

# BARRE GAZETTE

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

USPS 044560

November 23, 2023 | Vol. 189, No.33 | \$1.00

www.barregazette.turley.com

## Fourth graders hold special Veterans Day Ceremony

BARRE – Grade 4 students at Ruggles Lane Elementary School learned about Veterans Day's importance.

Students watched videos, read books and articles, wrote star poems and wrote over 60 letters to Veterans.

Fourth grade students and their teachers, Mrs. Murphy, Ms. Whitaker, and Ms. Klein, planned a special Veterans Day Ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 8. The ceremony honored local veterans from Barre, veterans, and active military members of students' families.

Students spoke of the history and significance of Veterans Day, along with singing military songs of four branches of the United States Service. A table was set up near the students so that they could bring in pictures of loved ones, who could not be at the celebration or who had passed away. Students also brought in books, hats and military papers to display as well.

Part of the ceremony also



See VETERANS, page 11 Ruggles Lane Elementary School fourth graders pose with veterans, who attended their special Veterans Day Ceremony.

Submitted photo

## Author journeys through history of family sash

Paula Grandpre wood wpix6  
By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – Paula Grandpre Wood has been studying genealogy since she was a teenager, following the connecting thread that weaves her family together, generation after generation; the Ceinture Fléchée.

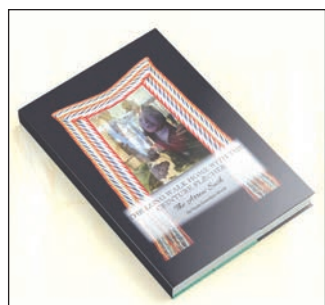
Also known as the Arrow Sash, this 175-year old sash has been passed through her father's family for six generations. It was wrapped around the men over their fur coats in Canada.

"This all began in 2012 when I had this obsession," Grandpre Wood said of determining the sash's origins. This obsession led her to travel with friends to Quebec, Canada, her family's start in North America, and to write her first book.

"The Long Walk Home with the Ceinture Fléchée: The Arrow Sash," chronicles the journey of the sash,

Grandpre Wood's family, and her own spiritual journey.

"The story starts with my ancestors, which I was blessed to have all the way back to the 1500s," she said.



**Paula Grandpre Wood's book "The Long Walk Home with the Ceinture Fléchée: The Arrow Sash," chronicles the journey of the sash, Grandpre Wood's family, and her own spiritual journey.**

Taking the sash with her, Grandpre Wood traveled to where her seven times great-grandfather was indentured to the governor as a

servant for a three-year contract.

After finishing the term of his contract, Grandpre Wood's ancestor was given land, and put down permanent roots. That land is now the Canadian shrine to Our Lady of the Cape.

Grandpre Wood said her ancestors had arrived in New France (Canada) after having to flee La Rochelle, France. Her ancestors also converted to Catholicism when they arrived in the new world.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be looking for my ancestors in Quebec cemeteries," she said.

Grandpre Wood wondered what it must have been like for her ancestors, as they left everything they knew and loved to travel to an unknown place.

"What would you do to save your family? We're seeing that today, what happened in Ukraine, Israel,

See SASH, page 9



Submitted Photos

Author and Barre resident Paula Grandpre Wood stands with her book display during the Autumn Fair.

## Christmas in Barre happens Dec. 2

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

Saturday, Dec. 2

Many of the events are the same as last year. The highlight of the day is the Santa parade, which will begin at approximately 12:15 p.m. from Ruggles Lane Elementary School, following the usual route of Broad Street to Exchange Street to South Street onto Common Street. The parade will end about 1 p.m. Children may visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street from 1-3 p.m.

Events include Crafts at the

Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., from 10 a.m.-noon; Gingerbread Madness sponsored by MOC Coordinated Family and Community Engagement, 7 Exchange St., lower level from 10 a.m.-noon; face painting with Pixie Painters at Heritage Center, 20 Common St. from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Barre Historical Society on Common Street Museum, drawing

bars. This year the Christmas in Barre's popular Holiday Craft Fair will be held the Saturday before all the other 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.

This change frees up the Town Hall space on Dec. 2. Instead of the usual craft fair their will be the first ever Christmas in Barre Festival of Trees exhibit and drawing

See CHRISTMAS, page 6

## Oakham Congregational Church holds fair

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM – Last Saturday was a great day to hold a church fair.

The weather cooperated and people came out to either shop, buy homemade baked goods, take a chance on a raffle or buy from a wide variety of local vendors. There were many cards to choose from at Mathilde Duffys table bedecked with many racks of cards featuring all kinds of animals. There were custom stenciled sweatshirts, honey and many honey products, Pampered Chef, spices, herbs and seasonings, candles, homemade wreaths, Oakham Historical Association memorabilia along with hats, mugs and t-shirts.

This year the cookie walk returned. Cheryl Habink, Gail Pryce and Carlee Rich filled plates of cookies, which sold by the pound. Cheryl's granddaughters, Catelyn and Calle Rich helped out as well.

The church craft table had many items made the Oakham Quilt Group, who meet at the church

to work on their projects every other Wednesday. Clara Cogoli, Elizabeth Laramee and James Laramee were the young trio, who helped Ellenor Downer. James Laramee also filled in at the raffle table as well.

Barbara Crawford and Norma Mann worked the church baked table.

Once again, Ward Holloway, ran the church snack bar and made his famous chili. Linda Barringer, Bob Crawford and Heather Stewart helped him. Ellenor Downer made doughnut holes, using Grandma Ainslee's doughnut recipe to go with hot coffee in the morning.

Laura Biro and Dawn Thistle ran the church white elephant table, which had lots of Christmas decorations, puzzles, stuffed animals and numerous household items – all in good condition or even never used items.

Edna Crawford, one of the sewers who made the quilt, sold raffle tickets for that special raffle. Jan Pierce manned the church raffle table and was kept busy selling tickets. At the end of the day, Gene Rich announced the winners of all the raffle items.

The Harvest and Holly fair is a community event and many com-



Turley photos by Ellenor Downer

The Oakham Congregational Church held their annual Harvest and Holly Fair this past Saturday. This quilt was made by Edna Holloway and Norma Mann and raffled off at the close of the fair.



Jan Pierce talks to Linda Barringer at the snack bar during the last hour of the Oakham Congregational fair. Barbara Crawford and Norma Mann, who ran the church bake table, have only a few items left.



See fair, page 6



# News of the Towns



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

## Women's Fellowship fair set for Dec. 2

The Women's Fellowship of the Barre Congregational church, 30 Park St., will hold their Christmas Fair Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be basket raffles, a special take-out lunch or eat-in, craft vendors and bake table

Donations of baked items for the bake table is appreciated. As part of the Women's Fellowship Christmas Fair, they will be offering raffle baskets. Donations are need to make this successful. There are many ways to help us create these baskets. People or a group of friends can put together an entire basket or they can donate items and/or gift cards, to include as part of a basket that the fair committee will build. They can also donate money and the committee will purchase things that are necessary to complete baskets. They are hoping for a great variety of items to appeal to many different people.

They will need time to get everything together so donations are due Saturday, Nov. 25. People can drop off their contributions at the church on Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon or Sundays after the service.

## Church wreaths

There are still 14" wreaths available for \$30 decorated to one's choice. If people would like to purchase a wreath, they may call Wendy Isgro at 978-928-5180. Friday, Nov. 24 at 11 a.m. church volunteers will start decorating wreaths. This is an invitation to anyone and everyone, who would like to help for a few hours, even if they never decorated a wreath. Other wreath decorating days are Saturday, Nov. 25 and Sunday, Nov. 26. People may call Wendy at 978-928-5189 with any questions.

## Nativity display

The Barre Congregational Church Flower Committee would like to display different creches this year in the sanctuary along with the Christmas decorations the adorn the church every Advent Season. If people have one and would like to lend to the committee, they may drop it off at the church on Thursday mornings or call the church at 978-355-4041 and leave a message on the answering machine and an arrangement can be made to drop it off or get it to Sue Musnicki.

## Christmas Open House

A Christmas Open House sponsored by the Woman's Guild of St. Francis of Assisi Parish will take place Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Chapel, 29 South St., Barre in the church hall There will be a luncheon, cemetery baskets, poinsettias, raffles, bake shoppe, hot cocoa bar and games and prizes for children. People can make an Advent Calendar.

## OES Christmas cookie sale

Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold their annual Christmas Cookie Sale and Gift Tables on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Zion Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St. Cookies are \$7 per pound. There will be over 100 pounds of cookies to choose from. People should come early for the best selection.

## 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@town-of-barre.com. People may also sign up at the Barre Senior Center or at Grand View Terrace by Friday, Jan. 5, 2024.

## Fobes Memorial Library holds ornament fundraiser



Submitted photos

This is one of several handmade ornament designs being offered as a fundraiser for the Fobes Memorial Library in Oakham.

OAKHAM – The Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple Street, is holding an ornament fundraiser to support library programs, take home crafts and bigger projects like the playground.

Deadline to order is Thursday, Nov. 30 and will be ready for pickup no later than Tuesday, Dec. 19. Heidi Brock, assistant director, is making these handmade ornaments and cost is \$15

each. People may stop by the library to look at the choice of ornaments and place their orders. They may call 508-882-3372 or email fobeslibrary@gmail.com for more information.

## Public workshops address air pollution in central Massachusetts

WORCESTER – The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission is exploring ways to address air pollution across the central Massachusetts region.

Workshops are being held across the region, the public can share their ideas or concerns regarding waste management, industry, buildings, agriculture/natural and working lands, transportation, and electricity in central Massachusetts.

The public is invited to register in advance online for the following workshops: Thursday, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m., Shrewsbury Public Library, 609 Main St., Shrewsbury; Thursday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m., Gladys E. Kelly Library, 2 Lake St., Webster; Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m., Quabbin Regional High/Middle School, 800 South St., Barre;

and Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, at 6 p.m., WPI's Campus Center Building, 79 Park Avenue, Worcester.

RSVP by visiting [www.cmrpc-cprg.com/calendar](http://www.cmrpc-cprg.com/calendar).

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program funded through the Inflation Reduction Act. The program aims to develop regional short- and long-term climate plans with a goal to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

A total of \$5 billion is allocated for this program and \$250 million to eligible entities as planning grants. A total of \$1 million will be allocated to the Worcester, MA-CT Metro Area and the 66 other most populous metropolitan areas in the United States.

It is a four-year planning grant to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan, a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan and a Status Report. The CMRPC is the lead organization.

## About CMRPC

Founded by the Legislature in 1963, CMRPC provides a variety of services to its constituencies and brings a regional perspective to planning and development.

One of 13 Regional Planning Agencies in Massachusetts, CMRPC serves the City of Worcester and 39 surrounding communities in the southern two-thirds of Worcester County. CMRPC's programs include Transportation, Regional Collaboration and Community Planning, and Geographic Information Systems.

## Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com



## Pioneer Valley Brass to play

Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet will perform at the First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston, on the Common, Hubbardston on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. The quintet includes trumpets, horn, trombone and a tuba. The performance includes an array of your favorite Holiday songs, arranged by the quintet members.

## Christmas Eve service

The First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston, on the Common, will hold a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. The service is a very traditional observance of the holiday through music, singing and readings. All are welcome.

## Tree lighting

On Sunday, Nov. 26 beginning at 5 p.m. on the Town Common, is the annual tree lighting. People will enjoy cookies, cocoa and caroling starting at 5 p.m. At 5:30 p.m. the lights will be turned on the Common. Santa will make a special guest appearance.

## Hubbardston Light Fight

Hubbardston Light Fight takes place the first three weekends in December. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights participating households will turn on their light displays from 5-9 p.m. Participants in the house decorating costs should sign up by Monday, Nov. 27. People may get a map of participating homes at One Stop Shop. Voting closes Monday, Dec. 18. For more information, people may visit <https://www.hubbardston-ma.us/special-events/pages/hubbardston-light-fight>.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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. 27. 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 pot pie, mashed potatoes, corn niblets, peaches, biscuit

TUESDAY – Spaghetti, meatballs, marinara sauce, green beans, cookie, Italian bread

WEDNESDAY – Maple glazed ham, sour cream/chive mashed potatoes, carrots, fresh fruit, marble rye bread

THURSDAY – Potato crunch fish, vegetable rice pilaf, peas, birthday cake, diet = half piece, pumpernickel bread, tartar sauce

FRIDAY – Ranch chicken, wild rice, roasted broccoli and carrots, fresh fruit, pumpernickel 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 \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

## SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Explore the  
*Country Roads*  
of North Central Massachusetts



Photograph by Norm Eggert: <https://normeggert.photoshelter.com>

17th Annual  
*Country Roads*  
*Christmas Tour*  
Month Long  
Nov. 10th -  
Dec. 10th, 2023

It's amazing what hidden treasures are just outside our back doors

[www.countryroadschristmas.com](http://www.countryroadschristmas.com)

Check individual store for hours



Get Ready For Winter!  
It's Almost Here!



Studded Snows Can Go On November 1st

**ORIGINAL TIRE CO.**

Joseph West

SOUTH ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL 978-249-3477

Open: Mon., Wed. & Fri. 8am-5pm

Tues. & Thurs. 8am-2pm • Sat. 8am-Noon

## 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.



Pine Acres Resort in Oakham is looking for an Activities Coordinator to join their team! This position is considered part time, but offers more hours during the camping season!

## Activities Coordinator

This role oversees the activities throughout the year including booking entertainment, working with vendors, producing weekly activity schedules, supervises the day to day operations during camping season and more. Previous recreation or event planning experience preferred!

Off season: Flexible PT hours M-F

In Season: 30-40 hours per week

including weekends and holidays Pay: \$16-\$19/hr

Email your resume to [careers@pineacresresort.com](mailto:careers@pineacresresort.com)

or call Carolyn at 508-882-9509 ext. 304

203 Bechan Road, Oakham, MA 01068

[www.PineAcresResort.com](http://www.PineAcresResort.com)



# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE.

250th Anniversary Committee – Nov. 28 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Committee – Nov. 28 and Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.  
 Select Board – Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 4 at 5 p.m.  
 Special Town Meeting – Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Insurance Advisory Committee – Dec. 4 at 5 p.m.  
 Felton Field Commission – Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Dec. 6 at 1 p.m.  
 Zoning Board of Appeals – Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 11 at 5 p.m.  
 Water Commission – Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.  
 DPW Commission – Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.  
 Cable Advisory Committee – Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.  
 Library Trustees – Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Sewer Commission – Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Dec. 28 at 11 a.m.  
 Barre Housing Authority – Jan. 11, 2024 at 3 p.m.

### HARDWICK

Board of Selectmen – Nov. 27 at 6 p.m.  
 Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council – Nov. 27 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Nov. 28 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Recycling Commission – Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Zoning Board of Appeals – Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustees – Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Dec. 13 at 9 a.m.  
 Gilbertville Public Library – Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Cultural Council – Nov. 28 and Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and Dec. 26 at 7 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 6 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 6 and Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Downtown Development Committee – Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Select Board – Dec. 5 and Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 27 at 6 p.m.  
 Special Town Meeting – Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Select Board – Nov. 27, Dec. 11 and Dec. 26 at 6 p.m.  
 Special Town Meeting – Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 20 at 5 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Board of Assessors – Nov. 28 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Select Board – Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Dec. 4 at 10 a.m.  
 Open Space and Recreation – Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Dec. 12 at 10 a.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – Dec. 14 and Dec. 21 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 28 at 7 p.m.

### RUTLAND

Select Board Public Hearing – Nov. 27 at 6 p.m., 6:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
 Ad Hoc By-law Committee – Nov. 28 at 1:30 p.m.  
 Ad Hoc By-law Committee and Select Board Joint Meeting – Nov. 30 and Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.  
 Cultural Council – Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.

## Petersham Lions Club held installation

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Lions Club recently held its annual Installation of Officers Dinner at Williams Restaurant in Gardner.

The Club's guests were District Governor for District 33A, Curt Jamison, who served to swear in the slate of Petersham officers for the 2023-2024 year and First Vice District Governor Denise Andrews. The Club also welcomed two new prospective members.

Lions International is the largest service organization in the world beginning in Chicago in 1917 and currently has 1.4 million members in 50,000 clubs in over 200 countries. Lions International has launched MISSION 1.5 with the goal of increasing membership worldwide to 1.5 million members in 2024. Lions International has five global causes: Vision, Diabetes, Hunger, Environment, and Childhood Cancer. Each club is unique and aligns itself to best serve its community as well as the global causes. Local clubs support one another for celebrations, fundraising, activities, and in times of crisis. Lions place a high priority in helping children and youth to become healthy and productive adults and support them as they grow.

The Lions' motto is simple yet so true: We Serve.

The Petersham Lions Club will be celebrating its 50th year in

2025 and four of the current club members were part of the initial charter in 1975. They are Denis Legare, Larry Robinson, Dick Bartus, and Everett Ricketts.

Petersham Lions activities include hosting the annual Halloween event at the Town Hall with staff and furry, feathered, and scaly friends from Animal Adventures paying a visit with all the trick- or -treaters; decorating the Bandstand and supplying the Christmas tree and lights; The Youth Peace poster contest; the Lions Youth Band; supporting the Clara Barton Center; holiday food baskets; the Easter Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny; the ever popular Curling Tournament in March; annual placing of the US flags around the Town; Petersham parades; previous repair and upkeep of the benches on the Town Common; and hosting the Lions' sight mobile. Over the years, the Club has supported numerous calls for assistance within the Town and with other clubs for those in need.

During the month of November, the club's fundraiser is in partnership with three home party companies: Pampered Chef, Product 31 and Touchstone Crystal Jewelry. Folks can go online to these three parties and search for Petersham Lions. The Club receives a percentage of sale totals instead of free gifts. There are lots of great holiday shopping

ideas. People may email Lion Lynne at [Lynneshaw@gmail.com](mailto:Lynneshaw@gmail.com) for more information.

On Sunday Nov. 26, the Club will host a visit with Santa at the Petersham Memorial Library, beginning at 2:30 p.m., followed by the tree lighting on the Bandstand. The library will help with serving hot chocolate, cookies and coffee. The library will enter all the children for a free raffle of a Holiday Lego set and will have a corner set up if the children want to look at and read a holiday book.

For 2024, the Petersham Lions Club has planned an exciting new community offering. The Club will co-sponsor with the Grafton Lions Club, the Harvard Lions Club and Montachusett Technical High School to host the Massachusetts General Hospital Bloodmobile. This will bring the opportunity for many communities to donate blood without having to go to a Donation Center. MGH and Boston Children's Hospital are the only two Bloodmobiles in the state. New guidelines are less restrictive and allow for more folks to donate.

The Club is always hoping that interested folks will join as many hands make little work. Anyone interested in becoming a Petersham Lion should email Denis Legare at [Hilltopchief@gmail.com](mailto:Hilltopchief@gmail.com) for more information on how to join.

## Oakham

Ellenor Downer  
[edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com)



### Cookies with Santa set for Dec. 16

The Oakham Parks and Recreation Committee will hold cookies and cocoa with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 4-6 p.m. Santa will arrive by Fire Truck at 4:30 p.m. Children can pose with Santa for a picture.

Lesson and Carols

Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Oakham Congregational Church. Rehearsals will begin at next month at a time and date to be determined. This year's cantata "Go Sing It on the Mountain" by Pepper Choplin. Rehearsals are Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. at the church. All are welcome to sing in this special Christmas cantata.

### Senior Center events

On Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 10:30 a.m., there will be a workshop to make 2024 Wall Calendars at the Oakham Senior Center. The film "Home for the Holidays" will be shown at 1 p.m.

Ongoing activities include Zumba Gold Mondays from 10:30-11:15 a.m., Corn Hole Tuesdays from 10-11 a.m. and Cards and Cribbage Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

Other activities are Coffee Wednesdays from 9- 10 a.m. and BBC Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. People may bring a craft or project to work on while they enjoy a BBC series.

FUNctional Fitness is held Fridays at 10:30 a.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall.

### 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 Thursday, Nov. 30 at 1 p.m.

## Eastern Star to hold cookie sale and gift tables

BARRE – Christmas cookie sale and gift tables sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held Saturday, Dec. 2 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St.

They are sold by the pound at \$7 per pound. They will have over 100 pounds of cookies to choose from. People should come early for the best selection. There will be gift tables as well.

## Massachusetts ranks second with states with highest old veterans

Massachusetts ranks second among the states with the highest percentage of oldest veterans at 33.8%.

New Jersey ranks first with 33.89% and Rhode Island third at 32.87%. Connecticut ranks fourth at 31.17% and New York 30.84%.

Alaska ranks first with the highest percentage of youngest veterans at 11.55%, followed by North Dakota second at 11.13% and Hawaii third at 11.01%. Texas ranks fourth at 10.95% and Colorado 10.70%

## Mass. Broadband Institute launches Gap Networks Infrastructure Grant Program

WESTBOROUGH –The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, has launched the Broadband Infrastructure Gap Networks Grant Program, a new competitive grant program funded by \$145 million from the U.S. Department of Treasury's Capital Projects Fund that aims to deliver high-speed internet infrastructure to areas that currently lack broadband-level service.

The Gap Networks program aims to expand connectivity to unserved and underserved locations throughout the state to help bridge the digital divide, with a particular focus on communities with substantial low-income households and disadvantaged populations.

Full details on program requirements, including details on the Technical Assistance webinar MBI is hosting on Nov. 14 at 10 a.m., are available on the MassTech procurement page by visiting <https://masstech.org/broadband-infrastructure-gap-networks-grant-program>.

The Gap Networks program will consist of two solicitation grant rounds:

- Round #1:  
Application deadline: December 11, 2023  
Expected awards: January/February 2024
- Round #2:  
Application deadline: April 17, 2024  
Expected awards: May/

June 2024

As outlined in the grant solicitation (PDF), organizations that are eligible to submit applications for awards include private entities: corporations, limited liability companies, general partnerships, limited partnerships, etc.;

Local governmental entities: municipalities or municipal light plants that offer broadband service, Native American Indian Tribes and nonprofit organizations; Co-operatives, electric co-operatives, and utilities; Public-private partnerships: long-term agreements between local government entities and private entities for the delivery and funding of broadband services and Entities that develop and/or operate broadband networks: organizations that can demonstrate the experience, capacity and financial resources and stability to satisfy the grant obligations.

The program is administered by the MassTech Collaborative and the state's Executive Office of Economic Development to fund projects that will deploy broadband infrastructure in areas that currently lack access to high-speed internet

service, which is defined under the federal program guidelines as service that offers download speeds of at least 100 megabits per second (Mbps) and upload speeds of at least 20 Mbps.

The MBI is still accepting applications from cities and towns to receive support through the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, which has supported 62 municipalities to date with free technical assistance to identify barriers to internet access. The agency is also funding projects through the Digital Equity Partnerships Program, as well as efforts to address the digital divide across the state through six connectivity programs, including enhanced WiFi Access, modernization of public space internet, connectivity initiatives for those facing economic hardship, digital literacy efforts, device distribution and refurbishment, and education, outreach and adoption programming.

People may learn more by visiting <https://broadband.masstech.org>.

**Editorial deadline reminder**  
 Deadline for e-mailed press releases is noon on Monday. Deadline for hard copy is noon on Friday.

**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.

**LOCAL KETONE PROMOTER**  
**Call For Information**  
**413-813-2391**  
 Leave Message  
 Check Out Facebook at **Denise Dubowski**  
**Save Up To 25% OFF Retail Prices**

*Places to go... Things to do...*

**Stars & Stripes Diner**  
 32 Main St., Hubbardston • 978-820-1600  
**Thanksgiving Day**  
 Open Regular Hours 7am-1pm, 1pm-3pm  
 Serving Turkey Dinner with All the Fixings  
 Check Out Our Facebook Page For Specials  
 Like Us On Facebook@hubbtdiner

**Stasukelis**  
 APPLIANCE & TV  
**WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRAND APPLIANCES**  
**NAME BRAND APPLIANCES & TV'S AT WAREHOUSE PRICES**  
 287 Main Street  
 Gardner  
**978-632-0241**

*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.**

**MITA**  
 WOODWORKING LLC  
 PAXTON, MA  
 Kitchen / Bath Design / Sales / Installation  
**We Sell Cabinets**  
 Call to schedule an appointment in home or showroom  
**774-366-5517**  
[mitawoodworking@aol.com](mailto:mitawoodworking@aol.com)

*Flirtatious*  
**Ladies Night**  
**Saturday, Nov. 25th, 4-7pm**  
 91 Exchange St., Athol • 978-350-4941  
 Come visit us at our new location Refreshments will be served  
 ~ SPECIAL FOR THE NIGHT ~  
 Bras \$8 \* Panties \$4  
 Large Inventory of Bra Sets, Garters, Corsets, Teddies, Babydolls & Much More!

**hardwickcrossing.com**  
 262 Lower Road, Gilbertville  
**HARDWICK CROSSING** 774-757-8907  
 EST. 2022  
**COUNTRY CLUB** Pro Shop 774-261-2634  
**OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH, DINNER & GOLF**  
 Specials Posted on Facebook & Instagram  
**Purchase Your 2024 Golf Membership Now And Receive A Complimentary Gift Card Up To \$225**  
**PRIME RIB Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday**  
**Tuesday Night Special - Two Entrees & Appetizer \$50**  
**Sunday & Monday Nights \$1 Wings**  
**Monday Night Trivia 6 p.m. • Wednesday Night Music Bingo**  
 Function Space Available  
**KENO**



# Opinion

## Guest Column



### Can I voluntarily suspend my Social Security payments?

**Dear Rusty**  
 My wife retired in 2015 and is receiving Social Security. I am past my full retirement age and I still work. I recently filed for Social Security benefits and received my first payment earlier this month and my benefits are around three times my wife's. I now find that, due to other income, I am having some regrets about filing for Social Security, as the taxes will be complicated. So, my questions are:  
 If I do a "Voluntary Suspension", can my wife still apply to get up to 50% of my benefits, or do I have to be "actively" receiving Social Security benefits? In other words, does the "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015" prevent this?  
 If I do a "Voluntary Suspension", how soon could I "restart" my benefits?  
**Signed: Having Second Thoughts**

**Dear Second Thoughts**  
 The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 closed a loophole which previously allowed someone to file for their Social Security retirement benefit in order for their marital partner to claim a spousal benefit, after which the primary beneficiary could suspend their own benefit and allow it to grow to maximum at age 70. That "file and suspend" option went away in April of 2016; thus, your wife cannot claim her spousal benefit while your Social Security retirement benefits are suspended you must be "actively" receiving benefits for your wife to get benefits on your record.  
 Nevertheless, because you've already reached your full retirement age, you can voluntarily suspend your benefit payments at any time to allow it to continue growing by simply calling Social Security at your local office or at the national number 1-800-772-1213 and asking them to do so. Your wife will not receive her spousal benefits for any months your benefits are suspended, but she would continue to get her own SS retirement amount, only the spousal portion of her monthly amount would be suspended.  
 You will be able to restart your benefits at any time by calling Social Security again and asking that your benefits be resumed. You can suspend and restart your benefits as needed (no restriction on how many times), but they will only start/resume the suspension effective with the month following the month you call. And, as you likely already know, for each month your benefits are suspended you will earn Delayed Retirement Credits resulting in a higher payment amount later.

Just for clarity, voluntary suspension of benefits is only available to those who have reached full retirement age but is an excellent way to increase your monthly Social Security payment. Your benefit will grow by .667% for each month suspended and, if your benefit is still suspended when you turn 70 years old, Social Security will automatically resume payments at that time, at your higher maximum monthly amount.  
 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 [ssadvis@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvis@amacfoundation.org).

*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC. . NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvis@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvis@amacfoundation.org).*



## In Past Pages

**5 years ago (Nov. 29, 2018)**  
 Christmas in Barre will be held Saturday, Dec. 1 with events happening throughout the day. After last year's event, the long time committee decided to retire from this very popular annual event. However, the Barre Lions Club stepped up to keep the tradition going even if it might be on a smaller scale. Stanley Miknaitis offered to spearhead the Santa parade and got made chairman. Once again, he will escort the parade grand marshal in his 1964 Ford Falcon convertible. This year the grand marshal is the Miknaitis' grand daughter, Arianna Miknaitis, just a few days shy of one year old at the time of the parade.

The Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Company of cadets at Quabbin High School will hold a holiday spaghetti dinner Thursday, Dec. 13 in the cafeteria of the Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St. The diner is an all you can eat spaghetti feast that includes pasta, meatballs, sausage, salad and choice upon choice of desserts. Tickets may be purchased in advance form any cadet prior to the event or at the door of the Community Entrance to the high school cafeteria.

The Barre Gazette will feature Baby's First Christmas for babies born this year and the end of December 2017 in the Thursday, Dec. 20 issue. Each baby photo will be enclosed in an ornament with the Baby's name, date of birth, parents name and town. Ads from local businesses will appear below the baby photos. There is no charge to run a photo of your baby.

**10 years (Nov. 28, 2013)**  
 A baker's dozen of local women gathered recently for an artisan bread making class sponsored by the Petersham Art Center and taught by Sue Hellen, one of the area's finest bakers. Hellen spoke briefly about the significance of bread to every culture and the class then moved into the kitchen of the Petersham Unitarian Church, where they watched her demonstration of dough preparation and followed her instructions to prepare their own dough. Hellen brought some dough she had made prior to the class and put it in the oven to bake during her demonstration.

Once again the Christmas in Barre Committee have been busy planning for this year's Christmas in Barre celebration on Saturday, Dec. 7. This event offers any family activities, a parade and even a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Sharon Proctor, chair of the Christmas in Barre Committee

### LOOK BACK Barre Riding and Driving Club



File Photo  
**Julie Hennessy of Leicester is awarded first prize in model wester at the Sixth Annual Junior Horse Show at Felton Field. It was to benefit the Jennie Blaisdell Scholarship Fund and was sponsored by the Barre Riding and Driving Club.**

said, "Whether this is your first year joining us or you have been with us in years past, it is our hope our family will have fond memories of this day. From the visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, the children's workshop, wagon rides around the common, dance at the Listening Center, face painting, magic show, the craft fair to the parade, there will be something of interest for everyone."

The Oakham Board of Selectmen held a moment of silence for former selectman Robert Leary, who passed away Saturday, Nov. 23. He served on the Board of Selectmen for 15 years.

**25 years (Nov. 25, 1998)**  
 Shoppers in the area had a variety of gifts and decorative items to choose from at the many fairs held in the area this past weekend. Fairs were held at St. Thomas-a-Becket Church in South Barre, Christ Episcopal Church in South Barre and the Oakham Congregational Church in Oakham. The Starlight Fair sponsored by the Easter Star of Barre was held at the Masonic Hall. The fairs continue the first weekend in December with fairs scheduled at Barre Congregational Church, the Federated Church of Hubbardston, Hardwick Town Hall and Quabbin Regional High School.

From its beginnings in a small studio near Fenway Park, to a basement space of a Jamaica Plain apartment to a finished studio

space in Milford, Hamel-LeSage has moved to its current location at 328 Old Dana Road in Barre this past August. Owners and artists for the studio, March Hamel and Ed LeSage, began their business in June of 1988 and continued to be pleased and excited with art, but especially so with their move to Barre.

**38 years (Nov. 28, 1985)**  
 Mrs. Philomena Zelnia of New Braintree Road, Oakham was presented the Boston Post Cane recently in honor of the fact she is Oakham's oldest citizen. Mrs. Zelnia who is 93, was presented the cane by the Board of Selectmen Raymond Crawford, Richard Riley and Gary McEachern at her home. She came to this country in 1912 and has lived in Oakham for most of those years. She was the wife of the late Walter Zelnia.

The Barre Sewer Commission has decided to add Elm and Summer Street to those streets already getting sewer lines after the Board of Health completed its own survey recommending such action and after meetings were held between concerned parties. As a result the Sewer Commission filed a Project Information Form with the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering in Boston asking for funding for these additions to the original design, according to Kathy Inman. Funding will most likely be approved for fiscal year 1987, she said.

## Guest Column

### STATE AUDITOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE

### Reforms sorely needed at the Sex Offender Registry Board

By Diana DiZoglio  
 Massachusetts State Auditor

Serving as Massachusetts State Auditor doesn't just mean reviewing finances. A big part of my role, as I often speak about with folks across the state, is reviewing the performance and efficacy of the Commonwealth's agencies and entities. A great example of the responsibility to look beyond number crunching is our office's recently released audit of the Sex Offender Registry Board.

People are familiar with the concept that Massachusetts registers convicted sex offenders, maintaining a database of where such people live and work in an effort to maintain public safety. This system of public safety is maintained by SORB, a seven-member board appointed by the Governor and staffed by more than 70 individuals.

Our recent audit looked at SORB's operations from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021. Covering that two-year period, my team honed in on whether SORB classified sex offenders at least 10 days before they were released from custody, thus ensuring they were assigned an appropriate level.

Further, we looked at whether SORB used all the resources at their disposal to accurately identify sex offenders who were in violation of maintaining their registration.

I was disappointed to find that SORB underperformed in a way that could have a negative impact upon the public.

While incarcerated sex offenders are supposed to be assigned a classification at least 10 days prior to their release, per state law, SORB failed to do so with approximately 1/3 of those released during our two-year review window. More concerning, 77 offenders didn't receive their classification until after they were released.

This lax approach to the law meant those sex offenders' names, addresses, offenses, and registration statuses were not appropriately posted to SORB's website for level 2 and 3 sex offenders and were not otherwise available to the public.

Our audit team also identified other vulnerabilities regarding how SORB tracked offenders who have been released from incarceration. Namely, SORB's database was not kept up to date in all situations, with approximately one out of five offenders showing incorrect addresses when compared against records maintained by other state departments (such as the addresses the Department of Transitional Assistance records).

Part of the benefit of SORB is that it tracks the location of high level offenders. By not ensuring that it has the current addresses of sex offenders considered in violation, SORB is not able to consistently communicate information about sex offenders' whereabouts, their offenses, and their classifications to local law enforcement agencies and the general public.

What's disturbing is that some of these issues were identified the last time my predecessor audited SORB. These issues must be immediately addressed.

Our office has recommended that SORB

See REFORMS, page 5

**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.

**EDITOR**  
Ellenor Downer  
[edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Tim Mara  
[tmara@turley.com](mailto:tmara@turley.com)

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

**BARRE GAZETTE TEAM**

The Barre Gazette (USPS 044560) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

@ Barre Gazette  
WEB  
[www.barregazette.turley.com](http://www.barregazette.turley.com)

**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President

**DEANNA SLOAT**  
Graphics Manager

**Turley Publications, Inc.**

www.turley.com  
Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

**PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA**

The Barre Gazette is a weekly newspaper published every Thursday by Barre Gazette, Inc., with offices located at 5 Exchange St., Barre, MA 01005 and at 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 978-355-4000 or FAX at 978-355-6274. USPS number is 044-560. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Barre Gazette, 24 Water St. Palmer, MA 01069 \$1.00 per copy Subscription rate: \$33 for one year, \$44 for two years Out of State: \$38 for one year, \$54 for two years

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.

www.turley.com



# Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I hope you all had a nice family gathering and lots of food for Thanksgiving.

By the time you are reading this the guests will be gone and we will be eating left overs. Turkey sandwiches with cranberry sauce is one of my favorite and add a little of the dressing, yummy.

This week has been warm one day and cool the next, but there has been very little rain. The oak leaves are still falling and soon the handyman will be taking them out of the gutters hopefully. Most of them have been blown off the long driveway.

I put my car in the garage to make sure it would fit for the first snowstorm, which I believe will be shortly. The emergency lights got put on by accident on the car and I had to run it up to a neighbor to find out how to shut them off. There are so many buttons on this car to learn.

After Thanksgiving things get very busy so I decided to take out all the Christmas decorations I plan to put up and do them before the season. I do not plan to put up a Christmas tree, but still have to make at least two wreaths. I picked laurel and rhododendrons and will add some evergreen that a friend is going to bring me.

I wasn't able to get to the Historical Society Farmers Market on Sunday, but a friend brought me a delicious apple strudel pie, which we par-took of right away. It was delicious and we had it with apple juice.

Here is an easy recipe to make during our busy holiday season.

## IMPOSSIBLE MEAT PIE

- 1 lb. lean hamburger
- 1 can of small peas
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 or 4 potatoes, diced small and cooked
- 1 deep dish pie dish, buttered
- 1 cup Bisquick or Jiffy Mix
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup milk

Cook hamburger and onion and drain. Add peas, drained. Peel and cook potatoes and drain. Mix Bisquick, milk and eggs and beat thoroughly. Pour mixture over ingredients in pie plate. Bake at 400 degrees until golden brown about 30 to 40 minutes.

## WHITE SAUCE

If you want a white sauce for it, take 2 cups milk, 4 tablespoons flour, 4 tablespoons butter. Melt butter, add flour. Stir well, then add milk until thickened. Parsley flakes may be added if desired.

## This and That

I heard there was a good group at the Thanksgiving dinner at the Senior Center on Saturday. I was sorry I could not attend.

I hope I can attend the two Christmas fairs on Saturday, Dec. 2, one at the Unitarian Church and one at the Hubbardston Senior Center.

I worked on putting the Noah's Ark and all the animals on my living room mantel and a large bouquet of greens and berries on the hearth. I set up the Old Sturbridge Village and the Nativity.

I purchased the Nativity set when I worked at Woolworths in the 1950s. Over the years the figurines had gotten a little tattered so I made silk and velvet outfits for them.

Each year for Christmas I hang a special Log Cabin quilt that a great aunt made, which is very festive with the red centers representing the log cabin fireplace. My brother bought it at a family auction and gave it to me. I had to repair the red centers as they were made of red wool and the moths had gotten into them. I hang it on the upstairs balcony railing for all to admire.

I also display about ten pictures that Barbara Beaumont made for me as a Christmas card each year. She does beautiful machine embroidery and figures a new design each year. I wonder what it will be this year? She is very talented.

I was happy to see the Historical Society had my watercolor cards and pictures at the Farmers' Market to sell as a donation from me.

Now it is time to think about gift giving and baking for the holidays. Have a good week.



Song sparrow

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said he had a few song sparrows in his yard in late October along with white-throated sparrows.

The song sparrow is six inches long and has a whitish breast with brown streaks. A distinguishing mark is a black, central spot on its chest. The song sparrow's crown is reddish brown and it has gray eyebrows. Its tail is long and rounded. Song sparrows feed on the ground eating seeds, insects and some fruit.

This sparrow's song is a few repeated notes followed by a rich and varied warble. Its call includes a "tsp" and "tchump." The female lays three to five greenish, white eggs with dark marks in a cup like nest of grasses and occasionally leaves. She places the nest on the ground, in a shrub or weeds.

The male song sparrow defines his territory by singing from prominent perches in about 1/2 to 1 1/2 acres. The male chases the female away when she first arrives and reduces the amount of his singing. Courtship includes male diving at the female and her making a trill like call.

Song sparrows inhabit dense shrubs at the edge of open areas such as fields, yards and streams. They inhabit this area year round.

## Other Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident said he had juncos and

one golden crown and one ruby-crowned kinglet. He also saw four male Eastern bluebirds, a pair of house finches and juncos. He said, "The 'best' sighting was a male American kestrel. It was perched on a wire, flew to a tree and then down into the grass where it caught what looked like a mouse or vole."

## Cedar waxwings

My daughter and family saw a flock of cedar waxwings eating berries in Granby near Horse Caves.



Cedar Waxwing

## Pond birds

The Brimfield resident did a tour of some ponds in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Warren recently. He reported lots of Canada geese, but not a lot of ducks other than mallards. He saw two-ringed necked ducks in Warren and a robin eating fruit from a mountain ash tree.

He compiled a list of birds seen Nov. 18 in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Warren. It included 33 mallards, 76 Canada geese, a pair of hooded mergansers (male and female), two great blue herons and two mourning doves.

## Feeders

I still have not put out my suet feeder until I am sure the black bears are hibernating. I have lost too many suet feeders to black bears; they either destroy them or take off with them. There must be a pile of them in the woods somewhere.

I do put some bird seed out during the day, but I only put a small amount for the birds. I include shelled peanuts as the tufted titmice, woodpeckers and blue jays love them. Yes, the squirrels do as well.

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.

# Garland and wreaths a fun DIY project



I spent the morning wrapping garland around lampposts in preparation for Old Sturbridge Village's "Christmas by Candlelight" program.

Although I used to balk at decorating prior to Thanksgiving, it's a must at work, where so much needs to be ready for the first day of the program, next Friday, Nov. 24. The garland is beautiful- a mix of cedar and fir.

The smell of the cedar isn't at all familiar from my childhood Christmases, but I love it as an adult. What makes the garland so pretty is the variation in textures.

After the decorations are up at the Village, I turn to decorating at home. I love to sit on the floor of my living room with all types of greens strewn before me on an old bed sheet.

I make a wreath or two for our house and I always make one to give to a dear friend as an annual birthday present.

I encourage you to try your hand at wreath and garland making. It's really the same principle, with one made on a circular frame and the other made on a cord of ribbon or rope the length you need for decorating.

As mentioned, the key to success in wreath and garland-making is having a variety of greens to choose from. From airy white pine to rigid spruce, wispy arborvitae to dense juniper, pointy-leaved holly to minute boxwood, all look great together.

Balsam and fir tips pruned from the Christmas tree are a logical addition. Then add some budded Pieris, gilded birch branches and voila! - you have a unique combination.

Top it off with pinecones, winterberries and even smac for a stunning grouping.

It's not hard to find different types of greens. First, scour your neighborhood.

Many of the plants I mentioned make their homes

in our landscapes. I regularly prune this time of year purposely to use the clippings in my decorating.

The key to a good cut is not to leave stubs-always snip next to a side branch.

Cemeteries and vacant lots are also great spots to get a variety of greens. But be sure to ask permission beforehand.

Regardless, kindly take only what you need and space your cuts out evenly around the plant.

Making a wreath is easy. Start with a wire coat hanger opened up into a circle.

Attach some pliable wire to it - 22 gauge is a good choice. Then, wrap little bunches of greens to the base one after another.

Be careful to lay them alongside, not on top of each other. You can make a wreath of just one type of green at a time, or make mixed "bouquets" for your bunches.

When you reach the end of the wreath, hide the last bunch under the first and secure the wire. You can easily make a loop for hanging, or use the hook that came with the coat hanger.

You can attach a bow to the front and insert some berries or pinecones on wire picks to jazz it up a bit.

Garland making follows the same principle. Working on a taut cording or rope is important for success.

If you are going to be making a lot of garland I recommend "tying off" the ends of the cording or securing them somehow to your work surface. I've done it with duct tape or with the cord knotted to nails in my work bench.

For me, working in a left to right manner seems natural. I use the pliable wire to secure the bunches of greens one after the other to the cording.

Sometimes I wait to embellish the garland with cones or berries until after it is set up around my doorway or wrapped around the lamppost. That way you'll be sure they aren't hidden or bending funny.

I hope that you will be encouraged to try your hand at wreath or garland making this year! It's quickly become one of my favorite Christmas traditions and it can be the same for you, too!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

## REFORMS, continued from page 4

increase their collaboration with correctional facilities to establish more reliable procedures for providing anticipated release dates for incarcerated offenders. We've also recommended the implementation of a tracking process that identifies any delays or issues that may arise, to ensure that all sex offenders are assigned final classifications prior to each offender's release.

For ensuring residential address accuracy, SORB needs to not only work more closely with other state agencies to verify addresses - SORB must also make a point of updating those addresses in their system

when they are found.

We will continue to work with SORB and encourage their adoption of practices that maximize public safety.

As always, please feel free to contact my office at any time for more information at auditor@sao.state.ma.us and 617-727-2075.

The Office of State Auditor Diana DiZoglio conducts audits, investigations, and studies to promote accountability and transparency, improve performance, and make government work better. DiZoglio is the 26th Auditor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, sworn into her first term on Jan. 18, 2023. She is committed to help move Massachusetts forward by working to increase transparency and accountability in state government.

## Connect with the Best Opportunities in the Classifieds



## 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 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

## Patrill Hollow Dam Removal Public Informational Meeting

MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) is inviting the public to an informational meeting on **November 29, 2023** from **6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** at the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed Patrill Hollow Dam Removal project in the Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area. The Project Team will be available to answer questions and to seek input on the project. Please contact Todd Olanyk [todd.olanyk@mass.gov](mailto:todd.olanyk@mass.gov) with questions or requests for accommodations.

**Tell Us What You Think**

Share your thoughts and suggestions with our staff and your fellow readers. Participate in our opinion pages, or contact us anytime with your feedback!

**Barre Gazette**  
Your Community Newspaper

[www.barregazette.turley.com](http://www.barregazette.turley.com)  
edowner@turley.com • 413.967.3505

**Bring Your Family To KIP'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARM**

New Braintree Center, Opposite The Church  
508-867-6101

Find us on Facebook at Kip's Christmas Tree Farm

Choose And Cut Your Own Fresh Christmas Tree

Christmas Wreaths And Cemetery Boxes

Free Coloring Books, Hot Chocolate And Candy Canes

Free Tree For Any Community Organization (No Reserving Of Trees)

Open Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Fri., Sat. & Sun. 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Friday, November 25th Through Saturday, December 23rd

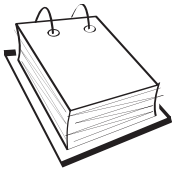
**POSITION OPENING: Winter Plow Drivers-Laborer**

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.

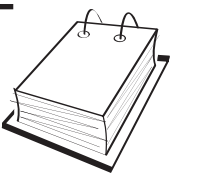
Further position details and job applications are available at the Board of Selectmen's Office, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531.

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





# Calendar of Events



## FRIDAY, NOV. 24

WREATH DECORATING will take place today at 11 a.m. at the Barre Congregational church, 30 Park St., Barre. Other dates for decorating are Saturday, Nov. 25 and Sunday, Nov. 26. All are welcome to help even if they have no experience. Someone will teach them. People may call Wendy Isgro at 978-928-5180 if they have any questions.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 30

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 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.

13th ANNUAL NATIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD Nativities Around the World will be on display at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 108 New Braintree Road, Route 67, North Brookfield, today from 4-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1 from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

There will be over 400 nativities displayed this year and all will be in settings of various Christmas themes. In addition to the nativities, there will be a Sing-Along to help boost the Christmas spirit even more on Friday, Dec. 1 starting at 7 p.m. and followed by a dessert bar accompanied with a warm and welcoming spirit. There is never a charge of any kind, nor any donation solicitation, for any event at the church, including the Nativities display and the Sing Along and dessert bar. All are warmly welcomed.

## 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.

22ND ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society begins today with a concert by the Merrimack Valley Bell Ringers at 7:30 p.m. and a brownie social following the concert at the First Congregational Church of Rutland, 264 Main St., Rutland. On Saturday, Dec. 2 from 4-8 p.m. at the Rutland Library, 280 Main St., Rutland there will be activities for all to enjoy, including decorated Trees, gingerbread houses, a basket drawing, a visit with Santa and Santa's Sweet Shoppe. At the First Congregational Church of Rutland at 6 p.m. there will be holiday music and a reading of names in remembrance and celebration of loved ones, followed by the 33rd Annual Tree Lighting at 6:30 p.m. with a Fireworks Display immediately following. On Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1-4 p.m. at the Rutland Library the festival will include a visit with Santa, train rides, children's craft activity and a magician. Food trucks

## Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Hubbardston. 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. 27. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Bill Bowles, Gary Brigham, Stephen Craven and Evelyn Luukko correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the Blue Trail and Rail Trail in Gilbertville by the Ware River on Route 32, Village of Gilbertville in Hardwick.

will be on site for attendees to purchase food. All are welcome to this fun filled holiday kickoff.

## 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, call 978-874-2479 or visit www.livingnativity.net.

GINGERBREAD FAIR will be held today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the First Parish Unitarian Church, on the Common. There will be spices, candy, home baked goods, crafts, knitting, raffles, fresh laurel wreaths and baskets evergreen.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE AND GIFT TABLES sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held today from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. They are sold by the pound at \$7 per pound. They will have over 100 pounds of cookies to choose from. People should come early for the best selection. There will be gift tables as well.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS FAIR will be held today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Barre Congregational church, 30 Park St., Barre. There will be Basket Raffles, a Special Take-Out Lunch or Eat-In, Craft Vendors, baked table and basket raffle.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE sponsored by the

Woman's Guild of St. Francis of Assisi Parish will take place Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Chapel, 29 South St., Barre in the church hall. There will be a luncheon, cemetery baskets, poinsettias, raffles, bake shoppe, hot cocoa bar and games and prizes for children. People can make an Advent Calendar.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 3

WEST BROOKFIELD WHITE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION will take place today from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. There will be fun for folks of all ages going on throughout the day. Activities include touring the historic town, strolling the downtown district, exploring local businesses and open houses, decorating gingerbread houses in Great Hall, meeting Santa for a quick picture, as well dropping off those letters headed directly to the North Pole. There will be horse drawn carriage rides throughout the day as well as shopping with dozens of vendors set up throughout town. A puppet show, an elf hunt and ice carvings are sure to keep everyone's spirits high. People may see Father Christmas strolling the streets and greeting visitors. Stick around to close the day with West Brookfield's annual tradition of gathering around the largest evergreen in town, located on the town common, while it illuminates for the first time this holiday season. This is a free event sponsored by local businesses and town supporters. Maps of town open houses and vendors can be picked up in various local business, by accessing our Facebook page 31st Annual White Christmas in West Brookfield or by emailing whitechristmas-wb@gmail.com.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 9

PIONEER VALLEY BRASS QUINTET will perform at the First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston, on the Common, Hubbardston today at 5:30 p.m. The quintet includes trumpets, horn, trombone and a tuba. The performance includes an array of your favorite Holiday songs, arranged by the quintet members.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 22

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 yiwfrycyouice@sevenhillsorg to register or for more information.

## SUNDAY, JAN. 14

ENGLISH SOCIAL TEA, the first 250th Anniversary event, will be held today from 2-4 p.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 450 South Barre Road, Barre. Admission is free. Reservations are required by Friday, Jan. 5 by email at 250anniversary@townofbarre.com or by signing up at either the Barre Senior Center or Grand View Terrace. Snow date is Sunday, Jan. 21.

CALENDAR 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.

## Firefighters host raffle for Bruins hockey tickets

WARE - Ware Firefighters Local 1851 is hosting a raffle of four tickets to see the Boston Bruins on Jan. 22, 2024 at TD Garden, plus a free parking pass.

The prize is valued at \$990. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn on Christmas day.

Raffle tickets are a \$10 donation each with proceeds to support the Ware Firefighters Local 1851.

All members of Ware Fire Department have tickets, or people may call 413-967-9630.

## WHS craft fair is Dec. 2

WARE - The Ware High School craft fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the gymnasium.

The fair benefits the freshman through senior classes at Ware High School.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and a lottery tree and a raffle table. A concession stand will be run by the Student Council.

Crafters will have an assortment of wood crafts, jewelry, holiday items, pottery, chocolate, paintings, ornaments, candles, maple products, signs, jams and jellies, crochet items and much more.

## CHRISTMAS, continued from page 1

Stagecoach and Historical Exhibits open from 1-3 p.m.; marshmallow roasting on the Common from 1-3 p.m.; Horse Drawn Wagon Rides around the Common from 1-3 p.m. and wandering magician Joe Scola will be spending time on the Common as well.

In addition, there will be a children's obstacle course on the Common. Several organizations are holding events on Saturday, Dec. 2 including Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star, St. Francis of Assisi Parish and the Barre Congregational Church.

Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will have a Christmas Cookie Sale and gift tables from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St. Cookies are sold by the pound at \$7 per pound. They will have over 100 pounds of cookies to choose from. People should come early for the best selection. There will be gift tables as well.

The Women's Fellowship will hold their Christmas Fair from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Barre Congregational church, 30 Park St. There will be basket raffles, a special take-out lunch or eat-in, craft vendors, baked table and basket raffle.

The Woman's Guild of St. Francis of Assisi Parish will hold a Christmas Open House from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Chapel, 29 South St. in the church hall. There will be a luncheon, cemetery baskets, poinsettias, raffles, bake shoppe, hot cocoa bar and games and prizes for children. People can make an Advent Calendar.

## FAIR, continued from page 1

munity members support the fair with donations as well as purchasing items.

There are still fairs to come. On Saturday, Dec. 2 the Hubbardston Senior Center will hold its Old Fashion Country Christmas Fair from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and the First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston will hold their Gingerbread Fair from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

In Barre, also on Dec. 2 Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a cookie walk and gift tables at the Mount Zion Masonic Lodge from 8:30-1 p.m., the Barre Congregational Church Women's Fellowship Fair runs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and the Woman's Guild of St. Francis of Assisi had an Ope house from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hall.

The Christmas in Barre Holiday Craft Fair is this Saturday, Nov. 25 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Quabbin Regional High School in Barre.



**BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS**



**Marcus Kosnicki**  
June 5, 2022  
Parents: Jonathan & Marcie Kosnicki  
Grandparents: Marc Davignon & Lisa Dube, Chicopee John & Pamela Kosnicki, Palmer

**Turley Publications, Inc.**

*Turley Publications would like to help you show off the newest member of your family this Christmas, FOR FREE!*

Mail to:  
Turley Publications  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Attn: Jamie Joslyn  
Include a self addressed/stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: jamie@turley.com with subject line: BABY'S FIRST.  
This offer is available to all babies born in 2023. Pictures will be published the week of December 18-22, 2023.

Baby's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parents' Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check the newspaper you would like your announcement to appear.*

- Agawam Advertiser
- Barre Gazette
- Chicopee Register
- Country Journal
- The Holyoke Sun
- Journal Register

- Quabog Current
- The Register
- Sentinel
- Town Reminder
- Ware River News
- The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

**Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 6, 2023**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
11												13	14	15					
16																			
19																			
25																			
28																			
34	35	36	37																
39																			
43																			
49																			
53																			
56																			
60																			

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Nocturnal S. American rodent

5. Requesting

11. Give temporarily

12. Happiness

16. Military branch

17. - \_ \_ denotes past

18. Middle Eastern city

19. Air hostesses

24. Partner to Pa

25. Percussion instrument

26. Popular computers

27. Decrease light

28. Valley in the Osh Region

29. "To \_ his own"

30. Absence of difficulty

31. Notice announcing intended marriage read out in church

33. Trims by cutting

34. Impact

38. Military member

39. A French river

40. Member of prehistoric people in Mexico

43. Messenger ribonucleic acid

44. Musician Clapton

45. Greek sophist

49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

50. Narrow valley

51. A way to disentangle

53. Indicates not an issue (abbr.)

54. Recommending

56. Genus of legumes

58. Friend to Larry and Curly

59. Off-Broadway theater award

60. Fencers

63. Small Eurasian deer

64. Denoting passerine birds

65. Separate by category

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Colorless fluid part of blood

2. Of a main artery

3. Photographic equipment

4. Confirms a point

5. Developed over time

6. Not the leader

7. \_ \_ Lang (country singer)

8. Adults need one

9. Nests of pheasants

10. Antelopes

13. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)

14. Japanese three-stringed lute

15. Type of cat

20. Cools your home

21. The ancient Egyptian sun god

22. Pouches

23. Trigraph

27. Form of Persian spoken in Afghanistan

29. \_ \_ route

30. Body part

31. Bridge building degree

32. Indicates position

33. Political action

committee

34. Tasty snack

35. Part of a quadruped

36. Locate

37. Pitching statistic

38. Of I

40. City in Utah

41. Football players in the trenches

42. Hammer is one

44. A "nightmarish" street

45. Performers

46. Stang for cut or scrape

47. More breathable

48. Most slick

50. Provokes

51. Home to college's Flyers

52. Sodium

54. Large fish of mackerel family

55. Zero

57. \_ \_ and behold

61. The Palmetto State

62. Popular Tom Cruise movie franchise (abbr.)

**Crossword puzzle Answers on page 10**



# SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

## Indians field hockey reaches state tourney

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The North Brookfield field hockey team had another successful season which saw the Indians make it to the Division 4 State Tournament. The Indians had a 9-4-1 record, with three wins in their final four games heading into the tournament.

The Indians drew a preliminary round matchup with Monomoy Regional High School in Eastern Massachusetts. Unfortunately, they had a tough draw as they fell 10-0 in that opening round on Nov. 3.

The Indians finished at 9-5-1 overall.



Sophia Giangrande tries to block pass in the air. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



M Socha goes after the ball during action.



Bree Hutchinson drags the ball up the field.



Dayton Ford socks a free kick away.



Jake Standowicz passes up the field.



The Panthers were not able to make the tournament this season.



Anthony Quartarone tries to get away from the sideline. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

## Panthers finish fall season

**BARRE** – It was a tough season for Quabbin boys soccer as the Panthers went 3-12-2 overall. The Panthers would not make the state tournament or the Central Mass. Tournament and finished their season on Oct. 28 with a 1-1 tie against Quaboag Regional.



Colin Harmon advances up the field with the ball.



Jenkins Miller clears the ball with pressure coming.



Quabbin's final game was held at Quaboag High School.



Hunter Griswold drops back for a pass attempt.



Nicholas Pfister runs down the field.



Hunter Griswold runs through traffic.

## Smith Voke gets revenge on Pioneers

**NORTHAMPTON** – On Nov. 10, the Pioneers football team traveled to Northampton for a non-playoff game against Tri-County opponent Smith Vocational. Pathfinder had a 19-7 win over Smith Voke in Week 8.

This time, the Pioneers were not so lucky, falling 32-26.

With the defeat, Pathfinder is 4-6 heading into this Thanksgiving's game against Belchertown.



Dustyn Cook kicks off. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Matthew Vanasse and Branden Hnitecki combine for a tackle.

## Parker nets game-winner in conference championship

**WESTFIELD** – Westfield State junior Delaney Parker (Orange, Mass.) delivered the game-winning goal with 24 minutes left in regulation to lift the Owls to a 2-1, come from behind win over top-seeded Bridgewater State in the 2023 Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference championship game at Mazzaferro Field in Bridgewater earlier this month.

Westfield earns the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament with the win.

For Westfield, it's the Owls third straight, and 10th overall MASCAC tournament title, all coming in the last 16 years under current Owls head coach Todd Ditmar.

"It shows how old I am," joked Ditmar. "I think we have talented players, they all have good attitudes and it makes it easy to coach them. Players just want the opportunity to get on the field and show how good they are."

Westfield fell behind on a fluky first goal from the Bears just 6:38 into the match. Granted a free kick from near midfield, Bridgewater's Sydney Dewhurst launched a long ball into the penalty area which appeared to be misjudged by Owls GK Julia Robak (Chicopee, Mass./Comp), who slipped a bit while changing direction to come off her line, and the ball skipped into the right side of the goal on one hop.

"We wanted to start strong and

play good possession, and I was worried we could take a step back after the early goal," said Ditmar. "Bridgewater is an intimidating team, Dewhurst is a force, and we were like 'oh no!'"

Westfield had several good chances to level the match before the half, but a long shot from Parker was saved by Bears' keeper Logan Levesque in the 22nd minute, then in the 24th minute Emily Ottomaniello's (Agawam, Mass.) header off of a free kick was saved.

Dewhurst had another good attack up middle of the Owls' defense before the break, but her shot from top of box was saved by Robak to keep the deficit at one.

"We put some good pressure on, but were attacking straight on,

needed to attack from the wings and try to move their goalkeeper," said Ditmar. "At the half we talked about changing formation, but the players wanted to keep with it and said it was working."

Tournament MVP Kiana Maratsuka (Mililani, Hawaii) got the Owls on the board, and leveled the game at 1-1 with a free kick blast from 31 yards out, well-placed over the wall and into top left corner of the goal off the hands of goalkeeper Levesque, 7:18 into the second half.

"After Kiana got the goal, you could see that they were more anxious and we were more relaxed,

See CHAMPIONSHIP, page 8

## Hall creates new award with rapper Ice Cube

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and ground-breaking rap star, renowned blockbuster film producer and actor, entrepreneur, and co-founder of the BIG3 basketball league, Ice Cube, are thrilled to announce a pioneering partnership culminating in the creation of the inaugural Ice Cube Impact Award.

This unique collaboration is set to honor Ice Cube's extraordinary contributions to the world of basketball, his unparalleled passion for the game, and his unwavering commitment to encouraging crucial dialogues surrounding inclusivity, equal opportunity, and

racial and social justice while contributing to initiatives focused on education and community development.

"The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Award named in my honor is truly remarkable, and words alone can't express my gratitude for this recognition from such a prestigious organization," said Ice Cube, a lifelong Lakers fan who grew up playing basketball at the Inglewood YMCA. "Having an award bearing my name only intensifies my commit-

See HALL, page 8



# Sports

## Railers pick up win over Newfoundland

ST JOHNS, NL – The Worcester Railers HC (4-5-1-1, 10pts) topped the Newfoundland Growlers (5-5-2-0, 12pts) on Nov. 12 in overtime by the final score of 2-1 in front of a crowd of 4,284 at the Mary Brown's Centre.

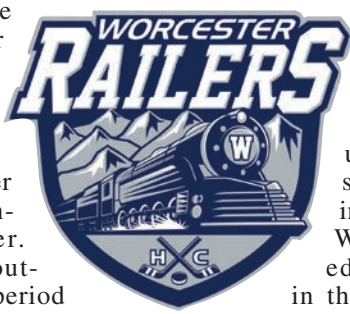
Trevor Cosgrove (1-1-2) broke open the scoring for Worcester in the first, putting Worcester ahead 1-0 after one. Zach O'Brien (1-0-1) scored for Newfoundland in his return to the Growlers lineup for the first time this season. Ashton Calder scored his second game-winner in three games for Worcester in overtime as the Railers came out on top to wrap up the weekend, 2-1.

The Railers scored the game's first goal for the third time this season, as Trevor Cosgrove (1st) danced through the defense

to beat Luke Cavallin in net for Newfoundland glove side. Zach White would drop the gloves with former Railer Josh Victor twenty seconds later. Worcester was out-shot in the first period 13-10, but led at the end of twenty minutes, 1-0.

Zach O'Brien (1st) returned to the Growlers lineup for the first time this season after playing in Slovakia to start the season and potted his first goal since returning in the second. He grabbed the rebound off the post on the power play and patted it past Lennox to tie the game heading into the third at 1-1.

Worcester suffocated Newfoundland in the third, tak-



ing the period's first fifteen shots while preventing the growlers from getting their first until there was just seven minutes left in regulation. Zach White was awarded a penalty shot in the third but failed to capitalize as the game remained 1-1. Grant Cruikshank committed a tripping penalty late in the third period which sent Worcester to the power play to end regulation.

Ashton Calder (6th) found the puck along the near side just 13 seconds into overtime and ended up slapping the puck top-shelf past Cavallin to give Worcester their second win on the weekend, and four out of a possible six points against Newfoundland.

### HALL, continued from page 7

ment to advancing inclusivity and equal opportunity in sports, alongside my unwavering dedication to community activism."

The Naismith Hall of Fame will permanently house and amplify the Ice Cube Impact Award in its museum and honor subsequent award winners each year through a dedicated exhibit and in-depth storytelling about honorees who use basketball as a platform for good works in their own communities.

"Ice Cube's unquestionable passion for the game and his desire to see it utilized as a catalyst for positive impact on communities are unwavering," said

John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "His sphere of influence in both the entertainment industry and in the professional sports arena brings remarkable authenticity and value to this award. We are delighted to join hands with Ice Cube as he leverages his love of the game to inspire others. The Ice Cube Impact Award will stand as a testament to the power of basketball and the profound impact it can have on communities worldwide."

Ice Cube's remarkable journey through the world of basketball has had a profoundly transforming effect. As the visionary founder of the BIG3, he created a professional league built on the game's proven bests--Hall of Famers, World

Champions, and All-Stars. The BIG3 has launched and revitalized careers and opened doors for all players and coaches who wish to continue to positively contribute to the game in a format that captures the hearts and imagination of fans nationwide. His unique and innovative approach to the game, which incorporates elements of streetball and professional basketball, also showcases the immense power of sports in uniting communities, as exemplified by the Young3 program focusing on youth in underserved areas.

The Ice Cube Impact Award will be presented to Ice Cube at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Monday, January 15, 2024) in Springfield, Massachusetts.

### CHAMPIONSHIP, continued from page 7

that was huge momentum change," said Ditmar. "I think it really helped to see we could get one past their goalie, who is really good, and our players stepped up and believed in themselves, and our bench was supportive and positive throughout."

Parker's game winner came with 24:19 left to play, as Muratsuka deflected a Bears' attempt to clear the ball, and the high arching deflection wound up on the right side of the penalty area. Muratsuka beat a Bears defender to the ball and slipped it left to Parker, who dribbled through traffic from the right side across the top of the goalkeeper's box and whistled it to the left

upper 90 for the goal and the 2-1 Owls' lead.

Westfield's best chance for an insurance goal came when Tia Tollis (East Longmeadow, Mass.) juke a defender but fired a shot just over the top of the crossbar with just under 14 minutes left. Westfield kept the offensive pressure on the Bears for the entirety of the second half.

Bridgewater's best chance to level the game late came when Dewhurst ripped a shot from the top of the penalty area, but her was blast was blocked point blank by Owls' defender Jaida Cochran (Middleboro, Mass.) with 3.5 minutes left in the game.

Westfield outshot the Bears 13-3 overall in the second half, and the Owls didn't allow any shots on goal in the half.

Westfield is now 13-6-1. The Owls will learn their destination and opponent in the NCAA tournament on Monday, when the selection show is streamed at NCAA.com at 1:30 p.m.

Bridgewater's season comes to an end at 11-6-1.

Westfield entered the game as the number two seed. The Owls' lone loss of the conference season came two weeks ago at the feet of the Bears, by a 2-1 final in a game where Westfield had out-shot Bridgewater 23-11.

Today, Westfield out-shot the Bears 23-8 overall and 11-3 in shots on goal. The Owls also recorded four corner kicks to none for Bridgewater.

Levesque finished with nine saves for the Bears, while Robak made three saves for Westfield.

# Education

## FSU presents Italian film series

FITCHBURG – The Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State University will present two film screenings by award-winning directors Martin Scorsese and Spike Lee in November as part of its year-long exploration of the Italian immigrant experience.

The series offers a screening of Spike Lee's celebrated "Do the Right Thing" (1989) Thursday, Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m. also in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Admission is free and open to the public. Lee's classic comedy-drama explores the simmer-

ing racial tensions in a Brooklyn neighborhood between African-American residents and the Italian-American owners of a local pizzeria, culminating in violence and tragedy on a hot summer day.

In addition, the Fitchburg State University Archives and Special Collections, the CIC, and the Fitchburg Historical Society have collaborated to present a digital exhibit on Fitchburg's Italian-American neighborhood, the Patch. All materials were sourced from the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, the Center for Italian

Culture Archives and the Fitchburg Historical Society.

This digital exhibit was created by Ross Caputi, archival assistant at the Center for Italian Culture Archives, and Asher Jackson, archivist at Fitchburg State University, in collaboration with the Fitchburg Historical Society. It can be viewed by visiting <https://fitchburgstate.libguides.com/c.php?g=1188881&p=9980974>. Additional information on the CIC's series can be found online by visiting [fitchburgstate.edu/nuovo-mondo](https://fitchburgstate.edu/nuovo-mondo).

## Origami artist to exhibit at MWCC

GARDNER – The East Wing Gallery at Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., welcomes Ben Parker to Gardner for a fall exhibition of his work titled "Bends and Shadows."

Parker, a native of Pittsburg, currently resides in Connecticut where he teaches workshops and classes at local schools, businesses and libraries. Parker's art uses geometric origami to design tessellations and corrugations.

"Origami is a fascinating discipline. To its practitioners, it presents an unparalleled challenge to the mind and body and the knowl-

edge that can be unlocked by pushing the limits of what is possible with a single sheet of paper never ceases to amaze, said Parker. The study is ancient, yet modern science is just beginning to reveal its full potential. It involves the manipulation of paper, among the humblest of materials, yet it sheds light on questions that flow through fundamental branches of human study such as mathematics, physics, pedagogy, art and meditation. "It is an art form that in its purest state neither adds nor subtracts material but alters it in an almost alchemical process. These aspects

of origami have held my interest for a very long time. I practice a branch of this discipline known as geometric origami, and primarily design tessellations, which are studies of how paper can be shaped to create complex patterns capable of an infinite number of repeated iterations," said Parker.

The "Bends and Shadows" exhibit runs through Sunday, Dec. 3. The East Wing Gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. as well as during All Theatre at the Mount performances.

## Monty Tech named Mass Save® Climate Leader

FITCHBURG – Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School announces it has been selected as a 2023 Mass Save® Climate Leader.

Monty Tech is one of only fourteen commercial and industrial organizations across the Commonwealth to receive this distinguished recognition. "To be recognized among large post-secondary institutions like Boston University and Northeastern University, as well as statewide businesses like the Shaw's Corporation with its 55 supermarkets in Massachusetts, is an incredible honor. We truly appreciate MassSave's recognition of our district's steadfast commitment to improving energy efficiencies in order to foster a healthy climate across our region," stated Thomas R. Browne, School Superintendent.

The Sponsors of Mass Save selected this group of Climate Leaders based on a variety of factors including the total energy savings achieved over the past few years, the historical level of energy savings relative to energy

consumption, and the frequency and diversity of energy efficiency investments. Facilities Director, Michael Gormley, has led district-wide improvement efforts and continues to seek creative means to reduce energy consumption, while providing a safe and comfortable space to work and learn in.

"Monty Tech is a large facility, serving thousands of people daily. With an eye toward long-term fiscal responsibility and critical energy efficiency investments, I am proud to say we are among these climate leaders in Massachusetts," noted Gormley.

Monty Tech has leveraged the financial and technical support provided by the Sponsors of Mass Save to make meaningful investments in energy efficiency and curb greenhouse gas emissions. Specific projects include: Achievement of approximately 1,000 lifetime MWh through the installation of improved lighting, HVAC systems, make up air systems, VSD motors and controls, and site-specific automated control strategies Instruction to students to help implement measures

to reduce overall consumption on campus, translating to effective strategy management in their chosen construction-related fields

"Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School has made numerous investments over the last two decades to improve energy and operational efficiency in their facilities, creating incredible savings through installations," Alec O'Meara, Media Relations Manager, from Unilit. "The school has also invested in its students, providing instruction which will translate to effective implementation in their chosen construction fields as the state looks to create a clean energy future."

Mass Save® is a collaborative of Massachusetts' electric and natural gas utilities and energy efficiency service providers including Berkshire Gas, Cape Light Compact, Eversource, Liberty, National Grid, and Unilit. They empower residents, businesses, and communities to make energy efficient upgrades by offering a wide range of services, rebates, incentives, trainings and information.

## Wentworth Institute of Technology lists summer Dean's List

BOSTON – Wentworth Institute of Technology announces the Dean's List for the summer 2023 semester.

Local student Charlotte Hobby of Hubbardston made the summer Dean's List.

## FSU President to retire

FITCHBURG-Fitchburg State University President Richard S. Lapidus announced Monday that he will retire at the end of the 2023-24 academic year.

President Lapidus, who joined Fitchburg State in July 2015, is the university's 11th leader. His tenure has included the creation of new academic programs including the expansion of online offerings, deepening ties between the campus and its host community, and guiding the university through the challenges of the global pandemic. During his time as president, Fitchburg State's institutional accreditation "From the day I first interviewed for the position on campus, I knew that Fitchburg State was a special place, and it has been an honor to have contributed to its positive evolution."

C. Deborah Phillips, chair of the Board of Trustees, said it has been an honor and a privilege to serve during President Lapidus' tenure.

She cited his navigation of the university during the pandemic as an example of his contributions to the Fitchburg State community.

"During the COVID-19 health crisis, President Lapidus demonstrated strong and compassionate leadership as the university faced uncharted territory," Phillips said. "Because of his foresight in upgrading the university's technology platforms in the years prior to the COVID crisis, Fitchburg State was uniquely positioned for the virtual teaching and learning environment essential for the campus community to function during those uncertain days and months. Not only did the university function during COVID, but new ways of serving the student body were developed, new programs were implemented, and even new traditions were established."

A comprehensive national search will be undertaken for President Lapidus' successor.

[www.turleysports.com](https://www.turleysports.com)

# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Month

**NAME: Annabelle Magill**  
**SCHOOL: Quabbin**

Magill had the first goal for Quabbin in the quarterfinals of the Central Mass. Class B tournament.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to [gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com).

---

**Moulton Insurance Agency**  
Our Family Cares About Your Family

HOME – AUTO – BUSINESS – LIFE

## CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETE!

Very Competitive Rates • Experienced Professional Staff  
99% Claim Satisfaction Rate • On-site Registry Processing

143 West Street Ware, MA 01082 | 45 North Main Street Belchertown, MA 01007

[www.moultoninsurance.com](http://www.moultoninsurance.com)

413-967-3327 | **Safety Insurance** AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS

think **OUTSIDE** of the **BIG BOX**

SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

Visit us at [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## SCHOOL VAN DRIVERS

Monson - Palmer - Barre - Brookfield \$19.50/hr.

WE WILL TRAIN & LICENSE YOU

Paid sick time, Paid FMLA, Paid holidays. Work the school schedule, split shifts.

**JP MCCARTHY BUS**  
email [jobs@mccarthybus.com](mailto:jobs@mccarthybus.com)  
text or call 774-200-6762

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

### McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing • Storm work
- Furnace Wood
- Firewood \$275/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted

H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

## Barre Gazette



# Church News

## Local pastor offers sermon

### Thankful?

Gratitude does not come naturally to us.

In fact, a great many prefer to traffic in lamentation and complaint versus thanksgiving—even amidst the Thanksgiving holiday. Yet Scripture continually calls us to gratitude and outlines an array of reasons for such a spirit in kind. Please note the following:

#### Psalms 100:4-5 (NIV)

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

This passage presents three reasons for the giving of thanks.

#### 1) The Goodness of God

The unnamed psalmist posits that we should be thankful because “the Lord is good” (v. 5a). What does it mean He is good? It means that His posture toward us is one of favor, kindness and generosity.

How many in the sound of my voice can testify to the goodness of God in life and living? Has He ever provided for you, answered a prayer, met a need or blessed you in some way? Such are manifestations of His goodness.

Of course, you may be saying to yourself: “How can God be considered good in light of what I have been through?” In light of such sentiments, we do well to remember that God is good even when we sense His presence or see His handiwork the least. The Bible offers this assurance (Rom. 8:28): “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” It is

for this reason that we can fulfill this command of the apostle Paul (1 Thess. 5:16-18): “16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

#### 2) The Love of God

The psalmist posits that we should be thankful because the love of God “endures forever” (v. 5b). Since divine love endures despite all earthly circumstance and affliction, we always have reason to offer thanks! This sentiment is powerfully articulated by Paul the apostle (i.e., a figure who was an expert on human suffering):

#### Romans 8:35, 37-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### 3) The Faithfulness of God

Finally, the psalmist notes that we should be thankful for the abiding “faithfulness” of the Lord (v. 5c). To what degree do you realize that God is reliable, dependable, trustworthy, steadfast, constant, loyal and true? In a world riddled with uncertainty, we can trust in His unwavering fidelity, giving rise to wondrous promises such as these:

#### Hebrews 13:5 (cf. Deut. 31:6)

Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” Lamentations 3:22-23

22 Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed,

for his compassions never fail.

23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Ultimately, a promise is only as good as the one making it. We all know what it is like to be disappointed by a faithless friend who breaks trust! However, such cannot be said of the Lord, as was noted with these words in the days of the Exodus:

#### Numbers 23:19

19 God is not human, that he should lie,

not a human being, that he should change his mind.

Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

May the Lord bless you this Thanksgiving as you seek to fulfill His command:

#### Psalms 100:4-5

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition. Should you have any questions, please reach out to me using the information below. Moreover, we would love to see you in person in the days to come.

Feel free to attend any of our upcoming services. Check us out online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org) for more information.

#### Pastor James Foley

New Life Assembly of God  
60 Main St. South Barre  
[jamesfoley@newlifebarre.org](mailto:jamesfoley@newlifebarre.org)  
978-355-6407

## Women’s Fellowship holds Christmas Fair

BARRE – The Women’s Fellowship of the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., will hold their Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec 2 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be basket raffles, a special take-out lunch or eat-in, craft vendors and baked good table

Donations for the baked good table would be appreciated

As part of the Women’s Fellowship Christmas Fair, they will be offering raffle baskets. Donations of raffle baskets are needed to make this successful. There are many ways to help create these baskets. An individual or

a group of friends can put together an entire basket or can donate items and/or gift cards, which the Women’s Fellowship will include as part of a basket that the fair committee will build. People may also donate money and the committee will purchase things that are necessary to complete baskets. They hope to have a great variety of items to appeal to many different people.

The Women’s Fellowship will need time to get everything together so they ask for all donations by Saturday, Nov. 25. People can drop off their contributions at the church on Thursdays from 9 a.m.- noon or

Sundays after the service.

There are still 14” wreaths available for \$30 decorated to your choice. If people would like to purchase one please call Wendy Isgro at 978-928-5180.

The Flower Committee would like to display different creches this year in the sanctuary along with the Christmas decorations the adorn the church every Advent Season. If people have one and would like to lend it to the committee, they may drop it off at the church on Thursday mornings or call and leave a message on the answering machine and an arrangement can be made to drop it off or get it to Sue Musnicki.

## Latter-day Saints church to display Nativities

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The 13th annual Nativities Around the World held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 108 New Braintree Road, Route 67, will be on display Thursday, Nov. 30 from 4-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1 from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

The Church gathers its congregation from as far as Ware to Cherry Valley, from Barre to Southbridge, from Sturbridge to Palmer, the Brookfields and everything in between.

There will be over 400 nativities displayed this year and all will be in settings of various Christmas themes. In addition to the nativities, there will be a Sing-Along to help boost the Christmas spirit even more on Friday, Dec. 1 starting at 7 p.m. and followed by a dessert bar accompanied with a warm and welcoming spirit. There is never a charge of any kind, nor any donation solicitation, for any event at the church, including the Nativities display and the Sing Along and dessert bar. All are warmly welcomed.

## Unitarian Church Gingerbread Fair to be held

HUBBARDSTON – The First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston, on the Common, will hold their annual Gingerbread Fair on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The fair will have spices, candy, home baked goods, crafts, knitted items, raffles, fresh laurel wreaths and baskets evergreen.

# Obituary

## Claire A. Nickerson, 88

WARREN – Claire A. (Wurf) Nickerson, of Warren, died on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield after a brief illness, at the age of 88.

She leaves her daughter, Deborah Tonelli and her husband Norman of Westerly, Rhode Island; two sons, Timothy Nickerson of Warren, and Jeff Nickerson and his wife Sharon of North Brookfield; four grandchildren, Melissa Vadnais, Allyson Manganello, Tyler Nickerson and Conor Nickerson, as well as three great-grandchildren, Timothy, Rachel, and Julian Letourneau.

She was predeceased by her parents, Walter Wirf and Hattie (Chapin) Wirf, her sister Hilda (Wirf) Zrate, and the love of her life, her husband, Donald Nickerson, who passed away in September.

After graduating from Warren High School, Claire married her high school sweetheart “Nick” and began to raise her family. Along

with her husband she helped manage Nickerson’s Par 3 golf course cooking hundreds of meals over many years.

She volunteered her time on the Warren Fire Department Auxiliary where she helped serve coffee and food to firemen fighting fires at all hours of the day and night. For many years she volunteered counting votes at annual elections for the town of Warren.

Past jobs included being a secretary at WARE radio station, hostess at Salem Cross Inn, and for many years working in the office at Warren Pumps.

Claire was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

At an early age Claire excelled at tap dancing and would perform in local recitals. She was an excellent seamstress, sewing beautiful clothes and costumes for her children and grandchildren.

She loved gardening and crafts. She enjoyed travelling on cruises

## DEATH NOTICE

**Nickerson, Claire A. (Wirf)**  
Died Nov. 10, 2023

with Nick and also taking many fun trips with her grandchildren and enjoyed spending time with “the girls” having coffee at the Warren Spa.

Claire was a very generous person who would help anyone in need.

Nick and Claire were a wonderful and loving couple and will be missed by all who had the privilege to know them. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Honor Flight Connecticut at [www.honorflightct.org](http://www.honorflightct.org) or Second Chance Animal Shelter at <https://www.secondchanceanimals.org/donate/>.

A joint graveside burial for Nick and Claire will be held in the spring at Pine Grove cemetery in Warren and updates will be posted on this obituary. Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting the family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com).

## SASH, continued from page 1

Gaza...where do you go with your families? Where do you take your families for a better life, even if you have to give up everything you love?” she asked.

The sash now belongs to her brother, but Grandpre Wood considers her self the “Keeper of the Sash,” carrying it with her while she continues to find both ancestors and descendants.

Grandpre Wood said her great-grandparents had to uproot and move once again after they lost their farm, bringing all 11 children to Central Falls, Rhode Island where their cousins lived.

The family lived in a tenement house, just as Grandpre Wood did growing up in Central Falls.

The journey of the sash runs parallel to Grandpre Wood’s spiritual journey, leading her to reclaim her faith.

“After being away from the Catholic church for 35 years, I had a call to return to the church,” she said. “Never did I think I’d be including myself in the book.... my story and my return to the Catholic church and my ancestors’ story. What I found out in the end, as I kept bringing the sash to different places, they kept praying for me. It’s about spirituality; mine and theirs.”



The author’s great-grandparents Domina and Albina are shown with their 11 children.

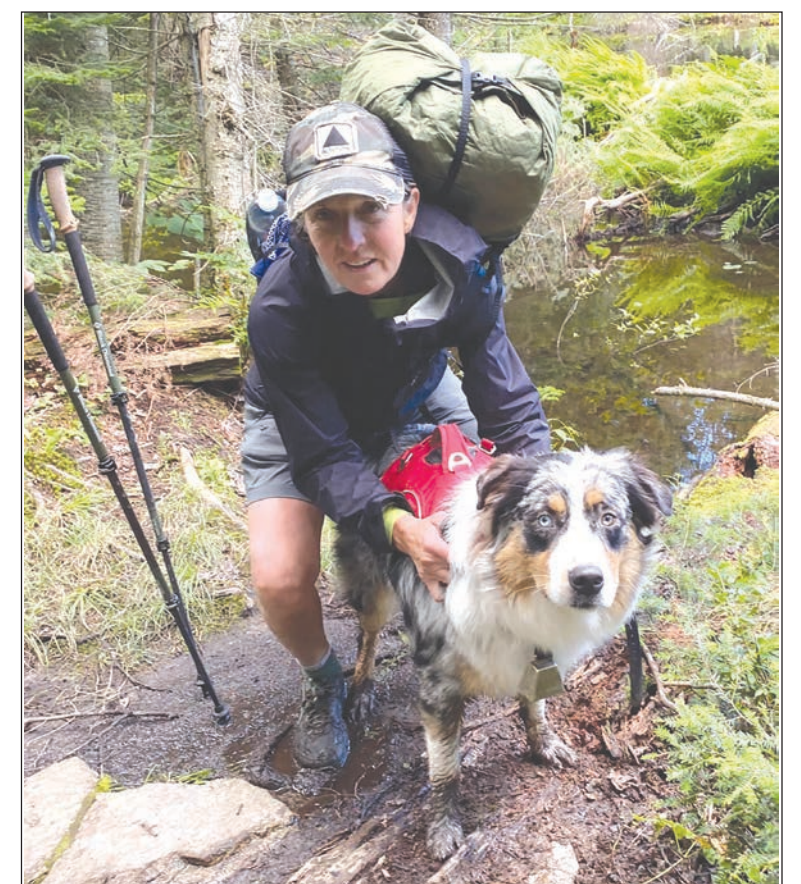


Paula Grandpre Wood wears the sash at a cemetery. The ties that bind

Submitted Photos



The sash is wrapped around a family headstone in Saint-Liboire, Quebec, Canada.



Paula Grandpre Wood is shown hiking with one of her dogs.

ical therapist,” Dusha Nelson said. “I honestly couldn’t put it down. I wanted to hear what the next thing was...people who love history are going to love it, and people who know Paula are going to love her journey.”

When asked if she had plans to continue writing, Grandpre Wood said “it’s not over yet.”

“The sash always takes me to new places and challenges me to go a bit further,” she said.

About “The Arrow Sash”

When she’s not exploring her family’s history, Grandpre Wood enjoys spending time with her husband of 41 years, Mike, and their three dogs. She is also actively involved in the church, as a member of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish.

Prior to her retirement two weeks ago, Grandpre Wood worked as a physical therapist for 37 years at Quality Physical Therapy in Sturbridge and its satellite office at the Listening Wellness Center in Barre.

“For 22 of those years I lived in Barre,” she said. “I think of the thousands of people that I’ve met over the years. I love the work that I was able to do for all those years and the people I got to meet, it’s incredible.”

One of the people Grandpre Wood met during her time as a physical therapist, is Laura Dusha Nelson, the outgoing executive director of the Listening Wellness Center.

“I read the book, because I know Paula, she’s been my phys-

## Red Cross seeks blood donors

MEDFORD – This November, the American Red Cross is encouraging people to add a new tradition as the holiday season begins spread cheer with a blood or platelet donation.

Donations are critical to the blood supply as the holiday season draws near, a time when blood donations often decline. Donors of all blood types are urged to give, especially type O blood donors and those giving platelets.

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the film “Elf,” and create holiday cheer, all who come to give now through Nov. 30 will receive an exclusive pair of “Elf” and Red Cross socks, while supplies last. For more details, people may visit [RedCrossBlood.org/Elf](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Elf).

Those wishing to help patients receive lifesaving transfusions can book a blood or platelet donation appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities at Worcester Blood Donation Center, 381 Plantation St., Worcester include: Thursday, Nov. 23 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Friday, Nov. 24 from 8:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Nov. 25 and Nov. 26 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Monday, Nov. 27, Tuesday, Nov. 28 and Wednesday, Nov. 29 from 12:15-7:15 p.m. and Thursday, Nov. 30 from 11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross is to become a volunteer blood donor ambassador at Red Cross blood

drives. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check-in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience.

Volunteers can also serve as transportation specialists, playing a vital role in ensuring lifesaving blood products are delivered to nearby hospitals. For more information and to apply for either position, people may visit [redcross.org/volunteertoday](http://redcross.org/volunteertoday).

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, people may visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [CruzRojaAmericana.org](http://CruzRojaAmericana.org), or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.



# Business

## College planning firm reaches 30 year milestone in business

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HUBBARDSTON – The efforts of a college planning firm are recognized after 30 years in business.

Programs for Education is a comprehensive college-planning firm that has teamed up with carefully selected advisors in the United States for the purpose of providing substantive academic and admissions counseling support to bright college-bound high school students. A place where smart college planning starts with a free consultation.

At Programs for Education, the journey begins with a 75-minute zoom conference consultation talking with parents and students and explaining the 20-step process. Leaving students and their families with a good direction on where to go for college. Once engaged the program will provide the guidance and support desired. Services include high school academic preparation, four insightful self-assessments, college selection, essay coaching, recommendation, and interview strategies as well as a review of all college applications prior to submission.

College costs can be high, but PFE gives students a holistic view of college planning. All elements including affordability are taken into consideration. Using federal and institutional methodology formulas, these calculations are based upon income and assets and the result is called the Expected Family Contribution. PFE reviews financial aid procedures and policies along with the family's financial preparation and where applicable and practical, makes suggestions to lower college costs. PFE offers a program that many families are taking advantage of to pay for college from cash flow alone. In addition, families can see an estimate of the true bottom-line costs of a college one sometimes two years ahead of time. Thousands of dollars can often be saved with this step. Overall, student's progress is important to PFE.

Director of Programs for Education, Eric Goodhart majored and minored in business and psychology, respectively at George Washington University. He has participated in the College Board admissions and financial aid workshops for college admissions and financial aid administrators. This association with those professionals can help you and your advisor get an early assessment as to how both admissions and the financial aid offices may evaluate the applicant as well as the parents. This includes an eye-opening insight into both the admission and financial aid methodologies practiced by the most competitive private and public colleges.

Eric Goodhart has students

from India, South Korea, China, and the west coast of the United States. Goodhart had started this firm in the 1990's where financial aid began to rise in colleges and many colleges were more frequently tied to using federal funds.

In 1993, an opportunity came for Goodhart to start Programs for Education.

One referral source Goodhart speaks highly of is Stanford University's online high school. A selective independent school for grades 7-12 within Stanford University, where dedicated instructors help academically advanced students worldwide and learn in an online class environment. This online high school has students from all over the world. Goodhart is also trying to develop



Eric Goodhart

more connections with students in the local area.



Submitted photos

College essay coaching is a long-time staple of PFE services.

One of Goodhart's students was a contestant on Who Wants to be a Millionaire when he was in 8th grade and won \$300,000. After that experience, the family asked PFE to work with him starting in the 9th grade. He would then enroll in the Stanford University Online High School. Goodhart's former student is currently a junior at Carnegie Mellon.

Goodhart's work with PFE involved a lot of work with not only students and their families but with essay coaches, college admissions, and learning more about the schools his students are looking into.

Goodhart is currently working on a book with the working title of "Be True to Yourself: The Original is Always More Valuable than a Fake". His book is about reconnecting with his former students over the last 26 years. Through interviews, Goodhart analyzes how much the in-depth self-assessments his students did in high school and how it led them into their current careers. Wanting to know if their students made choices that ultimately made them happy.

Programs for Education has supported over 1250 students, 2,500-3,000 students serviced

for college list selection and over 900 students serviced through the whole PFE service.

For Goodhart, those self-assessments are essential to a student's ongoing learning through college and life after college.

"Read between the lines," said Goodhart. Referring to the importance of critical thinking.

Goodhart was a student of psychology and learned how to interact with other people and has developed an important level of critical thinking that he hopes his students can pick up as they venture into their education. Critical thinking skills are rarely applicable across disciplines. Students must gain an exceptional amount of knowledge in a certain area before they can apply what they have learned to other fields of study.

"More beyond what we're told,

a deeper thought," said Goodhart. A 13-page transcript titled "An introduction to Critical Thinking" is available to download and review on smartcollegeplanning.org.

Goodhart is proud of the 30 years of business Programs for Education has offered to thousands of students. For his students, Goodhart always encourages them to pursue what defines who they are.

"If you have a desire to go into business, identify a need, who you are and do you have the personality to fill that need," said Goodhart. "I'm a teacher at heart. I do my best to get students on the right track. Analyze who you are."

To review the outcomes, Goodhart's new book will be about reconnecting with the students he's helped over the years.

"I enjoy working with these kids and watching their progress," Goodhart said.

Programs for Education is available for college and planning information for high school students seeking post-graduate options. PFE can be reached by calling 978-820-1295 and via email at help@smartcollegeplanning.org. To learn more about Programs for Education, visit their website at smartcollegeplanning.org.

## Gullini named president of Massachusetts DAs Association

In a unanimous vote by the Commonwealth's district attorneys, Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni has been elected as the president of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association.



Anthony D. Gulluni, Hampden District Attorney

This is the second time Gulluni has been elected president of the association, the first coming in November of 2019. He has been serving as vice president for the past year, and will now serve as president for the next year.

MDAA is an independent state agency whose mission is to support the eleven elected Massachusetts District Attorneys, their staff, including approximately 785 prosecutors and 260 victim

witness advocates, while promoting public safety practices and policies on a state-wide basis.

Gulluni stated in a press release, "I am honored by the trust of my fellow district attorneys in electing me as president of our association. I am enthusiastic about representing my colleagues on matters affecting public safety throughout the Commonwealth and advancing our shared commitment to justice, fairness, and integrity."

First elected in 2015, Gulluni is currently serving his third term in office.

He currently sits on the Massachusetts Victim and Witness Assistance Board, which

is the governing body of the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance, which is the only state-wide board representing victims' rights. He also serves on the Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes.

His appointments first came under Governor Charlie Baker and has been reappointed to both by Governor Maura Healey.

Gulluni is a pragmatic prosecutor whose work in promoting public safety includes strong partnerships, focused and strategic prosecutions, and ground-breaking preventative programming, such as the Emerging Adult Court of Hope, Future Lawyers of Springfield, Hampden County Addiction Taskforce, and his office's prolific outreach and programming within the many school districts of Hampden County.

# Public Safety

## Barre Police Log

- Sunday, Nov. 5**
  - 12:45 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Allergic Reaction, Maple Lane, Transported to Hospital
  - 4:51 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Sunrise Avenue, Transported to Hospital
  - 9:16 a.m. Road Hazard, Newton Street, Referred to Other Agency
  - 9:17 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, Report Filed
  - 1:16 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint, Vernon Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party
  - 4:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Swallowed Battery, South Street, Transported to Hospital
  - 5:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Main Street, Mutual Aid Assist
  - 7:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Hand/Elbow Injury, South Street, Transported to Hospital
- Monday, Nov. 6**
  - 1:30 a.m. Road Hazard, Hubbardston Road, Referred to Other Agency
  - 12:23 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Officer Advised
  - 6:16 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Valley Road, Report Filed
  - 9:34 p.m. Animal Wildlife, Grove North Street, Gone on Arrival
- Tuesday, Nov. 7**
  - 11:12 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Coldbrook Road, Negative Contact
  - 12:05 p.m. Fire – Erratic Operator, West Street, Negative Contact
  - 4:09 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Athol, Officer Advised
  - 7:54 p.m. Tree in Wires (Not on Ground), Washburn Road, No Action Required
- Wednesday, Nov. 8**
  - 11:45 a.m. Safety Concern, Hubbardston Road, Public Assist
- Thursday, Nov. 9**
  - 12:28 a.m. Suspicious Vehicles, South Street, Party Departed Without Incident
  - 9:20 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital
  - 10:05 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Seizures, Harty Road, Transported to Hospital
  - 1:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Sick/Unknown, Gauthier Road, Transported to Hospital
- Friday, Nov. 10**
  - 1:29 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Coldbrook Road, Vehicle Towed
  - 2:53 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Coldbrook Road, Information Taken
  - 3:24 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Hubbardston Road, Officer Advised
  - 7 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, South Street, Verbal Warning
- Saturday, Nov. 11**
  - 2:10 p.m. Property Returned, Main Street, Property Returned
  - 2:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Common Street, Officer Advised
  - 4:51 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Ruggles Lane, Officer Spoke to Party
- South Barre**
  - Tuesday, Nov. 7**
    - 3:26 p.m. Highway/Water/Sewer Calls, Oakham Road, Information Given
  - Wednesday, Nov. 8**
    - 8:01 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Chapman Road, Information Taken
  - Thursday, Nov. 9**
    - 2:35 p.m. Police – Theft/Larceny, North Brookfield Road, Officer Took Call
    - 3:06 p.m. Animal – Bite, School South Street, Officer Advised

## Hubbardston Police Log

- Sunday, Nov. 5**
  - 2:14 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Allergic Reaction, Morgan Road, Mutual Aid Transport
  - 2:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pitcherville Road, Party Departed without Incident
  - 5:08 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Verbal Warning
- Monday, Nov. 6**
  - 9:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Williamsville Road, Citation Issued
  - 1:47 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke Party
  - 1:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
  - 3:38 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Pitcherville Road, Animal Returned to Owner
- Tuesday, Nov. 7**
  - 11:44 a.m. Confiscated/Seized Property, Pitcherville Road, Officer Took Call
  - 3:10 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Pitcherville Road, Referred to Other Agency
  - 4:59 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Ed Clark Road, Transported to Hospital
  - 8:06 p.m. Fire – Illegal Burn, Morgan Road, No Fire Service Necessary
  - 8:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, Public Assist
- Wednesday, Nov. 8**
  - 5:44 p.m. Property Returned, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
  - 6:43 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Overdose/Poisoning, Kruse Road, Transported to Hospital
- Thursday, Nov. 9**
  - 10:43 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Madison Way, Transported to Hospital
  - 1:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, New Templeton Road, Removed Hazard
- Friday, Nov. 10**
  - 9:23 a.m. Police – Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Williamsville Road, Report Filed
  - 11:11 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Rutland, Transported to Hospital
- Saturday, Nov. 11**
  - 7:43 a.m. Power Outage, Williamsville Road, Investigated
  - 3:08 p.m. Police – Larceny/Theft, Old Princeton Road, Report Filed
  - 10:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Abdominal – Back Pain, Mayo Road, No Action Required

## Rutland Police Log

- Sunday, Nov. 5**
  - 6:42 a.m. Road Hazard, Wachusett Street, Removed Hazard
  - 7:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Fisherman's Road, Officer Spoke to Party
  - 9:49 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Post Surgical Pain, Blair Drive, Transported to Hospital
  - 12:04 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Maple Avenue, Gone on Arrival
  - 4:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Vehicle Towed
  - 9:17 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pommogussett Road, No Fire Service Necessary
- Monday, Nov. 6**
  - 10:18 a.m. Trees in Wires (Not on Ground), Main Street, Investigated
  - 5 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
- Tuesday, Nov. 7**
  - 8:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Highland Park Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
  - 10:41 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Old Turnpike Road, Transported to Hospital
  - 10:52 a.m. Animal – Bite, Edson Avenue, Report Filed
  - 3:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Criminal Complaint
  - Summons: Howe, Kristine Marie, 50, Rutland
  - Charges: Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle
  - 4:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
- Wednesday, Nov. 8**
  - 4:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
  - 4:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Sassawanna Road, Written Warning
  - 5:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
  - 5:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal Complaint
  - Summons: Robles, Eduardo E., 34, Barre
  - Charges: Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Uninsured Motor Vehicles
  - 8:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Unconscious, Unresponsive, Syncope, Soucy Drive, Transported to Hospital
- Thursday, Nov. 9**
  - 8:14 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Ridge Road, Transported to Hospital
  - 11:48 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Seizures, Deacon Allen Drive, Transported to Hospital
  - 1:46 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Franklin, Information Taken
  - 3:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
  - 7:37 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Prescott Street, No Fire Service Necessary
  - 8:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
  - 9:56 p.m. Swatting, Winifreds Way, Officer Took Call
- Friday, Nov. 10**
  - 3:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
  - 5:04 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Pleasantdale Road, Negative Contact
  - 7:45 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Pommogussett Road, Transported to Hospital
- Saturday, Nov. 11**
  - 5:24 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Maple Avenue, Ambulance Signed Refusal
  - 4:22 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Sassawanna Road, Public Assist
  - 4:38 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Fitchburg, Negative Contact

## Oakham Police Log

- Monday, Nov. 6**
  - 10:18 a.m. Police – Abandoned Vehicle/Parking, Scott Road, Investigated
- Tuesday, Nov. 7**
  - 10:41 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Old Turnpike Road, Transported to Hospital
  - 5:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled Vehicle, Robinson Road, No Action Required
- Wednesday, Nov. 8**
  - 7:56 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Rutland, Mutual Aid Assist
- Thursday, Nov. 9**
  - 11:48 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Seizures, Deacon Allen Drive, Transported to Hospital
  - 2:44 p.m. Police – Fraud/Forgery, Bullard Road, Report Filed
  - 5:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
  - 8:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Chest Pain/Heart Problem,
- Friday, Nov. 10**
  - 1:45 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Coldbrook Road, Area Patrolled
- Saturday, Nov. 11**
  - 5:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, North Brookfield Road, Gone on Arrival
  - 10:07 p.m. Police – Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Coldbrook Road, Officer Spoke to Party

P	A	C	A		A	S	K	I	N	G		
L	O	A	N		G	I	D	D	I	N	E	S
A	R	M	Y		E	D			D	U	B	A
S	T	E	W	A	R	D	E	S	S	E	S	M
M	A	R	A	C	A	M	A	C	S	D	I	M
A	L	A	Y		E	A	C	H	E	A	S	E
				B	A	N	N	S	P	A	R	E
A	F	F	E	C	T				M	A	R	I
L	O	I	R	E		O	L	M	E	C		
M	R	N	A		E	R	I	C		A	B	A
O	E	D		G	L	E	N		U	N	C	O
N	P		C	O	M	M	E	N	D	A	T	O
D	A	L	E	A		M	O			O	B	I
S	W	O	R	D	S	M	E	N		R	O	E
				O	S	C	I	N	E		S	O

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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



**VETERANS,**  
continued from page 1

involved students shaking hands with each veteran and thanking them for their service. Each fourth grader shared their thoughts about the ceremony after returning to class. It was evident that all students felt honored and thankful to have had the opportunity to meet "real-life Veterans," as one student said.

Other students connected with members of their families who had served to learn about their service. As one parent said, "To see my son reach out and connect with his grandfather to discuss his military service brought tears to my eyes."



Veterans pose with their children and grandchildren at the Ruggles Lane Elementary School Veterans Day Ceremony held Wednesday, Nov. 8.



The fourth grade students also set up a remembrance table for the special ceremony.

Submitted photos

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

**FOR SALE**  
**ESTATE SALE**  
NOVEMBER 24-25-26.  
9AM-4PM.  
51 BRIDLE ROAD, LUDLOW  
Furniture, artwork, antique items and more. Indoors and outdoors.

**FIREWOOD**  
Fresh cut & split \$200.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes guaranteed!! New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
BALED HAY FOR SALE. Call 413-323-7120.

**JUNK REMOVAL**  
**A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL**  
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.  
We load it & take it.  
413-531-1936  
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL**  
Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone. Call Pete 413-433-0356.

**SERVICES**  
**A B Hauling and Removal Service**

**2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\***  
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

**BILODEAU AND SON ROOFING.** Established 1976. New re-roofs and repairs. Gutter cleanings and repairs. Licensed/insured. Call (413)967-6679

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

**SERVICES**  
**CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing** - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Wait at (413)289-6670 for estimate.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
**HOME IMPROVEMENTS. RE-MODELING** Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

**NAWROCKI HOME IMPROVEMENT** Kitchens, bathrooms, replacement windows & doors, roofing, siding, decks, custom woodworking, drywall. Full insured & registered 413-237-2250 Mark

**LANDSCAPING**  
**A. ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE**  
Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

**\*\*ALL SEASON\*\*** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

**MASONRY**  
**STOP WET BASEMENTS**  
**ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING**  
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

**PAINTING**  
**DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING** Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call (508)867-2550

**FORBES & SONS PAINTING & STAINING** Interior, residential, commercial and new construction, wallpaper removal, sheetrock and plaster repairs. Quality products. Since 1985. Free estimates. Fully Insured. Call Brad Forbes at B-413-887-1987.

**RETIRED GUY WILL** paint an average size room for \$200. Quality work. References available. Dave 413-323-6858.

**SERVICES**  
**WE DO LLC** Painting interior, exterior and drywall repair. Resident epoxy flooring. We treat your home like our own homes. Fully licensed and insured. Call WE DO today for a free estimate ask for Mac (413)344-6883

**TREE WORK**  
**DL & G TREE SERVICE.** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

**H & H TREE SERVICE** All phases of tree care. Call Dave 413-668-6560 day/night.

**SERVICES**  
**STUMP GRINDING**  
**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

Advertise your home improvement services in our classifieds. We get results!

**HELP WANTED**  
**PAID ON-THE-JOB HOME HEALTH AIDE TRAINING.**  
Earn \$2000 once you complete our Certified Home Health Aide 115-hour Training Program. \$300 Sign on Bonus also available!  
Call **Excel Nursing Services** 413-583-8900. EOE. [www.excelnursing.com](http://www.excelnursing.com)

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES**  
QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON  
HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON

**REAL ESTATE**  
**FOR RENT**  
**WEST WARREN:** 1 BR., off street parking, first and last required. 774-922-0529.

Post your job openings in our classifieds. WE GET RESULTS!

**REAL ESTATE**  
**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**  
**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**FOR RENT**  
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 advertised 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.

## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or call: 413-283-8393

**DEADLINES:** QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON  
HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words

Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**

Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):

Quabbin

Suburban

Hilltowns

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

## Public Notices

**Barre, MA ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
The Barre Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, Selectmen Meeting Room, 1st Floor,

40 West Street, Barre, MA requested by Mohammad Khan for a variance from the requirement of Table of Dimensional Requirements, Note 1, to allow a dwelling to be erected in accordance with the Dimensional Requirements of the Business and Commercial District for property located at 31 North Brookfield

Road, Assessors Lot G, Parcel 407 as show on the Barre Assessor's Map, which is also the land recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 12408, Page 163.  
Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing prior to the hear-

ing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street – Suite 5, Barre, MA, [barreboards@townofbarre.com](mailto:barreboards@townofbarre.com) or contact the Boards' Office at 978-355-2504 ext. 8.  
Joshua Smith  
Chairman  
11/23, 11/30/2023

WE'VE EXPANDED OUR WEB SITE

# PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

**visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)**



# Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

**BLACK FRIDAY SALE!!!**  
**OPEN FRIDAY 8 AM TO 10 PM**  
**SUNDAYS NOW 10 AM TO 7 PM**

**1,000s OF APPLIANCES!**  
**E BIKES IN STOCK!**  
**ALWAYS FREE DELIVERY**  
**BEST PRICE**  
**FAST DELIVERY OR PICK UP**  
**GIANT TOY DEPT!!!**

**WHITCO TOY & BIKE**   
 12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING **140 Main St., Spencer**  
**www.whitcosales.com 508-885-9343**  
 Open: Mon. thru Sat. 10am-8:30pm; Sun. 10am-7pm

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** - This gorgeous home will truly impress! Set way off the road on just over 8.5 acres, you will enjoy privacy and beautiful views year round. The main floor has a huge kitchen with a walk-in pantry, formal dining room, living room with a pellet stove, half bath, laundry room with a utility sink, and a room that could be used as either an office or bedroom. The second floor has 3 large bedrooms and a full bathroom PLUS a massive main bedroom suite with huge double closets and a beautifully renovated bathroom with a double vanity, linen closet, large tiled shower, and soaker tub imported from Belgium. The walkout basement is partially finished as well with another half bath and a large game room, gym, or perfect teen space. The large deck and pool are perfect for entertaining in the summer and if you enjoy gardening, you will love the variety of fruit trees and large garden area that is all set for the spring. **PRICE REDUCTION \$699,000**



**YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS**

**We Do More So You Will Make More!**

**EXIT**  
 EXIT Real Estate Executives  
 130 W. Main Street  
 Spencer, MA 01562

**Michelle Terry**  
 Broker/Owner  
**michelleterryteam.com**

**GIVE US A CALL TODAY! 508-202-0008**

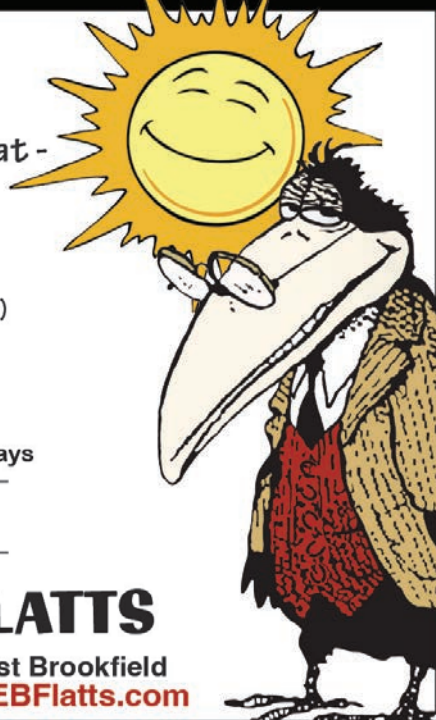
**OPEN**

- Mon, Tues, Fri, Sat -  
 7 am - 2 pm

- Sundays -  
 (Serving Breakfast Only)  
 7 am - 1 pm

Closed  
 Wednesdays & Thursdays

Dinner Hours  
 temporarily on hold



**E.B. FLATTS**  
 245 W. Main East Brookfield  
 508-867-6643 **EBFlatts.com**

**EXCITING NEWS!** I will be moving my Century 21 North East office to 180 West St. in Ware on December 1st, 2023! I look forward to Past, Present and Future clients stopping in at my new location. If you are looking to Buy or Sell a property please contact me and I look forward to working with You! **HAVE A NICE HOLIDAY!**  
 Dorrinda O'Keefe-Shea



**CENTURY 21**  
 North East  
 Century 21 North East Ready to Buy or Sell? Call Me!  
 109 West St., Ware 1-978-434-1990

**OPEN UNTIL CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**PICK UP YOUR BAKING APPLES**  
**MANY CHOICES**  
**RAGGED HILL ORCHARDS**

Open Daily 9-5 • 508-867-2187  
 Ragged Hill/John Gilbert Rd., W. Brookfield  
**www.raggedhill.com**

Directions From Rte 9, take Pierce Rd. to Ragged Hill Rd. or take Snow Rd. to Wickaboag Valley Rd. to Ragged Hill Rd.



**Support Your Hometown Businesses**  
**SHOP LOCAL**

**STARTING AT \$9.99** /each **SAVE UP TO 31%**

**\$10.73** /each **SAVE UP TO 44%**

**NAPA Extended Life Cooling System Antifreeze + Coolant for All Makes All Models Ready To Use**



**NAPA SCA Precharged Heaby Duty Antifreeze/ Coolant**

**WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!**  
**WINTER IS COMING!**  
 BULK ROAD SALT • BULK TREATED SALT  
 WASHED WINTER ROAD SAND • SAND/SALT MIX  
**STOCK UP NOW!**

Construction Stone • Landscaping Stone  
 Title V Septic Sand • Presby Sand • Concrete Sand  
 Stone Dust • Crushed Gravel • Cold Patch

**Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums**  
**PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!**

**Bond**  
 Sand, Gravel & Asphalt  
 98 North Spencer Road, Route 31N, Spencer, MA  
**508-885-6100**  
**508-885-2480**  
**www.bondsandandgravel.com**



**The Barre Patch**  
 Burgers, BBQ and More

7 Worcester Rd., Barre  
**978-355-3000**

Mon. & Thurs. 3pm-9pm  
 Fri. & Sat. 11:30 am - 11pm  
 Sun. 11:30am-7:30pm  
 Closed Tues. & Wed.  
 Hours may change  
 Check Facebook for updates

**NAPA AUTO PARTS**  
**WARE • WEST BROOKFIELD**

175 West St., Ware 413-967-5121 • 967-3184  
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-7; Sat. 8-3; Sun. 9-2

116 Federal St. (Rt. 9) Belchertown 413-323-7661 • 323-9296

117 West Main St., W. Brookfield • 508-867-9947  
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-5:30; Sat. 8-3; Sun. 9-2

*Adventure tours of Warren*  
 Share the Adventure with us!

**12-NIGHT CARIBBEAN CRUISE - April 7-19, 2024**

Call now - **December 1 deadline!**



**NCL NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE**  
 HAPPY HOLIDAY WISHING A HOLIDAY SPIRIT OF AMERICA.

Nov. 18	.....	Vermont Country Store	.....	\$79
Dec. 30	.....	Moulin Rouge!	.....	\$125
Jan. 27	.....	Ain't Too Proud - Temptations	.....	\$99
March 16	.....	Frozen at P.P.A.C.	.....	\$130
May 24	.....	7-night Bermuda Cruise	...	from \$1599

**Share the Adventure with us soon!**  
 For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email [adventuretours@att.net](mailto:adventuretours@att.net) or go to [www.adventuretoursforwarren.com](http://www.adventuretoursforwarren.com)

**BOOK YOUR CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY PARTIES TODAY!**  
**DATES STILL AVAILABLE!**  
**COME AND WATCH THE GAMES ON SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND MONDAY NIGHTS!**



**NOTHING SAYS FALL LIKE A FIREPIT IN THE BACKYARD**

We stock 6 different styles  
 Prices starting under \$360  
 For Firepit and block



**CONCRETE SOLUTIONS**  
 199 East Broadway (Rt. 2A), Gardner  
 978-669-0088



**Holiday roasts available for pre-order**

Farmer Matt has standing rib, prime rib, and tenderloin roasts available for your holiday table. All roasts are dry-aged Angus beef.

**FarmerMatt.com/roasts**



**Farmer Matt**  
 FARM-FRESH + LOCAL  
 FarmerMatt.com  
 860 West Brookfield Rd.  
 New Braintree, MA

**Farmer Matt**  
 FARM-FRESH + LOCAL

860 West Brookfield Rd., New Braintree, MA

Farm-fresh beef, pork, and poultry and hot meals and freshly baked goods from Farmer Matt's kitchen.

**FarmerMatt.com or (508) 980-7085**

**Holiday roasts available for pre-order**

Farmer Matt has standing rib, prime rib, and tenderloin roasts available for your holiday table. All roasts are dry-aged Angus beef.

Order online  
**FarmerMatt.com/roasts**

