

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Voters pass two articles at STM

### Town moves forward with purchase of new fire pumper truck

Staff Report

HARDWICK – A total of 89 voters cast votes at the town's special town meeting held at Hardwick Elementary School last Thursday evening.

Moderator Ryan J. Witkos called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and voters spent just under an hour discussing the two articles on the warrant, both of which passed.

A moment of silence was held to honor the recent passing of Hardwick historian Emily Bancroft, Chair of the Historical Commission and past president of the Hardwick Historical Society.

Article 1 asked voters to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money to fund the purchase and equipping a new fire pumper truck for the use of the Fire Department, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto provided that this appropriation shall be contingent on the passage of a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion ballot question; or to take any other action relative thereto.

See HARDWICK, page 5

## Mysterious Massachusetts

Presenter shares stories of the unknown in the Bay State

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE – You may wonder what mysteries Massachusetts has that have yet to be solved.

This past week, the Woods Memorial Library welcomed Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe who provided a presentation called "Mysterious Massachusetts: A history of the unknown in the Bay State."

Hodge-Wetherbe is the head librarian for teen services with the Springfield city library. When she's not at the library she tours all over New England for lectures on various aspects of "geek" culture.

In this presentation, it was all about the unknown and unusual sightings that have occurred in the Bay State.

Hodge-Wetherbe has always been a fan of the "strange" and a comic book fan as well as her first love, stories. To her, stories are very important, and telling these stories about the mysteries of Massachusetts is what she wanted to present.

"These are my favorite stories to share," Hodge-Wetherbe said.

The presentation began with



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe presented "Mysterious Massachusetts" at Woods Memorial Library. Hodge-Wetherbe shared stories about the unknown happenings in the Bay State.

a word that is not officially considered a science, cryptozoology. It is the search for animals which are considered to be mythology by mainstream biology.

The task is to search for evidence of surviving members of a

species.

This word falls under the study of beings that are considered mythical and the first one Hodge-Wetherbe talked about were Bigfoot sightings in Massachusetts.

According to research, there have been Bigfoot sightings in every U.S. state, except Hawaii. Hodge-Wetherbe said

See MYSTERIOUS MASSACHUSETTS, page 5

## Health insurance rates increase for town's retirees

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Town Administrator Michael Szlosek said he was "a little disappointed" by the rate increase from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association for retiree health insurance.

At the Oct. 22 Board of Selectmen's meeting, he said the current monthly rates for various plans will increase anywhere from 10:28% to 24.02%. The greatest increase (24.02%) is for Blue Med RX, shifting from \$173 a month to \$215.

Szlosek said the board has until the first of November to accept the new rates.

"These are large increases," Szlosek said.

The board approved the new rates. Vice-Chair Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada said the board should look into other health insurance options for next year to see if lower rates are available.

**Sewer Department update**

Sewer Superintendent Eric Cardenas said Tristan Gilman was hired as an operator. Cardenas said the department hadn't received a lot of interest in the position for seven months prior to hiring Gilman.

"We decided to go with Tristan," he said. "We thought it would be nice to have somebody local."

Cardenas said the department has added about 50% more equipment and Gilman will start training on all of it.

"It made a lot of sense," Cardenas said, to hire Gilman.

Cardenas said Gilman will be paid out of the assistant's salary line item in the budget.

**Appointment**

The board appointed Ashley Place to the Library Board of Trustees at the Hoston Free Public Library. Place said her family has recently moved to town and that she has an extensive background in municipal government and libraries.

"I thought it was great fit to get to know our town by serving the community from our beautiful building down here," she said.

**Sidewalk project**

Canada said Vibram has offered financial support for engineering to complete sidewalks from School Street to North Main Street. This project will be added as a change order to phase one of the Complete Streets project.

Brandon Avery, a member of the Downtown Development Committee, said the original phase one project came in under budget and additional funds became available. He said Vibram worked with the Complete Streets engineer to combine both projects.

Szlosek said Vibram's contribution to the engineering of the project was very beneficial to the town.

Canada said construction of the phase one project will be starting soon. Szlosek said copies of the plans for the project are available

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 9

## School Committee reviews regional agreement

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – School Committee Vice-Chair Tim Canada said the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee voted to approve the agreement between the Quaboag Regional School District and North Brookfield Public Schools and present it to the towns.

At the School Committee's Oct. 21 meeting, he said the agreement has been posted on the school district's website, nbschools.org, for community members to read.

In order for the two school districts to move ahead with regionalization, residents would need to pass articles at town meetings for each respective town.

Canada said the agreement includes the formation of a new regional school committee, which would feature three representatives each from Warren, West Brookfield and North Brookfield. Elections for two-year terms would be held biannually, based on state elections.

"If a vacancy occurs, the select board chooses a replacement for that person who has left the committee, within 30 days," he said.

Canada said organization, powers and duties, quorum, etc., of the new regional school committee would operate the same way the current school committee does.

He said the biggest difference is the formation of a transitional school committee, which will have 18 members, including all current school committee members from each school district, along with one representative from the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen.

"The earliest we would become a part of the Quaboag district, would be July 1, 2027."

School Committee Vice-Chair Tim Canada

Canada said each district town will have its own elementary school serving grades kindergarten through five; students in grades six through eight will attend middle school at the current North Brookfield Jr./Sr. High School and students in grades nine through 12 will attend the current Quaboag Regional Middle High School in Warren.

"The earliest we would become a part of the Quaboag district, would be July 1, 2027," Canada said, pending town meeting votes.

**Administrator's report**

Elementary School Principal Arthur Murphy said Measures of Academic Progress testing has almost been completed in the school.

"This gives our teachers information right away, that they can utilize to make informed decisions

in the classroom," he said.

Students have been engaged in the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports incentive program and have turned in well over 1,000 tickets to trade in for prizes. He said a school store is open once every other week and each class can go and trade in their tickets earned for positive behavior.

Murphy said prizes range from glow sticks to pencils to fun experiences, such as being principal for the day, riding to school in a police cruiser and more. He thanked the members of the Police Department for their support with this program.

"It's been a great start to the year," he said. "Anything that we can do to have our kids feel happy and part of our school, it's fantastic."

Murphy said the Creative Action Thinking Laboratory has been a positive experience for the kindergarteners, and the second grade is preparing to study math fluence with the CAT Lab through music, dance and art.

Murphy said he has met with the PTO and the community is lucky to have adults who care about the students. He said the PTO is working hard on spirit week, a Veterans Day breakfast, food drive and more.

"There's a multitude of things going on in our school that the PTO really works hard on," he said.

Murphy provided his

See SCHOOL COMMITTEE, page 6

## Hospital Review Committee discusses use of trusts

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Town Manager Stuart Beckley gave an update from legal counsel to the Hospital Review Committee at its recent meeting.

At the Oct. 16 meeting, Beckley said the two attorneys representing the town in regard to Baystate Mary Lane Hospital, Nicole Costanzo of KP Law and Patricia Davidson of Mirick O'Connell, will each focus on a different task.

Davidson will contact Baystate Health Attorney Vanessa Smith and Costanzo will work on drafting a memo based on the recommendations of the Historical Commission about memorialization of the hospital site.

"They both recommend the town, residents, and committee, describe a plan they would like to bring to the Attorney General," Beckley said.

The plan should describe "broadly, but clearly" what the priorities are for future use of the trust funds, including the Lewis Gilbert trust.

"Primarily, the use which I think we all agree on, is healthcare," Beckley said.

Hospital Review Committee Chair Howard Trietsch said the committee members agree that the trust money should be used as seed money to bring healthcare to the region.

"The priority is getting healthcare in the area," he said.

Committee member Nancy Talbot said providing the Attorney General with clear and concise

information will make the determination easier.

Trietsch motioned to use the trust fund to be mainly and mostly used as seed money for an urgent care or primary care on the site but not restricted to the site. The committee members present approved the motion unanimously.

**Friends of Mary Lane Hospital**

Cindy Allen Bourcier, chair of the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital, said her group also had its own motion in front of the Attorney General already, and that getting on the same page is important.

Bourcier said Friends member Peter Thamel continues to communicate with both the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

Stephen Granlund spoke about a recent meeting with the Planning Board regarding a potential zoning change to protect the hospital site.

"That's something that they were very supportive of," Granlund said.

Both Granlund and Bourcier asked the committee members for their views about land restrictions at the Mary Lane Hospital site.

Trietsch said he would need more information about zoning before the committee makes a decision about it.

**Healthcare centers**

Trietsch said Kennedy Community Health Center has pulled out of possibly developing the site.

See MARY LANE, page 9



Peter Durant  
State Senate

### PROTECTING OUR WALLETS

- ✓ Earned a perfect voting record of protecting taxpayers from tax increases
- ✓ 100% rating in standing up for local small businesses
- ✓ Working to stop the migrant crisis
- ✓ Fully funding our schools
- ✓ Sponsored legislation for Crumbling Foundations

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- ✓ Fought against taxpayer funded benefits for illegals
- ✓ Filed legislation to amend the Right to Settle law to require legal residency

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- ✓ Support small business

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# News of the Towns



## Round Town

Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Scavenger Hunt takes place Saturday

The 250th Anniversary Committee will sponsor the Barre Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, Nov. 2 starting at 10:30 a.m. Participants will solve riddles to guide them across Barre to various locations and challenges. This family-friendly event encourages teams of all ages, whether they're a seasoned Barre resident or new to the area. Participants should bring a non-expired, non-perishable food item, pet food or toiletry for each group member. To locate the starting point, they must solve the first riddle: "In the heart of town, where voices rise, A round white structure stands under open skies. With music and laughter, it gathers the crowd, A symbol of joy, both humble and proud. What place is this, where community plays, A central beacon for gathering days?" Driving will be required as the groups navigate the hunt. The committee is giving away a total of \$900 in prepaid cash cards to the winning teams. The hunt will take approximately two hours to complete. The 250th Anniversary Committee is also still looking for volunteers to help this event run smoothly. To volunteer, people should email 250anniversary@townofbarre.com.

### Senior center open house

The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, will be hosting an Open House on Tuesday, Nov. 19 from 9-11 a.m. to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the town of Barre/Hardwick Senior Center. All are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

### Veteran's Day

On Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11, there will be a brief ceremony at Veterans Park, on the Common, at 11 a.m. All Veterans are encouraged to join the ranks. Local residents are invited to attend.

### Central Mass. Postcard show

The Central Massachusetts Postcard Club and St. Joseph's Catholic Church will be co-sponsoring the club's 40th annual postcard show at the church on 29 South St. on Barre Common on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Admission of \$3 benefits the church, who will also sell food from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Ten dealers from four states will offer old picture postcards for sale including local town views and many topics. Anyone with questions may email show manager J.R. Greene at jrg01331@webtv.net.

### Pancake breakfast

Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 7-10:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children 8 and under. The breakfast is open to all and people may design their own pancakes then add sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, waffles, juice and coffee. Pure maple syrup is always served.

## Red Door Fayre to be held on Nov. 9

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 Main St., will hold its Red Door Fayre on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be raffles, an exquisite table, Christmas table, bake table, pies, craft table. A homemade luncheon of soups, sandwiches and apple crisp will also be available.

### Editorial deadline reminder

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

## Halloween Trick or Treating Schedule

THURSDAY, OCT. 31

### BARRE

Trunk or Treating on Common Street from 5-8 p.m. as well as regular trick or treating. Barre Historical Society will participate at their building on Common Street.

### HUBBARDSTON

Trick or Treat 5-8 p.m.  
Block Party 4-8 p.m.



### OAKHAM

Trunk or Treating in the Town Hall parking lot from 5-7 p.m. as well as regular trick or treating

### PETERSHAM

Trick or Treating 4:30-6 p.m.  
Parade Around the Common 6 p.m.  
Kids' Event at Lower Town Hall 6:30 p.m.

## 250th Anniversary Committee sponsors scavenger hunt

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non-expired, non-perishable food item, pet food or toiletry for each group member. To locate the starting point, they must solve the first riddle: "In the heart of town, where voices rise, A round white structure stands under open skies. With music and laughter, it gathers the crowd, A symbol of joy, both humble and proud. What place is this, where community plays, A central beacon for gathering days?"

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The 250th Anniversary Committee is also still looking for volunteers to help this event run smoothly.

To volunteer, people should email 250anniversary@townofbarre.com.

## 'Broadway's Next Hit Musical' comes to The Center at Eagle Hill

HARDWICK – Every song is fresh. Every scene is new. Every night is different. It's all improvised and it's all funny.

On Saturday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m., "Broadway's Next Hit Musical" comes to The Center at Eagle Hill.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for students and seniors. The Center also offers discounted \$10 tickets to EBT cardholders through Massachusetts' Card to Culture Program.

"Broadway's Next Hit Musical" is the only unscripted theatrical awards show. Have

you heard of the Tony Awards? Well, "Broadway's Next Hit Musical" is the "Phony" Awards.

Audience members write down made up song titles and master improvisers gather the suggestions and present them as "nominated songs" for this coveted award. Spontaneous scenes and songs are created filled with great dancing, catchy melodies, and tons of laughter.

The audience votes for their favorite song and watches as the cast turns that song into a full-blown improvised musical – complete with memorable

characters, witty dialogue, and plot twists galore.

For tickets and information, visit [www.thecenterateaglehill.org](http://www.thecenterateaglehill.org) or call the Box Office at 413-477-6746.

### About The Center

The Center at Eagle Hill is a performance venue in central Massachusetts presenting world class music, dance, theatre, and comedy.

For more information about this, and other events, please visit our website at [www.thecenterateaglehill.org](http://www.thecenterateaglehill.org). The Center at Eagle Hill is located at 242 Old Petersham Road.

## Historical society presents 'History of Mishoon'

RUTLAND – The Rutland Historical Society is hosting The History of Mishoon on Sunday, Nov. 10 from 1-3 p.m., at the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St. Rutland.

Participants will discover the untold history of Lake Quinsigamond's submerged treasures. Cheryl Stedtler, Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band tribal member and director of Project Mishoon, will unveil

the fascinating journey behind the discovery of ancient dugout canoes known as mishoonash in this presentation.

She will delve into the rich heritage of the Nipmuc tribe and their ancestral navigation of the lake using these unique vessels. With scientific documentation, underwater imaging and captivating insights.

Stedtler will unveil the mysteries surrounding these rare

mishoonash, dating back to the 1640s. People will learn how these remarkable finds are rewriting the narrative of New England's archaeological landscape as they journey through time and heritage with Project Mishoon.

This program is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served following the presentation.

## Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com



### Volunteer appreciation night is Nov. 18

The town of Hubbardston will host a volunteer appreciation night on Monday, Nov. 18 at 5 p.m. at the Hubbardston Senior Center in honor of all the hard work and dedication volunteers provide to the community. Refreshments will be served. This night is all about the volunteers. People should RSVP via email to [bos@hubbardstonma.us](mailto:bos@hubbardstonma.us) by Monday, Nov. 11.

### Public hearing on STM

The Hubbardston Select Board invites residents to a public hearing on Monday, Nov. 4 at 5:30 p.m. to review the proposed warrant articles for the upcoming Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 19. The hearing will be held at the Senior Center with virtual attendance options and will be live-streamed on the Town's Facebook page.

### Senior tax work-off program

The town of Hubbardston announces the opening of the Senior Tax Work-Off Program for eligible senior residents. This program allows seniors to earn a property tax reduction of up to \$1,500 annually by volunteering their time to assist various town departments. Participants will earn \$15 per hour, directly reducing their property tax bill. To be eligible residents must be aged 60 and above and own and occupy a home in Hubbardston. The work period is Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 2025. Opportunities are available in departments such as Town Offices, Senior Center, Police Department, Library, and DPW. Applications are available at the Treasurer Collector's Office, 7 Main St. or by email request at [taxcoll@hubbardstonma.us](mailto:taxcoll@hubbardstonma.us). For assistance or questions, people may call Sara Rish at 978-928-1400, extension 205. The town encourages eligible seniors to participate in this program to stay engaged with the community and enjoy a tax benefit.

### Senior Center

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

## 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 Nov. 4. 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 – Pork Rib-i-que, mac n cheese, mixed vegetables, pineapple, sandwich roll

TUESDAY – Sloppy Joe, seasoned potatoes, green beans, fresh fruit, sandwich roll

WEDNESDAY – Chicken Cacciatore, Gemelli pasta, roasted broccoli, cookies, Italian bread

THURSDAY – Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, carrot cake, diet = half piece, marble ry bread

FRIDAY – Fish with crumb topping, rice pilaf, Tuscany style vegetables, fruited ambrosia, whole wheat bread, 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.

SUBMISSIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME  
Send your stories and photos to  
[edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com)

## Corrections policy

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

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# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE

250th Anniversary Committee – Nov. 4 at 6 p.m.  
 Select Board – Nov. 4 at 6 p.m.  
 Election Day – Nov. 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Felton Field Commission – Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Nov. 5 at 6 p.m.  
 Felton Field Commission – Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Nov. 6 at 12:30 p.m.  
 Board of Registrars – Nov. 7 at 4:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Committee – Nov. 12 and Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.  
 Library Trustees – Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Barre Housing Authority – Nov. 14 at 1 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Nov. 19 at 7 p.m.  
 Sewer Commission – Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 2 at 5 p.m.  
 Water Commission – Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
 DPW Commission – Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.  
 Cable Advisory Committee – Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Dec. 26 at 11 a.m.

### HARDWICK

Council on Aging – Nov. 6 at 12:30 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustees – Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.  
 Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – Nov. 11 and Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Recycling Commission – Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Nov. 12 at 6:45 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Public Library – Nov. 13 at 4 p.m.  
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Registrars – Nov. 16 at 12:30 p.m.  
 Capital Planning Committee – Nov. 18 at 3 p.m.  
 Wheelwright Water District – Nov. 18 at 7 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Water District – Nov. 19 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Select Board Public Hearing – Nov. 4 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Cultural Council – Nov. 4, Nov. 12 and Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Cultural Council – Nov. 2 at 9 a.m.  
 Downtown Development Committee – Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Selectmen – Nov. 5 and Nov. 19 at 6 p.m.  
 Capital Improvement Planning – Nov. 6 at 6 p.m.  
 Sewer Commissioners – Nov. 12 at 3:45 p.m.  
 Special Town Meeting – Nov. 15 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Nov. 20 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Oakham Cultural Council – Nov. 2 at 11 a.m.  
 Conservation Commission Hearing – Nov. 6 at 6 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Nov. 8 at noon  
 Planning Board – Nov. 19 at 7 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Council on Aging – Nov. 4 and Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.  
 Select Board – Nov. 7, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, Dec. 19 and Jan. 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Nov. 8 at 9 a.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Nov. 12 at 10 a.m.  
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – Nov. 12 at 6 p.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – Nov. 21 at 6 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.

## Cradle Rock OES to hold pancake breakfast

BARRE – Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 7-10:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St.

Cost is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children 8 and under. The breakfast is open to all and people may design their own pancakes then add sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, waffles, juice and coffee. Pure maple syrup is always served.

## Central Mass. Postcard show happens Nov. 2

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Admission of \$3 benefits the church, who will also sell food from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Ten dealers from four states will offer old picture postcards for sale including local town views and many topics. Anyone with questions may email show manager J.R. Greene at jrg01331@webtv.net.

## Library holds story time on Nov. 4

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, is offering a story time program for preschoolers on Monday, Nov. 4 beginning at 9 a.m.

The program's focus is Veterans Day and will include a reading of "You're a Grand Old Flag" by George M. Cohan and "Veterans Day" by Allan Morey. This reading and crafts program is held at the library. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business hours for more information.

## St. Aloysius held 9th annual Trunk or Treat

The Moryl and Morrison-Shunaman families dressed the part for St. Aloysius Catholic School's Trunk or Treat event, securing a prize as one of the top trunks.

Submitted photos



The Mankin family did not fail to disappoint with their "Beetlejuice" themed trunk.

## Brush Fire Warning: State, local leaders urge caution amid high fire risk

Common causes include power equipment, fireplace ashes, and heating/cooking

STOW—With 47 active brush fires reported statewide, including 18 in the past 24 hours, local and state officials are urging residents to use extra caution with any open flame or other heat source outdoors.

Representatives from the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, Department of Conservation & Recreation, Department of Fire Services, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts reminded residents that the ongoing weather conditions make dry leaves, dead vegetation, and other fuels extremely receptive to ignition. "The dry, sunny, breezy weather is great for recreation, but it also means that any outdoor fire will spread quickly and become very difficult to manage," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "We're seeing preventable fires growing to dangerous

sizes and drawing numerous resources, locally and regionally."

Based on the preliminary causes of recent fires, officials are asking residents to:

Remember that open burning is prohibited statewide through January and in many communities year-round.

Refrain from outdoor cooking and heating. Sparks and embers from chimineas, fire pits, and grills can easily ignite dry vegetation, debris, and overhanging branches.

Use caution with lawnmowers, leaf blowers, all-terrain vehicles, and other power equipment. The engines can become hot enough to ignite dry leaves and grass.

Dispose of ashes from fireplaces and wood stoves in a metal can, douse them with water, and cover them with a tight-fitting lid. These ashes can remain hot enough to ignite combustibles long after the fire goes out: never dump them outdoors or in the trash.

Extinguish smoking materials in a sturdy ashtray with water or sand. Never toss cigarette butts, matches, or other smoking materials over the edge of a balcony, or toss them in dry vegetation or

debris.

Weather conditions statewide currently place all Massachusetts communities at elevated risk of brush fires. Many of these fires could spread to or from residential areas. Residents should monitor fire conditions closely and follow instructions from local public safety officials. Ensure that Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) are enabled on your cell phone. If your community has a local alert system, sign up to receive local warnings.

Find more outdoor fire safety tips on the Department of Fire Services' website by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/outdoor-firesafety>.

## Oakham

*Ellenor Downer*  
edowner@turley.com

### Naval Sea-bees to host Veterans breakfast

The Naval Sea-bees will host a breakfast for Veterans on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 9-11:30 a.m. in the Municipal Building, Barre Road. All Veterans are welcome to attend.

### Church bake sale

An election day bake sale will be held at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, on Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 8:15 a.m.-2 p.m. Coffee will be sold for here or to go. Quilt raffle tickets will also be sold for \$2 each.

### Senior Center Activities

The following are the Senior Center's activities starting in November.

Third Monday of the month Podiatry from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Reservations is required. Tuesday is Yoga at 12:30 p.m.; fourth Tuesday of the month Blood Pressure/Glucose Testing from 11 a.m.-noon; Wednesday Zumba Gold is at 9 a.m. in the Rutland Senior Center - \$2 donation each class. Thursday is second Thursday of the month Blood Pressure 11.00am; third Thursday – SHINE from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Reservations required Friday is Functional Fitness at 10:30 a.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall - \$2 donation per class; and third Friday is the Lunch Bunch, a group lunch at local restaurant. Sign up is required. Sign up sheets are in the main room of the Senior Center. For those offerings requiring reservations, people should call 508-882-4073.

### Harvest and Holly Fair

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold their annual Harvest and Holly Fair on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the church. The church will have a baked table, craft table, cookie walk, raffle table, homemade quilt raffle, white elephant table and snack bar. There will be local crafts as well.

### Festivals of Lessons and Carols

On Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold their annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. A choir and community choir accompanied by a community orchestra will perform "Glory in the Highest" by Marty Parks. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

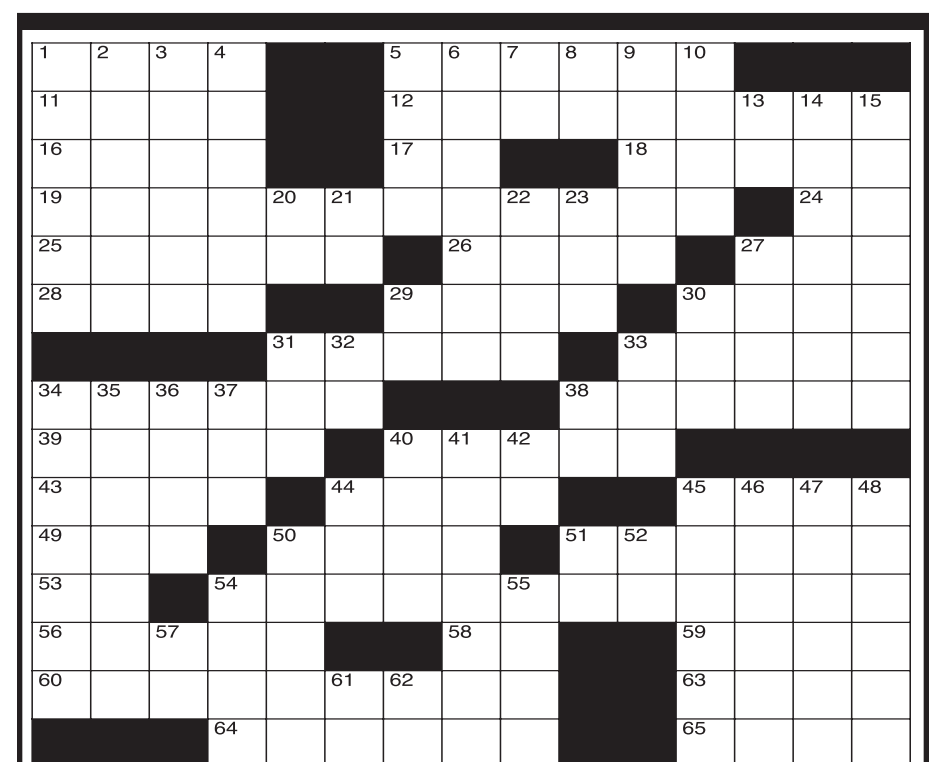
## Library offers passes to local museums and more

RUTLAND – The Friends of the Rutland Public Library offers passes for free or discounted admission at a variety of attractions around the state.

This year, passes are available from the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St., for Massachusetts State Parks, Old Sturbridge Village, Tower Hill Botanic Garden and Worcester Art Museum.

The program is funded in part by the Rutland Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information, people may call the Rutland Library at 508-886-4108.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Spumante (Italian wine)
5. Highly impressed
11. Pronoun to identify something specific
12. Uttered in an impassioned way
16. Outfits
17. "Westworld" actor Harris
18. Stewed game casserole
19. Indignities inflicted on others
24. Blood type
25. Says beneath one's breath
26. Taxis
27. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
28. NFL great Randy
29. Where college students live
30. Brief Yankees sensation Kevin

### CLUES DOWN

1. Open-roofed entrance
2. Japanese religion
3. Dancer's garments
4. Distributes
5. Yemeni port
6. Spanish doctors
7. It cools your house
8. Engine variant
9. Makes more manageable
10. Days (Spanish)
13. Milliliter
14. Spread out from
15. With two replaceable hydrogen atoms
20. Respectful title for a man
21. Equally
22. Scarlett's home
23. Big Blue
27. Subway dwellers
29. One-tenth of a liter
30. Central European river
31. Distress signal
32. Expression of sympathy

33. Bar bill
34. Football equipment
35. Dance music
36. Russian river
37. Mary \_\_\_\_, cosmetics
38. Gym class
40. Autos
41. Fourth and honorable name in ancient Rome
42. Defeats (abbr.)
44. A way to color
45. Planet
46. Form of humor
47. Taken without permission
48. Go over again
50. Auto parts manufacturer
51. Detective's source
52. Home of the Flyers
54. Short official note
55. Emit coherent radiation
57. In the year of Our Lord
61. Atomic #18
62. Not from, but...

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

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

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

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

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.

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# Barre Gazette

# Opinion

## Guest Column



### Worried has question about Taxation of Social Security benefits

Dear Rusty

I am past my Social Security full retirement age, and I am still working. I am married and we file our income tax jointly. My husband is 64 and is not working now, but he may or may not, be able to work in the next year or so. At what point will my Social Security benefits be taxed, if I decide to take them now?

Signed Worried About Taxes

Dear Worried

Many Social Security recipients are surprised to find that their benefits may be considered taxable by the IRS, so I welcome the opportunity to clarify this topic for you.

Whether or not your Social Security benefits are taxable depends on your overall combined taxable income for your IRS tax filing status. Taxation of Social Security benefits for a married couple (filing jointly) depends on your combined income as a couple, which is called your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income" by the IRS. Your MAGI consists of your normal Adjusted Gross Income on your IRS tax return, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had.


If your MAGI, filing jointly, exceeds \$32,000, then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes taxable, but if your MAGI as a couple exceeds \$44,000 then up to 85% of your received SS benefits becomes taxable (at your standard IRS tax rate). Note that these tax thresholds are less for those who file their taxes as a single - e.g., for someone whose IRS filing status is "single," half of their Social Security benefits become part of their taxable income if their personal MAGI is over \$25,000 and up to 85% of their SS benefits are taxable if their individual MAGI is over \$34,000.

Another factor often misunderstood is that only a portion of SS benefits are added to your income amount taxed by the IRS. The amount added, somewhere between 50% and 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year depending on your MAGI, becomes taxable income at your normal IRS tax rate.

So, in your case, if you claim your SS benefits now and your combined income your MAGI exceeds the above levels for a married couple, then a portion either 50% or up to 85% of your SS benefits received during the tax year will be included in your income taxable by the IRS. Note, too, that it is possible to have income tax withheld from your Social Security benefits by submitting IRS form W-4V to your local Social Security office. You can download this IRS form at [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf).

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

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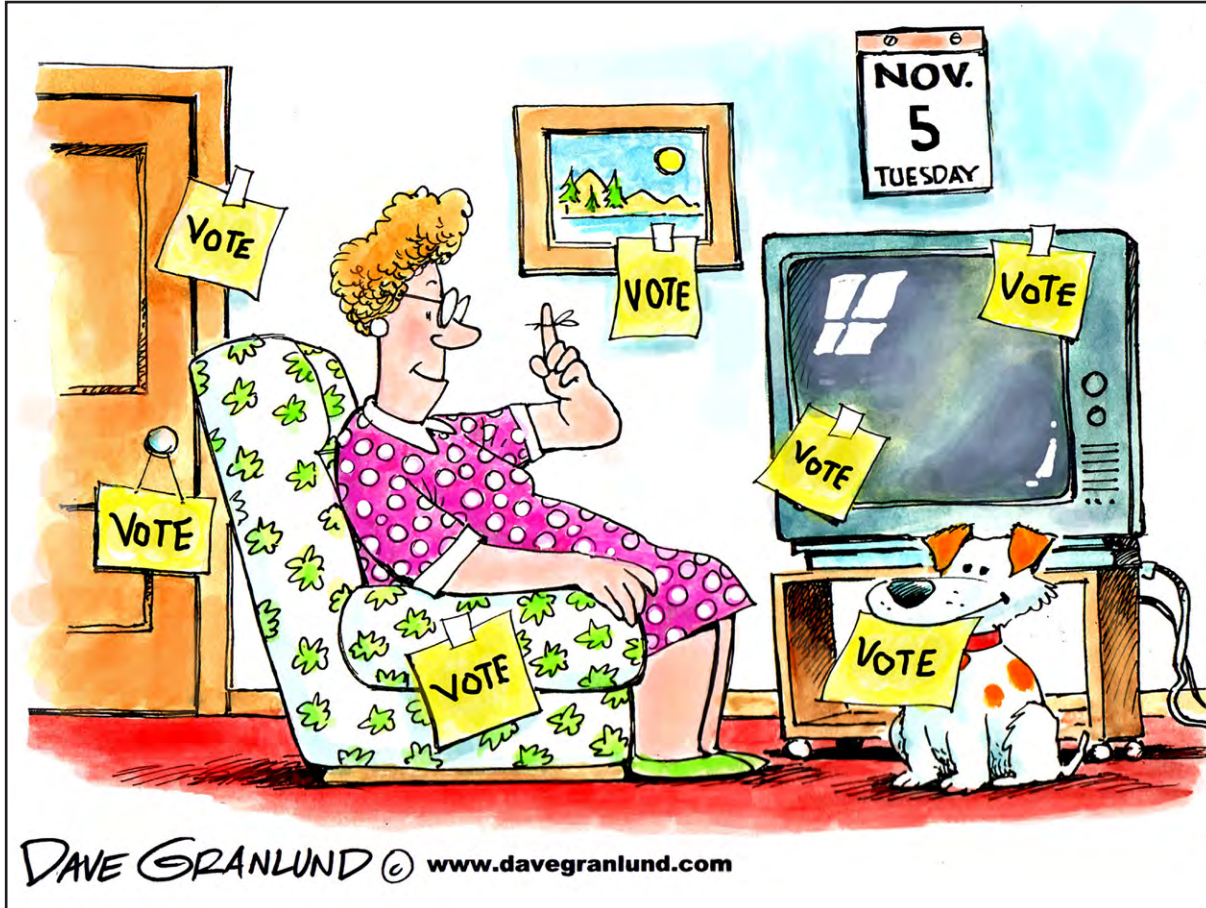
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DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## Guest Column

### Leaves and acorns who loves them?

By Walter Nutter

I love the fall, I hate the fall. The beauty of a forest dressed in autumn's colors is magnificent, yet it fills me with the dread of raking. And I detest raking. The blisters, the ennu, the slow, ponderous procedure of making ever larger rows, oh and how they must be straight.

Then there's the leaf blower. The bane of the eastern suburbs, often despised and sometimes outlawed. It's screaming, headache inducing drone is the stuff that might cause good neighbors to drop you off their Christmas Card list or worse.



Yet I throw caution to the wind, drag it off the rack in the garage and fire it up and of course a gentle breeze is blowing the wrong way, enough to turn those cursed leaves around and slap me in the face like a hive of furious yellow jackets. I persevere, like a madman determined to conquer the lawn-smothering nuisance, despite feeling guilty about the noise and the pollution.

Neighbors decamp for parts unknown to escape the cacophony. Can't blame them. I issue a silent plea for forgiveness.

But wait, there's more, the acorns - thousands and thousands of acorns. Step on one with bare feet, it's like stepping on a lego block and if you have kids, you know what I mean. The internet says (so it must be true) every oak tree can grow and drop ten thousand (10,000) acorns in a "mast" year and up to three million in a lifetime - the tree's lifetime that is, not mine, which is sure to be much shorter.

Well that might be an undercount, considering our lawn is carpeted with those little balls of torment. The lawn mower shoots them out like an out of control machine gun, breaking windows, denting cars and leaving painful contusions and bloody gashes on hapless innocents. One time I used the shop vac to clean 'em up, but the tank became so heavy I couldn't pick it up.

Senior moments aren't just restricted to brain fog. We tried that acorn pick-up contraption, a sphere of springy wires. At first I thought it was the bees-knees, but soon it was releasing more nuts than it was capturing and I set to using words I had once told my kids to never utter.

Of course they did anyway, just to get my reaction, knowing that I was such a softy regarding discipline and that I would commit the parental sin of laughing when they were ill behaved. They could play me like Humphrey Bogart's tinny piano in the downstairs parlor.

Speaking of tinny, there's nothing tinny about an acorn traveling at thirty-two feet per second per second (what does that even mean, anyway?) falling forty feet from your local oak tree and landing squarely on your noggin. Get hit with one and your eyes will cross, knees buckle and your head will wobble like one of those dashboard dogs.

Arrgh, so we rake. Attempt to clean them up. But the wind blows. More fall I bellow, "Find shelter."

But it's just me, little Wally, against the acorns. And the acorns are winning.

## In Past Pages

### 5 years (Nov. 7, 2019)

Richard "Dickie" Fiske, a man known for always thinking of others, died this weekend at age 94. Fiske, who always had his signature smile ready and a word of encouragement for all, would probably be surprised by the ripples of sadness moving through the Quaboag communities and beyond at the news of his death. The creator of The Heart to Heart Foundation, which raised money to help needy children and their families more than 20 years ago, held entertainment shows and Fun of the Common events for years to make sure children got what they needed. He made sure children with cancer and those with many other issues received help, whether it was fuel to keep their homes warm while they were ill or additional services, such as therapy horseback riding lessons.

The calendar may have read November, however hundreds of spooky and fun characters roamed the streets of Barre especially in the center of town, to celebrated the third annual, "A Barre Scary Halloween" event last Saturday evening. Because of the heavy rains and high winds forecasted or the actual night of Halloween, the Barre Board of Selectmen voted to postpone the festivities for two days to Nov. 2, similar to many towns around the Commonwealth. The clear and brisk air this past Saturday certainly gave a feel of fall as many arrived at the Barre Common to Trunk or Treat from the couple of dozens of vehicles set up to hand out goodies.

The Barre Board of Selectmen approved three more sections of the town's financial policies and procedures - financial reserves, forecasting and investments. Selectman Chair Matthew Urban discussed establishing a capitalization fund as well as the regular stabilization fund as part of financial reserves. He said the town currently uses free cash for the stabilization would fund capital expenditures. Finance Committee member Claire Adomaitis said the board should use caution in setting a policy that restricts the use of stabilization funds. If things got tight, then would not be able to use that money. She said "be careful not to back into a corner."

### 10 years (Nov. 6, 2014)

Only about two percent of Boy Scouts earn Eagle, to the highest rank in Scouting. Since the introduction of the Eagle Scout rank in 1911 more than two million me received that honor. Only a few make Eagle, but it is even more unusual for all the male members of the family to accomplish this goal. Patrick Mardrosian of Oakham joined his two older brothers by becoming at Eagle Scout last month on Oct. 4 at an awards ceremony at Naquag Elementary School in Rutland. His twin brothers earned their Eagle rank on March 12, 2011. They all belonged to Rutland Troop 141.

Barre Selectmen held a moment of silence for long time resident Esther

### LOOK BACK Retirement Party -1989



File photo

Tom O'Donnell, right, was feted at a party held in his honor at Caruso's Restaurant in South Barre last week. He received a Citation from the Massachusetts Legislature, presented by Chairman of the Barre Board of Selectmen James E. Sullivan, left, who filled in for State Representative Stephen Brewer, who was attending a state budget session. In addition to this honor, O'Donnell was gifted with a plaque from the Barre Police Department, which prominently featured his badge.

Bacon, who passed away last week at age 99. Selectmen met with members of the Ambulance Squad and Fire Department to discuss combining the two departments. Selectman Lief Ericson said the meeting was a preliminary step. He commented the purpose was to better the service. The ambulance did not have enough funds from Emergency Medical Services receipts to cover their expenses. The operational also moved from a non-profit to a town department. The service had \$400,000 in uncollected receipts. The collection rate dropped from 84% to 60%.

Locally, Democrat Anne M. Gobi, won the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex District seat for Senator in General Court in a close race over her Republican opponent, Michael J. Valanzola of Wales. In the Fifth Worcester District for Representative in the General Court, Republican Donald R. Berthiaume Jr. of Spencer defeated Democratic candidate Matthew Castriotta of Hubbardston. The Second Franklin District that Petersham is part of elected

Republican challenger, Susannah M. Whipps-Lee over Democratic incumbent Denise Andrews. The candidate for First Worcester District Republican Kimberly N. Fergusson, incumbent Republican from Holden, ran unopposed.

### 25 years (Nov. 4, 1999)

About 300 to 400 all-terrain vehicles from all over New England and New York came to the Barre/Petersham area last Saturday night for a trail ride. Before the night ended, three riders were arrested and several property owners were on the phone to police to complain about noise, threats and major damage to their property. George Cloutre and Arthur Raiche of Old Dana Road came to the Barre Selectmen's meeting Monday to complain about the slow response by the Barre Police Department and plead with the board to do something to help them protect their property. Cloutre said there were so many vehicles on his property that they were block-

See PAST PAGES, page 5

### Election letters to the editor welcome

The Barre Gazette welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the Barre Gazette care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

#### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in the Barre Gazette.

### Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005 or via email to [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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# Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Happy Halloween, I don't imagine we will get any trick or treaters as the youngsters of the neighborhood who used to come are all grown up.

On Friday, I will take down the Halloween decorations and put up the Thanksgiving things. I had a surprise visit from our son-in-law on Sunday and he started the generator, tractor and blew some of the many leaves that have fallen. I was very happy as it was dangerous to have leaves so close to the house in this exceptionally dry season.

I have been using my battery run leaf blower, but it runs out of battery power so easily and I have to recharge it. We do have two batteries for it as one goes to the weed wacker.

I have been working on some new watercolors. I also received my fabric I ordered so made a Christmas present for one daughter.

I made a pumpkin pie one day and an apple pie the next. My helper made pancakes this week while I did my grocery shopping.

Here is a recipe that I plan to make for Christmas that my dear friend Nancy from New Hampshire sent me. I have made another recipe for peanut brittle in the microwave and will see what the difference will be.

## MICROWAVE PEANUT BRITTLE

- 1 cup Spanish peanuts, raw
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Set oven to 200 F. Line a baking sheet with a silicone liner or sheet of parchment paper. Put the pan in the oven to warm. Note: warming the pan helps your brittle spread more easily later.

Place the peanuts in a single layer on the microwave safe plate and microwave on high for 2 minutes to roast them. Set aside.

Put the sugar and corn syrup in a large microwave safe bowl. A large 8 cup pyrex measuring cup works well. Stir to combine. Note: the mixture will be very thick, just stir a bit to get the mixture somewhat combined.

Microwave for three minutes on full power. Stir again and scrape down the bowl Microwave for another three minutes.

Add the butter and peanuts and stir. Put back in the microwave for two more minutes. Quickly mix in the baking soda and vanilla. The mixture will foam up and lighten up in color. Immediately turn out the mixture onto the warmed baking sheet. Spread the candy out with a flat spreading knife as evenly and thinly as you like. Don't worry about getting it symmetrical or neat. The warm pan should keep the brittle fluid enough to spread. Sit at room temperature until completely cooled. Break into pieces and store it loosely covered with foil or in cellophane bags for gift giving.

## This and That

The weather has been like spring. The foliage is pretty, but things are very dry. It is hard to keep the leaves off the deck as they are falling like rain.

My Thanksgiving cactus is just so full of blossoms. I brought it in with loads of buds and they are all in bloom now. The cutting was given to me by my friend, Carol, two years ago and sure is making a fabulous show right now.

I spoke with my neighbor and he assured me he can plow the driveway this year and the other neighbor offered to help in any way I needed. It is nice to have good neighbors.

A bear got into our rubbish barrel down by the road and my helper picked up the bags for me. Not sure how it can be secured. I did have a full load in it and the cover was not completely closed.

When you live in the country one never knows what to expect. The animals need to eat also.

Have a good week. Make sure to vote.

## HARDWICK, continued from page 1

The article, which required a two-thirds majority, passed by a vote of 71-7 to borrow the sum of \$860,000 to pay for the costs of purchasing and equipping a new fire pumper truck, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto.

No amounts shall be borrowed or expended pursuant to this vote unless the town shall have voted to exempt the repayment of any borrowing authorized by this vote from the property tax levy imitations of Proposition 2 1/2.

Article 2 asked voters to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, transfer from free cash, or otherwise provide the following sums for the following capital improvement projects or purchases and

to supplement certain sums of money to the town's fiscal year 2025 operational budget as approved by the vote taken under Article 11 of the June 8 Annual Town Meeting; or take any other action thereto.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano requested \$20,000 to replace the townwide municipal phone system due to obsolete equipment which is not 911-compliant and is soon to be unserviceable. The Finance Committee requested \$25,238 in order to fully fund the Reserve Account and the Fire Department requested \$6,500 to remove an oil tank from the Ruggles Hill Road school to prevent oil leaks and environmental liability.

Residents voted unanimously to transfer from free cash the sum of \$51,738 for the purposes listed above.

## PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

ing exits at his father's home located nearby. Neither Cloutre or Raiche did not give permission. Raiche said a concrete barrier was knocked 50 feet down the road and the fields were wrecked by the four wheel vehicles.

The Barre Council on Aging is collecting signatures for an initiative petition for a law sponsored by the Silver Haired Legislature. Margi Maki, director of the COA in Barre and a representative of the Silver Haired Legislature, said the proposed law would set up a Health Care Council to review and recommend legislation for a health care system that ensures comprehensive, high quality health care coverage for all Massachusetts residents. She is hoping to collect at least two pages of signatures before the deadline of Wednesday, Nov. 17.

Fire Chief Seth Knipe met with Hubbardston Selectmen Oct. 25 and gave a report of departmental activities, expressing his concern over the long-range well being of his department. He told selectmen that on average, volunteer firefighters in the department, are trained and burn out in about five years. He said that while overall morale is good, many firefighters coming on board do not realize that joining the department is like taking on another demanding part-time job that will absorb most of their free time.

## 38 years (Nov. 6, 1986)

Mr. and Mrs. Terrance Allberg came before the Barre Selectmen to voice their concerns about the curve on Route 122, Summer Street, between the town center and Quabbin Plaza. According to the Allbergs, the curve is extremely dangerous and the problem is compounded by motorists' excessive speed, the absence of any speed signs coming out of town or signs regarding the curve and blind driveway. They added that the guard rails on the curve are damaged and "hardly visible" as well. The Selectmen all agreed that the curve is cause for concern. Selectmen Chair Earl Sample noted that the town is unable to erect signs on a State Highway. The request will be forwarded to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Works for their consideration.

Plans have been completed for the annual observance of Veterans Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11 in Barre by the committee of Stewart Reed, Adjutant; Michael Kowal Jr., Vice Commander and Commander Francis Castonguay of American Legion Post No. 2. Dominic Franciose will be the Parade Marshal and members of Post No. 2 and the George L. Thorg Post No. 404 will form in front of the Town Hall at 10:45 a.m. and march to North Park for the ceremonies, which will include a prayer by Post No. 2 Chaplain William Salminen and a Firing Squad salute to honor our war dad.

Incumbent Democrat state Rep. Henry B. Grenier in what may well be one of the closest races in the history of the 5th Worcester District, defeated his opponent, Raymond H. Small, by the slim margin of 78 votes to Grenier's 6,035 Tuesday evening's vote tallies.



Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe discussed mysteries such as Bigfoot sightings, UFOs and the infamous Dover Demon.



Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe shared photos of the street where the Dover Demon was first seen back in the 1970s.

## MYSTERIOUS MASSACHUSETTS, continued from page 1

Massachusetts is no different than the most common areas with many Bigfoot sightings, much like the northwestern U.S. and Canada.

One of the first areas that experienced Bigfoot sightings in Massachusetts was Hockomock Swamp in Bridgewater. There have been sightings of Bigfoot and reports dating back to the colonial period.

Another known area of a big-foot sighting is in the wilderness of the Westfield and Russell area. This Bigfoot is famously known as the Cobble Mountain Critter.

Interestingly, Hodge-Wetherbe mentioned that her younger sister had an experience of seeing a big-foot in Massachusetts.

The other Bigfoot in Massachusetts is the Berkshire's

Bigfoot, located in the Pittsfield area. A hiker by the name of Frederick Parks back in 1989 was hiking October Mountain and he had spotted a large animal moving on two legs.

One of Hodge-Wetherbe's favorite mysteries to talk about is the infamous Dover Demon, which was first seen in Dover in 1977. In her presentation, Hodge-Wetherbe had three separate stories related to the sightings of the Dover Demon.

One of them was told by William Bartlett, the first witness. Bartlett was driving with his friends and had spotted the creature near one of many stone walls that are in Dover.

"He had a good look at it," Hodge-Wetherbe stated.

The second witness was John Baxter, who originally thought the creature was a young boy in his town that he knew. Baxter got a better look at the creature by

chasing after it through a farm field.

The third witness was Abby Brabham, who alongside her boyfriend spotted the Dover Demon climbing over a stonewall and said it ran on all fours. An interesting story that has people still talking to this day.

In her presentation, Wetherbe had photos of the street in Dover (Farm Street) where the Dover Demon was first spotted. This was a rural town that can be difficult to see things when it is dark.

The next subject were UFO sightings in Massachusetts. Hodge-Wetherbe discussed the Betty Andreasson case, which took place in Ashburnham in 1967.

There were samples of drawings of what was seen by Andreasson.

The other UFO case known in Massachusetts is the Reed Family Abductions. In this case two young boys, Thomas and Mathew Reed, were abducted on several occasions over the course of three years.

There was also a sighting at Joseph's Restaurant in Rehoboth, and it took place during the day time.

Then there was a discussion of paranormal activity in Massachusetts. The Danvers State Hospital was shutdown back in the 1990s and parts of the bat-shaped buildings began to deteriorate in the 2000s. Since the 1960s, there have been reports of paranormal activity at this facility.

After the presentation, Hodge-Wetherbe was excited to hear stories from the audience to wrap up her day the Woods Memorial Library. For more events at the library, visit [www.barrelibrary.org](http://www.barrelibrary.org).

# Eclectic vintage shop, artist studio celebrates 1 year anniversary

PALMER – An eclectic, vintage shop and artists gallery celebrates its one year anniversary.

The "Eclectic Shop and Artist's Studio", known as the Victorian, will celebrate its one year anniversary on Friday, November 1, 2024 at 1500 North Main Street, Palmer, MA. Please join us for an open house and enjoy refreshments as you tour throughout the building.

"The Victorian" provides locals a convenient shop close to home, offering quality painter's products, painted furniture, unique gifts, candles home decor, local Artisan's wares and more.

The shop features a wide variety of Fusion Mineral Paint products, including materials to re-purchase, refurbish and re-imagine furniture.

"Fusion Mineral Paint is primarily a furniture paint," said owner Julia Dias. However, she said the paint works well on a variety of materials, such as wood, metal, glass and fabrics.

In addition to the mineral paint, The Victorian offers milk paint, stains, antiquing glazes, a variety of decorating waxes and both natural and synthetic paint brushes.

The shop caters to artists seeking to add a splash of color to their homes and get creative with refinishing their furniture.

"It's been quite an experience creating this shop and sharing it with the many people that have come through this door. Many people are just curious to know what this old house looks like on the inside. They're either from the area and have driven by many times or they were customers of the Moulton Insurance Agency, which used to be here for many years" said Dias.

She holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts with a focus on interior design from UMASS Amherst and has a great passion for historical homes. "Ebenezer and Mary Brown built this house in 1868. It's obvious they had great taste in architecture and design, as there are many fine details throughout the home that lend to its statelyness." Considering how many times the trains roll by



Submitted Photos

The Victorian is located at 1500 Main St., in Palmer, in the former Moulton Insurance building.

out back and being 156 years old, this grand Queen Anne stands strong.

Dias' experience allows her to provide guests with expertise and a wealth of knowledge in design as well as the Fusion Mineral Paint product line.

"I truly enjoy recreating old pieces," said Dias "especially little tables you find on the side of the road."

She added the Victorian age has always been her favorite period in time, prompting her to scout out the perfect location for her shop.

"It has always been a dream of mine to have a Victorian. This Queen Anne home was built in 1868 with all the traditional mouldings.

Shoppers will not only have

access to a Fusion Mineral Paint carrier locally, but they will also have access to the full line of colors and seasonal releases.

The shop features an array of colors, furnishings and art; some Victorian style, others more abstract and various handmade products by local Artisans.

Vintage style "sassy talkin' towels," are on display, adding style and humor to the main shopping area. For those interested in purchasing, duplicates are for sale.

Additionally, vintage-style match boxes are available for purchase, delicately wrapped in wax paper and sealed with a postage stamp.

The Superior Dry Good Vintage Stick matches are a perfect



Shown is the shopping area in the building, with items in display cases, which are for sale.



The building is a Queen Anne Victorian, decorated to accentuate the charm and authenticity of the building's architecture.

complement to those interested in gifting a locally sourced, 100% soy, 1803 candle.

Dias said the shop is Victorian themed to add an element of creativity and charm to the guests' experience.

Fusion Mineral Paint Workshops will begin this month of October. You can follow her on Facebook and Instagram at [TheVictorian1868](http://TheVictorian1868). Her website, [TheVictorian1868.com](http://TheVictorian1868.com), is under development and will be ready soon. Workshops and other events will be posted there along

with a shop calendar, news and information.

Services and products have expanded over the past year which included the introduction of "The Downtown Abbey Dining Room" for private small event rentals and the "Newport Room" for Fusion Mineral Paint Workshops, as well as small event rentals. More information will be available on the website or you can call Julia at 603-714-0513.

Both rooms are Victorian-themed spaces equipped with working Victrolas, velvet drapes, vintage lace covered tables for dining and tea, various antique art pieces and full wall collage of the cast of Downtown Abbey and more!

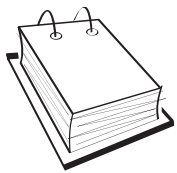
Guests interested in adding a Victorian touch to their home also have the option of purchasing from a collection of vintage glassware come Spring 2025.

"I've always wanted to open my own shop and wouldn't have done it with anyone else but my husband, John. We make a great team" said Dias. "I thank him often for all he has done to make my dream come true."

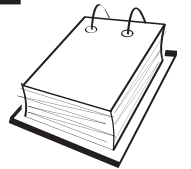
The shop is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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# Calendar of Events



## THURSDAY, OCT. 31

**BARRE WOMAN'S CLUB SCARECROW CONTEST** will be held on the Barre Center Common. The scarecrows should arrive today through Thursday, Oct. 31. This event is open to all ages. Judging will be based on children between the ages of 1-15 and adults ages 16-100+. There are three categories to enter: Scariest, Most creative and Funniest. Ribbons will be awarded for the first and second place winner in each category and age group. There will be a card attached to each stake for people to fill in whether they are entering as a child or adult and which category they are entering in and leave it attached to their scarecrow. Judging will take place on Thursday, Oct. 31. The Woman's Club asks that people kindly remove their scarecrow the first week of November. If people have any questions, they may call Robin Cummings at 978-355-2279.

**TRUNK OR TREAT** will take place today on the Common, Barre. Cars will line Common Street with their trunks full of treats for children and tables will be set up on the common. The Barre Historical Society, located on Common Street, will also participate will also thanks to a recent donation made in memory of Sue Fullam and Elisabeth Garipey so stop by the historical society for a treat.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 2

**DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST** sponsored by Cradle Rock Order of Eastern Star will be held today from 7-10:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children 8 and under. The breakfast is open to all and people may design their own pancakes then add sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, waffles, juice and coffee. Pure maple syrup is always served.

**40TH CENTRAL MASS. POSTCARD SHOW** and co-sponsored by St. Joseph's Catholic Church will be held today from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the church, 29 South St., on Barre Common, Barre. Admission of \$3 benefits the church, who will also sell food from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Ten dealers from four states will offer old picture postcards for sale including local town views and many topics. Anyone with questions may email show manager J.R. Greene at jrg01331@webtv.net.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR** sponsored by St. Joseph's Parish, 296 North Main St., North Brookfield will be held today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Parish Hall. There will be a bake sale, handmade crafts, jewelry, raffles galore and more. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and the menu consists of homemade soups, sandwiches and apple pie.



## Where is this?

This week's mystery photo is from North Brookfield. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Nov. 4. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Robert Augustine, Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, James Laramee, Evelyn Luukko, Cheryl Paul and Philip Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the playground at Curtis Recreation Field, Route 68 in Hubbardston.

Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

**TURKEY SUPPER** will be held at the First Congregational Church of Rutland, 264 Main St., Rutland today at 5:30 p.m. The menu consists of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, rolls, and apple crisp for dessert. Cost is \$15 adults, \$7 children age 5-12 and free for children under 5. Reservations are required by calling the church at 508-886-4453. Take out dinners will be available after 5:45 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 6

**REGIONAL FLU CLINIC** with the towns of Oakham, Hardwick and New Braintree will be held today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. People should bring their insurance and ID cards. They should visit this link to sign up <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1D1cD950y2Pc30b15zUMZujsLgFE7eOCp->

MVvNsh264DE/edit.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 10

**RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION** on the "History of Mishoon" will take place today from 1-3 p.m. at the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St., Rutland. Cheryl Stedtler, Hassanamico Nipmuc Band tribal member and director of Project Mishoon, will present the program on the fascinating journey behind the discovery of ancient dug-out canoes known as mishoonash submerged in Lake Quinsigamond. The program is free and open all. Light refreshments will follow her presentation.

## MONDAY, NOV. 11

**VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY** will take place at 11 a.m. in Veterans Park, On the Common, Barre. Local residents are invited to attend.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 15

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

**HOLIDAY FAIR.** First Church Ludlow, 859 Center St, Ludlow will take place today and Saturday, Nov. 16. There will be a real craft show, giant raffle with corn hole set, giant tv, quilts, hand crafted decorations, baked goods, snack bar, bookstore, fabric shop beautiful cemetery logs. A fun day for all.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 16

**ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR** sponsored by the Friends of Rutland Council on Aging will take place today from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Rutland Senior Center, 53 Glenwood Road, Rutland. Over thirty crafters will be on hand selling a variety of items. The Glenwood Café which will be open selling coffee, tea and donuts in the morning and hot dogs for lunch. People may pick up something yummy from the bake sale table to take home or take a chance to win a gift card to a local business or a hand crafted item at the Raffle Table. Admission to the Craft Fair is free and each person will receive one free ticket for the special door prize drawing. The Friends of Rutland Council on Aging is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the activities and programs of the Rutland Council on Aging.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE, continued from page 1

school improvement plan to the School Committee, listing his objectives. He said the objectives include improving the academic performance of all students, continuing to develop and integrate an instructional leadership team, improving social emotional and mental health supports for all students and improving the school's climate and culture.

Student Services Director Amy Emory said she and her assistant have been working with special education staff and related

### Student Services update

services providers to assess the updates to department's procedures and practices.

"It's really critically important in terms of really bringing the department together to improve operational efficiencies and communication," she said. "I think it's been well received."

She said the Individuals with

Disabilities Education Act grant for fiscal year 2025 was completed and submitted.

Emory said the department is preparing for its training for the new IEP system. She said the first phase was completed on the administrative level already.

Emory said the Indicator 14 post-school transition outcomes survey had 100% completion rate from students with disabilities who graduated from school year 2022-2023.

"That really gives us good information as a district in terms of our students transition outcome," she said.

### Recognitions

Superintendent Timothy McCormick recognized Justin Hackenson, the IT Director and Cindy Schofield, Business/Human Resource Manager.

He said Hackenson started as the school district's IT technician and transitioned to IT Director. Hackenson is relocating to Boston and will be unable to continue in his positions.

"He's done a lot of great work for us," McCormick said.

Schofield has accepted a position in another school district, McCormick said.

"She's done a great job. We're very happy for her," he said.

McCormick said both Hackenson and Schofield will be missed by the school district and community.

Superintendent's report McCormick welcomed the school district's new Facilities Director, Eric Hevy.

He said Hevy has a "long history" in the field, and he is also a member on the town's Fire Department.

"We're very excited to have Eric on board," McCormick said.

McCormick said Renee Buzzell's kindergarten class had its first official CAT Lab session this past week, featuring two musicians.

"This was the very first session that we had," he said. "We loved it."

McCormick said as the CAT Lab progresses to other grade levels, he will be able to show data about what is working.

"We're very excited to have this program started," he said.

### Communications

School Committee Chair John Magario said he received a formal notice from the president of the North Brookfield Teachers Association, dated Sept. 30 and received on Oct. 1.

The letter stated that the current contract expires on Aug. 31, 2025, and that the union wants to "negotiate a fair and equitable settlement in a timely fashion."

Secretary Tonya Matthews forwarded an email from Finance Committee member Bill King to the other School Committee members and McCormick. She said the email contained a link to a website with a free digital financial workbook designed for high school students.

The free program provides financial literacy information to students, including good versus bad credit, budgeting and more.

"I think those are all great things for kids to learn," Magario said.

### Student Council update

Student Council Representative Dante Giangrande said class elections were held for sixth, seventh, and ninth grade students, giving students opportunities to hold class officer positions.

The annual homecoming dance was held at the end of September.

Halloween room decorating took place and voting was held on Oct. 25, with results announced on Oct. 28. Students could also earn bonus points and spirit points by carving or decorating pumpkins.

A Halloween dance was held on Oct. 25 for students in grades six through 12.

The annual Giving Turkey event will be happening throughout November to help collect donations for Toys for Tots.

"Students are encouraged to take a feather from the turkey and buy whatever item is written on that feather," he said.

The grade with the most items donated will receive spirit week points.

Giangrande said the fall conference will be held in November at Blackstone Valley Tech.

He encouraged all community members to follow the Student Council on Instagram and Facebook, or attend its meetings held every other Monday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the high school kiva.


"Please feel free to join us if you have anything you would like to discuss or would just like to see how things are run," he said.


### Policy Subcommittee update

Magario said the Policy Subcommittee discussed changes in language to Title IX in the school district's policy manual.

"Those are federal-level mandates for changes in language, verbiage and regulation as far as Title IX protections," he said.

McCormick said the Policy Subcommittee had a good discussion about the changes. He said there are also language changes to the building use policy as well as some from 2019 and 2021 that need to be adopted.





# COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

Flu shot available!

## Tuesday, November 5, 2024

### 9 am - 12 pm

Located:  
Belchertown Senior Center  
60 State St.  
Belchertown, MA 01007

**Moderna available.**

**Bring your ID, insurance card, and vaccination card (if you do not have an insurance card, you can still get the vaccine).**


**All vaccinations are no cost to you, walk-ins and families welcome!**

Supported by Healthy Quaboag and The Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative

Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:

<https://tinyurl.com/nkyh5y>

Please direct any questions to Nisha Humayun at [nhumayun@townofware.com](mailto:nhumayun@townofware.com), (413) 207-7698.



## BUSINESS

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

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

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

# SPORTS

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## Panthers advance to Central Mass. title game

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Rich Zalneraitis has been keeping track of his wife, Shelly's, wins, losses, and ties since she took over as the varsity field hockey coach at Quabbin Regional High School in the fall 1994.

The top-seeded Lady Panthers advanced into the Class B finals of the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association tournament for the second consecutive year with a 3-0 home shutout victory over the fourth-seeded Saint Paul Knight, last Wednesday afternoon (Oct.23). It was also the 400<sup>th</sup> career victory for Shelly Zalneraitis.

"I've been able to watch just about every game Shelly has coached here. I also watched her when she played field hockey here at Quabbin," said Rich Zalneraitis, who has won about 100 games as the boys' varsity basketball coach at Narragansett Regional. "I always try to give her some advice, but she doesn't usually take it. She's the best coach that I know and winning 400 career games is just an amazing accomplishment."

Shelly Zalneraitis, who began her coaching career as the Quabbin junior varsity field hockey coach in the fall of 1988, is wrapping up



Makenzie Casey attempts to clear the ball away.

her 31<sup>st</sup> season as the varsity coach. She has a 400-137-82 overall varsity record.

The Lady Panthers have qualified for the postseason tournament every year and they've also captured numerous league titles.

In Shelly's second season as the varsity field hockey coach, the Lady Panthers finished with a 19-2

overall record. The 2015 squad also won 19 games, which is the most wins she's had in a season.

A year ago, the Lady Panthers defeated Clinton High School, 2-1, in the C.M.A.D.A. Class B finals.

"The thing that she does better than any other high school coach I've ever seen is she looks at what she has for talent and ability and

adjusts to what that is for each year," Rich Zalneraitis said. "She and her assistant coaches figure it out and they're always a much better team when the season ends."

October 23 has become a very memorable day for the Zalneraitis family during the past decade.

See PANTHERS, page 8



Haley Ayer chases down a loose ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Kailynn Schuster looks to make a play.



Dayton Ford squares up a shot on goal.

## Indians beat Worcester Tech, await tournament seeding



Sarah Monsin tries to chase down a loose ball.

**N O R T H B R O O K F I E L D** – On Oct. 15, North Brookfield field hockey defeated Worcester Tech 4-0. The Indians would follow with wins over Burncoat and Montachusett. The Indians are 9-4-2 and await their seeding in the Division 4 state tournament. As of press time, North Brookfield was ranked No. 29.

## Quabbin football improves to 5-2

BARRE – Last Friday night, Quabbin Regional High School football scored a huge win over Narragansett High School 24-14. With the win, Quabbin improved to 5-2 on the season.

Heading into the final week of the regular season, Quabbin was ranked No. 25 in Division 6, though their fifth win had not been figured into the power rankings.

If the Panthers were to win this

week, they would potentially have a shot at breaking the top 16 and qualifying for the tournament. The Panthers will face Littleton, a 3-4 squad, on Halloween, Thursday, Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. on the road.

## Pioneers shut out Sizer

PALMER – Last Monday afternoon, Pathfinder girls soccer picked up a 10-0 shutout of Sizer School, a Central Mass. school. The Pioneers scored early and often and were in control of the game throughout. The Pioneers improved to 2-10-1 and were scheduled to have non-playoff games earlier this week.



Autumn Doktor traps the ball for the Pioneers.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Samantha Lowe goes after the loose ball.



Taylor Allen turns play around.



Noah Gillette chases after a loose ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Sophie Dufresne tries to pass ahead of pressure.



Danielle Croteau nearly collides with an opponent.



Hannah Mellor makes a stop on defense.

## Sports

### Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

#### Bogey Doubles League

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Monday Doubles League at Bogey Lanes reached their eighth session of the season.

As of Oct. 21, the team of Tom Clauson & Gary Santora are in first place with a total of 40 wins so far this season. Pellet & Nester are currently tied for second place with the team of Mondor & Brayton with 34 wins.

Murphy & Kenneson are in fourth place with 33 wins. There are three teams tied for fifth place with 32 wins, Sandman & Marvin, Gauthier & Clough, and Talamini & Gravel.

The team of Renaud & Ward have 31 wins, Halbedel & Fontaine have 30 and Rando & MacDougall have 26.

Murphy & Kenneson bowled against the team of Gauthier & Clough. In game one, Murphy & Kenneson won by a score of 243-222. In game two, Trevor Kenneson bowled a 134 on his team's way to another victory, 277-263.

In game three, Gauthier &

Clough won the last game 247-233. Total pinfall was in favor of Murphy & Kenneson, 753-732.

Pellet & Nester bowled against Clauson & Santora. In game one, Pellet & Nester defeated Clauson & Santora 266-235. In game two, Pellet & Nester won again 260-241. In game three, Clauson & Santora won 269-246. Tom Clauson finished with a 125 in game three.

Total pinfall was in favor of Clauson & Santora 772-745.

Talamini & Gravel bowled against Rando & MacDougall. In game one, Talamini & Gravel won 248-240. In game two, Talamini & Gravel won 279-267. Jack Talamini bowled a 115 in game two.

In game three, Talamini & Gravel won to get a three-game sweep over Rando & MacDougall, 280-255. The total pinfall was won by Talamini & Gravel, 807-762.

The team Halbedel & Fontaine bowled against Renaud & Ward. In game one, Renaud & Ward were victorious with a score of 285 to Halbedel & Fontaine's 254. Tina Ward started the match with a 133. Aaron Fontaine also began with a 133 in game one.

In game two, Halbedel & Fontaine won by a score of 293-

276. Fontaine followed up with a 150 and Ward had a 129.

In game three, Halbedel & Fontaine won the last game 289-288. Fontaine finished strong with a 145 and had a series of 428, which is now leading in the high series category. Ward had a strong showing in game three with a 122 and a series of 384. Her teammate, Steve Renaud, Sr. finished with a 122 as well.

The total pinfall was in favor of Renaud & Ward, 849-836.

The team of Sandman & Marvin bowled against Mondor & Brayton. In game one, Sandman & Marvin were victorious, 261-229. In game two, Sandman & Marvin won 292-284. Luke Marvin bowled a 134 in game two and Travis Sandman bowled a 109.

In game three, Mondor & Brayton won the final game, 249-240. Marvin's series was 345 and his team won total pinfall, 793-762.

As of Oct. 28 the top three high singles in the Bogey Doubles league are Luke Marvin with a 183, Trevor Kenneson with a 163 and Aaron Fontaine with a 154. Top three high series scores are Aaron Fontaine with a 428, Marvin with a 425 and Kenneson with a 414.

### T-Birds scored bounce-back win over Hartford

HARTFORD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (3-5-0-0) bounced back from a pair of defeats to finish the three-game weekend with a 5-2 win over the Hartford Wolf Pack (3-2-0-1) on Sunday at the XL Center.

The T-Birds faced challenges before the game even began, as seven lineup regulars were unavailable due to injury. Despite their shorthanded lineup, Steve Konowalchuk's T-Birds came out with a purpose, generating a pair of power plays in the opening half of the opening period, and forcing Louis Domingue to make many great saves in tight. Domingue's best work was when he reached back the paddle of his stick and pulled a loose puck dangerously close to the goal line.

The Wolf Pack, though, still managed to get on the board first, as top-line centerman Bo Groulx pounced on a loose puck in center, roared in on the right wing, and snapped a perfect wrist shot off the inside of the post behind Colten Ellis to make it a 1-0 game at 8:16.

That precise shot would be the only blemish on Ellis's record in an opening period that saw the

young T-Birds backstop deny 11 Hartford chances, including several on a pair of Wolf Pack power plays.

At the other end, the T-Birds' third line evened the slate less than three minutes after Groulx's opening marker as Drew Callin swooped in front from behind Domingue's net and surprised the veteran with a wraparound through the legs to make it a 1-1 tie at 11:12.

The gutsy effort continued in the middle stanza, and Dalibor Dvorsky was rewarded at 8:52 with his third goal of the campaign. After skating the puck out of danger and entering the offensive zone, the 19-year-old pulled up on the left-wing boards and created a shooting lane. The rookie's flip shot into traffic found a home through Domingue's legs and gave Springfield its first lead of the day, 2-1, at 8:52.

Not even three minutes later, Tanner Dickinson entered the scoring realm as he took a beautiful setup from Michael Buchinger and lifted a forehand over Domingue's stick at 11:08. Dickinson's first AHL goal of the

season also marked Buchinger's first career point as a pro, and it gave Springfield a 3-1 lead into the third.

Just nine seconds into the final period, Springfield added to the lead as Hugh McGing spotted a wide-open Marcus Sylvegard at the net front for a tap-in. It tied for the fastest goal in any period in team history and propelled the T-Birds to a 4-1 advantage.

Ex-Hartford defenseman Hunter Skinner exacted some payback against his old team at 3:28, taking a drop from Dylan Peterson and rifling a wrister under the crossbar to build the lead up to 5-1.

Hartford mustered only one goal in response when Dylan Roobroeck stuffed a rebound through Ellis at 10:32. The Springfield goaltender put up his fourth consecutive start with just two goals allowed, stopping 27 shots for the game.

The T-Birds look to build upon the win on Friday night when they welcome the Bridgeport Islanders to the MassMutual Center for the first time this season. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m.

## Education

### QRSD offers internship opportunities

From the desk of Colleen Mucha, Superintendent of Quabbin Regional School District

This fall, 39 of the Quabbin Regional High School Class of 2024 seniors are completing internships.

The guidance department strives to find opportunities that align with student's future goals whether it be to join the workforce, military or to attend college. Internships for high school students offer many positive benefits such as the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills in a real world setting. Additionally, internships can help students build important skills like time management, self advocacy and effective communication.

Recently, I was at the Hardwick Elementary School when I happened across two of our seniors, Sydney Slattery and Haley Ayer, who are completing an internship with the school nurse. Both students have an interest in the medical field. In this case, it has allowed them to "try on" nursing.

One of the tasks that they have been responsible for includes implementing health lessons with our learners. In order to prepare for this, they had to research and learn about their topics. These included dental hygiene and hand washing.

The interns created lesson plans and delivered them in multiple classrooms. Sydney Slattery found when teaching a lesson to the stu-



Sydney Slattery did an internship with the school nurse and taught Hardwick Elementary School students a lesson on dental hygiene.

dents that she had to make the projects interesting and creative. She also stated the connection between her internship to nursing in general. "This will help me as a nurse. It helps me understand effective teaching and helping others, that is what nurses do. I've learned to express myself in ways that others will understand."

Haley Ayer expressed that she is hopeful having had this internship that colleges will look favorably on the internship experience when considering her college application. Haley has found working with the students to be very rewarding and fun. She presented lessons on hand washing.

Students would wash their hands and then place them under lighting that shows where they may still have germs on their hands. Students then are taught proper hand washing and have the opportunity to put their hands under the light again. Students could immediately see the difference that proper hand washing made as their hands did not "light up" with germs. Their excitement and enthusiasm were contagious as they were very proud of themselves.

The nursing internships have included learning about the importance of patient confidentiality and promoting healthy lifestyles and activities. Sydney and Haley have assisted with health screenings and even made "healthy" bulletin boards.

One thing our interns have realized about the medical field is that there is a lot of paperwork. But rather than deter our seniors from pursuing a career in the medical field, it has inspired them and made their commitment even stronger. As Sydney and Haley pursue their dreams of entering the medical field, their real world experience will benefit them. It is equally certain that the medical field will gain valuable assets with Sydney and Haley.



Haley Ayer also did an internship with the school nurse and taught Hardwick Elementary School students a lesson on hand washing.

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Abby Rogowski tries to pass the ball by an opponent.

#### PANTHERS, continued from page 7

"My daughter, Carleigh, was looking at some pictures of when Shelly won her 300th and 350th career games. She won her 300th game on October 23, 2015, and her 350th on the same date four years later," Rich Zalneraitis said. "We thought that she would win her 400th career game last Friday night (Oct.18), but they wound up losing to Westborough, 1-0, on senior night."

Carleigh played field hockey for her mother's team ten years ago. Rich and Shelly also have two sons, Kellin and Emmitt.

"My family has been a huge part of my coaching career," Shelly Zalneraitis said. "They've made a lot of sacrifices over the years to allow me to coach. I also have some incredible assistant coaches."

Shelly Zalneraitis isn't the only Quabbin varsity coach who has won 400 career games. Dennis Dextradeur, who's the

longtime Quabbin boys' varsity basketball coach will enter the 2024-25 regular season with 466 career victories. He won 84 games as the girls varsity coach before switching over to the boys team.

While Shelly Zalneraitis doesn't take very much coaching advice from her husband, she does take a lot of advice during each game from Pam Dickson, who has been the Lady Panthers jv/ assistant varsity coach for many years.

"Coach Dickson and I have worked very hard to make this a very successful team over the years," said Zalneraitis, who's a six grade math teacher. "It took a total team effort to win 400 games. It wasn't very easy because you're coaching a different group of players every year."

Several of the players listed on this year's varsity roster are following in their mother's footsteps.

One of them is freshman Ellie Poulin, whose mother, Jill, is a former Quabbin field hock-



Ellie Poulin and Haley Ayer pursue a loose ball.

ey player and current assistant coach.

"I played field hockey for Shelly when I was in high school and it's nice to see her win her 400th game when my daughter is on the team," said Jill Poulin, who graduated from Quabbin in 2001. "Shelly hasn't changed her coaching style very much."

Senior co-captain Sydney Slattery gave her thoughts about the memorable afternoon.

"I've been a member of the varsity field hockey team since my sophomore year, so it was great to see coach Zalneraitis win her 400th game today," said Slattery, who plays defense. "She always coaches us very hard, but she loves us. She always wants us to do our best. We're very happy that we were able to celebrate with her today."

The Lady Panthers' other three seniors are Jocelyn Chaves, Kylie George, and Haley Ayer, who's also a co-captain.

Sophomore goalie Aubrey Thorpe, who's a first year varsity starter, only had to make

seven saves in posting her sixth shutout of the season against the Knights.

"Aubrey is an amazing goalie," Slattery said. "She communicates very well with the defense. She has been doing an outstanding job."

Quabbin's first goal of the semifinal game came with 3:04 remaining in the first quarter.

Sophomore Abigail Rogowski fired a wicked shot from just inside the circle that deflected off the Knights goalie and the left post before going into the cage.

A little more than six minutes into the second quarter, seventh grader Maria Hamm pushed a shot into the Cage giving Quabbin a 2-0 lead.

The Lady Panthers third goal of the game was scored by sophomore Makenzie Casey on a rebound shot with 4:55 left in the third quarter.

Quabbin (8-6-2) was scheduled to face third-seeded Nipmuc Regional in the Class B championship game, last Saturday.









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