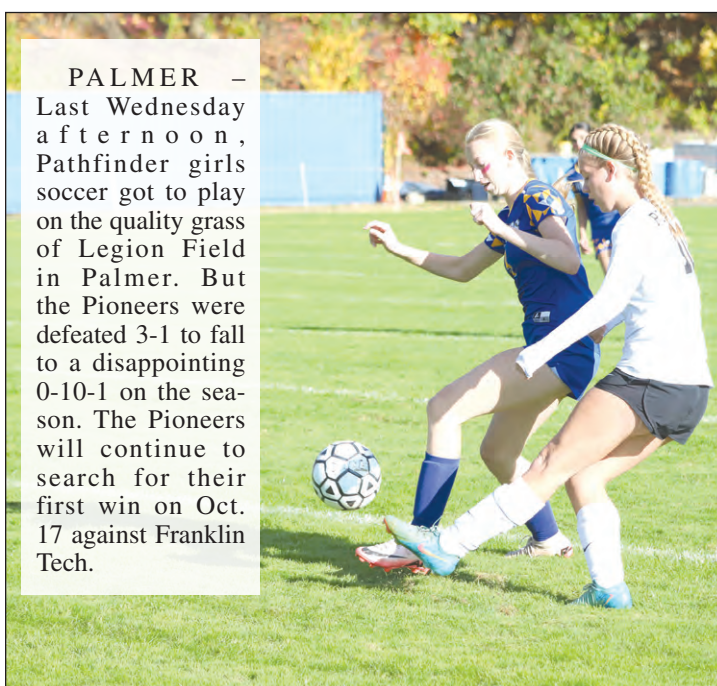
Flint Silas changes the direction of play.

Pioneers fall to Athol



Samantha Lowe tries to steal the ball away.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Heydin Heyes is pressured from behind.

PALMER – Last Wednesday afternoon, Pathfinder girls soccer got to play on the quality grass of Legion Field in Palmer. But the Pioneers were defeated 3-1 to fall to a disappointing 0-10-1 on the season. The Pioneers will continue to search for their first win on Oct. 17 against Franklin Tech.



Jenna McKinney moves toward the sideline.



Taylor Allen goes after the ball near midfield.



Brianna Valley and an opponent compete for the loose ball.

Panthers headed for tournament

BARRE – With a win over Tahanto last Friday afternoon 5-0, the Quabbin Regional High School field hockey team is back in the tournament.

The Panthers were also Central Mass. champions last season, but have not had as much luck in the state tournament, not getting through the second round since the new state tournament began. The regular season was scheduled to end on Friday, Oct. 18 against Westborough. Following that next week, the Panthers will await their postseason opponents in the Central Mass. and state tournaments.

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