

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## STM finishes in record time

By Eric Goodhart  
Correspondent

HUBBARDSTON – This Special Town Meeting was heavily promoted and preceded by a short video by the Town Administrator in keeping with his open-door transparency policy explaining each of the articles that would be discussed and voted on at the Town meeting.

Town Administrator Nathan Boudreau in his weekly “Hubbardston Headlines” video with Candace Livingston, Town Clerk, gave everyone a heads-up ahead of the date. Plus, ample opportunity to ask questions ahead of time, which Boudreau promised to answer during the meeting.

The meeting was gavelled into order at 7:03 by Moderator, Rene Lafayette. There were six articles on the agenda. The first two were the most significant. They were connected because they concerned amending the budget for fiscal year 2024 to meet the Quabbin Regional School District budget request.

The school district is the biggest employer serving five towns and with the largest operating budget. Barre and Hubbardston being much larger in size with 5,400 and 4,500 citizens respectively; the other three with 4,116 combined is why the home owners in those two towns are asked to contribute more. The Quabbin School District requested a 9.02% increase in Article 9 from Hubbardston at the Annual Town meeting this past June 6.

At the annual meeting, it sparked some discussion, including a personal appeal by the outgoing Superintendent of schools. At the time, Hubbardston approved a 6% (\$325,495) funding increase for the Quabbin School District. That fell short of the School Board’s request for a 9.02% increase, which would require an additional \$162,748.

Boudreau and Select Board Clerk Heather Monroe explained that, though the town wants the best resources for all students, the town simply cannot take any more money from the departments, particularly the Fire, Police and Department of Public Works that are already understaffed and challenged with turnover seeking higher wages.

Since then and after very careful review of where money was to be allocated and not using what many towns used during the pandemic to fill budget gaps with “free cash.” Article 1 took various budgeted funds and moved them around to fit what was needed from services that were not needed, like the \$14,000 budgeted from the Chapter 115 benefits eligible veterans fund because there are presently no eligible veterans in town.

These purpose-specific, one-year funds will cover the increased costs for this fiscal year. Reallocating these funds will not require permanent cuts to essential services or tapping into Fiscal Year 2024 Free Cash reserves. This is a stopgap measure to get through the current Fiscal Year 24 while protecting critical services going forward without cutting them.

See HUBBARDSTON STM, page 5



## Quabbin students present ‘Matilda, the Musical’



Quabbin students are busy rehearsing for the upcoming production of “Matilda, the Musical” in the auditorium at Quabbin Regional High School.



BARRE – The Quabbin Performing Arts presents “Matilda, the Musical” at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St.

Show dates are Friday, Nov 10 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale and may be purchased by visiting [www.our.show/quabbin](http://www.our.show/quabbin).

Submitted photos

Quabbin Performing Arts presents “Matilda, the Musical” on Friday, Nov. 10 at 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. They recently held a dress rehearsal.

## Peter Durant wins state Senate seat

Republicans gain a senator in General Court

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
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Cities and towns in the Worcester Hampshire District for Senate in General Court held a Special State Election on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Peter J. Durant, a Republican from Spencer, won the seat previously held by Democrat Anne Gobi, over Jonathan D. Zlotnik of Gardner, the Democratic candidate. In Barre, 17.09% or 712 of the 4,165 registered voters (2,083 precinct 1 and 2,082 precinct 2) went to the polls.

Of those 396 (198 precinct 1 and 198 precinct 2) voted for Peter J. Durant and 316 (184 precinct 1 and 132 precinct 2) for Jonathan D. Zlotnik. A total of 712 registered went to the polls Tuesday with 382 from precinct 1

See ELECTION, page 6

## School district’s MCAS scores show ‘work in progress’

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – Superintendent Timothy McCormick shared the school district’s results from the spring Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System testing.

At the Oct. 26 School Committee meeting, McCormick said MCAS has been around for over 20 years now, and this spring, all students across the commonwealth tested on Next-Generation, which was launched in 2017. The original MCAS test is now known as Legacy.

Next-Gen is more focused on critical thinking and the test became more rigorous. Testing is also done solely on a computer.

McCormick said that since questions on Next-Gen are more in-depth, students that may have scored “proficient” on Legacy, may not score “meeting expectations” on Next-Gen.

“The test itself is more challenging,” he said.

McCormick said the spring MCAS scores are a “work in progress.”

All grade levels are currently scoring below the state average in English Language Arts. Science is also below the state average for all grade levels.

For math, grade four scored higher than the state average, while other grades continue to need work.

Data collected from 2021-2023 looks at growth. Grade six showed growth in ELA, but most grade levels for the past two years have “trickled off.”

McCormick said growth could not be calculated for classes with

less than 20 students.

“Right now, North Brookfield is in the ‘limited to no progress toward targets’...we’ve been kind of in that spot for a couple years now. We have not made enough growth to move us up toward ‘moderate progress toward targets’ or ‘substantial progress toward targets,’” he said.

McCormick said chronic absenteeism is a concern that is impacting learning.

“We have too many kids who are at 10 or more absences for the year,” he said.

McCormick said the High School received four out of four points for advanced coursework completion.

“That was an asset to our High School,” he said.

Compared to similar school districts, North Brookfield is ranked at 23% for “meeting or exceeding” in ELA for grades three through eight. The lowest scoring in the cohort of school districts is North Adams at 22% and the highest being Hull at 47%.

Quaboag Regional School District ranked at 36%.

For meeting or exceeding in math for grades three through eight, North Brookfield ranked 22%, compared to North Adams at 17%, Hull at 44% and Quaboag at 28%.

Grade 10 ranked 38% for ELA and 30% for math. Grades five through eight ranked 23% for science.

“This is not where we want to be,” McCormick. “What we really need to stress are the next steps and what we are doing right now and

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 8

## Author describes life and death of Bathsheba Spooner

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)

HARDWICK – It’s hard to imagine the peaceful, rolling hills of Hardwick as once being the home to one of history’s most infamous women; Bathsheba Ruggles Spooner.

On Nov. 5, the Harwick Historical Society hosted author and historian Andrew Noone to discuss his book, “Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy”. Noone read excerpts from the book, detailing the life of Bathsheba, as well as her public execution for plotting the murder of her husband, Joshua Spooner.

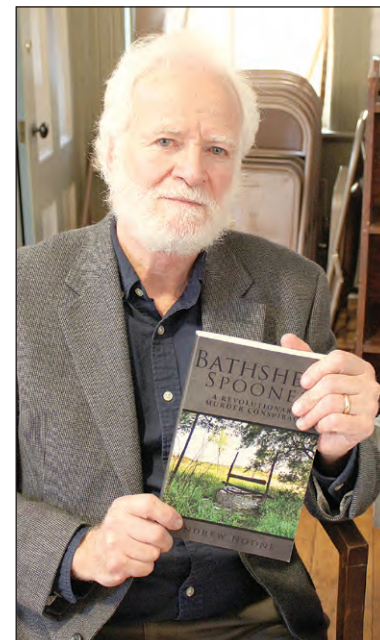
Bathsheba was the daughter of Brigadier General Timothy Ruggles, a British Loyalist who settled his family on a farm on Upper Church Street and who is credited with founding the oldest fair in the U.S., the Hardwick Fair. A summertime tradition residents in town still celebrate over 260 years later.

Traces of the property are still noticeable today, including a large boulder that sits in the midst of a field, where Ruggles proudly flew the Union Jack that could be seen from miles away.

Bathsheba was also her father’s favorite child, Noone said.

“Few men were as detested in Massachusetts in the year 1774,” Noone said of Ruggles, who was ultimately banished and later exiled to Nova Scotia.

Noone said the Bathsheba married Spooner and settled in Brookfield to raise their family.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Worcester author and historian Andrew Noone hosted a talk and book signing for his book “Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy” at the Town House this past Sunday.

Bathsheba’s sister Martha Tufts also lived in Brookfield.

However, the marriage to Spooner was not a happy one, Noone said, and it could have been an arranged marriage.

Known to have a sharp temper, Bathsheba was said to lie incessantly and was romantically connected to several men during her marriage to Spooner.

A lot remains unknown about Spooner, and the type of man he was, but some records indicate he could have been an abusive drunk.

“Was she insane?” Noone

asked. “We can only speculate.”

As Bathsheba became increasingly dissatisfied in her marriage, she became involved with teenager Ezra Ross of Topsfield.

At just 15 years old, Ross left home and enlisted in the military. After being discharged in 1776, Ross was traveling home through the brutal New England winter, when he became overcome by illness.

He found himself at the Spooner residence, where Bathsheba nursed him back to health, and the two formed a bond.

Ross stayed with the family as he recovered and eventually became tangled in one of history’s most notorious murder trials.

Bathsheba had tried to convince Ross to poison her husband, during one of his trips to Spooner’s property in Princeton, but he was unable to do so.

She soon enlisted the help of British soldiers William Brooks and James Buchanan, both of whom were staying at the Spooner home.

They ambushed Spooner on March 1, 1778, beating him to death before throwing his body down a well. The well is located off East Main Street, marked by an engraved stone that reads “Spooner Well.”

“The night was cold... he might have wished he had taken his horse,” Noone said of Spooner’s fateful walk home from the local tavern.

Noone said it doesn’t appear that Ross knew about the plans for the ambush until his return to

See BATHSHEBA, page 8



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# News of the Towns



**Round Town**  
Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

## Veterans Day ceremony set for Nov. 11

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

### American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary - Unit 2 Barre will meet at 7pm on Monday, Nov. 13 in Post 2 headquarters, 450 South Barre Road. Refreshments will be served by Anne Hardaker, Robin Vancot and Diane Cooley.

### Christmas in Barre Holiday Craft Fair

This year the Christmas in Barre Holiday Craft Fair will be held the Saturday before the Christmas in Barre events. The Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., in the cafeteria. The craft fair is a chance for shoppers to support local for the holidays and buy gifts early from over 50 vendors. Items include knitted and crocheted items, candies, baked items, jewelry, stained glass pieces, candles and more.

### English Social Tea

The first event of the 250th anniversary year will be a free English Social Tea on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024 from 2-4 p.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. Reservations are required and may be made by email at 250anniversary@townofbarre.com. People may also sign up at the Barre Senior Center or at Grand View Terrace by Friday, Jan. 5, 2024

## Cool Kids to perform in North Brookfield on Nov. 17

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Cool Kids Choir will perform a show beginning at 6 p.m. at the North Brookfield Elementary School Auditorium on Friday, Nov. 17.

In addition to the energetic and enthusiastic singing and dancing of the Cool Kids, the concert will feature an original song written and performed by the fifth and sixth grade ALOT Kids (All Leaders of Tomorrow) and a special performance by Cool Kids' Director Channing LeBlanc.

Cool Kids Choir is an award-winning ten-week program for elementary school aged children in grades two-six who love to move and love music.

The after-school workshop utilizes popular music to inspire and empower children to be the best version of themselves while giving them opportunities to feel pride. Singing, moving, listening, speaking, being silly and being in control, showing respect and kindness - life skills are taught and reinforced through songs the children know and love.

CKC is sponsored by the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House as part of its ROAR program. The Friends are grateful for the support of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

## OHA sponsors walk to Coldbrook Springs



Local historian, Bob Locke, center, with Frank Morrill next to him led a hike with about 25 people to Coldbrook Springs sponsored by the Oakham Historical Association on Saturday, Oct. 28 after three rain postponements. They ended up with a summer like day.

This is of the Boston and Maine Coldbrook Depot from the Frank Morrill's extensive collection of the glass negatives by renowned early 1900s photographer, William Bullard.



## Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com



## Unitarian church to hold Gingerbread Fair

The First Parish Unitarian Church, on the Common, will hold their annual Gingerbread Fair on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be spices, candy, home baked goods, crafts, knitting, raffles, fresh laurel wreaths and baskets evergreen.

### Old Fashion Country Christmas Fair

The annual Old Fashion Country Christmas Fair is coming to the Hubbardston Senior Center, 7 Main St., on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This event features handmade crafts by many talented local artisans. It's the perfect place to find unique gifts for the holidays. Browse an assortment of lovely homemade items like knitted goods, baked treats, jams, soaps and more. There will also be fun activities like a Chinese auction, lottery tree and other games. There will be home-cooked food like soups and fresh bread available for dining in or taking home. Special guests Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be stopping by from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. so bring the children for photos and some holiday magic.

### SHINE counselor

Open Enrollment runs from Sunday, Oct. 15 through Thursday, Dec. 7. During this time, people can change their Medicare Plan effective Monday, Jan. 1. People may contact the Hubbardston Senior Center to speak with a Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone counsellor in person or over the phone. SHINE has certified counselors to help you with questions about Medicare. The services are free and unbiased. SHINE counselors are available to discuss all options related to Medicare and additional coverage. They do not sell any plans.

### Senior center events

The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., events include: Coffee with Friends Monday through Thursday at 9:45 a.m.; Bingo from 12:30-3 p.m. on Mondays; Knitting Group at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and Wii Bowling beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. It's renewal time for health insurance. This is an opportunity to ask questions.

## Food Pantry holds monthly distribution

BARRE – The next Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Thursday, Nov. 16 will again be “drive-through” style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand east entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the spread of the COVID-19 sub variant viruses.

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

In order to maintain safe physical distances between vol-

unteers and between volunteers and clients Nov. 16 will again be “drive-through” style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand east entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St.

They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations. Based on the success of distributions so far, the Food Pantry volunteers believe this “drive-through” style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

The Barre Food Pantry also needs food donations. Donations of shelf stable groceries such as

canned, boxed and bottled food items to share with neighbors who lack food security. Items may be dropped off at the Woods Memorial Library at 19 Pleasant St., the Barre Senior Center at 450 South Barre Road, the Barre Health Center at Worcester Road or the Taproot Bookstore, 5 Exchange St.

People should not arrive to volunteer on Nov. 16 without first calling Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921, Dave Petrovick at 978-852-1696 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

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

## Classic Christmas on the Common is Nov. 26

HARDWICK – Classic Christmas on the Common will be held Sunday, Nov. 26 from 3-7 p.m. on the town common.

There will be holiday fun with a visit from Santa, games

and activities, 10+ vendors, annual tree lighting, touch a truck, hay rides, gingerbread house competition, holiday parade, dinner and bonfire at Mimi's.

Purchase your Hardwick

winter hat and 2024 calendar featuring photos taken by residents.

A cookie walk will be held in the Town House with proceeds to benefit Hardwick's Christmas for Kids.

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

## Red Door Fayre is Nov. 11

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will host its Red Door Fayre on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

Free lunch served to all veterans.

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# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE.

Barre Housing Authority – Nov. 9 and Jan. 11, 2024 at 3 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.  
 Zoning Board of Appeals – Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.  
 Select Board – Nov. 13 at 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and Nov. 20 at 6 p.m.  
 Water Commission – Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m.  
 DPW Commission – Nov. 13 at 7 p.m.  
 Conservation Committee – Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.  
 Sewer Commission – Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 11 at 5 p.m.  
 Cable Advisory Committee – Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Dec. 28 at 11 a.m.

### HARDWICK

Board of Selectmen – Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Recycling Commission – Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Committee – Nov. 20 at 3 p.m.  
 Historical Commission – Nov. 15 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Capital Planning Committee – Nov. 20 at 3 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Water District – Nov. 21 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustees – Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Emergency Management Committee – Nov. 14 at 3 p.m.  
 Cultural Council – Nov. 14, Nov. 28 and Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Nov. 14, Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and Dec. 26 at 7 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Nov. 15 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Memorial Day Committee – Nov. 15 at 4 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Nov. 16, Dec. 6 and Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Cultural Council – Nov. 28 and Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 6 at 6 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Council on Aging – Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.  
 Downtown Development Committee – Nov. 13 and Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.  
 Select Board – Nov. 21, Dec. 5 and Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Nov. 22 and Dec. 27 at 6 p.m.  
 Special Town Meeting – Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Cable/Internet Committee – Nov. 9 at 6 p.m.  
 Select Board – Nov. 13, Nov. 27, Dec. 11 and Dec. 26 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Nov. 15 and Dec. 20 at 5 p.m.  
 Special Town Meeting – Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Select Board – Nov. 9 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Nov. 9 at 6 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Nov. 13 at 10 a.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Nov. 14 at 10 a.m.  
 Board of Health – Nov. 16 at 6 p.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – Nov. 16 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 28 at 7 p.m.

### RUTLAND

Library Trustees – Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.  
 Special Town Meeting – Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.

## FOSC host concert to welcome the holiday season Dec. 10

GILBERTVILLE – Daniel Brevik, bass-baritone and Jennifer Fijal-Brevik, mezzo-soprano, will present a medley of stunning vocal performance of classical, musical theater, and holiday season songs, accompanied by pianist, Ania Bostock, on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St.

A public reception will follow the concert. Tickets are \$20 at the door or online by visiting <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofthestonechurch/888277>. Youth under 18 and holders of the Massachusetts Cultural Council "Card to Culture" will be admitted at no charge.

American bass-baritone Daniel Brevik is praised for having a "massive, focused, rich warm timbre." Boasting a fan base of over 60,000 monthly listeners on Spotify and more on TikTok, his singing in classical and popular genres reaches audiences on a global scale.

A recipient of Opera Theater of Saint Louis' Richard Gaddes Career Grant and the Wendy Shattuck Presidential Scholarship at the New England Conservatory, Brevik was hailed by The Washington Post for having "an impressive, sonorous voice" while Opera Today claimed he could "rattle the rafters one moment and be lullingly conversational the next."

A Massachusetts resident, Brevik has made lasting impressions as a soloist in Boston performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Handel's Messiah and the Mozart Requiem.

Jennifer Fijal-Brevik, mezzo-soprano, holds a Bachelor's degree in vocal performance and pedagogy from Plymouth State University and a Master's in Voice and Opera from the New England Conservatory, where she performed in the American premiere of Rossini's historic opera La Gazzetta. She sang in Don Boothman's quartet at "Let



Daniel and Jennifer Brevik perform concert of holiday songs.

Joy Resound," the re-opening concert for the Stone Church in April of 2016. She has appeared in FOSC concerts twice since that time. Fijal-Brevik grew up in Palmer and was mentored by Boothman, a renowned baritone and Hardwick resident for many years. She serves as Music Minister at First Presbyterian Church in Hartford, teaches voice and is the Director of Education at Falcetti School of Music.

Piano instructor and collaborative pianist Ania Bostock won the New England Piano Championship in 2001 and started teaching music at age 16. She is Music Director of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in South Hadley. Ania is faculty pianist at several local schools and colleges and teaches at Falcetti School of Music.

When the Breviks last appeared together at the Stone Church, in December of 2019, audience members expressed awe at the quality of their performance. This concert will open with a pair of classical gems: Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Samuel Barber's 1958 English-language aria "Must the Winter come so soon?" and "Aleko's Cavatina" from Sergei Rachmaninoff's first opera. These lyrical songs of nature and tragic love will resonate with listeners approaching a New England winter.

The program will then switch magically to Disney-inspired songs: Liz Calloway's show-stop-

ping "Once Upon a December," nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Original Song, and the transformative "Evermore," as Beauty and the Beast's title character learns to love and expresses his heartbreak and loneliness for the first time. Delights continue with beloved gems from musical theater. In the second half of the program, the talented singers will open up their gifts for holiday season listening.

This concert is supported in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Council, a state agency.

At home viewers may enjoy watching recordings of previous concerts through links on the Friends of the Stone Church website by visiting [friendsofthestonechurch.org/music/](http://friendsofthestonechurch.org/music/).

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. is a public charitable corporation and community group organized in 2015 and open to all. They are currently in Phase 4 of stabilizing the stone tower, with funding, in part, from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, a program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, administered through a collaborative agreement between MassDevelopment and the Mass Cultural Council. They welcome donations toward the ongoing preservation project and the programs at [friendsofthestonechurch.org](http://friendsofthestonechurch.org) or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

## Oakham

Ellenor Downer  
 edowner@turley.com



## Sea Cadets to host Veterans breakfast

The United States Navy Sea Cadets will hold a breakfast for Veterans on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 9-11 a.m. at the Municipal Building on Barre Road. All veterans are invited.

### OHA annual lottery

The Oakham Historical Association will be selling tickets for their Annual Lottery at the Oakham Congregational Church fair on Saturday, Nov. 18. There are 20 chances to win \$50 with each ticket. It runs from Tuesday, Jan. 9 to Thursday, March 14, 2024. Every Tuesday and Thursday during that time the middle two numbers of the evening drawing of the Mass Lottery Game is the winning number. A check for \$50 will be sent. People can also purchase a ticket through December by sending a check for \$20 made out to Oakham Historical Association, P.O. Box 236, Oakham, MA 01068. There are only 100 tickets and they go fast. If people have any questions, they may call Kathy Young at 508-882-3137 or Linda Housman at 508-882-3990. They should leave a message if there is no answer and they will get back to them.

### SHINE counselor

A Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone counselor will be at the Oakham Senior Center, located in the lower level of Town Hall on Thursdays, Nov. 9 at 1 p.m., Nov. 16 at 10 a.m. and Nov. 30 at 1 p.m.

### Church fair

The Harvest and Holly Fair sponsored by the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will be held Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The Fair Committee seeks crafters and vendors for the day of the fair. Cost is \$20. Anyone interested in having a table should call Ellie Downer at 774-262-5882 or email [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com). The church will have a baked table, cookie walk, snack bar, craft table, raffles, quilt raffle and white elephant room.

### White elephant table donations

Anyone wishing to donate holiday decorations, household items, small appliances, toys, puzzles or tools for the White Elephant table at the church fair may leave them in the side door hallway. Please no electronics or clothes.

## Author presents Quabbin history talk at Grange on Nov. 20

WARE –Join author Elena Palladino in a discussion of her book "Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley: Drowned by the Quabbin" and learn about the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir, and along with it, the destruction of four towns.

The discussion will take place on Monday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. at Ware Grange, 297 Belchertown Road. There is no cost to attend, and all are welcome.

Copies of the book will be available for sale after the program.

## New Braintree Library holds story time

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library offers its next Story Time programs on Monday, Nov. 6 and Monday, Nov. 20, both at 9 a.m.

This reading and crafts program for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays

at the library, 45 Memorial Drive.

On Monday, Nov. 6, the stories will be "Barnyard Dance" by Sandra Boynton and "Big Red Barn" by Margaret Wise Brown. Monday, Nov. 20 will feature "10 Fat Turkeys" by

Tony Johnston and "The Night Before Thanksgiving" by Natasha Wing.

Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

### 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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 of Belchertown  
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Places to go... Things to do...

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Hubbardston Scholarship Committee  
**HARVEST BREAKFAST**  
 Sunday, November 12th, 2023  
 Serving 8:00am to 11:00am  
 HUBBARDSTON ROD & GUN CLUB  
 35 Williamsville Road  
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 Bacon, Sausage, Pancakes,  
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 Ellenor Downer  
 Editor  
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# Opinion

## Guest Column



By Russell Gloor

### When should I retire and claim my Social Security benefits?

**Dear Rusty:** I am 64 years old and having difficulty working due to my arthritis, but I can continue part time as a podiatrist. I do not know the best way to determine when to retire. What is the formula or a way to determine which is a better choice?

Signed: **Undecided**

**Dear Undecided**

There is a difference between deciding when to retire from working and deciding when to claim your Social Security benefits. For the former, you should consult with a certified financial advisor, but I'll provide you with how Social Security fits into your personal circumstances. In deciding when to claim Social Security, you should look at your financial needs, your life expectancy, your work status and your marital status. There is no one formula right for everyone because everyone's circumstances are different, but here are some things to help decide what is right for you:

Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects Social Security before reaching their Full Retirement Age. Your FRA is 66 years and 8 months and that is the point at which you get 100% of the SS benefit earned from a lifetime of working.

If you collect SS before your FRA and continue to work, there is a limit to how much you can earn without jeopardizing your benefits. For example, the earnings limit for 2023 is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. They "take away" benefits by withholding future payments until they recover the penalty for exceeding the limit. If your earnings are substantially over the limit, you will be ineligible to collect Social Security until either your earnings are less or you reach your FRA.

If you claim SS before your FRA your benefit amount will be permanently reduced. If, for example, you claim SS to start at age 65 your monthly benefit will be about 89% of what it would be at your FRA. That reduced benefit would not change thereafter except for Cost of Living Adjustments usually granted annually.

If Social Security will be a major part of your retirement income, then waiting to get a higher monthly benefit may be a prudent strategy for you. The longer you wait to claim the more your benefit will be.

Your SS benefit will continue to grow until you are 70 years old and at 70 your monthly benefit will be about 27% more than it would be at your FRA. Your maximum SS benefit will be attained at age 70 but waiting until age 70 to claim is only prudent if you anticipate a long life expectancy.

Life expectancy is a very important factor in deciding when to claim SS. If you claim at age 70 instead of at your FRA, you will need to live until you are about 83 to breakeven money wise. If you live even longer than that, then waiting until 70 will yield the highest monthly amount and the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. But if your anticipated life expectancy is less, claiming earlier may be a better choice.

If you are married and expect your wife to survive you, consider that the benefit your wife can get as your widow will be based on your SS benefit when you die, thus the longer you wait to claim the more your wife's benefit as your widow may be.

If you predecease your wife, her benefit will be based on the amount you were receiving at your death if that is more than her personally earned SS benefit.

So, as you can see, deciding when to claim Social Security is a decision to be made after carefully evaluating your personal circumstances as described above. I hope this provides what you need to make an informed decision, but if you have further questions, people may call 1-888-750-2622 or email [SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org).

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



## In Past Pages

5 years (Nov. 15, 2018)

The cold winds blew across Barre Common as residents, veterans and cadets from the Quabbin Regional High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp program came out to remember the 100th anniversary of the World War I armistice. The signing of the armistice took place in a rial car in Compiègne, France with Germany and representatives of the Allies from France and Great Britain at 5 a.m. n the morning to end fighting, which went into effect six hours later at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918. The Barre Historical Society opened after the ceremony so people could look through its World War I exhibit. In the next town over, the Oakham Historical Museum also held special hours Sunday so people could see its World War I exhibit. During the ceremony, Robert Bentley read the names of the 13 that lost their lives in the "Great War" following the moment of silence.

Christmas comes early as member of the St. Francis of Assisi Parish invite one and all to their annual Holiday Fair in the center of Barre on Sunday, Nov. 18 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. "This event is for everyone in Central Massachusetts to spend a day together enjoying each other's company and purchasing some wonder gifts," said fair organizer, Kathy Inman. Held in the hall of St. Joseph's Church on Barre Common, the fair kicks off with a breakfast from 8:30-10:30 a.m. For those who cannot make breakfast, the elves will be busy cooking up lunch from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Plenty of shopping options are available including craft table, one of a kind jewelry pieces, outdoor Christmas baskets, baked goods, raffles and more.

Mesa Farm, 67 Muschopauge Road, Rutland, will hold a living Nativity Saturday, Dec. 8 and Sunday, Dec. 9. Two performances will be held each evening at 4 and 5:30 p.m. The hour long shows will consist of carol singing and a narration and re-enactment of the nativity story in a barn with live animals. There will be no charge although attendees are requested to bring a plate of cookies to share. Hot chocolate and coffee will be provided. The Sunday performances will have sign language interpretation.

10 years (Nov. 14, 2013)

The Oakham Board of Selectmen on the recommendation of Police Chief Fred Gehring unanimously promoted Sgt. Michael Sweet to Deputy Chief and Officer Kevin Tucker to Sergeant. Sweet has been on the Oakham police force since 1997 and Officer Tucker since 2010. Chief Gehring said the hours would remain the same for the two officers, but their hourly rate would increase by \$1.

Eva Grimes asked Oakham Selectmen to Put Gardner Morse's name on the War Memorial plaque in the upstairs hall of the Oakham Town Hall building. She said he served for years during the Vietnam War. She presented the board with copies of his papers showing Oakham as his town of origin when he entered the armed forces. She said the company that engraved the

### LOOK BACK New Officers at Barre Historical Society - 1997



Pictured are the new Barre Historical Society officers elected at a meeting on May 1, 1997. From left are, Olive Tuttle, secretary; Ann Meilus Smith, vice president; Victoria King, treasurer; Rita Robinson, president; Gordon Robinson, assistant treasurer and Ed Yaglou, board of directors.

names on the original plaque would come out and add his name for \$265. Selectmen approved the place of his name and the cost to have it engraved on the plaque.

The Quabbin Regional High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps held their annual inspection ceremony last Thursday in the high school gym. After the company formation, the ceremony opened with the welcoming of the official party complete with a bell and side boys. After the presentation of the colors, several NJROTC cadets and the National Anthem acepella.

25 years (Nov. 12, 1998)

The road was new, not even open to traffic yet, on that summer day in 1937 when the first major accident and fatality was recorded. This began the history for the intersection where Routes 122 and 32 meet in Petersham. Police Chief Denis Legere said his records indicate a "multitude of accidents" have happened there in the past 61 years, a good many since he came to the Petersham Police Department in 1970. The safety issue became major as recently as Sept. 11 when the latest crash critically injured John C. Coolidge of New Salem, whose parents Mr. and Mrs Horace Coolidge are Petersham residents. Coolidge, who remains hospitalized with major injuries, had to be extricated by the Jaws of Life and the rescue team from Athol. He was struck by a vehicle coming up Hardwick Road from the south, a situation that Legere says has been the predominant pattern, though it may seem strange to some, who find crossing the bigger road from the town side to be a more tricky entrance.

Sarah Dyer, chairman of the Barre Common Rehabilitation Committee, has announced the town has applied for a construction grant to fund the Barre Common project and has set gals to be achieved by the next public meeting on Jan. 28, 1999. Some of the goals have already been accomplished and the seven-member commit-

tee is working on the rest of the goals. The committee, in addition to Dyer, includes Gabriella Carroll, Joseph Higgins, Lois Mortelli, Earl Sample, Joshua Smith and Ann Spence Historical date and maps are being researched. Town Administrator Lorraine Leno has been appointed the bonded manager of funds, a stipulation of the grant.

A Valentine's Dance and Carver's Buffet will be held at Coldbrook Country Club in Barre on Saturday, Feb. 13 with a champagne toast and music by Perfect Gentlemen. The social hour will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. An auction with the help of auctioneer Paul Varney will be held during the evening to raise funds for the parade and fireworks in July of 1999 as part of the 225th Anniversary Celebration in Barre.

38 years (Nov. 14, 1985)

Ivy Enterprises has been instructed by the state Department of Environmental and Quality Engineering to hire an engineer, who will determine what chemicals are present in two polluted Barre lagoons and the best method of clean-up according to Stephen McCormack of the Barre Board of Health. The condition of the two lagoons, which are located near rivers, has been a subject of controversy for several years. In 1979, the town instructed Ivy Enterprises to hire an engineer to determine the cause of the "severe odor" emanating from these lagoons. The Reitzel Report was completed in February of the year, a time when Ivy Enterprises was shutting operations down.

Local historian, Albert L. Clark spoke last Friday evening at the first event celebrating the centennial of Barre Library Association. He delved into the past to learn what he could of the 17 men, who were the original members of the library association. But, being more than a historian of local matter, he prefaced his remarks on the 17 members, with a discourse on the spirit

See PAST PAGES, page 5

## Guest Column



### Two ways to enjoy bulbs next spring

My spring bulbs are almost all in the ground. That is saying a lot, considering at work I plant over 2,000 of them! Daffodils, tulips and hyacinth will all welcome visitors to the museum in April and May.

Bulb planting is a ritual that I have come to love. I think in part because the process assists Mother Nature in her efforts to usher in springtime and all of its glorious color!

Did you ever wonder why certain bulbs bloom in the spring? Once you understand the life cycle of specific bulbs you can succeed with bulbs outdoors as well as inside.

Most spring flowering bulbs are native to areas of the world where the fall and winter is cool, and rainfall is abundant. Summers are typically hot and dry.

During the summer bulbs lie dormant, but when temperatures drop and rain moistens the soil each fall, they are awakened and begin to grow new roots and mature their flower buds. Roughly three months later, as soil temperatures rise, bulbs send up foliage and flowers.

When spring rains cease and the soil dries out, bulbs are cued into dormancy once again - their foliage yellows and disappears and the bulbs wait out the arrival of fall to start the cycle all over again.

What this tells us is that we should plant our bulbs before the mercury dips too low. This will give them a chance to root.

Soil temperatures of 50-55 degrees are ideal. If the fall is dry, providing supplemental watering is also a good idea to encourage the rooting process...this year we don't have to worry about that.

What do roots do exactly? You know that they provide food and water to the bulb, but in addition, they anchor it into the soil - very necessary during the freeze/thaw cycles of winter and early spring.

We also learned that there are two times when the bulb is in active growth - when it is rooting, and again in the spring when it sends up its leaves and flower

See GARDEN, page 9

## REAL

Love knowing you're real  
Not a figment of imagination  
Known as the, "real deal"  
Not a moonbeam I've been chasing.

No flash in the pan  
Alakazam  
Ship in the night  
Cancelled flight  
Ticket of chance  
Fleeting glance

Love knowing you're real  
Love knowing you know how I feel.

- Patricia Masten

### Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

BARRE GAZETTE

## TEAM



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# Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

How do you like the change of time? It is dark at 5 p.m. now.

I went to bed very early on Saturday night after I changed the clocks back one hour. Ken will be 92 on Sunday. Patrice and family plan to come up for a visit on Saturday. It seems like he just had his 90th birthday party at the Rod and Gun Club.

I have been working outside on any day that the sun is out. The leaves are falling so fast and most are oak leaves.

We don't have any acorns here this year, but there are plenty of pine cones. I am saving some to use when I make my Christmas wreaths. I need to put them in a paper grocery bag and put the oven on low and get the pitch removed.

It will stink up the house, but I will have to do it when I can open a window. Remember to use Crisco to remove any pitch on your hands when working with cones.

I did pick a few branches of holly with berries. I will pick some laurel for the wreaths and I like to use rhododendron leaves also.

I like a mixture of greens when I can find them. I set up a table in the cellar and work on the wreaths in my spare time. I need to make a large one for the upper deck and two smaller ones for the front door windows.

I will go down to the cemetery and trim the boxwood tree at my grandparents grave to get some boxwood. Boxwood makes a nice kissing ball and is also nice in a dish for the table. It lasts a long time.

Once November comes people start getting ready for the Christmas season. I have put out the Thanksgiving and harvest people. I have a wallhanging I made a long time ago with pilgrims. I'm leaving the pumpkin quilts on the balcony banister. The Christmas decorations won't come out until Dec. 1.

The little garden room off the garage is really very full right now as I had to bring in so many of the garden things. I also have two shelves in which I keep all my vases and pots. The other two shelves contain watering cans, flags for the seasons and other garden related things. I keep a good supply of wreath wires for making the wreaths.

We are trying to get the gas powered leaf blower going as the battery on the other one wears out too fast. I do keep the decks clear of leaves with that one.

Here is the recipe of the week that readers may

enjoy. Chicken is always a good thing to have on hand as there are so many dishes that can be made with it.

## PROSCIUTTO STUFFED CHICKEN CUTLETS

- 1 jar of Alfredo sauce
- 1/4 cup white wine
- 1 seeded and diced tomato
- 2 scallions, chopped
- 4 slices boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 4 thin slices prosciutto
- 12 basil leaves
- 1/4 cup all purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 cup shredded fontina cheese

Heat oven to 400 degrees F. In a two quart baking dish, mix sauce, wine, tomato and scallions. Top each chicken slice with 1 slice of prosciutto and three basil leaves. Fold in half crosswise and secure with a toothpick. Coat chicken with flour. In nonstick skillet heat oil over medium high heat; add chicken. Cook. Flipping once, until browned two to three minutes per side. Transfer to baking dish. Top with cheese. Bake until cooked through 10 to 15 minutes. Broil three to four minutes.

### This and That

I worked on a star wallhanging using wool of various colors and black wool for the background. It was a long project, but I finished it this week.

I was given a gift of many skeins of nice three ply yarn so I am working on scarves. I took down the scarecrow and washed his outfit for another year. I did throw away the hat as it had gotten a little ratty. I will look for a new one for next year.

Thanks to all the veterans, who served our country. It is a nice display that they have of pictures at the Stars and Strips Diner.

My handyman has been doing several needed projects this week and I really appreciate him. Ken loves to play with his dog, Buddy.

I hope everyone has a good week and enjoys the nice weather. We did get our first frost on Nov. 1 so the scrappers and brushes have gone into the car.

I make sure to have sand on hand. I have the shovel in the garage so it will be handy when I need it.

We have commissioned a local contractor to do our driveway this year.

The furnace has been cleaned and my super son-in-law cleaned and started the generator just in case we need it. Now to get the leaves out of the gutters.

Cooper's hawks may show up at bird feeders especially during the winter months, when it roams a wider area for food. Cooper's hawks inhabit mixed forests and open woodlands. They make a loud repeated "kek kek kek kek" call given during alarm or during pair interaction. As mentioned in the email above, the Cooper's hawks were decimated in the 1950s and 1960s due to the use of DDT.

### Other birds by the lake

He lives on a lake and said, "There is an old pine the Bald Eagles love to fish from. There are two Red Shouldered Hawks' nests within three or four hundred feet of each other and when the young start yelling for food the other nest invariably starts and I have them in stereo. Last year a pair of Blue Heron nested, but this year there is only one who patrols the cove shoreline alone. The eagles seem to ignore the adult." He also sees Golden eagles as well.

### Bird tally

I received an email from a reader, who visits ponds in Warren. He sent a tally of bird observed on Nov. 2, 3 and 4. They included on Nov. 2 46 Canada geese and again the same number on Nov. 3 and six on Nov. 4; one pied-billed grebe on Nov. 3, four great blue herons on Nov. 2, two on Nov. 3 and 3 on Nov. 4; a red-tailed hawk on Nov. 2 and one bald eagle on Nov. 3.

He also reported seeing two American crows on Nov. 2, a yellow-bellied sapsucker on Nov. 2, two blue jays on Nov. 2, a titmouse on Nov. 2, one bluebird on Nov. 2 and two on Nov. 3, six robins on Nov. 2, two yellow-dumped warblers on Nov. 2 and again on Nov. 3 and three song sparrows on Nov. 2. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers, yellow-rumped warblers and bluebirds were eating poison ivy berries.

### Canada geese

This weekend my granddaughter and I saw about two dozen Canada geese fly over her house. They were honking as they flew overhead. They headed for a beaver pond across the street.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

occurred Thursday, Nov. 7 at R.J. McDonald Co. on Worcester Road and at the Quabbin Office Building on near-by Valley Road. According to police, they fee the break-ins could have been done by the same people. Both were discovered by employees when they went to work on Thursday morning. A small amount of cash was taken from the safe at McDonald's and about \$2,000 in property damage occurred at the Quabbin building.

# THE GREAT PUMPKIN ROLL

HES PTO hosts 3rd annual fun-filled contest

HARDWICK –Autumn brings with it a host of exciting activities for children to enjoy.

One such event that captures the spirit of the season is Hardwick Elementary School's annual Pumpkin Rolling Contest.

Sponsored by the school's PTO, this delightful competition not only showcases the creativity and enthusiasm of young participants, it also fosters a sense of community and friendly competition. The goal is to get their pumpkin to travel the furthest distance, but there are also prizes for most destroyed and shortest roll.



Braiden Hutchins-Bowles, age 8 and Jace Hutchins-Bowles, age 6, were ready to roll their pumpkins at the Hardwick Elementary School PTO's annual Pumpkin Rolling Contest held this past Saturday.

Submitted photos  
Children get ready for some post-Halloween fun.



Participants get ready for the 3rd annual Pumpkin Rolling Contest hosted by the Hardwick Elementary School PTO.



Isabelle Wentworth, age 12, William Wentworth, age 11 and Rose Wentworth, age 7 smiled before racing their pumpkins to the bottom of the hill.



Philip Buck and Aine Buck, age 10, wait for the start of the Pumpkin Rolling Contest.



The Lance family enjoyed racing their pumpkins in the Pumpkin Rolling Contest.



Bryn Jones, age 9, won the award for "Most Destroyed" pumpkin.



By Ellenor Downer

### Cooper's hawk

I received an email from a reader, who had a Cooper's hawk in his yard for two days. He said, "The barred tail was distinctive flying through the yard ... and looked like a dart with the tail straight out. Many people don't realize they, like the Peregrine Falcon, were decimated by DDT and pesticides."



The Cooper's hawk is 16 inches long and as the reader said in his email they have a long tail with barring.

They also have fine streaking on the breast. They are gray above with reddish brown barring. Their crown is darker than the back. The immature Cooper's hawk is dark brown above and light below with thin streaking. Immature plumage is kept for one year.

During the breeding season, these hawks have a regular feeding route where it hunts for common medium sized birds such as mourning doves, blue jays and starlings.

The female lays three to six pale blue green eggs with dark marks in a platform nest of sticks place in a tree ten to 70 feet high.

### PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

of the times, "The Era of Confidence," as he called it. The ingenuity level needed to wage the Civil War, carried over into the years beyond, he said. The war over, the United States became a world power. Boys no longer thought only of growing up to be farmers, they dreamed of being inventors. It was the age of machines, of new wealth. Locally, the well-to-do aspired to have the finest carriage, the best horse. It was in the spirit of these times that Barre citizens looked at their library, housed as it was in the post office.

Police are still investigating two break-ins that

### Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 413-967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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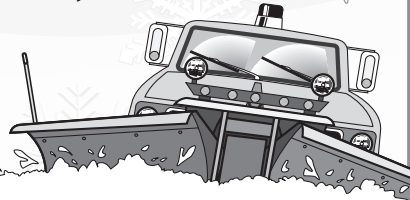
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## POSITION OPENING: Winter Plow Drivers-Laborer

Town of New Braintree (pop. 998) is seeking winter Plow Drivers both non-CDL and CDL to plow and treat roadways with our trucks. Salary dependent upon experience.

Further position details and job applications are available at the Board of Selectmen's Office, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531.

You can also contact the New Braintree Highway Superintendent by calling 508-847-2628.



# EARLY DEADLINE

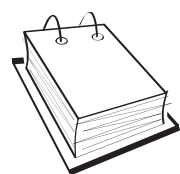
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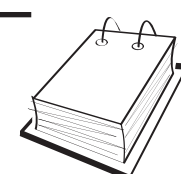
FOR PUBLICATION THE WEEK OF NOV. 20-24

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# Calendar of Events



## THURSDAY, NOV. 9

**CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS** are held every Thursday night, at the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. The choral group of 23 years sings in four-part harmony and often in other languages. People may email [julie@mhof.net](mailto:julie@mhof.net) or call 978-257-1192 for more information. They perform several concerts during the year. New members are always welcome. Membership dues are sliding scale from \$25 per year for students and \$40 - \$70 for adults according to ability to pay.

**MOVIE NIGHT** will be held at the Petersham Orthodox Congregational Church, 21 North Main St., Petersham today at 7 p.m. Mel Brook's movie, "Young Frankenstein," will be shown. There is no admission and some refreshments will be provided. Comfy cushions and food to share will be welcome.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 10

'**MATILDA, the MUSICAL**' will be presented by Quabbin Performing Arts at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., Barre today at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. For tickets, people may visit [our.show/quabbin](http://our.show/quabbin).

**WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY** continues its 18th season with performances of a concert titled "A Sense of Place" in West Boylston and Worcester today and Nov. 12. The first performance will be held today at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 26 Central St., West Boylston. Pre-concert talk is at 7 p.m. The second concert will be held on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 4 p.m. at Curtis Hall at Assumption University, 500 Salisbury St., Worcester. Pre-concert talk is at 3:30 p.m. Tickets available by visiting <https://worcestechambermusic.org/time-changes/>. Venues are handicapped accessible.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 11

**VETERANS DAY CEREMONY** will be held today at 11 a.m. on Veteran's Park, North Common, Barre. All Veterans are encouraged to join the ranks. Local residents are invited to attend.

**VETERAN PLAQUE DEDICATION**, a Boy Scout Eagle Award project, conceived and constructed by Liam Deaden, will take place today at 1 p.m. on the upper common in front of Rutland's Community Hall rain or shine. The project upgraded the Veterans' monument to honor those Rutland veterans has been finalized and a plaque recently installed by Rutland Post 310 American Legion. Refreshments immediately will follow at the Rutland Congregational Church. The criteria to have a name put on this plaque was their "Home of Record" listed as Rutland, Massachusetts when they entered into service, having received an Honorable Discharge and military service between August 1990 and August 2021.

**HOLIDAY BAZAAR** sponsored by the Athol Congregational Church, 1225 Chestnut St., Athol, will be held today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. This annual event includes crafts, gift items, bake table, theme baskets, gift card raffles, jewelry, "Winner Wonderland", holiday tag sale and snack bar.

## 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](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Nov. 13. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. **Robert Augustine, Bill Bowles, Gary Brigham, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Evelyn Luukko and Phil Warbasse** correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the new gazebo on Rutland Common, Main Street, Route 122A, Rutland.

## MONDAY, NOV. 13

**COLORED PENCIL WORKSHOP** with Mathilde Duffy will be held today from 6-8 p.m. at the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St. The drawing workshop will focus on learning interesting techniques with many kinds of colored pencils. Some pencils work with water, some blend better than others and some are intended as base layers in a build-up process. The artist will provide materials and subjects, flowers and seashells, but people may wish to bring their own photos or flowers. The end results will be cards to send or drawings to be framed. Space is limited, so register early.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - UNIT 2 BARRE** will meet today at 7 p.m. in Barre Post 2 Legion, 440 South Barre Road, Barre. Refreshments will be served by Anne Hardaker, Robin Vancot, and Diane Cooley

## TUESDAY, NOV. 14

**RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY** will present a taste of recipes from old Rutland cookbooks and see the collection of old kitchen gadgets today from 7-9 p.m. If people have a favorite old kitchen utensil please bring it with them for display that evening. They should put their name with it and maybe a short story about its history. The cookbooks range in age from 1932 to a recent one. There will be plenty of recipes to sample. This event is free and open to the public.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 16

**TRIP TO IWO JIMA** IN 2013 will be recounted by Bill Shea, owner of Ruptured Duck, today from

6-8 p.m. at the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St. He is a collector, appraiser, consultant and long-time Hubbardston resident. He will tell of his three-year delay to get there, a grueling travel schedule and the final success on reaching the summit of Mount Suribachi. The Battle for Iwo Jima echoes through history, come listen to Bill Shea's journey.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 17

**SUPPORT GROUP** for grandparent raising grandchildren will be held today from 9:30-11 a.m. at Worcester Family Resource Center, 20 Cedar St., Worcester. This group meets the third Friday of every month. People should call 508-796-1411 or email [yiw-frycyouice@sevenhills.org](mailto:yiw-frycyouice@sevenhills.org) to register or for more information.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 18

**YULETIDE CRAFT FAIR** sponsored by the Rutland Friends of the Council on Aging will be held today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior/Community Center, on 53 Glenwood Road, Rutland. There will be vendors, lunch and bake sale at affordable prices.

**HARVEST AND HOLLY FAIR** will be held today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham. The church will have a bake table, craft table, raffles, quilt raffle, snack bar and White Elephant Table. The Cookie Walk returns this year. There will also be local crafters and vendors.

**WINTER GRIEF SEMINAR**, "Embracing loss during the holidays," will be held today from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St., Holden. This seminar offers practical ways to honor

grief when people find it hard to celebrate. The seminar is free, open to everyone, and each attendee will receive lunch and a free book. People may call 508-829-4434 to register. For more information, they may visit [www.milesfuneralhome.com](http://www.milesfuneralhome.com).

**14TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR** sponsored by the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors will be held today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Cecilia Church, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. This bazaar is a full day of shopping with over 25 exhibitors, offering handmade soaps, greeting cards, Christmas ornaments, doggie goodies, and more. Their famous huge Raffle offers many chances to bring home a lovely gift basket or other gifts. Lunch prepared by the folks at Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing in Springfield cook up meatball grinders, or pick a sweet treat from the bake sale of muffins, cookies and more. Hot coffee will be available. Santa Claus will be riding into town at 11 a.m. and will stay until 2 p.m. for visits with children of all ages, who can get their picture taken. All children receive a free gift. This year's event proceeds will support Recognition Programs of Friends Volunteers. For more information, people may call AnnMarie at 413-599-4803.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 19

**INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE** will be held today at 3 p.m. in the First Congregational Parish, Unitarian, on the Petersham Common, with the three church communities, First Congregational Parish Unitarian, the Orthodox Congregational Church, and St. Peter's Church, participating in the service. The Reverend John Pastor, who is well-known in the community as parish minister, supply preacher, and chaplain will be offering the homily. Congregants from the three parishes will be participating. Refreshments will be served at a community gathering directly after the service. All are welcome. For more information, people may call 978-724-3401.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 1

**SMALL WORKS AND HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE** will be held today and Friday, Dec. 8 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2; Sunday, Dec. 3; Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Princeton Senior and Community Center, 206 Worcester Road, Princeton. People may browse, shop and enjoy hundreds of fine art and artisan-made, affordable holiday gift items made by members of the Princeton Arts Society. There will be wonderful small wall art in many media available and tables will overflow with jewelry, cards, prints, ornaments, fabric items, original books, bags, ceramics, woodworking, and much, much more. Your holiday shopping will be made all the more meaningful by supporting local artists. The Princeton Arts Society is a nonprofit organization promoting the arts in Central Massachusetts through programs, events and shows.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 2

**LIVING NATIVITY** will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1 Hager Park Road, Westminster, located at the junction of Routes 2 and 140 today and tomorrow, Sunday, Dec. 3 from 6-8 p.m. Admission and parking are free. For more information, people may email [office@oursaviorlcms.com](mailto:office@oursaviorlcms.com), call 978-874-2479 or visit [www.livingnativity.net](http://www.livingnativity.net).

## Police Association seeks donations for Toys-For-Joy

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** - The North Brookfield Police Association Toys-For-Joy program is asking for donations of new, unwrapped, toys, games, crafts and sporting equipment for children of all ages.

Cash and check donations (made out to North Brookfield Police Association) are also welcomed. These toys are distributed to families in need within the community.

The "Stuff-the-Bus" event will be held Saturday, Nov. 25, from 10 a.m.-2

p.m. in the Hannaford parking lot.

AA transportation will provide a school bus and driver so that members of the community can come and stuff it full of their toy donations. This event is an overwhelming success every year as citizens come out in droves to show their support and generosity.

As always, gift donations will also be accepted in the North Brookfield Police Station lobby, Dollar General and North Brookfield Savings Bank (Gilbert Street location).

## HUBBARDSTON STM, continued from page 1

Boudreau put major emphasis on the fact that the state has in its annual budget not considered well enough the true needs, educationally and infra-structurally of rural towns in the Commonwealth. "The formulas are off and taking up far too much of Proposition 2 1/2," he said. He encourages everyone to reach out to their state legislators to make sure they are aware of the facts to ensure they will work to support the needs in their districts.

## BATHSHEBA, continued from page 1

the Spooner home. All three men were soon arrested for Spooner's murder and so began the trial of the century.

At the time of her conviction for the charges of inciting, abetting and procuring the murder of her husband, Bathsheba asked for a delay in her execution, as she was pregnant. An initial examination determined that she was not, but two other examinations showed that she was.

Those subsequent examinations were rejected by the court.

Following her death, an autopsy revealed that Bathsheba was five months pregnant with a baby boy. Many have determined that Ross could have been the

father of the child. Bathsheba was represented by lawyer Levi Lincoln, a cousin of President Abraham Lincoln and the namesake for the city of Worcester's Lincoln Square. All four charged with being involved with Spooner's murder were executed on July 2 at the location that is now Union Station. Buchanan and Brooks are likely buried under Union Station, and Ross' family carted his body back to Topsfield for burial. Exactly where Bathsheba and her son are buried is unknown, Noone said. "It remains Worcester County's biggest mystery," he said. Noone and other historians have reason to believe that

The Thursday, Oct. 26 town meeting gavelled to a close at 7:27 p.m. It was a record, some said. For those who want to learn more detail, they can visit the Town's website to learn more at <https://www.hubbardstonma.us/>. While there, people may check the link to "Guide to all Town Meetings" and sign up to receive timely notice for anything they are interested in keeping up to date on as well as many things that are happening in the town. One upcoming event is the annual tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 26 on the Common to conclude Thanksgiving weekend and the start of the Christmas season.

Bathsheba and her child are buried in Worcester's Green Hill Park, the former estate of her sister, Mary Green.

It was this location that first turned Noone onto the story of Bathsheba, the first woman executed in the U.S. following the Revolution. Hers was also the new nation's first capital case, first mass hanging, and likely the first trial to use testimony from an African American.

"When my family bought our first home across from Green Hill Park, I wanted to know more," Noone said, of the legend of Bathsheba. He soon decided his first book would tell the story.

"I wanted to do more than just relate a melodrama," Noone said.

## ELECTION, continued from page 1

and 330 from precinct 2. Hubbardston had a slightly higher voter turnout than Barre with 19.9% or 707 of the 3,556 registered voters casting ballots. In the unofficial results, 455 voted for Durant and 252 for Zlotnik.

The town of New Braintree had an even higher voter turnout of 21% or 172 of the 819 registered voters heading to the poll. Durant received 109 votes and Zlotnik 63.

North Brookfield continued the trend of electing the Republican candidate with 483 for Durant and 213 for Zlotnik. In Oakham, 24% or 369 of the 1,537 registered voters cast ballots. Durant received 242 votes and Zlotnik 127.

In Rutland, 1,200 of the 7,264 registered voters went to the polls. Durant revived 728 votes (272 precinct 1, 206 precinct 2 and 250 precinct 3). Zlotnik received 471 votes (157 precinct 1, 143 precinct 2 and 171 precinct 3).

Peter Durant, a state representative, will move from the House of Representatives to the State Senate. His opponent, Jonathan Zlotnik will continue as a state Representative.

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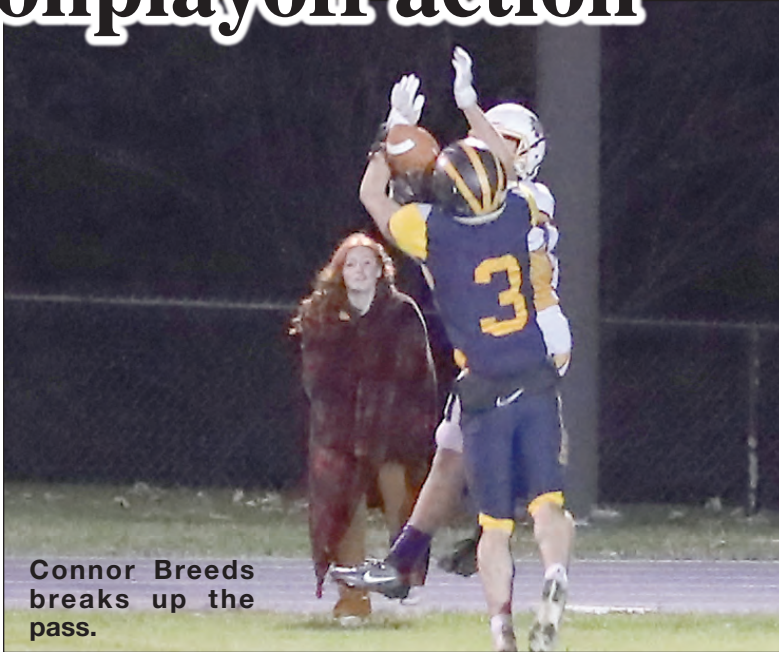
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## Monty Tech best Quabbin in nonplayoff action

BARRE – Last Friday night, Monty Tech defeated host Quabbin 41-24 in Week 9. Quabbin held an early lead thanks to a Luke Salvatore touchdown followed by a Chase Talbot two-point conversion run for an 8-6 lead. But Monty Tech scored three touchdowns in the second quarter to take a commanding lead and the Panthers were unable to come back from that. Quabbin faces St. Bernard's in Week 10.

Turley photos by Ray Duffy



Connor Breeds breaks up the pass.



Ed Geurtin takes the kickoff.



Luke Salvatore makes an interception that leads to a touchdown.



Chase Talbot runs in for the two-point conversion.



Adam Adams drops back to pass.

## Panthers win Central Mass. title



Turley photos by Ray Duffy

Annabelle Magil challenges the defender for the ball.

CLINTON – Last Monday night, Quabbin field hockey captured the Central Mass. Athletic Director Tournament championship, defeating Clinton 2-1. Makenzie Casey and Kylie Casey

scored the goals for the Panthers. Quabbin handed Clinton its first loss this season. The Panthers would move on to face St. Paul's in the start of the Division 4 State Tournament last Thursday.



Makenzie Casey carries the ball past the Clinton defenders.



Julianna Stanger comes out of the net to make a save.



Farrah Wojick races to beat the Clinton defender.



Madylin Berault goes stick to stick to come up with the ball.

### COLLEGE

## Nassir places in top 10

WESTFIELD – Westfield State men's cross country reined in awards, as first-year Nathan Sylven (Wrentham, Mass./King Phillip) was named Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference Runner of the Year along with an All-Conference recognition on Thursday, as the league formally announced it's all conference award winners from the championship meet held last Friday in Devens, Mass.

Coach Marlee Berg-Haryasz took home the BSN Coach of the Year Award as she led the Owls to a team victory and five team members were named to the all-conference team, as Will Buckley (Plymouth, Mass./North), John Nektipoulos (West Springfield, Mass.), Abdi Nassir (New Braintree, Mass./Quabbin) and Scott Porter (Boylston, Mass./Tahanto), also placed in the top 10 at the meet to earn their awards.

Sylven was the race's individual champ, and on Monday took home the loop's weekly runner and rookie of the week awards. He tripped the 8,000-meter championship course in 26:19.91, nearly a full minute clear of his closest foe.

Nektipoulos took third place to earn his second-straight all conference honor in 27:45.42.

First time All-Conference honorees for the Owls included, Buckley, who came home fifth in the individual standings in 28:03.36

Nassir, a junior, was seventh in 28:19.76, and senior Porter, who was finishing his first year

See COLLEGE, page 8

## Costa scores pair in playoff win

PALMER – Last Friday afternoon, Pathfinder defeated Hoosac Valley, another Western Mass. team, in the opening round of the Division 5 State Tournament. Evan Costa scored twice while Riley Sanderson and Jaleel Nevue-Roman scored single goals. Richie Gula had eight saves while getting the win in goal. The Pioneers moved on to play Douglas in the next round.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Ethan DeBettencourt catches up to the ball.



Owen Pear sends a shot away.



Jaleel Nevue-Roman separates from his opponent.



Evan Costa plays the ball off his side.



Talon Clark goes after a loose ball.

BARRE GAZETTE

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