

BARRE GAZETTE

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Dog owner must install kennel by Dec. 3

Select Board hear testimony at dog hearing

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Select Board held a dangerous dog hearing Monday, Nov. 3 to determine if a pit bull located at 140 Valley Road was a potentially dangerous dog.

The hearing was the result of an incident that happened on Aug. 22. Marie Petrides of 131 Valley Road owns three dogs. One of her dogs, Belle, was attacked by a dog owned by Thomas McConkey of 140 Valley while her mother and sister were walking her dogs.

They were walking on the opposite side of the road when the dog at 140 Valley Road came out from his yard and attacked the much smaller dog, Belle. Marie said she took her injured dog to a veterinary hospital, but when she got there it had already stopped breathing and died.

Her mother said that both she and a neighbor were yelling for help, but it was some time before the attacking dog's owner appeared.

The owner of the nine-year old pit bull said he did not believe his dog was dangerous. There have been no instances of his dog attacking another dog.

The Regional Assistant Animal Control Officer Matthew DeCiero said there were no previous incidents with the dog. He said he quarantined the dog for ten days at the kennel in Rutland. The dog did not appear aggressive toward humans.

His recommendation was the owner either install four foot fence in a section of his yard for the dog or a chain link kennel. The owner currently has an electronic leash system, but it did not stop the dog from leaving its yard and crossing the street to attack the smaller dog, which was on a three or four foot long leash. The other two dogs also were also on leashes.

The owner of the deceased dog said she is concerned that after the incident, McConkey did not install a fence. She said she or

See BARRE, page 6

'Shrek' steps out of the swamp and onto the stage

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – Quabbin Performing Arts is getting ready to peel back the layers of a reclusive ogre's life and reveal a beautiful love story more magical than any that has come before it.

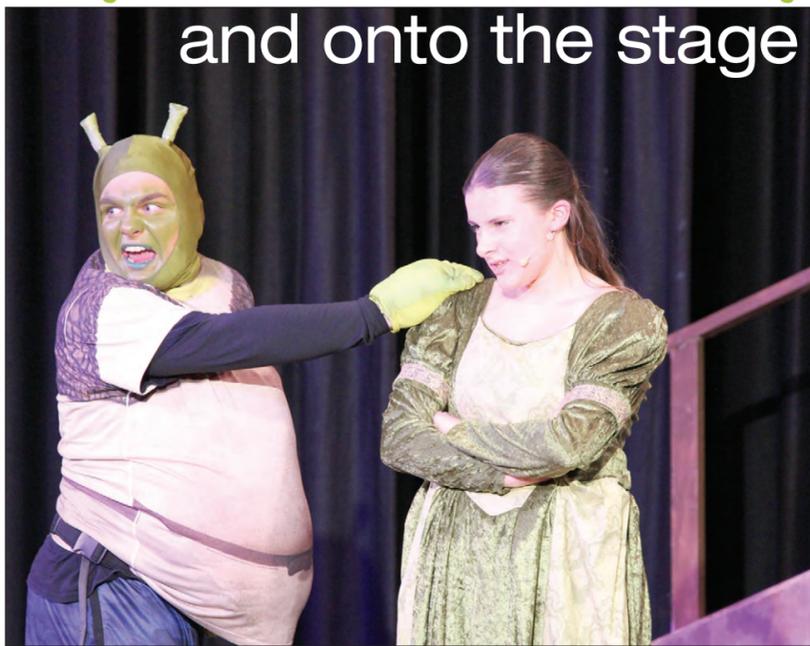
This Friday evening, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m., "Shrek the Musical" will take the stage at Quabbin Regional Middle/High School, 800 South St., with a cast full of fairy tale characters, led by a reluctant hero, his quirky sidekick and a princess with a big secret.

Filling the role of Shrek the Ogre is junior August Bellerose, who is known for his astounding stage debut as Beast in last year's production of "Beauty and the Beast". Bellerose also portrayed Jay in the school's one-act production, "Abigail For Now".

Bellerose said he relates to the character of Shrek, but jokingly described himself as more of a parfait than an onion.

"I feel like I have a lot of layers," he said.

Bellerose, who is currently taking four college-level classes and is an active member of the school's NJROTC program, said the-



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Students August Bellerose and Eliza Brown star as Shrek and Fiona in "Shrek the Musical" at Quabbin Regional Middle/High School. The musical opens this weekend with performances on Friday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. Other dates include Friday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m.

ater wasn't something he really thought about pursuing, but he has discovered a love for it.

He said playing Beast last year helped him shape his performance as Shrek for

this year's production.

"Playing the Beast and being grumpy all the time helped," he said. "Now I can be comedically grumpy."

Playing the role of Shrek's eager but often

rebuffed sidekick Donkey, is eighth grader Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza.

Palomera-Espinoza took on a similar part in

See SHREK, page 7

School Committee heard update from task force

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – School Committee Chair Matt Grant, who is also the tuition task force chair, said the task force's work is just "a piece of the puzzle" in terms of exploring a tuition agreement with another school district.

At the Oct. 20 meeting, Grant said the task force was formed after the joint regionalization committee with the Quaboag Regional School District failed to move forward after representatives from the Quaboag Regional School Committee voted against bringing the topic of regionalization to a town meeting vote. The North Brookfield School Committee had voted unanimously in favor of it.

"A couple of months after regionalization was voted down by Quaboag, Superintendent [Stephen] Duff from Quaboag reached out to North Brookfield School District to present a potential option of the tuition agreement," Grant said.

Grant said the task force

was formed in Mary 2025 to gather more information about a potential tuition agreement, and how it would impact the town's students.

"This isn't something anybody's taking lightly," he said.

Grant said the task force worked to gather information and complete fact-finding about tuition agreements with other school districts. He said this is different than regionalization, as the school district would still maintain a school for kindergarten through grade six students.

"If North Brookfield were to enter into a tuition agreement, we would no longer operate our junior/senior high school," he said.

Grant said the task force has communicated with Quaboag and Quabbin school district, and also with the Nahant and Swampscott school districts, which have operated under a tuition agreement since 1982.

He said the task force has also reviewed information with the Department of

See SCHOOL COMMITTEE, page 13

New pastor welcomed at First Congregational Church

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC, recently welcomed Dr. Douglas J. Williamson to serve as its pastor and guide the faith community toward reaching its goals.

Williamson, who is a native of Needham, accepted the three-year position as part-time pastor, and started in his new role at the beginning of September.

He moved to nearby Barre with his wife Karen, relocating from Marblehead, Ohio, where he also served as a pastor in a local parish.

Williamson said he and his wife have lived a variety of places since they met in college at Rockford University in Illinois, and spent the last 10 years in Ohio to be closer to his wife's family.

"This has been nice," Williamson said of the move back to New England, and his time spent at the West Brookfield church. "People here have been great."

Williamson wasn't



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Dr. Douglas J. Williamson has been named the pastor at the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC.

always interested in being a local pastor in a church, and he didn't initially choose the ministry as his focus in college. Originally he pursued a degree in early education, but with one year to go before graduation, he decided to switch his major to religion.

He went on to attend the Harvard University of Divinity and received his Ph.D. in church history from Boston University.

Williamson was ordained through the United Methodist Church in 1980 and has over 30 years teaching history, ethics and religious studies at higher-level institutions across the northeast.

"I've spent most of my life in academia," Williamson said.

In 2013, Williamson decided it was time for a

See PASTOR, page 6



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News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

BOH hods food drive

The Barre Board of Health is holding a food drive on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the parking lot of the Wholesome Farmers Market, 596 Summer St. Donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted to benefit the Barre Food Pantry.

Veterans Day

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

American Legion Auxiliary meeting

The Barre American Legion Auxiliary will hold their November meeting at American Legion Post 2, 450 South Barre Road, on Monday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served by Mary, Laurie, and Helene.

Barre Players Theater

A Barre Players member memorial celebration will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St. As they prepare to celebrate a major anniversary of Barre Players in 2026, they are mindful of the many members who worked on our stage, behind the scenes, and most significantly took care of the beloved building at 64 Common St.. In recent years they are sad to have said goodbye to some of Barre Players most committed members and miss having them as part of the season. They invite people to remember and celebrate these amazing volunteers, including Jeanne Hanson, Ed Yaglou, and Teri Mars. All three of them were instrumental in the care and maintenance of the building. They were also important to the little details that made each production happen. There will be a light meal, stories, laughter, and maybe a choice clip or two of a past production. People will see the refreshed basement and gathering area and learn about the centennial (plus) season in 2026. People may email barreplayers@gmail.com if they have a story or photo to share.

Annual wreath sale

The Barre Congregational Church annual wreath sale is underway. Wreaths are \$30, Kissing Balls are \$35. People may pick out bow color and decorations. Orders must be placed by Sunday, Nov 23.

Wreaths will be picked up or delivered the weekend after Thanksgiving. If people would like to order a wreath, they may call Wendy Isgro at 978-928-5180. The wreath sale is an annual fundraiser for the Women's Fellowship. There is always room for help if people would like to come and decorate, deliver, or help clean up after, the ladies would appreciate the help.

Holiday Fair

The annual Holiday Fair sponsored by the Women's Fellowship will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St. There will be quilt and basket raffles, craft vendors, a baked goods, candy table, wreaths and a corn chowder and sandwich lunch available to purchase. Potential vendors can call 978-355-4041 and leave a message.

Pancake breakfast

On Saturday, Nov. 8 from 7:30-10:30 a.m., Cradle Rock Chapter of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast at the Masonic Hall, 71 Pleasant St. Menu includes design you own pancakes with chips, nuts and fruits, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 children 6 and under. Everyone is welcome.

'Shrek the Musical'

Quabbin High "Shrek the Musical" opens Fridays, Nov. 7 and Nov. 14 and Saturdays, Nov. 8 and Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., in the auditorium. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Advance ticket sales are available by emailing Toni Brown at tbrown@qrsd.org or by visiting <https://our.show/quabbinshrek>.



Submitted photo

Participants in the fall wreath making activity sponsored by Q-DRUG display their wreaths.

Q-DRUG sponsors wreath making

BARRE – On Friday, Oct 17 Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group held their first parent event for this year

during the Quabbin Regional Middle School dance.

Participants made fall wreaths and talked about life

as middle school parents. It was a fun evening for all who attended and the wreaths were beautiful too

Homecoming bonfire draws large group

BARRE – The ninth Annual Homecoming bonfire last Friday saw hundreds of students in attendance. Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group thank Robinson's Lumber for providing the lumber again this year. They also thank the Barre Fire Department for their support of this event, both lighting and putting out the bonfire at the end of the night. Thanks to the Barre Police Department for their support and attendance.

These Quabbin High students enjoy the bonfire at the Homecoming event at Quabbin Regional High School in Barre on a Friday night.



Quabbin Regional High School students and alumni gather around the bonfire at the recent Homecoming event.



Submitted photos

Cooking s'mores over charcoal grills was one of the activities at the Homecoming event at Quabbin High.

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



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
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Harvest and Holly Fair is Nov. 22

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold their annual Harvest and Holly Fair on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be crafters, baked goods, white elephant table, raffles, quilt raffle, snack bar, cookie walk and church craft table. Uncooked frozen apple pies will also be on sale that day. The snack bar will feature chili, hot dogs, corn chowder and either turkey or chicken soup. Anyone wishing to have a craft table should call or text Ellie at 774-262-5882. Cost is \$25 plus an item for the raffle table. The church provides the tables.

Senior program

Fire Chief Tim Howe will be presenting a program on how to respond to an active shooter in a public setting at the Oakham Senior Center, lower level of Town Hall on Monday, Nov. 10 at 1 p.m. People should either call 508-882-4073 to register or sign up for this program at the senior center.

It will be held at the Oakham Senior Center Monday, Nov 10, at 1 pm.

Please call 508-882-4073 to let us know you plan to attend, or sign up on the sheet on the board at the Center.

Veterans pancake breakfast

On Saturday, Nov. 8 a Veterans pancake breakfast sponsored by the Worcester Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps will take place today 9-11:30 a.m. at the Oakham Fire Department, 178 Barre Road. The free breakfast is for Veterans and their family members.

Senior Center news

Oakham seniors will attend the brown bag lunch on Wednesday, Nov. 12 at Mechanics Hall, 321 Main St., Worcester. Those interested in riding the bus, should call to sign up; space is limited.

Participating Oakham Senior penpals can pick up their first letter on Saturday, Nov 8 at the library. Letters to the students are due back at the library by Thursday, Nov 20.

Bemis workshop, a dried flower box-wood tree, will be at the Oakham Fire Station Tuesday, Nov 25 at 1 p.m. Cost is \$15.

On Friday, Nov. 14 at noon the Council on Aging meets. On Monday Nov 17, the podiatry clinic takes place from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Also on Monday, Nov 17 from noon-2 p.m. blood pressure/glucose testing. On Thursday Nov 20 a Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone representative will be at the senior center from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; reservations are required.

On Tuesday, Nov 25 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits information will be available from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. All are welcome; there is no age restrictions.

On going activities include: Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-noon puzzling, Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. walking group (meet at senior center); Tuesday through Thursdays 11am. walking group (meet at senior center). For walking groups, people may ask to be added to the text MSG group by calling the senior center at 508-882-4073 and leaving their cell phone number.

Other activities include Wednesdays at 9 a.m.: Zumba Gold in the Rutland Senior Center - \$3 donation/class; Thursdays at noon: Weigh in at the Senior Center support weight loss group

Fridays at 10.30 a.m. and Functional Fitness at the New Braintree Town Hall - \$3 donation/class.

Hot lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11.30 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m.-12.15p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

Lunch bunch meet the third Friday. On Nov 21 they will go to Eller's 190 Main St., Cherry Valley at 12:30 p.m. Sign up sheet is at the Senior Center Main Room.

If people can't get to the Senior Center to make reservations or sign up or for more information on offerings, they may call the Senior Center 508-882-4073 and leave a message or email COA@Oakham-MA.gov.

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Editorial deadline reminder

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

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

News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Board of Health – Nov. 10 at 5 p.m.
Water Commission – Nov. 10 at 5:30 p.m.
Library Trustees – Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – Nov. 13 and Dec. 11 at 1 p.m.
Sewer Commission – Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.
Barre Common Oversight Committee – Nov. 13 at 5 p.m.
Master Plan Steering Committee – Nov. 13 at 7 p.m.
Select Board – Nov. 17 at 5 p.m.
Quabbin Regional School District Committee – Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Committee – Nov. 25 at 7 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – Jan. 22, 2026 at 11 a.m.

HARDWICK

Paige Library Trustees – Nov. 6 at 7 p.m.
Board of Health – Nov. 10 at 6:45 p.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – Nov. 12 at 3 p.m.
Select Board – Nov. 12 at 6 p.m.
Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Master Plan Steering Committee – Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
Capital Planning Committee – Nov. 17 at 3 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – Nov. 18 at 5:30 p.m.
Planning Board – Nov. 18 and Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Board of Assessors – Nov. 6 at 6 p.m.
Board of Library Trustees – Nov. 6 at 7 p.m.
Board of Health – Nov. 12 at 7 p.m.
Select Board and Assessors Joint Meeting – Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m.
Hubbardston Cultural Council – Nov. 20 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Parks and Recreation – Nov. 6 at 5 p.m.
Finance Committee – Nov. 6 at 6 p.m.
Cultural Council – Nov. 15 at 9:30 a.m.
Planning Board – Nov. 19 and Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20, Nov. 25, Dec. 4 and Dec. 18 at 5:30 p.m. and Nov. 8 at 10 a.m.
Board of Assessors – Nov. 7 at 9 a.m.
Advisory Finance Committee – Nov. 8 at 10 a.m. and Nov. 25 at 5:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals – Nov. 8 at 10 a.m.
Council on Aging – Nov. 10 at 10 a.m.
Petersham School Committee – Nov. 10 at 10 a.m.
Board of Health – Nov. 11 and Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – Nov. 20 at 6 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee – Nov. 6 at 6 p.m.
Rutland Development and Industrial Commission – Nov. 6 at 6 p.m.
Teen Advisory Board – Nov. 12 at 6 p.m.
Special Town Meeting – Nov. 20 at 6 p.m.

North Brookfield musician highlighted as featured artist

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Every month the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House highlight a featured artist in their community.

For the month of November, the Artist of the Month is musician and singer Susan Lyons. Originally from Washington, D.C., Lyons currently resides North Brookfield, a place she has called home for over 40 years.

She has performed a lot in her lifetime and is proud of her work as a musician.

Lyons has performed in various venues while living in the D.C. area and used to perform in the North Shore area of Massachusetts during her residency in Salem.

“Whenever there was an opportunity to perform, I would always jump on it,” Lyons said.

Lyons’ music journey started with playing drums with her father, who was a jazz pianist and played with jazz groups. Lyons soon got interested in playing guitar after she began hearing folk and country music.

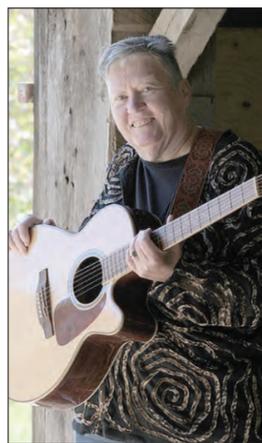
Lyons got her first guitar when she was 15.

As of now, Lyons still performs periodically and is trying to book more performances at local breweries and wineries. When Lyons got the announcement that she was going to be the month of November’s featured artist, she was flattered by the news.

She was contacted by Marilyn Borst, vice president of the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House. Lyons expressed how much she would like to play in the great hall of the Town House.

Lyons played a few songs there a couple years ago.

Lyons describes the acoustics inside the Town House as phenomenal and would love to see the building restored



Submitted Photo

Musician Susan Lyons is November’s Artist of the Month, highlighted by the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House.

to the point where it can be a destination for community events.

Growing up, Lyons loved listening and playing a lot of folk music. Her biggest inspiration in music is Bonnie Raitt, a singer and guitarist, who plays a lot of blues.

As a guitarist, Lyons likes to play slide guitar. This style of guitar playing requires a bottleneck that goes up and down the guitar to give a blue sound.

Lyons plays original songs while she performs and plays anywhere from seven or eight of her own songs during a performance. Her original songs include, “I Love your Laughter”, “Where Are You Now”, and “Over the Hillside”.

Lyons shared that she comes from a musical family. Playing music for family is one of Lyons’ favorite memories, especially with family she still has in Maryland.

“We’re all musical, one way or another,” Lyons said.

One time in Vermont, Lyons was playing songs by Fleetwood Mac during a campfire. Many people nearby heard the music and began to believe Fleetwood Mac was in Vermont. The

songs Lyons enjoys playing from Fleetwood Mac include “Landslide” and “Leather & Lace”.

While living in Salem, Lyons recalled her music being recognized in some local publications. Her most common venues in Salem that she would perform in included the Hawthorne Inn and In a Pig’s Eye.

The honor of being the featured artist meant a lot to Lyons as it also highlights the town she calls home.

“I love the Town of North Brookfield,” Lyons stated. “I watched it change and evolve over the years.”

Lyons, like many North Brookfield residents, is saddened to see some deterioration of the Town House. It’s an important landmark that the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House are working hard to try and preserve.

Lyons is proud to be a part of supporting the Friends and the preservation of this beloved building.

“Being the artist and bringing attention means the world to me,” Lyons said.

Lyons would like to see the Town House operational again and be able to perform her music there.

“That Town House has a lot of history and needs to be preserved,” Lyons said. “I’m honored that they made me the artist of the month.”

About Artist of the Month Program

The seed was planted at a Downtown Development Committee meeting during the pandemic, grew into a YouTube channel with the help of a Local Cultural Council grant for “Virtual Programming to Highlight the Local Arts Community”, and finally blossomed as Artist of the Month on the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House Facebook and website pages.

The Friends of the North

See LYONS, page 8

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Town offices closed Nov. 11

All Hubbardston Town Offices will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11 due to the Veterans Day holiday.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

All are invited to the annual tree lighting ceremony on the Town Common on Sunday, Nov. 30 at 5 p.m.

From 5-5:30 p.m., there will be cookies, cocoa and singing holiday carols together. At 5:30 p.m., the lights will be turned on to brighten up the Town Common. There will also be a special appearance from Santa.

Metal collection

The Board of Health is sponsoring a metal collection at the highway barn on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for Hubbardston town residents.

Historical Society Farmers market

The Hubbardston Historical Society will hold a Thanksgiving farmers market and bake sale on Sunday, Nov. 23 from noon-3 p.m. at Williamsville Chapel, 4 Burnshirt Road. There will be great food and more for the holidays from local farmers. People may enjoy apple cider or coffee while they browse. It will be held rain, snow or shine. For a full list of vendors and their products, people may visit www.hubbardstonhistorical.org. For questions, people may call Cathy Hansgate, market manager, at 978-928-3731.

Hubbardston Light Fight

The Ninth Annual Light Fight is the first three full weekends of December. On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, from 5-9 p.m. each night people can follow the map, check out all the entries and vote for their favorites. For those who want to enter, there are three categories to choose from: Traditional / Classic, Go Big or Stay Home, Brightest Bulb Business category. Deadline to enter is Monday, Nov. 24. Paper listings and maps can be found at Hubbardston’s One Stop Shop (the gas station). Check out all the competitors on the list, people have the first three weekends to check them all out and vote. Voting will close on Monday, Dec. 22.

Historical Society hosts program on 2008 ice storm

RUTLAND – Remembering the Ice Story of Dec. 11, 2008 will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 18 from 7-9 p.m. at the Rutland Historical Society, Wood House, 232 Main St.

The ice was not only visible, but, audible. The weird creaking noises, the snap of branches, the shotgun sound of trees toppling to the ground and the darkness due to power lines being snapped. Rutland residents awoke to find their community “Beautifully Devastated.”

People are invited to share their stories, view the collection of news articles and pictures of the storm that changed the countryside forever. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be available.

Corrections

On the front page of the Barre Gazette, there was a mistake in the headline. The word pole appeared twice. It should read Select Board approves pole petition.

The outline to the pumpkin photo said Dan Stevens donated the pumpkins. At least one of the pumpkins was carved by Cindy Patch and donated by her.

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. 10. 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 – Chicken Tiki Marsala, Couscous, Roman blend vegetables, cookies, marble rye bread

TUESDAY – Veterans Day No meals served

WEDNESDAY – Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, mixed fruit, whole wheat bread

THURSDAY – Hot dog, baked beans, Coleslaw, baked apples, hot dog bun

FRIDAY – Honey mustard pork, stuffing, roasted Brussels sprouts, fresh fruit, Italian bread

*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.

LAND FOR SALE

Palmer	39+ acres, town swr dev pos.	\$499,900
Belchertown	7.5 acres with twn util.	\$149,900
Belchertown	4.2 acres with twn util.	\$99,900
Hampden	6.95 acres	\$80,000
Hardwick	11+ acres 2 percs	\$159,900
New Braintree	4.5 acres perc test	\$56,000
New Salem	5.8 acres perc	\$94,900

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HOMES FOR SALE

WARREN: 170 BRIDGE ST. - Oversized cape on 3+ acres, privately set off the road, fresh paint, some new flooring and windows installed. Open floor plan with fireplaced familyroom, cabinet packed kitchen, first floor bedroom and potential for full bath in the walkout basement. So many extras here stop in to the open house and don't miss out. **\$525,000**



WARE: 214 OLD BELCHERTOWN RD - Beautiful log home set on 5+ acres near the Quabbin, oversized two car garage with workshop area. Open living room area, granite counters, lower-level family rooms, enclosed four season sunroom on the front. **\$585,000**

WARE – Commercial building on over 4 acres. Multiple garage space, multiple office spaces. Great rental potential rent to one person or split up and rent to a few. So much potential here for the price. **\$280,000**



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- Lot Clearing • Storm work
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Opinion



Native plant gardening and consciousness expansion

By Donna O'Brien

What does consciousness expansion have to do with native plant gardening?

Traditionally most of us have planned our gardens to create beauty with colors, shapes and designs, often with plants that originated in distant lands, such as irises and peonies. We are less apt to include wild or native flowers in our gardens.

Lately, however, some, but not most, gardeners are coming to recognize the ecological importance of flowering plants that are both beautiful and native. Pollinators are responsible for the reproduction of many plants essential for our food supply, biodiversity, and even our economy. Recently the numbers of native pollinators have drastically reduced.

According to a 2025



Submitted photo

This fritillary butterfly gathers nectar from wild bergamot.

study by NatureServe more than 22% of native North American pollinators are at an elevated risk of extinction with native bees being the most threatened group (34.7% at risk). Native plants are essential for the survival of native pollinators, and native pollinators are essential for native plants to reproduce. The two have co-evolved over the millennia to thrive in specific growing conditions.

If there are fewer native plants, pollinators will search for nectar and pollen from whatever plants they find, particularly those of a similar color and shape to native plants they favor. However, these similar non-native flowers are often less nutritious than natives

and consequently can have less reproductive value for native pollinators.

If we expand our appreciation of the beauty of native plants so that it more closely mirrors that of native pollinators' sense of attractiveness, we may naturally plant flora that draws them to our gardens. The more that we care for native pollinators, the more our shared environment will be able to care for us and all life forms.

We become key facilitators of an endless circle of natural events: native plants attracting native pollinators, such as moths, who lay eggs on native plants; birds who feed their young with the caterpillars that hatch from those eggs; and birds who eat the berries of plants, leaving seeds in the local environment, planting more flowering plants, to keep the circle going.

Therefore, our ability to see beauty in native plants may be crucial. Yet this can be a challenge when our favorites may have been non-natives. However, our innate human resilience can make it possible to expand our repertoire of what we find beautiful.

In the past I treasured big, beautiful flowering plants from exotic foreign lands. Their stunning beauty, even today, after years of native gardening, can make my heart skip a beat. Add to that a natural boredom that may set in with gangly goldenrod, asters and evening primroses spreading everywhere in the fall.

Again, our natural resilience can help us make a 180-degree turnaround, so that we favor the beauty of native plants even over non-natives. This resilience can be fostered by two perspective altering actions: stepping back and moving close. For example, we might come to love people we at first find unimpressive when we spend time with them, up close, and experience their kindness and wisdom and then again, when we step back to see them moving with grace amidst a crowd of people.

Over time we may come to see them as beautiful.

See **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**, page 5



In Past Pages

5 years (Nov. 12, 2020)

The Barre Board of Selectmen met remotely Nov. 2 with Dierdre Malone, Strategic Municipal Solutions consultant. She filled in temporarily as the town's treasurer/collector for nine weeks while selectmen searched for a replacement. She made some recommendations submitted in a letter to the board. Malone said, "While working in Barre for the past nine weeks, I have become aware of some control deficiencies, which prevent the financial data to be reliable and with-in acceptance of accounting principles. In my opinion, the Treasurer does not regularly prove of balances the collector and treasurer with the town accountant. By having two different systems the chance for error is great and time consuming. Having an assistant treasurer upload all of receivables for the town accountant's system and not reconciling monthly puts the town at risk as the information is not current financial information as well reduces the chances of fraud."

Thirty-eight voters came out Monday night for a Special Town Meeting. Article 1 asked voters to reduce the appropriation for the Quabbin Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 by \$103,000 and to appropriate and transfer the amount to seven other accounts. Voters present unanimously approved the article. The second and final article asked voters to vote to transfer \$50,000 from the equipment reserve to purchase and fully equip a new police utility vehicle or take any action relative thereto." Police Chief Frederick Gehring said the vehicle would replace the front line vehicle that has \$150,000 miles and was starting to have transmission problems. The new vehicle would be a newer version of the present vehicle, a Ford utility vehicle. It passed unanimously.

Look Back United in Cause – 1989



Turley Publications File Photo

These New Braintree protestors stand united, steadfast in their opposition to "never" allow the 500-bed medium-security facility to exist. Hope is on their side, too, with the recent state decision to cut funds, at least for now, for the already begun construction work at the site. In the meantime, protestors continue to cry out their opposition to the prison.

The Hubbardston Senior Center continues to slowly open. The senior center has space limitations, only 10 people allowed in the building at a time. Monday and Wednesday mornings Coffee With Friends is from 9 to 11 a.m. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9

to 11 a.m. is the Walking Club. Due to space limitations, please call to register for any of the activities below: Bingo: Monday 12-3 p.m. call Flo 978-928-5113 to register. Meals on Wheels: Call the Senior Center 978-928-1400 x211. Food delivery on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Thursday is drive thru for food and eggs is 9:30 a.m.-noon. This schedule is subject to change due to Covid restrictions.

10 years (Nov. 12, 2015)

The article seeking \$7,500 to conduct an independent real estate title and other factual research See **PAST PAGES**, page 5



Garden Lady follow up

Martha wrote in after my column on Stinging Nettle. As you may recall, a reader had reached out about this plant and how it had begun to grow rampant in her field.

She was nervous about coming in contact with it, and nervous for her dog, as well, who likes to run in the tall grass. Her main concern was eradicating it, and although I gave her some advice on how to do that, I should have also given the plant a little more well-deserved recognition.

Herbalists and others interested in the nutritional value of nettle often plant it "on purpose."

This is what Martha had to say: "I did, indeed, plant nettles; they are in a part of the yard where their growth will be somewhat controlled. But are they not an excellent source of calcium, and have plenty of other health benefits, besides? It seems we are quick to 'eradicate' the less tame plants, which, upon investigation, can prove to be beneficial."

Martha, your point is well-taken! I guess it goes along with the old saying, "one person's trash is another person's treasure." Or better yet, how about "one person's weed is another person's medicine?"

Along similar lines, this question came in from Steven, who lives in Becket. He wrote to the Garden Lady curious about the late blooming perennial, Monkshood.

First he provides some background; "My wife was starting to clear a small flower area we have next to the driveway two weekends ago. She was cutting down daisies that we didn't even plant there. I saw a flower next to the daisies, which I had never seen before and asked her what it was. She said she had no idea, that she'd never seen it before either. I took some pictures, and every search I did on them said that they're Monkshood. I told her that the search said they're poisonous."

I walked away and then read a little more and found out that they're poisonous to the touch. I went back to tell her and she had cut them down without touching them because she was scared our dog would get into them. We just left them where they're lying. The stems are still

sticking out of the ground. What are your thoughts? Is that what you think they are too? My research didn't show them growing in this area. Also, thoughts about how we should handle them if they are indeed poisonous?"

Monkshood (Aconitum) is a pretty perennial that has blue "hooded" flowers along two-four foot spikes. It is a cottage garden favorite because it is one of a few flowers that do bloom in blue shades, and it blooms towards the end of summer, when few other plants are in their glory.

Due to the unique flower shape, the plant is mainly pollinated by "long tongued" bumble bees, who pry open the flower to get at the pollen. With all this said, the plant sounds great!

Now here comes the "but..." Caution should indeed be exercised around Monkshood. It goes by other common names that are more telling of its true nature, Wolfsbane and Devil's

Helmet among others.

The plant contains a deadly toxins, aconitine and diterpene alkaloids that can result in death if ingested. It is even advised to use gloves when handling the plant, even its roots if you were to dig it up, because of absorption that can occur through the skin.

Most experts recommend not growing it in gardens that pets or children may frequent.

I hope this answers your question, Steven. I do think that you were on target to be concerned, especially because of your dog.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I had some very cool nights and brought in all the plants now.

I even dug some potatoes from the planter boxes and they were of various sizes. I picked the last four peppers and composted the plants.

The handyman blew the leaves off the driveway, but almost as many have fallen again. It was getting so you could not see where the driveway was. I had a bear visit our trash barrel and also the neighbors. What a mess they made opening every rubbish bag and placing them all over the end of the driveway.

The neighbors came Trick or Treating and they told me they had a mess from the bears and included some of our rubbish also. The handyman has put the rubbish barrel in the wood shed but don't tell the bears. The bears can open doors.

I wish the wildlife people would stop bringing all the bears to the country for us to contend with. City people don't like them swimming in their swimming pool and they don't like them getting into their bird feeders and rubbish. I know they need to eat but. It's the survival of the fittest and I am not fit anymore.

In my younger days when there was no television or

computers we made our own entertainment and one thing we liked to make in the 1940s was a depression plant. I'm not sure if people can find bluing now, but try anyway.

Depression Plant

Place a hunk of coal or coke in a shallow dish. Generously sprinkle all of the coal with salt and food coloring. Pour two tablespoons of liquid bluing to one side of the coal. Mix two tablespoons of ammonia with two tablespoons of water and add to bluing being careful not to touch the salt. Soon colored crystals will form. This can be a good science project for school children and it is fun to watch the colors come.

Household hints

Wrap your chore girl or Brillo in aluminum foil and it will not turn to rust. I did that this week.

I used to save all the household hints in the newspaper, but they don't do that anymore.

This and That

Does anyone play hopscotch, Giant Steps or jump rope with rhymes anymore. What fun we used to have using our imaginations.

I worked on picking over papers in the office. I was able to shred many as most can be looked up on

the Internet. I did make two notebooks of household hints though as often I like to include a couple in this column.

I took down the Halloween decorations and put up the Thanksgiving ones. I kept up the fall gourds, pumpkins and dried flowers and put up the Pilgrims and turkeys. It also includes a figurine of a Native American.

I picked some evergreens to put in the wood shed window box and for a big bucket on the front deck I suppose I should take down the scarecrow and not encourage the baby bear to hug it anymore. It was cute to see, but mama bear was not so kind to us.

The Board of Health is sponsoring a metal collection at the town barn on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for Hubbardston town residents. The town does not have a recycling center any more. It is hard to know what to do with unwanted items anymore.

Some people put them out by their driveway with a free sign and I have done that with extra flower pots and plants and they do get taken.

Have a good week and start getting ready for winter. It is still nice walking weather.

PAST PAGES from page 4

on the town owned beach on Shore Drive garnered the most discussion. Over 75 voters attended a Special Town Meeting in Oakham last Wednesday night. Phil Warbasse moved to pass over this article regarding a title search. He said that inn2008 Town Counsel, the same firm the town has today, Kopelmann and Paige determined the town owned the Shore Drive land and had a right away to the beach.

The Hubbardston Board of Selectmen has been approached by Norman Brown, owner of the Pitcherville Road. Brown is proposing that his site be approved by Department Environmental Protection and the Selectmen as a receiver site for non-hazardous fill from Massachusetts construction sites. DEP recently established regulations, which allow land owner to use their sites as receptor sites to accept non-hazardous soils. The DEP will establish a very strict Administrative Consent Order, which clearly dictates what soils can be accepted and how the soils are to be handled on the receptor site.

Allen Hall at the Woods Memorial Library was packed to the doors on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 8 to hear the Emergence Quartet play a concert in memory of Renee Fosse-Hofmann, a former librarian. Audience, musicians and organizers were all very pleased. Listeners, came from Hardwick and Petersham and even from as far as Northampton, Holden and Westford, as well as Barre, to hear great music.

25 years (Nov. 9, 2000)

A South Street resident says he's worried that a company's plans to erect a telephone pole anchor may place it directly on his property and pose a danger to bicyclists. "You can put ribbons up it. It's still a hazard, Dr. Richard W. Aspen of 57 South St., told selectmen at a pole hearing Nov. 6. The anchor is fastened into the ground by means of a wire encased in a yellow plastic protector. "The anchor is probably more important than the pole. That anchor is holding everything," said

Sharon King, an engineering assistant with Massachusetts Electric Co.'s Athol branch.

The Barre Planning Board has recommended both lifting a year long moratorium on cell tower construction in town and passage of a wireless communication facilities bylaw at a Special Town Meeting scheduled for Nov. 13. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Ruggles Lane Elementary School auditorium. On Nov. 1, planners held a public hearing on the draft bylaw, which would set specific guidelines for the placement and construction of cell towers and wireless communication facilities in Barre.

A Community Blood Drive hosted by St. Vincent's Hospital at Worcester Medical Center at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., Barre on Monday, Nov. 20 from 2-8 p.m. With blood donations steadily falling and demand for transfusions rising in Worcester County has a sever blood supply shortage. The shortage is so severe that only trauma and serious surgeries are able to be supported at this time

38 years (Nov. 12, 1987)

Barre has established a Cable TV Advisory Committee, which is assisting in the selection of a cable company. Members of the committee are frequently asked three questions about the cable process such as when is cable coming, where is cable going and how much will it cost.

A new town garage may be in the works according to Barre Selectmen at their meeting on Monday, Nov. 9. The selectmen appointed a study committee headed by Select Person Ruth Trifilo, to plan a new building for police, fire, ambulance and other town vehicles. Members appointed to the committee

Fire Chief Raymond Howard, Police Chief Michael Ryder, rescue squad member Charles Fullam, president of the rescue squad board Al McIntosh and final committee, who has yet been named..

Members of American Legion Post No. 2, George

L. Thorgm American Legion Post No. 404 and members of their Auxiliary Units observed Veterans Day in Barre on Nov. 11. The ceremony included prayers, laying of wreaths at the monuments in North Park and the traditional salute of the firing squad followed by "Taps."

DCR hosts hike to chestnut oak heath

BELCHERTOWN – Join a Department of Conservation and Recreation-Division of Water Supply Protection forester to explore a recent harvest focused around a chestnut oak heath (an uncommon forest type in Massachusetts) and man-

agement in the surrounding forest on Thursday, Nov. 6 from 10 a.m.-noon. Participants of "Understanding Watershed Forestry-Managing for Climate Change" will discuss why DWSP manages the forests surrounding the drinking water supply of

2.7 million Massachusetts residents, and how DWSP managers consider climate change with every decision.

This approximately 1 mile hike is easy by on uneven ground. Participants should meet at Gate 8 and carpool to site.

Amateur radio club meeting on Nov. 25

'No Towers, No Problem: Unlocking Big Scores with Backyard Ingenuity'

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club welcomes all amateur radio operators and those interested in the hobby to its monthly meeting, where members explore a wide range of topics related to ham radio, public service, and emergency communications.

This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m. The

meeting takes place at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

Think you need stacks of antennas and multiple towers to crack the contest leaderboards? Think again. Join John, NIPGA as he discusses his ever-evolving antenna farm—consistently landing Top-5 contest scores without a single tower in sight.

Whether you're working with a postage-stamp backyard, planning a stealthy vacation rig, or gearing up for Field Day, POT, or SOTA, this session will challenge your assumptions about the need for a tower

and spark fresh ideas. You'll leave inspired, informed, and ready to rethink what's possible with some homebrew antennas, rope, creativity, and a little RF magic.

QVARC meetings are open to all—whether you're a licensed ham, studying for your license, or simply curious about the world of amateur radio. The club also offers regular license testing for those looking to obtain their amateur radio license.

For more information about the club, upcoming events, or licensing opportunities, visit QVARC.com.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE from page 4

Likewise, when we step back from so-called ordinary goldenrod, and notice their masses of brilliant yellows gently swaying in an autumn breeze next to vibrant blue New England asters, and then, when we move in close and see native bumble bees frantically flitting between blossoms searching for the best cache of nectar and pollen, before falling asleep on a petal, we might then come to love these familiar flowers for their astonishing beauty. After all, beauty is in the

eye of the beholder.

When we appreciate that our ultimate survival depends on accommodating our native pollinators – bees, birds, ants, wasps and flies, we want to: plant more of their favorite plants; remove the non-native competitors of these plants without using the poisons; leave the fall leaves where moths are pupating; minimize the use of outdoor lights for the safety of moths, butterflies and migrating birds; and reduce the size of our nonnative lawns, replacing them with native ground covers like wild ginger and foam flow-

ers. All these activities are made possible by our innate resilience.

It can be a challenge to change what feels like our natural sense of beauty. However, that is what resilience and consciousness expansion in relation to native plants is about. Once we realize how we humans, native plants, and native pollinators are all inter-dependent on a healthy ecosystem, and that we are part of that ecosystem, we prefer to "go native."

For more information check out, "Nature's Best Hope," an excellent book by Doug Tallamy.

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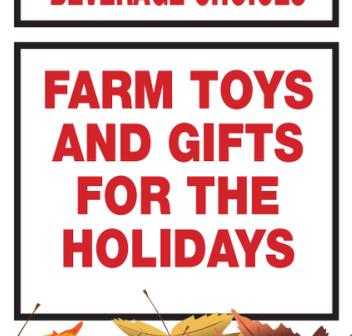
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BARRE from page 1

her family no longer take the remaining two dogs for walks.

Select Board member Richard Stevens asked, who would inspect the fence or kennel and was told the Animal Control Officer would. Select Board vice chairman Mark Regienus said a four foot fence would not be a challenge for a pit bull and said the fence should be higher.

The Select Board ordered the owner to purchase and install a chain link kennel at least 10 foot by 10 foot and six foot high and anchored into the ground within 30 days by Wednesday, Dec.

3. Select Board chairman Maureen Marshall told the owner of the pit bull, if the dog leaves the yard again the board would impose strict rules or the dog would have to be removed. The ACO will inspect the kennel after it is installed and notify Petrides

Town Administrator report

Town Administrator Melanie Jackson said the town received one bid for the sewer compactor. She said Department of Public Works paving bids were due Nov. 10 and fuel bids were due Nov. 11.

She said she and Select Board chairman Marshall interviewed three candidates for the position of treasurer/

collector. The selected candidate, Shelby Lamothe, has a Bachelor of Arts degree in finance and worked five years in Palmer as treasurer/collector. The candidate is able to start Nov. 17 and accepted the pro-rated salary of \$76,379.

The Town Administrator said the extension she filed with the state for an extension on the public records request was approved and the town would be charging \$75 per hour for the time taken to provide the requested records.

Deputy Fire Chief

Fire Chief James DiVirgilio introduced the new Deputy Fire Chief Stan Andriski to the Select

Board. Andriski said he had nine years of fire chief experience in another town.

Shared EMS

Hardwick Select Board vice chairman William Tinker attended the meeting regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for shared Emergency Medical Service with Barre. Barre Select Board chairman Marshall said the cost for the shared EMS services had gone up for Barre and they were increasing the cost to Hardwick. The hourly rate for the paramedics, vehicle and insurance costs all contributed to the rate increase for Hardwick to \$83,000. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18 between

the Barre and Hardwick Select Boards to discuss this.

Vadar accounting system

Town Administrator Jackson discussed switching to Vadar accounting software. The auditing firm included the need to switch to a single software for the town accountant and treasurer/collector. The Town Administrator said the transition will take about six months and it would include training for town employees.

The cost would be \$10,237.83 per year and the rate would be good for six years. The Select Board approved the move to the Vadar system for accounting

software as recommended by the Town Accountant.

Other business

The Select Board accepted with regret the resignation of Betty Jo O'Brien as the town's Veterans Service Officer. Select Board chairman Marshall recommended the Town Administrator ask Tony Musnicki, the previous Veterans Service Officer, to sit in on the interviews if he was available.

The Select Board unanimously denied a request for the Lepore family to use the Town Hall for a Christmas party on Dec. 2 from 2-11 p.m. They were concerned about the late hour, heating cost and liability to the town.

HARDWICK from page 1

Section 55, where the Select Board of a town appoints a Town Accountant. Tinker also wanted to make it clear in the discussion that the Town Accountant reports to the Select Board. Tinker also read the revised offer letter out loud for the public to hear.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano commented on the duties of the Town Accountant and mentioned that the duties are laid out by state statute. Select Board Chair Eric W. Vollheim signed the offer prior to its presentation to Mann.

After clarification, the Select Board moved to a vote and appointed Mann as the Town Accountant.

Meeting minutes review

While going over the meeting minutes in previous meetings, Bill Cole of the Planning Board had a question regarding the meeting on June 9. Various changes were made, and some deletions were made in the minutes of that meeting. One thing that was deleted was Cole's statement tied to a discussion during a Planning Board meeting back in April.

Tinker said he was at the Planning Board meeting and was put on the agenda. Tinker claimed some things didn't happen in the meeting that were talked about during the Select Board meeting. What was supposedly removed in the minutes appeared to be a public statement.

"If somebody makes a statement in a public meet-

ing, it becomes part of the public meeting," Schaaf said.

Tinker asked even if the statement was false or untrue. Vollheim confirmed that's the case whether it's true or not.

Although Tinker claimed the information was lies and slander, Schaaf said it can't just be removed from the public record. If Cole made this statement during that particular Select Board meeting, then its part of the meeting.

"It's Mr. Cole being quoted, essentially," Vollheim stated as the Select Board decided to table these meeting minutes until the next meeting and investigate further.

Groundwater update

The Select Board heard a presentation from Dr. Rick Romano regarding the groundwater and Hardwick landfill. Romano reviewed the 2025 post closure landfill environmental monitoring report for the Hardick landfill.

There are over 600 pages of data and tables that Romano has gone over, and recent years were digitally submitted for public reports.

"We have a groundwater contamination problem," Romano said.

In this location they've detected the contamination, Romano said tabulation for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances has started to try and collect current PFAS numbers. In the packets presented to the Select Board, tabulations for 2024 and 2025 are listed.

Looking through this long record, Romano said a lot

of these results dates back to 2009 and that no one has really gone through these records. The contaminants are within the groundwater, according to Romano of the Board of Health.

Romano brought up the safeguard water supply that leads to Ware and the Board of Health is looking further into this and see how far spread the contamination is. A map of the landfill was presented at the Select Board for people in person at the meeting to see.

Romano is seeking a second opinion from a physician based out of Boston College and is also and has done studies in environmental and epidemiology.

Romano says he's not sure on what the extent of the plume is. The towns of Southbridge and Charlton had a similar issue.

Romano wanted to make the Select Board aware of this matter regarding the groundwater. This information is documented, and wells will be monitored. The big question the Board had was what the arrangements with Casella were. This is being looked at further.

The Board of Health also wanted to check the households in the pond area that may be impacted. Romano said they will notify the Ware Board of Health, due to Ware having property that is a direct abutter of the landfill.

The town is looking into hiring a licensed site professional to go over these studies and what the next steps should be. Romano is applying for a grant that will help

pay for the LSP.

Schaaf asked if there was PFAS anywhere in the wells down in the Ware area. Romano said "there's PFAS everywhere" and saying here it came from is tough to know. Monitoring wells in place are being run by Tighe & Bond through Casella.

At this time, Romano said "it's about what do we do from here." The landfill opened back in the 1960s and was used due to being empty ground.

Each well in town has its own history and studies show that there is trending happening in the wells.

"The status of things right now is not good," Romano said. "We want to safeguard this resource the best we can."

Historical Commission discussion

The Select Board revisited the terms and members list for the town's Historical Commission. The Board is looking to set terms for people who are appointed to the Historical Commission. Currently there are six members on the Historical Commission and Schaaf is currently serving as the Chair.

Schaaf said he was comfortable stepping down and letting the members that were appointed to run the commission. Terms would then be established: a one year term that ends in 2026, a two year term that ends on 2027, and three years that ends on 2028.

The Board voted and passed both terms. New members of the Historical Commission were appointed

at the last Select Board meeting.

Kearsarge Solar lease

Bill Zinni of the Conservation Commission attended the Select Board meeting to talk about the map layout of the site for the potential solar lease. The footprint of the panel location was reviewed and the conservation commission talked about the area being close to the water.

Zinni recommended that the project on site should stay out of the 200-foot riverfront zone. The commission hopes this sort of project doesn't negatively impact the wet-land protection.

Harry Comerford of the Planning Board commented on the site and says the town owns 48.5 acres of land. There is also a certain number of megawatts that Kearsarge would need and the more megawatts jumps the amount of revenue for the town.

One estimate mentioned was \$20,000 per megawatt and with 10 megawatts, \$200,000 is what the town would get from the lease per year.

It was confirmed that the site does not touch the athletic fields nearby. One of the biggest concerns the Board had was that the site has a lot of gravel. The town can continue to mine before land is potentially leased.

The Select Board wants to think about what the benefits are if the town were to lease. The town is still in a waiting period and waiting to hear back from legal on what the adjustments are.

Cole commented and said he hopes the final contract says its just part of the parcel. In other words, not leasing the entire 48.5 acres. This would leave the town with the full ability to keep fields the way they are.

"It's not all 48," Caggiano said, referring to the lease.

Vollheim said he would like to see flags in place on the site as there is still too much to review.

Quabbin Stewardship Initiative

Zinni spoke on the Quabbin legislation related topic that has been mentioned in previous meetings. This topic is an attempt to get 12 plus communities surrounding the Quabbin some additional compensation for the water that runs off the towns land into the Quabbin Reservoir and gets sold in eastern Massachusetts by the Mass. Water Resources Authority.

Zinni believes this would be a great thing for the communities that neighbor the Quabbin. The town is at a point now where the towns are calling for a stewardship group. A letter from the communities would go out to the Mass Water Resources Authority Advisory Committee and try to get allowance to attend their meetings.

This would give towns the ability to argue their case as they are being custodians to the water supply. The letter has been sent out as the Board reviewed the latest version. This topic will be discussed further at the next Select Board meeting.



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Birthdate: _____

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Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 12, 2025

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 This offer is available to all babies born in 2025. Pictures will be published the week of December 22-26, 2025.

PASTOR from page 1

change and he took a position as a local minister at a UCC church in Vermont and for the past six years, he was the pastor at a church in Marblehead, Ohio, which is located on a peninsula of Lake Erie with a population of just 900 people.

"I started looking to see what was possible," he said of local ministry. "It's been a shift in my career."

In addition to his success in academia, Williamson gained notability for his skills as a soccer coach, mainly in developing and growing winning programs from the ground up.

"I have loved that part of my life," Williamson said of coaching. "I tell people I have these three critical parts of my career: teaching, coaching and being a pastor."

Williamson developed his love of soccer in his youth, having played on Needham's first state championship team in 1968. He was even paid to play soccer on the Chicago Amateur League for two summers in 1975 and 1976.

"I played into my late 30s," he said. "I was lucky that way."

Williamson talked about his high school soccer coach, Don Brock, and how he is a living legend in

the sport, coaching for over five decades and leading his teams to close to 700 wins.

He also spoke about his teammate Robbie Ftorek, who went on to gain fame in the National Hockey League and World Hockey Association.

"He was a three-sport athlete and I learned a lot from him," Williamson said. "I played two years with him and I was very fortunate."

Williamson said while he misses coaching, he will apply his same teambuilding skills and leadership to helping the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield reach its goals to become more of a presence in the community and it increase its membership and ministries. He noted that the church and its members are already a major presence at community events, offering its famous asparagus chowder at the annual Asparagus Festival and much more.

"We'd also like people to become more aware that this is a welcoming church and it has an ability to provide community for folks and be supportive," he said.

Williamson said the church would also like to increase its ministry offerings, by expanding the Sharing Cupboard, which already serves many people in the community.

"It's a vital ministry in this church," he said.

The church will continue to work with Dismas House in Oakham, hosting alternating meals with the residents at the farm.

Williamson said he and the church members would like to add more related programs to the church's offerings, through Bible study, music, and more. He said the church would also continue to be a witness on social justice issues.

"I really want to support the church in terms of its goals," Williamson said.

Williamson said he has a plan for renewal, hope and joy, and also finding connection between scripture lessons and modern day issues.

"How the gospel speaks to a contemporary situation...that's important," he said.

Williamson said he will also focus on faith and young families, adding that studies have looked at how many people at that stage in life are experiencing higher levels of unhappiness.

"There should be a sense of joy when you come to worship," Williamson said, and that is something that is immediately felt when walking through the doors of the church.

About the church

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC, is located at 36 North Main St. with worship services offered each Sunday at 10 a.m. All people are welcomed, no matter where they are in their faith journey.

For more information, stop by a worship service, visit westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org, call 508-867-7078 or email fccwb-worship@gmail.com.





Eliza Brown performed a song as Fiona during a dress rehearsal



Donkey, played by Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza, tried to claim his half of Shrek's swamp.

SHREK from page 1

last year's "Beauty and the Beast" starring alongside Luke Salvatore's Gaston as the loyal but bumbling LaFou.

Donkey's positivity and ability to look on the sunny side of life provides a sharp contrast to the distrusting and sarcastic nature of Shrek. Together, the two make unlikely friends and they work together to save the swamp and all of the fairy tale characters from a ruthless (but diminutive) ruler.

Palomera-Espinoza said he relates to Donkey in a lot of ways, including having a positive outlook on life. "It's very easy to go through life when you're thinking about the bright side," he said. "We share a lot of the same energy."

One of the biggest challenges in his role has been building his confidence as this larger-than-life character.

"It's a very playful, funny character," he said.

Taking on the role of Fiona, a not-so-typical fairy tale princess, is eighth grader Eliza Brown, who is a theater veteran now in her fourth production with Quabbin Performing arts. She has also been in dozens of community theater productions as well.

Starting as an ensemble member in her sixth grade year's performance of "Matilda", Brown has harnessed all of the aspects of her vibrant personality to give Fiona a special quality that sets her apart from other princesses.

"Fiona is a really hard character. She has so many dynamics," Brown said. "She's different...I feel like I relate to her because she has so many different personalities...silly, proper."

Brown said theater has given her a chance to build new friendships and to connect with students in other grade levels.

"It's easier to talk to people," she said. "It also brings a lot of people from different backgrounds together...it's not just theater kids."

Bellerose agreed that joining the Quabbin Performing Arts has opened him up a lot and helped create new connections with his peers.

Bellerose, Brown and Palomera-Espinoza all agreed that Salvatore's performance in "Beauty and the Beast" last year inspired a lot of students to come forward and take part in "Shrek the Musical".

Salvatore, a senior during "Beauty and the Beast", had never set foot on stage before; especially not in a musical as a lead role.

"Luke's participation last year made so many people want to participate," Bellerose said.

All three of the student-actors spoke about some of the challenges they faced in preparing for the opening of "Shrek the Musical", including learning the songs.

"Shrek" is a really great musical," Palomera-Espinoza said. "But don't underestimate it."

Its songs are much more technical than many high school performances, with soaring high notes and powerful dynamics.

Bellerose, who said he is more of a baritone singer, said Shrek's songs are written for a tenor and this has pushed him to gain more confidence in the upper register of his



August Bellerose as Shrek performed outside his home in the swamp



The Three Blind Mice danced during "Make a Move".

vocal range.

Brown said it's the songs that make "Shrek the Musical" so exciting to perform (and to watch) and how "you can't pick one best song."

Rounding out the cast of "Shrek the Musical" are Aspen Packard as Lord Farquaad and Papa Ogre; Owen Breuer as Pinocchio; Sophia Pascale as Gingy; Kayleigh Fuller as Dragon and Fairy Godmother; Bella Spring as Big Bad Wolf; Elizabeth Matheson as White Rabbit; Kailynn Schuster as Peter Pan; Charlotte LaPointe as Wicked Witch and Young Fiona; Anna Metcalf as Sugar Plum Fairy; Ximena Palomera-Espinoza as Ugly Duckling; Grace Lantiegne as Mama Bear; Adrien Cyr as Papa Bear, King Harold and Pied Piper; Ava Kinney as

Baby Bear; Adelaide Harmon as Mad Hatter; Emily DeMalia as Humpty Dumpty; Nathan Kearchner as Elf and Little Shrek; Spencer Nally as Grumpy; Elizabeth Lambert as Mama Ogre and Bluebird Singer; Janelle Hutchinson as Queen Lillian; Winter Boyea as Teen Fiona; Kalypso DeCologero as Thelonus; Milo Zantouliadis as Captain of the Guards; and Ash St. Clair as Duloc Greeter and Bishop.

The cast includes Lola Dumont, Julianna Lindsten, Catherine Tucker, Audrey Larson, Amy Landrin, Virginia Morin, Emma Lindsey, Lola Dumont, Bailey Burke, Taylah Cass, Andie St. Clair and Sadie Ouimette.

"Shrek the Musical" also has a dedicated crew including Musical Director Julia Tuttle, who is now in her



Sophia Pascale as Gingy sang during "Freak Flag".

fifth year with the Quabbin Performing Arts. Tuttle is also a teacher at the middle/high school.

Tuttle first became involved in theater when she was cast in the Barre Players' production of "Jesus Christ Superstar". When she was a senior in high school, she took on the lead role in "Cinderella".

"It was my first real lead role and was an awesome learning experience," she said.

Tuttle said the school's theater department works hard to get as many students and people involved in its production as possible.

"We are open to having anyone who is even slightly interested in theater to get involved!" she said.

Amanda Schuster, blocking director and stage manager, is back for her second production with Quabbin Performing Arts.

Schuster first became involved with theater in elementary school, but her passion grew when she entered high school. A dancer since the age of 6, Schuster has her bachelor's degree in theatre with a dance concentration.

Schuster said she has enjoyed working with the students and watching them "create something memorable."

"It is a great place to feel accepted, to be able to be yourself, and learn how to work with a lot of people and

learn to trust each other," she said.

Art teacher Lisa Payne is in charge of set design and construction, assisted by the talents of her students. She has helped to bring a total of 18 productions to life on stage.

"My interest in theater was first piqued when I was in a summer camp as a third grader," Payne said. "I remember playing a seed that grew into a tree."

Payne now has a master's degree in theatrical design and she said the highlight of her role with Quabbin Performing Arts has been working with both the students and her colleagues to build the set and props.

Creating Dragon's head for "Shrek the Musical" was also a memorable experience.

"Theater is a wonderful venue for students to express themselves - either on stage, through design, working backstage, and/or running the tech end of things," Payne said. "Theater teaches our students to work in an ensemble, how to push through difficult things and how to be inclusive."

About "Shrek the Musical" "Shrek the Musical" will be performed in the auditorium at Quabbin Regional Middle/High School, 800 South St., Fridays, Nov. 7 and 14 at 7 p.m. and Saturdays, Nov. 8 and 15 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 if pur-

chased in advance or \$12 at the door. Early ticket pur-



Aspen Packard as Lord Farquaad sang "The Ballad of Farquaad".

chase is recommended as this show is likely to sell out for each performance.

A link to purchase tickets is available on the school district's website, www.qrsd.org or directly at our.show/quabbin-shrek.

Refreshments and Break-A-Leg Bags will be available for purchase through Quabbin Pro Musica during the intermission of each show. Proceeds will benefit students in the school district's music department.

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Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, NOV. 6

BARRE WOMAN'S CLUB MEETING will take place today at 6 p.m. in the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre. The public is invited. Barre Historical Society historian, Lucy Stone, will give a Power Point program and talk on the Narnmore family tragedy.

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

QUABBIN HIGH MUSICAL 'SHREK THE MUSICAL' opens today and Friday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 8 and Nov. 15 at 2 p.m.. at the Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., Barre.

WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERTS will be held today at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. Today's concert will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 9 Ayer Road, Harvard starting with a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9 concert is at Assumption University in the Jeanne Y. Curtis Hall, 500 Salisbury St., Worcester with a pre-concert talk at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are available by visiting <https://worcesterchambermusic.org/the-joy-of-youth/> or by calling the WCMS office at 508-926-8624.

SATURDAY, NOV. 8

DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter of Eastern Star will be held today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Masonic Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Menu includes design you own pancakes with chips, nuts and fruits, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 children 6 and under. Everyone is welcome.

VETERANS PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by the Worcester Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps will take place today from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Oakham Fire Department, 178 Barre Road, Oakham. The free breakfast is for Veterans and their family members.

PART 1 FREE COMMUNITY FILM SERIES will be held today from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, 306 Main St., Sturbridge. Other dates are part 2 Dec. 6 and Part 3 Jan. 10, 2026. There is an online option. To join online, people should email sherryzitter@icloud.com. The film "Regenerating Life" is by John Feldman.

NEW ENGLAND LEGENDS WITH JEFF BELANGER takes place today at 6:30 p.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, Memorial Drive, New Braintree. The New Braintree Library and Friends of the New Braintree Library will present the program. Belanger seeks out history, folklore, ghosts, monsters and legends from all over the world and in people's back yards. His talk presents highlights from his own adventures, a look at the investigation process and compelling audio and visual paranormal evidence. Belanger is one of the most visible and prolific researchers of folklore and legends today. This program is funded by the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a State Agency. This program is free and open to the public.

FRIDAY, NOV. 14

SMALL WORKS AND HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE sponsored by the PrincetonArt Society takes place today from 6-8 p.m.; Nov. 15 and 16 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 21 from 6-8 p.m. and Nov. 21 and 22 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Princeton Community Center, 206 Worcester Road,

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Barre. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Nov. 10. Bill Bowles, Paul Carlson, Peggy Civilik, Rosemary Horan and Phil Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was taken of the clothes bin at the Massachusetts State Grange Thomas Vail Grange Library, 425 Main St., Rte. 122A, Rutland

Princeton. There will be unique and artisan made jewelry, cards, paintings and prints, ornaments, fabric items, ceramics, wooden gifts and more. The Princeton Arts Society is a nonprofit organization promoting the arts in Central Massachusetts through programs, events, and shows.

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

HOLIDAY FAIR to benefit the Rutland Council on Aging today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Community Center, Glenwood Street, Rutland. There is no admission charge.

EMBRACING HOLIDAY GRIEF will be offered by Miles Funeral Home today from 1-3 p.m. at the Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St., Holden. This is a free seminar. To reserve a space as seating is limited people should call 508-829-4434 or 978-422-0100 or register on the Miles Funeral Home Facebook. Light refreshments will be served and people will receive a free book.

SUNDAY, NOV. 16

SECOND GREAT AWAKENING sponsored by the Lancaster Historical Society will take place today at 2 p.m. at the First Church of Christ, Unitarian (Bulfinch Church), 725 Main St., Lancaster. It will be presented by historian Tom Kelleher of Old Sturbridge Village. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, people may call 978-733-690. A half hour tour of the church is available from 1:15-1:45 p.m. People should make a reservation by text or calling 978-621-00.

TUESDAY, NOV. 18

REMEMBERING THE ICE STORM of Dec. 11, 2008 will take place today from 7-9 p.m. at the Rutland Historical Society, Wood House, 232 Main St., Rutland. The ice was not only visible, but, audible. The weird creaking noises, the snap of branches, the shotgun sound of trees toppling to the ground and the darkness due to power lines being snapped.

Rutland residents awoke to find their com-

munity "Beautifully Devastated." People are invited to share their stories, view the collection of news articles and pictures of the storm that changed the countryside forever. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be available.

FRIDAY, NOV. 21

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.

SATURDAY, NOV. 22

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB will hold a program on Massachusetts Mustelids with Jim Morelly today at 10:30 a.m. at the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St., Rutland.

SUNDAY, NOV. 23

THANKSGIVING FARMERS MARKET/BAKE SALE sponsored by the Hubbardston Historical Society will take place today from noon-3 p.m. at Williamsville Chapel, 4 Burnshirt Road. There will be great food and more for the holidays from local farmers. People may enjoy apple cider or coffee while they browse. It will be held rain, snow or shine. For a full list of vendors and their products, people may visit www.hubbardston-historical.org. For questions, people may call Cathy Hansgate, market manager, at 978-928-3731.

SUNDAY, NOV. 30

CHRISTMAS SING ALONG by the Fanfare Brass Ensemble will take place today at 3 p.m. at The Federated Church, 8 Maple St., Sturbridge. The 10 part group's program includes O Come All Ye Faithful, Three Ships, Three Kings, Westminster Carol, Jingle Bell Rock, Twelve Days of Christmas, Away in the Manger, A Christmas Cannon, Jingle Bells,

White Christmas, Sleigh Ride, Oh Holy Night, Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, Angels from the Realms of Glory, All I want for Christmas, O little town of Bethlehem, We Need a Little Christmas, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Stars and Stripes for Christmas and more. For more information, people may email David Neill at tbn8@aol.com or call 413-686-5027.

MONDAY, DEC. 1

AUDITIONS FOR THEATRE AT THE MOUNT will be held today and tomorrow Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. in Room A110 at Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner. The production will be Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein. Terrie Hyde is the director. Cast consists of 10 principal roles plus ensemble for ages 18 and up.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

BARRE PLAYERS THEATER presents "Legally Blonde The Musical" today, Dec. 6 and 7 and Dec. 13 and 14. Music and lyrics are by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin. The book is by Heather Hach. It is supported in part by the Mass. Cultural Council.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

CHRISTMAS IN NEW BRAINTREE hosted by the Tri-Parish Community Church kicks off the holiday season today from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the New Braintree Grade School and Town Hall, both located on Memorial Drive, New Braintree. Photos with Santa are from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. along with crafts for children. The New Braintree Congregational Church will be holding their traditional cookie sale and cafe during the craft fair. The New Braintree Historical Society will be hosting their Holiday Open House at the museum at 10 Utley Road from 4:30-6:30 p.m. There will be a town tree lighting ceremony at the Town Hall to bring an end to the festivities. All are welcome. Anyone who would like to participate as a vendor or volunteer may call Bonnie St. Cyr at 443-835-7530 or email her at bonniestcyr@yahoo.com.

HOLIDAY FAIR sponsored by the Women's Fellowship will take place today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre. There will be quilt and basket raffles, craft vendors, a baked goods, candy table, wreaths and a corn chowder and sandwich lunch available to purchase. Potential vendors can call 978-355-4041 and leave a message.

MONDAY, DEC. 8

SENIOR HOLIDAY BUS TRIP sponsored by the Council on Aging will take place today beginning at 12:30 with departure from the Paxton Senior Center, 17 West St., Rte. 31, Paxton. They will travel by bus to Steaming Tender Restaurant in Palmer, then to Atkins Farm Country Market in Amherst and then to Forest Park's Bright Nights display in Springfield. They will return to Paxton at 8 p.m. Tour cost is \$129. Payment for the Monday, Dec. 8 trip is due Monday, Nov. 17. Payments are non-refundable unless ticket can be resold. For reservations, call Deb Grensavitch at 508.754.6366 or email her at grensavitchd@aol.com. They should make payments to Paxton FOCOA and mail them to Deb Grensavitch at 88 Laurel St., Paxton, MA 01612-1234.

Calendar Policy

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

LYONS from page 3

Brookfield Town House emphasize the rich cultural nature of the area and pointing out the possibilities that exist for programming when the Town House is restored and once again hosts workshops and performances.

Today, the Friends are spotlighting an area artist each month on their website, with the artist's own page, telling their own story, and calling attention to their special talent. The Friends of the Town House website's Artist of the Month page may be accessed by going to nbtownhouse.com/featured-artists.

Visit the website to learn more about this month's featured artist, Susan Lyons. The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the purpose of raising funds and promoting public support and awareness for the renovation and restoration of the historic North Brookfield Town House and the Town House Great Hall in order for it to be a civic and cultural center for the town of North Brookfield and surrounding communities.

EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 24-28, 2025.

Thursday, Nov. 20 at 2 PM for November 27 issue
 • Agawam Advertiser News • Country Journal
 • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Friday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue
 • Sentinel • Quaboag Current

Monday, November 24 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue
 • The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

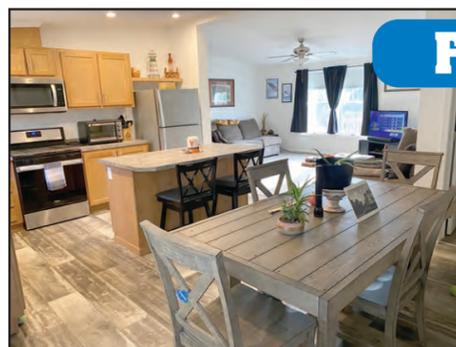
Tuesday, November 25 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue
 • Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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Panthers open up tournament with win

BARRE – On a cold, but sun-splashed afternoon at Quabbin Regional High School, the Panthers field hockey team opened up the state tournament with a 3-0 shutout of Hamilton-Wenham in the Round of 32 in Division 4. Maria Hamm scored in the second quarter while Makenzie Casey had two goals in the second half to cap the scoring. Aubrey Pope, Quabbin's goalie, made six saves for the shutout.

The Panthers improved to 15-3-1 and moved into the Round of 16 to face Saint John Paul II earlier this week.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Maria Hamm vies for possession.



Makenzie Casey makes her way up the right sideline.



Kailynn Schuster guides the ball toward the circle.



Ellie Poulin sends an insert pass to the circle on a penalty corner.



Abby Rogowski sends the ball to the center of the circle.

Quabbin girls soccer draws first-round road game

BARRE – After missing out last year, the Quabbin Regional High School girls soccer team has had an outstanding regular season. The Panthers went 11-5-1 on the season, winning six of their final seven games during the

season. The Panthers, who compete in Division 3, were then placed in the state tournament as Central Mass. has done away with holding a sectional tournament.

Unfortunately, a weaker strength-of-schedule placed

the Panthers below the top 32, and the Panthers drew a first-round matchup on the road at No. 26 Swampscott.

That game was scheduled to be held earlier this week with the winner moving into the Round of 32.

Pioneers beat Orioles in first conference matchup between the two teams

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—The previous 23 games on the grid-iron between Belchertown and Pathfinder Tech have taken place on Thanksgiving morning.

The two squads, who first faced each other in 2001, will be facing each other at Belchertown High School on Thanksgiving morning, but they're also members of the Tri-County League.

The league contest took place Oct. 24 at Legion Field in Palmer.

The Pathfinder Tech Pioneers celebrated their senior night with a 40-25 victory over the Orioles



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Anthony Arventos and Mason Baer combine for a tackle.

before a large crowd. "It did feel like a Thanksgiving Day game tonight," said Pathfinder Tech head coach Bill Darling. "They made a comeback against us in the second half, but we never relinquished the lead. I'm very proud of the players."

The seniors listed on the Pathfinder Tech football roster are Dustyn Cook, Ethan Mooney, Stephen Curtis, Brandyn Wilson, Aiden Girard, Brandon Charron, Jaiden Ambrose, Wyatt Breault, Amias Kowalik, Jaycub Parker-Gregory, Harold Black, and Jarett Skowyra.

"It's nice that we could beat our rivals on senior night," Darling said. "They'll probably remember tonight's game forever."

The two teams are heading in opposite directions.

While the Pioneers (3-4) won their third game in a row, the Orioles (4-3) have lost three straight games.

"I'm very frustrating because we began the season with a 4-0 record and we've lost our last three games," said Belchertown head coach Keith LeBeau. "We've lost all of our fundamentals. We

See PATH FOOTBALL, page 9

Football falls in triple OT

BARRE – On a windy, rainy night at Quabbin Regional High School, the Panthers had their final regular season game against Groton-Dunstable. The matchup featured some unusual scoring as both teams dealt with less than ideal conditions. Groton-Dunstable would score a touchdown during the third overtime to escape 16-10. The visitors opened the scoring with a safety in the first quarter, countered by a rare high school field goal from Quabbin's Chase Talbot, who



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Zakk Mielnicki goes for the tackle.

made a 36-yarder for a 3-2 Quabbin lead. Chase Talbot made it 10-2 with a touchdown run in the third quarter, countered by a rare high school field goal from Quabbin's Chase Talbot, who

score for Groton-Dunstable, leading to overtime. Quabbin did not qualify for the state tournament and was scheduled for nonplayoff action against old rival Lunenburg.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
The Quabbin offensive line gets ready for a play.



Wes Sanderson takes a run into traffic.



Chase Talbot tries to avoid tacklers.



Cassian Kowalik takes the ball through the middle of the field.

Sports

Candlepin League News

By **Ryan Drago**
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – After nine weeks of league candlepin bowling, Fire Mountain remains in first place in the Bondsville League.

Fire Mountain has a record of 41-22 and leads in the east division. In the west division, Cannonballs are in first place with a record of 40-23; second place overall.

In week nine, Cannonballs bowled against Team UMass. In game one, Team UMass won by a score of 484-430. In game two, Cannonballs bounced back with a win of their own, 464-457. Sally Czarnecki of Cannonballs bowled well with a 105 during game two.

In game three, Cannonballs won by a score of 504-454. Micah Hinkley of Cannonballs ended the match with a good game of 128. The final score was 1398-1395 in favor of Cannonballs.

Zeke's Freaks bowled against the Night Hawks in week nine. In game one, Night Hawks were the winners by a score of 440-418.

In game two, Night Hawks won again by a score of 495-450. Darryl Sinclair of Night Hawks had a good game with a score of 136.

In game three, Night Hawks won big against Zeke's Freaks by a score of 548-484. Sinclair finished with 139 and a series of 383.

Gavin Sinclair finished with 136 to go with his 103 and 115 for a 354 series. Dave Smigs of Night Hawks finished strong with a 115.

The final score was 1483-1352 in favor of Night Hawks, who are now 37-26.

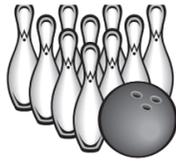
P&J Meats bowled against Spare Parts Bud in week nine. In game one, P&J Meats won by a score of 466-433. Game two was won by P&J Meats, 460-440. In game three, P&J Meats won all seven points by taking game three, 472-432. The final score was 1398-1305 in favor of P&J Meats.

Slow Burners bowled against Fire Mountain in week nine. In game one, Slow Burners defeated Fire Mountain, 522-503. Nate Orszulak of Slow Burners began with 138. His teammates broke the century mark with scores of 119, 104, and 102. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain bowled 119 and Scott Brewster bowled 114.

In game two, Fire Mountain came back with the victory, 506-496. Trott bested his last game with a 129 in game two. Orszulak had another good game of 130.

In game three, Slow Burners won by a score of 484-458. Orszulak's last game was 117 and brought him to a series of 385. Trott bowled a 109 and a series of 357. The final score was 1502-1467 in favor of Slow Burners.

Sandri bowled against



Ironmen in week nine. In game one, Sandri won by a score of 481-444. Sue Horton of Sandri bowled a 125 and her teammate Bob Hutchinson started with 116.

In game two, Ironmen returned with a victory over Sandri, 521-460. Pete Swistak of Ironmen bowled his best game of the season with 145. His teammates, Billy Brunk and Ryan Drago bowled well with scores of 126 and 123.

In game three, Ironmen won the last game by a score of 501-456. Swistak finished with 129 and a series of 376. Drago finished with 123 and a series of 374. The final score was 1466-1397 in favor of Ironmen.

Snappers bowled against Flaming Bowling Balls in week nine. In game one, Snappers won by a score of 479-452. Kevin Krasnecky of Snappers began with 125 and his teammate Andy Tombor began with 115.

In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 474-443. Don Paulus of Flaming Bowling Balls bowled well with 123.

In game three, Flaming Bowling Balls won again to end the match, 480-454. Paulus finished with 111 and a series of 320. Krasnecky finished with 115. The final score was 1406-1376 in favor of Flaming Bowling Balls.

Railers fall against Reading Royals

WORCESTER – The Railers fell Saturday night with a 5-1 loss to the Reading Royals.

Worcester's lone goal was scored by Drew Callin to make it 3-1 in the third period. There was a little bit of history there, since it had been 1,411 calendar days since his last goal for the Railers on Dec. 8, 2021.

Callin spent almost all of that span in the American Hockey League.

Reading got two goals from Carson Golder. Massimo Rizzo, Brandon Saigeon, and Sawyer Boulton each had one apiece.

Vinnie Purpura got the win in net with 25 saves. Tristan Lennox took the loss and stopped 27 shots.

The game ended in messy fashion with altercations all over the place late as the teams totaled 103 PIM in the third period. The 117 PIM overall were the third most in team history, the most ever at the DCU Center.

Including two video reviews, the game time was

2:51, second most in team history for a regulation game and tied for the longest at the DCU Center.

The Railers seek to regroup next weekend as they play their first three-in-three of the season. All three games are with Maine. Friday night the teams are in Portland, the next two at the DCU Center.

Worcester was outshot by two and outscored by two in the first period.

Rizzo scored from between the circles at 9:12. There was a lot of traffic in front of Lennox and the officials looked at possible goalie interference, but the score was still 1-0 after the review.

The Royals increased their lead to 2-0 at 15:37 on a goal by Saigeon. He got the puck against the far left board, perhaps 40 feet from the net, and sent a wrist shot inside the far post.

In between the goals, Railers forward Lincoln Hatten took on Reading's Boulton in a quick, intense fight. How time flies. Boulton is the son of Eric Boulton,

a legendary battler whose career pro PIM totals were in four figures.

Eric Boulton spent part of 1998-99 with the AHL Kentucky Thoroughblades. On Jan. 29, 1999 in Kentucky he and IceCats forward Reed Low engaged in arguably the best fight in Worcester hockey history, a Rocky vs. Apollo Creed battle.

Coincidentally, or maybe not, Kentucky's coach that season was Roy Sommer.

Golder finished off the odd-man rush that made it a 3-0 game in the second period. Reading played the break perfectly as Golder converted Cam Cook's pass with a re-direct that Lennox had no chance on.

Callin scored from in close with Worcester on a power play at 4:51 but Boulton blunted any chance at a comeback by popping home a rebound at 7:40. Reading got a 5 on 3 chance later in the period and took 11 seconds to convert it for the game's final goal.

T-Birds pick up point against Islanders

BRIDGEPORT, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-6-1-1) rode a terrific afternoon from their starting goaltender into a shootout before falling 2-1 to the Bridgeport Islanders (2-5-1-0) on Sunday afternoon inside Total Mortgage Arena.

Bridgeport entered the game as one of the league's most potent first-period offenses with 14 tallies in its first eight opening frames of the season. That trend continued at 8:54 of the first when rookie Joey Larson deflected a Sean Day point shot through Vadim Zherenko, giving the

Islanders the 1-0 advantage.

The T-Birds once again showed good resilience and timely power play success at 17:03 to tie the score. Matthew Peca won the opening draw of the advantage, allowing Samuel Johannesson to get a shot into the blue paint. Marcus Hogberg made the first stop, but Matt Luff was on the scene to jab a backhand rebound home to tie the game, 1-1. The goal, Luff's team-leading fourth of the season, was also his fourth point in the last two games.

Zherenko and Hogberg rose into the spotlight in the

second period, as neither team could take advantage on a plethora of power play opportunities. Bridgeport went 0-for-4 on man advantages in the first 40 minutes, including an 0-for-3 spell in period two. Springfield, meanwhile, was unable to break the 1-1 tie on their one chance in the middle stanza.

Zherenko and the T-Birds' penalty kill continued to rise to the occasion in the third, stonewalling the Bridgeport power play once more in the final period to complete a perfect 5-for-5 day. Zherenko

See T-BIRDS, page 11

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of

photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of

our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

PATH FOOTBALL from page 8

have a lot of things to work on. Give Pathfinder a lot of credit because they made the plays."

Belchertown won the coin toss, and junior Avery Cote returned the opening kickoff to the Pioneers 35 yard line

The Orioles offense put together a four minute drive which was capped off

with a one yard TD run by junior quarterback Coleman Longley.

Junior Leandro Martins made the extra point attempt.

Pathfinder sophomore quarterback Grayson

Griswold completed a couple of passes

to Skowryra before sophomore Cassian Kowalik powered his way seven yards into the endzone with 1:31 left in the first quarter.

Kowalik also scored a rushing touchdown on the two-point conversion, which gave the Pioneers an 8-7 lead.

Following an interception by junior Anthony Arventos, the home team put together a nine play scoring drive.

Just when it looked like Griswold would be sacked, he managed to toss the ball to sophomore Trevor Alexander, who made the catch in the endzone completing the 9-yard touchdown pass with 8:14 remaining in the first half.

There was a fumble on the two-point conversion play, which left the Pioneers holding onto a 14-7 lead.



Grayson Griswold goes for the quarterback keeper.

an 11-yard scamper up the middle.

Holding a 20-7 halftime lead, the Pioneers put six more points on the old scoreboard in the middle of the third quarter.

Griswold completed a 44-yard TD pass to Kowalik, who made an over the shoulder catch before sprinting into the endzone.

Trailing by 19 points, the Orioles scored the next three touchdowns which closed the gap to one point.

The comeback started when Longley threw a screen pass to senior Adam O'Rourke, who ran into the end zone behind a wall of blockers completing the 63-yard scoring play.

The extra point attempt was blocked.

After the Pioneers offense were forced to turn the ball over on downs, Cote scored a 34-yard rushing touchdown with three minutes left in the third quarter.

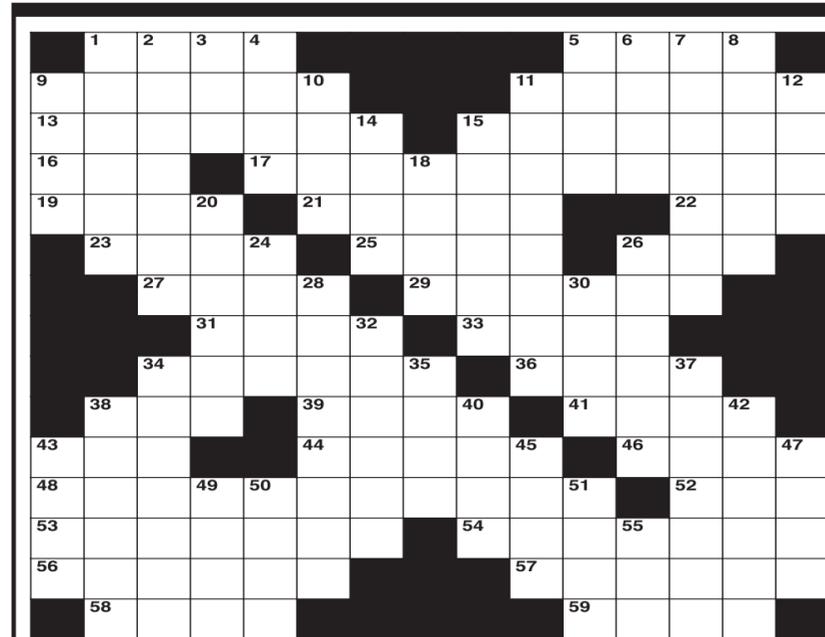
A pass on the two-point conversion play was incomplete in the endzone.

With 1:12 left in the third quarter, Longley called his number in the huddle and scored his second rushing touchdown on a six yard run.

Longley also carried the ball on the conversion play, but he was tackled in the backfield by Charron, which allowed the Pioneers to keep the lead.

Sophomore Caleb Crum and Griswold sealed the Pioneers victory with rushing touchdowns during the final quarter.

Belchertown will be looking to get back into the win column when they travel to McCann Tech on Saturday night, while Pathfinder Tech will be playing at Monument Mountain on Friday night.



- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| CLUES ACROSS | a riot | CLUES DOWN | ultimate goal |
| 1. Difficult | 29. Wakes up | 1. Brave | 28. Amino acid |
| 5. Coarsely ground corn | 31. Hair salon service | 2. Act of awakening | 30. Nasal mucus |
| 9. There's one for the "world" | 33. Serenaded | 3. Jest at | 32. US government entity |
| 11. Loved Romeo | 34. Looked intensely | 4. Sandwich store | 34. Swinish |
| 13. Sticky situation | 36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F. | 5. Chapter of the Koran | 35. Legislative body in Russia |
| 15. Pelvic areas | 38. A type of cast | 6. Dismounted | 37. Grant an exemption to |
| 16. An informal debt instrument | 39. One's duty | 7. Small vehicle | 38. Put in advance |
| 17. Cannot be repaired surgically | 41. Where golfers begin | 8. Irked | 40. Satisfy |
| 19. A device attached to a workbench | 43. Make a mistake | 9. One who earns by disreputable dealings | 42. Felt |
| 21. Related on the mother's side | 44. Semitic sun god | 10. Monetary unit of Samoa | 43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls |
| 22. Sound unit | 46. Ancient Greek City | 11. Long, mournful lamentation | 45. Witnesses |
| 23. ___ Sagan, astronomer | 48. Having had the head cut off | 12. Weight unit | 47. Picnic invaders |
| 25. Utah city | 52. A place to stay | 14. Alone, single | 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two |
| 26. A disappointing effort | 53. Unwise | 15. Decreases | 50. Ancient person of Scotland |
| 27. Steal goods during | 54. Most unnatural | 18. Indicates beside | 51. Cheerless |
| | 56. Dennis is a notable one | 20. Worn by exposure to the weather | 55. Unwell |
| | 57. Ointments | 24. A body of traditions | |
| | 58. Students' exam | 26. College students' | |
| | 59. Leaked blood | | |

ANSWERS ON PAGE 13

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REMEMBER TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SPORTS TEAMS

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Divine Materials Part 2

The following petition was penned by Scottish minister and theologian, John Baillie (1886-1960).

It is worthy of reflection: "Teach me, O God, so to use all the circumstances of my life today that they may bring forth in me the fruits of holiness rather than the fruits of sin.

Let me use disappointment as material for patience;

Let me use success as material for thankfulness;

Let me use suspense as material for perseverance;

Let me use danger as material for courage;

Let me use reproach as material for long suffering;

Let me use praise as material for humility;

Let me use pleasures as material for temperance;

Let me use pains as material for endurance."

His prayer is impacting, revealing that the circumstances of our lives serve as vehicles for spiritual growth or regression. Ultimately, we choose what we will make with the material God permits. Let's consider the following elements accordingly:

1) Let Me Use Disappointment as Material for Patience

We often react rather poorly when God calls us to wait. How quickly we become disappointed. I posit that waiting on Him may be among the most difficult aspects of the faith, as patience is a virtue we love to laud with our words but not practice.

Yet can I show you a wonderful example of the reward of endurance? It centers upon a scriptural figure named Simeon, who is featured in this birth narrative of Christ:

Luke 2:22, 25-26 (NIV)

22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him [i.e., baby Jesus] to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord . . . 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

I wonder how long Simeon waited for the fulfillment of this word from the Lord. How many times did Simeon seek Him via prayer and/or visit the Temple, waiting to see the Messiah who would bring consolation and comfort to beleaguered Israel?

I wonder how often Simeon was prone to disappointment, as month-over-month and year-over-year he was made to tarry. O what he would have missed if he yielded to discouragement, for God would renew his strength and reward his diligence.

Luke 22:27-35

27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There is much in this text that is well-beyond our time today, but I want you to reread Simeon's remarks in Luke 22:29-32. Simeon, having finished his race could now be dismissed in peace, having seen the wonder and marvel that was Christ! He had held the One who was his Maker, who would be his Savior, and who shall prove to bring eternal consolation to Israel. It turned out that Jesus was worth the wait. It turned out that some things are worth waiting for, as tough as that may be.

Next time you find yourself discouraged due to circumstance or event, take hold of the opportunity for spiritual growth. Pray the prayer of Baillie: "Teach me, O God, so to use all the circumstances of my life today that they may bring forth in me the fruits of holiness rather than the fruits of sin. Let me use disappointment as material for patience." In the days to come we will continue to consider this prayer one segment at a time.

Until next time, thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me using the information below. Also, check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

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Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

First Stewardship Sunday
"Loving Together."

Scripture Reading: II Thessalonians 1 v 1-4 and 11-12

I. Introduction

When our Stewardship Committee members discussed a theme for our Stewardship Campaign, we came up with the idea of Togetherness, emphasizing our renewed commitment to God, our church and one another.

Amid widespread uncertainty affecting fundamental aspects of daily life, including food and housing security, financial challenges, access to healthcare and preparation for the winter months when many households may face heating and related concerns, the sense of safety we once felt has diminished. Additionally, our differences on various issues have the potential to create division.

In this context, promoting togetherness is a highly relevant and meaningful theme for our stewardship campaign. As the Body of Christ, we are called to have the Christian bond of love, that binds us together as a community of faith. So, this morning we are focusing on the theme, Loving Together, and next week, we will focus on Praying Together.

II. Loving Together

Reading about the apostles' intentions for the early churches reveals how much they valued the relationships between believers, a value rooted in Christ's love, His death, and resurrection. These became the foundation

for building their congregations and enduring the challenges they faced.

The Apostle Paul was motivated by their unity and mutual affection, which led him to continue his work and compose his most uplifting letters to them, after experiencing severe persecution and fleeing the area with Silas.

Paul wrote his letters to the church in Thessalonica, encouraging them to carry on with growing their church, despite the resistance from their adversaries. Thessalonica was the largest and most prosperous city in Macedonia. The city, while retaining its Greek identity, was notable for its diversity, including a significant Roman presence and thriving Jewish communities.

In his commentary on Thessalonians, Leon Morris observes that Thessalonica possessed all the qualities that would appeal to Paul for his missionary endeavors. He focused on the core of Roman administration, the heart of Hellenistic or Greek civilization, and centers of the Jewish influence. We read in Acts Chapter 17 about his work in Thessalonica. His custom was to attend the Jewish synagogues and then preached there.

In this letter to the Thessalonians, he expresses gratitude to God for their faith, which is flourishing vigorously, as well as for the love that binds them together in a strong and unified manner. In I Thessalonians 3:12, he asked for their love to grow, and now he expresses gratitude to God for answering that prayer.

It was their love that served as the unifying force holding them together as a church. I can only imagine how afraid he must have been for their safety and the future of the church there. Learning about their faith, dedication, love, and unity must have truly moved him. They were now a church consisting of people from different backgrounds, and in their faith, they faced their challenges together, and they grew their church exponentially.

III. Conclusion

I believe in the church as a growing community, because it is the church of Jesus Christ, and in it the Holy Spirit, always dwelling and counseling. The church goes beyond being simply an organization, and our acts of service, preaching, and teaching are more than tasks or concepts we are required to perform. We become instruments in the hands of the Most High, and everything we do, we do with God's help and guidance.

Whatever the circumstances we face today, God calls us to come together in the presence of the Holy Trinity, God Almighty, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit. God's love fills the Body of Christ, and as the church gathers in unity, faith is strengthened and love brings everyone closer. Together, the church becomes a Living Body that rises above all limitations.

May God help us through our hearts, minds, souls and bodies to be the Body of Christ, loving together, always supporting one another, being kind to one another as we face every day and every challenge. May God help us all to be faithful stewards of God's church and make us instruments of love and peace in our world.

Amen

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

In the Classroom

Thoreau Foundation offers scholarships to seniors

The Henry David Thoreau Foundation awards collegiate scholarships of up to \$26,000 to eight to ten students graduating from public or private high schools in Massachusetts.

As Henry David Thoreau Scholars, these select high school seniors may enroll in any college and university in the world while they major or minor in an environmentally related field. The Henry David Thoreau Scholarships are up to \$26,000 four-year scholarships awarded to eight students graduating from public or private high schools in Massachusetts. High school seniors awarded the Henry David Thoreau Scholarships can enroll in any college and university in

the world while they major or minor in an environmentally related field. Henry David Thoreau Scholars are encouraged to enroll in internships or study abroad to broaden their awareness and understanding of environmental issues.

Henry David Thoreau Scholars have studied a wide variety of environmentally related areas, including biology, epidemiology, oceanography, international affairs, and environmental law, and upon completing their undergraduate degrees, they became members of the Henry David Thoreau Society.

The Henry David Thoreau Foundation further assists its scholarship winners by

identifying environmentally related internships, offering internship stipends, and providing networking opportunities. Upon graduation from college, Henry David Thoreau Scholars are inducted into the Henry David Thoreau Society. A sign of success of the Henry David Thoreau Foundation's mission to foster environmental leadership is the support past scholarship winners provide to present scholarship winners.

To learn more about the Henry David Thoreau Foundation and the Henry David Thoreau Scholarships, people may visit thoreauscholar.org. Students have until Feb. 1, 2026, to apply.

Local students contribute through Emmanuel Student Day of Service

BOSTON – More than 360 first-year students at Emmanuel College to make an immediate impact in the community through the New Student Day of Service.

Local students participating were Nathan Haber of Rutland, Nayah Islam Espinosa of Rutland and Adrian Martinez of Rutland. Rising early on the last day

of summer vacation, the students volunteered at food shelves, homeless shelters and other organizations that meet vital community needs through the day of service. In addition to encouraging new students to embrace Emmanuel's rich history of serving the common good, the day of service helped them connect with Boston

and each other.

"By engaging with the city from day one, our new Saints began their Emmanuel journey grounded in service, connection, and purpose," said Emmanuel VP of Mission & Ministry Fr. Federico Cinocca. "It sets the tone not only for their year, but for their entire Emmanuel experience."

URI announces newest graduates

KINGSTON, RI – The University of Rhode Island celebrated more than 3,500 of its newest alumni during the University's 2025 Commencement on May 16-18.

Local graduates were Jennifer Hall of Wheelwright, Magna Cum

Laude with a Bachelor of Science in nursing and Abigail Menice of Rutland, Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and a Bachelor of Science in public health. Students who received the honor summa cum laude grad-

uated with a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 3.7; students, who received the honor of magna cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.50 and students who received the honor of cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.3.

MWCC lists 2025 nursing graduates

GARDNER – On May 15, Mount Wachusett Community College celebrated the accomplishments of its Class of 2025 Associate Degree in nursing graduates at their traditional pinning ceremony.

The pinning ceremony, held at Mount Fitness on the Gardner campus, marks a significant milestone in the journey of these dedicated nursing students as they transition from academic preparation to professional practice. Fifty-eight graduates were pinned. Local graduates included: Michael A. Douglas of Hubbardston, Abigail Claire Gagne of Hubbardston, Amber Marie Gomes of Hubbardston and Coralina M. Ludden of Rutland.

Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences and MWCC Alumna Kim Shea wel-

comed guests and congratulated students saying, "Today is a day of celebration and recognition of your perseverance, resilience, and unwavering dedication. Over the past two years, you have taken one of the most rigorous and demanding programs in higher ed. The curriculum challenged you; the clinical hours stretched you; and the exams tested every ounce of your knowledge and determination. Through every triumph and trial, you were never alone, we saw your strength and we saw you. You gave grace to one another and you led with compassion. You fought for this and you won."

The ceremony, attended by faculty, staff, families, and friends, highlighted the dedication, hard work, and resilience of the graduates

throughout their nursing education. Each graduate was individually recognized and presented with a nursing pin, symbolizing their readiness to uphold the highest standards of patient care, compassion and professionalism. The students shared words of thanks with those who supported them through their education.

The Class of 2025 Associate Degree in Nursing graduates were supported by clinical partners AdCare Hospital, Baldwinville Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Clearbrook Treatment Center, Heywood Hospital, Seven Hills, Tara Vista Behavioral Health, The Highlands, UMass Memorial Health Alliance Clinton-Leominster Hospital, and UMass Memorial Medical Center.

T-BIRDS from page 10

went the final 51:06 of regulation without allowing a tally.

As the 1-1 tie carried into overtime, the netminder only raised his game further, as Zherenko came up with high-danger saves on both Marshall Warren and

Alex Jefferies in the 3-on-3 proceedings, allowing the T-Birds a chance to win in the shootout. After Chris Terry and Luff traded shootout goals through the first two rounds, the game came down to the third round. After Hogberg turned away Nikita Alexandrov, former T-Bird Matthew

Highmore stepped up and whistled a perfect forehand off the inside of the post to ice the game for Bridgeport.

The T-Birds and Islanders renew acquaintances as the two clubs meet at the Thunderdome on Friday, Nov. 7 for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop.

NOTICE

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

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

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**.

Public Safety

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Oct. 12
 8:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Nolette, Christopher Ryan, 35 New Salem Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
 10:29 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 2:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Mutual Aid Ambulance, Dowd Lane, Canceled
 6:14 p.m. Unwanted Party, Wilson Way, Report Filed
 7:49 p.m. No-Trespasser Order, Wilson Way, Report Filed
 9:12 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 9:28 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Monday, Oct. 13
 12:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Barre Paxton Road, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest Fikucki, Phillip Michael, 31, Worcester
 Charges Operating Under Influence – Liquor OR .08%, Leave Scene of Property Damage, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle
 6:55 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pleasant Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:59 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pommogussett Road, Report Filed
 2:34 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Whitehall Road, Negative Contact
 5:04 p.m. Missing Person, Glenwood Road, Report Filed
 7:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Barre Road, No Transport Required
 8:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Brunelle Drive, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Oct. 14
 7:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Nancy Drive, Transported to Hospital
 12:27 p.m. Complaint, Barre Paxton Road, Negative Contact
 1:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Cedar Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 1:48 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed
 2:16 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Pommogussett Road, No Transport Requested
 8:45 p.m. Emergency Medical

Service – Breathing Difficulty, East County Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Oct. 15
 4:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 6:28 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 9:05 a.m. Animal ACO Call, Varney Lane, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:29 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed
 11:13 a.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Emerald Road, Entry gained

11:53 a.m. Speak to the Chief/Officer, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 Summons Acquaye, Kelvin Samuel, 31, Worcester
 Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Uninsured Motor Vehicle
 1:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:15 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Coldbrook Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 2:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Boyle, Jon Christopher, 60, Holden
 Charges Licenses Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with, Alcohol in Motor Vehicle, Possess Open Container of

3:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Thursday, Oct. 16
 4:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Nancy Drive, Transported to Hospital
 6:04 a.m. Fire – Alarm Activation, Emerald Road, Investigated
 9:43 a.m. Complaint, Barre Paxton Road, Negative Contact
 3:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 5:47 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Ridge Road, Negative Contact
 8:11 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Oct. 17
 8:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation

Issued
 9:30 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, River Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 9:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal Complaint

Summons Burch, Jennifer Corrine, 22, Shrewsbury
 Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With c90 S23, Uninsured Motor Vehicle C90 S34J
 10:14 a.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Maple Avenue, Report Filed

10:23 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Pommogussett Road, Officer/Chief Advised

11:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued

11:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued
 12:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Crawford Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Diaz Manzueta, Albeniz Josue, 24, Auburn
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
 3:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Lewis Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:52 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Autumn Wood Drive, Information Taken
 4:55 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Pommogussett Road, Report Filed

7:22 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised

9:12 p.m. Illegal Burn, Bushy Lane, Investigated

Saturday, Oct. 18
 1:23 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Barre Paxton Road, No Action Required
 12:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Public Assist
 12:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, Barre Paxton Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 2:33 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Verbal Warning

3:06 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Stevens Way, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:01 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 8:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Wachusett Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, Oct. 18
 2:57 a.m. Noise Complaint, Birches Road, Officer Spoke to Party

5:53 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

8:12 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Grimes Road, Investigated

Summons Romero, Vikas Bhide, 23, Medford
 Charges Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Leave Scene of Property Damage
 1:39 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

3:15 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, No Transport Required
 3:15 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Gardner Road, Public Assist

Wednesday, Oct. 15
 2:15 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Coldbrook Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, North Brookfield, Removed from Scene

Thursday, Oct. 16
 2:11 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Oct. 18
 6:58 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, North Brookfield Road, Officer/Chief Advised

2:24 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Old Turnpike Road, Entry Gained

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Oct. 12
 12:23 a.m. Noise Complaint, Old Coldbrook Road, Officer Spoke to Party

1:12 a.m. Noise Complaint, Old Coldbrook Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:48 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Peach Street, Officer Spoke to Party

3:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital
 8:34 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, South Street, Returned

Monday, Oct. 13
 1:20 a.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Hubbardston Road, Negative Contact

6:33 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires Down, Oakham Road, Investigated

6:55 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pleasant Street, Transported to Hospital

9:02 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Allen Drive Road, Investigated

9:16 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Sunrise Avenue, Investigated
 4:24 p.m. Harassment, Barre Police Headquarters, Officer/Chief Advised

10:27 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Summer Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Tuesday, Oct. 14
 4:53 p.m. Safety Concern, Exchange Street, Officer Spoke to Party

6 p.m. Safety Concern, Wheelwright Road, Area Search Negative

7:15 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Peach Street, Mutual Aid Transported

Wednesday, Oct. 15
 8:05 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Valley Road, Transported to Hospital

During the week of Oct. 27-Nov. 3, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 83 building/property checks, 42 directed/area patrols, 10 radar assignments, two traffic controls, nine emergency 911 calls, four citizen assists, two assist other agencies, four motor vehicle investigations, seven safety hazards, one motor vehicle accident, seven animal calls and nine motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Oct. 27
 11:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled

12:19 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

7:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Greenwich Road, Report Taken

9:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued

Tuesday, Oct. 28
 7:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

4 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Oct. 29
 2:55 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer

Handled
Thursday, Oct. 30
 11:35 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Railroad Lane, Transported to Hospital
 2:41 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Rail Trail, Referred to Other Agency
 5:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Report Taken
 6:44 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Upper Church Street, Unfounded

Friday, Oct. 31
 12:52 a.m. Medical Emergency, School Street, Transported to Hospital

6:46 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered

3:31 p.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Referred to Other Agency

9:58 p.m. Safety Hazard, Old Petersham Road, Officer Handled

10:22 p.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Services Rendered

Saturday, Nov. 1
 9:36 a.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, No Action Required
 9:37 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department, Officer Handled

10:06 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard,

9:05 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Varney Lane, Officer Spoke to Party

10:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Valley Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

11:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Cat Alley Road, Mutual Aid Transport

2:01 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party

2:45 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Ruggles Lane, Officer Spoke to Party

7 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning

Thursday, Oct. 16
 1:08 p.m. Safety Concern, Mechanic Street, Area Patrolled

2:11 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital

3:18 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Old Hardwick Road, Officer Spoke to Party

3:33 p.m. Safety Concern, Worcester Road, Negative Contact

8:02 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Wheelwright Road, Report Filed

Friday, Oct. 17
 10:28 a.m. Gunshots, Main Street, Negative Contact

12:03 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, West Street, Mutual Aid Assist

3:18 p.m. Erratic Operator, Valley Road, Officer Spoke to Party

4:53 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, High South Street, Investigated

6:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

9:59 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Britton Road West, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Oct. 31
 12:52 a.m. Medical Emergency, School Street, Transported to Hospital

6:46 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered

3:31 p.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Referred to Other Agency

9:58 p.m. Safety Hazard, Old Petersham Road, Officer Handled

10:22 p.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Services Rendered

Saturday, Nov. 1
 9:36 a.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, No Action Required

9:37 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department, Officer Handled

10:06 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard,

Saturday, Oct. 18
9:17 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Hubbardston Road, Investigated

12:03 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Hubbardston Road, Report Filed

12:52 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Summer Street, Transported to Hospital

1:37 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Varney Lane, Officer/Chief Advised

1:52 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, West Street, Officer Spoke to Party

3:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, South Street, Vehicle Towed

4:23 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, West Street, Information Taken

4:23 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, South Street, Returned

SOUTH BARRE
Sunday, Oct. 12
 8:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Officer/Chief Advised

Tuesday, Oct. 14
 8:29 a.m. Property Damage, 16 Elm South Street, Officer/Chief Advised

11:16 a.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Worcester Road, Information Given

Wednesday, Oct. 15
 6:35 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Old Coach Road, Officer/Chief Advised

7:30 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Nichols Road, Information Given

Saturday, Oct. 18
 10:53 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Wheelwright Road, Officer/Chief Advised

1:19 p.m. Complaint, Cutler Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Taylor Hill Road, Officer Handled
 10:45 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Services Rendered
 12:12 p.m. 911 Misdial, Lower Road, Services Rendered
 1:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
 2:03 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 11:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Upper Church Street, Spoken To

Sunday, Nov. 2
 3:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

3:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Prospect Street, Officer Handled

10:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued

2:06 p.m. Safety Hazard, River Run, Referred to Other Agency

5:54 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Summit Road, Transported to Hospital

9:14 p.m. Assist Other Agency, General Area of Gilbertville, No Action Required

Monday, Nov. 3
 7:32 a.m. Fire/Alarm, Jackson Road, Investigated

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Oct. 12
 3:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, High Bridge Road, Mutual Aid Transport

4:42 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Williamsville Road, Mutual Aid Transport

10:16 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Old Boston Turnpike, Investigated

Monday, Oct. 13
 1:20 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Hubbardston Road, Negative Contact

2:40 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), New Westminster Road, Negative Contact

3:02 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Healdville Road, Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, Oct. 14
 9:48 a.m. Property –

Lost/Found/Surrender, Williamsville Road, Officer Spoke to Party

12:52 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Dogwood North Road, Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, Oct. 15
 11:33 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, New Westminster Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Thursday, Oct. 16
 8:52 p.m. Safety Concern, Williamsville Road, Negative Contact

Friday, Oct. 17
 12:55 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, New Templeton Road, Officer/Chief Advised

4:17 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Old Boston Turnpike, Referred to Other Agency

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Oct. 12
 10:25 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Lincoln Road, Removed from Scene

10:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued

Monday, Oct. 13
 6:42 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Rutland Road, Information Taken

8:52 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), North Brookfield Road, Information Given

8:58 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Coldbrook Road, Investigated

9:12 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Rutland Road, Investigated

2:18 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Parmenter Road, Information Given

2:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Robinson Road, Written Warning

3:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

5:03 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Edson Road, Report Filed

7:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Barre Road, No Transport Required

Tuesday, Oct. 14
 12:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, Officer/Chief Advised

BARRE GAZETTE - SERVING THE TOWNS OF BARRE, HARDWICK, HUBBARDSTON, NEW BRAINTREE, NORTH BROOKFIELD, OAKHAM, PETERSHAM & RUTLAND SINCE 1834

Hardwick Police Log

Out of Town, Officer Handled
Thursday, Oct. 30
 11:35 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Railroad Lane, Transported to Hospital
 2:41 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Rail Trail, Referred to Other Agency
 5:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Report Taken
 6:44 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Upper Church Street, Unfounded

Friday, Oct. 31
 12:52 a.m. Medical Emergency, School Street, Transported to Hospital

6:46 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered

3:31 p.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Referred to Other Agency

9:58 p.m. Safety Hazard, Old Petersham Road, Officer Handled

10:22 p.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Services Rendered

Saturday, Nov. 1
 9:36 a.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, No Action Required
 9:37 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department, Officer Handled

10:06 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard,

Taylor Hill Road, Officer Handled
 10:45 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Services Rendered
 12:12 p.m. 911 Misdial, Lower Road, Services Rendered
 1:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
 2:03 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 11:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Upper Church Street, Spoken To

Sunday, Nov. 2
 3:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

3:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Prospect Street, Officer Handled

10:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued

2:06 p.m. Safety Hazard, River Run, Referred to Other Agency

5:54 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Summit Road, Transported to Hospital

9:14 p.m. Assist Other Agency, General Area of Gilbertville, No Action Required

Monday, Nov. 3
 7:32 a.m. Fire/Alarm, Jackson Road, Investigated

Please remember to recycle this newspaper

Public Notices

Town of Barre Public Hearing Notice Transfer of Liquor License Change of Officers/Directors and a Change of Stock Interest

TAKE NOTICE that the Select Board will conduct a Public Hearing on **Monday, November 17, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Select Board Meeting Room, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA on the following proposed amendments of an All Alcohol Beverages License for 15 Exchange, Inc. dba Brusio Liquor Mart premises located at 15 Exchange Street, Barre, MA for a Change of Officers/Directors and a Change of Stock Interest. Persons wishing to comment may do so at that time. The Board will also consider written comments received prior to the hearing.

For the Select Board:
Melanie Jackson
Town Administrator
11/06/2025

**PUBLIC AUCTION
NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN PURSUANT TO
THE PROVISIONS OF
M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A
THE FOLLOWING
VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD
ON November 22, 2025**

AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

2012 Nissan Pathfinder
VIN: 5N1AR1NB9CC609886
2004 GMC Sierra 1500
VIN: 1GTEK14T14Z173876
2008 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BE46K48U779834
2021 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 5YFYP4MCE0MP061488
2009 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T4BE46K49R137072
2012 Ford Explorer
VIN: 1FMHK8D86CGA58519
2008 Dodge Durango
VIN: 1D8HB58N28F149563
2007 Honda Civic
VIN: 1HGFA16567L031277
2005 Ford F-350 Super Duty
VIN: 1FTWX31515EC34207
2023 Yamaha R1
VIN: JYARN66E5PA003233
**The sale will be held at
Early's on Park Avenue
536 Park Ave.
Worcester MA 0160
11/06, 11/13, 11/20/2025**

**Town of Barre
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Tax Classification Hearing**

TAKE NOTICE that the Select Board will conduct a Public Hearing on **Monday, November 17, 2025 at 5:30PM** in the Select Board's Meeting Room at the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA for the purpose of selecting a residential factor, which will determine the percentages of tax burden to be borne for each class of property for fiscal year 2026. Persons wishing to comment may do so at that time. The Board will also consider written comments received prior to the hearing.

For the Select Board:
Melanie Jackson
11/06, 11/13/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts NOTICE TO COMMERCIAL TIMBER OPERATORS

The Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection, is offering for sale standing timber and cordwood located on the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs and Ware River Watershed. For details, contact the Water Supply Protection Division Office on or before **November 17, 2025**, at 857-274-7090.
11/06/2025

GFA commits \$75,000 to Heywood Hospital over three years

GFA Federal Credit Union announces a three-year contribution commitment totaling \$75,000 to Heywood Hospital, beginning with an initial \$25,000 donation this year.

This support strengthens the longstanding partnership between two organizations founded in Gardner, each dedicated to serving the well-being of the communities in the region, one focused on physical health and the other on financial wellness.

Heywood Hospital, a vital community-operated healthcare provider, has been a cornerstone of accessible, quality care for North Central Massachusetts for over a century. Likewise, GFA Federal Credit Union has supported its members across Gardner and nine surrounding towns, empowering them through financial services that help build

stronger, more resilient communities.

"Heywood Hospital has long been a cornerstone of Gardner, providing care that strengthens both the health and resilience of our community," said Mark Hettinger, President and CEO of GFA Federal Credit Union. "At GFA, we share that same unwavering commitment to service, to community, and to the people who call this region home. Our support for Heywood Hospital is more than a partnership; it's an investment in a healthier, stronger future, ensuring that well-being is safeguarded today and continues to thrive for generations to come."

Funds from GFA's contribution will aid Heywood Hospital in enhancing its facilities, expanding programs and meeting the growing

healthcare needs of the area.

Rozanna Penney, President and CEO of Heywood Healthcare, added, "We are deeply thankful for GFA's generous support and partnership. Both our organizations were born from a commitment to serve this region, and this collaboration continues to build on that legacy. Together, we stand stronger, ensuring that the people in our communities receive the care and support they deserve."

GFA's contribution reflects its long-standing tradition of investing in the people, organizations, and institutions that define the character of the communities we serve. This partnership symbolizes the strength, pride and enduring spirit of our region, communities that work together to care for one another in every way.

First ever poetry contest open to Worcester County residents

SOUTHBRIDGE – The Jacob Edward Annual Poetry Contest: The Bill Tremblay Poetry Prize is open to all members, Worcester County current and former residents and students, and employees of Worcester County businesses.

Winning poems and poets are honored with a winners' reading, including a brief reading by Bill Tremblay, to be held on Jan. 29, 2026.

To enter the Jacob Edward Library annual poetry contest, you must be

either a resident of Worcester County, or a student or employee of institutions within Worcester County. First Place winners of previous JEL annual poetry contests are not eligible to enter.

Submissions will open on Oct. 1 and close on Nov. 28 for the inaugural Annual Contest. No poems will be

considered with a postmark later than Nov. 28.

Contest guidelines

Poems must be the entrant's original work in English and must not be previously published. Poems composed using AI will not be accepted.

Submit no more than three poems in any form.

Paper submissions must not be stapled or attached in any way and poems must be for-

matted for 8 1/2 inch x 11 inch paper.

Do not put your name on the individual poems; entrants will be judged anonymously. Include a cover sheet with your name, address, telephone number, email address, and the title of each poem.

Submissions should be mailed to: Bill Tremblay Poetry Prize, c/o Jacob Edwards Library, 236 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550

Submissions will not be returned. Winners will be listed on the JEL website and announced via the library's Instagram and Facebook pages.

Entry fee

There is a modest entry fee of \$10 to submit. Checks or money orders only made out to the Jacob Edwards Library, please. Please note the submission or the contest fee on the check or money order.

Judging and awards

First Place is a \$100 prize; Second Place, \$75; and Third Place, \$50. Winning poets will also receive a signed copy of Bill Tremblay's book, "Southbridge: My Triggering Town".

Contest winners will be announced in December 2025. The Winners' Reading & Award Reception will be on Jan. 29, 2026 at the Jacob Edwards Library, at 6:30 p.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE from page 1

Elementary and Secondary Education, as well as reviewed student exit surveys from the past several years.

A school district study was completed in 2011, and a regionalization study was completed in 2021.

Grant said a total of 205 students in town opt to school choice out of the school district, with 72 going to Quaboag, 58 to Quabbin, 21 to Tantasqua, and the remainder to other districts.

There are currently 397 students in the school district throughout all grade levels. During the 2002-2003 school year, there were 810 in-district students.

Grant said over 20 school districts in the commonwealth operate with a tuition agreement. Most of them are small towns with lower student enrollment.

Grant said the task force is still waiting for firm numbers about the financial benefits or drawbacks of entering into a tuition agreement, including the cost to educate each student.

He said the school choice rate set by the state is currently \$5,000 per student. He said this amount was set in 1991 and many school districts are pushing to have that amount increased.

The next step for the task force includes reviewing formal proposals from both Quaboag and Quabbin school districts, and scheduling informational meetings with the community.

"We should always be talking about what can we do better for our students," Grant said.

Public comment

North Brookfield Teachers Association President Damian Sarrette expressed concerns about the task force formed to explore a tuition agreement with another school district.

Sarrette acknowledged that the school district was in "dire straits," but he was not in support of closing the high school.

He said the task force meetings were difficult to attend, and his requests for virtual access were not met.

Sarrette said tuitioning out the high school students is not the right decision for the school district.

Special education paraprofessional Margaret Hanson said she doesn't believe the true cost of tuitioning out the students is known, especially in terms of special education.

"My deep feeling is that we cannot fully comprehend what it is going to cost us if we tuition out the kids," she said. "I cannot support tuitioning the kids out."

STEM presentation

Superintendent Timothy McCormick said the school district has had significant growth in the area of STEM education.

He said last spring and this fall the school district received funding from the state to support an Innovative Career Pathways in Advanced Manufacturing. This has allowed the school district to expand its STEM offerings without impacting the local budget.

"That designation allows our students to take STEM courses in grades nine through 12 to receive credentials for real world experiences for the work force while graduating with distinction," he said.

McCormick invited students enrolled in the first year of the program to speak to the School Committee about their experiences.

Sixth grader Micha'el shared that STEM has taught him a lot of skills, which he will be able to use in his future career. He showed the

committee his 3D models he was able to design and print on one of the school district's six 3D printers.

Micha'el said he has even started his own 3D printing business and is earning money to buy a dirt bike.

Eighth graders Noah and Vincent said they have been learning about robotics and how it relates to factory jobs.

"You really get a scope for how it impacts the world and how you can integrate yourself into some of those jobs," Noah said. "You can learn problem solving, time management, and overall just the construction of how these things are made."

Vincent said the robotics program gives the students a head start in their careers.

Ninth grader Dante said the goal of the Advanced Manufacturing pathway is to prepare students for careers in these fields.

Superintendent's goals

McCormick shared his five goals for the 2025-2026 school year. His goals include increasing accountability and achievement in English Language Arts and mathematics, monitoring progress and alignment to the District Strategic Plan, implementing a district wide data cycle process, engaging in continuous leadership development and advancing Universal Design for Learning and high-quality instructional materials.

Administrators' reports
Elementary School Principal Arthur Murphy said the next free senior cit-

izen breakfast will be held Monday, Nov. 17.

He said the school has developed an Instruction and Data room for monthly after-school meetings of the leadership team. He said staff use this room and meeting time to review student data.

Murphy also shared the school's improvement plan, which focuses on curriculum and instruction enhancement, meeting the needs of all students and providing a supportive and inclusive learning environment and fostering a culture of belonging.

High School Principal Brian Beck said teacher Caitlyn Malone attended the OpenSciEd Teacher Leader Network event.

Beck said a school wellness day is being planned for Nov. 12, which is a half-day for students.

Beck said the high school's improvement plan will focus on curriculum and instruction, meeting the needs of all students and fostering a culture of belonging.

Director of Student Services Dr. Michael Baldassarre spoke about the first meeting of the Special Education Parents Advisory Council. He said a number of parents of attended the meeting.

He said the meeting participants developed a survey,

which was sent out to parents and he has received about 40 responses from the survey.

Baldassarre said the SEPAC will host a spaghetti supper on Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. in the elementary school.

He said the school district will be visited by the Department of Education in January 2026.

Baldassarre said he continues to work with area special educators to find resources for parents and find cost savings for the school district through collaboration.

Student Council update

Student Council representative Noah Gillette spoke about homecoming events and

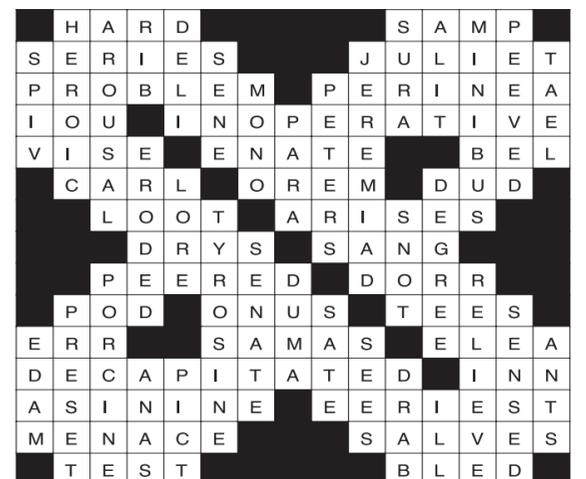
spirit week.

He said the annual Giving Turkey food drive is coming up. Each teacher is given a bag for students to donate nonperishable food items in.

"The teacher with the most will wear the turkey costume," Gillette said.

Recognitions

McCormick said the first senior citizen pancake breakfast of the school year was held recently. He said about 20 seniors enjoyed the free breakfast and he thanked the students and volunteers who worked to make this possible.



EARLY DEADLINE
In observance of **THANKSGIVING**
There will be an
EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE
Place your advertisement no later than
Thurs., Nov. 20, 1 p.m.
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CREW LEADER Sturbridge Department of Public Works

The Town of Sturbridge Department of Public Works (DPW) is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Crew Leader. This is a full-time role with competitive benefits. Starting pay rate of \$34.11/hr, with yearly step increases.

- Key Requirements:**
- Valid Class A or B CDL
 - Equipment Hydraulic License 2A (required)
 - Equipment Hydraulic Licenses 4G and 4E preferred, with the ability to obtain within 6 months
 - Effective communication skills.
 - Two years of supervisory experience in the construction field or municipal.
 - Proficiency in operating all DPW equipment, including but not limited to: grader, loader, roadside mower, excavator, backhoe, and street sweeper.
- Application Details:
- Application and job description are available on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>
 - Interviews will begin on November 4, 2025, and will continue until the position is filled.
- Additional Information:**
- The DPW operates as a union shop.
 - The Town of Sturbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).
- For more information, please refer to the job description or contact the Sturbridge DPW directly at 508-347-2515 or dpw@sturbridge.gov.

Job Posting: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS Town of Sturbridge, MA

The Town of Sturbridge is seeking a dynamic, experienced, and highly qualified professional for the position of Assistant Director of Public Works. This is a senior-level, management position that will support the Director of Public Works in overseeing the planning, administration, and daily operations of the Public Works Department.

About our community
Sturbridge is a welcoming community known for its picturesque landscapes, historic charm, and vibrant local attractions. As Assistant DPW Director, you will play a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing the Town's infrastructure, ensuring a high quality of life for our residents.

Key responsibilities
The Assistant Director will provide a variety of engineering and administrative services under the guidance of the DPW Director, with a primary focus on:

- Conducting plan reviews for subdivisions, site plans, roadways, water, sewer, and stormwater designs.
- Managing all stormwater permitting activities associated with the NPDES MS4 General Permit.
- Supervising and overseeing the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS).
- Coordinating snow and ice removal activities.
- Addressing resident inquiries related to town projects, utilities, and permitting.
- Presenting engineering reports to and responding to inquiries from town boards and committees, including the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Conservation Commission.

Qualifications

- Education and Experience: A bachelor's degree in civil/environmental engineering or a related field from an accredited four-year college or university is required. Candidates must have two to five years of related public works experience and/or training, or an equivalent combination of •
- Technical Knowledge: Knowledge of public construction bidding and Massachusetts procurement laws is essential.
- Computer Skills: Proficiency in spreadsheet software, GIS software (such as ESRI), and word processing software is required.
- Communication Skills: Strong verbal and written communication skills are necessary to interact effectively with town staff, other agencies, and the general public.
- Licenses: Must possess a valid Driver's License.

Benefits

The Town of Sturbridge offers a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package that includes:

- Salary up to \$100,000 DOQ
- Health Insurance,
- Paid time off and paid holidays
- Retirement Plan

How to apply

Submit a cover letter, resume, and Town job application to Frances Wychorski, Constituent Liaison in the Town Administrator's Office, via email at bosadmin@sturbridge.gov or via mail at **308 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566**. This position will remain open until filled. The Town of Sturbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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John Jahne joins Country Bank as Chief Technology Officer

Country Bank a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, announces the appointment of John Jahne as Chief Technology Officer, a key strategic hire to support the bank's continued growth, operational excellence and digital transformation initiatives.

Jahne brings over 25 years of experience in technology leadership, vendor management and enterprise operations. With a proven track record in managing high-performing technical teams and delivering cost-effective solutions, John's approach aligns perfectly with Country Bank's commitment to customer service, efficiency and innovation.

John has been a strategic leader on projects involving core banking conversions, mergers and acquisitions, and strategic sourcing, all while maintaining a sharp focus on cost savings and service improvements. He has also managed complex vendor relationships and negotiated high-impact contracts that improved operational performance and supported long-term institutional goals.

"John is a dynamic and forward-thinking leader," said Marco Bernasconi, Chief Operating and Innovation Officer. "His deep expertise in IT strategy, enterprise architecture, and core banking systems will enhance our capabilities as we continue to evolve to meet the needs of our customers and communities."

Throughout his career,

John has been a strategic leader on projects involving core banking conversions, mergers and acquisitions, and strategic sourcing, all while maintaining a sharp focus on cost savings and service improvements. He has also managed complex vendor relationships and negotiated high-impact contracts that improved operational performance and supported long-term institutional goals.

In addition to his corporate leadership role, John previously operated his own consulting and training firm, further

demonstrating his entrepreneurial mindset and depth of technical knowledge in information security, server and network infrastructure, and application engineering.

"I'm excited to join Country Bank at such a pivotal moment," said Jahne. "This is an organization deeply committed to its customers, communities and corporate values of integrity, service, teamwork, excellence and prosperity, and I look forward to contributing to its mission by delivering smart, scalable, and customer-focused

technology solutions."

Outside of his professional work, Jahne is a dedicated community leader and educator. He serves on the Board of the Children's Community School in Waterbury, Connecticut, supporting its mission to educate the minds, bodies, and spirits of children from urban environments. He is also a long-standing member of the Simsbury Technology Task Force, helping the town enhance its technology strategy and infrastructure. Within the banking industry, he contributes as a faculty mem-

ber for the Connecticut Bankers Association's Connecticut School of Finance and Management, where he teaches Technology in Banking.

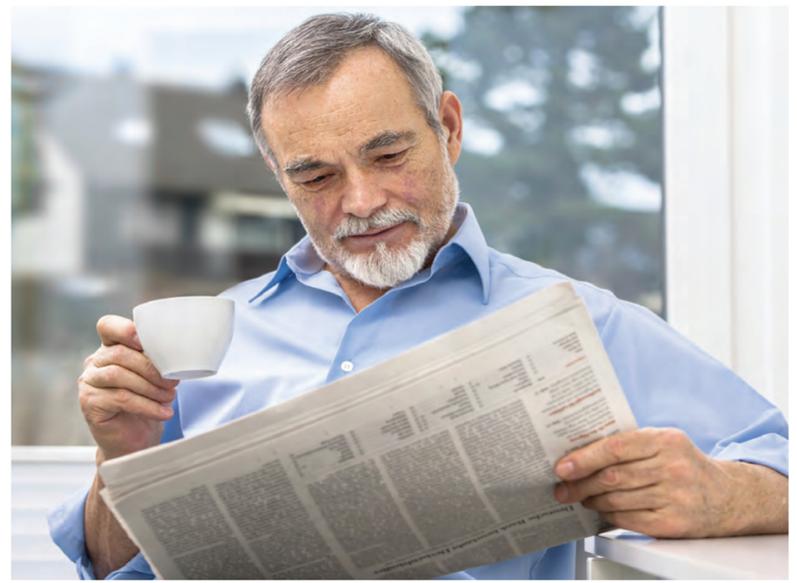
Country Bank is a full-service \$2.0 billion mutual community bank serving Central and Western Massachusetts with 14 banking centers and 2 business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge and Worcester.



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TAG SALE
DANA WOODS ANNUAL tag sale: Belchertown, George Hinnum Rd off Rt 9 (turn at Stop & Shop) Children's clothes, toys, furniture, housewares, tools and more! **Saturday, June 10th, 9:00am-3:00pm**

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WATERWHEEL REALTY
Paul Varney Sr.
 Real Estate Broker and Owner
 paulraymondvarney@gmail.com

Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. Asking \$289,000. See listing on MLS # 73433198

Brand New Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 37 Gauthier Rd., Barre. This is a 55 and better community. This home features an open kitchen/living room concept, perfect for family gatherings. Two large bedrooms on opposite ends of the home. Master bedroom has a walk-in closet and large attached bathroom. Just off the kitchen is a laundry area with door leading to back deck and yard. There is a monthly HOA fee of \$675 per month which includes water, sewage, rubbish removal, and taxes. All exterior and interior doorways are 36" wide. Asking \$225,000. See listing on MLS # 73397436

Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 32 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. Includes large carport and two large garden sheds. Approx. living area 1,000 SqFt. Asking \$139,900. See listing on MLS # 73398863.

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Monday - 6:30 p.m. TRIVIA NIGHT
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. MUSIC BINGO

Chunky Blanket Workshop
 November 18th
 See Website for More Information