

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Assessor holds tax classification hearing

### Board approves single residential tax rate

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – Administrative Assessor Jesse Warren said the Board of Assessors recommended the town adopt a residential tax factor of one at the Monday, Nov. 20 Select Board meeting.

Barre is about 97% residential and the remaining 3% is commercial and industrial. He said the Assessors did not recommend the open space discount as it did not apply to Barre. He said they did not recommend the residential exemption shift for the same reason. It was for communities with a lot of vacation homes, which Barre did not have.

He also recommended against adopting the small commercial exemption as the owner of the property not the business owner would benefit. The Select Board approved all the recommendations presents by the Administrative Assessor. They moved to adopt the single tax rate and did not approve the open space discount, residential exemption and small commercial exemption.

#### Interim Town Administrator Report

Interim Town Administrator Greg Balukonis said Barre's free cash figure estimate was \$62,573 much lower than in previous years. He said this was a dramatic decrease as last year certified free cash was \$875,000. He recommended the Select Board ask the Town Accountant Jean Joel to attend a Select Board meetings to discuss this. He said once the police contract gets ratified any surplus money set aside for con-

See BARRE, page 5

## Lions Club decorates Petersham bandstand

PETERSHAM – On Saturday, Nov. 25, the Petersham Lions Club was in elf mode to do the annual decorating of the Petersham Common Bandstand and Christmas tree.

The hearty group of elves weathered the chill to hang lights, raise and decorate the tree and add wreaths to the bandstand. This was all in preparation for the Annual Tree Lighting that took place on Sunday, Nov. 26 afternoon. The Petersham Lions purchase the tree and decorate the bandstand every year for the Christmas season.

On Sunday, Nov. 26 the Petersham Lions Club and the Petersham Memorial Library hosted pictures with Santa in the library. The Library offered hot cocoa and coffee, cookies, candy canes, craft projects, and stories.

There was a large turnout of families. The Petersham Fire Department brought Santa to the library where a long line of children waited to share their wish lists and have their picture taken with Santa. He was a very busy Santa. At 4 p.m., everyone gathered around the bandstand for the Annual Tree Lighting.



Submitted photos

The Petersham Lions Club members decorate the Petersham common bandstand on Saturday, Nov. 25.



The lights on the bandstand got turned on Sunday afternoon.



This is how the bandstand on Petersham Common looks after dark.

## Board holds tax classification hearing

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

HUBBARDSTON – Robert Heckman, Regional Associate Assessor, held a public tax classification hearing on behalf of the Hubbardston Board of Assessors at the Select Board meeting Monday, Nov. 20.

He said the town is 93.6% residential and 6.32% commercial, industrial and personal property. He said the assessors base their real estate valuations on sales of two years back. He said this year there was \$168,687 in new growth, which was higher than past years. The levy limit is \$8,431,747.

Every five years, the Department of Revenue require recertification. Next year is a recertification year for Hubbardston.

Heckman recommended the Select Board adopt a shift factor of 1.000 residential and 1.00 commercial, industrial and personal property. The estimated tax rate is \$11.79 per thousand. This is a decrease of \$1.24 from last year's tax rate. It will now go to the Department of Revenue for their approval.

Although the tax rate went down, property valuations increased. The average household in Hubbardston will pay about \$130 more per year.

#### Winter operation plan

Highway Director Travis Brown presented the department's winter operation plan. He said he was getting the equipment ready. Select Board member Kris Paraego asked what were his plans for plowing the new sidewalks on Main Street. He said he will be using a snow-blower to do the sidewalks as it leaves less of mess than a sidewalk plow.

In response to Select Board Chair Jeff Williams question regarding crew numbers, he said he was down one crew member and

See HUBBARDSTON, page 5

## Reunion celebrates central Massachusetts basketball

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

WORCESTER – Well over 100 people gathered to honor and recognize the contributions central Massachusetts had, and continues to have, to the sport of basketball.

On Nov. 25, the Worcester Public Library opened its community space to host the Central Mass Basketball Reunion, celebrating the legacy of the sport in Worcester, and recognizing some of its greatest athletes and coaches.

Emceeding the event was Ed Reilly, Worcester Academy's athletic director, who credited Worcester native and author Mark "Pathfinder" Epstein with bringing everyone together through his book, "Jack 'The Shot' Foley - A Legend for All Time: With Togo Palazzi and Central Mass Basketball".

Epstein is the son of Charlie Epstein, a local icon who owned and operated the Water Street sporting goods store, Charlie's Surplus. Epstein's father was also instrumental in supporting the basketball league at Crompton Park.

His book chronicles the lives of two men, Togo Palazzi and Jack "The Shot" Foley, who each had a profound impact on his life, and instilled his love of basketball.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Author and Worcester native Mark "Pathfinder" Epstein signs books at the Central Mass Basketball Reunion on Nov. 25.

"Mark has a big heart and a want to do good for others," Reilly said of Epstein. "His book has contributed to the renaissance of Worcester."

Epstein thanked Worcester Public Library staff and Executive Director Jason Homer for hosting the reunion, and also those in attendance.

"What a collection of talent assembled," Epstein said. "We could have one hell of a game at Crompton Park."

Epstein said central Massachusetts has had many of the

greatest coaches and mentors of all time, including his "Uncle Togo" Palazzi.

Palazzi led Holy Cross to the 1954 NIT championship and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. He was the fifth pick in the first round NBA draft by the Boston Celtics, where he played four seasons before going to the Syracuse Nationals.

Following his basketball career, Palazzi turned to coaching, which he would dedicate more than 35 years of his life to.

See REUNION, page 9

## Lions Club selling Christmas trees



Submitted photo

This year's setup committee for the Barre Lions Club Christmas tree sale consisted of, from left, John Wisniewski, Kenny McCarthy, Robin Cheney and Joe Petracone.

BARRE – Once again, the Barre Lions Club is selling Christmas trees on Barre Common. The trees are \$49 and

whoever buys a tree will receive a free, handmade ornament.

Also, donations to the Barre Food Pantry would be appreciated.

All proceeds from the tree sales are given back to the community via various charitable organizations.

## Baby's First Christmas

Once again the Barre Gazette will feature Baby's First Christmas in the Thursday, Dec. 21 edition.

Parents of all babies born in late November 2022 through December 2023 are invited to submit a photo of their baby, baby's birth date, name, par-

ents names and town they live in, siblings, grandparents and great-grandparents to the editor Ellenor Downer at edowner@turley.com.

Deadline to submit is Monday, Dec. 11 by 5 p.m. There is no charge for running your baby's photo. Each child's

picture will be displayed with an ornament or gift box as a background. The page also features ads from local businesses.

This has been a long standing tradition, which dates back to when Madeline Willey was office manager and Gene Kennedy was photographer.



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# News of the Towns

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

**Christmas in Barre happens Saturday**  
Christmas in Barre events will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Barre Common. New this year is a Festival of Trees in the Barre Town Hall. Events include: crafts at the Woods Memorial Library from 10 a.m.-noon; Gingerbread Madness sponsored by MOC Coordinated Family and Community Engagement, lower level Exchange Street from 10 a.m.-noon; face painting at Heritage Center from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Santa Parade beginning at approximately 12:15 p.m. from Ruggles Lane Elementary School to Barre Common; visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus in Barre Town Hall from 1-3 p.m.; Barre Historical Society Museum open 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., wandering magician Joe Scola and children's obstacle course on the Common.

**Women's Fellowship fair**  
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.

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 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.

**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.

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

## New Braintree Library holds story time

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, is offering the next story time programs on Monday, Dec. 4 and Monday, Dec. 18 at 9 a.m.

This reading and crafts program for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays at the library, 45 Memorial Drive. On Monday, Dec. 4, the stories are "The Snow Tree" by Caroline Repchuk and "Dear Rebecca, Winter is Here" by Jean Craighead George. On Monday, Dec. 18 will feature "Pete the Cat Saves Christmas" by Eric Litwin and "The Animals' Santa" by Jan Brett.

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

MOC COORDINATED FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					10AM Playgroup 307 Main St. Gilbertville	10AM Gingerbread Madness! 7 Exchange St. Barre
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
December is National Safe Toys and Gifts Month. It serves as a reminder to provide age appropriate safe toys to ensure the wellbeing of young recipients.	10AM Playgroup 16 Elm St. Baldwinville	10AM Playgroup 7 Exchange St. Barre SNAP ED Cooking Program (Registration Required) 10AM Outdoor Playgroup Crocker Park Playground, Fitchburg	10AM Gingerbread Madness! 68 Coleman St. Gardner 3pm Playgroup For Bush Memorial Library, Westminster	10AM Gingerbread Madness! 601 River St. Fitchburg	10AM Gingerbread StoryWalk Ware River Park Lower Rd. Gilbertville	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Grandparent Winter Celebration! Barre Senior Center (Registration Required)	10AM Playgroup 7 Exchange St. Barre SNAP ED Cooking Program (Registration Required) 10AM Outdoor Playgroup Crocker Park Playground, Fitchburg	10AM Playgroup 68 Coleman St. Gardner	10AM Playgroup 601 River St. Fitchburg	10AM Playgroup 307 Main St. Gilbertville	Please check our MOC CFE and Parent Child + Facebook page for updates & cancellations
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Visit <a href="http://nationalholiday.com/safety-sandgiftsmoth">http://nationalholiday.com/safety-sandgiftsmoth</a>	1030AM Playgroup Stephens Memorial Library, Ashburnham	10AM Playgroup 7 Exchange St. Barre SNAP ED Cooking Program (Registration Required) 10AM Outdoor Playgroup Crocker Park Playground, Fitchburg	10AM Playgroup 68 Coleman St. Gardner Winter Street Relief Yoga 7 Exchange St. Barre (Registration Required)	10AM Playgroup 601 River St. Fitchburg (No Evening Playgroup)	10AM Playgroup 307 Main St. Gilbertville	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
MOC CLOSED FOR WINTER BREAK! Enjoy the Holidays, and Happy New Year!						
All MOC CFE programs are funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. Free Playgroups, StoryWalks, and Family Events. No registration is required. For ages Birth to 6yrs and their guardians!						

**Hubbardston**  
Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

**School to host Brunch with Santa**  
The Hubbardston Center School, Elm Street, will host brunch with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m.-noon. Donation is \$10.

**Santa visit**  
On Sunday, Dec. 10 Santa will go around town on a fire truck. People may drop off gifts, unwrapped and labeled. For more information on Santa's route, people may email hubbardston.fire@gmail.com.

On Saturday, Dec. 16 the Lions Club will sponsor pictures with Santa.

**Pioneer Valley Brass**  
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.

**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. 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.hubbardstonma.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.

## Rutland business donates to Listening Wellness Center

BARRE – Brad Roy, owner of Quality Painting and Restoration in Rutland recently donated another check to Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., as part of the Center's three year capital campaign.

Listening Wellness Center's Executive Director Laura Dusha Nelson said Roy is "making a positive impact" by supporting the Center.

For every referral or mention of Listening, Roy will make a donation to the Center once the work is complete. Call 978-230-2638 and mention "Listening" to help benefit the Center's capital campaign.

Roy also owns Quality Power Washing and Paver Restoration, which specializes in cleaning, restoration and sealing for homes, decks and pavers. Call 508-868-7688 for more information about these services.



Submitted Photo  
**Brad Roy and Quality Painting and Restoration will continue donating to Listening Wellness Center for every referral or mention from the Center. He is shown with Executive Director Laura Dusha Nelson (left) and Amy LaPointe.**

## Barre Food Pantry holds monthly distributions

BARRE – The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, Dec. 21 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Dec. 13 or in the evening on Thursday, Dec. 21, whichever is more convenient for them. The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients.

The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the spread of the COVID-19 sub variant viruses. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but decided that the most

responsible path forward is to continue to operate as we have since March of 2020.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Dec. 13 and Dec. 21 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Based on the success of distributions so far, the Food Pantry volunteers believe this "drive-through" style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

On Tuesday night, Dec. 12

at 5:30p.m., the Barre Food Pantry will be gathering volunteers at the Barre Congregational Church to unload incoming groceries from their truck, to sort through donated groceries, to pre-fill grocery bags and in other ways to prepare for the distribution the following morning.

If people can help pitch in for an hour on the Dec. 12, they may call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921.

People should not arrive to volunteer on Dec. 12, Dec. 13 or Dec. 21 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921, Dave Petrovick at 978-852-1696 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

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

## 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 Dec. 4. Lunches are back at the senior center, but require a pre-sign up. Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MONDAY – Braised beef, gemelli pasta, broccoli, fresh fruit, Italian bread

TUESDAY – Hot dog, baked beans, coleslaw, baked apples, hot dog bun, mustard

WEDNESDAY – Stuffed pepper casserole, mashed potatoes, carrots, ambrosia, marble rye bread

THURSDAY – Garlic herbed chicken, cranberry herb stuffing, roasted Brussels sprouts, apple crisp, diet = applesauce, marble rye bread

FRIDAY – American chop suey, roasted broccoli and carrots, blondie, diet = half blondie, Italian bread

\*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

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# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE.

Insurance Advisory Committee – Dec. 4 at 5 p.m.  
 Select Board – Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Ad Hoc School Configuration Subcommittee and Buildings, Grounds and Safety Subcommittee – Dec. 5 at 10 a.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Dec. 5 at 6 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.  
 Conservation Committee – Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.

### HARDWICK

Master Plan Steering Committee – Dec. 5 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.  
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 7 and Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustees – Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Selectmen – Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Dec. 13 at 9 a.m.  
 Gilbertville Public Library – Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.  
 Capital Planning Committee – Dec. 18 at 3 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Water District – Dec. 19 at 5:30 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Cultural Council – Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 6 and Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Public Listening Session on Rural Enterprise Zoning District – Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Public Safety Building Committee – Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Library Trustees – Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.  
 Downtown Development Committee – Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Select Board – Dec. 5 and Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.  
 Parks and Recreation – Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.  
 Special Town Meeting – Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.  
 Tax Classification Hearing – Dec. 12 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 27 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Select Board – Dec. 11 and Dec. 26 at 6 p.m.  
 Classification Hearing – Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 20 at 5 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Select Board – Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Advisory Finance Committee – Nov. 30 at 6 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Dec. 4 at 10 a.m.  
 Petersham School Committee – 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

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.  
 Capital Improvement Planning Committee – Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Select Board Public Hearing – Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.

## Historical Society launches oral and written history project



Submitted photos

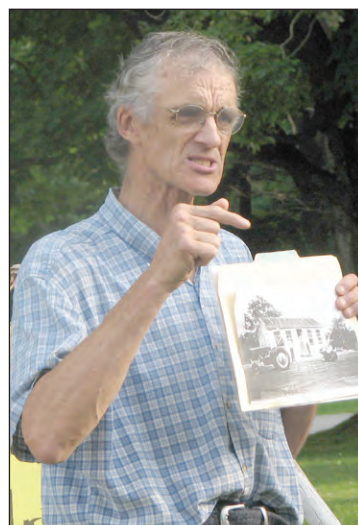
The Petersham Annual Agricultural Fair will be one of the topics at the Historical Society meeting at the Petersham Country Store on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m.

PETERSHAM – To document these fascinating memories and eye-witness reports, the Petersham Historical Society has launched an oral and written history project to document the recent Town's History.

The project, "The People's History of Petersham: Memories of those Who Lived," has as its intention to offer a variety of formats to document resident's personal and community history through oral history interviews, focused public programs and one-on-one interactions to access the rich records of a family's history.

A special program entitled "What is a People's History of Petersham?" will take place on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. in the back of the Petersham Country Store, Main Street. The program will explore the various components of Petersham's History from school years to community events, to famous and infamous people, from places and buildings to disasters and celebrations. Events like the very popular Petersham Agricultural Fair from 1943-1962 when the entire town came together, including farmers, artists, teachers, laborers, summer folks, and people of all ages. The program will be facilitated by local historian and life-long resident, Larry Buell and with a range of invited residents to tell their stories and perspectives on the history of Petersham.

Barbara Hanno, resident of



The last party-line phone serve before individual phone lines will be one of the topics by Larry Buell, town historian

Petersham and Vice President of the Historical Society is a strong advocate of preserving the town's history. Hanno states that "Petersham has an amazing history and residents alive today have lived through many of the key events that have transformed the town to what it is today. To have present residents share their memories and stories will add to our collective history of the town."

Larry Buell, an 80 year elder of Petersham and creator of the program is committed to getting many of the residents he grew up with to tell their stories and donate letters, journals, pictures and artifacts to the Historical Society. Buell and

the Board of the Society plan to one day create a book with many of the fascinating tales of the hill-top community by those who lived it to be called The People's History of Petersham.

The Program is free and open to the public. People may either email Larry Buell at LarryBuell2143@gmail.com or call 978-724-0412.

Petersham, like all communities in the Quabbin/Nichewaug Bioregion have deep records of stories and archival items related to community events, personal life stories, disasters, and celebrations. Petersham's "Golden Age" has been the last one-hundred (100) years when the community set in place the practices and procedures that created the face of Petersham today. It has been seventy-five (75) years ago in 1948 since Mable Coolidge published her definitive "History of Petersham" The next chapter of the Town's History will be written by those who lived it.

While historical records, journals, letters, and photos are central to the preserving and sharing the history of the town, there is nothing more important than to learn of historical events from those who have "lived the experience of Petersham." As Petersham population ages, there are many who have keen memories of the life and times of Petersham that must be shared to become part of the town's historical record.

## Medicare 101 educational event offered Dec. 4

BARRE – The Barre Senior Center will be hosting an educational presentation on Monday, Dec. 4, at 12:30 p.m. at the senior center located at 557 South Barre Road Barre for current beneficiaries and for those who will soon be eligible for Medicare.

The information is specific to Massachusetts. The session will

run from 1 to 1.5 hours, including time for questions.

The presentation will be conducted by Ed Spater, a licensed Insurance agent, who will explain the basics of Medicare including:

Why it's important to evaluate your current Medicare coverage each year

The pros and cons of each of

your Medicare coverage options

What to consider when deciding which Medicare coverage option is right for you

Ways to save money and get better Medicare coverage in 2024

For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call 774-271-5199 or 711 for TTY callers.

## Oakham

Ellenor Downer  
 edowner@turley.com



### Penpal letters available for pickup

The second student penpal letters will be ready for pickup at the back door of Fobes Memorial Library on Friday, Dec. 15. Senior response letters are due back to the box by Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024.

### Benefit breakfast

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a benefit breakfast to help local families at Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 8-9:30 a.m. The menu will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, strawberries, coffee, orange juice, tea and hot cocoa.

### 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

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.

## Pioneer Valley Brass to perform at Petersham church

PETERSHAM – A free public program of holiday music by the Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet will be presented Sunday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. Orthodox Congregational Church, North Main Street.

The program is sponsored by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana, funded by a trust set up almost one hundred years ago, before the town of North Dana was flooded to construct the Quabbin Reservoir. Sisters Catherine Mason and Mary Hale started a trust fund to ensure that the memory of the First Universalist Parish of North Dana would continue. Several descendants of the Parish have kept the Parish alive, with a small group meeting annually or as needed to conduct the business of the Parish. Sunday's service is number 804 in the series of memorial vesper programs.

The Pioneer Valley Brass is composed of talented area musicians, and has been providing music to the North Quabbin area since the 1970s. Current members include Dick Tandy and Steve Babineau on trumpet, Tabitha Greenlees on Horn, Dana Tandy on trombone and Susan Lemei on tuba.

The Petersham program will include "Joy to the World" arranged by Marlatt; "Deck the Halls – In Dulchi Jubilo" arranged by Robertson; "American Christmas Folk Suite" arranged by Holcombe, Jr.; "Merry Christmas Darling" by Carpeneter; "Christmas Joy" by Choplin; "Toys Medley" arranged by O'Brian; "Pat-a-Pan" arranged by Marlatt; "Feliz Navidad" arranged by Bannister; "Happy Xmas (War is Over)" by Lennon; "Christmas Garland" arranged by Baldwin; "Dixie Jingle Bells" arranged by Steward; "The Christmas Song" arranged by Price and "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" arranged by Tandy. The program is always subject to change.

Several services throughout the year are presented throughout the North Quabbin area as memorial tributes to the First Universalist Parish of North Dana. Contact Maureen Riendeau, Music Coordinator of the Parish for information on services. Other services this month include Saturday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Federated Church of Hubbardston; Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Greenfield and Saturday, Dec. 23 at 4 p.m. at the Athol Congregational Church. The Pioneer Valley Brass will be providing music for all of these programs.

## Editorial deadline reminder

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

## Places to go... Things to do...

We Are Open Year Round! 9-5 In North Brookfield

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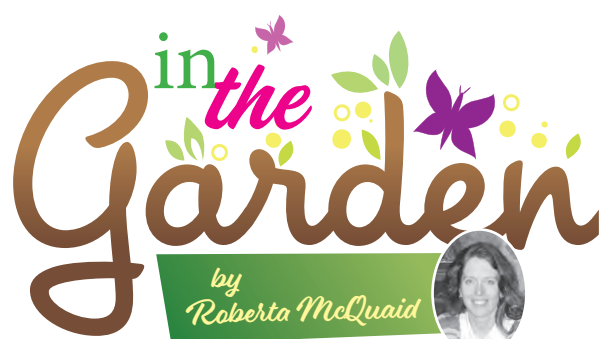
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# Opinion

## Guest Column



### Christmas-time questions for the Garden Lady

A reader from Palmer wrote in with this holiday question for the Garden Lady: "I enjoyed your wreath-making column last week. I thought it was interesting that you advised scouring the landscape for suitable greenery. Overgrown boxwood shrubs are plentiful at home. Can I harvest the tips for making my own holiday wreaths and swags? If so, how do I ensure that the shrubs look good come spring?"

Yes, you can certainly harvest boxwood, especially since your plants are considered "overgrown." A haircut doesn't sound as if it will do much harm, even though it's the off season.

Rather than snip just the tips, however, insert your clippers further into the plant where the growth has become woody. Cutting deeper in several random spots will make "windows" for new growth, at a reduced size!

The addition of boxwoods to your wreaths, planter boxes and swags will offer a nice variation in texture to coarser greenery.

Tabletop "trees" made almost entirely out of boxwood make great Christmas centerpieces.

Here is how you do it, straight from the archives: Cut a piece of wet floral foam into an elongated triangle and secure it in your container of choice. I prefer to use a plastic centerpiece base available from the florist - the bottom of the foam fits in perfectly.

From your collection of boxwood or other greens, choose a nice, pointed piece for the top of the tree and place it into the foam an inch or so; three or four inches will be left sticking out the top. If leaves or other stems along the branch are in the way of insertion, remove them first so that the smallest hole possible will be made in the foam.

Now, gauge the size of the rest of your tree by inserting pieces of greenery at the halfway point as well as at the very bottom.

After that, fill in between the top and middle and middle and bottom, turning the foam as you go, so that a multidimensional tree results. Once greenery completely covers the foam, you can decorate it any way you like.

Tiny glass balls, battery-powered lights, dried cranberries or cinnamon sticks are just a few options. Don't forget to water the tree at the base - the foam will absorb moisture and keep the greens hydrated for weeks of enjoyment.

Marissa, who reads the Ware River News, posed this timely question concerning flowering gifts. "I purchased an amaryllis kit as a gift for my sister. Do you have any tips for to make sure it grows and flowers well?"

Sure! As long as the amaryllis bulb is dry and free of soft spots it should bloom just fine. Like other flowering bulbs, the amaryllis is a self-contained unit ready to do its thing!

Just follow these simple planting instructions: fill the container with moistened growing medium to about one-half to two-thirds full. Position the bulb on top and add the rest of the potting soil - the upper portion and the neck should rest just above the rim of the pot.

The bulb may rot if it stays too wet, so add water only when the soil dries out. Temperatures should be kept around 60 degrees.

Once the sprouting occurs, fertilizer can be added, but the amaryllis will likely bloom well without it. Stake heavy flower stalks as they form to prevent them from snapping.

Keep blooms looking their best for the greatest amount of time by pinching away anthers before they form pollen, and by housing the plant in a cool room of the house.

Pet owners be forewarned, toxic alkaloids present in these tennis ball-sized bulbs can cause vomiting and diarrhea in animals who have consumed them. Dogs, who are more likely to play with and chew objects this size, are at greater risk.

Purdue University states that the stomach upset will likely cure itself within a few hours, but that special medical attention should be given to weak, old, or otherwise in-firmed dogs who have come in contact with amaryllis bulbs.

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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## In Past Pages

5 years (Dec. 6, 2018)

There will be a Special Town Meeting for Barre voters Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ruggles Lane School auditorium. There are fourteen articles on the warrant. The first two articles involve bills for the previous fiscal year 2018. Article 3 asks the town to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow \$500,000 to purchase a new fire truck to replace Engine #4. Other money articles include an upgrade for the Board of Assessors Vision System and the purchase of tasers for the Police Department. Voters will also decide if they want a change in senior transportation from the Worcester Regional Transit Authority to the Montachusett Area Regional Transit Authority.

Residents may save money on trash bags by using the new Barre food waste reduction program. Residents may separate their food waste from their household trash in a kitchen scrap bucket or other leak-proof container. They bring the container to the Barre Transfer Station and empty the food waste into a container located at the transfer station during regular scheduled hours. Kitchen scrap buckets are now available at the transfer station. A limited number of kitchen scrap buckets will be available on a first serve basis with a limit of one per household.

The Barre Board of Selectmen held back to back public hearings, both related to marijuana. The first hearing was for a marijuana licensing bylaw. An article for the town to adopt they bylaw is on the Special Town Meeting warrant, Tuesday, Dec. 11. The bylaw would establish protocols the Selectmen would follow with the Host Community Agreement, a first step in the process. The other hearing concerned the adoption of a three percent tax on the retail sale of marijuana products. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 64N, Section 3 allows municipalities to vote this law at a Special Town Meeting. The law allows municipalities to assess up to three percent and the state 18%.

10 years (Dec. 5, 2013)

Barre Selectmen held a public hearing on burning permit fees. Fire Chief Joseph Rogowski said the town issued about 300 regular burning permits last year and 30 agricultural burning permits. The regular burning period Jan. 15 to May 1 and agricultural burning is year round from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. He state raising the fees would help offset some of the cost of brush fires caused by an out of control fire. Selectman Lief Ericson suggested \$15 for the regular burning fee and \$25 for the agricultural permit. The board unanimously approved the new fees.

Last year, the Revs. Deb and Russ Arnold decided to host Thanksgiving dinner for anyone that wanted to attend at the Orthodox Congregational Church in Petersham where Deb is minister. This year they continued the tradition. Last year 45 people sat to a turkey dinner with all the

### LOOK BACK Band of Voices - 1997



File photo  
Nym Cooke leads the Band of Voices at a concert on June 18, 1997 at the Barre Town Hall.

fixings and this year the number nearly doubled with 80 coming not only from Petersham, but neighboring towns as well. However, this year will be their last year as Rev. Deb Arnold accepted a call to serve as the full-time pastor at the First Congregational Church in Searsport Maine. She will begin her duties at the Maine church the beginning of January. Her husband, minister of the Oakham Congregational Church, will be leaving that church the end of this year.

The Barre Board of Assessors announces the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2014 has been approved by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. The rate has been set at \$16.06 per thousand dollars of valuation. The new rate represents and increase of \$0.72 over last year's tax rate. The increase in the tax rate is due to a decrease in the valuation of taxable property as certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and an increase in town spending. In general, tax bills are expected to be slightly higher than last year.

25 years (Dec. 3, 1998)

Quabbin Regional Middle School students are involved in a new game this year. It's not about tackling, slam dunking or chasing a puck, but it involves smooth moves, quick thinking and plenty of chances to score. The first-ever Massachusetts Scrabble championship was held at the Springfield Civic Center on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Out of 52 teams, Quabbin Middle School students placed third and 13th, giving their coach, Erin Stevens, plenty to boast about when she returned to her teaching duties the following Monday. Renee Beauregard and Sylvai Cini, playing for Quabbin placed third. Sixth graders from Runkle School in Brookline won the championship and students from Hawthorne Brook School in Townsend placed second.

For 30 years, folks in town have waved to their friendly postal carrier as he traveled the roads of Barre, stopping at each mailbox to deliver the mail. This week, the familiar face driving around town in the right-hand drive vehicle was missing. Long-time mail carrier,

Richard Stevens decided to retire. He's traded his mail vehicle for a sedan and is ready to delve full-time into volunteer jobs, like helping with chores around the house, taking care of his five granddaughters and spending more time with his duties as selectman and chairman of the Department of Public Works. Stevens said he has enjoyed the postal job that kept him in his hometown and let him get to know so many people, but he said it's time for a change of pace.

Oakham Selectmen met with the highway superintendent, police chief and fire chief at the Monday, Nov. 30 meeting to discuss the proposed code of ethics. All three departments heads thought that the proposed code of ethics was straight forward. Selectmen approved it as written. The board also reviewed basic work rules for each department. The police department follows the police procedure manual of the Massachusetts Police Association. Fire Chief Richard Howe handed selectmen a copy of the proposed procedure rules for his department. Selectmen changed the wording of the basic highway work rules to read "no unauthorized person under the age of 18 should be allowed to drive or occupy any town vehicle." The original wording said no unauthorized personnel instead of unauthorized person.

38 years (Dec. 5, 1985)

During the Thanksgiving holiday, the Lions Club of Barre put on their annual Thanksgiving dinner for the elderly in the area. Meals were provided to the shut-ins. George J. "Champ" Champigny delivered to the homebound. The kitchen at Coldbrook Resort was filled with many busy Lions preparing the Thanksgiving meal.

The Barre Wool Combing Company, which is now owned by Ivy Enterprises, has been ordered by the state to end the pollution of the Ware River that is caused by the discharge of three of their sewerage wastewater overflows directly into the river and to clean-up the pollution. The Department of Environmental Quality

## Letter to Editor

### Women's Guild thanks supporters of Harvest Fair Festival

The St. Francis of Assisi Women's Guild wish to extend a heartfelt Thank You to the following business who supported and donated to our Harvest Fair Festival held on Oct. 1.

Please support these business; Barre Opticians, Barre Pizza, Brookfield Orchards, Broberg Ins. Group, Bruce Coffin, CPA, Café on the Common, Changes Hair Salon, C & C Pools, Country Gourmet, Cranston & Cranston PC, Dave's Towing, Down Range Sports, Fidelity Barre Savings Bank, Hannaford Supermarket, J & J Family Restaurant, Kristin's Quabbin Barber, RN Glidden Landscaping, Goodwin Builders, Hardwick Farmer Co-op, Hartman's Herb Farm, J.C. Pools, Ladd's Restaurant, Landry & Meilus LLP, RJ McDonalds, MacMannis Florist, Market Basket, Northeast Pizza, St. Joseph Abbey, Robinson Lumber, Salvadore Automotive, Taproot, Twitches, Wholesome Foods, and Yummy Gardens. Thank you for supporting our Harvest Fair.

Judy McCaffrey  
St. Francis of Assisi Women's Guild

## Guest Column



### About the fairness of WEP and GPO

Dear Rusty  
I was married to my ex-husband for 30 years. For 14 of those years, I was an unemployed mom and community volunteer. After my sons were grown, I began teaching in California and earned a teacher pension. That teacher pension eliminates all the spousal benefits my husband paid for. How can that be justified? I, like a number of my retired friends, rent out rooms in my house to be able to live on a small teacher's pension and get none of my earned spousal benefits.

Signed: Frustrated Teacher

Dear Frustrated Teacher

I can only say that your frustration is shared by many retirees from public service in States, which do not participate in the federal Social Security program, that is, neither the employee nor the State contribute to the federal Social Security program. There are about 26 states including California, which exempt at least some of their employees and themselves from paying Social Security payroll taxes, but those states are obligated to provide retirement benefits robust enough to offset the loss of Social Security benefits, which will occur later in life after the employee retires.

As controversial as these laws - the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset are, they have withstood legal challenges since they were enacted four decades ago. Because you have a "non-covered" pension from your state employment,

See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 10

### Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

BARRE GAZETTE



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)

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PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
President

DEANNA SLOAT  
Graphics Manager



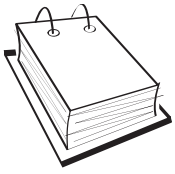
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See PAST PAGES, page 9





# Calendar of Events



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](mailto:julie@mhof.net) or call 978-257-1192 for more information. They perform several concerts during the year. New members are always welcome. Membership dues are sliding scale from \$25 per year for students and \$40 - \$70 for adults according to ability to pay.

**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

## Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from New Braintree. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Dec. 4. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Bill Bowles, Paul Carlson, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Evelyn Luukko, Mike Stoll and Phil Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the new pavilion at Curtis Recreation Field, Route 68, Hubbardston.

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 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](mailto:office@oursaviorlcms.com), call 978-874-2479 or visit [www.livingnativity.net](http://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.

**PARISH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI** is part of the Christmas in Barre Celebration with an Open House at St. Joseph's Chapel, 29 South St., Barre today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Featured will be: Luncheon, Cemetery Basket Sales, Poinsettias Sales, Raffles, Bake Shoppe and the New Hot Cocoa Bar, Make an Advent Calendar, plus Free Fun Games for the Children. Two Added features are: the cash for gold party for those looking to sell gold or silver jewelry or coins. Worcester County Cash for Gold will be at the Christmas Open House. They buy gold, silver and platinum jewelry, natural diamonds, new, and old broken jewelry, gold and silver coins and bullion and silver flatware. [www.cashforgoldwc.com](http://www.cashforgoldwc.com), and the second is chance to meet and greet the author of "The Long Walk Home with the Ceinture - The Arrow Sash" by Paula Grandpre Wood. She tracks down ancestors, pieces together their stories, and finds herself enfolded in the tradition and reality of this treasured family heirloom.

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 [whitechristmaswb@gmail.com](mailto:whitechristmaswb@gmail.com).

MONDAY, DEC. 4

**MEDICARE 101 EDUCATIONAL EVENT** will take place today at 12:30 p.m. in the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre for current beneficiaries and for those who will soon be eligible for Medicare. The information is specific to Massachusetts. The session will run from 1 to 1.5 hours, including time for questions. The presentation will be conducted by Ed Spater, a licensed Insurance agent, who will explain the basics of Medicare. For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings, people should call 774-271-5199 or 711 for TTY callers.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6

**WINTER SPAGHETTI DINNER** sponsored by Quabbin Regional High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps today from 5-7 p.m. will be held in the cafeteria at the Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., Barre. It's an all you can eat spaghetti festival including pasta, meatballs, salad, rolls and choice upon choice of homemade desserts. Tickets may be purchased in advanced from any Cadet or at the door of the Community Entrance to the high school cafeteria. Adult tickets are \$9; child tickets are \$5 and children under 2 eat free. During the dinner there will be several raffle items of interest including a TV, ski lift tickets and an Xbox gaming system along with several theme gift baskets created by the Cadets. All proceeds will defray the cost of numerous NJROTC educational activities and initiatives to enable all Cadets to take advantage of every opportunity of the program. If people have any questions, they may call Captain Brennock at 978-355-0289.

**150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIGELOW FREE. PUBLIC LIBRARY** will be held today from 5:30-7:30 p.m. In 1873, the Town of Clinton voted to accept the donations from the private Bigelow Library Association and support a public municipal library. For the first few years, the library was hosted in the Town Hall. On December 6, 1903, the new library building on 54 Walnut St. opened to the public.

People are invited to join the library staff and trustees to celebrate this event and learn more about future plans for the library. Come see the unique Guastavino vaulted ceilings and Greek frieze, enjoy a little music from Carol and Lorenzo, a few remarks, some snacks, plus birthday cake. People may call 978-365-4160 for information. For more information, they may visit [www.bigelowlibrary.org](http://www.bigelowlibrary.org)

THURSDAY, DEC. 7

**WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY** performs its ever-popular Baroque concert, "Effervescence" to kick off the winter holidays today at 7:30 p.m. in the Princeton Congregational church, Princeton and Friday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Worcester Historical Museum in Worcester. Pre-concert talks are at 7 p.m. at both venues. Vanessa Holroyd is the flutist and John Mckean, harpsichord. Tickets are adult \$31-\$40, seniors \$29-\$38, college students \$10, EBT/WIC/Connector Care \$5 and youth 17 and under free. For EBT/WIC tickets, people should call the office at 508-926-8624 to order tickets

Tickets are available by visiting the ensemble's website at [www.worcesterchambermusic.org](http://www.worcesterchambermusic.org) or by calling the office at 508-926-8624.



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The 2024 Quabbin History Calendar is available for purchase in Barre at Barre Family Pharmacy, in Hardwick at Mimi's Coffeeshop, in Hubbardston at Country Trail, in North Brookfield at Brookfield Orchards and in Rutland at Rutland Pharmacy



Submitted photo

**Coldbrook Springs was the largest village of Oakham, which was taken for watershed protection of the Ware River Diversion. The building was on the far right is the Eagle Inn, one of two major hotels in the village. The building to the left of that, with the tall chimney was the village store - post office, operated by the Parker family for many years.**

## Christmas in New Braintree set for Dec. 9

**NEW BRAINTREE** - Christmas in New Braintree will hold a Craft Fair Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the New Braintree Grade School and the New Braintree Town Hall, Memorial Drive.

The craft fair has many vendors participated and a few vendors spaces are still available. Anyone interested in participating should email [christmasinnewbraintree@gmail.com](mailto:christmasinnewbraintree@gmail.com). Later in the day at 4 p.m. there will be a tree lighting and tractor rides with stops around the common with light refreshments, crafts for children, caroling and ending with the annual tree lighting.

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# SPORTS

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## Panthers fall in holiday matchup



Luke Salvatore works his way around Gardner defenders.

Turley photos by Ray Duffy

BARRE – Last Wednesday night, Quabbin Regional High School football fell in their Thanksgiving Eve matchup with rival Gardner 31-16.

With the defeat, Quabbin finishes the season 5-6. The Panthers, unfortunately, trailed throughout the game, falling behind 23-0 before Adam Adams finished off a drive a five-yard run for a touchdown.

The Panthers made it eight points with a pass to Jake Leazott for the conversion. Luke Salvatore would score Quabbin's other touchdown with a five-yard run. Jaxon Kelley had the conversion



Offensive MVP Luke Salvatore and Defensive MVP Jaxon Kelley with the team behind them.

on that score. Adams went 6-for-11 passing for 91 yards. Salvatore ran for 76 yards on 16 carries while Chase

Talbot had 38 yards on the ground. Wes Sanderson had two catches for 31 yards for the Panthers.



Chase Talbot snatches a pass



Jaxon Kelley scores the two-point conversion on a center sneak.



Luke Salvatore flies over the goal line to score for Quabbin.

## Girls soccer concludes against Quaboag



Amy Stauder makes a pass near the middle of the field.

WARREN – Although it did not result in a play-off appearance, the Quabbin Regional High School girls soccer team did finish its season on a high note. After going winless in 13 games, including four ties, the Panthers finished the season with four straight wins, including their final game, a 2-1 win at Quaboag Regional. The Panthers finished the 2023 fall season 4-9-4.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Quabbin makes an attack up the middle of the field.



Ailey Majoy heads up the field.



Sydney Gagne looks to overcome an opponent.

## Orioles blow out Pioneers on Turkey Day



The Pathfinder defense stops a Belchertown rusher.

BELCHERTOWN – Last Thursday morning, Belchertown scored early and often, and used turnovers to score even more points in a 61-14 rout of Pathfinder on Thanksgiving morning. The Orioles led 32-0 late in the second quarter after taking advantage of an onside kick and a fumble for a turnover. Belchertown finished the season 8-3 while Pathfinder finishes 4-7.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Branden Hnitecki goes for a tackle.



Dustyn Cook fields a kickoff for the Pioneers



Nicholas Pfister attempts to stiff-arm a Belchertown defender.



Nicholas Pfister looks to make a handoff.

## Stevens takes part in all-star event



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Victoria Stevens was Pathfinder's representative at the game.

SPRINGFIELD – Last Monday evening at Pope Francis High School, the Senior All-Star Games were held. Two games took place, with Class C and D playing in one game and Class A and B playing in another. The games featured the best senior players from all Western Mass. High School girls soccer programs.

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# Sports

## Railers sweep Thunder

GLENS FALLS, NY – The Worcester Railers HC (7-6-2-1, 17pts) took down the Adirondack Thunder (7-4-2-0, 16pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 4-2 in front of a crowd of 4,297 at Cool Insuring Arena. The Railers are back at home against the Kansas City Mavericks this Wednesday, November 29th at 10:05 a.m. ET.

Neither team scored in the first period as Tristan Lennox was excellent in net for Worcester in the first. He made 15 saves on 15 shots to open the game. Scoring opened in the second as Worcester's Anthony Callin (1-0-1) put Worcester ahead 1-0. Adirondack responded with two straight goals from Travis Broughman (1-0-1) and Yoshiroh Hirano (1-0-1) to give the Thunder the 2-1 lead heading into the third. Worcester scored three unanswered in the third from Ashton Calder (1-0-1), Jake Pivonka (1-1-

2), and Zach White (1-0-1) to seal the win and the weekend sweep, 4-2.

Both goalies were solid in the first period for Worcester and Adirondack as Tristan Lennox turned away 15 shots for the Railers, while Jeremy Brodeur made 7 saves for the Thunder. Two of Lennox's saves came in the dying seconds of the first as the Thunder headed down ice on an odd-man rush. Lennox sprawled across the ice and denied Travis Broughman with an outstretched right leg to keep the game level going into the second.

Anthony Callin (4th) unleashed a perfect wrist shot from atop the right circle on a spinning feed from Todd Goehring to give the Railers the first goal of the game. Both Callin and Goehring now have points in four straight games. The Thunder struck back with two straight goals to wrap up the second. Travis Broughman (2nd

picked up a Grant Jozefek rebound and deked around Lennox to tie the game 1-1. Four minutes later, Yoshiroh Hirano (6th) scored on the power play in his third straight game, putting the Thunder ahead 2-1 going into the third.

Ashton Calder (8th) extended his team lead in goals thanks to a great forecheck from Worcester. Keeghan Howdeshell and Jake Pivonka forced the Thunder defense to turn over the puck. As Howdeshell found it beneath the goal line, he passed it to Calder in front who beat Brodeur five-hole to tie the game 2-2. Jake Pivonka (7th) found the puck alone in the slot about a minute later and beat Brodeur clean glove side to make it a 3-2 Railers lead. Zach White would finish things off with an empty-net goal with just 6.9 seconds left to give Worcester the 4-2 win, picking up all four points this weekend and sweeping the Thunder in Glens Falls.

## Team effort results in big shutout of Utica

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (10-8-1-0) put together a total team effort and dominated the Utica Comets (6-6-3-0) in a 7-0 shutout win inside the MassMutual Center on Saturday night in the team's Hockey Fights Cancer game.

Vadim Zherenko got the start in the net for the T-Birds and had a perfect performance, stopping all 33 saves he faced on the night for his first career AHL shutout. In the opposite crease, Utica goaltender Isaac Poulter surrendered seven goals on 29 T-Birds shots in the loss.

in the left-wing corner. The captain fired home a perfect one-timer for a shorthanded goal, his fifth goal of the year, which gave the T-Birds a 1-0 lead at 13:16. The score would remain 1-0 as the teams entered their dressing rooms for the first intermission.

Exactly halfway through the second period, the T-Birds struck once again. Defenseman Matthew Kessel controlled the puck at the blue line before firing a low shot toward Poulter. Although Poulter made the initial stop, MacKenzie MacEachern was there to backhand the rebound home for his fourth goal of the season to make it 2-0 Springfield. The scoring did not stop after MacEachern's goal. On a power play, Will Bitten snapped a shot on goal from the hash marks. Poulter made the initial stop, but T-Birds forward Mikhail Abramov was there to clean up the rebound with a snapper from the left side. Abramov's goal made it 3-0 with 6:32 to go in the period.

the period. The T-Birds held on to the 3-0 lead, setting the stage for a third period out of the movies.

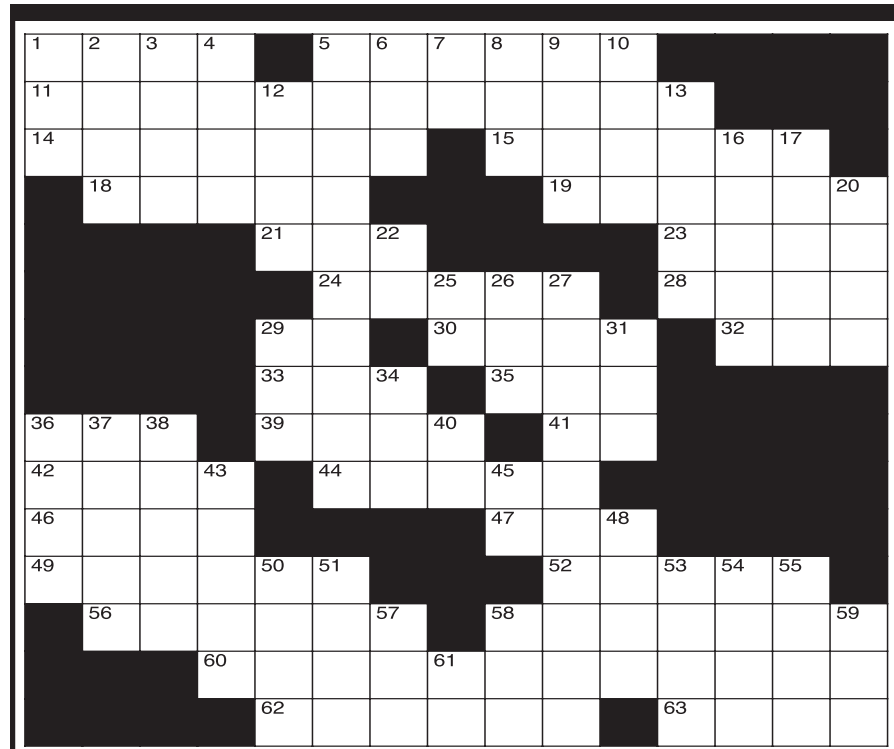
The T-Birds added to their 3-0 lead in the third, as Zach Dean ripped a shot home for his first professional goal of his career to make it 4-0 at 4:09 off a 2-on-1 rush. The scoring party would continue after Dean's goal, as Bolduc capitalized for Springfield's second power play marker of the night at 9:54, beating Poulter on the stick side with a perfectly placed wrist.

It was a special night for the Bitten family, as the team donned lavender jerseys for the game to support Will and Sam Bitten and the Bitsy's Army cause. Bitsy's Army was created by the brothers to raise awareness for those battling cancer and to honor their late cousin Martin Piche. Piche tragically passed away from brain cancer back in 2021.

As the period drew to a close, defenseman Dylan Coghlan was taken down from behind by Comets forward Kyle Criscuolo. In response, Wyatt Kalynuk stood up for his teammate and engaged in a fight with Criscuolo. Kalynuk's fight fired up his teammates and the crowd, but there would be mayhem that would follow. After a scrum ensued with multiple players going at it, Gaudette and Utica defenseman Cal Foote were given fighting majors with just 13 seconds left in

Springfield had several prime scoring opportunities in the opening minutes. Nathan Walker saw linemate Adam Gaudette sneak behind the Utica defense on the left side, threatening the team's top scorer a perfect breakaway pass. Unfortunately, Gaudette's shot was stopped by the left pad of Poulter.

The work of the Springfield penalty killers got their team on the board first. While creating pressure in Utica's zone, Walker found Matthew Peca for a one-timer in the high slot after stripping a Utica skater of the puck



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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Old English letters
  - 5. Sculpture
  - 11. Showing up again
  - 14. Tie the knot again
  - 15. Washington city
  - 18. Stiff structures in invertebrates
  - 19. Mark over a vowel
  - 21. Explosive
  - 23. Popular race: \_\_\_ 500
  - 24. Pile up
  - 28. Mint
  - 29. Commercial
  - 30. A minute amount (Scottish)
  - 32. Small Eurasian deer
  - 33. Baseball stat
  - 35. Numbers cruncher
  - 36. Japanese masked drama
  - 39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
  - 41. Blood group
  - 42. Assist in wrongdoing
  - 44. Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
  - 46. Grayish-white
  - 47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
  - 49. Microorganism
  - 52. Place under prohibition
  - 56. Calm, dependable
  - 58. Congressman
  - 60. Force
  - 62. As a result of this document
  - 63. One of two main branches of Islam
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Make a mistake
  - 2. Gordon and Snider are two
  - 3. Geographical region of Finland
  - 4. Ejected saliva
  - 5. A way of performing
  - 6. Scotland's longest river
  - 7. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
  - 8. Body art
  - 9. Two-toed sloth
  - 10. Electronic countermeasures
  - 12. Foolish person (Brit.)
  - 13. Of the wind
  - 16. Grand home
  - 17. Sound
  - 20. English river
  - 22. Symbol indicating ownership
  - 25. Exclamation of surprise
  - 26. Pouch
  - 27. Apart from
  - 29. Satisfaction
  - 31. The bill in a restaurant
  - 34. Sea bream
  - 36. Port in southern Japan
  - 37. Double-reed instruments
  - 38. Center
  - 40. South Dakota
  - 43. An orderly crowd
  - 45. Indicates position
  - 48. \_\_\_pedi
  - 50. Nonsense (slang)
  - 51. Republic of Ireland
  - 53. Nocturnal flyers
  - 54. American state
  - 55. Clusters in fern fronds
  - 57. Patriotic women
  - 58. A person's brother or sister
  - 59. Breed of sheep
  - 61. Popular film "Despicable \_\_\_"

ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

# Education

## Bob and Kathy Garrity retire as bus drivers

BARRE – Here at Quabbin, we have been fortunate to have long time relationships and partnerships. Recently, two beloved bus drivers retired from servicing our students, Bob and Kathy Garrity.

Bob has driven 17 years and Kathy has driven for 16 years here at Quabbin, however, both have combined experience of over 60 years.

You may wonder what has inspired them to step onto a big yellow bus filled with excited and sometimes tired students year after year? That answer is easy for both Bob and Kathy, "The kids. Sharing in their lives and their families." They remark that they have gotten as much as they have given. "When we had a loss, they were there for us. They flooded us with cards."



Submitted photo  
Bob and Kathy Garrity hold the image created by Ruggles Lane School art teacher Tammra Cook.

Bob and Kathy admit that driving a school bus is not always an easy thing to do. The hardest moments include frustration when people drive without paying careful attention and sympathy when you see a student hurting and feel that you can't help. They have advice for anyone thinking of becoming a driver. "Greet them everyday by name," Bob recommends. "Respect the kids and they will respect you," shares Kathy.

The administrators at Ruggles Lane Elementary School appreciate the commitment, loyalty and service that the Garritys have provided. "The school day for our bus riders begins when they step

foot on the school bus each morning and ends when they step off each afternoon. Bob and Kathy always ensured that students were welcomed by name, felt supported during challenging times and the first one to celebrate their successes. For years our students and their families benefited from Bob and Kathy's warm, supportive nature."

Students from Ruggles Lane Elementary School will miss Bob and Kathy. When asked what their bus driver meant to them,

Cora Wangerin said "I feel like he is a part of my heart." Natalie Bedard shared that Kathy is "kind, caring and amazing."

Prior to Bob and Kathy heading south for retirement, the Ruggles Lane School Community recognized their partnership and commitment to students. Art teacher Tammra Cook created a beautiful image for them that will serve as a reminder of the many lives that they have touched. The Garrity's kindness will forever live in our students' hearts.

## I'm thankful for... a Thanksgiving essay

By Nathan Kearchner  
 Editor's Note: Ten year old Nathan Kearchner is a fifth grader at Ruggles Lane School. This essay was a class assignment.

I'm thankful for many things, the little things in life are what counts.

Maybe you have an annoying pet you wanna get rid of. If that is the case you're most likely wrong. Try going one day without that pet. It may be chill at first, but I can almost guarantee you will miss it sooner or later.

Imagine this: what in the world would you do without your best friends or potential siblings? Whatever you think is probably valid unless you think you'd be okay, that is. Not only should you be thankful for people, but food and water, shelter and more everything you own you should be thankful for.

What about your parents? They brought you into this world and they taught you everything you know. Without them you wouldn't have anything to be thankful for. How about family get-togethers? You may not all love them but take advantage of these times, they won't be forever.

And hobbies. Your hobbies are very important to your mental well being whether you like to be in plays or play sports like I do or maybe knit or make jewelry maybe even gaming, whatever you love stick with it.

Be thankful for every good thing in life. I'm thankful for my family, my friends and all good things with it. You should too. So this year enjoy thanksgiving. And every holiday event too. Your dentist and doctor and or teacher. Too, so remember what you're thankful for this thanksgiving season and good day.

During the dinner there will be several raffle items of interest including a TV, ski lift tickets and an Xbox gaming system along with several theme gift baskets created by the Cadets. All proceeds will defray the cost of numerous NJROTC educational activities and initiatives to enable all Cadets to take advantage of every opportunity of the program. If people have any questions, they may call Captain Brennock at 978-355-0289.

## Quabbin NJROTC to hold spaghetti dinner

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps will sponsor a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 5-7 p.m. in the cafeteria at the Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St.

It's an all you can eat spaghetti festival including pasta, meatballs, salad, rolls and choice

upon choice of homemade desserts. Tickets may be purchased in advanced from any Cadet or at the door of the Community Entrance to the high school cafeteria. Adult tickets are \$9; child tickets are \$5 and, children under two eat free.

Performance dates are April 13 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for the general public and April 9, 10 and 11 at 10 a.m. and April 12 at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. for school groups. Performances are held during school hours, so all cast members must be willing and able to take four days off from school/work.

Tentative rehearsal schedule is Sundays from 2-5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m., beginning early February.

## Theatre at the Mount to hold auditions for Finding Nemo Jr.

GARDNER – Theatre at the Mount located in Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St. will hold auditions for "Finding Nemo Jr."

Auditions will be held at Mount Wachusett Community College in room 182 on Saturday, Jan. 20 by appointment only. Appointments for ages 8 to 12 are from 10-11 a.m., ages 13-18 at 1 p.m. To schedule an appointment, people should call the Theatre at the Mount box office

at 978-630-9388 Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or email an appointment request to box-office@mwcc.mass.edu.

They will be asked to sing a short vocal selection, which will be taught at the audition and there will be a dance audition, combination also taught at the audition. For all roles and chorus, they should wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Some performers will also be asked to do cold readings from the script.

Performance dates are April 13 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for the general public and April 9, 10 and 11 at 10 a.m. and April 12 at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. for school groups. Performances are held during school hours, so all cast members must be willing and able to take four days off from school/work.

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## Salmon Brook Dam Removal Public Informational Meeting

MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) is inviting the public to an informational meeting on **December 5, 2023 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM**

at the Brookfield Town Hall at 6 Central Street in Brookfield, MA. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed Salmon Brook Dam Removal project in the Quaboag 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.

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## Pioneer Valley Brass to perform in Hubbardston

HUBBARDSTON – A free public program of holiday music for brass quintet will be presented Saturday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Federated Church of Hubbardston.

The program is sponsored by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana, funded by a trust set up almost one hundred years ago, before the town of North Dana was flooded to construct the Quabbin Reservoir. The Pioneer Valley Brass has performed this service in Hubbardston for many years. Sisters Catherine Mason and Mary Hale started the trust fund to ensure that the memory of the First Universalist Parish of North Dana would continue. Several descendants of the Parish have kept the Parish alive, with a small group meeting annually or as needed to conduct the business of the Parish. Saturday's service is number 803 in the series of memorial vesper programs.

The Pioneer Valley Brass is com-

posed of talented area musicians, and has been providing music to the North Quabbin area since the 1970s. Current members include Dick Tandy and Steve Babineau on trumpet, Tabitha Greenlees on Horn, Dana Tandy on trombone and Susan Lemei on tuba.

Saturday's program will include "A Carol Fantasy" arranged by Iveson; "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" arranged by McKenzie; "God Rest Ye Merry" arranged by Smith; "Merry Christmas, Darling" by Carpenter; selections from The Nutcracker Suite: Overture; Arabian Dance and March by Tchaikovsky arranged by Frackenpohl; "Happy Xmas (War is Over)" by Lennon; "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" arranged by Bjornes, Jr.; "Where are You Christmas" arranged by Stannard; "Jingle Bells- Deck the Halls" arranged by Iveson; "What Child is This?" arranged by Niehaus; "Most of the 12 Days of Christmas"

arranged by Roper and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" arranged by Iveson. The program is always subject to change.

The First Universalist Parish of North Dana has presented over 800 musical vespers programs since the Parish was forced to leave North Dana for the creation of the Quabbin to provide drinking water for Boston. Several services throughout the year are presented throughout the North Quabbin area. Contact Maureen Riendeau, Music Coordinator for the Parish for information on services.

Other services this month include Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. at the Orthodox Congregational Church of Petersham; Sunday, December 17 at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Greenfield and Saturday, Dec. 23 at 4 p.m. at the Athol Congregational Church. The Pioneer Valley Brass will be providing music for all of these programs.

## REUNION, continued from page 1

He was the assistant men's coach at Holy Cross with George Blaney, and he was also the college's first women's basketball coach.



Vinnie Palazzi proudly wears a shirt from his late father Togo Palazzi's basketball camp.

Sherry Levin, Holy Cross' all-time leading scorer in women's basketball history (scoring 2,253 points) grew close to Palazzi, first as one of his athletes, and more so as his colleague when she became a coach herself.

Levin talked about what it was like to sit with the "guys" and hear their stories about basketball.

"The stories were absolutely amazing," she said. "To be a part of this community...it's a passion."

Levin said Palazzi was like a family member to her, and he taught her how to be the best she could be, every day. It was his encouragement that shaped her into the coach she became, leading 14 seasons at Worcester Academy.

Gettings his start as a freshman on the Holy Cross basketball team before transferring to Providence College, was second round NBA draft pick Kevin Stacom.

Stacom played for the Boston Celtics, Indiana Pacers and the Milwaukee Bucks.

He talked about his first time meeting Palazzi, for a one-on-one match. Stacom said it was "blood and guts" for a couple of hours.

Stacom said he and Palazzi were going back and forth over the ball, but Palazzi got away with it.

Palazzi gave him advice that helped him throughout his career – whoever is closest to the ground gets control of the ball.

Stacom said he's never going to lose his love for the game of basketball.

Recently inducted into the Small College Basketball Hall of Fame, John Grochowalski was a sophomore at Assumption College when he went to Worcester Academy for a pickup game of basketball. He picked the scrawny, 6 foot 5 inch kid to play against.

"I grabbed him, punched him... did everything," Grochowalski said. "He had me in every game and said, 'nice job kid.'"

This was Grochowalski's first match against Palazzi.

"Togo's sons came up to me and said 'John, it's not worth it, don't do it,'" he said with a laugh.

Grochowalski went on to play Series A basketball in Italy, and even there, the legend of basketball in central Massachusetts was well known.

"Don't think this is just central Massachusetts, you're well known all over the world," Grochowalski said.

Crompton Park continues to be

where Worcester's basketball talent hones its skills, and Eddie Hippert shared the history of the 14-acre parcel of land.

"It was here that we started something very special," Hippert said.

It was Crompton Park where eight teams competed in a league, playing double headers several days a week.

"Players were from everywhere," Hippert said, including Boston, Springfield, Providence, Rhode Island, and Hartford, Connecticut.

Businesses sponsored the league, including Charlies' Surplus, and the newspapers covered every game. The crowds were enormous, especially when Bob Cousy brought the Boston Celtics to play in an all-star game.

"I was just a young kid sitting up in a tree watching; wanting to be there," Hippert said.

Crompton Park is still developing basketball players today, he said.

Helping to coach and mentor the next generation of players is North High School coach Alan Pettway. Growing up in Connecticut, Pettway said he never knew about Worcester's impact on basketball until he started playing at Crompton Park.

"508 does have a lot of talent," Pettway said.

One of Pettway's student-athletes, Joe Okla, read an anonymous poem about "The Shot" that is featured in Epstein's book.

Worcester Academy head coach Jamie Sullivan grew up on Vernon Hill, and said he is so proud to be from Worcester. He spoke about all of the coaches and players that had a profound impact, but often go unrecognized.

Following the end of the program, Epstein invited all in attendance to the White Eagle on Green Street, to continue celebrating Worcester's legends and the city's influence on the sport of basketball.

"This was our life," Epstein said.

life, he and a friend made the trip out to Barre to visit him, in the midst of a blizzard, after they heard that his health was declining. When the duo arrived at Jack's home, they found him outside shoveling snow in shorts and a T-shirt.

Palazzi was also a doting grandfather, and was always helping Elizabeth take care of her daughter. He also had a special soft spot for his granddaughter's dog, Zeus.

Vinnie recalled taking trips to the beach in the backseat of the family's Rambler, and how his father would sing Frank Sinatra. After each song, he'd ask his passengers, "how'd I sound kids?"

Vinnie then sang an a cappella rendition of Sinatra's "My Way", in honor of his father, changing the closing line of the song to "Dad did it his way...how'd I sound kids?"

Bobby Foley, the all-time winningest coach in Massachusetts boys' basketball history in his 50 years as a head coach and Holy Cross graduate of the Class of 1963, shared some of his favorite memories of "The Shot."

"Jack wasn't a natural," Foley said (who is no relation to Jack). "He played nine hours a day to become the player he was."

Foley recalled Jack wearing his plaid shirts and cowboy boots when he went on to become a teacher, and the one time he brought a python into a bar.

"Jack always walked to his own drum," Foley said.

Foley said near the end of Jack's

case will now be turned over to the DEQE office of general counsel.

At last week's Barre Selectmen's meeting wiring inspector Frank Inzerillo repeated his request to be placed on salary because of the number of hours he puts and the expenses he incurs. "I want a salary, if you want my services," he told the selectmen, adding that he had not yet determined what he desired for a salary. "I'm not making any money as wiring inspector. It has cost me money with all my expenses." Selectman Vernon Flynn told Inzerillo, he should go through his records of the past several years and base his request on the hours he put in and calls and trips he made.

A few of the many highlights of the trip include the wildlife, the long stretches of remote wilderness, the meals prepared on and shared by the campfire, the quiet evenings free from all distraction save the campfire, the satisfaction of the weary muscles from paddling for many miles and more stars in the sky than can be comprehended.

For more information on Troop 144, people may stop by a Troop meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Oakham Center School or email Oakham.Boyscouts@gmail.com.

## PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

Engineering gave Ivy Enterprises until last Friday to respond to the state's action. According to Robert Kimball of the Worcester Office of DEQE, lawyers representing the company filed a request for a pre-hearing conference. This is the first step in the appeal process and

## SCOUTS, continued from page 5

The museum, in an old logging company building, once supporting offices and bunks for loggers, is open during the summer months and the crew had the pleasure of meeting curator Chuck Harris. Chuck lives in the house for the season with the same amenities the house opened with in 1916. Chuck knows the house well as he worked these waters running logs down the river before the vast network

of logging roads were constructed 50 years ago. A conversation with Chuck quickly revealed the quintessential Yankee.

The scouts returned to the Matagamon base of MHA for a final night highlighted by a traditional bean-hole supper complete. Everyone was excited for the hot showers with a bit of sadness that the adventure would soon be over. Troop 144 recognized the accomplishments of the crew at their Fall Court of Honor presenting the scouts with their 50-miler award.

## Church News

### Local pastors offer sermons

#### Failure Part 1

Failure is a universal human constant.

Though we do all we can to avoid it and the pain it brings, failure remains an enduring companion in life and living. However, have you ever considered that failure can prove an invaluable teacher? What lessons can we glean from this insightful instructor?

1) Failure Can Teach Us Humility Before God

Many failures flow from pride. How often we place confidence in ourselves versus God, causing us to invariably stumble. In such moments, we come to experience this bit of biblical wisdom (Prov. 16:18, NIV): "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."

Yet failure can work to produce humility, that our confidence might be rooted in Him alone. Consider this illustration in kind, featuring an ancient king of Babylon who ruled in the days of the mighty prophet, Daniel:

**Daniel 4:29b-33**  
29 . . . as the king [Nebuchadnezzar] was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

31 Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. 32 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes."

33 Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

What do we see in this text? We see pride going before destruction, and a haughty spirit precipitating a disastrous fall. However, this was not the end of the story. Consider what this particular judgment yielded in the life of Nebuchadnezzar:

**Daniel 4:34-37**  
34 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

35 All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

36 At the same time that my

sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

What does this reveal? A king who learned humility from the failing of pride. To what degree can you and I do the same?

2) Failure Can Teach Us Humility Among Men

Failure can also teach us humility among men. Those who are aware of their shortcomings are less likely to judge or look down on others. After all, how can we judge others for things we ourselves are guilty of? Consider that Christ warned against such an activity:

**Matthew 7:1-5**

1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Let us resist the example of this Pharisee who wrongly deemed himself better than his peers:

**Luke 18:9-14**

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

14 I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

If only this Pharisee had taken the time to recognize his failings, he never would have treated the tax collector so poorly! Sadly, only one of these men went home right with God, and it was not the one who acted in a spirit of ungodly arrogance. May we have the sense to recognize our foibles, treating others with the mercy we would wish to receive.

Will you allow failure to teach you humility before God and

among men? I hope so, yet the choice is always yours to make! 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

#### Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Nov. 19, 2023

"Encourage and build each other up"

Our services can be found on our website at [www.barrechurch.com](http://www.barrechurch.com)

**Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5 v 1-11**

1. Introduction:  
During this Thanksgiving week, there are so many things we could be thankful for, for life and health, a home, and loved ones. Having these gifts in this day and age, is probably the most precious gift we can have and must cherish. I am reminded of one of the most beautiful greetings in the Bible, when Paul tells members of his church in Philippi, "I thank God for you..." or here in the letter to the Thessalonians, verse 11,  
"Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up..." For me it is an important acknowledgement of who we are as human beings, as church members, and what we all do for the church. I think it is something we should be saying to each other more regularly. So, I want to thank God for all of you, for who you are, and how you are following Christ and serve our church and our community.

2. The difficult call to preach the Gospel of Christ  
Paul is writing this letter to the Thessalonians from Corinth after he had to depart from Thessalonica due to the persecution he and his fellow preachers endured there. After he left Asia Minor, to go to Europe on his second missionary trip, Paul, and his companions, preached in Philippi, a Roman Colony, but were persecuted and imprisoned, and after their release they went to Thessalonica, where he preached in the synagogue, and where many have come to Christ.

Their presence and message were not well received by the religious leaders, and they were accused of coming from all over the world and causing trouble here, according to Acts Chapter 17 v 5. Some of them were persecuted, and so they fled to Berea, and from there to Corinth. Leon Morris, renowned New Testament theologian, captures Paul's state of mind and being, drawing from 1 Corinthians 2 v 3 where he shares

See SERMONS, page 10

## NOTICE

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

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships? We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more. This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free. Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

## Barre Gazette 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](mailto:obits@turley.com). Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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# Public Safety

## Barre Police Log

**Sunday, Nov. 12**  
 12:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning  
 1:06 p.m. EMS – Stroke (CVA), Circle Road, Transported to Hospital  
 2:22 p.m. Property Returned, Wauwinet Road, Property Returned  
 6:15 p.m. Road Hazard, Hubbardston Road, Removed Hazard

**Monday, Nov. 13**  
 1:28 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Old Petersham Road, Animal Returned to Owner  
 4:16 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Old Petersham Road, Message Delivered  
 8:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation Issued

**Tuesday, Nov. 14**  
 3:30 p.m. Animal Wildlife, Grove North Street, Negative Contact  
 5:42 p.m. Animal Wildlife, Nichols Road, Referred to Other Agency

**Wednesday, Nov. 15**  
 7:23 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Summer Street, Information Taken  
 12:05 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, South Street, Information Taken  
 12:42 p.m. Fire – HAZMAT Incidents, Billerica, No Action Required  
 1:38 p.m. Public Assist, Walnut Hill Road, Public Assist

**Friday, Nov. 17**  
 4:02 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, West Street, Negative Contact

8:51 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Spring Hill Road, Transported to Hospital  
 10:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Services, Austin Street, Mutual Aid Transport  
 10:52 p.m. Serve Warrant, Austin Street, No Action Required  
 Arrest: Quinlan, Rachel, 34, South Barre  
 Charges: Warrant

**Saturday, Nov. 18**  
 4:19 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Negative Contact

## Oakham Police Log

**Sunday, Nov. 12**  
 4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

**Monday, Nov. 13**  
 11:08 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty  
 5 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Spencer Road, Report Filed  
 5:48 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town wide, Information Taken  
 5:54 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Barre Road, Information Taken  
 11:26 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Vehicle Towed

**Tuesday, Nov. 14**  
 4:32 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Gray Oaks Lane, Investigated

**Wednesday, Nov. 15**  
 6:19 a.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Old Turnpike Road, Officer Advised  
 9:31 a.m. Public Assist, Scott Road, Public Assist  
 11:17 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Spencer Road, Message Delivered  
 6:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued  
 8:31 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Rutland Road, Entry Gained

**Thursday, Nov. 16**  
 10:31 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Diabetic, Ware Corner Road, Transported to Hospital  
 11:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued  
 3:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

**Friday, Nov. 17**  
 8:53 a.m. Police – Fraud/Forgery, New Braintree Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 10:05 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Old Turnpike Road, Transported to Hospital  
 5:47 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Crawford Road, Removed Hazard  
 7:10 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Rutland, Mutual Aid Assist

**Saturday, Nov. 18**  
 9:18 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, New Braintree, No Fire Service Necessary  
 2:13 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Rutland, Mutual Aid Assist  
 4:20 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party

## Hubbardston Police Log

**Sunday, Nov. 12**  
 2:42 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Hale Road, Animal Returned to Owner

**Monday, Nov. 13**  
 8:19 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Old Boston Turnpike, Information Given

**Tuesday, Nov. 14**  
 8:35 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Court Duty  
 11:31 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Sick/Unknown, Ragged Hill Road, Transported to Hospital  
 3:16 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, No Fire Service Necessary  
 8:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning  
 9:16 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, Transported to Hospital  
 Summons: Matte, Daniel S., 58, Gardner  
 Charges: Negligent Operation Of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lane Violation

**Wednesday, Nov. 15**  
 11:37 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Princeton, Mutual Aid Assist  
 2:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Thompson Road, Transported to Hospital  
 5:46 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Dogwood North Road, Officer Advised  
 6:06 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, New Westminster Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 7:31 p.m. Animal – Bite, Main Street, Information Given

**Thursday, Nov. 16**  
 9:48 a.m. Complaint, Old Princeton Road, Criminal Complaint  
 Summons: Sullivan, Jamie Lynn, 34, Gardner  
 Charges: Breaking and Entering for Misdemeanor, Larceny from Person  
 11:05 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Burnshirt Road, Message Delivered  
 11:50 a.m. Court Duty, Main Street, Court Duty  
 5:23 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Burnshirt Road, Report Filed

**Friday, Nov. 17**  
 4:51 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision Gardner Road, Report Filed  
 6:46 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Investigated  
 7:01 p.m. Fire – CO Alarm (No Illness), Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Investigated  
 9:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Citation Issued

**Saturday, Nov. 18**  
 8:49 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Transported to Hospital  
 11:15 a.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint, Pitcherville Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 11:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Citation Issued  
 3:42 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Hale Road, Transported to Hospital  
 4:49 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, No Fire Service Necessary

## New Braintree Police Log

*During the week of Nov. 13-20, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 14 building/property checks, 29 directed/area patrols, six traffic controls, one radar assignment, one motor vehicle investigation, one safety hazard, five animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.*

**Tuesday, Nov. 14**  
 4:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, Townwide, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
 5:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Unitas Road, Services Rendered  
 6:49 p.m. Fire/Training, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

**Wednesday, Nov. 15**  
 10:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Citation Issued

**Sunday, Nov. 19**  
 10:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued  
 3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Utley Road, Citation Issued

## Rutland Police Log

**Sunday, Nov. 12**  
 10:30 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Wildbrook Drive, Dispatch Handled  
 10:33 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, East County Road, Animal Returned to Owner  
 11:12 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Winifreds Way, Transported to Hospital  
 2:57 p.m. Medical Alarm, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 4:24 p.m. Police – Fraud/Forgery, Wheeler Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 4:45 p.m. Animal Wildlife, Soucy Drive, Officer Spoke to Party  
 8:49 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Maple Avenue, Negative Contact  
 9:38 p.m. Harassing/Annoying Phone Calls, Winifreds Way, Officer Advised  
 11:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle – No Fire Department/Emergency Medical Services Response, Birchwood Road, No Police Service Necessary

**Tuesday, Nov. 14**  
 12:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning  
 1 p.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty

**Wednesday, Nov. 15**  
 12:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Vehicle Towed  
 10:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 1:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 2:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wheeler Road, Citation Issued  
 2:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Kenwood Drive, Arrest(s) Made  
 Summons: Fernandes Araujo, Stefane, 27, Lynn  
 Charges: Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No  
 2:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made  
 Arrest: Towison, Michael David, 38, Ware  
 Charges: Warrant  
 License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With  
 3:35 p.m. Prisoner Watch, Rutland Police Department, Arrest(s) Made  
 4:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made  
 Summons: Picard, Andrew Raymond, 36, South Barre  
 Charges: License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With  
 6:06 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Miles Road, Report Filed  
 Summons: Hart Isheka, 26, Attleboro  
 Charges: Trash, Litter from Motor Vehicle  
 7:09 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Rolling Ridge Road, Building Checked/Secured

**Thursday, Nov. 16**  
 2:07 a.m. Prisoner Watch, Rutland Police Department, Removed to Court/Lockup  
 8:23 a.m. Prisoner Watch, Transported to East Brookfield District Court, Removed to Court/Lockup  
 8:36 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pleasantdale Road, No Transport Required  
 10:13 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Pleasantdale Road, Information Taken  
 10:31 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Diabetic, Ware Corner Road, Transported to Hospital

1:34 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Main Street, Investigated  
 3:03 p.m. Safety Concern, Central Tree Road, Officer Advised  
 3:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued  
 6:16 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Shrewsbury, Mutual Aid Assist  
 6:18 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, East County Road, No Fire Service Necessary

**Friday, Nov. 17**  
 7:23 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Maple Avenue, Information Taken  
 7:29 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Soucy Drive, Transported to Hospital  
 8:56 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Leg Swelling/Deep Vein Thrombosis, Cedar Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
 9:23 a.m. Neighbor Dispute, Maple Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party  
 10:05 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Old Turnpike Road, Transported to Hospital  
 10:56 a.m. Animal Wildlife, Arline Drive, Message Delivered  
 7:10 p.m. Police – Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Barre Paxton Road, Verbal Warning  
 9:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

**Saturday, Nov. 18**  
 8:01 a.m. Animal Wildlife, Wachusett Street, Recovered  
 9:30 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Lewis Street, No Transport Required  
 11:30 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 12:22 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Emerald Road, No Police Service Necessary  
 2:04 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:04 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Maple Avenue, Investigated  
 8:04 p.m. Diabetic, Juniper Lane, Transported to Hospital  
 11:23 p.m. Police – Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Wachusett Street, Officer Spoke to Party

## Hardwick Police Log

*During the week of Nov. 13-20, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 63 building/property checks, 19 directed/area patrols, eight traffic controls, 13 emergency 911 calls, 14 radar assignments, two complaints, one motor vehicle investigation, two investigations, one assist other agency, eight citizen assists, one scam, one vandalism, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, three animal calls and 23 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.*

Lower Road, Report Taken  
 5:01 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Main Street, Services Rendered

**Wednesday, Nov. 15**  
 10:55 a.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled  
 1:07 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital  
 8:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

**Thursday, Nov. 16**  
 6:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 6:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 7:21 a.m. Vandalism, Maple Street, Report Taken  
 10:20 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Services Rendered  
 11:29 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

**Friday, Nov. 17**  
 12:05 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Petersham Road, Spoken To  
 1:46 p.m. Assist Citizen, Town of Hardwick, Officer Handled  
 3:27 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Main Street, Negative Contact  
 3:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Summons Issued  
 4:50 p.m. Assist Citizens, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 5:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Investigation, Lower Road, Investigated

**Saturday, Nov. 18**  
 6:07 a.m. 911 Complaint, Church Lane, Officer Handled  
 7:56 a.m. 911 Welfare Check, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 12:42 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosed, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 1:38 p.m. Investigation, Church Lane, Officer Handled  
 1:45 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled  
 4:49 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, School Street, Transported to Hospital

**Sunday, Nov. 19**  
 8:56 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital  
 10:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning  
 12:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning  
 12:41 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled  
 4:38 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 5:03 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered  
 9:28 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital

**Monday, Nov. 20**  
 6:43 a.m. Assist Citizen, Grove Street, Services Rendered

## SOCIAL SECURITY, continued from page 4

WEP reduces any personal Social Security retirement benefit you may have earned elsewhere and, to your specific point, the GPO has eliminated the spousal benefit you might otherwise have been entitled to from your ex-husband.

Like you, many who are affected believe this to be unfair, but Congress has steadfastly failed to enact legislation to repeal these provisions or even to soften their impact. The likely reason is that Congress has evaluated the fundamental premise of the provisions and concluded they appropriately equalize the way benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

It might help to think of this way: in normal circumstances, if one spouse has a personally earned Social Security retirement benefit, which is more than 50% of their partner's Full Retirement Age amount, no spousal benefit is paid (the spouse benefit is offset by the recipient's own SS retire-

ment benefit). The GPO, the provision which affects SS spousal and survivor benefits) applies that same logic for a spouse who has a "non-covered" pension earned outside of the Social Security program, their spousal benefit is offset by the amount of the person's own "non-covered" retirement pension. The one difference is that the GPO offset is actually a bit smaller (2/3rds of the non-covered pension vs. 100% offset for a spouse with their own SS retirement benefit).

Both WEP, which reduces SS retirement benefits and the GPO, which reduces spousal or survivor benefits, are consequences of working for a State which has chosen to not participate in the federal Social Security program, and those states are obligated to inform their employees of those consequences. I know that doesn't make your situation any less frustrating, but Congress "justifies" these provisions as being necessary to equalize how benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

There are about 2 million bene-

ficiaries affected by WEP and over 700,000 affected by the GPO, most of whom share your displeasure. Nevertheless, Congress has so far maintained both these provisions as originally enacted. If you wish to add your voice to those who believe WEP and GPO are unfair, you may wish to contact your federal Congressional Representatives to express that point.

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for informational 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 [ssadv@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadv@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

## SERMONS, continued from page 9

Paul's exhaustion, his weakness, and fear, and much trembling. He did get word though from Silas and Timothy that the new converts in Thessalonica were doing well under those difficult circumstances.

And so, he also thanks God in the beginning of the letter, for them and their work by faith, prompted by love and their endurance inspired by their hope in Jesus Christ. Paul is also addressing some of the issues they were wrestling with, which included the Day of the Lord at the Second coming. His description of how things will be before the coming of Christ is not a pretty picture. He talks about the time of trials and tribulations, which would be prolonged and compared it to a woman in labor before she gives birth.

He encourages them in their faith, to remain steadfast despite the difficult circumstances they find themselves in. He also talks to them about self-control, because of the

problems of promiscuousness and other forms of unacceptable behaviors he observed there. He challenges those who falsely preach peace and security. The Day of the Lord will shatter their sense of peace and security. We see here a preacher, the father of this church, concerned for them, while he himself needed rest and comfort.

3. Conclusion  
 It is his message at the end, though, a message of encouragement they ought to have for one another, which brings us close to the heart of the Gospel message, which is a message of love and being there for one another, building each other up. We have the salvation in Christ who died for you, he says, and through every circumstance He is there with them, and today also with us. It is a message of gratitude, thankfulness for them then, and it is a message of gratitude for us today as well.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this week, we celebrate it with the knowledge that we live in a relatively peaceful environment, where

we do not have to fight for our lives on large scale, but we can go and visit our loved ones, and we can enjoy the beauty of the earth on our tables, and we can enjoy the company of those around us.

We are grateful for these gifts we have, and at the same time we must also think about those who do not have enough, and those who feel lonely, those who are sick, at home or in hospitals, those who feel in despair and without support, and then also those in war-torn areas now, where the suffering is unimaginable and the peace they yearn for is not there.

May God help us to keep all who suffer in our prayers. May God help us to be Christians who love justice and peace and help us to be there for each other as we encourage and build each other up. Have a blessed Thanksgiving.  
 Amen.

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

## BUSINESS

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

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

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Barre Gazette

## Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2.

To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at [barrenews@turley.com](mailto:barrenews@turley.com) or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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**Stone Church hosts free concerts Dec 3 and 17**

GILBERTVILLE – John P. Sacco, music educator and U.S. Air Force veteran, will lead two well-respected community music organizations in two free concert this December: Holiday Cheers by Weir River Jazz Ensemble on Sunday Dec. 3 and Christmastime is Here by The Weir River Concert Band on Sunday Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Route 32.

Donations for the Hardwick-New Braintree Christmas for Kids program in the forms of unwrapped toys for children aged newborn to 12, gift cards from \$20-\$50 and checks payable to Christmas for Kids will be gratefully received at both events. Local police will distribute these gifts to families in Hardwick and New Braintree. This season, there are more community needs than ever before, according to a police department spokesperson.

Weir River Jazz is a classic 'Big Band' jazz ensemble. Directed and led by Sacco on lead alto saxophone, the group's experienced brass and woodwind players, percussionists and vocalist enjoy improvisation. Their energetic, professional-level concerts include challenging holiday repertoire of many origins, always with a 'swing.'

A traditional concert band conducted by Sacco, Weir River Concert Band comprises brass, woodwind, and rhythm section players from teenagers to octogenarians. Originally created as part of the music program in the Ware public schools, the concert band offers performance opportunities to community musicians. The program is ambitious, including excerpts from Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker, traditional French carols, holiday tunes with humor, and 'pops' orchestra arrangements for band. The group is actively seeking new members to start following this concert season. People may email Joanne Meegan at [jomeegan@comcast.net](mailto:jomeegan@comcast.net) or call 413-896-6373.

John P. Sacco was awarded the Silver Star for his actions in Vietnam in October of 1969. He trained at Boston Conservatory and taught music, becoming director of the music program for the Town of Ware public schools. Ever the optimist, Sacco reached out in September, 2020, at the height of the COVID pandemic, looking for a space for the groups to rehearse and "call their own." When Friends of the Stone Church agreed to provide the Stone Church Cultural Center, both Weir River Jazz and the Weir River Concert Band began rehearsing and performing in Gilbertville. Their concerts are free, with donations to FOSC accepted at all events for the cultural center's preservation and service to the community.

**Public Notices**

**Town of Barre Public Hearing Notice Transfer of Liquor License**

TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on the application from Jason Pietrzak DBA Mile 61 Tavern, Inc., 90 Main Street, South Barre, MA, for a transfer of on premises, restaurant, All Alcoholic Beverages, License 00002-RS-0072 from Dominic's, Inc. DBA Barre Mill Restaurant. The Public Hearing will be held on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Select Board Meeting Room, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street,

Barre. Persons wishing to comment may do so at that time. The Board will also consider written comments received prior to the hearing.

For the Select Board:  
Greg Balukonis  
Interim Town Administrator  
11/30, 12/07/2023

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING TOWN OF OAKHAM**  
The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oakham will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall, 2

Coldbrook Road, Oakham, Massachusetts to discuss the percentage of the tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for Fiscal Year 2024, pursuant to Chapter 369 of the Acts of 1982 of the Massachusetts General Laws relating to Classification and Taxation of Property, according to use. Interested tax payers may present their views either orally or in writing to the Board of Selectmen prior to or during said hearing.  
11/30, 12/07/2023

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 hearing 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

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

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