

# BARRE GAZETTE

USPS 044560

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

December 4, 2025 | Vol. 191, No. 35 | \$1.00

www.barregazette.turley.com

## Board approves skating rink site

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – Select Board member Richard Stevens requested permission to put the skating rink up on Barre Common again this year.

The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and volunteers would set it up as they have for the past several years. Select Board Chairman Maureen Marshall requested the rink not be placed by the bandstand this year as the grass at that location had to be reseeded where the rink was. The board approved the South Common location, where the rink was for the several years.

### Planning Board and Conservation clerk

Mary Ann Gendron will be retiring at the end of this month from the Town Clerk's office. However, she would like to continue working part-time as clerk for the Planning Board and Conservation Committee. Select Board Chairman Marshall said she could only work 19.5 hours maximum and would receive no benefits or health insurance. She also must stay within the allowed amount of money she can earn while collecting retirement. It would be Gendron's responsibility to keep track of that. If she went over the allowed amount, she must pay back any amount earned over the limit. The retirement board, if she didn't pay it back directly, would stop

See BARRE, page 6



Turley Publications photos by Ellenor Downer

**Santa visited the Fobes Memorial Library in Oakham last Saturday, Nov. 29. He visited with children and heard their Christmas wish list**



**Jackson, 5, enjoyed the cookies with Santa event at the Fobes Memorial Library in Oakham last Saturday with his parents.**

## Santa makes stop at Fobes Memorial Library

OAKHAM – Every year Santa Claus makes a visit to the Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St. so children can give him their Christmas wish list.

Parents also could take a photo or two with their child or children and Santa Claus. Parents, children, patrons and even Santa himself also enjoyed some hot cocoa and homemade cookies provided by the Friends of the Library.

For those who missed Santa last Saturday in Oakham, he and Mrs. Claus will be at the Christmas in Barre event this Saturday, Dec. 6 in Barre. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in the parade at noon and following the parade visit with children. For the latest information, people may visit [www.christmasinbarre.org](http://www.christmasinbarre.org).



**Sisters Avery, 9; Reece, 4 and Jade, 1 sported matching dresses to meet Santa at the Oakham library.**

## Select Board appointed Library Assistants

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – Under new business the Select Board voted to appoint a library assistant during their Nov. 24 meeting.

There were two appointments listed, the appointment of Patricia Lalli as Per Diem Library Assistant and the appointment of Elizabeth Buck as the Library Assistant. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano reported that a total of five candidates were interviewed for these positions.

All the references checked out and both Buck and Lalli were appointed.

### Paige Mixer Trust

The Select Board discussed the Paige Mixer Trust. Caggiano shared that the only update she's gotten regards an email she had sent out about the statute of limitations has expired. The board will keep the Paige Mixer Trust on the agenda and hopes to hear further updates at their next meeting.

### Town Administrator's report

Caggiano shared her report starting with the town having its second walk-through for the Town House Revitalization grant. As of Nov. 24, the town had received a total of three bids, but all three were over the budgeted amount. Caggiano wants to see what else is available.

Free cash has been certified for the town. Caggiano said the town is still

See HARDWICK, page 11

## FinCom vote recommendations on STM articles for Tuesday, Dec. 16

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Barre Finance Committee met on Tuesday, Nov. 25 to vote their recommendations on the 12 article Special Town Meeting warrant for Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Ruggles Lane School.

FinCom Chairman Zachary Macutkiewicz read each article and the committee had the options to pass over or give a favorable or unfavorable vote. The first article would approve tax collector demand fees and the committee gave a favorable recommendation.

Article 2 was for a past year bill for Matrix of \$17,723.44 for broadband service to Springhill Road. Town Administrator Melanie Jackson said the Select Board was not sure Matrix completed all the work and might recommend tabling the article. The FinCom voted accordingly and go no recommendation. Article 3 was for the purchase of a Ford F550 crew cab truck and equipment with a new utility

body for \$71,915.02 from capital improvement stabilization fund to replace the Department of Public Works superintendent's truck, which was totaled in a head on collision recently. The insurance payout amount would also be used toward the \$96,969 state bid for the truck. Member Cory Bombredi called the article "a hard pill to swallow" and questioned the need for such an expensive truck and for even needing a crew cab. They voted to pass over the article rather than make a recommendation.

Article 4 was for a transfer of \$7,212 from the outreach coordinator line item to the senior center director to restore that amount, which was removed and put on the proposition 2 ½ override budget at the June 28 Annual Town Meeting. Instead voters approved the \$7,212 for the treasurer's office. The town of Hardwick paid the outreach coordinator salary as part of the agreement with Barre. The proposition 2 ½ override failed to pass at an election. The FinCom voted favorable with one abstention, Bombredi.

They also gave a favorable recommendation for the purchase of a new ambulance.

The town's newest ambulance was totaled in an accident caused by a Verizon truck skidding into the ambulance almost a year ago. Article 5 if approved would borrow up to \$205,301 for the purchase. There is a two-year estimated time of arrival. When and if the town settled with Verizon for the purchase of a new ambulance, the money would be used to pay off the loan.

Currently, Barre has one ambulance in service and relies also on mutual aid from Rutland. Hardwick is currently being served by West Brookfield instead of Barre. Barre would still offer mutual aid ambulance if available to Hardwick.

Article 6 reintroduces a local meal tax of 0.75% on all meals served within town. The FinCom gave a favorable recommendation in the past, but voters did not approve the article. Town Administrator Jackson said many towns and cities approved an article for a local meal tax option and garner quite a bit of money from the tax. Again, the committee gave a favorable recommendation.

Article 7, if approved

See FINCOM, page 8



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

**Santa Claus made his way downtown to the Little Park in North Brookfield last Saturday evening, where he heard children's Christmas wishes and visited with residents. More photos on page 7.**

## Little Park lit up for Santa Claus

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Last Saturday night, the streets of downtown were lined with people eager to catch a glimpse of everyone's favorite jolly old elf, Santa Claus.

Christmas songs played from Little Park, courtesy of DJ Brian, and soon the parade lights could be seen approaching the crowd.

The parade featured a number of floats entered by local businesses, a convoy of Jeeps, town department vehicles (including Police, Fire and Water), festively-dressed dogs, and of course – Santa Claus.

Santa Claus was standing aboard one of the fire trucks, and cheers and

smiles greeted him as he made his way through Little Park, where children lined up for a chance to sit on his lap and tell him their Christmas wishes.

Parade goers then headed to the First Congregational Church to sing Christmas carols, before returning to Little Park for the tree lighting.



# News of the Towns



## ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Circle of Song holds concert

Circle of Song will hold a concert on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre. This is the 25th anniversary of the chorus. In September of 2001, Circle of Song came into existence under the co-direction of Julie Rawson and Beth Bryant, long-term community music colleagues. Under Bryant's direction, "Regina Coeli" will be sung. This upbeat minor work by Mozart of approximately eight minutes in duration, is a masterful and energizing celebration of Mary, Queen of Heaven, dating back to the 13th century in the Catholic Mass. On the other end of the spectrum, she will also direct Java Jive, made popular by the Manhattan Transfer. As a special treat, Grace Jenkins and her dancers will put it to dance. Finally, Bryant, locally renowned for her expertise on clarinet, will accompany "Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair." The concert is free and refreshments will be served. To learn more about Circle of Song or to join in January, people may email director, Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192 for more information.

### No. 4 Schoolhouse Christmas party

No.4 Schoolhouse Christmas party will take place on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 3:30-6 p.m. People will enjoy some caroling, make a craft and visit with Santa. They should bring a snack to share; a beverage will be provided. All ages are welcome. People should RSVP all children 12 years old and younger by Sunday, Dec. 7 to be sure Santa's elves place a gift for them in Santa's sack. RSVP via email no4schoolhouse@gmail.com or text to 508-523-5850 with child's name and age. Separate with a space or comma for multiple children. Volunteers are always welcome. The winter raffle is currently underway. This fundraiser helps sustain the building, offer free events like this to the community and pay their bills. Raffle tickets will be on sale now through Tuesday, Dec 16 where tickets are one for \$5, three for \$10 or 10 for \$20. People may consider supporting the No.4 Schoolhouse by purchasing raffle tickets, donating an item, donating a service or basket to the raffle or financially supporting this non-profit organization.

### American Legion Auxiliary

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2 will hold their meeting on Monday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. in American Legion Post #2, 450 South Barre Road. Those wishing to take part in the Yankee Swap should bring a wrapped gift.

### Christmas in Barre Day

The Christmas in Barre takes place on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on the Barre Common and throughout surrounding businesses. People will enjoy a lively Santa parade, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, face painting, marshmallow roasting, crafts at Woods Memorial Library and so much more, with activities and surprises around every corner for all ages to enjoy. Paper schedules with a full listing of events will be handed out around the Common on the day of the celebration and will also be available at Woods Memorial Library during the week leading up to the event. For the latest information, people may visit [www.christmasinbarre.org](http://www.christmasinbarre.org).

### Barre Youth Theater auditions

Auditions for Barre Youth Theater's production of "The Enchanted Bookshop" will be held Dec. 8 and Dec. 9 from 6-8 p.m. at the Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St., Barre. Actors ages 7 to 14 are invited to auditions; they should arrive 15 minutes early to fill out paperwork. Auditions will consist of reading from the script. No preparation is necessary. Rehearsals are Sundays from 2-4 p.m. and Mondays and Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. Performance are March

See ROUND TOWN, page 5



Submitted photo

Circle of Song gather around the piano during rehearsal. They will hold a concert on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre.

## Circle of Song holds concert Dec. 20

BARRE – The Circle of Song celebrates 25 years of community singing, on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St.

Twenty-five years ago, in September of 2001, Circle of Song came into existence under the co-direction of Julie Rawson and Beth Bryant, long-term community music colleagues. Fast forward 25 years. Bryant moved to Georgia in 2006, but kept close ties to family and music in Barre.

To celebrate Circle of Song's rich community-based four-part harmony, singing any genre that its members have wanted to sing, the founders decided to get together again for this anniversary concert. Quintessential musician that she is, Bryant travelled up

to Barre on Nov. 6 to participate in the Circle of Song rehearsal and reunite with the chorus. Under Beth's direction, "Regina Coeli" will be sung. This upbeat minor work by Mozart of approximately eight minutes in duration, is a masterful and energizing celebration of Mary, Queen of Heaven, dating back to the 13th century in the Catholic Mass.

On the other end of the spectrum, she will also direct "Java Jive," made popular by the Manhattan Transfer. This is a silly song about the wonders of coffee. And as a special treat, Grace Jenkins and her dancers will put it to dance.

Finally, Bryant, locally renowned for her expertise on clarinet, will accompany "Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair.

"According to Wikipedia, "Black Is the Color (of My True Love's Hair)" is a traditional ballad folk song known in the U.S. as associated with colonial and later music in the Appalachian Mountains. It is believed to have originated in Scotland, as it refers to the River Clyde in the lyrics. American musicologist Alan Lomax supported the thesis of Scottish origin, saying that the song was an American "re-make of British materials." It is a hauntingly beautiful piece that concert-goers will enjoy.

The concert is free and refreshments will be served. To learn more about Circle of Song or to join in January, people may email director, Julie Rawson at [julie@mhof.net](mailto:julie@mhof.net) or call 978-257-1192 for more information.

## 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. 8. 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 – Salisbury steak, garlic mashed potatoes, herbed carrots, fresh fruit, sandwich roll

TUESDAY – \*Hot dog on bun, baked beans, coleslaw, baked apples, mustard

WEDNESDAY – Turkey supreme, her-

bed stuffing, glazed carrots, cake, diet = small piece, Italian bread

THURSDAY – Baked potato with chili and cheese, roasted broccoli, lemon pudding, diet pudding, TVES = cookie, whole wheat bread

FRIDAY – Burgundy pork, mashed carrot and sweet potato, roasted Brussels sprouts, peaches, Italian bread

\*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$3.00 per meal helps keep the program running.

## Town clerk holds STM voter registration

BARRE— The Town Clerk's Office, located at 40 West St., will be open Friday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for anyone wishing to register to vote for the upcoming Special Town Meeting to be

held on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Ruggles Lane School.

This will be the last day and time to register to vote. Residents may also register to vote by using a mail

in voter registration post-marked by Dec. 5 or online at [www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr). Questions pertaining to voter registration can be directed to the Town Clerk Office at 978-355-2504 extension 5.

## No. 4 Schoolhouse to hold Christmas party

BARRE – No.4 Schoolhouse Christmas party will take place on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 3:30-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec 14 from 3:30-6 p.m.

People will enjoy some caroling, make a craft and visit with Santa. They should bring a snack to share; a beverage will be provided. All ages are welcome. People should RSVP all children 12

years old and younger by Sunday, Dec. 7 to be sure Santa's elves place a gift for them in Santa's sack. RSVP via email [no4schoolhouse@gmail.com](mailto:no4schoolhouse@gmail.com) or text to 508-523-5850 with child's name and age. Separate with a space or comma for multiple children. Volunteers are always welcome.

The winter raffle is currently underway. This fund-

raiser helps sustain the building, offer free events like this to the community and pay their bills. Raffle tickets will be on sale now through Tuesday, Dec 16 where tickets are one for \$5, three for \$10 or 10 for \$20. People may consider supporting the No.4 Schoolhouse by purchasing raffle tickets, donating an item, donating a service or basket to the raffle or financially supporting this non-profit organization.



## OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Festival of Lessons and Carols

The 29th annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will take place Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road. This year's cantata is "Rise Up A New Light a Comin'" by Lloyd Larson and Pamela Martin. The cantata features a choir accompanied by piano and an orchestra, scripture readings and singing of carols. Refreshments will follow downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

### Christmas pageant

The Oakham Sunday School will present their annual Christmas pageant about the story of Jesus birth on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 10 a.m. at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road.

### Christmas Eve service

A candlelight service will be held Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road. All are welcome to attend.

### Lottery Tickets

It is time for the Oakham Historical Association lottery tickets again. Cost is \$20 per ticket with 20 chances to win \$50. Only 100 tickets are sold. The lottery starts Tuesday, Jan 6 and runs to Thursday, March 12. Match the two middle numbers of the evening Massachusetts Lottery Number Game on Tuesdays and Thursdays and \$50 will be mailed to the winners. If interested send \$20 per ticket made out to Oakham Historical Association Lottery, P.O. Box 236, Oakham, MA 01068. Any questions, people should call Kathy at 508-882-3137.

### OHA Christmas Party

The Oakham Christmas Party will take place on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 1-4 p.m. in the Oakham Historical Museum Annex, 1221 Old Turnpike Road. Children and adults may get pictures with Santa in his sleigh, Mrs. Claus and Buddy the Elf. Pictures with Santa are a \$5 donation to the Oakham Historical Association. There will be children's crafts, story time and refreshments.

### COA news

On Thursday, Dec 11 Serving Health Insurance Needs of the Everyone will be at the Senior Center from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Reservations are required. On Friday, Dec. 12 the Council on Aging meets at noon. On Monday Dec 15 podiatry will be held from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Reservations required On Monday Dec 22 from noon-2:30 p.m. there will be blood pressure and glucose testing. On Tuesday, Dec 23 SNAP Benefits Information is available from 11 a.m.-1p.m. All are welcome; there are no age restrictions. Ongoing activities include: Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon puzzling. Monday through Thursday: 9:00am Walking Group meets at Senior Center Tuesday through Thursdays at 11a.m. For walking groups, people may ask to be added to the text MSG by calling the Senior Center and leaving their cell phone number.

Starting Tuesday, Dec 2 Yoga takes place at the Senior Center multipurpose room. Registration is required. Cost is \$30 and there will be six classes. Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m.. Zumba Gold meets in the Rutland Senior Center in Rutland. The location will change to the New Braintree Town Hall in January 2026. There is a \$3 donation per class. Thursdays at noon weigh in is at the Senior Center for support weight loss group. Fridays at 10.30 a.m. Functional Fitness takes place at the New Braintree Town Hall. There is a \$3 donation per class.

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

Lunch Bunch meets the third Friday. On Friday, Dec. 19 at 12:30 p.m. they will meet for a Christmas gathering at Senior Center. Sign up sheet is at the Senior Center in the main room.

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

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**Editorial deadline reminder**

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

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# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE

QRSD Central Office/Audit/Administrative Review Subcommittee – Dec 4 at 5:15 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 4 and Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.  
 Sewer Commission – Dec. 8 at 2 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 8 at 5 p.m.  
 Water Commission – Dec. 8 at 5:30 p.m.  
 DPW Commission – Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.  
 Cable Advisory Committee – Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.  
 Conservation Committee – Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.  
 Library Trustees – Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Dec. 11 and Jan. 22, 2026 at 11 a.m.  
 Barre Housing Authority – Dec. 11 at 1 p.m.  
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Dec. 11 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Select Board – Dec. 15 at 5 p.m.  
 Special Town Meeting – Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

### HARDWICK

Board of Health – Dec. 4 at 6:45 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustees – Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 9 and Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Public Library – Dec. 10 at 3 p.m.  
 Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Capital Planning Committee – Dec. 15 at 3 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Water District – Dec. 16 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Wheelwright Water District – Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Board of Library Trustees – Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.  
 Open Space Committee – Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Parks Commissioners – Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Fire Highway Building Committee – Dec. 4 at 4 p.m.  
 Parks and Recreation – Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Dec. 9 at 1:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Board of Health – Dec. 8 at 5 p.m.  
 Board of Selectmen – Dec. 8 and Dec. 22 at 6 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Select Board – Dec. 4 at 5:30 p.m., Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. and Dec. 18 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Dec. 5 at 9 a.m.  
 Council on Aging – Dec. 8 at 10:30 a.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

### RUTLAND

Capital Improvement Planning Committee – Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.  
 Finance Committee – Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.  
 Department of Public Utilities Public Hearing – Dec. 17 at 2 p.m.

**December**  
 MOC COORDINATED FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10am Playgroup 16 Elm St., Baldwinville 1pm BCM Math group Pre-Registration Required	2 10am Playgroup 7 Exchange St., Barre	3 10am Playgroup 68 Coleman St., Gardner	4 10am Outdoor Walk Dunn State Park Gardner	5 10am Playgroup YMCA 55 Wallace Ave., Fitchburg 10am Playgroup 307 Main St. Gilbertville 11am SNAP Ed Cooking Registration Required	6 10am-12pm Gingerbread Madness! 7 Exchange St., Barre
VISIT 7 EXCHANGE ST., BARRE FOR THE WEEK-LONG SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR!					AWARENESS MONTH
8 Scholastic Bookfair Open House Hours: 9:00am-2:30pm daily	9 10am Playgroup 7 Exchange St., Barre	10 10am Playgroup 68 Coleman St., Gardner 1pm Preschool Time 7 Exchange St., Barre Registration Required	11 10am Infant/ Toddler Playgroup 7 Exchange St., Barre 10:30am Playgroup Forbush Memorial Library, Westminster	12 10am Playgroup YMCA 55 Wallace Ave., Fitchburg 10am Playgroup 307 Main St. Gilbertville 11am SNAP Ed Cooking Registration Required	December is National Safe Toys & Gifts month. To raise awareness about choosing age appropriate and safe toys, and to prevent childhood injuries, you can find the Safe Toy Checklist at: preentblindness.org/safe- toy-checklist
15 NO CFCE PROGRAMMING Staff Development Day	16 9am-9:30am Virtual Playgroup via Teams Registration Required	17 10am Playgroup 68 Coleman St., Gardner	18 10am Playgroup Boynton Public Library Templeton	19 10am Playgroup YMCA 55 Wallace Ave., Fitchburg 10am Playgroup 307 Main St. Gilbertville 11am SNAP Ed Cooking Registration Required	

NO CFCE PROGRAMMING  
 DEC 22<sup>ND</sup> - JAN 2<sup>ND</sup>  
 HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Scan the QR code to check out the MOC CFCE and Parent Child+ Facebook page for the latest program news & updates!  
 Or, connect directly with your MOC CFCE team.

ParentChild+ eec Department of Early Education & Care Free Playgroups, StoryWalks, & Family Events. Registration is recommended. For ages: Birth to 8 years & their guardians!

## HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer  
 edowner@turley.com

### Town offices holiday schedule

Town Offices will be closed on the following days to observe the Christmas and New Year's holidays:

Dates include: Wednesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve; Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025 - Christmas Day

Wednesday, Dec. 31 New Year's Eve and Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026 New Year's Day. Regular business hours will resume Monday, Jan. 5, 2026.

### PTO sip and paint fundraiser

The Hubbardston Parent Teacher Organization will hold a sip and paint fundraiser on Friday, Dec. 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Hubbardston Rod and Gun Club, 35 Williamsville Road, Hubbardston. Tickets are \$30 and include all paint supplies. There will be snacks and a cash bar. People may purchase tickets at VENMO: @hubbardston-PTO. For more information, people may email hubpto@gmail.com.

### Holiday concert

The Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet will perform a free concert of holiday music on Sunday, Dec. 7 at the 5:30 p.m. in Hubbardston First Meetinghouse, on the Common. The program is sponsored by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana through a trust fund established when the Parish was forced to disband because of the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir in the 1930s. Sunday's program in Hubbardston is the 816th, and has become a 30-year tradition in Hubbardston. Sunday's program will include "Sounds of the Seasons" by Larson; "A Christmas Jazz Suite" arranged by Holcombe; "Two Folk Carols: Wexford Carol, and Personent Hodie" arranged by Bannister; "Cool Bells that Jingle" arranged by Simmons; "March of the Kings and Une Jeune Pucelle" arranged by Shackley; "An English Carol Triptych: God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, Coventry Carol, and I Saw Three Ships," arranged by Matthews; "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" arranged by Murray and Smith; "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" arranged by Price; "Do You Hear What I Hear?" arranged by Coolidge and "Home for the Holidays" by Stillman and Allen. The program is always subject to change. The Pioneer Valley Brass is a group of talented musicians from throughout the area, and has been performing for over 40 years with various membership. This season, Dick Tandy and Steve Babineau play trumpet, Tabatha Greelees plays horn, Dana Tandy performs on trombone and Dan Walker is featured on tuba.

### Seniors Christmas Fair

The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., will hold its Holiday Country Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Senior Center. The now-famous Hunter's Stew will be available with a slice of homemade bread to take home or eat in. Mr. and Mrs. Santa will be there from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Visitors may bring cameras to get pictures. There will be handmade items by talented crafters, Chinese Auction, Lottery Tree, bake sale and much more.

### Health Insurance Decisions

The Hubbardston Senior Center will host a representative from Integrity Medicare Advisors on Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m.-noon. Appointments may be made by calling 978-928-1400, Extension 221.

### Fuel Assistance

To get help with Fuel Assistance, residents See HUBBARDSTON, page 7

## Barre Food Pantry distributions

BARRE – The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 10- 11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, Dec. 18 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St.

Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Dec. 10 or in the evening on Thursday, Dec. 18, 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 disease 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 has considered changing how the pan-

try currently operates, but has decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as they have since March of 2020.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Dec. 10 and 18 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. 9 at 5 p.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. 9, they should call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921.

People should not arrive to volunteer on Dec. 9, 10 or 18 without first calling either Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

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

## 'Nativities From Around the World' will be held Dec. 4-7

NORTH BROOKFIELD – For the 16th year, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 108 New Braintree Road, welcomes all people to experience "Nativities From Around the World," a free, four-day event that celebrates the Christmas season with a display of nativities that

capture the joy and peace of Jesus' birth.

"Nativities From Around the World" will be held Dec. 4-7 at the church. The hours are Thursday, Dec. 4 from 4-8 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 5 from 4-6 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 from noon-4 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 5 there will be concert by the Weir River Concert Band (formerly the Ware Community Band) under the direction of Joanne Pajak Meegan starting at 6 p.m., with desserts served afterward.

Donations will be collected to benefit local food banks in the community.

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# Opinion

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Is Social Security really a “good deal?”

Dear Rusty:  
You've said in the past that most people recoup their SS contributions within five years of starting benefits, thus Social Security “is an exceptionally good deal.”

Your calculation is correct but misleading; if it were not, SS would have been insolvent long ago. I will, in fact, get “my” contributions back in about five years, but my employer's contributions will take another five years and that is money that my employer could have been paying me, so they are really “my” contributions. But even that ignores the time value of money.

I did a calculation as if my contributions, along with those of my employer, were invested in an account earning 5% per year. That would provide me the equivalent of SS income for 24 years, approximately what my life expectancy was when I retired. So, it's not a bad deal, but it is hardly exceptional. It is roughly the equivalent of me investing that money throughout my career and using the total to buy an annuity.

Of course, Social Security does have the advantage of certainty, at least until it goes broke. My portfolio would not earn a steady 5% every year, though that is at the low end of what financial managers would expect over a long period. And it does force people to save, many of whom would otherwise make no provision for retirement.

Signed: Realistic Senior

Dear Realistic:

Thanks very much for your feedback on my previous article. I think it's important to draw a distinction for SS contributions made by an employer, because that is not money the individual personally pays, but rather an obligation for employers to help fund the Social Security program.

Without that federal obligation, it is doubtful that employers would, instead, provide employees with equivalent additional compensation, so the thought that these are really your contributions is not a fair assessment. Indeed, they are contributions which happen to be tied to your earnings level (to a cap), for which employers receive relief on their corporate income tax and likely would not make if not required by law.

As you have noted, Social Security has the advantage of certainty, something which is lacking when it comes to investing the equivalent amounts in the financial markets. And, as you have hinted, there exists a substantial failure

by future American retirees to save adequately for their retirement, a problem well known in most financial circles. Thus, the certainty of Social Security makes it a crucial part of everyone's retirement planning and it will be there.

Despite all the angst attributed to the current financial issues facing the program, there is little doubt that Social Security is here to stay. The question is what reform is needed to make the program fully solvent for generations of future Americans? The Association of Mature American Citizens has developed a proposal to sensibly reform Social Security and avoid the currently projected 2033 date that the SS Trust Funds are expected to be depleted, which will necessitate an across-the-board cut for everyone.

We have little doubt that the reform needed will happen; it would be political suicide for Congress if it did not and hopefully soon. You can read about AMAC's proposed solution at this link by visiting [www.amac.us/social-security-guarantee](http://www.amac.us/social-security-guarantee).

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

Again, thank you for your feedback and commentary. Please know that we very much appreciate your thoughts and are always willing to discuss these issues.

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



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## In Past Pages

5 years (Dec. 10, 2020)

Barre Selectmen unanimously voted to sign an agreement with the Quabbin Regional School District to let the school spend money the board allotted from town's CARES Act funds. The money will be used to purchase laptops and Chrome books for Ruggles Lane Elementary School. Items must be bought no later than Dec. 30.

Barre Assessor Jesse Warren said the board of assessors unanimously recommended for the town to continue with the residential factor of one at the tax classification hearing Monday, Nov. 30.

He said the town of Barre is 87% residential, 5% commercial and 2% industrial. The assessors also recommended that the selectmen not adopt a small business discount. Warren said the discount went to the property owner not the business owner. He said it would shift the burden to the commercial and industrial. The tax classification hearing is a step in setting the FY 21 tax rate for the town. The FY 20 tax rate, which is July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 was \$17.87.

The Hubbardston Planning Board Members and Board of Selectmen received two applicants for a vacancy on the Planning Board due to the resignation of an elected member. The applicants were Christopher Monroe and Peter Jetts. The appointed member would serve until the town election in June 2021.

### Look Back Barre Woman's Club Tea – 1970



File photo  
Gladys Mara of Barre, president of the Barre Woman's Club (seated), is shown with Anita Rich of Barre Plains.

The joint boards unanimously voted to appoint Christopher Monroe to fill the vacancy. Members cited Munroe's legal background as a plus.

10 years (Dec. 10, 2015)

It's an exciting era in the history of the Quabbin girls basketball program as Melissa Proffitt, a 2007 graduate, has been recently appointed as the new girls' jayvee coach. Proffitt will join new girls' varsity coach Ryan Burnett as they get ready to open the winter season with high hopes and the return of outstanding player, Rachel Myra. To say that she merely likes basketball is definitely an understatement as Proffitt is more than excited to begin this new journey back in extremely familiar territory. Growing

up in Hubbardston, attending Quabbin and playing center and sometimes forward for the Lady Panthers on their varsity team beginning her freshman year, this Lady Panther Alum knows her stuff about the game of basketball.

Emily Raskett of Hardwick, a junior majoring in civil engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, recently completed an intensive, hands-on research project in Switzerland. The project was titled “Facilitating Corporate Project Sponsorship.”

Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) and Representative Donald R. Berthiaume (R-Spencer) are

See PAST PAGES, page 5

## Wreaths and swags for one and all

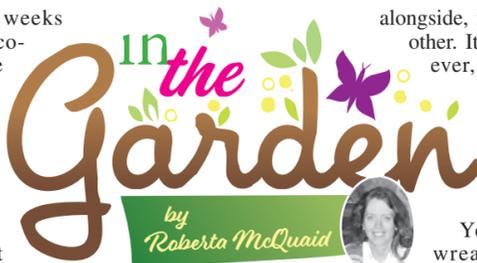
For the last two weeks we've been busy decorating Old Sturbridge Village for their Christmas by Candlelight program.

The garland, wreaths, bows and swags are all up, and the planters have been filled with greens. It was fast-paced fun, and oh so rewarding. The museum looks absolutely magical.

I filled planters side by side with a coworker who, in her 30 plus years, has never done this part of the job with me. As we stuck greens and stood back to assess our work, it occurred to me that I've grown up making all of these decorations, like my parents before me!

I had assumed everyone else had too, but here we had Nina, who in her 60s, was at it for the first time. If you find yourself ready to make your own decorations, here are a few pointers from the archives.

My Dad was the wreath-maker in the family, and usually a post Thanksgiving walk in the



woods would yield his raw materials. The wreaths he made would be taken back to decorate a college dorm or whatever apartment my older siblings would return to after Thanksgiving break some 40 plus years ago.

One wreath would also make its way to the front door of our little red house, too. Decorated with a red ribbon and a few pine cones, it really was something so simple and so beautiful in the same right.

His approach is the same one I'll recommend today.

Start with a wire coat hanger bent into a circle and attach some pliable wire to it. Then, wrap little bunches of greens to the base one after another.

Be careful to lay them

alongside, not on top of each other. It's important, however, to have the wire catch a little bit of the stem of the prior bunch – that way the wreath will be good and tight.

You can make a wreath of just extra boughs from your Christmas tree, but mixing in other types of greens will make it more interesting. I like to use prunings from my home landscape: mountain laurel, boxwood, juniper, and white pine among others will look great together because they vary in color and texture.

You can dress up a green wreath with pinecones, winterberries and artificial fruit, not to mention a big bow. Most types of Christmas tree boughs are conducive to wreath making, but wear thick gloves if you are using Colorado blue spruce as your base – it sure is picky!

When my Dad gave up making his famous wreaths, Mom took a simpler yet more

See GARDEN, page 5

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



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### PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a “people news” form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Barre Gazette, please email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com).

## Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

It has been a cloudy and dreary week, but Thanksgiving was a very nice day for us.

Our youngest daughter and her husband provided us with a full course Thanksgiving meal and made up plates for the next day also. Then on Sunday, Donald made a delicious turkey soup and brought us some and meat for a sandwich.

We asked Donald if he would start the generator as it had not been started since last winter and luckily he did get it started. I have spent three days putting away the fall decorations and bringing out the Christmas ones. I won't put the tree up for a couple more weeks.

Because Thanksgiving came late this year, Christmas will not be far behind. I did write my Christmas cards and because of a kind gentleman neighbor I will be buying stamps and sending them this week. I do all my cards in watercolor. Due to the fact that my printer to the computer is broken I will

not be sending a Christmas letter this year.

I need to investigate and find out what kind of printer I need to buy. I have an HP printer but was unable to connect it to my computer. I guess I am not very tech oriented.

I wonder where the name Goulash came from? The recipe that I want to share came from the iPad. I call this American Chop Suey but who knows.

### GOULASH

1 lb. of ground beef, I call it hamburger  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 medium chopped onion  
1 clove of garlic, minced  
1 chopped green pepper  
1 can diced tomatoes, I will use a jar of spaghetti sauce

2 cups of beef broth  
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce  
2 teaspoon paprika  
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning  
2 cups elbow macaroni  
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Brown the beef in the olive oil with the chopped onion and peppers. Add the

remaining ingredients after you cook the macaroni in boiling water for the time it states on the package. The cheese may be added last. It is good warmed over the next day also.

### This and That

Most of the leaves have fallen in the yard so what is left will remain on the ground as they have frozen. The eaves troughs did not get cleaned out this year either so I hope that won't be a problem.

I went to heat up the Thanksgiving next day meal in the microwave and found out it was not working any more. I just had to purchase a new washer and now this I may not purchase a new one as I seldom use it anyway. My kitchen is very small and I don't have room for too many appliances. That is one I can do without.

Don't get too busy for the holiday. Take time to smell the roses as they say. Stores are starting to get crowded with shoppers so they are doing their gift shopping early this year. Finding any good buys?

### ROUND TOWN from page 2

6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. and March 7 and 8 at 2 p.m.

#### Candy Cane Fair

The parish of St. Francis of Assisi will once again take part in Christmas in Barre on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in St. Joseph's Hall on South Street. The Candy Cane Fair will be filled with handmade crafts perfect for gifts, costume jewelry and the ever-popular theme baskets, bake shoppe and hot cocoa

bar plus fun games for the children free of charge. There will be a raffle of a handmade quilt, a grand prize raffle and silent auction. Anthony from Cash for Gold will be at the fair to buy broken gold and silver and platinum jewelry.

#### Cookie sale and gift table

Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold their annual Christmas cookie sale and gift tables on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic Hall, 71

Pleasant St. Cookies are sold by the pond. People can pick their favorites.

#### Holiday Fair

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

### PAST PAGES from page 4

happy to announce that Grass Roots Farm in New Braintree has been awarded \$25,000 through Agricultural Energy Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. These grants funds will be used to install a 24.96 kW Photovoltaic System on the farm's property. Grass Roots Farm has been owned and operated by Kristin and Tom "TJ" Bohan since 2004.

#### 25 years (Dec. 7, 2000)

For nearly a score of years, a small group of people have put their heads, hearts, ovens and cooking to work and invited everyone, that's everyone who wants to share in a Thanksgiving dinner at the North Brookfield Congregational Church. In 1999, two friends, Bonnie Holmes and Shelley Fullam decided along with their husbands that no one should have to spend Thanksgiving lonely or in need. "We wanted people to have what we have - a good dinner and someone to share it with. We didn't want it to be a soup kitchen or that sort of thing or just for the needy, we cherish the welcoming atmosphere we treasure in our own families and realize that not everyone

has that for whatever reason," Bonnie said. "We thought we'd give it a try."

Christmas in Barre events begin with a Christmas craft fair in the Town Hall, Exchange St., Barre and the Barre Congregational Church Fair, Park Street. Magic Joe will be wandering the common to entertain people. Children can make a festive winter/holiday ornament for their Christmas tree at the Woods Memorial Library or decorate a gingerbread cookie with the staff at MOC CFCE program. There will be face painting at the town hall. A visit with Elsa, also at the town hall is sponsored by Athol Savings Bank. The Santa Parade leaves Ruggles Lane Elementary School parking lot and heads toward the common. Grand Marshal is Ed Yaglou.

The Petersham Select Board met with Bob Clark and Mike Leonard regarding a forest cutting plan for the town owned Davenport property on Doe Valley Road. Despite inquiries to about a dozen companies, only one bid on the project. Anderson Timber Harvesting of Westminster bid \$12,700.85 to harvest timber on the property. About \$8,200 of that amount would go to the town

and about \$4,500 to the for-ester, Mike Leonard. The cutting is effective until March 1, 2016.

#### 38 years (Dec. 10, 1987)

New England Telephone will introduce a new area code 508 in our area beginning July 16, 1982. The towns of Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, New Braintree, Rutland, Petersham and North Brookfield as well as many other towns, who now have 617 area code, will have the new 508 area code beginning on that date. The telephone company says the reason for this change is to increase the pool of telephone numbers needed to meet the growing communications needs of customers and business according to a news release sent to customers.

The Barre Golden Age Club members, 123 of them to be exact, enjoyed a Christmas party at Caruso's Restaurant in South Barre on Monday, Dec. 7. The social hour at 4 p.m. was followed by a delicious dinner. Seated at the head table were officers of the club including president George Menard and his wife Kathryn, first vice president Bernice Dymon and her husband, Francis; second vice president Marie (Chris) Seaver and her guest Eleanor

upside-down "fan."

Here too, varying texture is nice, although Mom's feathery white pine and pine cone swags are pretty by themselves.

To complete your swag, wrap wire around the stems four or five inches down from the top, leaving a loop on the back for a hanger. You can cover the wire with a bow. I have often wired two swags together horizontally.

Place a bow in the middle, where the two intersect and hang your creation over a window or door, or even underneath a window for a different take on decorating.

### GARDEN from page 4

elaborate approach to decorating our house. She would make a swag for each window!

First determine how many you want to make, then set up an assembly-line of sorts. Choose a sturdy green for the base of the swag- extra Christmas tree boughs would be perfect for this as well.

I cut however many I need to the same size, and I lay them out pretty side up. Next, I choose another type of green a bit smaller and put it on top. I repeat the process six or seven times until I have a nice

## Celebrate 'Christmas in New Braintree'

NEW BRAINTREE - The "Christmas in New Braintree Craft Fair" will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the New Braintree Grade School and Town Hall.

The fair is sponsored by the Tri-Parish Community Church. There are a few spaces still available. To reserve, call 443-835-7530.

Other activities taking place during "Christmas in New Braintree" include the traditional Christmas Cookie Sale and Cafe, crafts and games for kids, visit with Santa, and a horse drawn hayride. Please join the Christmas in New Braintree festivities for a day of shopping and family fun.



Pictured are a few items handcrafted by Jeanette Renaud and Linda St. Denis. These and many other crafts will be available at the "Christmas in New Braintree Craft Fair" to be held on Saturday, Dec. 5.



Submitted Photo

Students at St. Aloysius Catholic School participated in a food drive last month to benefit the Hardwick Food Pantry.

### St. Aloysius students participated in food drive

HARDWICK - From Nov. 10-18, St. Aloysius Catholic School students participated in a food drive to benefit the Hardwick Food Pantry.

Over the course of the eight days nearly 800 units of food were gathered.

There was a friendly competition among the classrooms, whereby the class that raised the most food would be entitled to a N.U.T (No Uniform Today) Day.

The smallest (but mightiest) class, kindergarten, won

the challenge with around 200 units raised. They will be treated to a pajama day, and a movie to go with it. Congratulations to all the students for their hard work and commitment to this particular Corporal Work of Mercy, feeding the hungry.

### PAST PAGES from page 4

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Upham; third vice president Dorothy B. Aspen and her husband Dr. Richard Aspen; fourth vice president Howard Hubbard and his wife Corrine; Madeline Willey, secretary and her husband, Ralph Willey, treasurer.

Senator Robert D. Wetmore (D-Barre) has

announced that several area school systems have been awarded grants by the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs as part of the Drug Free Schools Act. The Quabbin Regional School District will receive \$3,871. The Barre lawmaker commented the superintendent of the Quabbin District Maureen Marshall

is to be commended for her active involvement in the crusade against drugs in the community. "Quabbin District's grant, along with other district's grants, will assist the superintendents to better educating their student about the dangers of drugs can bring to themselves and their families," said Wetmore



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Attn: Jamie Joslyn  
Include a self addressed/ stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: jamie@turley.com with subject line: BABY'S FIRST.  
This offer is available to all babies born in 2025. Pictures will be published the week of December 23-26, 2025.



**Logan Distler**  
September 22, 2024  
Parents: Daniel & Lisa Distler, Brimfield  
Grandparents: Christopher & Michele Mues, Warren  
Carole & the late Bruce Distler, Long Island, NY

Baby's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) \_\_\_\_\_

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Agawam Advertiser News	<input type="checkbox"/> Quabog Current
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<input type="checkbox"/> Chicopee Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Sentinel
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<input type="checkbox"/> The Holyoke Sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Ware River News
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal Register	<input type="checkbox"/> The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

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

# Gallery to hold 9th annual Holiday Group Show

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – Get ready for your holiday shopping while also supporting local artists and business at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery for the 9th annual Holiday Group Show during the month of December.

The Holiday Group Show will showcase the gallery's artists and will open with a reception on Friday, Dec. 5 from 5-7 p.m. There will be merriment found in the form of wine, cheese and friendly conversation – all while surrounded by one-of-a-kind works of art that are sure to become your loved one's most cherished holiday gift.

"It's a time to celebrate our local artists at the gallery," West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery owner Rebecca Fay said of the Holiday Group Show.

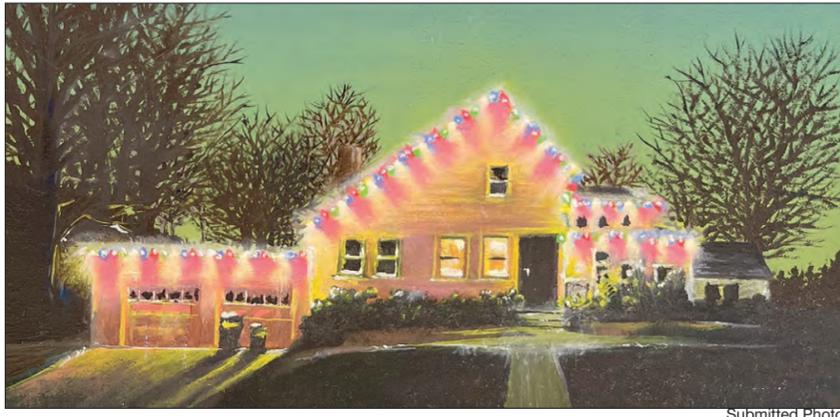
Some of the gallery's artists who will be submitting work for the show include Ruth Sanderson of Easthampton, a well-known illustrator who has worked on over 90 children's books. Sanderson will have her plein air paintings and scratchboards at the show.

Abigail Rorer of Petersham, who recently held a very successful solo show at the gallery back in October, will have her wood engravings, silverpoints and more. She is also the publisher of limited edition fine print books.

West Brookfield's-own talented wood turner, Frank White, will have his bowls and more to display at the show – any one of his pieces will bring beauty to your holiday table setting.

Brookfield artist Vanessa Varjian is the youngest artist in the show, but her years of experience as a painter are evident in her outdoor scenes, which have an impressionistic feel and perfectly capture the way the natural light hits her subject.

Susan Pecora of Thorndike, who used to have her own painting show on PBS, will have numerous paintings featuring easily



Submitted Photo

Artists at the West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery will be featured in the 9th annual Holiday Group Show. An opening reception will be held on Friday, Dec. 5 from 5-7 p.m. Gallery owner and artist Rebecca Fay created this painting of a house decorated with holiday lights.

identifiable local landscapes. Pecora is a renowned artist and her work is featured in galleries all over.

In addition to being the gallery owner, Fay is also one of its artists. For this year's Holiday Group Show she will showcase her beetle and bee pieces while incorporating 22-karat gold leaf.

Joanne Talbot Quinn of Princeton is a retired art teacher, has been focusing her paintbrush on capturing the vibrant beauty of the nasturtium flower, in addition to the soft beauty of her landscape scenes.

West Brookfield native Cathie Palo and Lowell resident Cassandra Goldwater will return after holding their third annual Jewelry Show at the gallery in November. Their stunning jewelry ranges from metal bangles, to pendants adorned with natural stones collected from the beach. Each piece is hand-crafted and unique.

West Brookfield artist Jennifer Geldard will also return to the gallery to showcase her jewelry made with glass beads and her whimsical paintings. Geldard used to own a bead shop in Concord many years ago, before opening Glass Girls Studio and Gallery in the space that is now West Brookfield Art & Frame.

Cheryl O'Donnell of New Hampshire will also be featured in the Holiday Group Show. Known for decorative

painting, O'Donnell is also noted for her fine art portraits and landscapes.

Carole Bentley of North Brookfield will also be featured in the show, with her paintings of landscapes, seascapes, flowers and birds.

Holden plein air painter Gerard Blouin is said to paint outdoors in almost any weather. An environmentalist and outdoorsman, his passions are reflected in the scenes he captures on canvas.

Multimedia artist and bookbinder Karen Thompson Bullock from West Brookfield will have gorgeous ornaments and wonderful boxes on display.

Lisa Cohen of Gilbertville, who is also an active participant at Workshop13, has restocked her ceramic offerings at the gallery. When she is not at the kiln, Cohen is writing science fiction and fantasy novels and being active in her community.

Artist John Collins of Ware, will feature his paintings in the show. Collins is also a talented sculptor, having recently focused on his artistic talents after retiring from his career as an architect.

Elisabeth Hyder of North Brookfield makes her own paste paper and creates all kinds of works of art with it.

Cruger Johnson Phillips is the only abstract artist featured in the show, and she will have her small, original paintings, which have inspirational and positive messages written

on the back.

White Christmas and book signing

Local author Jonathan Cook will have a "meet the author" event and book signing at the gallery during White Christmas in West Brookfield on Sunday, Dec. 7 starting at 11 a.m.

Cook worked for 40 years in the restaurant industry including a stint at Salem Cross Inn. He was a journalist for 10 years at various small papers throughout New England.

"The Vampires of York, Maine: A Modern Crime Story" follows the misadventures of Jerry O'Shaughnessy, journalist turned bar owner, as he gets involved in a missing girl case. In the process, he uncovers human trafficking, a neo-Nazi gang and supernatural elements in coastal Maine.

Packed with history and local lore of the Seacoast, this story has deep ties to the Worcester mafia.

### About the gallery

The Holiday Group Show will be on display at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, 10 East Main St., for the month of December. For more information, call the gallery at 508-753-8604, email yafacceber@hotmail.com, visit westbrookfieldartandframe.com or stop by the gallery during open hours, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

# Christmas in New Braintree is Dec. 6

**NEW BRAINTREE** – New Braintree is kicking off the holiday season with its "Christmas in New Braintree" on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The event will include a craft fair hosted by the Tri Parish Community Church from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the New Braintree Grade School and Town Hall, both located on Memorial Drive, photos with Santa from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and crafts for children.

The New Braintree Congregational Church will be holding its traditional cookie sale and cafe during the craft fair.

The New Braintree Historical Society will be hosting a Holiday Open House at the museum at 10 Utley Road from 4:30-6:30 p.m., and there will be a town tree lighting ceremony at the town hall to bring an end to the festivities. All are welcome.

# Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming events

**HARDWICK** – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, will hold a create a box-wood Christmas tree on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. in the Town House, on the Common.

The 12 to 14 inch arrangements will stay green and fresh for an extended period if watered. They would be perfect holiday decorations, charming gifts for hostesses or home-bound friends, and they could last until Valentine's Day.

Hartman's Herb Farm will provide instruction and all necessary materials, but people may bring their own ornaments to make it more personal. They may register by calling 413-477-6704 or emailing paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com and paying \$35 to the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library.

Mrs. Claus is coming to the Paige Memorial Library on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 11 a.m. to decorate Christmas cookies and children of all ages are invited to join her. Mrs. Claus and her Elves will provide all the supplies. Children may choose a large sugar cookie shaped like a Christmas tree, a gingerbread man, a reindeer or an ugly Christmas sweater to decorate. They may register by calling 413-477-6704 or emailing paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com.

brary.hardwick@gmail.com.

A Special Christmas Gift Wrapping Day will be held on Saturday, Dec. 20 at the Paige Memorial Library. The gift wrappers are self-proclaimed "obsessed" wrappers, who will make every gift special. A large selection of Christmas gift wraps and matching ribbons in many colors and styles, classic and fun, will be available. Oddly shaped gifts must be placed in a box. All breakable items must have protective packing around them in the box. People should register for an appointment. Donations for this service will be collected for the Christmas for Kids program sponsored by the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Association.

Ongoing activities offered at the Paige currently include the weekly Story Hour with art and science activities, the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the ongoing Friends of the Paige Memorial Library Book Sale, the Paige Writers and the recently formed Movie Festival Committee.

For more information and to register for any program, people should call 413-477-6704 or email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com.

# Orange Community Band performs Dec. 12

**ORANGE** – The big Christmas Concert for the Orange Community Band will happen Friday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. inside St. Mary's Church on

Congress Street.

Steph Parker will conduct the band in playing old and new Christmas music, including such favorites as "Sleigh Ride"

and "Christmas Festival."

The band will rehearse on Wednesday, Dec 10 at Central Congregational Church on South Main Street.

# Senior Center lists December activities

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The North Brookfield Senior Center, located at 29 Forest St., will offer the following events and activities during the month of December.

Activities include: a free art class – Christmas Lanterns on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 11 a.m.; music bingo on Monday, Dec. 15 at 10 a.m.; and drawing class –

Portfolio Work on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 11 a.m.

A blood pressure/glucose clinic will be held on Monday, Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m.

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### BARRE from page 1

retirement benefits until the amount was paid in full.

Since the Planning Board is elected, they would need to send an email to the Select Board that they hired her as part-time clerk. The Conservation Committee is an appointed committee so they would need to send a letter to the Select Board of their intent to hire her as clerk. Gendron would spend the 19.5 hours per week working half her time for the Planning Board and half for the Conservation Committee.

### Town Administrator report

Town Administrator Melanie Jackson said she and Select Board Chairman Marshall meet with the Hardwick Town Administrator and their Select Board Chairman regarding ambulance service and the agreement with the Barre Senior Center. Since Barre only has one ambulance due to the primary ambulance totaled in an accident, it was a struggle at times to serve the Wheelwright section of Hardwick. Barre will no longer be serving Hardwick except in a mutual aid capacity. The town of West Brookfield will provide that service. They also discussed

### the senior center agreement. Surplus Property and Employee Performance policies

Town Administrator Jackson presented a proposed Disposal of Surplus Property Policy. The Select Board voted to adopt the policy.

The Town Administrator said she would be sending out employee performance forms to department heads and employees for their review. The Select Board will discuss at their Monday, Dec. 15 meeting.

### Wage authorization

The Select Board approved a non-benefitted, pro-rated stipend of \$5,838 for Garrett Skinner, Veterans' Service Officer. He will receive a bi-weekly stipend of \$223.86.

### Town decorating

Select Board member Stevens wished to thank the South Barre Common Committee and the Christmas in Barre Committee for their work in decorating the town. The Santa parade will be held this Saturday, Dec. 6 from noon-12:15 p.m. as well as other Christmas in Barre events.

### Approval of sick and vacation pay out

The Select Board approved the sick and vacation pay out for Mary

Ann Gendron and Janine Pimental, both long time employees that are retiring. Going forward, there will be a new policy on sick and vacation pay out. They will receive the full pay out as had been the policy over the years. Gendron will receive a total of \$19,042.10 – \$11,870.40 sick time and \$7,171.70 vacation. Pimental will receive \$13,245.98 – \$7,716.47 sick time and \$5,529.51 vacation.

The Town Administrator presented a draft of a new policy for the Select Board review. They tabled any policy discussion until they had time to look it over.

### Other business

Floyd Kelley, Planning Board Chairman, discussed the town's option of first refusal on Chapter 61 A and B land and open space land designation. He said the Planning Board asked Central Massachusetts Regional Planning to research the cost to the town for services to residential, industrial, commercial and open space.

The Select Board received the resignation of Paula Bartkus as the Assessor's clerk. They also approved annual liquor, common victualer and entertainment license renewals.

# Little Park lit up for Santa Claus



Brookfield Orchards had a float featuring dancing Christmas trees, snowmen and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

This float by Mile Marker 63 Disc Golf had a "Discmas" tree made out of disc golf discs.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



The North Brookfield PTO's float won the "Brightest Float" category. The float contest was sponsored by North Brookfield Girl Scout Troop 64831.



Girls Scouts were joined by gingerbread men on this float.

## HUBBARDSTON from page 3

may call Pat Lamoureux at the Senior Center at 978-928-1400. She can help with the paperwork needed to apply for discounts.

### Senior Center Events

All artists are welcome to attend the art group at the

Hubbardston Senior Center every Friday from 9-11 a.m. A new activity at the Senior Center is the Creative Needle and Thread activity every Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. All are invited to bring projects, such as embroidery, cross stitch, sewing and quilting. Questions may be directed to Michelle at 508-450-4476.

Yarn-It-All group meets from 10 a.m.-noon. Knitting and crocheting projects will be worked on, and those who have questions will get help from others who attend. A Christmas Craft project led by Paul will be held Wednesday, Dec. 17 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Senior Center.

Games of Pitch are held the second and fourth Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. and the first and third Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Cribbage is played every Thursday at 12:30 p.m., Bingo is every Monday at 12:30 p.m. and Wii Bowling is every Monday and Thursday at 9 a.m.

Functional Exercise Classes are held at the Senior Center Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

### Hubbardston Light Fight

The Ninth Annual Light Fight is the first three full weekends of December. On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, from 5-9 p.m. each night people can follow the

map, check out all the entries and vote for their favorites. Paper listings and maps can be found at Hubbardston's One Stop Shop (the gas station). Check out all the competitors on the list, people have the first three weekends to check them all out and vote. Voting will close on Monday, Dec. 22.

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## Financial Focus

### Managing risk at different stages of life

As an investor, you will always need to deal with risk of some kind. How can you manage the risk that accompanies the volatility of the financial markets? The answer depends somewhat on where you are in life.

*When you're starting out ...* If you're early in your career, with perhaps four or five decades until you retire, you can likely afford to invest primarily for growth, which also means you'll be taking on a higher level of risk – because risk and reward are positively correlated. But, given your age, you will have time to overcome the market downturns that are both inevitable and a normal part of investing. Still, even at this stage, being over-aggressive can be costly.

*When you're in the "middle stages" ...* At this time of your life, you're possibly well along in your career and working on at least a couple of financial goals, such as saving for retirement and your children's college education. You'll want to begin adjusting the balance in your portfolio between assets with higher growth and those with lower growth since there will be progressively less time to rebuild losses. You'll need to decide on the balance between risk and growth that's right for you.

*When you're a few years from retirement ...* You may have already achieved some key goals – perhaps your children have finished college and you've paid off your mortgage. As a result, you may have more money available to put away for retirement. Growth still matters because your retirement could be 25 or 30 years long, and you'll need investments that can keep up with inflation. But you'll also need investments designed to help provide for your income needs in retirement and provide more stability. Also consider reducing your exposure to higher-risk investments and instead consider investing more in stable dividend-paying stocks, government and investment-grade bonds, and cash.

*When you're retired ...* Once you're retired, you might think you should take no risks at all with substantial assets held in cash. However, you could spend two or three decades in retirement, so you may need some growth potential in your portfolio to stay ahead of inflation. A more balanced mix between equities and fixed income is generally appropriate. Establishing a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for your lifestyle and projected longevity can help reduce the risk of outliving your money. Of course, if there's an extended market downturn during any time of your retirement, you may want to temporarily lower your withdrawal rate.

Managing investment risk is a lifelong process that evolves with your goals, responsibilities and time horizon. While you'll look for balance among your investments based on your life stage, having a balanced and diversified portfolio doesn't fully protect against a loss. Still, aligning your strategy with your stage of life can help navigate market volatility and stay on track toward long-term success while avoiding emotional investment decisions. The key is staying informed and making intelligent choices that reflect your current income needs and future aspirations.



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# Calendar of Events

## THURSDAY, DEC. 4

**WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY** will present a concert entitled "Baroque on Fire" at Princeton's First Congregational Church, 14 Mountain Road, Princeton at 7:30 p.m. A pre-concert Talk will take place at 7 p.m. A concert will be held on Friday, Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church Museum of Worcester, 30 Elm St., Worcester. They will perform Geminiani, Rameau, Scarlatti, Telemann, Praetorius and Vivaldi. All venues are handicapped accessible. Tickets are available by visiting <https://worcesterchambermusic.org/baroque-on-fire/> or by calling the WCMS office at 508- 926-8624.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 5

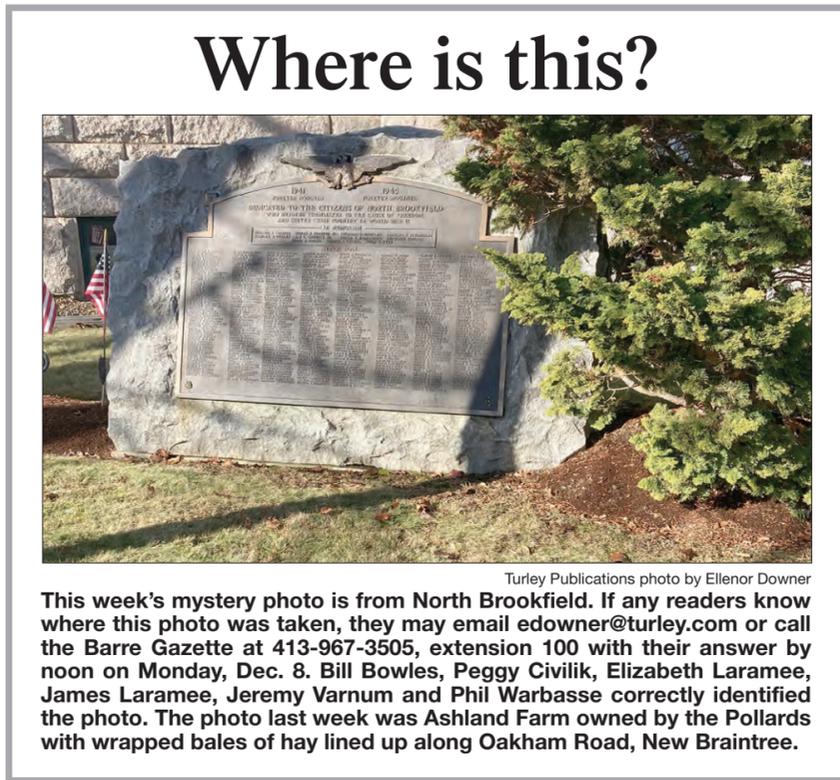
**25TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES** sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society takes place today through Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Rutland Free Public Library, 280 Main St., Route 122A. To commemorate their 25th anniversary there will be many ways to join the celebration. People may visit their website [rutlandmahistoricalociety.org](http://rutlandmahistoricalociety.org) for a day to day schedule of events, time and locations.

**BARRE PLAYERS THEATER**, 64 Common St., Barre, presents "Legally Blonde The Musical" today, Dec. 6.; Dec. 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 and Dec.14 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for general admission or \$15 for seniors (65+) and children 12 and under. To learn more about these shows, to buy tickets, or sign up for an audition time and additional information, people may visit their website at [www.barreplayerstheater.com](http://www.barreplayerstheater.com). Music and lyrics are by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin. The book is by Heather Hach. It is supported in part by the Mass. Cultural Council.

**THEATRE AT THE MOUNT** will hold performances today and Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," the beloved musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. A special sensory friendly performance will be held at Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. Directed by Emily Smith, the production features musical direction by Dave Twiss, choreography by Kim Soel, scenic design by David Prescott, lighting design by Tim Smith and sound design by Sean Kyle. Tickets are available now at [mwcc.universitytickets.com](http://mwcc.universitytickets.com).

## SATURDAY, DEC. 6

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



**Where is this?**  
This week's mystery photo is from North Brookfield. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Dec. 8. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Elizabeth Laramee, James Laramee, Jeremy Varnum and Phil Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was Ashland Farm owned by the Pollards with wrapped bales of hay lined up along Oakham Road, New Braintree.

volunteer may call Bonnie St. Cyr at 443-835-7530 or email her at [bonniestcy@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniestcy@yahoo.com).

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

**FIFTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** will take place today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Saint Joseph and Saint Piux's X Parishes, 759 Main St., Leicester. New this year is a thrift store and furniture annex. There will be 50/50 raffle, scratch ticket raffle, face painting for children, crafts, food, meatball subs, chicken nuggets, fries, popcorn, desserts and more. Santa will also visit.

**CANDY CANE FAIR** sponsored by St. Francis of Assisi Parish will once again take part in Christas in Barre with their newly names Candy Cane Fair today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in St. Joseph's Hall, South Street, Barre. There will be handmade crafts, theme baskets, bake shoppe, hot cocoa bar, free games for children, costume jewelry, Anthony from Cash for Gold and a raffle of a handmade quilt made by Beth Cunningham. There will also be a silent auction.

**LIGHTS OF LOVE** sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society will hold their annual Tree Lighting today at 6:30 p.m. on the Common, Rte. 122A, Rutland. The Rutland Historical Society needs help with the Lights of Love. People may send their name and address and the names of those you wish to place in memory, to honor or to celebrate

along with a donation to the Rutland Historical Society, P.O. Box 69, Rutland, MA 01543. They appreciate the support.

**OPEN HOUSE** sponsored by the New Braintree Historical Society, 10 Utley Road, New Braintree will take place at their museum today from 4:30-6:30 pm. People are invited to come in from the cold and get some holiday shopping done while they enjoy a warm apple fritter. Saint Nicholas will have a gift under Christmas Tree for children 10 years and under. For more information, people may visit [newbraintreehistoricalsociety.org](http://newbraintreehistoricalsociety.org).

**NEW BRAINTREE LIBRARY**, Memorial Drive, New Braintree, will offer cocoa and cookies, family photo ops, letters to Santa and a book sale today from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Families and all ages are welcome.

**HOLIDAY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS FAIR** will take place today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., Hubbardston. The now-famous hunter's stew will be available with a slice of homemade bread to take home or eat in. Mr. and Mrs. Santa will be there from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Visitors may bring cameras to get pictures. There will be handmade items by talented crafters, Chinese Auction, Lottery Tree, bake sale and much more.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 7

**WEIR RIVER JAZZ** presents a free holiday concert "Tunes for the Tinsel," a big band concert today at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Stone Church Cultural Center on Route 32, Gilbertville. All are welcome to join them to hear the great sounds of a traditional Big Band with their version of popular seasonal melodies. The band will also perform on Saturday Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. for "Trimnings for the Tree," presented at Workshop13 in Ware. Both programs are open to the public and there is no charge for admission. Reservations are suggested for Workshop13 as seats go quickly there.

**33RD ANNUAL WHITE CHRISTMAS** takes place in West Brookfield today from 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. There will be fun for folks of all ages going on throughout the day. All are encouraged to come out and enjoy the town's annual kick-off of the holiday season by touring the historic town, strolling the downtown district, exploring local businesses and open houses, decorating gingerbread houses in the Great Hall, meeting Santa for a quick picture, as well dropping off those letters headed directly to the North Pole. Parking is available free throughout town and shuttle services are available outside Gavitt Wire.

## MONDAY, DEC. 8

**AUDITIONS** for Barre Youth Theater's production of "The Enchanted Bookshop" will be held today and Dec. 9 from 6-8 p.m. at the Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St., Barre. Actors ages 7 to 14 are invited to auditions; they should arrive 15 minutes early to fill out paperwork. Auditions will consist of reading from the script. No preparation is necessary. Barre Youth Theater alum, Radien Bosquet, will direct. Rehearsals are Sundays from 2-4

p.m. and Mondays and Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. Performance are March 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. and March 7 and 8 at 2 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

**BARRE FOOD PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION** will take place today from 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, Dec. 18 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Dec. 10 or in the evening on Thursday, Dec.18, whichever is more convenient for them. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Dec. 10 and 18 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.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 12

**BIG CHRISTMAS CONCERT** by the Orange Community Band will take place today at 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Church, 19 Congress St., Orange. Steph Parker will conduct the band in playing old and new Christmas music including such favorites as "Sleigh Ride" and "Christmas Festival." The band will rehearse on Wednesday, Dec. 10 in Central Congregational Church, 93 South Main St., Orange.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 13

**MRS. CLAUS AND HER ELVES** are coming to the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, Hardwick today at 11 a.m. to decorate Christmas cookies. Children of all ages are invited to join her. Mrs. Claus and her Elves will provide all the supplies. Children may choose a large sugar cookie shaped like a Christmas tree, a gingerbread man, a reindeer or an ugly Christmas sweater to decorate. They may register by calling 413-477-6704 or emailing [paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com](mailto:paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com).

**POLISH FOOD SALE** hosted by St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., Ware, will take place today from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the church hall. The menu consists of cabbage pierogi, 12 for \$15 and six for \$7.50; golombki, three-pack for \$14 and kapusta, one quart for \$10. Food will be sold on a first come basis. Multiple orders will not be packaged separately. Cash or check made out to St. Mary's Church, exact amount preferred.

**WINGS OF SONG** will perform "Night, Moon, Stars" today at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joachim Chapel, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (part of Sturbridge) and Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. in the Em Street Congregational church, 61 Elm St., Southbridge. Both concerts are free to the public with a freewill offering collected. Refreshments will be served after each concert and both venues are handicapped accessible.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 14

**29th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROL** will take place today at 7 p.m. in the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham. The chorus along with an orchestra will present "Rise Up A New Light Is Coming" by Lloyd Larson and Pamela Martin. Refreshments will follow in Fellowship Hall following the performance in the church sanctuary.

## Calendar Policy

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

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## FINCOM from page 1

by voters, would charge a 6% room occupancy tax on rooms rented in town. State law allows up to 6%, but the town could vote to charge less. The Town Administrator said the Select Board had not given their recommendation and would do so at a meeting on Dec. 2. FinCom voted to pass over the article. They also voted to pass over Article 8, in which voters must approve Article 7 for Article 8 to be approved. It would allow the town

3% of short term rental on Airbnbs.

Article 9 would amend by law Chapter 140 to include a new section 10-2 regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems. The by law was not available from Planning Board yet so the committee voted to pass over this article as well.

They gave a favorable recommendation to Article 10 to transfer \$75,775 from the sewer replacement account to the sewer expense account to replenish that account after purchasing a compact hydrau-

lic loader. A motion by Bombredi to pass over Article 10 did not receive a second. He abstained.

Article 11 and 12 also received favorable recommendations. Article 11 was to transfer \$14,520 for the sewer replacement account for heat pumps at the sewer treatment facility. Article 12 was what the Town Administrator called "a housekeeping article" as she could find no record that a vacation policy was adopted. However, the town has been paying out vacation time upon termination.

# SPORTS

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## Quabbin football finishes strong

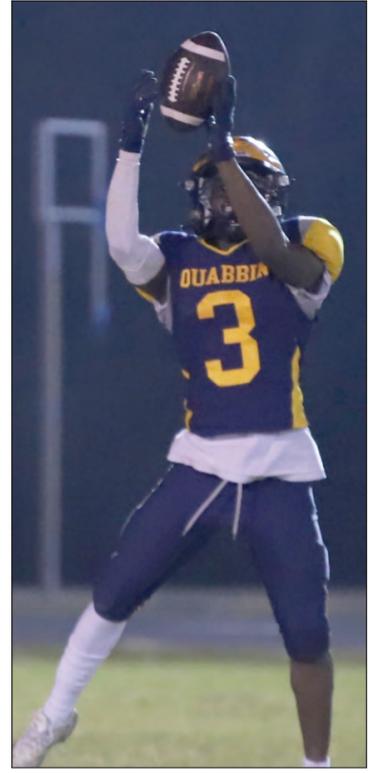
BARRE – On Thanksgiving Eve, Quabbin Regional High School did get a quick start with two touchdowns, but it was the way the Panthers finished that really counted. Quabbin had three straight touchdowns to finish the game and the Panthers defeated Gardner 35-14. Quabbin's season finishes at 4-7. In the win, five different Panthers scored touchdowns. Chase Talbot would start the game by returning the ball 80 yards for a touchdown. On the next possession, Owura Ankoma-Mensah returned a punt about 60 yards to the one-yard line. Adam Adams would make a one-yard run for the score. Gardner would score touchdowns in the second and early in the fourth quarter. The two-point conversion in the fourth quarter would give Gardner a 14-12 lead. But Zakk Mielnick responded with a 37-yard for a touchdown. Brady Dennis and Quinn Reynolds would score after that as the Panthers finished off their regular season with a win.



Chase Talbot returns the opening kickoff for a touchdown.



Brady Dennis makes a play on the defensive line.



Owura Ankoma-Mensah fields a punt.



Zak Mielnicki tries to get through the tacklers.



Quarterback Adam Adams takes the keeper into the end zone.



Eric Serrano tries to get through a blocker.

## Panthers cap session with jamboree event

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School Unified basketball team received the distinction of hosting the annual basketball jamboree to cap off the unified basketball season on Nov. 18. Quabbin hosted several area schools in small scrimmages on a fun-filled afternoon in the Quabbin gymnasium.



Emma Thompson sings the National Anthem with support from Janelle Hutchinson.



Saige Magnan hustles toward the hoop.



Brady Williams dribbles across midcourt.



Colby Hill sends the shot away.



Livy Gregory is cheered as she shoots.



Brady Williams looks for the one-handed shot.

## Field goal hurts Pioneers on Thanksgiving

BELCHERTOWN – On a windy and cold Thanksgiving morning, a field goal from Belchertown's Leandro Martins made the difference for the Orioles in a 17-14 win over Pathfinder. With Belchertown up 7-6 in the second quarter, Martins sent home a field goal to make the score 10-6. Both teams would score an additional touchdown later in the game, but the field goal remained the difference that helped the Orioles earn the holiday win.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
The Pathfinder defense comes up with a big stop.



Jarett Skowrya takes the return toward the right sideline.



Grayson Griswold takes the snap for Pathfinder.



Aiden Girard makes a great block.



Trevor Alexander makes a carry for the Pioneers.

# Sports

## Students chosen for sports ambassador program

Woburn, MA - The Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation / Bay State Games is proud to announce the 80 selected high school student-athletes who have been chosen to serve as Ambassadors for the 2025-2026 academic year. These student leaders were selected from schools and communities across Massachusetts based on their involvement in athletics, commitment to leadership, and desire to inspire future participation in the Bay State Games and statewide community sport initiatives. The Ambassador Program provides leadership development, event experience, and networking opportunities while ambassadors serve as representatives of Bay State Games in their schools, on their teams, and in their communities. Ambassadors play a key role in growing aware-

ness, supporting recruitment efforts, and connecting their peers to the opportunities and events offered through Bay State Games including the Summer & Winter Games, scholarships, internships, and other year-round programs. "The Ambassador Program helps expand statewide awareness and impact of Bay State Games programs while mentoring high school students on the career and education opportunities available in the world of sports" said Kevin Cummings, Bay State Games Executive Director.

"This class of ambassadors represents the next generation of leaders in sport from across Massachusetts. We are excited to support them as they help inspire participation in the Bay State Games and lay the foundation for their future careers"

The 2025-2026 Ambassador program kicked off on November 2 with a statewide Ambassador Summit at the Natick Armory, hosted by the Massachusetts Army National Guard. Ambassadors from across the state participated in the program that included a fitness warm up and team building exercises, a panel discussion on the college athletic recruiting process and an address from motivational speaker, philanthropist, athlete and race director Dave McGillivray.

The Ambassador term began in October 2025 and runs through July 2026.

Among local student-athletes selected, Makenzie Casey of Quabbin Regional, Kendall Placzek and Richard Hale of Minnechaug Regional, Logan Millet of Ware, and Madelyn Moreau of Monson.

## T-Birds fall in shootout against Islanders

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds (5-10-2-2) caught an unfortunate break on a late game-tying goal in regulation before falling, 3-2, in a shootout to the Bridgeport Islanders (7-10-1-1) before a sellout crowd inside the MassMutual Center on Saturday night.

For a second straight night, the Islanders' first period excellence came to the forefront, and the visitors picked up the lone goal in the first on a weird and painful sequence. Forward Eetu Liukas was in the wrong place at the wrong time when a Sean Day point shot struck him under the visor, forcing him down to the ice injured. As Liukas lay near the crease, Liam Foudy arrived at the loose puck and fired it off the post behind Georgi Romanov. However, Liukas turned out to be in the right place as the puck glanced off the iron, then off his leg, before finding its way across the line at 13:16 for the first goal of the game.

Henrik Tikkanen made his season debut in the Bridgeport goal crease and proved to be tough to beat through the first half of the game, but Springfield's shorthanded group finally solved the tall Finn at 9:49 of

the second as Hugh McGing moved down the left wing and fired a sneaky, short-side shot past the netminder, tying the game, 1-1, on the T-Birds' second shorthanded goal in as many days.

Romanov kept his game elevated throughout a busy second period, a s

two minutes. With Tikkanen on his way to the bench for an extra attacker, Luke Rowe uncorked a blistering slapper from the left point that glanced off the underside of the crossbar, beating Romanov to tie the game, 2-2, at 18:11. For the second time this month, the division rivals went to overtime.

Springfield carried much of the play in overtime, but Tikkanen answered with five stops, and the T-Birds failed to strike on a 4-on-3 advantage in the last 1:31 of overtime after Rowe committed a tripping infraction.

With the game coming down to a shootout, Matt Luff got Springfield off on the right foot, beating Tikkanen to begin the festivities, but Chris Terry and Matt Maggio both connected against Romanov, while Matthew Peca and Nikita Alexandrov could not solve Tikkanen. Springfield, despite the bitter defeat, extended its point streak to five straight games, going 3-0-1-1 over that stretch.

The T-Birds are back in action next Friday in Hartford for another meeting with the Wolf Pack inside PeoplesBank Arena. Puck drop is set for 7 p.m. to begin the three-game weekend.



successfully turned away all 14 Bridgeport shot attempts to keep his team deadlocked heading into the final period. The tight checking continued in the final period, with Springfield's forecheck continuing to work over the Islander defense. Eventually, they broke through at 9:55 of the third with Juraj Pekarcik finding his way to the low slot and firing a shot upstairs past Tikkanen, giving Springfield the 2-1 advantage.

The T-Birds' power play missed a chance to add insurance, and the one-goal margin carried into the final

## Owls win tip-off tournament

WESTFIELD - Westfield State University senior guard Tavi Williams (Springfield, Mass./Minnechaug HS) scored 12 points and grabbed 18 rebounds in the championship game to lead the Owls to a 75-66 win over Albright (Pa.) College to win the 2025 Westfield Gas and Electric Tip Off Tournament at the Woodward Center on Saturday afternoon.

Williams was named as the tournament MVP.

The Owls improve to 4-1 on the season, while Albright is now 1-4.

Williams was one of five Owls players to score in double-figures. Mya Silveira (N. Smithfield, RI) tied her for the team lead with 12 points, Morgan Berthiaume (Webster, Mass./Douglas) netted 11 points with eight steals, six assists and four rebounds, Grace Wigington (Lenox, Mass./IMG Academy) scored 10 points and Sophia Rockwood (Windsor, Vt.) also added

10. Williams helped the Owls jump out to a lead that extended to as many as 16 points on a Williams 3-pointer with 5:02 left in the first half, with Westfield holding a 43-32 lead at half-time.

In the fourth quarter Albright ground away at the Owls lead, trimming it to as few as four, 68-64 on a Julia Zakovitch jumper in the paint with 4:03 left in the game. Westfield struggled to score late, but boosted the lead back to six, 70-64 on a steal by Berthiaume and layup from Wigington with 1:44 left and the Lions were forced to foul down the stretch. Westfield canned five of six free throws in the final two minutes to seal the win.

Chrisdin Jones (Bowie, Md./Riverdale Baptist) led Albright with 20 points and 14 rebounds. 6-2 center Orianna Edmond (Lancaster, Pa./Hempfield) added 16 points and eight boards.

Westfield forced 38 turnovers from the Lions, and were plus-13 in the turnover game. The Owls connected on 10 of 38 three pointers, with more made three point field goals than in their previous two games combined.

Williams' 18 rebounds were a career high for the 5-4 guard. She grabbed 17 in a game against Coast Guard as a first-year player in the 2022-23 season. It was the fourth game this season with double-figure rebounds for Williams, who is averaging 12.6 boards per game.

Westfield avenged an 89-74 loss at Albright from last season. The Pennsylvania school was a late addition to the Owls' schedule in 2024-25 when they lost several games from the schedule just before the season began. The Lions returned the favor of the long trip by coming to the Westfield Gas and Electric Tip Off Tournament this season.

### HARDWICK from page 1

standardizing its financial policies. The Town Administrator is still having bi-weekly financial management planning meetings with the Treasurer, Accountant and the Assessor.

Caggiano made an announcement regarding the Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive that is being held at the South Barre Rod & Gun Club on Saturday, Dec. 6. The municipal building has been doing well collecting food for their food drive and will continue to run food drive until the end of the year. Bins are placed inside the municipal building.

### Select Board roundtable

Select Board member Jeff Schaaf expressed concern regarding the shortage of staff for the Sewer Department. Caggiano confirmed that the department is short on one position and one is waiting on certification as they're still on their probationary period.

Caggiano also shared that the town has not received any applications for highway or wastewater.

"We need to fill those positions," Schaaf said.

### Visitor's comments

The Select Board heard comments from Planning Board Chair William Cole about the bylaw changes. Cole said he's hoping to have a draft completed this calendar year. Afterwards, the Planning Board would like to present this draft to the Select Board to review and then send to legal.

The plan is to possibly hold a special town meeting sometime in February. The warrant for that meeting would include a vote to sponsor a bylaw change.

Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker asked if the Planning Board had run anything through town counsel about the bylaws and went over the findings that were made by the Attorney General.

Cole addressed the question and mentioned that the Attorney General has looked over the amended bylaws and will always caution a town on some bylaws.

"Caution the town to make sure they don't go into what they consider unreasonable enforcement or overregulation," Cole said.

The next subject the Planning Board is looking at is the section of accessory

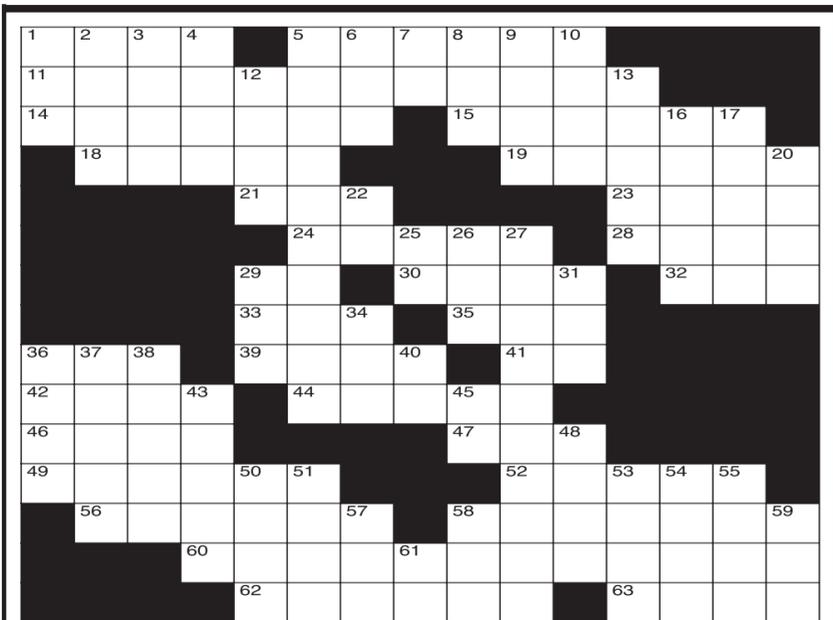
dwelling units. Edits will be made as the board reviews the bylaw and sees what has to be in it first.

Cole also had a question regarding grants, including Community Development Block Grants. Grants are applied for and rewarded to towns, and Cole asked about fiscal year 2026's applications, which are put out in January and will be due in March.

The Planning Board chair wanted to know more about what the town is looking to do if they receive a CDBG and see what other interests may be addressed by various boards. There are some properties in the village of Gilbertville that could be looked at and town can determine possible uses for those spaces.

Caggiano shared some input and said revitalization of properties is part of the CDBG. Hardwick is looking to see if it is eligible for a grant. A lot of these grants mentioned by Cole are based off income rates.

The Select Board talked about putting this topic on the agenda to have an open discussion so people in town will realize that they will be contacted and that this will benefit the town.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Dough made from corn flour
5. Rise
11. Gratitude
14. A low wall
15. Kidnap
18. A cup golfers want to win
19. Outgoing
21. "Partner" to flow
23. Former Michigan coach Brady
24. Proverb
28. Gasteroy and de Armas are two
29. Helps a body recover
30. Baseball Cy Young winner
32. Very fast airplane
33. Offensive baseball stat
35. Body of water

36. Record of one's heartbeat
39. Signs a contract
41. Atomic #24
42. Bind securely
44. French Jesuit theologian
46. Fragrant brown balsam
47. Post office box
49. Sells tickets at inflated prices
52. Places to hang coats
56. Jewish salutation
58. Yellow fruits
60. Poorly educated
62. Microorganism
63. Talk show host Barrymore

### CLUES DOWN

1. A way to plan
2. Three-banded

3. Mobile
4. Romanian city
5. Making sour
6. Take a seat
7. "The Golden State"
8. When you hope to arrive
9. Pointed ends of pens
10. Extinct flightless bird
12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
13. Nape of neck
16. Problems (Spanish slang)
17. Narrow carpet
20. To avoid the risk of
22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
25. Equally
26. Traditional cars still need it
27. Eligible voters
29. Greek alphabet letter

31. Body part
34. Referee-declared outcome
36. Means to moving money
37. Popular footwear brand
38. Cockatoo
40. NFL's big game
43. Botswana currencies
45. News-reporting organization
48. Batman villain
50. Urgent request
51. Not all
53. Hallmark's specialty
54. Knot in a tree
55. Satisfy
57. Notable space station
58. Baby's dining accessory
59. Stitch clothing
61. \_\_\_ and behold

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## In the Classroom

### Quabbin Regional High honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School announces the first quarter honor roll.

**Grade 9 High Honors**  
Student in Grade 9 attaining High Honors are Kalina Bassett, Hazel Carter, Lauren Colleton, Adalyn Cranston, Greyson Mullins, Whitney Reeves, Madisyn Shotwell, Addison Surprenant, Michael Tabares, John Tyler, Robyn Waltz and Jack Wynne

**Grade 10 High Honors**  
Student in Grade 10 attaining Honor Roll are Olivia Abbas-Peck, Emma Ackert, Alison Baptiste, Joseph Cook, Fiona Derr, Brynn Dunphy, Tyler Ellis, Maya Faucher, Silas Flint, Lindsay Fors, Nathan Gingras, Avere Hyland, Reese Jamieson, Sarah Jean-Francois, Allie Lipiec, Sage McQueston, Gemma Mullins, Justin Njenga, Olivia O'Connor, Joseph Perrone, Chloe Richardson, Jillian Rigney, Ava Rogowski, Connor Roohan, Jacob Rosario, Zoey Salvadore, Brianna Souza, Robert Tobin, Mackenzie Toupin, Gareth White and Dylan Woodward

**Grade 10 High Honors**  
Student in Grade 10

attaining High Honors is Chloe Howarth.

**Grade 10 Honors**  
Student in Grade 10 attaining Honor Roll are Brent Benoit, Anyiah Bergeron, Abraham Brown, Eleanor Carroll, Nicholas Carroll, Brian Colleton, Aiden Crane, Kayla Curran, Maya Edouard, Sydney Freeman, Daniella Gaudreault, Callahan Hardy, Samuel Jamieson, Matthew Labrousse, Emma Lindsey, Gianna Montalvo, Niki Nikakhlagh, Anthony Noborini, John Orsini, Ellie Poulin, Moira Powers, Veanna Salvadore, Ava Sobol, Silas Stukuls Barrieau, Benjamin Thompson, Erin Trotter and Catherine Tucker.

**Grade 11 High Honors**  
Student in Grade 11 attaining High Honors are Madeleine Boisselle, Tess Dunphy, Grace Flamand, Kathryn Ford, Anna Hautala and Ella Reeves.

**Grade 11 Honors**  
Student in Grade 11 attaining Honor Roll are Alexa Araujo, Skyler Bard, Jacob Bassett, Halo Bissonnette, Logan Bruley, Isabel Doty, Leah Doucette, Brody Faucher, Kayleigh Fuller, Lilian Hinckley,

Kirk Kaelin II, Sadie Kennan, Sierra Lambert, Jillian LaMontagne, Audrey Laursen, Ailey Majoy, Scarlett Merriman, Anna Metcalf, Kevin Njenga, Samantha O'Connor, Charlotte Oliver, Sadie Ouimette, Sylvan Rector, Jennavicia Roseberry, Emma Ryan, Sienna Shaw, Brady Skinner, Caylee Watts, Brendan Welch, Ellary White and Carlo Zolla.

**Grade 12 High Honors**  
Student in Grade 12 attaining High Honors are Kylee Costello, Elizabeth Matheson and Bianca Wilder

**Grade 12 Honors**  
Student in Grade 12 attaining Honor Roll are Tyler Belden, Aaron Bodine, Owen Breuer, Tricia Brusio, Troy Budreau, Kalina Dyer, Marianna Fjeld, Madeleine Hardy, Emma Kahlau, Anthony Landry, Aidan Mahoney, Grace Manna, Hunter McQueston, Jayne O'Brien, Madeleine Rigney, Aaron Rowell, Lindsey Ryan, Madelyn Stauder, Cameran Vega, Thomas Wigglesworth and Jin Xi Zou.

### Monty Tech hosts Wreaths Across America

FITCHBURG – Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, 1050 Westminster St., will host a stop Monday, Dec. 8 at 4:15 p.m. on the 2025 Wreaths Across America "Escort to Arlington," recognized as the world's largest veterans parade.

A commemorative ceremony will take place at the school from 4:45-5:45 p.m. Each year, the Wreaths Across America escort trav-

els from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery, visiting schools, memorials and community landmarks while sharing its mission to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach the next generation the value of freedom. This year's public events will take place throughout Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

The final destination of the escort is Arlington National Cemetery where volunteers will gather on Saturday, Dec. 13 for National Wreaths Across America Day. The tradition began 33 years ago when a Maine wreath maker delivered 5,000 wreaths to Arlington as a gesture of gratitude. Today, Wreaths Across America coordinates wreath laying ceremonies at more than 5,500 locations nationwide and overseas.

### Sally Fungairino recently elected into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA – Sally Fungairino of Rutland was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University.

Fungairino is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be ini-

tiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 % of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10% of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was found-

ed in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann, who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and its territories. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning."

### Colleges and universities President's and Dean's lists

**College of the Holy Cross**  
Worcester  
**Dean's list**  
Mattison Albano, of Oakham, Class of 2025  
Caroline Bierfeldt, of Rutland, Class of 2028  
Benjamin King, of Rutland, Class of 2028  
Timothy King, of Rutland, Class of 2028  
Samantha Shea, of Rutland, Class of 2027  
Zoe Yanco, of Rutland, Class of 2025

**Holyoke Community College**  
Holyoke  
Morgen Alan Swallow of Oakham

**Western New England University**  
Springfield  
**President's list**  
Shyra McWhorter of North Brookfield  
Janelle Mensah of Rutland

**Simmons University**  
Boston  
**Dean's list**  
Christina Hills of Barre

**Western New England University**  
Springfield  
**Dean's list**  
Isaac Josti of Rutland  
Mycenna Loescher of Hubbardston  
Shyra McWhorter of

North Brookfield  
Janelle Mensah of Rutland  
Nicholas Warburton of Hardwick

**Southern New Hampshire University**  
Manchester, New Hampshire  
**President's list**

Kaylie Harrington of Rutland  
Claire Houlihan of Rutland  
Krysta Tarves of North Brookfield  
Margaret Lacaire of North Brookfield  
Allison Choiniere Hume of Hubbardston  
Devin Davenport of Oakham

## Church News

### Local pastor offers sermon

#### First Sunday in Advent

*"The Son of God, our Hope and our Salvation."*

#### Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2 v 1-5

I. Introduction  
When we express the hope for things to improve, it suggests that the current situation is less than ideal or not what we would prefer.

Some individuals may encounter genuinely challenging circumstances, while others may simply require minor adjustments. We also express our hopes and dreams for things to come true, maybe something you have been waiting for, for a while. We hope for answers to come, and we wait in anticipation for that to happen. We feel deep gratitude when our circumstances improve, because what we hoped for came to pass.

#### II. The Son of God, our Hope and our Salvation

The Book of Isaiah is divided into three parts. In this first section Isaiah receives the vision from God, warning the people of Judah, in the Southern Kingdom about their forthcoming suffering, because of their religious failures. Jerusalem will be destroyed, but will be renewed later, because of Yahweh's grace and mercy upon them.

He later prophesied that a Saviour would be born to save the nations from their iniquities. In Chapter 1 we read about Israel's rebellion and injustices and refusal to submit to the ways and values of Yahweh. We read about warfare and injustices, and how "the nation that postures as the stronger one, tramples on the weaker on, and then violence follows", says John N Oswalt in his commentary on Isaiah.

Then here in verses 2 – 5, the author describes to the

people of Israel the promise that in future days the renewal of Israel will come. They will become a light to the nations who will stream to it to hear the message of God, and they will walk in the light of God's ways. This is a message of hope and change, despite their rebellion; the hope they have in Yahweh, who will forgive and renew them.

They will become God's instruments in bringing the nations together to hear God's message of peace. Isaiah describes how God will settle disputes between the nations and bring peace; and transform their ways so they will lay down their weapons and change them into useful tools. They will beat their swords into plow shares, using the blade in front of the plow instead, and their spears will become pruning hooks to use for pruning grapevines and trees.

This image is a transformative vision for the people of Israel and the nations who will stream to Zion to learn the truths about Yahweh, about peace and love, instead of violence, conflicts and war, destruction, chaos, despair and uncertainty. Yahweh will give them hope and bring them comfort and peace.

#### III. Conclusion

Isaiah's message is intended for Israel then and for future generations, to know that God, in the words of Paul Wedner, "is not finished with Israel", or with the world of our day. The world, as we know it, is not always a place of justice and peace.

For many, there is very little or no hope for better lives. There are many efforts to provide for the poor, to bring about change and peace into various settings and contexts, but to bring about change and peace is hard work. From God's perspective, peace can only

fully be realized when people walk in the light of God (verse 5). Jeremiah 6:14 addresses those who claim to pursue peace and frequently speak of it, yet their actions do not result in genuine peace. Jesus Himself in John 14 v 27 says "I do not give peace the way the world gives."

Instead, He left us His true peace that cares and comforts, heals the sick, and makes living worthwhile, where compassion and loving kindness are the ingredients of the lives of those who follow Christ and Yahweh. The birth of Christ gives us hope, because in Christ we have what we need to bring about a world the way God envisioned it. As the church of Christ, we know that our hope is in God through Christ, even when things look grim and our lives seem to fall apart. God is still not done with us and the world of today, even though it increasingly feels and looks like hope and peace remain elusive.

Despite their rebellion and iniquities, the people of Judah and Israel were given another chance, a message of hope that would transform their lives.

We too, as individuals can return to God when we feel we have sinned and strayed away from the ways of God, and found ourselves in situations of conflict and strife, and so can the nations of the world. May the God of hope make us instruments of this hope and help us to pray and trust that we will see our prayers heard, and experience peace and joy during this advent time. This is why the Son of God was born, to give us hope and our salvation.

Amen.

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

## Public Notices

#### Barre Conservation Commission

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40, The Wetlands Protection Act, that a public hearing will be held on a **Notice of Intent** for an after-the-fact filing for addition to existing house and driveway/lawn regrading located at 401 Old Coldbrook Road, Assessors Map H, Lot 242 and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 63637, Page 0299.

From: Paul Perkins  
401 Old Coldbrook Road  
Barre, MA 01005

To be held on **Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conservation Commission Office on the 3rd floor of the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA 01005.**

Ronald Rich, Chairman  
12/04/2025

#### PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT

TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON December 20, 2025 AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

2017 Acura MDX  
VIN 5FRYD4H86HB022945

2012 Nissan Sentra  
VIN 3N1AB6AP9CL729928

1998 Toyota Corolla  
VIN 2T1BR18E6WC066748

2005 Lexus GX 470  
VIN JTJBT20X850095467

2014 Volkswagen Jetta

VIN 3VW4T7AJ1EM215980

2006 Pontiac G6  
VIN 1G2ZG55846261930

2012 Ford Fusion  
VIN 3FAHP0HA1CR253074

2009 Chevrolet Silverado  
2500HD  
VIN 1GCHK53K49F165339

2002 Ford F-250 Super Duty VIN 1FTNF21L62EC99976

2022 Hyundai TUCSON  
VIN KM8JFCAE2NU103513

2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee  
VIN 1C4RJFAG5FC675627

2019 Jeep Grand Cherokee  
VIN 1C4RJFBG5KC671604

2011 Volvo  
VNM 4V4MC9DG2BN296105

The sale will be held at  
Early's on Park Ave.  
536 Park Ave.  
Worcester, MA 01603

12/04, 12/11, 12/18/2025

## EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

*Christmas will bring early deadlines for all ads & legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of December 22-26, 2025:*

**Wednesday, December 17 at 2 PM for December 25 issue**  
• Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

**Thursday, December 18 at 2 PM for December 25 Issue**  
• Agawam Advertiser News  
• Sentinel • Quaboag Current • The Journal Register

**Friday, December 19 at 2 PM for December 25 Issue**  
• Ware River News • Barre Gazette

**Monday, December 22 at 2 PM for December 26 Issue**  
• Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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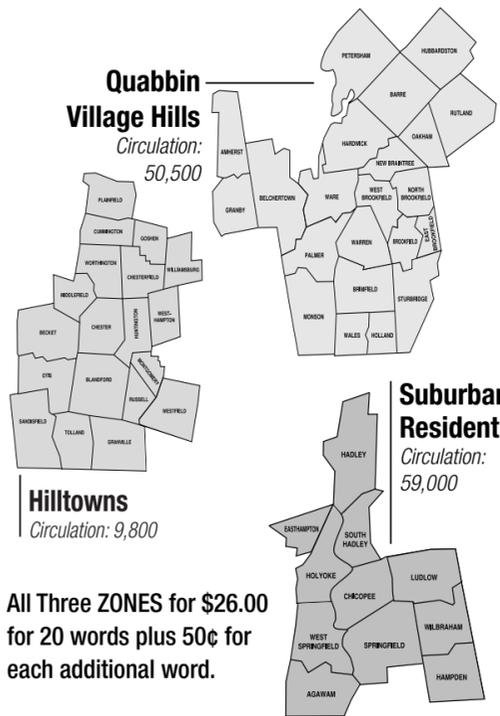
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13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
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29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
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**WATERWHEEL REALTY** Paul Varney Sr.  
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NO ENTRANCE FEE  
 Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. Asking \$289,000. See listing on MLS # 73433198

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