

# BARRE GAZETTE

USPS 044560

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

December 11, 2025 | Vol. 191, No. 36 | \$1.00

www.barregazette.turley.com

## Board approves new truck purchase

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM – The Oakham Select Board voted 2 to 1 to authorize the purchase of a new Mack ten wheel dump truck for the Highway Department from Chapter 90 Funds for \$324,190.

Select Board member Dennis Bergin said he did not see the need for a ten wheel truck. The Highway Superintendent said Oakham was the only town in the area, which did not have a ten wheel truck. He also said if the town had a bigger truck it could probably save money by needing one less seasonal driver. Select Board Chairman Donald Haapakoski and Vice-chairman Michael Brunelle voted to authorize the purchase of the ten wheel Mack dump truck from Chapter 90 money with elect Board member Bergin voting no.

Highway Superintendent Patrick Mardirosian recommended the purchase of a new ten wheel dump truck rather than a six wheeler. He said he would be able to run his route twice without having to return to the highway garage for sand salt mix due to the larger load capacity. With the six wheeler, he had to make a trip back to the garage to finish the route.

Chapter 90 money would not cover the plows for the truck; the town would pay the additional \$50,000 for that. Highway Superintendent

See OAKHAM SELECT BOARD, page 7

## Santa Parade held during Christmas in Barre event

BARRE – After a fresh dusting of snow, the Santa Parade made its way from Ruggles Lane Elementary School to the town common this past Saturday, one of the highlights of the annual Christmas in Barre event.

While Santa Claus was unable to break away from his busy North Pole workshop this year, Mrs. Claus arrived and happily heard the Christmas wishes of children. She even had a special, huggable gift for each child to take home.

Mrs. Claus was joined in the Santa Parade by elves, town officials and public safety personnel, as well as local organizations and businesses.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette  
**Mrs. Claus greeted children eager to share their Christmas wishes at Christmas in Barre this past Saturday.**



Van Pool decked out one of its minivans with holiday characters. See more photos page 6.



Get Up and Dance Sudio's Tim and Sarah Nydam tossed candy from the back of a truck driven by Devon Wentworth

## Interim chiefs appointed

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis read the resignation letter of Fire Chief Darin Anderson, effective Nov. 18, at the Dec. 2 meeting.

“Thank you for the opportunity to lead the department,” Anderson stated in the letter to the board.

The board members thanked Anderson for his years of service to the Fire Department.

### Leadership changes

The board promoted the following Fire Department personnel for a six-month interim period: Keith Marshall, interim Fire Chief; Thomas Bessette, interim Deputy Chief; and Don Mailing, Assistant Fire Chief.

“We’ll work with them to make sure that they’re good with everything that’s going on and they can cover comfortably their new duties,” Petraitis said.

### Citation for mutual aid

The board received a citation and a letter from the town of Amherst, thanking the Fire Department for its “immediate response and exceptional assistance” during a fire at the Olympia Drive Apartments on Nov. 7.

The fire burned one building under construction, and an adjoining occupied apartment building. This fire displayed 236 residents, almost all of which are students at UMass Amherst.

No human lives were lost and no injuries were reported by residents or first responders. A total of 32 municipal-

See N BROOKFIELD, page 7

## Board voted on amended deed

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board revisited old business regarding a vote on the Paige Building deed.

The purpose of this deed is to move forward to fix the building as it is viewed as a valuable part of the town. A nonprofit group, Friends of the Paige Building, has been formed by citizen volunteers of Hardwick to purchase and completely restore the building.

Town Administrator

Justine Caggiano wanted to state for the record that she does not recommend the approval of the deed in the way it is worded. Caggiano mentioned that Select Board member William Tinker raised some valid points regarding restrictions to be put in place for this deed.

Caggiano had attached an email from town counsel to the packet for the Select Board to review and it stated that counsel does not recommend approval of the deed.

Tinker pointed out the wording seemed to clarify that there are no restrictions

in place and there should be. The restriction is that the Friends cannot sell the Paige Building and it conveys it back to the town. This is something agreeable that the Board wanted to add to the motion.

The Board voted to sell the Paige Building to the friends with the amendment of the deed restriction that they cannot sell the property; it conveys back to the town.

### School House #6

The Select Board heard

See HARDWICK, page 8

## The reason for the season

### Church hosted nativity display

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints hosted its 16<sup>th</sup> “Nativities From Around the World” display over four days this past week and weekend.

Featuring over 700 nativity displays from church and community members, this free event brought warmth and a feeling of peace to all who experienced it.

Walking through the doors of the church, you were greeted by church members who directed you to the first of six rooms decorated with nativities.

The first two rooms featured the collection owned by the Alt family of Barre. Glen and Joyce have been participating in their church’s “Nativities From Around the World” for over 10 years, having started when their oldest daughter, Jessie, urged them to take part.

“We have like 250 on display and more at



Turley Photo by Derick Veliz

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in North Brookfield held its 16<sup>th</sup> “Nativities From Around the World” event over four days. This annual event celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ with a display of over 700 nativity scenes.

home,” Glen said.

Joyce said her husband is more of the collector of nativities in their household, and that he always displays each one at least once before packing it up for this event. Glen said he gets most of his nativities from garage sales and thrift stores, and has also received many as gifts.

“Some were rescued from the trash,” he said.

Joyce said one of their favorite nativities in their collection is one that they found at an estate sale at the home of a former doc-

tor in their town. She said it was the second nativity their family ever bought.

“My asking for a nativity turned into this,” Joyce said laughingly, gesturing to the display in the room.

Joyce said that each of the nativities displayed at “Nativities From Around the World” is unique, but that they all capture the same event – the birth of Jesus Christ.

Joyce said she tends to like simply nativity scenes the most, and she pointed out several special ones

See NATIVITIES page 5

## ‘A Charles Dickens Christmas’ with Bill Thierfelder

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

Libraries throughout Massachusetts shared the virtual presentation of “A Charles Dickens Christmas” with Dr. Bill Thierfelder.

Introducing Thierfelder was Beth Dalal, the Adult Programs Coordinator at the Groton Public Library. This program is presented in partnership with the Groton

Public Library and in cooperation with a variety of other area libraries, made possible, in part, by the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust. This zoom presentation was shared through various libraries in the state of Massachusetts, including the Woods Memorial Library in Barre.

Thierfelder is a retired Professor of Arts and Humanities, who offers various inciteful programs on a virtual platform. His lecture program, “Learning From Home,” are virtual programs for libraries and other orga-

nizations.

For this month, with the holidays just beginning, Thierfelder presented “A Charles Dickens Christmas,” a detailed history on the Victorian-era English writer and journalist.

Thierfelder reminded his virtual audience that Dickens has written more Christmas stories besides his famous tale “A Christmas Carol”. There are five Christmas books written by Dickens in the 1840s, followed by over

See DICKENS CHRISTMAS, page 8



# News of the Towns



## ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Food Pantry distribution happens Dec. 18

The Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, Dec. 18 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Dec. 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.

### Circle of Song 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.

### Editorial deadline reminder

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



Submitted photo

These veterans received Quilts of Valor, from left, Air Force and Army veteran Henry LeBlanc of Holden, Navy and Army veteran Dennis Dalbec of Holden, Air Force veteran James VanWert of Barre and Marine Corps and Army veteran Peter Tokarz of Worcester.

## Holden Grange hosts annual Veterans program

Veterans and their families were special guests of Holden Grange for an annual Veterans program last month.

Following a pot luck supper, veterans representing five branches of service were recognized and certificates

of appreciation were presented. They were Air Force and Army veteran Henry LeBlanc (1965-1968, 1977-1979) of Holden, Navy and Army veteran Dennis Dalbec (1963-1965, 1971-2004) of Holden, Air Force veteran

James VanWert (1968-1972) of Barre and Marine Corps and Army veteran Peter Tokarz (1968-1969, 1980-1997) of Worcester. Grange members, Cindy Mason and Carol Ann Keevan pieced and bound the quilts.

## 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. 15. 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 — Shepherd's pie, carrots, peas, tropical fruit, marble rye bread

TUESDAY — Greek chicken, steamed white rice, roasted broccoli, chocolate mousse, pumpernickel bread

WEDNESDAY — Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, chuckwagon corn, fresh fruit, whole wheat bread

THURSDAY — American chop suey, winter blend vegetables, birthday cake and diet, Italian bread

FRIDAY — Frittata, stewed tomatoes, green beans, cookies, whole wheat 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.

## Barre Food Pantry holds monthly distributions

BARRE — The Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Thursday, Dec. 18 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St.

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

People should not arrive to volunteer on Dec.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.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food->



## OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Christmas pageant takes place Dec. 21

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.

### 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 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 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.

Yoga started Tuesday, Dec 2 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

See OAKHAM, page 3

**COUPON**

**Lawton's Optical World**  
"CERTIFIED CONTACT LENS & EYEGGLASS SPECIALISTS"  
*Compare Our Prices, Service and Selection. It's Worth the Trip!*

1015 MAIN STREET, HOLDEN MASSACHUSETTS 01520  
(508) 829-7333

**Junk & Bulk Trash Removal**

**Clean Out Solutions**  
Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts  
Shed, Pool & Hot Tub Removals  
Arthur "Skip" Gervais  
(774)397-6500

**NOTICE**

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

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

**We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.**

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

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

**Get Ready For Winter! It's Here!**

**Studded Snows Can Go On Nov.1st**

**ORIGINAL TIRE CO.**  
Joseph West  
SOUTH ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL 978-249-3477  
OPEN MON., WED. & FRI. 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.  
TUES. & THURS. 8 A.M. TO 2 P.M.  
SAT. 8 A.M. TO NOON

VISA MasterCard

**"Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!"**

Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!

Call or text 774-200-6762 or email [jobs@mccarthybus.com](mailto:jobs@mccarthybus.com) to apply

**J.P. McCarthy & Sons**  
WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

**McNeely Tree Service**  
Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing
- Emergency Services
- Firewood \$265/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted
- 100% Workers Compensation

**H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693**

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

# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE

Master Plan Steering Committee – Dec. 11 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Select Board – Dec. 15 at 5 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.  
 Special Town Meeting – Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.  
 Felton Field Commission – Jan. 6, 2026 at 6:30 p.m..  
 Council on Aging – Jan. 7, 2026 at 12:30 p.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Jan. 22, 2026 at 11 a.m.

### HARDWICK

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.  
 Select Board – Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m..  
 Wheelwright Water District – Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Jan. 7, 2026 at 12:30 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustee – Feb. 5, 2026 at 7 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Board of Parks Commissioners – Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 16 at 7 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

Planning Board – Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Board of Selectmen – Dec. 22, Jan. 5 and Jan. 20, 2026 at 6 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Conservation Commission – Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.  
 Select Board – Dec. 18 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.  
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – Jan. 6, 2026 at 6 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Jan. 6, 2026 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 30, 2026 at 9 a.m.

### RUTLAND

Events Committee – Frv. 26 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Department of Public Utilities Public Hearing – Dec. 17 at 2 p.m.  
 Finance Committee – Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board Bylaw Subcommittee – Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM from page 2

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.

## Community Newspaper ADVERTISING Works!

Retailers and small local businesses put the lion's share of their local advertising in newspapers. They know which media truly moves their products. Besides that, Google's research shows that half of online shoppers are more likely to buy products they've seen in the paper.



**Cradle Rock Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star members who helped out at the annual cookie walk during Christmas in Barre are shown standing from left: Dolly Bacon, Ashley Knapik, Carolyn Lariviere, Gail Handy, Angelina Hubbard and Jane Whitmore; and seated, Marna Mucha.**

## Cradle Rock OES held annual cookie walk

By Sadie Ouimette  
Correspondent

BARRE – For the past 15 plus years, the members of Cradle Rock Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, have been hosting their annual cookie walk during Christmas in Barre.

The cookie walk is a fundraiser to support the chapter, Worthy Matron Marna Mucha said.

“And then through that we donate to the community and the Eastern Star Benevolent Fund,” she said.

This fund helps elderly members of Eastern Star when they are in a time of need.

All of the cookies sold are provided by Eastern Star members. One of the members Carolyn Lariviere, made 450 of them herself, and there are about 10-12 bakers total. The cookies are sold this year for \$9 a pound. A steady line of customers were eager to fill up on sweet treats.

Last year, they made about



**Peg Wikel, Andrea Wikel Fiske and Beckie Ward set up tables to sell Christmas items and decorations.**

\$1,800 and sold over 200 pounds of cookies. By noon-time this year, the cookie walk had already surpassed last year's numbers.

Money raised through the cookie walk also helps to support Barre Assembly #114, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

During the cookie walk, a few members of the Eastern Star had tables set up with a sale of Christmas trinkets and mugs and ornaments for people to buy along with the cookies.

The Eastern Star members also support other organizations in town, and even donated sandwiches to the Lions Club during its annual car show.

Every month, the Eastern Star members hold a wonderful pancake breakfast fundraiser at Mount Zion Lodge, 71 Pleasant St., which is open to the public. These breakfasts are usually held on the first Saturday of the month from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

They will also be hosting a simple supper.

## Paige Memorial Library lists events

HARDWICK – On Saturday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. Mrs. Claus and her Elf are coming to the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, to decorate Christmas cookies.

Children of all ages are invited to join them. They may choose a large sugar cookie shaped like a Christmas tree, a gingerbread man, a reindeer or an ugly Christmas sweater to decorate. Registration is required by either emailing paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6704.

People may come to the library to have their gifts wrapped on Saturday Dec.

20. A Special Christmas Gift Wrapping Day will be held at the Paige Memorial Library where self-proclaimed “obsessed” gift wrappers will make every gift special with a large selection of Christmas gift wraps and matching ribbons in many colors, and styles, classic and fun. Oddly shaped gifts must be placed in a box. All breakable items must have protective packing around them in the box. People may make an appointment by emailing paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6704. 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/or to register for any program, people may call 413-477-67-3 or email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com.

## HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Brunch with Santa happens Dec. 14

On Sunday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m.-noon Brunch with Santa at the First Meeting House, on the Common. There will be an opportunity for photos with Santa.

People are invited to bring their children or grandchildren and their camera to take as many pictures as they'd like with Santa. Donation is \$20 per family for entrance, all proceeds go towards the Special Events Fund for this and future events.

### Town offices hours

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.

### Fuel Assistance

To get help with Fuel Assistance, residents 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.

## Corrections policy

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

# CHRISTMAS SALE!

# GIANT TOY DEPARTMENT!

# SLEDS, SKATES, & TOBOGGANS

HUGE SELECTION!

### HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES

- 32" HD Smart TV.....\$99.99 (Regularly \$149.99)
- 43" Smart TV.....\$199.99 (Regularly \$249.99)
- 50" HDTV Television..\$229.99 (Regularly \$269.99)
- 55" HDTV Television..\$229.99 (Regularly \$349.99)
- 65" HDTV Television..\$329.99 (Regularly \$599.99)
- 75" HDTV.....\$499.99 (Regularly \$699.99)

### MATTRESS SALE!

- TWIN: \$199 (REGULARLY \$299)
- FULL: \$269 (REGULARLY \$499)
- QUEEN: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599)

### THOUSANDS OF BIKES AND E-BIKES!

DELUXE FRIGIDAIRE INDUCTION STOVE Reg. \$1299.99 <b>\$999.99</b>	GE DELUXE DISHWASHER Reg. \$499.99 <b>\$369.99</b>	21 CU. FT. FREEZER Reg. \$999.99 <b>\$799.99</b>
SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER Pair - Reg. \$1199.99 <b>\$899.99</b> AFTER REBATE!	G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1999.99 <b>\$1399.99</b>	5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER <b>\$189.99</b>
LG 20 CU. FT. BOTTOM FRENCH REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1499.99 <b>\$1299.99</b>	G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE Reg. \$899.99 <b>\$699.99</b>	FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER Reg. \$399.99 <b>\$299.99</b>
WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$899.99 <b>\$699.99</b>	FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$699.99 <b>\$599.99</b>	FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE Reg. \$249.99 <b>\$199.99</b>
LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 <b>\$1399.99</b>	MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$899.99 <b>\$549.99</b>	WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE Reg. \$1499.99 <b>\$1199.99</b>

## INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

# WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA  
**508.885.9343**  
 SEE WHITCO.SALES.COM  
 FOR 100'S OF DEALS!

Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri: 9am-9pm • Sat. 9am-8pm • Sun. 10am-7pm

# Opinion



## Creating a greater Barre Blue Zone, Part One

By Lisa Marselle

We all want to live our best, healthiest and longest lives and Blue Zone practices can help us “Live Better, Longer” TM.

During this holiday season, let’s give ourselves, our family, our community and the Earth this gift of creating a Blue Zone in our very own homes. So what is a Blue Zone anyway? Blue Zones host communities where the most active and healthy 100 plus year-olds thrive with fulfilling lives.

Michel Poulin, Gianni Pes and Dan Buettner from The National Geographic and a team initially identified five Blue Zones around the world. They are Loma Linda in California, Nicoya in Costa Rica, a cluster of Sardinian towns in Italy, Ikaria in Greece and Okinawa in Japan. When looking closely at these populations, they found interesting trends. The Loma Linda population generally has lower blood pressures, lower cholesterol and less heart disease. The Nicoya population has lower rates of heart disease and fewer hip fractures due to strong bones. One in 250 Nicoyan residents live to 100 in contrast to one in 4,000 Americans.

Citizens of Sardinia, the first Blue Zone identified in 2016, have a rare genetic quirk for longevity plus habits such that they have less Alzheimer’s, inflammatory diseases and heart disease. Ikaria, called “The Island where people forget to die,” hosts folks almost entirely without dementia and one in three live into their 90’s.

In Okinawa, Japan, women live longer than any women on the entire planet. Okinawans have less cancer, heart disease and dementia. These places were the first areas termed “Blue Zone” by the researchers. On further investigation, the research team realized that all of these “zones” shared common practices that anyone can apply to their own lives.

The more of the following Blue Zone practices we take on, the healthier we become, the better we live and the longer we live. One practice focuses on physical movement. When was the last time you got up to change the tv channel, sat on the floor then got up, kneaded homemade bread, took the stairs instead of an elevator or walked up a hill? Modern conveniences make our lives easier, but they

have reduced our movement. We need physical activity to stay healthy, so get going.

All the time that we save with conveniences means we have more time for movement activities such as the natural movements of walking, good standing and sitting posture and dancing. Then think of playful and hobby activities such as Karate, bowling, pickleball, swimming, badminton, horseshoes, gardening, yoga ... The list goes on and on of fun, stress-releasing, muscle building and balance improving activities benefiting our body and our minds.

Resting and stress relief go hand-in-hand with increased physical activities. We are Americans and we are busy, but putting oneself in “time out” has many benefits. Taking a tea break, napping for 20 minutes, deep breathing, taking a bubble bath, forest bathing, lying down and listening to music, prayer and meditation, among other relaxation techniques downshift our brains. These methods and activities lower blood pressure, ease muscle tension and chronic pain, improve sleep, digestion and our focus and moods.

If one technique isn’t for you, try another as they generally cost nothing at all, while greatly helping to reduce our everyday and long-term stress. Healthy community and family ties found in every Blue Zone, bind purpose, reduce stress and promote positive emotions. Purpose isn’t just about having specific goals, but feeling as though life has meaning. In most Blue Zones, generations live together or nearby and every generation benefits.

Additionally, find your support system with those who share interests and values. Join community groups, religious organizations, clubs or simply interact with friends and neighbors. Share a meal, go for a walk with the kids, have tea with a neighbor, volunteer at the food bank, participate in local government boards or a community event.

These rich social interactions of connecting and purpose promote longevity, happiness and help the community at large. Thus far, we have covered the Blue Zone practices of physical movement, resting and stress-relief, healthy community and family ties and purpose. These are only part of the Blue Zone story though, so more to come in Creating a Greater Barre Blue Zone, Part Two.



5 years (Dec. 17, 2020)

Barre Selectmen received quotes for tents to be purchased with CARES Act funds. Town administrator Jessica Sizer said three companies offered proposals. Quotes were \$22,000 from Selena, \$29,864 from American Tent and \$43,000 from e-canopy. However, all three quotes were not the same. The American Tent and e-canopy quotes used two inch framing for 20’ x 30’ frame tents and Selena had a smaller diameter frame. Selectmen chair Gregory O’Sullivan said he would rather pay a little more for the heavier frame. He said he asked the building inspector about the style of tent and he recommended the frame style tent. The tents have sides, but when in use one or more sides would be open. The tents would be used for outside meetings and after the pandemic for other outside activities.

The Barre Town Administrator said there was a big increase in COVID cases in communities and field hospitals opened again. The public health nurse said Barre had eight cases. The town administrator said eight people testing positive with over 5,000 residents was not a “panic” number to have. She said the increase was due to people gathering indoors now rather than outdoors due to the cold weather.

Selectman Urban said Barre went for many months without a spike in cases and urged people to keep taking precautions.

The Barre Assessor’s Office announces the Fiscal 2021 tax rate has been approved by the Department of Revenue. The tax rate has been approved at \$18.00 per \$1,000 valuation, which is an increase of 13 cents from the Fiscal 2020 tax

## In Past Pages

### Look Back Oakham Center School - 1991



File photo

**Oakham Center School teacher Kyle Carey (standing, middle) and Worcester Polytechnic Institute Chemistry Professor James Dittami (standing, right) use a 1-amp power supply to explain simple circuits to students in the new Science Connection program at the school. This new program, the result of a \$25,000 grant, will be utilized in all five elementary schools in the Quabbin District.**

rate. Based upon recent valid sales within the town of Barre the Fiscal 2020 average single family home valuation of \$219,304 has increased by approximately \$6,783 to the recently approved Fiscal 2021 average single family home valuation of approximately \$226,087 with the expected increase in valuations along with town spending at town meeting the average single family home owner could see an actual tax increase of approximately \$150.61 for Fiscal 2021. The third and fourth quarter tax bills will be prepared within the next few weeks and should be mailed out by Dec. 3 with the third quarter payment due by Feb. 2, 2021 and the fourth quarter due by May 4, 2021.

10 years (Dec. 17, 2015)

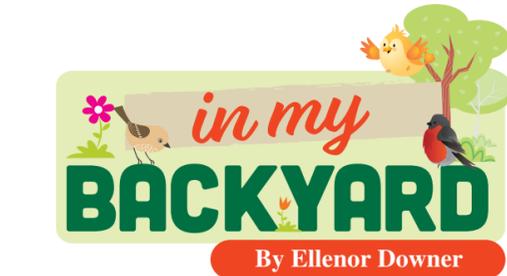
Joshua Hubbard of Barre was named to the UMass Dartmouth Chancellor’s List in recognition of earn-

ing a spring semester grade point average of 3.8 or higher of a possible 4.0.

The North Brookfield Youth Center in North Brookfield will receive \$10,000 from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, which is giving out more than \$710,000 to a wide range of nonprofits as part of its fall discretionary grants program.

With the oversight of the Cemetery Commission, preservation work has begun on the historic Hearse House in Petersham Center Cemetery. The 1888 fieldstone building is receiving the attention of the Cemetery Commission working with Oxford based mason Chase Davis of CD Masonry. Renovation work is being funded completely by private donations contributed to a town fund combined with a grant from the Greater Worcester

See PAST PAGES, page 5



Purple finch

An Oakham resident saw a purple finch in her yard recently.

The purple finch is about six inches long. It has a sturdy body, short tail and

a conical bill designed to crack seed. The male has raspberry red covering its head, chest and back. The color fades into a lighter pink tone on the belly. The wings and tail are brown with red highlights. The female has no red coloring and is brown and white with heavy streaking. It has a white eyebrow stripe.

The purple finch and house finch are often confused. The purple finch as a more uniform raspberry color and the house finch is

more orange red color. The house finches color is limited to the head and upper chest. The purple finch also has notch at the base of its tail and is larger.

Purple finches breed primarily in Canada and the northeastern United States including New England and the Great Lakes region. The purple finch is the state bird of New Hampshire.

A typical clutch consists of four or five pale blue eggs with small dark speckles. The female incubates the eggs for about 12–14 days while the male provides food. Once hatched, both parents feed the nestlings a mixture of regurgitated seeds and insects to ensure proper nutrition. The fledglings leave the nest roughly two weeks after hatching, though parents continue feeding and protecting them for another week or two.

They are fond of black oil sunflower seeds, safflower seeds, and millet offered in tube or platform feeders. In summer they supplement their diet with insects and caterpillars as well as blackberries and cherries.

Birds during snow storm

A Brimfield resident emailed, “During the recent snow storm (Tuesday, Dec. 2) there were 30 plus dark-eyed juncos in the yard and one white-throated sparrow.

Bird bath visitors

The Brimfield resident said he went looking for his bird bath heater and could not find it.

He said, “Eventually I did find it, in the bird bath. It wasn’t connected and grass had grown over the cord so I couldn’t see it, but dug around and eventually found the cord, got it plugged in and now the bath

isn’t freezing.”

He has a trail camera near the bird bath. Lots of birds are using the bird bath, mostly to get a drink. Birds coming to the bird bath include blue jay, Carolina wren, cardinal, cedar waxwing (six), chickadee, goldfinch, mourning dove, robin (three), titmouse and white-throated sparrow.

He said, “Robins took a bath but when it was warmer, temperature in the upper 40s. Junco are the only cold weather bathers.” Mammals seen at the bird bath are opossum, raccoon, mouse at least two and a mole.

He thinks the tub he uses for the bird bath has a leak because the water level goes down and he has to refill it ever couple of day. He said, “The local pond are now frozen. We did a few trips

See BACKYARD, page 5

## TEAM



EDITOR  
Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES  
Dan Flynn  
dfflynn@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR  
Greg Scibelli  
sports@turley.com

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



@ Barre Gazette  
WEB

www.barregazette.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
President



www.turley.com

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

## Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

## Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

## Barre Gazette

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

## Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

The first real snowstorm for the year brought about eight inches to Serenity Hill.

Our good friend Jeff plowed the driveway and our handyman cleaned up the paths. I did the front deck and upper deck by using a broom during the storm.

Lots of things happening in town this weekend but I was unable to attend any of them. The handyman took photos of the Senior Christmas Fair so I was able to see the vendors.

I made muffins and brownies for dessert this morning. I had chicken wings for lunch. This is my favorite recipe for them.

### GLAZED CHICKEN WINGS

About 10 chicken wings. That gives Ken and I five each.

I make a marinade of the following and marinade the wings in a covered dish over night in the refrigerator.

### MARINADE

- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons chili sauce

- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

The next day heat the oven to 375 degrees and place the chicken on a wire rack on a baking sheet, which has been lined with aluminum foil or parchment paper. Baste the chicken with the marinade and bake for thirty minutes. Turn the chicken and baste again and bake for another thirty minutes.

### This and That

I have all the decorations out for Christmas now and have decided not to put the big tree up. I have a small kitchen tree and two others so that will have to do. I did make a couple greenery sprays and hung them on the front fence.

For gift tags I take and copy photos of my family and put them on card stock. Some photos are baby shots so they have to guess, who the baby is when distributing the gifts. I also make gift bags of cloth for the gifts.

I have different themes for decorating. The kitchen is all gingerbread, the downstairs bath contains all snowmen, the upper hall contains quilts and teddy bears. The living room mantle contains various Noah Arks and animals. A collection of Santa Claus goes up the stairs. I do not wind the railing with greens any more as we get older we need to use the railing.

One of the special things I display each Christmas is a large Log Cabin quilt, which contains red wool centers which represent the fireplace. This was made by a great aunt, Maria Catherine Adams Stockwell who was born 1834 and died in 1915. Another quilt was made by my mother and is called a crazy quilt. She worked on it for many years made of silk scraps. One of my treasures is an Old Sturbridge Village, which I display at the stair landing on a sofa table in the living room.

I hope you are having fun getting ready for the special day. Have a good week.

### PAST PAGES from page 4

Community Foundation. The Cemetery Commission has long had its eye on preserving the structure and worked to gather private donations and grant funding to make it happen in 2015.

### 25 years (Dec. 14, 2000)

Oakham Highway Superintendent C. Kevin Currier and Fire Chief Richard Howe informed the Board of Selectmen at the Monday night meeting that the town need a spill prevention control and counter measures plan. Recently, the town had the above ground tanks inspected by Earth Safe Although the tanks were fine, the inspector said that a federal regulation requires the owners of all tanks on site with a capacity of 1,320 gallons or a single tank of 660 gallons or more to have a plan. Since the town of Oakham has two above ground tanks with a to SPCC plan. For a fee of \$2,500 Earth Safe would draw up the plan for the town.

Barre town employees have found an old and better way to relieve job stress during their lunch hour. For the past two Fridays, instead of relaxing over cups of coffee in the break room at noon, they stretched their arms and legs in slow, graceful motions on the carpet in the Selectmen's meeting room while performing "Falun Dafa," a traditional Chinese form of meditation exercise. "Do you feel the energy?" Town

Administrator asked her fellow students, municipal secretary Lisa Harding and police dispatcher Kathy Howard as the trio kept their eyes on their instructor.

Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Maureen Marshal addressed a joint meeting of the Hubbardston Selectmen and members of the town's school and finance committees on Nov. 27. Marshall explained how the school district's process of arriving at a viable school budget is fraught with difficulty and uncertainty, especially when trying to predict and factor in the amount of state aid the Quabbin District will receive. Many of those attending have expressed resignation in the past in bracing themselves to accept an ever-increasing school budget burden and having to build the town's budget around its demands, with little opportunity for discourse.

### 38 years (Dec. 17, 1987)

It was an uphill for Norman (Abe) Harrington and his wife Sally, last Friday evening at the Henry Woods Building as they presented their arguments before the Barre Zoning Board of Appeals supporting their request for a "use variance" to authorize to them to inaugurate a kitchen and gourmet speciality items retail service out of their home on Pleasant Street. About two dozen residents, mostly abutters, packed the meeting room to voice their views, both pro and con, regarding the variance

proposal. Although several speakers expressed support for the variance, the majority rose to oppose the plan chiefly because they claimed it would be a retail store operation in a residential district, thereby violating the town's zoning bylaws.

Geraldine Reavey of New Braintree became the 27th postmaster of Petersham in impressive ceremonies held Dec. 9. A huge crowd shivered in the chill as the outdoor installation took place under the direction of Pesquale Calabrese, director of field operations for the postal department in Springfield. The opening part of the program brought many smiles and chuckles as a representative their original papers on "If I were a Stamp" or "If I were a Postmaster."

A group of 33 voters passed all nine articles for the Special Town Meeting held Monday, Dec. 7 at the Oakham Center School. The voting took only 25 minutes without a dissenting vote and a minimum of discussion. The article eliciting the most discussion was the one asking for \$500 from Federal Revenue Sharing to pressure test the two gasoline storage tanks at the Highway Garage. The warrant asked for \$5,000 to remove and replace two tanks, one 500 gallon and one 1,000 gallon, replacing with two 1,000 gallon tanks. However, the only quote received was for \$15,000. Since that money is not available, it was thought best to pressure test and try to get a least another year or two out of them.

### BACKYARD from page 4

around the area and never saw any migrating ducks, just mallards and Canada geese.

### Helping birds

Birds are attracted to water during winter months. They do not bath when temperatures are below freezing, but they do take a drink. A source of unfrozen water will attract birds.

Providing wild birds with clean drinking water is helpful. However, providing a roomy bathing area that stays thawed even in severely-cold weather can be harmful in some cases. Before heating devices kept birdbaths ice free, birds could bathe in naturally-melted water and be able to fly off without their feathers freezing. According to the blog Cool Green Science-Stories of The Nature Conservancy, birds bathing while air temperatures are frigid risk harm due to frozen feathers: <https://blog.nature.org/2022/01/31/>

should-you-provide-birds-water-in-winter/.

The article suggests modifying heated birdbaths so that birds can safely drink, but not bathe. A metal heating element that keeps a small section of the birdbath thawed works well. People, who have bird feeders or simple feeding stations may add shallow unbreakable container around the area. Yes, it can be labor-intensive, but they can easily pour water into them (hot water when it's below freezing) and provide fresh water for at least a

short period of time. As a source of drinking water, the containers can be filled with pebbles that will form small pockets of water where birds can get a drink of water.

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

### 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.

A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
www.turley.com

## Festival of Trees showcases tree decorating



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

These people look at all the decorated trees to vote on their favorite.

### NATIVITIES from page 1

in their collection. One featured the holy family being covered by an angel in robes, and another is made out of paper.

The Alts also have nativities made by well-known artists, including Thomas Kinkade and Jim Shore. The nativity made by Shore is also a music box.

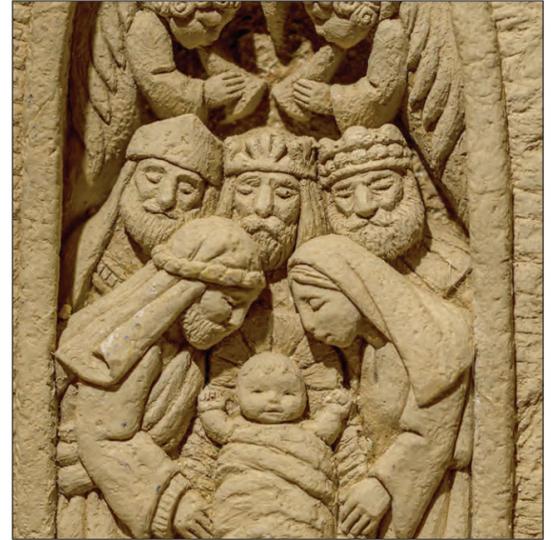
Glen and Joyce said they were able to purchase the music box nativity at a yard sale for only \$2, after another person looking at it before them had accidentally broken it.

Glen said many people came through "Nativities From Around the World" this year, especially on Friday night to hear the music of the Weir River Concert Band and Spirit and Grace. People have also been very generous in dropping off nonperishable food items to support the local food pantries. Joyce recalled one woman who attended the event crying tears of joy, because she saw a nativity just like one she had as a child.

The other rooms at the church contained the extensive collections of event founders Karen Dusty and Gail Ann Anderson, as well as nativities belonging to their family members, other church members and community members.

### About the church

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in North Brookfield got its start meeting in the room of a member's home in



Turley Photos by Derick Veliz

Nativities came in all art forms, including this sculpture.



This nativity scene featured the holy family inside the word "peace."

Spencer. As its membership grew, the church moved into another home, and then a storefront next to the town hall.

The church building was constructed over 20 years ago and draws members from North Brookfield, Spencer, Barre, Warren, Hardwick and many other towns.

For more information, visit [www.churchofjesuschrist.org](http://www.churchofjesuschrist.org), click on "Find a Church" and search for the closest location. You can also follow the church on Facebook as "North Brookfield The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints."

THE HARDING ALLEN-ESTATE PRESENTS

# ALL THAT GLITTERS 2026 NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

DINNER & DESSERT  
CHAMPAGNE TOAST

MUSIC PROVIDED BY:  
The Evening Standard Jazz Band  
ft. Annie Huppert  
DJ Fusion

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2025  
8PM-12AM

**\$80/TICKET or \$160/COUPLE**  
(978) 434-7800  
[hardingallenestate.com](http://hardingallenestate.com)

# Santa Parade



Quabbin Regional High School's band marched in the parade and played festive holiday songs.



Santa's Elves carried a banner in the Santa Parade held during Christmas in Barre.



Barre Cub Scout Pack 26 marched in the parade.



Dancers from Gilbertville's Get Up and Dance Studio waved to people from the float.



Barre Lions Club members marched in the parade. The club also sold Christmas trees on the common.



Girls Scouts in Troop 4935 waved to the crowd and announced that cookie sales would begin soon.



The Select Board marched in the parade, from left are Maureen Marshall, Mark Regienus and Richard Stevens.



R.J. McDonald Heating Oils & Propane had a decorated truck filled with holiday cheer.



Quabbin Regional High School's NJROTC's honor guard carried flags in the Christmas in Barre Santa Parade.



Athol Savings Bank employees dressed as elves and handed out candy during the Santa Parade.



Stanley Miknaitis drove his Ford Falcon station wagon accompanied by his granddaughter, Lilianna.

## 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

**TURLEY PUBLICATIONS**  
 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
 413-283-8393 • www.turley.com



Members of Barre Assembly #114, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, held a banner representing the Barre Masonic Family. The Rainbow Girls were also joined by members of Gardner DeMolay.

**N BROOKFIELD**  
from page 1

ities responded with mutual aid.

“Your efforts in this coordinated response undoubtedly prevented a far worse outcome,” the letter stated. “It was true testament to the strength of regional cooperation...the dedication, skill and preparedness of your emergency responders were crucial to fighting the conflagration. We commend the calm demeanor, expertise and selflessness displayed by all the personnel on the scene. The entire town of Amherst is humbled by the kindness and unwavering commitment to serving and

protecting our communities that was demonstrated by your team.”

**‘Top Dog’ contest**

The Town Clerk, Animal Control Officer and Police Department are holding a “Top Dog” contest to gather necessary supplies and materials to improve the town pound.

Items needed include lumber for interior walls, metal roofing for outdoor runs, unopened/unexpired dog food, soft dog treats, pill pockets, canned chicken/tuna/salmon, bleach/disinfecting cleaners, paper towels, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, dish soap, heavy-duty trash bags, dog waste bags, scrub brushes/

mops/buckets, towels and blankets (new, clean or gently used), T-shirts and other fabric scraps for bedding, collars and leashes, harnesses, food and water bowls, grooming supplies, durable toys, pet-safe shampoo and deodorizer, potty pads and more.

Monetary donations or gift cards will also be accepted.

The fundraiser will be held until Dec. 31 at the Town Clerk’s office.

People can bring a donated item from the above list to be entered into the raffle. Every donation will qualify for one ticket entry into the raffle to win dog tag number 1. The raffle will also

include kennel tag number 1 (for kennels with five dogs or more).

Winners of the contest will be announced on Jan. 2, 2026.

For more information, call the Town Clerk at 508-867-0203 or email town-clerk@northbrookfield.net.

**Holden Hospital fund requests**

The board approved two requests from the Police Department for use of Holden Hospital funds.

The first request was from the Police Chief in the amount of \$1,480.82 to cover emergency repairs to the sally port garage door at the Police Department, and the other request was

for \$585 to purchase three defibrillator replacement batteries.

A suggestion was made during the meeting to also replace the pads for the defibrillators at \$58 a piece, bringing the second request total up to \$933.

**Sewer easement**

Town Administrator Ronald Aponte said National Grid received drafts of articles 24 and 25, which are related to the purchase of a town-owned sewer easement.

“Wording has been vetted by KP Law so now its up to the town to convey or at least authorize the board to enter into those agreements.” Petraitis said the board is

waiting to hear a response from National Grid regarding the articles.

**Grant application**

The board approved a request from Police Officer Jeff Martin to apply for a grant in the amount of \$35,950 from the Law Enforcement Body-Worn Camera Program through the Massachusetts Office of Grants and Research. There is no town match needed to receive this grant.

**Fire/Highway buildings project**

Committee Chair Peter Orsi said the Fire Department headquarters building is expected to be completed by early February 2026.

**OAKHAM SELECT BOARD** from page 1

Mardirosian said Mack provided about 80% of the all municipal trucks. He did look into an International, but those trucks did not always fit the municipal truck bodies. Mack had a three month delivery date, but International and Western Star had a six month date unless they had one on the lot. The fitting of the trucks added a few more months.

The Highway Superintendent would order the truck as soon as Massachusetts Department of Transportation released the new 2026 Chapter 90 money in about two weeks. The 2026 Chapter 90 money would be for \$425,000, a one time amount. The next four years after would be for \$325,000 per year.

**Schoolhouse and Skyline Drives**

Several residents from Schoolhouse and Skyline Drives attended the meeting regarding the town’s decision not to plow Schoolhouse and Skyline Drives as they were a private way. The town still had not received all the needed documentation from developer J. Como’s attorneys Spillane and Spillane despite repeated requests for them. The previous developer J. Amidio’s attorney handed all the documentation to Spillane and Spillane when the property was sold.

Skyline resident Peter Carbone said he did some research and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 Section 6C contained no specific language, which prohibited the town from plowing private roads. He said it was 22 years since he moved there. He said the liability if an ambulance could not get down the road in a medical emergency and someone died would be huge. There would be less liability if the town just plowed the road.

He also said when Oakham Sand and Gravel dissolved due to bankruptcy, they also had another subdi-

vision Forest Hill in town. It was built after Schoolhouse and Skyline Drives, yet it was accepted as a town road in 2014. He also said the town could petition the court to accept by act of prescription. This act said a road used by the public after a 20 year period with court approval could be deemed a town owned road.

Select Board Vice Chairman Brunelle suggested the residents get together and contact Spillane and Spillane to provide the documents to the town. He said the residents had a legal standing, which the town did not. Select Board Chairman Haapakoski said once the town received the needed documents of deeds, easements, application paperwork, etc., they would hand them to the Planning Board for review. The Highway Superintendent already

inspected the two roads and would sign off as soon as the paperwork was provided. Once the Planning Board returned them to the Select Board, the Board would set a Special Town Meeting for the town to vote on acceptance of Schoolhouse and Skyline Drives as town roads.

Another resident, Jason Nance said a title search when he purchased his property failed to show an easement for drainage that was on his property that went to a holding pond further down the road. The Fire Department used the pond to draw water for their tanker. He said he was told by an attorney, he was not sure if it was Town Counsel on the developer’s attorney, to just sign the easement and don’t have an attorney look at it. He said he wanted his attorney to look at the doc-

ument before he signed any easement and refused to sign. The town can’t accept the road until this easement issue was signed and all documents received from the developer’s attorney.

**Precision Weather**

Highway Superintendent Mardirosian said Precision Weather, a weather prediction service, offered a seven day forecast. He said the service was more accurate than the traditional weather forecasts offered and other municipalities use it. The company was offering a free, trial offer from now through January 2026. From Jan. 31 to April 30, there would be a cost of \$547.50 to the town. He said he had the money in his budget to cover the cost. If the town continued with the winter weather package from Nov. 1 to April 30 next year, the cost was \$1,095. The Fire Chief and Police

Chief would also get the weather information.

Select Board member Bergin said he was not in favor of spending the money on the service. The town needed as much money as possible turned back in to the town to be used as free cash. Vice-chairman Michael Brunelle said to “try it and let the board know how it goes.”

**Seasonal drivers**

The Select Board approved the hiring of seasonal drivers. Two would work part-time and the others would be substitutes. They included Ryan McCaffrey, Sean Rodin, Ryan MacIntosh, Glenn Mardirosian and Douglas Dubruel.

**Other business**

Sanders Road resident, Michael Green, expressed concern the land on Coldbrook Road, a former

junkyard, was never cleaned up. He said he was “afraid for the town and what was going on at Coldbrook Road.” When he was told it was a legal matter regarding a proposed use for the property and could not be discussed, he left the meeting.

The Select Board was not sure the developer for Schoolhouse and Skyline Drive received a tax bill. They doubted he did because it was going to be town property.

Select Board Chairman Haapakoski said the amount of money “lost” over the years the town did not tax to the 2 ½ levy limit was around \$580,000. He said, “[I] get very angry when not seeing this done.” He said the town had been relying on free cash to balance the budget and that was not recommended.

# health & wellness NETWORK

## AN ANNUAL SOURCE OF Local Health Professionals

TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN 12 TURLEY NEWSPAPERS

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS • BARRE GAZETTE • THE CHICOPEE REGISTER  
COUNTRY JOURNAL • THE HOLYOKE SUN • THE JOURNAL REGISTER  
THE REGISTER • QUABOAG CURRENT • SENTINEL • TOWN REMINDER  
WARE RIVER NEWS • THE WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

CONTACT: DAN FLYNN  
413-297-5886  
DFLYNN@TURLEY.COM

DEADLINE  
January 28, 2026

PUBLICATION DATE  
February 18, 2026



A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO

**Turley Publications, Inc.**  
WWW.TURLEY.COM

**TARGETED MARKETING LOCAL RESULTS**

**Turley Publications, Inc.**  
www.newspapers.turley.com

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS	QUABOAG CURRENT
BARRE GAZETTE	SENTINEL
COUNTRY JOURNAL	THE SUN
CHICOPEE REGISTER	WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
THE JOURNAL REGISTER	TOWN REMINDER
THE REGISTER	WARE RIVER NEWS

TurleyPublications

# Calendar of Events

## FRIDAY, DEC. 12

BARRE PLAYERS THEATER, 64 Common St., Barre, presents "Legally Blonde The Musical" today, and Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, 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.

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.

WEIT RIVER JAZZ CONCERT "Trimnings for the Tree" will be held today at 2 p.m. at Workshop 13, 13 Church St., Ware. All are welcome to join them to hear the great sounds of a traditional Big Band with their version of popular seasonal melodies. This free concert is open to the public and there is no charge for admission. Reservations are suggested for Workshop 13 as seats go quickly there.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 14

29th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LESSONS



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

**This week's mystery photo is from Oakham. 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. 15. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, James Laramee and Jeremy Varnum correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the World War II monument in front of the Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., North Brookfield.**

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.

NO. 4 SCHOOLHOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY will take place today 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.

A FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT by Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet will be held at the Central Congregational Church of Orange, 93 South Main St., Orange will be held today at 2 p.m. at the church. The performance is sponsored by the trust fund started by sisters Catherine Mason and Mary Hale in the 1930's, for the First Universalist Parish of North Dana, which was forced to close when the Quabbin Reservoir flooded five towns in the Swift River Valley. The fund was created to set up vespers programs to keep alive the memory of the Parish. This will be the

817th such program sponsored by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana, since the Parish had to disband for the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 18

BARRE FOOD PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION will take place today 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. 19

GRANDPARENTS AND KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT GROUP meets today from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Worcester Family Resource Center, 20 Cedar St., Worcester. The group meets in person for breakfast the third Friday of the month. For questions or to register, people

may call Debbie at 508-796-6118 and leave their name and contact information.

## SATURDAY, DEC 20

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING DAY will be held today at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, Hardwick. 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. For more information and to register for any program, people should call 413-477-6704 or email [paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com](mailto:paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com).

CIRCLE OF SONG CONCERT will be held today 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. 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." 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.

## 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.

## HARDWICK from page 1

from Liz Cyran regarding the amount of \$600 in an account that was formed to support School House #6.

Cyran said there was approximately \$3,500 collected and held by the Historical Society for their rehabilitation of the schoolhouse. The money was used to stabilize the building and there is \$600 remaining.

This appeared to be an outside project, and the

town didn't recruit donations. This is administered by the Historical Society. Selectmen Jeffery Schaaf commented and said it was the Historical Society that took in the money and it shouldn't be decided by the board on what to do with the remaining funds.

"I don't see a reason for us to be involved," Schaaf said.

Though the town owns the lot, the Select Board members said it is best for the Historical Society

to share their input on what to do with the funds. Caggiano agreed and maybe the Historical Society should have a conversation since it's their money.

"We can't demand their money," Caggiano said.

**Liquor license renewal**  
The Select Board approved the renewal of several liquor licenses with the exception of Old Furnace General Store due to a violation of its zoning because of outdoor lighting.

A letter was sent to the store owners reminding them of their permit, according to Planning Board Chair William Cole. As of Oct. 16 of this year, the owners stated that everything was measured and that the lights are needed for security purposes.

"It is a blinding thing," said Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim.

The board voted to approve the licenses with the exception of the Old Furnace General Store with contingency they got with the

zoning within 90 days.

## Town Administration Report

Caggiano shared her report with the Select Board during their Dec. 8 meeting. The Town Administrator talked with Dr. Rick Romano about well testing grant, and it seems the town will not get it now. Caggiano is hoping they'll get the grant at the next go-around.

Community Development Block Grant funding has been discussed with Central Massachusetts Regional

Planning Commission and other departments.

Caggiano shared that she is finalizing budget sheets soon for the departments and the "budget process has started."

## Recognition

Vollheim acknowledged the heroism of Police Officer Patrick Almstrom and Deputy Fire Chief Nick Gaumont after they pulled a driver out of a burning car.

"Those two were heroic," said Vollheim.

## DICKENS CHRISTMAS from page 1

20 Christmas stories that were written between 1850 and 1867.

In many biographies, Dickens is known as "the man who invented Christmas," which Thierfelder knows is not the case, but knows Dickens' work made an impact on how the holiday is celebrated to this day.

This presentation allowed viewers to explore other stories written by Dickens, with a heavier focus on the five novellas. Thierfelder encouraged his virtual audience to explore his website, which lists additional sources and information about Dickens and his work.

Dickens was born on Feb. 7, 1812, and was one of eight children. At a young age Dickens was already an avid reader.

His first published story was called "Dinner at Poplar Walk", which appears in Monthly Magazine. During the Victorian Era, many nov-

els would get published in a weekly or monthly installments.

The first of his Christmas books was "A Christmas Carol" (1843), a story that remains especially popular and inspires adaptations in every artistic genre.

The book was first released in December of 1843. To this day, the world continues to talk about "A Christmas Carol", but that wasn't the end of Dickens' Christmas themed stories.

His next novella was called "The Chimes" (1844). This story is about Toby "Trotty" Veck, a poor ticket porter who loses faith in humanity.

The story explores themes of social injustice, the importance of compassion, and the cyclical nature of hardship, ultimately suggesting that hope and positive change can be found even in the bleakest circumstances. The story ends with a dreamlike scene where the bells ring in the new year and the leading character achieves positive change.

Dickens achieved great success while writing these holiday novellas and would share his work with the public. According to Thierfelder, "Dickens was a great self-promoter", and described him as a "real showman" when it came to him doing live readings of his work.

In the 1850s, Dickens began giving public readings of his own works as he experienced continued success. Thierfelder shared a story on how he purchased a house forever known as Gad's Hill, a house he spotted 30 years ago in his youth and desired to have.

What Dickens tried to avoid was repeating the mistakes his father made, which included falling into debt. Dickens and his family moved into Gad's Hill in 1857.

Though he achieved much success, Dickens kept an exhausting schedule of writing and touring all over Europe and the United States for his readings. His last tour of the U.S. was in 1867.

Thierfelder talked about Dickens' other successful Christmas books. "The Cricket on the Hearth" (1845) was released in December of 1845 and is a Christmas novella focusing on the Peerybingle family and their domestic life. In December of 1846, Dickens released "The Battle of Life", a story about two sisters and their intertwined love for their father's ward, Alfred.

The last Christmas novella by Dickens is "The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain" (1848).

This story follows a chemist who is haunted by painful memories and a spectral double who offers to remove them. He accepts but discovers that forgetting his sorrows also makes him lose compassion and empathy, and he spreads this forgetting to others, turning them cruel. The chemist realizes that even painful memories are essential to human connection and must be embraced and not forgotten.

After writing these five

notable books, Dickens went on to write over 20 more Christmas stories during his writing career. "A Christmas Carol" was written when Dickens was 31 years old and this Christmas story along with the others helped Dickens find a way to recoup his former glory as a writer.

When he wrote "A Christmas Carol", Thierfelder said that Dickens, "certainly spread the message about what Christmas could and should be."

The book was self-published, and it sold out in one week. With this success, Dickens would return to financial stability. At the same time, the story inspired interest in the holiday season during Victorian Era England.

Overall, every Christmas book by Dickens was successful and each had a unique story behind them, shared by Thierfelder.

"The Chimes" was written during a family trip Dickens took while he was in Italy. "The Haunted Man and the

Ghost's Bargain" was just as successful as the previous four books but had a unique ghost idea tied to it.

Ghost stories were a popular theme in Dickens' stories, including the Christmas ones.

Thierfelder reminded his viewers that Dickens always shifted back to other stories and gave many good ones to the world, including the holiday novellas. At the end of the presentation Thierfelder encouraged his audience to explore other stories written by Dickens.

"You just might find some other gems," Thierfelder said.

Thierfelder would then take questions that were left by viewers and were read by Dalal. When asked about his favorite stories by Dickens, Thierfelder mentioned he likes the book, "The Signal-Man", a ghost story by Dickens.

When talking about film adaptations of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", Thierfelder said his favorite is the 1951 movie with Alastair Sim.

# SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

## Turley's Henry, Peterson recognized for work by PVSOA

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – There are multiple soccer officials associations throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all which are responsible for the recruiting, training, assigning, and evaluating of soccer referees that do high school games, as well as some youth leagues.

The Pioneers Valley Soccer Officials Association is the only organization is that is still doing awards banquets, recognizing athletes, its members for longtime service, and contributors to the soccer community.

Last Friday night at the Ludlow Polish American Club, the 79th iteration of the awards banquet was held and the same positive vibe could be felt in the room as the PVSOA gave out their sportsmanship awards, most valuable players, and other miscellaneous awards for



Turley Publications Sports writer Tim Peterson and photographer David Henry were recognized last Friday night at the Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association. They are pictured with PVSOA member Joe Santos.

service, contributions and dedication to the soccer community at large.

James Duggan, who was

the master of ceremonies at last Friday's banquet, said he thinks it's amazing that the PVSOA is still going strong

with its banquet.

"You are all a part of history," Duggan told the award winners. "Our pro-

gram gets bigger every year as we have the entire history of our awards in that program."

Chief among the recognized people at the banquet are the sportsmanship awards. Coaches like Eric Degnan of Monson girls soccer and Tom Rivet of Chicopee boys soccer, both of whom were present at this year's awards ceremony for other recognition, often said the sportsmanship awards for their teams were huge honors.

Degnan, who recently retired from coaching, said making sure his teams showed exemplary sportsmanship was even more important than winning league titles, and multiple sectional and state championships. Degnan has received nine sportsmanship awards from the PVSOA, all with Monson.

Rivet has three from the group. Two came with

Chicopee boys soccer and one with East Longmeadow.

Outgoing President David DelBuono, who received an award, emphasized the importance of holding the annual event.

He said he appreciated the hard work of all the officials who continue to work hard for the student-athletes on the playing field.

The event was attended by family and friends of the awardees along with several recognizable faces who have served as officials for many years.

Duggan said he is looking forward to having everyone back next year for the 80th years of the awards. The banquet was established in 1946.

The PVSOA recognizes individuals with the Jimmie Downie and Larry E. Briggs Awards as well as plaques given to referees who have achieved milestone years of service.

## Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association hold awards banquet

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – There are multiple soccer officials associations throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all which are responsible for the recruiting, training, assigning, and evaluating of soccer referees that do high school games, as well as some youth leagues.

The Pioneers Valley Soccer Officials Association is the only organization is that is still doing awards banquets, recognizing athletes, its members for longtime service, and contributors to the soccer community.

Last Friday night at the Ludlow Polish American Club, the 79th iteration of the awards banquet was held and the same positive vibe could be felt in the room as the PVSOA gave out their sportsmanship awards, most valuable players, and other miscellaneous awards for service, contributions and dedication to the soccer community at large.

James Duggan, who was the master of ceremonies at last Friday's banquet, said he thinks it's amazing that the PVSOA is still going strong with its banquet.

"You are all a part of history," Duggan told the award winners. "Our program gets bigger every year as we have the entire history of our awards in that program."

Chief among the recognized people at the banquet are the sportsmanship awards. Coaches like Eric



David DelBuono, the outgoing PVSOA President, was inducted into the Massachusetts Interscholastic Soccer Officials Association. He was recognized at the PVSOA banquet for that accomplishment by James Duggan.



Joe Santos was the Downie Award winner this year. He stands with James Duggan.

Degnan of Monson girls soccer and Tom Rivet of Chicopee boys soccer, both of whom were present at this year's awards ceremony for other recognition, often said the sportsmanship awards for their teams were huge honors.

Degnan, who recent-

ly retired from coaching, said making sure his teams showed exemplary sportsmanship was even more important than winning league titles, and multiple sectional and state championships. Degnan has received nine sportsmanship awards from the PVSOA, all with Monson.

Rivet has three from the group. Two came with Chicopee boys soccer and one with East Longmeadow.

Outgoing President David DelBuono, who received an award, emphasized the importance of holding the annual event.

He said he appreciated the hard work of all the officials who continue to work hard for the student-athletes on the playing field.

The event was attended by family and friends of the awardees along with sever

## Panthers preseason heats up

WARE – Looking to firmly establish its roster for the upcoming season, Quabbin Regional High School girls basketball took a trip to Ware on Sunday for a scrimmage, giving coaches a chance to look at all players involved in the program.

Quabbin's season will get underway on the road as the Panthers make the trip to Leicester on Monday, Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m. Quabbin's first home game is on Wednesday, Dec. 17 against Lunenburg at 6 p.m.



Aubrey Thorpe tries to muscle her way to a shot.



Mia Ducos goes for a close-range jump shot. See more photos on page 9

## Pioneers fall to Cape Cod in vocational tournament

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—In a span of six days, the Cape Cod Regional Vocational Tech football team traveled more than

650 miles and celebrated two upset victories in the State Vocational Tournament.

Following their 30-16 opening round victory at second-seeded Franklin County Tech on Nov. 14, the seventh-seeded Crusaders made another long bus trip from Harwich to Western Mass., on Nov. 21. This time, Cape Cod Tech overcame a ten point halftime deficit to defeat the third-seeded Pathfinder Tech Pioneers, 18-16, in a semifinal game played at Legion Field in Palmer.

It was the first meeting on the gridiron between the two squads and the final home game of the season for the Pioneers.

"I'm very close with most of the seniors, so this is a very tough loss for those guys," said Pathfinder sopho-



Anthony Arventos rushes toward the sideline.

more Cassian Kowalik. "It's going to be very difficult not playing with them again next year."

The Pioneers seniors, who wrapped up their high school football careers against rival Belchertown on Thanksgiving morning, are Dustyn Cook, Ethan Mooney, Stephen Curtis, Brandyn Wilson, Aiden Girard,

Brandon Charron, Jaiden Ambrose, Wyatt Breault, Amias Kowalik, Harold Black, and Jarrett Skowrya.

"You're always disappointed to see the seniors' season come to an end, and I'm proud that they got this far," said Pathfinder head coach Bill Darling. "We're one of the only teams playing at the end of the season here for some type of trophy, so I'm really proud of the boys."

Pathfinder Tech (5-6) didn't have very much trouble dispatching sixth-seeded Smith Vocational, 42-12, at home in the first round of the Vocational Tournament.

The Pioneers have qualified for the Vocational Tournament three times since 2022, but they haven't advanced to the championship game yet. They lost at Nashoba Valley Tech in the 2022 semifinals.

"This is the second time during the past four years that we've lost in the Vocational semifinal game," Darling said. "We're still in the building process and our goal is to play in the championship game."

After recovering a fum-



Reid Savoie receives a service award from David DelBuono.

See PATHFINDER, page 8

## Sports

# Panthers preseason heats up



Makenzie Casey goes in for the layup.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Sienna Shaw watches around her for pressure.

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Bondsville League

WARE – December has started as the Wednesday Night Bondsville League at Roll-A-Way Lanes continues into the winter months.

After week 14, Fire Mountain hangs on to first place with a record of 61.5-36.5. In second place, just half a point behind, is Sandri with a record of 61-37. Night Hawks and Ironmen are tied for third place with both teams having a record of 55-43.

During week 14, Sandri bowled against Night Hawks on lanes three and four at Roll-A-Way Lanes. In game one, Sandri defeated Night Hawks by a score of 513-398. Brandon Lane of Sandri bowled the highest game of 135. His teammate Ron Gouin bowled well with 122.

In game two, Sandri won again by a score of 473-432. Rich Picotte of Sandri led the team to victory with the highest game of 123.

In game three, Sandri won by a score of 475-463 for a three-game sweep

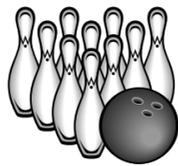
over Night Hawks. Gavin Sinclair of Night Hawks finished strong with a 121 and a three-game series of 335. Lane finished with a 112 and a three-game series of 338. The final score was 1461-1293 in favor of Sandri.

Slow Burners bowled against Ironmen on lanes five and six. In game one, Slow Burners defeated Ironmen by a score of 498-478. Nate Orzulak of Slow Burners made some clutch spares on his way to a 122 game.

In game two, Ironmen bounced back by winning 514-459. Billy Brunk of Ironmen bowled 139 and his teammate Ryan Drago bowled 137.

In game three, Slow Burners won by a score of 510-497. Scott Radisic of Slow Burners put up a score of 122 to retake the lead after Drago finished with 136, which included four spares and a strike in the last five frames. Ironmen won total pinfall by a final score of 1489-1467.

Snappers bowled against Team UMass in week 14. In game one, Team UMass won by a score of 471-



459. Kevin Krasnecky of Snappers bowled a 106 during his team's victory.

In game two, Team UMass won again by a score of 487-421. Jane Choy of Team UMass bowled well over her 72-league average with an 86 in game two.

In game three, Team UMass won for a three-game sweep over Snappers, 482-472. The final score was 1440-1352 in favor of Team UMass.

Flaming Bowling Balls bowled against Cannonballs in week 14. In game one, Cannonballs won by a score of 452-443. In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 465-458. Don Paulus of Flaming Bowling Balls broke the century mark with 103.

In game three, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 1400-1352. Paulus finished the match with 116. The final score was 1400-1352 in favor of Flaming Bowling Balls.

### PATHFINDER from page 8

ble with 8:24 left in the first quarter, the visitors from Cape Cod put together a 16-play scoring drive. The series was capped off with a three yard TD run by junior running back Thomas Allen less than a minute into the second quarter.

Pathfinder sophomore Elijah Cardenas tackled junior running back Chaz Thomas in the backfield on the two-point conversion play.

The Pioneers dominated the second quarter as they scored 16 unanswered points.

With 7:49 remaining in the first half, sophomore quarterback Grayson Griswold completed a 36-yard pass to Skowrya at the Crusaders 33 yard line.

Four plays later, Griswold, who completed four passes for 101 yards, scrambled 11 yards into the endzone capping off the seven play scoring drive.

Cook made the extra point attempt giving the home team a 7-6 advantage with 5:32 left in the second quarter.

After the Pioneers defense forced the Crusaders to punt, Griswold connected with Cassian Kowalik, who made an outstanding one-handed catch before rumbling about 20 yards into the endzone, for an impressive 51-yard TD reception.

"The cornerback was on my back, so I couldn't really back up. I just jumped as high as I could and I put my



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

hand up and hoped I could catch it," Kowalik said. "I then saw green grass and I went for it."

Cook added the extra point, which gave Pathfinder Tech a 14-6 lead with two minutes left in the half.

Then junior Anthony Arventos sacked the Cape Cod quarterback in the end zone for a safety.

The Pioneers offense couldn't score another touchdown before the first half ended.

The Crusaders (7-4) received the second half kickoff and marched down the field.

Thomas scored on a one yard plunge into the end zone with 4:25 left in the third quarter.

Pathfinder Tech held a slim four point lead (16-12) as the two-point play failed.

With 11:09 remaining in the fourth quarter, the Crusaders retook the lead following a 19-yard TD run from junior Anthony Bartlett.

Arventos returned the ensuing kickoff about 80 yards down the left sideline for a touchdown. The long return was nullified due to a holding penalty on Pathfinder Tech.

The Pioneers offense turned the ball over on downs on their final two series of the game.

Griswold left the game late in the fourth quarter with an injury.

## In the Classroom



Submitted photos

Recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarships. They are front row from left, Hunter McQueston, Emma Kahlau, Adelaide Harmon, Kalina Dyer, Elizabeth Lambert and Micah Cerezo; middle row from left, Madalyn Malcolmson, Elizabeth Matheson, Tricia Bruso, Andrew Warfield, Alex Holden, Eric Serrano and Parker Proulx and back row from left, Anthony Landry, Sam O'Brien, Tyler Belden, Madelyn Stauder, Annabella DiMartino, Owen Breuer, Jin Xi Zou, Garrett Erickson, Aaron Rowell. Recipients not pictured are Aaron Bodine, Aiden Fuller, Michael Geelan, Jacob LaValley, Collin Lindley, Milo Malcolmson, Lindsey Ryan and Cameran Vega.

### From Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha

BARRE – It is always a great time to celebrate students and recently Quabbin Regional School District students receive a number of awards and recognition.

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is a merit-based program that provides a credit toward tuition for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. For this scholarship, merit is based on student scores on the 10th grade Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests.

Recipients are Tyler Belden, Aaron Bodine, Owen Breuer, Tricia Bruso, Micah Cerezo, Annabella DiMartino, Kalina Dyer, Garrett Erickson, Aiden Fuller, Michael Geelan, Adelaide Harmon, Alex Holden, Emma Kahlau, Elizabeth Lambert, Anthony Landry, Jacob LaValley, Collin Lindley, Madelyn Malcolmson, Milo Malcolmson, Elizabeth Matheson, Hunter McQueston, Sam O'Brien, Parker Proulx, Aaron Rowell, Lindsay Ryan, Eric Serano, Madelyn Stauder, Cameran Vega, Andrew Warfield and Jin Xi Zou.

Also each year, one eighth grader from each of the five member towns is chosen to become a Project 351 Ambassador. These ambassadors are part of a youth-led service project. Students are selected for their strong leadership and passion for service. These 351 Ambassadors convene together in a statewide network where they receive leadership training and engage in teamwork. This year Quabbin is proud to announce the following Project 351 Ambassadors: Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza - Gilbertville, Olivia Vanoudenhove - Oakham, Benjamin Fisher - Hardwick, Pele Johnson - Hubbardston, Winter Boyea - Barre and



Ambassadors are Benjamin Fisher - Hardwick, Winter Boyea - Barre, Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza - Gilbertville, Pele Johnson - Hubbardston, Lily Ryan - New Braintree and Olivia Vanoudenhove - Oakham.

Lily Ryan - New Braintree.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the National Honor Society Excelsior Chapter held its annual Induction Ceremony at Quabbin Regional High School. The NHS program helps students develop their knowledge and skills to become leaders within the school and community. NHS recognizes excellence in four key areas: scholarship, leadership, service and character. The Chapter seeks to identify students, who are involved in their communities and those who have strong values and integrity.

National Honor Society advisor, Lauren Hirschkind, facilitated a special evening for the students and families. One they won't soon forget. Assistant Principal Jason Gilmartin was the keynote speaker for the event and he sent a unique and powerful message to the students. He spoke of the struggle to feel as if one may need to maintain perfection and then he challenged students to instead embrace the idea of valuing what is unique and at times "imperfect" about themselves.

New Inductees were Jacob Bassett, Madeleine Boissell, Mackenzie Casey, Isabel Doty, Tess Dunphy, Brody Faucher, Anna Hautala, Sadie Kennan, Audrey Laursen, Anna Metcalf, Mia Miville, Ella Reeves, Grace Vanoudenhove, and Leanna Zou.

Current NHS members

welcomed the new inductees and their families. Current members include: Owen Breuer, Mia Ducos, Garrett Erickson, Emma Kahlau, Collin Lindley, Grace Manna, Elizabeth Matheson, Hunter McQueston, Andrew Warfield, Bianca Wilder, Hannah Zereski and Jin Xi Zou.

Kalina Dyer, President, spoke about the pillar of scholarship and character. Micah Cerezo, Vice President, introduced the pillar of service and Secretary, Adelaide Harmon spoke about leadership.

A special moment during the ceremony was when the new inductees had the opportunity to recognize educators who have inspired them and always encouraged them to be the best they can be.

Receiving special appreciation were the following Quabbin educators: Brent Bolger, Captain Daniel Brennock, Mark DePasquale, Lieutenant Kathleen Frydel, Keara Hayes, Whitney Marshall, Diane McMorrow, Nicole Ricchiazzi Robbins, Matthew Sniffen, Molly Sczucka, Kelly Weiderman, James Wheeler, Josefina White and Ailey Wynne.

The evening ended with closing remarks from Principal Abigail Rigney who expressed her pride in the students. She acknowledged their hard work and dedication and conveyed "we can't wait to see where your journey takes you."



New Inductees into the National Honor Society are front row from left, Sadie Kennan, Audrey Laursen, Anna Metcalf, Mia Miville, Ella Reeves, Grace Vanoudenhove and Leanna Zou and back row, Jacob Bassett, Madeleine Boissell, Mackenzie Casey, Isabel Doty, Tess Dunphy, Brody Faucher and Anna Hautala

## Church News

# Local pastors offer sermons

### Divine Materials Part 5

The following prayer was penned by Scottish minister and theologian, John Baillie (1886-1960). It is worthy of deliberation:

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

This prayer is impacting, revealing that the circumstances of our lives serve as vehicles for spiritual growth or regression. Ultimately, we choose what we will make with the material God allows.

Of course, and as we have noted in recent editions, Baillie expounds upon his plea with a series of specific requests. This week, let us explore the following elements in kind: a) "Let me use pains as material for endurance" and b) "Let me use reproach as material for long suffering." Let us begin.

1) Let Me Use Pains as Material for Endurance

We have the potential to react quite poorly to pain. It is interesting to me that I am always tempted to respond to affliction or adversity with surprise, even though Scripture is quite clear that the faithful can and do suffer. The Book of Job offers this insight (Job 5:7b, NIV): "... man is born to trouble, as surely as the sparks fly upward." Yet the momentary burdens of life can be used by God, if we will but allow, to bring forth necessary endurance. Perseverance is a key virtue in Christ, who similarly learned obedience through the things He suffered (Heb. 5:8). Note the following words of the apostle Paul:

#### Romans 5:1b-5

1 since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Why are we called to glory in suffering? Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character and character, hope. They are all interconnected links in the glorious chain of personal renewal, growth and transformation. Thus, learning to cultivate endurance amid pain is essential for those who would be conformed to the image of Christ and abound in hope.

In my experience, a great many people want to know hope, but they do not want to build the character that gives

it rise. Such do not want to build character because the process is painful, requiring persistence when things become difficult. Many quit mid-race. Yet I desire to grow, so the prayer of Baillie is both profound and applicable. Do you desire to grow in the Lord? If so, let us lift our voices together today and petition God that we might "use pains as material for endurance."

2) Let Me Use Reproach as Material for Longsuffering

We also have the potential to react quite poorly to reproach. When others demonstrate disapproval for our faith or scorn the practice thereof, we can easily respond with resentment, bitterness, malice and beyond. Is this not how the religious elite responded to the reproach of Christ-Christ who denounced their bastardization of what God deemed true religion?

#### Luke 23:33-35

33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

Yet in this context of extreme personal pain, made manifest by the reproach of others, how did the Lord Jesus respond? Unlike what we might do, He took the "materials" made possible by the moment and both cultivated and evidenced an incredible sense of longsuffering (i.e., patience; the ability to bear with circumstances and others).

Whereas we might have called forth legions of angels to save and punish, he called forth for the mercy of God! Can you and I not learn from this? After all, we are called to follow in His footsteps. What did Christ command concerning the handling of earthly adversaries?

#### Matthew 5:43-48

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Let us be like Baillie, who

called out to God: "Let me use reproach as material for longsuffering." God hears such a prayer.

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

#### Pastor James Foley

New Life Assembly of God  
60 Main St.  
South Barre, MA  
jamesfoley  
@newlifebarre.org  
978-355-6407

### Second Sunday in Advent

"The Son of God, our Peace and our Salvation."

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11 v 1-10 and Matthew 3 v 1-3

#### I. Introduction

Peace is likely among the key factors that make life feel meaningful.

To feel at peace can come from an inner sense of calm, when we engage in certain practices like deep breathing, going for a walk or other activities that make us feel good and relaxed. To feel at peace can come from good relationships with others and doing things together that feel good and joyful.

Peace can also come when conflicts have been resolved and there is a better understanding between each other, and a sense of relief, belonging and joy from being with those we made peace with. Being at peace means loving and accepting everyone from close ones to distant strangers. Peace is what God wants to see in this world.

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

In our passage, the prophet Isaiah prophesies about the Messiah who would come from the stump of Jesse, the father of David, a peasant family, instead of coming from "the pomp and glory of the royal house," says John Oswalt in his commentary of Isaiah. Isaiah addressed the aggression and arrogance of the house of Israel and Judah, and then predicted the destruction of Assyria, while prophesying about a leader, the Messiah who will come to bring safety and security to the nations of the world. This Messiah's leadership and reign will be filled with righteousness and justice toward the needy and the poor, while speaking with authority against those who act in wicked ways.

Under His reign there will be peace. Then Isaiah describes metaphorically how that peace would look like, for example the wolf will live with the lamb, the calf and the lion will be together and they will be led by a little child. The cow will feed the bear and the infant

will play near the hole of a cobra.

We can only imagine what a world this would be...a place of safety, lack of fear of the other, a world where every human being and creature will be at peace with one another, where there is no poverty, hunger or violence.

This Messiah will be filled with the Spirit of the Lord, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and power, of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. The prophet then predicts how this knowledge of God will fill the earth.

These prophets were completely open to the word of God, and they must have been hoping, praying and believing that in their day these prophecies would come true. Despite witnessing those in power act against God's people, they believed a Messiah would eventually arrive and correct the iniquities and bring peace on earth.

We see how the Messiah, the Son of God, became the hope for many. His birth became the hope for the shepherds, the sick, the poor and the outcasts. They believed that finally, righteousness and peace came to them. The prophets' words came true for them, and their hope for a new era of peace had arrived.

#### III. Conclusion

When we sing our hymns, such as Hark the Herald, Angels sing...peace on earth and mercy mild, or O little Town of Bethlehem, a hymn that speaks about the hope for peace, and Silent Night, one of the most peaceful Christmas hymns, may our hearts also yearn for days and nights of peace for all people in our world today. May this advent time remind us why Christ, the Prince of peace was born.

May our prayers rise to the throne of God and may our words and deeds create straight paths for God to heal our world and make those who lead, into instruments of change so that the cries of the poor be heard and their needs be fulfilled, that the peoples of the world will experience peace instead of violence and destruction, and that the hearts and souls of all people be touched by the message of this Christ Child, of peace and joy.

May we all look at each other, our loved ones, our neighbors, and those different from ourselves, as people near to the heart of God. May God forgive us when we fail to do so, and give us another chance at repentance and renewal, so that all of us will greet each other with hands and hearts of peace. Let us all join together and declare that Christ, the Son of God is our peace and our salvation.

Amen.

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

## New Life participates in Operation Christmas Child

SOUTH BARRE – New Life Assembly of God, 60 Main St., once again participated in the annual ministry of Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of the larger Samaritan's Purse led by Rev. Franklin Graham, has collected and delivered over 220 million shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories since 1993. Each shoebox, containing an array of gift items packed by families,

serves to spread Christmas cheer and the message of Jesus Christ to impoverished children all over the world. This year New Life packed over 260 shoeboxes for this global effort.

Those looking for more information on Samaritan's Purse and the ministry of Operation Christmas Child should visit their website at <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org>. Those interested in the ministry of New Life may visit [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org).



Submitted photo  
Pastor James Foley of New Life Assembly of God stands with some of the many shoeboxes collected for Operation Christmas Child.

## New Life Assembly of God lists Christmas services

SOUTH BARRE – New Life Assembly of God, 60 Main St., invites everyone looking for a place to worship to attend their services.

On Thursday, Dec. 18 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. their will be a Carols and Communion Service. On Sunday, Dec. 21 from 10:30 a.m.-noon there will be a

Christmas Sunday Service. These events will feature worshipful, Christ-centered carols, a message from Scripture, Holy Communion, etc.

For more information, people may visit [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org) or call Pastor James Foley at 978-355-6407.

### NOTICE

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

Barre Gazette

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

**EARLY DEADLINE**  
In observance of **CHRISTMAS** for Dec. 22-26 newspapers there will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!**  
Place your advertisement no later than **Thurs., Dec. 17 at 3 p.m.**  
A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 • 413-283-8393 • [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

1158 Main Street Holden 508.829.4434 | 100 Worcester Road Sterling 978.422.0100  
**800-983-4434**  
[www.milesfuneralhome.com](http://www.milesfuneralhome.com)

**MILES**  
FUNERAL HOMES  
Honoring Lives ~ Celebrating Memories

Family Owned and Operated

Richard Mansfield Director  
Ricky Mansfield Director

Nationally recognized as a **Selected Independent Funeral Home** with the highest ethical and professional standards.

BBB Award Recipient

# Public Safety

## Rutland Police Log

**Sunday, Nov. 16**  
 1:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-traumatic), Bushy Lane, Transported to Hospital  
 8:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 8:50 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, East County Road, Call Transferred  
 10:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning  
 11:26 a.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 4:14 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Sassawanna Road, Negative Contact  
 4:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 5:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning  
 7:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale road, Citation Issued

**Monday, Nov. 17**  
 12:11 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Barre Paxton road, Investigated  
 2:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Party departed without Incident  
 7:51 a.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Miles Road, Report Filed  
 10:09 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 12:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
 Summons Lindsey, Kimberlee E., 44, Southbridge  
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with, Inspection/ Sticker, No  
 1 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Wachusett Street, Criminal Complaint  
 3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Glenwood Road, Written Warning  
 5:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed  
 Summons Herrera, Wanda K., 61, Worcester  
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle  
 5:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed  
 Summons Quisp-Ortiz, Jose Victor, 63, Worcester  
 Charges Licensed Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with  
 5:38 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Main Street, Gone on Arrival  
 7:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning  
 7:38 p.m. Fire – Fumes/Odor/ Gas Leak, Turkey Hill Road, Investigated

**Tuesday, Nov. 18**  
 12:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Prison Camp Road, Criminal Complaint  
 Summons Bialkin, Noah J., 32, Holden  
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with  
 7:26 a.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Maple Avenue, Report Filed  
 10:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning  
 1:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 5:55 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/ Wires, Highland Park Road,

Referred to Other Agency  
**Wednesday, Nov. 19**  
 1:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning  
 2:57 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/ Parking Issues, Winifreds Way, Citation Issued  
 3:12 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/ Parking Issues, Eastern Lane, Citation Issued  
 3:22 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/ Parking Issues, Horizon Road, Citation Issued  
 4:19 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/ Parking Issues, Hickory Drive, Citation Issued  
 6:57 a.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Main Street, Entry Gained  
 9:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 9:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning  
 10:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 10:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Removed to Court/Lockup  
 Arrest Busuulwa, Allan, 31, Rutland  
 Charges License Suspended for Operating Under Influence, Operating Motor Vehicle with  
 10:49 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Glenwood Road, Transported to Hospital  
 3:30 p.m. Fire – Fumes/Odor/Gas Leak, Arline Drive, Investigated  
 3:44 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Highland Park Road, Unfounded  
 4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Barre Paxton Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 7:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Skyline Drive, Transported to Hospital  
 7:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 8:07 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Adams Road, Mutual Aid Transport

**Thursday, Nov. 20**  
 1:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 4:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning  
 5:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Glenwood Road, Written Warning  
 6:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, East County Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 11:52 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/ Wires, Inwood Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 12:42 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Lord Lane, Officer Spoke to Party  
 2:24 p.m. Complaint, Barrack Hill Road, Officer Spoke to Parry  
 3:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued  
 3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning  
 4 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Bechan Road, Transported to Hospital  
 4:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Criminal Complaint  
 Summons Vanderbrug, Peter, 24, Rutland  
 Charges Unlicensed Operation Of Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No  
 4:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 5:06 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, East County Road, No Transport Required  
 5:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Public Assist

8:03 p.m. Traffic or Radar Enforcement, Watson Lane, Citation Issued  
 9:02 p.m. ACO Lost and Found/Wildlife, Main Street, No Action Required  
 10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, South Road, Transported to Hospital

**Friday, Nov. 21**  
 12:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 1:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, East County Road, Party Departed  
 1:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Charnock Hill Road, Prisoner Bailed  
 Arrest Janhunnen, Rachel L., 41, Westminster  
 Charges Operating Under Influence, Liquor OR. 08%, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No  
 10:56 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Glenwood Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 11:08 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Arline Drive, Transported to Hospital  
 11:45 a.m. Identity Theft, Brunelle Drive, Report Filed  
 1:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Thurston Hill Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 2:21 p.m. Safety Concern, Pleasantdale Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 3:20 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 5:20 p.m. Traffic or Radar Enforcement, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued  
 8:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

**Saturday, Nov. 22**  
 7:07 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, No Transport Required  
 Summons Kachadoorian, Lisa Marie, 40, Rutland  
 Charges Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle C90 S24(2)(A)  
 8:12 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Carlsons Way, Officer Spoke to Party  
 9:59 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/ Wires, Lewis Street, Removed from Scene  
 10:27 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Glenwood Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 10:30 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Highland Park Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 11:45 a.m. Landlord Tenant/ Neighbor Dispute, Julie Ann Circle, Report Filed  
 4:23 p.m. Property – Lost/ Found/Surrender, Maple Avenue, Identification Taken  
 4:40 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
 5:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued  
 5:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Glenwood Road, Written Warning  
 6:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/ Unresponsive/Syncope, Pommogussett Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 6:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 7:29 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Glenwood Road, Area Search Negative  
 8:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued  
 8:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Vehicle Towed

## Barre Police Log

**Sunday, Nov. 16**  
 4:06 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Exchange Street, Transported to Hospital  
 2:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning  
 5:07 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Williamsville Road, Returned

**Monday, Nov. 17**  
 9:29 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Coldbrook Road, Officer Spoke to Party,  
 10:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/ Emergency Medical Service Response, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 8:01 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Exchange Street, Prisoner Bailed  
 Arrest Mortell, Maureen Anne, 62, Barre  
 Charges Shoplifting by Asportation, Trespass

**Tuesday, Nov. 18**  
 7:27 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/ Wires, Hunt Road, Unfounded  
 10:51 a.m. Disturbance/ Disorderly, South Street, Report Filed  
 11:13 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, West Street, Transported to

Hospital  
 12:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wheelwright Road, Criminal Complaint  
 Summons Barber, Derek M., 48, South Barre  
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle  
 3:23 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Barre Police Headquarters, Call Transferred  
 6:06 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, South Street, Negative Contact  
 8:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning  
 9:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning  
 9:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Written Warning

**Wednesday, Nov. 19**  
 10:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/ Emergency Medical Service, South Street, Report Filed  
 3:49 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Summer Street, Investigated (On-Going)  
 4:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Written Warning

**Thursday, Nov. 20**  
 12:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Summer Street, Written Warning

**Friday, Nov. 21**  
 12:23 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 2:34 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Cut Off Road, Vehicle Towed  
 5:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Written Warning  
 8:47 p.m. Larceny or Theft, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 9:43 p.m. Landlord Tenant/ Neighbor Dispute, North Brookfield Road, Advised Civil Action

**Saturday, Nov. 22**  
 12:43 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/ Back Pain, Valley Road, Transported to Hospital  
 7:38 a.m. Animal – ACO call, Pleasant Street, Officer/Chief Advised  
 6:20 p.m. Safety Concern, Worcester Road, Removed from Scene  
 8:23 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Area Search Negative  
 11:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Worcester Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

## Oakham Police Log

**Monday, Nov. 17**  
 9:01 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Gaffney Road, Information Given  
 9:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning  
 11:02 a.m. Safety Concern, Crawford Road, Negative Contact

**Tuesday, Nov. 18**  
 7:27 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/ Wires, Hunt Road, Unfounded  
 2:54 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, North Brookfield Road, Information Given  
 6:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

New Braintree Road, Written Warning

**Wednesday, Nov. 19**  
 3:06 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, East Hill Road, Area Patrolled  
 8:07 p.m. Seizures, Adams Road, Mutual Aid Transport

**Thursday, Nov. 20**  
 4 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Bechan Road, Transported to Hospital  
 10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, South Road, Transported to Hospital

**Friday, Nov. 21**  
 10:15 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Spencer Road, Negative Contact  
 7:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Old Turnpike Road, No Action Required

**Saturday, Nov. 22**  
 1:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Criminal Complaint  
 Summons Ohene, Kennedy Sakyi, 49, Worcester  
 Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Unsafe Operation of Motor Vehicle \* C90 S13

## Hubbardston Police Log

**Sunday, Nov. 16**  
 3:50 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Madison Way, Public Assist

**Tuesday, Nov. 18**  
 2:42 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Barre, Mutual Aid Transport  
 6:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Brigham Street, Vehicle Towed  
 12:57 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Williamsville Road, Removed from Scene  
 2:05 p.m. Trespasser or

Prowler, Williamsville Road, Officer Spoke to Party

**Wednesday, Nov. 19**  
 12:20 p.m. Erratic Operator, Old Boston Turnpike, Negative Contact

**Thursday, Nov. 20**  
 5:14 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Gardner Road, Investigated  
 5:17 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed  
 Friday, Nov. 21  
 9:32 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Officer/Chief Advised

**Saturday, Nov. 22**  
 9:09 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Elm Street, Transported to Hospital  
 9:19 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Burnshirt Road, Mutual Aid Transport  
 10:47 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Abenaki Street, Fire Extinguished  
 6:39 p.m. Be On the Look Out Notification, New Westminster Road, Area Search Negative

## Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO25P3984EA**

**Estate of: James Royal Thompson Date of Death: 10/22/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by James R Thompson Jr of Barre, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that James R Thompson Jr of Barre, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/06/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and

objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**

**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
 Date: December 05, 2025  
**Stephanie Fattman,**  
 Register of Probate  
 12/11/2025

**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 3VW477AJ1EM215980
  - 2006 Pontiac G6 VIN 1G2ZG558464261930
  - 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



# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

## Town of Warren Town Accountant

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

Full-Time – Town Benefited Position  
 32 hours per week, Monday to Thursday

The Town of Warren is actively seeking a qualified professional to fill the position of Town Accountant. The Town is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Accountant to join our team. Strong organizational skills, excellent customer service skills, municipal finance and Vadar experience preferred. A complete job description can be found on the Town's website [www.warren-ma.gov](http://www.warren-ma.gov).

Please email or mail your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, [townadministrator@warren-ma.gov](mailto:townadministrator@warren-ma.gov) or by mail to 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083.

Salary range is negotiable from \$60,000 to \$64,500 and is based on relevant work experience, certifications, and educational background. Position open until filled, with a first look at resumes starting on December 22, 2025.

Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer



# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

**FOR SALE**

**FIREWOOD**

**DRYFIREWOOD** Oak/maple, cu/split/ delivered, \$300 a cord, \$285 for 2 or more. Edwin Wroblewski Logging, 413-824-0731. *Buying standing timber, paying good money.*

**FIREWOOD**

Fresh cut & split \$225.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).  
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**  
New England Forest Products  
(413)477-0083

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

**WANTED**

**WANTED TO BUY**

**ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.**

**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

**ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:**

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688.

**SWIFT RIVER SUPPLY**

We buy guns.  
Federal and state license.  
413-658-5690.

**Classified Advertising DEADLINE FRIDAY AT NOON**

**JUNK REMOVAL**

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

**SERVICES**

**A B Hauling and Removal Service**

**2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\***

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

**DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS,** plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

**ELECTRICIAN**

**PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN**  
• Licensed & Insured •  
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.

**NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.**  
Call today to schedule your appointment.  
(413) 366-1703  
(Lic. #24046-A)

**JAMES FERRIS: LICENSE #E16303**  
Free estimates. Insured. 50 years experience. No job too small. Cell (413)330-3682

**LICENSED ELECTRICIAN**

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured. Master Elec. #20773A. T ext/call Luis 413-218-3301.

**ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC**

Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.  
Call John at (413) 206-6509  
Every customer gets a free gem stone.

**SERVICES**

**HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST**

Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor. Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

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

**CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING**  
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR  
**Remodeling & Deck Specialists**  
Residential/Commercial  
Fully Insured • Free Estimates  
**413-351-1147**

**INSTRUCTION**

**NRA Certified Basic Pistol Course** with Live Fire for License to Carry permit \$140. Matt Marcinkiewicz muscione@hotmail.com 413-537-0620

**LANDSCAPING**

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

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

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

Handyman Services

**Walker Home Improvement**

Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!  
(413) 687-5552

**SERVICES**

**MASONRY**

**STOP WET BASEMENTS**  
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

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

**PAINTING**

**PRO PAINTING**  
Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry.  
413-310-5099.

**PLUMBING**

**GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

**RUBBISH REMOVAL**

**BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL** Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/ operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

**SNOWPLOWING**

**RESIDENTIAL** Snowplowing Service. Wilbraham residential only Call or Text now. Limited space available. 413-519-5439

**Find it! In the CLASSIFIEDS!**

**SERVICES**

**TREE WORK**

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.** Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING**  
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

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

**TUNE-UPS**

**SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR**  
**A & M TUNE-UPS**  
Snowblowers, Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers & Small Engine Repair.  
Work done at your home.  
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

**STUMP GRINDING**

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

**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING**  
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

**AUTO**

**CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS**  
FREE TOWING  
FAST SERVICE  
CASH PAID AS IS  
CALL OR TEXT  
413-219-6839

**HELP WANTED**

**NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE** is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a housekeeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today (413)267-4297 or (413) 544-0864.

Read your local newspaper online at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

**REAL ESTATE**

**FOR RENT**

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

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

**QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE** by babbling brook, l-shaped 2bdm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone 774-262-6667.

**FOR RENT**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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

Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**  
Call 1-413-283-8393

**FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER**

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

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

**GREAT VALUE!**  
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

**STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!**  
Subscribe Today!

**Turley Publications, Inc.**  
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS  
413.283.8393  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069

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

# Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

**CHRISTMAS SALE!!!**  
**BLACK FRIDAY DEALS STILL GOING ON!**

**GIANT APPLIANCE REBATES!!!**  
**LAUNDRY PACKAGES!!!**  
**MATTRESS SALE!!!**  
**GIANT TOY SELECTION!**

SEE AD INSIDE!!!

**12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING**  
**WHITCO**  
 140 Main St., Spencer  
 www.whitcosales.com **508-885-9343**  
 Open: Mon.-Fri. 10am-8:30pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 10pm-7pm

**AVAILABLE NOW - HOLLAND, MA**  
 Beautifully maintained Colonial with beach rights! Nestled in Massaconnet Lake Estates, this charming 3-bed, 2.5-bath home blends comfort and convenience. Sun-filled living room w/ bay windows and hardwood flooring. Updated kitchen offers stainless-steel appliances, tile backsplash, and ample cabinet space. Formal dining area opens to a private deck, perfect for entertaining. Spacious primary suite w/ a walk-in closet and ensuite bath. Two additional bedrooms and another full bath complete the second floor. Fresh paint throughout, new flooring, and brand-new laundry room. Tantasqua school district, private yard, paved driveway with ample parking, and close proximity to Routes 84, 20 and the Mass Pike! Available for \$439,900.



**YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS**  
 We Do More So You Will Make More!!!  
**exp REALTY**  
 Michelle Terry Broker  
 130 W. Main Street  
 Spencer, MA 01562  
**michelleterryteam.com**  
**GIVE US A CALL TODAY! 508-202-0008**



**Brookhaven Assisted Care**  
 19 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585  
**MANAGEMENT TEAM:**  
 Erin, Laura and Nancy  
 Over 56 years of service.  
 24 hour care, Medical Management, Assistance with activities of daily living, Activity Program, well trained, compassionate and caring staff.  
**Services Available In-House:**  
 Physician's / Nurse Practitioner services, Pharmacy services, Podiatry services  
**VNA services:**  
 Physical, Speech, Occupational Therapy, Hospice, Mobile X-Ray, Geriatric-Psych services  
 Transportation available, Hairdresser / Barber  
 Manager: Erin Glazier  
 508-867-3325 ~ erin.brookhaven@gmail.com

**MS + NN PAINTING AND HOME MAINTENANCE**  
**INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Home Painting & Maintenance**  
 Residential/Commercial – Deck Specialists  
 NO JOB IS TOO SMALL – FREE ESTIMATES  
 Fully Insured – HIC License Holders  
 81 Jackson Lane, Barre, MA 01005  
**774-321-4509**  
 Mmguzman.2011@yahoo.com



**Country Canine KENNELS**  
**Boarding, Grooming, Daycare**  
 🐾 Boarding starting at \$40 a night  
 🐾 Daycare starting at \$26 a day  
 84 Greenwich Plains Road  
 Ware, MA 01082  
 (413) 277-0334 Office Phone  
 countrycaninekennels@gmail.com



**Get the Facts. Subscribe Today!**  
**413.283.8393 • newspapers.turley.com**  
 12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS  
 24 Water St., Palmer  
 80 Main St., Ware  
**Turley Publications, Inc.**



**WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!**  
**LANDSCAPE STONE**  
 White • Blue • Purple • Red  
 Lt Gray • Dark Gray • Beige • Rip Rap  
**SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING**  
 Construction Stone • Title V & Presby Septic Sand  
 Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand  
 Pool Liner Sand • Stone Dust • Silt • Crushed Gravel  
 Crushed Asphalt • Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch  
**Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums**  
**PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!**  
**Bond**  
 98 North Spencer Rd., Spencer  
 bondsandandgravel.com  
**508-885-6100**  
**508-885-2480**  
 Sand, Gravel & Asphalt

**JARS Café & Bakery**  
 23 Summer Street  
 North Brookfield  
 MA 01535  
 508-637-1577  
 Tues.-Sat. 8am-2pm  
 Sun. 9am-2pm

- ❖ COFFEE
- ❖ GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS
- ❖ BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
- ❖ SOUPS
- ❖ COOKIES
- ❖ MUFFINS
- ❖ PASTRIES

In-House Fresh Bakery  
 All Occasion Cake  
 Cupcakes and Cookies  
 Every Month Special Treat Box Available For Sale at the Cafe  
 ❖ **Future Events**  
 Contact us to plan your next private event.  
**508-637-1577**

**Bring in entire ad for one FREE Beverage with purchase of a baked good. Tues.-Thurs. 8am-10am**



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

**Happy Holidays!**

May 24 .....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699  
 June 9-12 4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation .....\$899  
 June 27.....Lake George Cruise & Lunch .....\$185  
 July1.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699  
 Aug 30.....8-Day Nova Scotia Cruise .....from \$1699

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



**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 \$288,000. See listing on MLS # 73433198

**NO ENTRANCE FEE**  
 Brand New Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 37 Gauthier Rd., Barre. This is a 55 and better community. This home features an open kitchen/living room concept, perfect for family gatherings. Two large bedrooms on opposite ends of the home. Master bedroom has a walk-in closet and large attached bathroom. Just off the kitchen is a laundry area with door leading to back deck and yard. There is a monthly HOA fee which includes water, sewage, rubbish removal, and taxes. All exterior and interior doorways are 36" wide. Asking \$194,000. See listing on MLS # 73397436

**NO ENTRANCE FEE**  
 Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 32 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. Includes large carport and two large garden sheds. Approx. living area 1,000 SqFt. Asking \$139,900. See listing on MLS # 73398863.

**Call Today!**  
**WATERWHEEL REALTY**  
**Paul Varney Sr.**  
 Real Estate Broker and Owner  
 978-355-4438  
 978-355-3454  
 paulraymondvarney@gmail.com



**BUYLINE CONNECTION**  
**3 Ads for 1 Low Price!!!**  
 Ware River News, Barre Gazette & Quaboag Current  
 Over 16,000 copies • Prints every Thursday

Special Ad Size Pricing  
 3" x 1" ... **only \$33**  
 3" x 1.5" **only \$48**  
 3" x 2" ... **only \$66**  
 3" x 2.5" **only \$82**  
 3" x 3" ... **only \$99**

**CONTACT DAN FLYNN**  
**413-297-5886**  
**dflynn@turley.com**

**FULL COLOR INCLUDED!**

**HOLIDAY ROASTS & CATERING FROM FARMER MATT**

Premium holiday roasts or farm-fresh catering will make your holiday table special this season. Choose from prime rib, standing rib roast, tenderloin, or sirloin roasts. Dinner options include prime rib, turkey, or ham. Single serve options available. Happy holidays.



**FARMER MATT**  
 FARM-FRESH • LOCAL  
 FarmerMatt.com  
 (508) 980-7085

Gift cards also available online or in-store