

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Select Board approves single tax rate

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
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HUBBARDSTON – On the recommendation of the Board of Assessors, the Select Board approved a single tax rate of one at the Monday, Dec. 2 tax classification hearing.

There are 27 commercial properties and 12 industrial properties in town. Every year the Select Board approves the single residential tax rate.

### Winter operation plan

Department of Public Works Director Travis Brown presented the Select Board with the winter operation plan. He said it was nice the town had a plan as many did not. He said there were three changes to the plan this year. He purchased two AI solar powered weather cameras for a total of \$3,000 per year. He has one set up on Gardner Road and the other on Route 62 and 68. He said the cameras needed some ambient light to work.

The cameras send out alerts regarding the weather conditions at their locations. They are sent to the highway department computer and Brown's cell phone.

DPW Director Brown said he saw the cameras at an equipment show and opted to purchase two to see how effective they were in storm situations. He said in summer time they could be put at job site.

He also will be using straight salt this year as the cost was \$20 per ton less. All the trucks have

See HUBBARDSTON, page 10

## Santa Claus came to town for annual celebration



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Grand marshals for this year's Christmas in Barre parade were members of the 250th Anniversary Committee. See more photos on page 7.

BARRE – While hundreds of people flocked to the common to enjoy the annual Christmas in Barre celebration, Santa Claus was making his way to town for an early visit to hear the Christmas wishes of children of all ages.

This year, the common was blanketed with the first snowfall of the season, turning it into a winter wonderland.

Santa's arrival was marked with a parade featuring the festive sounds of the Quabbin Regional Middle/High School's marching band, many floats decorated by local businesses, town officials, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, community organizations, residents and of course, horses.

After the parade, the children and their families lined up to visit with Santa and his wife, Mrs. Claus, and share their Christmas wishes for that year. Each one left with a special toy that will surely be cherished for years to come.



Stan Miknaitis and his family were a familiar sight in the parade.

## Hearing held for Mt. Pleasant Street project

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Joe Ferguson, a planner in the Community Development unit of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, led a performance hearing for the fiscal year 2021 Community Development Block Grant.

At the Board of Selectmen's Dec. 3 meeting, Ferguson said this program was founded in 1974 using federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He said rural towns like North Brookfield are known as non-entitlement communities and must compete for funding through the grant application process.

"It's not a promise that every community gets those grants," Ferguson said, and projects must meet one of three national objectives including "benefit to low- to moderate-income."

Ferguson said there is a various number of eligible programs, including improving infrastructure, Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility, improvements to public facilities, housing rehabilitation, planning for parks and recreation, environmental remediation and architectural and engineering studies.

"There's no municipal financial outlay required to apply or to receive funding to manage these projects and there's no match required," he said. "Everything is grant funded from the actual project or improvement, to the admin-

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 6

## School Committee votes on regional agreement

By Paula Ouimette  
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – School Committee Vice-Chair and Regional Agreement Amendment Committee member Tim Canada said the School Committee needs to vote whether or not to accept the amended regional agreement to join the Quaboag Regional School Committee, along with the towns of Warren and West Brookfield.

If the agreement is accepted by both school committees, it would then move to a town meeting vote. Canada said financials have changed since the original feasibility study was conducted in 2020, and those figures will need to be updated if the vote passes.

"It's really just a modified version of what Quaboag is already operating under," he said at the School Committee's Nov. 18 meeting.

Canada moved to approve the amended agreement, which he described as the framework for how the school district governs itself. School Committee members voted unanimously to approve the agreement and bring the vote before residents at a town meeting.

During the Quaboag Regional School Committee meeting, which occurred at the same time as the North Brookfield School Committee's meeting, its members voted against approval of the draft, which would prevent

the agreement from reaching any town meeting votes and progressing toward Quaboag becoming a three-town regional school district.

### Recognition

Superintendent Timothy McCormick recognized senior Anthony Polanco for his achievements as a student and role model.

McCormick said he recognizes one student from the senior class each year who has exemplified academic excellent but also leadership in the school community. The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents honors such students across central Massachusetts at a luncheon held at Holy Cross.

"This year we have a senior who...has gone above and beyond what we expect of any senior to do both in terms of the classroom but also in respects to leadership," he said. "We always want to instill in our students, especially our outgoing seniors, to leave the school better than the way you found it. I think this student really exemplifies that."

McCormick said Polanco is president of the National Honor Society, class president, treasurer of the Student Council and part of the Boston Celtics' Playbook Initiative as a student leader.

Polanco was also part of the Mass IDEAS (Initiatives for Developing Equity & Achievement for Students) training, working with students and being a student leader.

He is a member of the varsity basketball team, team manager

## Barre Lions Club announces raffle winners



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Barre Lions Club members from left, Tim Mara and Robin Cheney, posed for a photo with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. The North Pole visitors helped the Barre Lions Club draw the winning raffle tickets.



Tim Mara watched as Mrs. Claus selected a winning ticket.



Robin Cheney enjoyed a visit with the jolly elf.



Robin Cheney writes down the names of the raffle winners as Santa Claus pulls them from a bucket held by Tim Mara.



See NB SCHOOL COMMITTEE, page 11



# News of the Towns



## Round Town

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### Circle of Song to perform Dec. 14

Circle of Song will perform "Requiem for the Living" on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre. "Requiem for the Living," a choral composition in five movements, was completed in 2013. "Requiem for the Living" is an extended setting of the Requiem, a Mass for the dead in the Catholic Church. In the Circle of Song performance of "Requiem for the Living," solos will be performed by Karen Guertin, Marna Mucha, Anne Kneeland, Nancy Afonso, Mark Doyle and Jennifer Williams. Under the direction of the COS pianist, Cailan McClure, "Aint a That Good News" and Ave Maria will also be sung. If people are interested in joining Circle of Song, they may email Julie Rawson, director, at julie@mhof.net, call 978-257-1192 or show up at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. To learn more about Circle of Song visit <https://circleofsong.net/>.

### Barre Food Pantry

The next Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, Dec. 19 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. 19 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St.

They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations. People should not arrive to volunteer on Dec. 19 without first calling Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

### 250th Masquerade Ball

Barre's 250th Anniversary Committee is hosting a New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball at the stunning Harding Allen Estate in Barre. This special event is the perfect way to end an amazing year of celebrations marking Barre's 250th anniversary. The event is black tie preferred and is being held from on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 from 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Tickets are \$45 a person and include dinner, dancing, champagne toast at midnight and a fun-filled night with live music and a D.J. Tickets for this event are available now in limited quantities by visiting [www.hardingallenestate.com](http://www.hardingallenestate.com). The evening promises an unforgettable celebration.

## Hardwick Co-Op hosts food and sock drives

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Farmers Co-Op, 444 Lower Road, will be collection food donations for the Tri-Parish Food Pantry and new socks to benefit veterans through HomeFront Strong, now through Dec. 15.

People who bring in five nonperishable food items during this time will receive 5% off their purchase that day.

For every two pairs of socks that you buy from Hardwick Farmers Co-Op, the Co-Op will donate a pair to HomeFront Strong. People may also bring in new men's, women's and children's sized socks to be donated to HomeFront Strong.

## Nativities From Around the World



Gail Ann Anderson of Hardwick displayed a photo of her grandchildren depicting the birth of Jesus Christ. Anderson displayed approximately 100 nativity scenes from her collection in "Nativities From Around the World," an annual community event held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in North Brookfield for the past 15 years.

### Church hosted 15th annual community event

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – For the past 15 years, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has been hosting a free, four-day event that ushers in the Christmas season with a sense of peace and belonging.

"Nativities From Around the World" featured over 500 different nativity scenes depicting the birth of Jesus Christ, with each one holding significant meaning to its owner. These nativities are displayed by members of the church as well as by people from the community at large.

With 90 nativity scenes in one room alone and more in the next, Hardwick resident Gail Ann Anderson, has been collecting since her youngest child was 5 years old; and has been a part of "Nativities From Around the World" since it first started at her church.

Anderson's love for the nativity dates back to her childhood, when her mother would place the scene under their Christmas tree, and Anderson would lay there to look at it.

"I loved the baby Jesus and the cow," she remembered fondly.

Anderson has passed this love onto her children, with each of them having at least one nativity scene. Her daughter had three nativities displayed alongside Anderson's including one that was embossed on a crown, paying homage to Jesus' title as the king of the kings.



This nativity from Ghana used a mix of natural materials mixed with gold fabric.

Anderson shared that two of the nativities were nearest to her heart, including ceramic figures of Joseph leading a pregnant Mary on a donkey, and another that featured her beloved grandchildren dressed as members of the holy family.

"I love them all," Anderson said of her nativities. "But these two are the ones."

The photo of her grandchildren was part of their Christmas card that year, and Anderson proudly displayed it on a table amidst the glow of white lights during the event. Her grandchildren are now adults, with the youngest one a student in college.

Anderson said she has added to her nativity collection by shopping at various stores, utilizing her Recycling Center's swap shed and ordering from mail catalogs. She has even received them from people that know of her special interest.

As you walked through the various display rooms of the church, you could see nativities that hailed from the U.S. as well as other countries.

One nativity scene that has returned to "Nativities From

See NATIVITIES, page 6

## Hubbardston

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### Hubbardston Light Fight continues

Dec. 13, 14 and 15 and Dec. 20, 21 and 22 from 5-9 p.m. people may grab a map and travel around town looking at those who entered the holiday decorating contest. Categories are traditional-classic, go big or stay home and brightest bulb (business category). For more information, people may email [hubbardston250@gmail.com](mailto:hubbardston250@gmail.com).

### MOD Grant

The town of Hubbardston has been awarded a \$41,515 grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability to fund a comprehensive ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. This initiative will ensure that our public buildings, recreational spaces, sidewalks, and services are accessible to all residents and visitors. Updating their 18-year-old accessibility plan is a crucial step toward identifying and addressing barriers town-wide. It also opens the door to future grants that can help us enhance Hubbardston's infrastructure and build a more inclusive community. Residents with experience or interest in accessibility are encouraged to get involved. Their input is valuable to this effort.

### Internet discussion

People are invited to pop-up and charrette events on gaining access to better Internet in Hubbardston on Monday, Dec. 16. Pop up times include from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Senior Center, 7 Main St.; from 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St. and Charette from 6:30-8 pm. In the Senior Center, 7 Main St. Together, let's explore ways to make digital resources accessible to all.

### Senior Center

The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., events include: Bingo from 12:30-3 p.m. on Mondays; Knitting Group at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and WiiBowling beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. Eggs may be picked up on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Senior Center. Cribbage is played on Thursdays from 1:30-3 p.m. Pitch is played the first and third Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Art group meets every Friday at 9 a.m.

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

MONDAY – Chicken Picatta, rice pilaf, winter mix vegetables, Lorna Doones, pumpernickel bread

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

WEDNESDAY – Holiday meal, stuffed chicken, mashed potatoes, herbed carrots, dessert to be announced, dinner roll

THURSDAY – Marinated pork loin, herbed potatoes, roasted Brussels sprouts, fruited ambrosia, whole wheat bread

FRIDAY – Ham salad sandwich, pasta salad, three bean salad, fresh fruit, pita 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.

## Library story time to be held on Dec. 16

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, is offering a Story Time program for preschoolers on Monday, Dec. 16 beginning at 9 a.m. The program's focus is on Christmas and will include a sing-along program with Rich Hennessy and his ukulele. The readings will include "Bear Stays up for Christmas" by Karma Wilson and "Mouse's First Christmas" by Lauren Thompson.

Parental supervision is required for this reading and craft program. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business hours for more information.

## Food Pantry holds distribution Dec. 19

BARRE – The Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, Dec. 19 from 5:30-7 p.m.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Dec. 19 will again be "drive-through" style distribution. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St.

They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations. People should not arrive to volunteer on Dec. 19 without first calling Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

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

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# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE

QRSD Student Services Subcommittee – Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m.  
 QRSD Committee – Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Select Board – Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. and Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
 Finance Committee – Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.  
 Special Town Meeting – Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.  
 Felton Field Commission – Jan. 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Jan. 8, 2025 and Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.  
 Barre Housing Authority – Jan. 9, 2025 at 1 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Jan. 13, 2025 at 5 p.m.  
 Water Commission – Jan. 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.  
 DPW Commission – Jan. 13, 2025 at 7 p.m.

### HARDWICK

Master Plan Steering Committee – Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 12 at 6:45 p.m.  
 Paige Memorial Library – Dec. 12 and Jan. 2, 2025 at 7 p.m.  
 Capital Planning Committee – Dec. 16 at 3 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Water District – Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Recycling Commission – Jan. 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Feb. 5, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Open Space Committee – Dec. 12 at 6 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Fire/Highway/Building Committee – Dec. 12 at 4 p.m.  
 By Law Committee – Dec. 16 at 2 p.m.  
 Parks and Rec – Dec. 16 at 5 p.m.  
 School Committee Policy Subcommittee – Dec. 16 at 5 p.m.  
 Capital Improvement Planning Committee – Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.  
 School Committee – Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Selectmen – Dec. 17 and Dec. 30 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Library Trustees – Dec. 12 at 5 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Dec. 13 at noon  
 Planning Board – Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.  
 Select Board – Dec. 23 and Jan. 6, 2025 at 6 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Advisory Finance Committee – Dec. 12 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Dec. 13 at 9 a.m.  
 Select Board – Dec. 19 and Jan. 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.  
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – Jan. 7, 2025 at 6 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Jan. 7, 2025 at 7 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Jan. 13, 2025 at 10 a.m.

### RUTLAND

By Law Committee – Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.  
 Select Board Public Hearing – Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.

## Worcester County Sheriff's Office receives award



Submitted photo

Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis, from left, Abigail Rotti (S.T.O.P. Director), and Crystal Torres (S.T.O.P. Assistant Director) accept an award from Mass Sheriff Association President, Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi.

**WEST BOLYSTON** — The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association proudly celebrated the outstanding achievements and unwavering commitment of law enforcement and corrections professionals at the 2024 Law Enforcement & Corrections Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

The event, held at The Great Hall in the Massachusetts State House, honored recipients in 10 award categories for their exceptional dedication and service. The Worcester County Sheriff's Office Substance Opportunity Treatment Program was awarded the title of Program of the Year by the Massachusetts Sheriff Association.

S.T.O.P. was recognized for its innovative, evidence-based approach to treating substance use disorder, offering personalized care, therapeutic activities,

and comprehensive re-entry support that has significantly reduced recidivism rates among participants. Those accepted into S.T.O.P. are removed from the general population for the three or six-month duration of the program. They are placed in the state-of-the-art stand-alone rehabilitation unit and treatment clinic twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This separation eliminates the external pressures of being in the general population for those struggling to achieve sobriety.

The multi-departmental effort works to address the root causes of addiction and co-occurring disorders while also setting individuals up for success beyond sobriety. The program is coupled with specialized classes and vocational opportunities, only seen in a select few correctional facilities in the county.

"The Worcester County Sheriff's Office has created

a model approach for dealing with substance use disorder in a correctional setting," commented Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. "We have presented on S.T.O.P. at national Sheriffs and Human Services conferences. Industry professionals are impressed with the level of care and services offered to those in S.T.O.P. The staff of the program works hard to make this program successful. Being recognized at the state's capitol building is a well-deserved honor."

Sheriff Evangelidis represents the largest county by area in Massachusetts. Since 2011, he has adopted a policy emphasizing the importance of drug and alcohol rehabilitation while also maintaining a tough stance on crime. This approach has enabled WCSO staff to tackle the issue of substance abuse comprehensively while ensuring the safety and security of Massachusetts residents.

## Oakham

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 edowner@turley.com



### Pen pal letters available Dec. 19

The next senior pen pal letters will be ready for pickup on Thursday, Dec. 19 inside the lower level of the Fobes Memorial Library, Maple Street. Seniors should return their cards and letters in one envelope by Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025 at the box provided in the library.

### Yoga

Yoga is starting again in January in the Senior Center at Town Hall running from Tuesday, Jan. 7 through Tuesday, March 4 at 12:30 p.m. There will be no Yoga on Tuesday, Feb. 18 as that is School Vacation week and grandparents may not be available. The cost is \$40 for the eight classes. Sign up is required either at the Senior Center (sign ups are on the bulletin board) or via email to COA@Oakham-Ma.gov or by calling 508-882-4073. Payment is required in advance or on the first day of class. Checks should be made out to the Town of Oakham.

### Blood glucose screening

There has been a change in the scheduled Blood Glucose Screening in January. The date for January only is Tuesday, Jan. 21 from 11.15 a.m.-12.30 p.m. The Blood Glucose Screening in December has been cancelled.

### Sunday School Christmas pageant

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold their annual Christmas pageant on Sunday, Dec. 15 during the 10 a.m. worship service. This Sunday, Dec. 8 children will be assigned pageant parts. There will be no Sunday School Dec. 22, 29 and Jan. 5. Sunday School will resume Sunday, Jan. 12.

### Festivals of Lessons and Carols

On Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold their annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. A choir and community choir accompanied by a community orchestra will perform "Glory in the Highest" by Marty Parks. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

### COA events

The following are the Senior Center activities for December: podiatry from 9 a.m.-2.30 p.m. (call for appointment) and fourth Tuesday of the month blood pressure/glucose testing from 11 a.m.-noon. At the Rutland Senior Center activities are Wednesday Zumba Gold at 9 a.m. \$2 donation per class, Wednesday Zumba Gold at 9 a.m. in the Rutland; second Thursday of the month blood pressure at 11 a.m. and third Thursday of the month SHINE from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. reservations are required. At the New Braintree Town Hall on Fridays, Functional Fitness takes place at 10.30 a.m., \$2 donation per class. Lunch Bunch, a group lunch at a local restaurant, will meet on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 12:30 p.m. for December only. Sign up is required. Sign up sheets are in the main room of the Oakham Senior

Center. Lunch Bunch for December will be at Barber's Crossing. People should bring cash to make settling their bill easier as the restaurant will not issue individual bills. For sign ups that can't be made at the Senior Center or for required reservations or for more information on offerings, people may call the Senior Center 508-882-4073 and leave a message or email COA@Oakham-MA.gov. The COA is interested in starting a yoga class with eight sessions after the new year. People should all the Senior Center if they are interested, leave their phone number or email at COA@Oakham-MA.gov and the COA will notify them when they have cost and schedule details. 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 508-882-407

## No. 4 Schoolhouse to hold Christmas party

**BARRE** — The No. 4 Schoolhouse, 209 Farrington Road, will hold their annual Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m.

The festivities begin at 3 p.m. with an outdoor family craft, weather permitting. At 3:30 p.m., they will go inside to sing Christmas carols. At 4 p.m.

Santa will arrive.

All are welcome to this event. An RSVP must be received for all children 12 years and under to ensure the elves pack Santa's sack with a gift for every child 12 years old and younger. Reservations must be received by Tuesday, Dec. 10 by emailing no4school-

house@gmail.com or text Allison at 508-523-5850. They should include the child's name and age.

People are welcome to bring a snack to share. The No. 4 Schoolhouse group will be selling winter raffle tickets at this event. The raffle drawing will be held Dec. 17.

## Wings of Song presents 'Peace and Joy' Dec. 14-15

**STURBRIDGE** — Wings of Song, a 45-voice community chorus, will perform "Peace and Joy" on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Anne's Church, 16 Church St., Fiskdale and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. at Evangelical Covenant Church, 24 Child Hill Road, Woodstock, Connecticut.

"Peace and Joy" features pieces from the familiar Handel's Hallelujah Chorus to the original 1818 version of Silent Night that few will know. Composers as modern as Arvo Pärt, 1990 and Marc-Antoine Charpentier, about 1690.

As Director Nym Cooke said, "This music plunges deep and soars high! This will be a very special concert. I think — on the one hand, meditative, centering, and relaxing; on the other hand, uplifting, inspiring, and energizing. Just the right medicine for these times."

There is no admission charged for the concerts. A freewill offering will be collected at intermission. Both venues are handicapped accessible and complimentary refreshments will be provided by the chorus members after the concerts.

Concertgoers are encouraged to arrive early to be sure of seating.

### SUBMISSIONS ALWAYS WELCOME

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www.turley.com

## Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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**KENO**



# Opinion

## Guest Column



### Was your IRMAA article incorrect?

Dear Rusty:  
In a recent article about Medicare's "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount" and how IRMAA affects Social Security taxes, you described which income gets included in the IRMAA calculation. You said it is "your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you receive." That 50% number might be true in some cases, but I think a more accurate, general answer is that "your taxable SS benefit is what gets added to IRMAA." For example, we have enough income every year that we are always taxed at 85% of our SS benefit, so 85% of our SS values get added to our IRMAA. The way your answer reads, a reader of the article might think everyone has 50% of their SS benefit added to IRMAA.

Signed: IRMAA Victim

Dear IRMAA Victim:

I think you may have confused two terms I used when describing Medicare's "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount" or "IRMAA." I also used the term "MAGI" (Modified Adjusted Gross Income), and it's important to distinguish between those two terms.

MAGI is what determines if the IRMAA provision applies, and IRMAA will affect how much your Medicare premium is. But MAGI is also used for another purpose - to see if your SS benefits are taxable. Your MAGI consists of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from your income tax return, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year.

IRMAA is a factor which will increase your monthly Medicare premium if your MAGI is over certain thresholds for your tax filing status. MAGI is used to determine if a higher Medicare premium applies, and it is also used to see if your SS benefits are subject to income tax.

Your MAGI does, indeed, always use only 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year (not 85% in some cases). That's because the SS contributions included in MAGI relate to SS contributions your employer paid on your behalf. Only half of your received SS benefits are used to determine MAGI because that's the amount of your SS benefits attributable to your employer's contributions. Said another way, the SS payroll tax you personally paid while working was from your taxable income, so it is not included in MAGI. But the amount your employer contributed was not taxable by the IRS and, thus, is included in MAGI. So, it's the portion of your SS benefits attributable to your employer which is included in MAGI. Thus, the terminology that MAGI is "your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year" is correct. MAGI is what determines how much of your SS benefits are taxable, but your MAGI also determines if IRMAA applies to your Medicare premiums.

Your benefits are taxable if, as a married couple filing jointly, your total MAGI exceeds \$32,000. If your MAGI is over the first threshold but less than the 2nd threshold (\$44,000 for married filers) then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year are included as part of your income taxable by the IRS. But if your MAGI goes over the 2nd threshold (\$44,000 for married filers) then up to 85% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year will be included as part of your income taxable by the IRS.

In short, MAGI determines how much of your income is subject to taxation. But MAGI is also used to determine if IRMAA applies. And how much your MAGI exceeds the separate IRMAA thresholds determines what your Medicare premium will be.

So, the article correctly states that IRMAA only counts 50% of the SS benefits received because that is what is included in MAGI (which is what determines if IRMAA applies). But the amount of SS which may be taxable income by the IRS could be up to 85% of benefits received during the tax year if your MAGI is high enough.

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DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## In Past Pages

5 years (Dec. 19, 2019)

Town administrator Andrew Golas tendered his resignation to the Barre Board of Selectmen at the Monday night meeting during an executive session. His resignation was effective Feb. 2, 2020. He accepted a position as Town Administrator for the town of Chariton and will start Feb. 3.

The Barre Fire Department received a \$5,915 Firefighter Turnout Gear Grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Services. The Barre Fire Department will be able to purchase 35 hoods and 35 sets of gloves for personal protection during firefighting operations. "This gear will protect our firefighters from the immediate risks associated with fighting fires in dangerous environments and just as importantly, protect them from the delayed risk of occupational cancers caused by exposure to the toxic chemicals produced during fires," said Chief Rob Rogowski.

Dr. Richard Allan, Chair of the Policy Review/Reform Subcommittee said at last week's Quabbin Regional School District Committee meeting the new alternate learning program at the Quabbin Regional High School "shows promise." The high school offers this program to special education students and dropouts, who are lagging behind to come back to school. Dr. Allan said the program has a special education and subject matter teachers. He said the district received feedback from the participating students included "teachers really care" and [they get] "more help than usual."

10 years (Dec. 18, 2014)

Laura Dusha started collecting Department 56 Dicken's Village about 20 years ago. She now has about 60 pieces. She referred to her hobby as "addictive," but she has not purchased any new pieces in several years. Her interest began when she lived in Vermont and had a neighbor that collected Department 56 New England series of lighted villages. She enjoyed seeing her neighbor's village and a few years later began collecting the Dicken's Village series. Her collection was a combination of gifts and purchases. She worked for a resort in Vermont and for five or six years set up the village in the lobby area to share with staff and guests. Victoria Station is one of her favorite pieces because it is so "majestic."

The Barre Board of Selectmen continued a pole petition to their Monday night meeting as no representative from National Grid attended the initial hearing. The hearing was for the installation of a guy pole on Old Petersham Road. Rick Nalewski if National Grid said the present guy pole wire was anchored in a dead tree. The proposed guy pole would be installed across the road

## LOOK BACK

### Look Back - Valentine Collection - 1993



Hubbardston correspondent Jane McCauley is shown with her Valentine collection.

from the tree anchor. Selectmen unanimously approved the pole petition.

Superintendent Maureen Marshall told the Quabbin Regional School District Committee last Thursday the state might cut Chapter 71 transportation reimbursement to regional school districts. Quabbin could lose about \$300,000 in revenue. She explained that there was legislation dating from 2010 that if Chapter 71 (transportation aid to regional districts) is cut, the state must also cut Chapter 70 reimbursement. She said that is not the case and regional school districts are of a mind to "sue" the legislature. She told the committee she would keep them posted on this matter.

25 years (Dec. 16, 1999)

Three women have taken out nomination papers for the Barre Treasurer position, but the present Treasurer is not one of them. Town Clerk Ellen Glidden said Treasurer Sandra Orszulak had taken out nomination papers, but withdrew them. Those who took out nomination papers were Christine Eck, who ran three years ago against Orszulak; Gerri-Ann Whigham and Rebecca Tuttle, wife of State Representative David Tuttle. Candidates have until Jan. 10, 2000 at 5 p.m. to return nomination papers to the Town Clerk.

Students in the Class of 2003 at Quabbin Regional High School have good reason to feel proud of their showing on the spring 1999 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System tests. Grade

eight tied for 30th on the list of the best performing districts, combining students scaled scores in English, math and science. These students, the current ninth graders, will be the first class that must pass the MCAS in English and mathematics in order to receive a high school diploma. The MCAS tests are scored on a scale of 200 to 280 points. The following categories describe performance levels: 200-219 Failing, 220-239 Needs Improvement, 240-259 proficient and 260 -280 Advanced.

Donald Raffier, Director of Administrative Services for the Quabbin Regional School District, has announced his decision to retire Oct. 1, 2000. At the Quabbin Regional School District Committee meeting on Dec. 2, Fran Gromelski of the Central Office Subcommittee, said the position was posted "in house" and two candidates for the job will be interviewed on Dec. 16. Gromelski said it would be helpful to have the new person work with Raffier before he retires.

38 years (Dec. 18, 1986)

The Nativity scene may appear once again on the bandstand in Barre Common this year, thanks to the efforts of Barre resident, Dorothy Whippee. The town-owned scene appeared from many years during the holiday season and was stored and maintained by the Barre Pars ad Recreation Department. Winter elements and vandalism took their toll on the display and, as a result, it has not

See PAST PAGES, page 6

### Election letters to the editor welcome

The Barre Gazette welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the Barre Gazette care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

#### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in the Barre Gazette.

## Guest Column



### Kissing balls for a new porch

It's really funny that sometimes I have to consult my own columns to remember how to do something.

You see, now that the front porch is done, there is a new area to decorate, an area well-suited for kissing balls! My daughter and I were at the local garden center and there were so many beauties for sale.

Of course it would break my budget to buy one to go in the middle of each pair of columns, so it looks like I'll be making them myself.

The first thing you will need is a styrofoam ball. One that is six inches in diameter would make a good size kissing ball.

Then gather a coat hanger and some wire cutters. Snip away the hook and straighten out the rest. Insert it through the middle of the ball and bend one end as a hanger.

About 18 inches will be showing; it will look better if you choose a gold colored hanger. If not, you can always cover it later.

Getting the piece of wire into the dead center can be difficult, so use a long wooden pick to pre-make the hole. After that insertion will be easy.

Having a selection of greens on hand will make a pretty kissing ball. Scavenge the landscape for holly, yew, white pine, juniper and the like. Now it is time to insert clumps of greenery into the ball.

Styrofoam is very durable - great for holding all of these stems, but much more difficult to work with than floral foam. For that reason, all but the most rigid stems need to be put on wooden picks before they can be stuck into the ball.

Make small bunches of greenery about four inches long, holding their stems next to the pick and wrapping the attached wire to it. One by one insert these bunches into the styrofoam.

It is best to work randomly around the ball - setting the dimensions if you will, rather than starting in one place and working out. Being that it is round, it will be hard to put it down while working on it.

After a while you'll get into the swing of things by wiring a few bunches of greens, putting them in, wiring a few more and so forth. Finally, give it a good look. Is it a nice, round shape? Is there any foam showing? Where could it use a few berries?

Rose hips or winterberry, or even artificial berries will surely brighten it up, as will strands of ribbon wired to a wooden pick and inserted into the



See GARDEN, page 6

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### BARRE GAZETTE TEAM



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# Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

That was quite the storm we had Thursday night. My neighbor plowed us out before he went to work and after he came home as it snowed a little during the day also. The house is decorated as much as it will be for the holidays. My helper put up the Christmas green sprays by the front door and I picked some more holly. The holly had a lot of berries on it this year.

I did a little shoveling where the front deck is and the path to the oil tank pipe. I also made a path from the cellar door. My son in law was kind enough to get three buckets of sand to fill the sand boxes along the driveway and to get our mail.

The rubbish was picked up on Thursday, but I was unable to get it to the road. I called the rubbish company and they agreed to pick it up this Thursday. Our problem is the driveway is very narrow and I could not put the rubbish barrel there when the snow plow had to come up the driveway. They agreed to let me put the barrels across the road next to our mail box as long as they are three feet apart.

I have been working with the sewing machine making some Christmas gifts. Also, I made four meals with the oven chicken I bought last week. I used it as a stuffed roast the first day, chicken salad the second day, chicken chow mien the second day and chicken soup for two days. I cooked the bones and skin and made the broth for the soup and added carrots, celery, peas and noodles. With the cost of groceries today, you have to make things go further.

The only thing that went wrong was my stuffing was too salty. Did you know if you stuff the chicken or turkey it is called stuffing and if you cook it separately it is called dressing? I actually did both as all the stuffing would not fit in the bird so I put some in a casserole.

The small artificial Christmas tree is up and I was only able to put half of the decorations on it. I did write my Christmas letter and have most of the cards addressed. I also enclose a family photo in

some cards.

I love receiving Christmas letters and I know some people don't like it. As of today, I have received two cards and a package. Of course I opened the package. I am like a child who can't stand to be surprised. I got a book from my dear friend Nancy from New Hampshire. It looks like it will be good reading this winter.

Most people are starting to make Christmas cookies so here is a recipe that sounds easy for Sugar Cookies.

### SAM'S FAVORITE SUGAR COOKIE RECIPE

- 3/4 cup softened butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix wet ingredients thoroughly. Sift dry ingredients together; mix thoroughly into wet ingredients. Chill dough at least one hour. Roll out 1/8 inch thick; cut into desired shapes. Place on ungreased cookie sheets; sprinkle with sugar, if desired you can use colored sugar. Bake 6 to 8 minutes. Makes about 4 dozen (3 inch) cookies.

Note: This is where I use my Christmas cookie cutters.

### This and That

How is the Christmas shopping coming along? I was disappointed that I could not attend the fairs on Saturday, but I cannot leave Ken alone. I hope they had a good attendance. I did send down a few bags of crafts to the seniors for their fair.

I made a banana cream pie for a special treat this week. I hope to make an apple cake with cream cheese frosting for this week.

Each day I make a list of things I need to do. Most of the time the list does get crossed off.

Have a good week and stay stress free.

## NORTH BROOKFIELD, continued from page 1

istration and project management."

Ferguson said each town is given a "community needs score" by the commonwealth, which helps direct funds to the communities most in need of assistance.

"The higher your needs score, the more competitive you are," he said.

Ferguson said the town's needs score was seven out of 10 for the FY 21 grant cycle, but has since been adjusted. He said the town's score remains competitive for funding.

The FY 21 CDBG cycle funded infrastructure and water system improvements for Mount Pleasant Street. This project was identified through the town's West Side Neighborhood Improvement plan which was funded by the FY 19 CDBG cycle.

"This was awarded about towards the near end of COVID," he said. "Design took a little bit longer than we anticipated and there was some staff turnover at CMRPC before I joined about a year ago, that probably also led to some delays on getting this project designed and out to bid."

Ferguson said the project is mainly focused on the water main and associated service lines, stormwater drainage, sidewalks and roadway. He said the final design was presented to the Board of Selectmen in September 2023 and a contractor was procured in June 2024 for the first phase of construction.

Ferguson said progress meetings about the project have been held throughout the process and another is planned for Dec. 17. He said phase one work, while delayed, is expected to be "substantially completed" by the end of the month.

He recommended the board extend the FY 21 grant performance period to June 30, 2025, to ensure phase one is completed. He said the town will not incur any additional costs for this extension and the project remains "considerably under budget."

Ferguson said phase two of the project will be funded under the FY 24 CDBG cycle and involves the installation of the stormwater drainage system, full depth roadway reconstruction, sidewalk improvements and curbing replacements.

"We anticipate that we can go out to phase two

construction bid in early spring 2025," he said.

Ferguson thanked the Mount Pleasant Street neighborhood residents for their patience during the construction progress, as well as the town's officials and departments.

### New hires

The board appointed Brent Lavoie to a full-time position on the Police Department. Lavoie said he sponsored himself through the Quinsigamond Community College's full-time academy last fall and graduated this past May.

"I'm very excited to start my career in North Brookfield," he said.

John Mitchell Sr. was appointed as a full-time employee on the Highway Department. Mitchell said he grew up in the North Brookfield and his family has many ties to the town.

"I've got some strong roots in North Brookfield," he said. "I'm looking forward to contributing all my knowledge...I've got a lot of experience."

Mitchell has also operated his own tree service, which is now run by his son.

### ARPA request

The board received American Rescue Plan Act spending recommendations from the ARPA Committee in the amount of \$2,400 to cover the cost of labor for the Haston Free Public Library's replacement of the lower level emergency exit.

This expense does not include the cost of materials for the project. Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the cost of the door and hardware only is \$3,490.

The board approved this recommendation. After this expense, the remaining ARPA balance is \$6,873. Administrative Assistant Ashley Barre said. Town Administrator Michael Szlosek said about \$3,000 of that balance will be appropriated to cover the cost of tree work.

### Appointment

The board appointed Andrew Wiewel to serve on the Conservation Commission.

### Spending request

The board approved a spending request from the Highway Department in the amount of \$424 to purchase tires for the town's sidewalk snow removal machine.



By Ellenor Downer

### Snowy owl



Snowy owls have already been spotted in Massachusetts this year.

They come from the tundra area of Canada into the United States during the winter. Usually, the snowy owls that head to this area are immature. This irruptive behavior may or may not be coordinated with the lemming cycle, one of their primary foods especially during their breeding cycle.

The snowy owl is about 24 inches long and primarily white, yellow eyes and variable amounts of black spots and barring. Immatures are darker than adults and females darker than males.

Snowy owls frequently hunt during the day. Their diet is mainly rodents, Arctic and snowshoe hares, fish, birds including waterfowl and carrion.

They nest on the tundra in a shallow depression on a mound on top or on a gravel mound. They line the nest with feathers and bits of moss. The female lays three to ten white eggs. When prey is abundant the clutch size is larger. They make barking noises during breeding, but are quiet in winter.

They inhabit the open tundra and when they move south, they inhabit airports, beaches, marshes and open fields.

Many years ago, a snowy owl appeared in

Oakham during the winter. I was lucky to see it perched on a fence post near an open field in the daytime. People came from all over to see this rare visitor. Logan Airport is a popular winter stop over.

### Bald eagle sighting

On Dec. 2 I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "I've been checking the local ponds but not a lot happening. However, I have seen a bald eagle or two at the pond on New Reed Street four time in the last two weeks and another birder I met there reported seeing eagles there that I missed. On one visit two adult bald eagles were sitting in the same dead tree about fifteen feet apart."

### Christmas Bird Count

He plans to participate in the Allen's Bird Count Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 14. National Audubon Society 125th Christmas Bird Counts take place Saturday, Dec. 14 through Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025. This is one of the most popular birding events of the year. It is rarely held on the actual designated holiday itself, counts are scheduled to take place on various days surrounding Dec. 25 within the official count period noted above. Counting takes place anytime during the 24 hours, midnight-to-midnight.

The goal is to find, identify and count all birds within a 15-mile diameter "count circle." All

are welcome. Compilers do their best to make sure that beginners join a group with at least one experienced birder. Locations in late December include: Quabbin on Saturday, Dec. 28 compiler Scott Sumner at ssumner@aol.com and Westminster on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025 compiler Charles Caron at 978-874-5649 or caronev@aol.com.

People may visit <https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count> to read about CBC history, science and data.

### Juncos and snow

The Brimfield resident noted a large flock of juncos about 40 the day before the Dec. 5 snow storm. He said, "Storms a commin' I looked out near where the feeding stations are located and where I spread mixed seed on the ground and a quick count resulted in 40 junco. And chickadees and titmice were constantly back and forth to the black oil sunflower seed feeder." I also saw a large flock of juncos on my daughter's lawn in Barre on that Wednesday.

### Pond visits

The Brimfield resident makes frequent trips to ponds in his area. He found most of them frozen over on Dec. 4. He did count 12 hooded mergansers at Holland Pond, a large group of mallards over 200 and three black ducks at Sherman Pond.

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](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

## Pioneer Valley Brass to perform Dec. 21

PETERSHAM – The Pioneer Valley Brass will present a free public concert of various holiday music specially arranged for brass quintet at the Orthodox Congregational Church in Petersham on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m.

The program is sponsored by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana as the 812th service funded by the Mason-Hale Trust. Services began around 1930 as the Church was forced to leave North Dana for the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir. Several descendants of the Parish have kept the Parish alive, with a small group meeting annually or as needed to conduct the business of the Parish.

Saturday's program will include "Carol of the Bells" arranged by Price; "Christmas Carol Festival" arranged by Nagel; "Gesu Bambino" arranged by Tandy; "Deck the Halls" arranged by Holcombe; "The Christmas Waltz" arranged by Corbin; "A Little Suite" arranged by Whettam; "When Santa Got Stuck up the Chimney" by Grafton; "Christmas Lullaby Variations" arranged by Coolidge; "Make it Christmas Eve Every Night of the Year" by Ellison; "Away in a Manger" arranged by Marchand; "Jingle Bell Rock" arranged by Slechta; "March

of the Kings and Une Juene Pucelle" arranged by Shackley/Tandy; "God Rest Ye Merry" arranged by Smith/Tandy and "It's Beginning to look a Lot Like Christmas" arranged by Wilson. The program is always subject to change.

The Pioneer Valley Brass was founded in the 1980's by Cedric and Jeri Bannister. Members today include Dick Tandy and Steve Babineau, trumpet; Tabitha Greenlees, horn; Susan Lemei, tuba and Dana Tandy, trombone.

The First Universalist Parish of North Dana will also sponsor the Pioneer Valley Brass performing on Sunday, Dec. 22 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Greenfield. Several services throughout the year are presented throughout the North Quabbin area as memorial tributes to the First Universalist Parish of North Dana. Contact Maureen Riendeau, Music Coordinator of the Parish for information on services.

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The Foyle family displayed their 100 year old plus nativity scene which was made in Germany in 1913.



The Foyle family's nativity has been restored by the talents of Linda Novac, Annette Perkins and Laura Dusty.



An art teacher painted Mary and baby Jesus on this rock when she was a child.



A rubber ducky nativity scene brought smiles to many faces.



A Precious Moments nativity was displayed.



An angel embraced Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.

**NATIVITIES, continued from page 2**

Around the World" year after year, is owned by Jim and Helen Foyle of North Brookfield.

Originating from Germany, this nativity is over 100 years old and has been restored through the efforts of Linda Novac, Annette Perkins and Laura Dusty. This 20-piece set was made in 1913 for the Bernardini Statuary Co. in New York and once was displayed at the Haston Free Public Library before

the Foyle family purchased it through a town-wide asset auction.

One nativity was crafted close to home by a young child who painted Mary holding baby Jesus on a rock. That child (now grown) has gone on to become an art teacher.

As people viewed the nativities, they expressed their appreciation for the display and noted it's significance to the holiday season.

"This is what Christmas is all about," one visitor said.



This ceramic nativity scene came from Thailand.



Figures wore traditional clothing in this Hungarian nativity



Many of the nativities made use of natural materials, including tree bark



Gail Ann Anderson displayed a scene featuring a pregnant Mary being led on a donkey by Joseph.



The nativity is seen lit inside an ornament shape.

**HUBBARDSTON, continued from page 1**

electronic spreaders and they were recalibrated yearly. He also has a meteorologist he can call to get one on one weather information. The town has been using segmented plows and they do a better job scraping.

The DPW Director also had a winter awareness flyer for residents, which included bylaws about plowing on roads and not leaving trash bins out during snow storms.

**ADA Grant**

Town Administrator Nathan Boudreau said the town received a \$41,515 Massachusetts Office

of Disability grant to look at American Disability Act compliance at the newly purchased property at 48 Gardner Street and possibly at the Hubbardston Public Library. The Select Board voted to accept the grant. The Town Administrator said Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission helped the town secure this grant. Hubbardston is part of Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, but it can seek help from other planning commissions.

**Town Administrator**

He said he attended Council on Aging meetings. He commended their decorating for the holidays.

He said he would have the Capital Planning available next week for the Board. He was also working on the Civic plus project on the web site.

He said the easement agreement with National Grid should be completed soon to get three phase electricity into the Hubbardston Public Library.

The Williamsville Road Bridge work would begin in April 2025. The \$5 million project will take a full year to complete. Williamsville Road will be shut down for one year.

There has been some painting at 48 Gardner Road and the upstairs rugs are scheduled to be cleaned next week.

**PAST PAGES, continued from page 4**

appeared in the common for several years. It was stored in the Henry Woods Building until Whippee received permission to revive the set. The Barre Selectmen gave Whippee permission to restore the town-owned figurines at their regular meeting Dec. 15. Whippee hopes to have at least three of the figurines repainted and restored for

display.

Ruth Bealand of Oakham decided this years should be little different for the senior citizens of town. In addition to the usual Christmas dinner sponsored by the Oakham Council on Aging, she thought it would add to the festivities if everyone received a surprise gift. She stated soliciting from businesses near and far a few weeks ago. Over 60 individuals received two gifts. Santa Claus was on hand to help residents pick

their gifts.

Barre Selectman Earl Sample formally announced that a Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 12 in the Barre Town Hall at the Selectmen's regular meeting on Dec. 12. There are 20 articles on the warrant of which 19 deal with transfers of monies. The remaining article seeks approval to sell a parcel of land adjacent to Adam's Cemetery on South Street to William R. Robinson.

**GARDEN, continued from page 4**

bottom. Wired ribbon is a good choice since it has a little shape; less droopy so to speak.

It will be surprising just how much greenery it takes to make a kissing ball. When I am making wreaths or decorations of any sort I always continue harvesting even after I think I have enough, just as a bit of insurance. It's always bet-

ter to have extra than have to stop everything and go picking again.

One little factoid for cruise ship trivia: "Kissing bunches" in Old England were comprised of two intersecting circles of greens that were often decorated with fruit as well as figures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The "kissing" aspect came from the sprig of mistletoe that hung on the very bottom of the sphere - evoking the same response it does when

hung by itself today.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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**EARLY DEADLINE For All Advertising & CLASSIFIEDS**  
All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 19 at Noon for Publication Dec. 23 - 27  
All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 27 at Noon for Publication Dec. 30 - Jan. 3  
**Turley Publications, Inc.** www.turley.com  
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Santa Claus hears Penny's Christmas wish.



Quabbin Regional Middle/High School students performed in the marching band, including these percussionists with their Grinchy attire



Turley Photos by Paula Quimette

Members of the Barre Riding and Driving Club rode and drove their horses in the parade, led by Margo Petracone.

# Christmas in Barre



Staff from R.M.G. Services handed out candy to paradegoers.



Quabbin Regional High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps helped lead the parade.



Mrs. Claus greets a line of eager children.



Santa Claus is welcomed to the Tatman House by his elves.



Police Chief James Sabourin led the parade around the commo



Athol Savings Bank's staff donned their best elf apparel.



These two miniature horses were a merry addition to the parade



Scouts from Girl Scout Troop 65445 waved to paradegoers



Antlers can turn any horse into one of Santa's reindeer.



Visitors to Christmas in Barre were able to enjoy complimentary wagon rides, courtesy of the Barre Lions Club.



Scouts from Cub Scout Pack 26 joined in the parade fun.



Selectmen Maureen Marshall and John Dixon marched in the parade.



This horse was cleverly transformed into a gingerbread house.

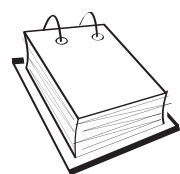


Girl Scout Troop 14935 marched in the parade.

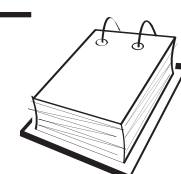


These young parade participants took their power wheels for a spin.





# Calendar of Events



## FRIDAY, DEC. 13

**SMALL WORKS AND HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE** by members of the Princeton Arts Society will be held today from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 14 and Sunday, Dec. 15 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Princeton Senior and Community Center, 206 Worcester Road, Princeton. The marketplace features fine, artisan made items such as jewelry, cards, prints, ornaments, fabric items, original books, bags, ceramics, woodworking and more. The Princeton Arts Society is a nonprofit organization promoting the arts in Central Massachusetts through programs, events and shows.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 14

A **LIVING NATIVITY** will be held today and Sunday, Dec. 15 with performances at 4 and 5:30 p.m. at Mesa Farm, 67 Muschopaug Road in Rutland. The forty minute shows will consist of carol singing and a narration and re-enactment of the nativity story in a barn with live animals. There will be no charge although attendees are requested to bring a plate of cookies to share. There will also be an opportunity to donate to the City to Saddle non-profit organization to support equestrian programs at Mesa Farm. Hot chocolate and coffee will be provided. All performances will have sign language interpretation. For more information, people may visit [www.mesafarm-rutland.com](http://www.mesafarm-rutland.com) or call 508-886-6898.

**REQUIEM FOR THE LIVING** will be performed by Circle of Song today at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre. "Requiem for the Living," a choral composition in five movements, was completed in 2013. "Requiem for the Living" is an extended setting of the Requiem, a Mass for the dead in the Catholic Church. In the Circle of Song performance of "Requiem for the Living," solos will be performed by Karen Guertin, Marna Mucha, Anne Kneeland, Nancy Afonso, Mark Doyle and Jennifer Williams. Under the direction of the COS pianist, Cailan McClure, "Aint a That Good News" and Ave Maria will also be sung. If people are interested in joining Circle of Song, they may email Julie Rawson, director, at [julie@mhof.net](mailto:julie@mhof.net), call 978-257-1192 or show up at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. To learn more about Circle of Song visit <https://circleofsong.net/>.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 15

**FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT** entitled "A Tinsel and Tunes Gala" by the Weir River Concert Band will be held today at 2 p.m. in the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

**FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** will be held at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham on Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. A choir and community choir accompanied by a com-



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

**Where is this?**  
This week's mystery photo is from Hardwick. 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. 16. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Evelyn Luukko and Cheryl Paul correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the Global War on Terror monument on North Common in Barre.

community orchestra will perform "Glory in the Highest" by Marty Parks. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

**NO. 4 SCHOOLHOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY** will take place today at 3 p.m. at No.4 Schoolhouse, 209 Farrington Road, Barre. The festivities begin at 3 p.m. with an outdoor family craft, weather permitting. At 3:30 p.m., they will go inside to sing Christmas carols. At 4 p.m. Santa will arrive.

All are welcome to this event. An RSVP must be received for all children 12 years and under to ensure the elves pack Santa's sack with a gift for every child 12 years old and younger. Reservations must be received by Tuesday, Dec. 10 by emailing [no4schoolhouse@gmail.com](mailto:no4schoolhouse@gmail.com) or text Allison at 508-523-5850. They should include the child's name and age. People are welcome to bring a snack to share.

The No. 4 Schoolhouse group will be selling winter raffle tickets at this event. The raffle drawing will be held Dec. 17.

**PIONEER VALLEY BRASS** will perform today at 4 p.m. in the Unitarian Universalist Church, 126 Central St., Winchendon. The First Universalist Parish of North Dana will sponsor a free program of traditional and modern holiday music arranged for brass quintet. The concert is part of a series of Vespers programs with musical services sponsored by the North Dana Parish since 1930 when the Parish had to leave North Dana for the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir. This is the 811th such program benefitting from a trust fund set up by sisters, Catherine Mason and Mary Hale to ensure that the Parish will not be forgotten. Descendants and friends of original Parish members meet annually in April to

oversee the Parish activity. The Pioneer Valley Brass was founded over forty years ago by Cedric and Jeri Bannister and has often performed these vespers services. Current members of the Brass include Dick Tandy and Steve Babineau on trumpet, Susan Lemei on tuba, Tabitha Greenlees on horn, and Dana Tandy on trumpet.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 19

The next Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on today 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 today will again be "drive-through" style distribution. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 20

**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. 21

**PIONEER VALLEY BRASS** will perform today at 4 p.m. in the Orthodox Congregational Church, North Main St., Petersham. On Sunday, Dec. 22 they will perform at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Greenfield. Maureen Riendeau is the Music Coordinator for the First Universalist Parish of North Dana.

## Calendar Policy

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

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## Emergency Department recognizes Pathfinder Tech students for mural

**PALMER** – There is a new mural greeting pediatric patients and their families in the Emergency Department at Baystate Wing Hospital.

It is a creation and gift from eight art students from Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School. The mural, which took the students three days to complete in the ED, was developed in phases over the past few months while working under the creative leadership of Darlene Henshaw, the studio art teacher at Pathfinder Tech.

able for this learning experience," said Henshaw. "Following my meeting with the ED team, our students came together after school every Tuesday and Thursday to develop the concept, 'Landscape with Hidden Creatures,' sketch the images, then paint canvas panel prototypes to ensure that their visions would work on a much larger scale on the four walls of the room. I wanted their vision to come through, and I had faith in all of them. These eight students took the ball and ran with it."



Submitted Photos by Olivia Falcone

**Students spend three days painting the mural in the Baystate Wing Hospital Emergency Department.**

"The request from the pediatric care team in the ED first came to us in 2023 when our Pathfinder Tech Art Department was asked to create and paint murals on the walls of the treatment room dedicated to the care of pediatric patients," said Henshaw in a press release. "The planning and painting of the mural was finally completed this October, following a lengthy pandemic-related delay."

"Our students heard directly from the people working in the Emergency Department, which was very valu-

"Visiting the Emergency Department can be scary for children and parents alike," said Dr. James Munger, associate chief of emergency medicine and pediatric emergency care coordinator. "Families bringing a child to the Emergency Department often face a mix of emotions including anxiety, and uncertainty, coupled with the stress of navigating an unfamiliar environment. The bright colors and friendly animal characters help to lift the mood of children and parents in a tough situation. We are grateful to the Pathfinder Tech students and teachers for sharing their talents with us."

In addition to helping with supplies to paint the mural, a generous gift from the Baystate Health Foundation has also allowed the ED team to purchase items for a treasure box for children, so as they leave the ED, they can take home a prize from the BWH care team. The funds have also helped to purchase toys and games for children to use if they must wait for a procedure or test result.

"Life experiences are the best teachers – those three days painting the mural in the Emergency Department and the creative work,



# SPORTS

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## Panthers preparing for season opener

BARRE – Last Friday evening, the Quabbin Regional High School girls basketball team continued its preparation for the 2024-2025 season. The Panthers hosted Ware High School for a scrimmage. The Panthers also faced off with Palmer, another Western Mass. team earlier this week. Quabbin, which won the Central Mass. title game last year against Notre Dame Academy, open up the season at Narragansett on Friday, Dec. 13. Quabbin's home opener is Friday, Dec. 20 against Maynard.



Quabbin won the Central Mass. title last year.



The Quabbin Regional High School girls basketball team scrimmaged last Friday against Ware



Quabbin made it into the opening round of last year's state tournament.



The Panthers also had a scrimmage scheduled against Palmer this week.



The Panthers are preparing for their regular season opener against Narragansett.



## Pioneers set for new season

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder girls basketball started its preparation for the winter season. This week, the Pioneers face off with North Brookfield in scrimmage action. Pathfinder then opens up the regular season on Tuesday evening, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. at home against the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School.

Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Desiree Croteau fakes before passing inside.



Greenly Lagimoniere maneuvers the perimeter.



Morgan Clark follows a shot toward the hoop.



Addison Doktor goes for a layup.



Pathfinder girls basketball practices last Friday afternoon.

## Lawsuits lead to more compliance of scheduling rule

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

PALMER – If you go on the Arbiter Live website to look at your favorite team's schedule, you will notice the end of every season has anywhere from one to three "filler dates."

These filler dates were the subject of lawsuits filed by Minnechaug and Monson High Schools after their failure to comply with the rule resulted in forfeits being assigned to Monson,

Minnechaug, and Pathfinder for either Western Mass. or nonplay-off games played following the end of the regular seasons.

The forfeits were meaningful in terms of determining the schools' power ranking for the state tournament. Minnechaug and Monson were successful in securing a court injunction and did not take the forfeits. Pathfinder did not attempt to use legal means to reverse the forfeits, and the boys soccer team made the Western Mass. finals, which means they

won two games after the regular season that were changed to loss-forfeits for their MIAA ranking.

More than a dozen other schools including Northampton also were affected by the issue. Many other schools that did not have playoff teams, found themselves unaffected by the issue. But now, nearly every school as of this week had placed filler games at the end of their regular season.

Agawam High School Athletic Director Karen Gomez said filler dates were also placed on many

wrestling schedules to comply with the MIAA's rules on determining how many playable dates a team is having.

Though it is not strictly enforced as of yet, more enforcement of posting varsity rosters on the Arbiter site could be down the line.

"Rosters are supposed to be posted and updated," Gomez said. "They are used to determine rosters when it comes to the playoffs as well."

See SCHEDULING, page 12

## Ethan Ortyl to take helm of Pathfinder boys basketball

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Ethan Ortyl was hired as a history teacher at Pathfinder Tech prior to the start of the 2024-25 school year. He's also the first-year head coach of the Pioneers boys' varsity basketball team.

"I really wanted a teaching position where I could contribute to the culture of the school outside of the classroom," said Ortyl during a recent interview. "I really enjoy history, and basketball has always been one of my passions."

Ortyl graduated from South Hadley High School in 2019 and from UMass-Amherst in 2022. He

replaced Zac Button as a history teacher and the boys' varsity basketball coach at Pathfinder Tech.

Ortyl did his student teaching last year at Putnam Vocational Technical Academy in Springfield.

"It was part of the Teach 180 days in Springfield program, which was an awesome experience for me," he said. "There was another teacher in the classroom with me for the first few months of the school year. I taught my own class during the second half of the school year. I was nervous at first, but the kids at Putnam were great. I also had a very good mentor. After teaching at Putnam, I knew that I wanted to work at a vocation-

al school. I'm very thankful that the teaching and coaching position was open here at Pathfinder Tech. Everyone has been very helpful to me during the first few months of the school year."

Laura Asson is the head of the History Department at Pathfinder Tech.

"Laura has really helped me a lot so far this year," Ortyl added. "I teach a World History class to the freshmen and U.S. History to the sophomores. I also teach a History of War class to the juniors and seniors. I've really enjoyed teaching the three different history classes."

Another person who Ortyl is hoping to get some coaching

advice from is Kevin Aldrich, who's the Pathfinder girls' varsity hoop coach.

"Kevin has been coaching here for a very longtime and I'm looking forward to speaking with him during the course of the season," Ortyl said. "I want my players to support the girl's team at their games. I hope they come to our games."

Ortyl was a member of the indoor and outdoor track team at South Hadley High School. He attended all the other Tigers sporting events as a fan.

"I always used to sit in the front row of the bleachers and root for the South Hadley teams," he said. "My twin brother, Will, was a

member of the hockey, baseball, and golf teams."

Even though Ethan Ortyl never played baseball in high school, one of his favorite coaches is Matt Foley, who's been coaching the Tigers varsity baseball team for many years.

"I never played baseball for coach Foley, but I do have a ton of respect for him," Ortyl said. "I like how he runs his baseball program, and he really cares about his players. He also became a varsity coach at a very young age."

Two of Ortyl's favorite teachers at South Hadley High School are Tim Bault and Madeline Wendt.

While he was a student at UMass, Ortyl was a manager for

the Minutemen men's basketball team.

"I was a student manager for three years. Then I was the head manager for about eight months," Ortyl said. "My goal at that time was to work for a professional or college basketball team. Even though it was a lot of hours, it was a great experience for me. I had an opportunity to visit some places that I've never been to before. One of the best places that I visited was Dayton. They always sell out their home games before the start of the season."

During Ortyl's first couple of years as the manager, the

See ORTYL, page 12



# Sports

## Quabbin 2024-2025 winter varsity schedule

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 13	Away	Leicester	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Home	Clinton	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20	Away	Maynard	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 28	Away	Gardner Tournament	TBD
Monday, Dec. 30	Away	Gardner Tournament	TBD
Friday, Jan. 3	Home	Lunenburg	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Home	Tyngsborough	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 10	Home	Gardner	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 14	Away	Littleton	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 16	Home	Hudson	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Away	Clinton	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 24	Home	Maynard	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 28	Away	Tyngsborough	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31	Away	Lunenburg	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 3	Home	Leicester	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Away	Belchertown	5:15 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 7	Away	Hudson	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 11	Home	Littleton	7 p.m.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 13	Away	Narragansett	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 16	Away	Worcester Tech	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Away	Clinton	6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20	Home	Maynard	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 28	Away	Gardner Tournament	TBD
Monday, Dec. 30	Away	Gardner Tournament	TBD
Friday, Jan. 3	Away	Lunenburg	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Away	Tyngsborough	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 10	Home	Gardner	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 14	Home	Littleton	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 17	Away	Hudson	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Home	Clinton	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 24	Away	Maynard	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 28	Home	Tyngsborough	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31	Home	Lunenburg	6 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Away	Belchertown	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 7	Home	Hudson	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 11	Away	Littleton	6 p.m.

### INDOOR TRACK

Wednesday, Dec. 18	Away	Meet 1	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 8	Away	Meet 2	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 15	Away	Meet 3	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 22	Away	Meet 4	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29	Away	Meet 5	5 p.m.

### WRESTLING

Saturday, Dec. 14	Away	Saint John's	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Away	North Middlesex	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21	Away	Marshfield	10:30 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 27	Away	Phil Tomkiel Tournament	9 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 4	Away	Tri-County	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 8	Away	Nashoba	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 11	Home	Quabbin Duals	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 15	Away	Marlborough	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 18	Away	Duggan	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 22	Home	Shepherd Hill	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 25	Away	Concord-Carlisle	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29	Away	Leominster	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 1	Home	Quad-Meet	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Home	Algonquin	6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 8	Away	Triton	9 a.m.

## North Brookfield 2024-2025 winter varsity schedule

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 16	Away	South Lancaster	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Away	Immaculate Heart of Mary	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 3	Home	Bethany Christian	6 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 8	Home	Hampden Charter	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 13	Away	Murdock	5 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 16	Home	South Lancaster	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Away	Trivium	6 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 23	Away	Abby Kelley	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 24	Home	Sizer	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 27	Home	Immaculate Heart of Mary	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29	Home	Abby Kelley	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31	Away	Bethany Christian	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 3	Home	Monson	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Away	Sizer	6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 7	Away	Trivium	5:30 p.m.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 16	Away	Parker Charter	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Away	Bethany Christian	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 3	Home	Blackstone-Millville	4:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 6	Home	South Lancaster	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 8	Home	Immaculate Heart of Mary	4:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 13	Away	Murdock	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 16	Home	Immaculate Heart of Mary	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Away	Sizer	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 24	Home	Abby Kelley	5 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 27	Home	Trivium	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31	Away	Bethany Christian	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Away	South Lancaster	5 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 7	Away	Trivium	4 p.m.

## Pathfinder 2024-2025 winter varsity schedule

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 12	Home	Pioneer Valley Christian	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 16	Home	Mt. Everett	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 23	Home	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 30	Away	Gateway	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 2	Home	Palmer	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 6	Away	Smith Vocational	6 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 9	Home	Hampden Charter	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 14	Away	PVCIC	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 17	Away	St. Mary's	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Away	Pioneer Valley Christian	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 24	Home	Duggan	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 28	Away	Monson	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31	Home	Gateway	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Away	Smith Vocational	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Away	Hampden Charter	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 7	Home	PVCIC	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 11	Away	St. Mary's	6:30 p.m.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Dec. 17	Home	PVCIC	6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20	Away	Duggan	6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 27	Home	Smith Academy	6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 30	Home	Gateway	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 3	Home	Baystate Academy	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Home	St. Mary's	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 10	Away	Hampden Charter	6 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 13	Home	Sci-Tech	6 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 16	Away	Westfield Tech	6 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 20	Home	Duggan	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Away	McCann Tech	6 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 23	Away	Smith Academy	6 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 27	Away	Gateway	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29	Away	Mohawk	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 3	Away	St. Mary's	6 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 6	Home	Hampden Charter	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 7	Home	McCann Tech	5 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 10	Away	Sci-Tech	6 p.m.

### ICE HOCKEY (co-op with Amherst)

Tuesday, Dec. 17	Home	Greenfield	8:15 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 19	Home	Chicopee	8 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 23	Away	Longmeadow	10 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 27	Away	Minnechaug	2 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 2	Home	Agawam	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 4	Away	McCann Tech	6 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 7	Home	Ludlow	5:15 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 9	Home	Easthampton	6 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 15	Away	Taonic	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 22	Home	McCann Tech	5:15 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 23	Away	Westfield Tech	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29	Away	Easthampton	7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 1	Away	Southwick	6 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Away	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 10	Home	Southwick	8:20 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 11	Away	Agawam	8:40 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 13	Home	Taonic	8:20 p.m.

### WRESTLING

Saturday, Dec. 14	Away	Knight-Hawk Tournament	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Home	Smith Voke	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 27	Away	Monument Mountain	8 a.m.
Thursday, Jan. 2	Away	Frontier	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 8	Home	Belchertown	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 11	Away	Taonic Duals	9 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 15	Away	Mohawk	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29	Home	Gateway	7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 1	Away	Wayland Duals	10 a.m.

## T-Birds stay on track with big OT win

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-9-1-0) clawed back from 1-0 down after 40 minutes and emerged with a 2-1 overtime victory over the Rockford IceHogs (8-10-3-0) before a sold-out crowd of 6,793 on Saturday night at the MassMutual Center.

After the two clubs exchanged chances in the opening five minutes, the opening period brought very little in the way of offense against Springfield netminder Vadim Zherenko or Rockford goalie Mitchell Weeks.

The T-Birds were uncharacteristically sloppy in the defensive zone, and a pivotal turnover at 2:59 of the second period resulted in Rockford's opening goal as Cole Guttman picked off a loose puck in the middle of the zone and slipped a five-hole shot through Zherenko to make it 1-0 IceHogs. It marked the first time in eight games that the T-Birds allowed the first goal of a game.

Offense did not come easily for Springfield, as the home team was outshot 16-6 in the middle period. Zherenko was at his best, making a pair of other breakaway saves on Guttman among his 24 denials through 40 minutes of play.

Zherenko rose up to make a game-changing stop in the opening seconds of the third, as he stretched out with the left leg to stonewall Samuel Savoie on a breakaway bid to keep the score at 1-0.

Less than three minutes later, Tyler Tucker continued his torrid goal-scoring weekend, flipping a point shot over Weeks on the glove side, bringing about a Teddy Bear storm and equalizing the game, 1-1.

It appeared as if the Thunderbirds had taken the lead just a few moments later when a Michael Buchinger shot bounded high in the air and into the blue paint. Matthew Peca jabbed the loose puck across the goal line, seemingly making it a 2-1 Springfield lead. Despite being called a goal on the ice, the officials gathered and ultimately waved off the tally, and the 1-1 tie carried to the end of regulation.

The T-Birds rewarded their netminder in the extra session at 3:42 with their 19-year-old phenom stepping into the spotlight. After Aleksanteri Kaskimaki fed the puck through neutral ice to Dalibor Dvorsky, a 2-on-1 developed with Tucker joining the rush. Dvorsky patiently curled the puck to the middle of the ice around a sprawled defender before launching a perfect shot glove-side on Weeks to give Springfield its second overtime win in as many nights.

The rookie's team-leading 10th goal of the season also went down as his first overtime game-winner as a pro. Springfield has now won four straight games and is 8-1-1 in its last ten games, springboarding the team into third place in the Atlantic Division standings.

The T-Birds next embark on one of their longest road trips of the season, beginning with a Saturday contest in Wilkes-Barre against the Penguins on Dec. 14 at 6:05 p.m. at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza.

## Railers fall to Maine Mariners

WORCESTER — The Railers 4-3 loss to Maine Saturday night dropped their record at the DCU Center to 3-6-1 in 2024-25. That compares with a .500 mark on the road at 6-6-0.

There is no logic to it, nor is there any specific area or areas that Worcester needs to be better at.

"I don't think there is any one thing you can put on that," coach Bob Deraney said. "There is nothing that significant that says why we've been better on the road than at home."

Some of the Railers' home losses have been lopsided and interesting. This one was headed that way but turned out to have a thrilling, if disappointing, finish.

Worcester fell behind early, 2-0 and the Mariners eventually stretched that lead to 4-1. Then the Railers came alive late in the third period, scoring goals at 11:07 and 18:29, but could overcome the early deficit.

Griffin Loughran, Anthony Repaci and Anthony Callin had the Worcester goals. Owen Pederson, Justin Bean, Jimmy Lambert and Matthew Philip scored for the Mariners, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Callin was one of the Railers' best players last season. His goal late in the third period was a beauty, a high hard snap shot from the right circle with Worcester having an extra skater, and his first of the year.

"I think it's huge," Deraney said of that goal. "I know it's been weighing on him. He's been second-guessing himself, gripping the stick too tight, all those things that happen to a guy who cares so much and wants to contribute to the team."

Repaci scored shorthanded at 11:07 to make it 4-2. He converted a pass from Matt DeMelis. Repaci continues to have a memorable, and perhaps in the long run, unprecedented season. He was 1-1-2 Saturday night and is 16-8-24 in 22 games.

Repaci is up to 160 points in a Worcester uniform. He is tied with IceCats forward Marc Brown for third most in city history.

The Railers could not find any offensive traction until the game was almost over. Maine had the best of things by far, both in terms of time of possession and quality of scoring chances.

The first period was an omen of things to come. About three minutes after the puck drop the Railers incurred three consecutive icing calls in a span of 30 seconds. Then Pederson scored from 15 feet out at 7:37 into the period and Bean put one over Michael Bullion's glove at 9:23 to make it 2-0.

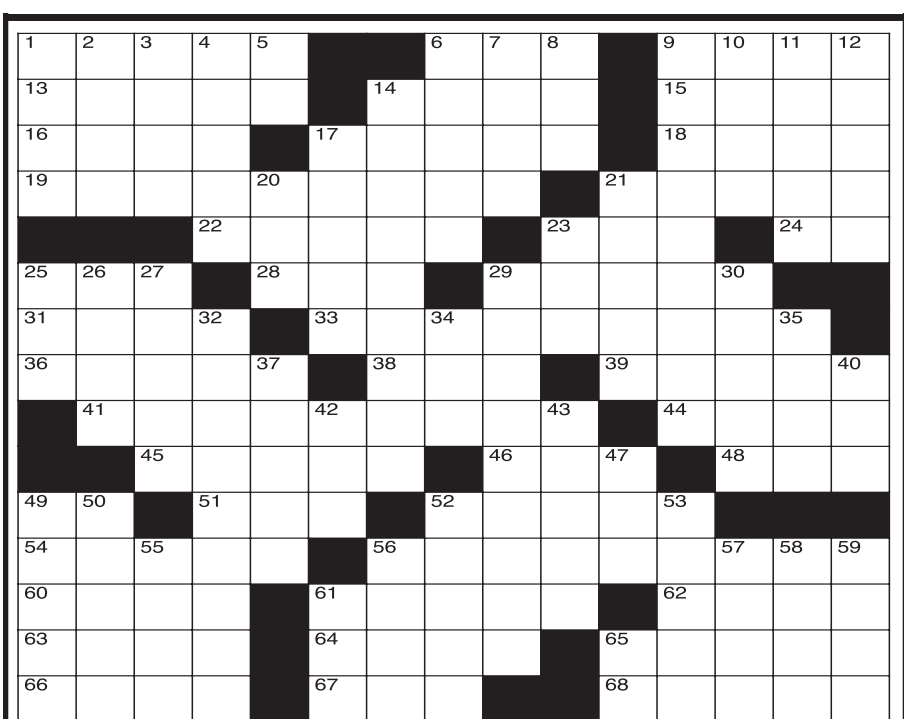
Loughran's goal was a thrilling one. Early in the first period he caused a turnover that turned into a breakaway, but he got in too deep and Maine goalie Ryan Bischel stopped him. This time he was set up by a great pass from Connor Welch and zoomed in at top speed. His wrist shot from between the circles was essentially unstoppable.

Lambert made it a 3-1 game at 6:39 of the third period, beating Bullion from the side of the net. Philip scored on a breakaway at 17:54.

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share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



### CLUES ACROSS

- |                                      |  |  |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Thou ___ do it                    | 39. Vehicle type                       | Rodgers target                             | Apple                                 |
| 6. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)         | 41. Disorders                          | 2. Wings                                   | 30. Mountain range                    |
| 9. Brainstem part                    | 44. One point east of southeast        | 3. Overly studious person                  | 32. Violate the sanctity of something |
| 13. Town in New York state           | 45. Indian soldier                     | 4. They protect your valuables             | 34. Supervises flying                 |
| 14. Little (Spanish)                 | 46. Tree type                          | 5. The Volunteer State                     | 35. Talks                             |
| 15. Continent                        | 48. Midway between south and southeast | 6. Non-hydraulic cement                    | 37. Persian male given name           |
| 16. Retch                            | 49. It cools your home                 | 7. Horse mackerel                          | 40. Born of                           |
| 17. Short-billed rails               | 51. Corn comes on it                   | 8. Jackson and Diddle                      | 42. Forcibly take one's possessions   |
| 18. Small period of time (abbr.)     | 52. Ship's deck                        | 9. are two                                 | 43. Discounts                         |
| 19. Confused                         | 54. A way to bake                      | 10. Mountain in NE Greece                  | 47. Knockouts                         |
| 21. A team needs one                 | 56. Improvised                         | 11. A daughter or your brother or sister   | 49. Push Colorado destination         |
| 22. Woman in ancient times           | 60. Butterfly genus                    | 12. German surname                         | 50. Form of therapy                   |
| 23. Republican Party                 | 61. Baseball fields have them          | 14. Having more than one husband at a time | 52. British rock band                 |
| 24. Spanish be                       | 62. Designated space                   | 17. Romanian city                          | 53. Type of virus (abbr.)             |
| 25. "The Godfather" character Johnny | 63. Discharge                          | 20. Energy                                 | 55. The U. of Miami mascot is one     |
| 28. Not around                       | 64. Two of something                   | 21. Makes less hot                         | 56. Volcanic crater                   |
| 29. City in Zambia                   | 65. Once more                          | 23. Gas diffusion electrode                | 57. Middle Eastern nation             |
| 33. Numb                             | 66. Part of your face                  | 25. Former CIA                             | 58. Sinn ___ Irish organization       |
| 36. Gurus                            | 67. Tax collector                      | 26. Set an example for others              | 59. Ethiopian lake                    |
| 38. Small, gray-headed               | 68. Cassia tree                        | 27. Support of a particular person         | 61. Bits per inch (abbr.)             |
|                                      |  | 29. One from the Big                       | 65. Equally                           |

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

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# Education

## Acting Commissioner visits Quabbin High School

From the desk of Colleen Mucha, Superintendent of Quabbin Regional School District

BARRE – On Monday, Nov. 25 at 9 a.m. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Acting Commissioner, Russell Johnston, arrived on the campus of Quabbin Regional Middle High School.

He was greeted by Irene Stolgitis, Class of 2024 and he was treated to a performance from the high school choir. The students sang “Be Our Guest” with passion and enthusiasm, it set the mood for the visit and everyone listening could not help but smile.

Commissioner Johnston then visited the Middle School. He was able to observe many classrooms and witnessed co-teaching during a literacy block in eighth grade along with several What I Need Now Grade 6 groups.

As a district, Quabbin showcases the work they have done given the awards of various grants from the Department of Education. These grants included targets such as increasing effective inclusive practices, small group instruction focused on student strengths and needs, use of data, and implementation of high quality curriculum materials. The money has funded staffing, professional development and various instructional materials.

After observations of the class-



Front row from left are Maya Faucher, Sarah Jean-Francois, Gavin Rivard, Aidan Pagan and Travis Strom and back row from left, DESE team: Shannon Clancy, Russell Johnston and Claire Abbott.

rooms and small groups, the team from DESE commented on how well the QRSD educators knew their students both academically and personally. They were very impressed with the interactions that they witnessed along with the differentiation in instruction.

The DESE team asked administrators several questions regarding staffing and schedules but they gleaned the most information

from the teachers and the students that they were able to sit and chat with. Teachers shared that they were spending time with student data to work together to plan lessons and small group instruction to meet the needs of all of our students.

They shared that the work is challenging and there is rarely enough time. Our educators also shared that they hold students to

high expectations and that they work hard to ensure that they have the support needed to be able to reach those goals. This really resonated with the staff from DESE as helping to create a sense of belonging for students.

Several eighth graders met with the DESE team and shared their experiences throughout their time within QRSD. They talked about the support that they

received and how they feel that their teachers really care about them. Commissioner Johnston asked them questions about cell phone use and the students shared that kids were abiding by the new policy and did not feel that it was too much of a problem. The Commissioner also asked about their bus rides and if they found it challenging to make friends given that as a district we have

5 towns and also accept school choice students. It was here that the students became very animated as they sang the praises of all the opportunities that they now have at middle school that are very different from their elementary experiences, no matter which town they come from. Several talked about being a part of middle school athletic teams and participating in strength and conditioning. Others talked about being a part of an NJROTC Flag Day program that made them feel really special and excited to become a part of NJROTC next. One student shared that she is thinking about a career in business and that having taken the Intro to Innovation Pathway course opened her mind to this as a future possibility. Another student shared how Project Lead the Way courses taught them so many different skills like coding and how to use a 3D printer. The students reiterated that it was really easy to make friends because of all of the shared experiences that they are able to have both within and beyond the classroom.

Our visit ended with offering a gift to the Commissioner. He left with honey that was harvested by our own Beekeeping Club and we are pretty sure that there are not too many school based clubs like this across the state. We are thankful that the DESE team took the time to visit Quabbin and we imagine each day one of them is putting honey into their tea at their offices and thinking of our students and staff fondly.

### NB SCHOOL COMMITTEE, continued from page 1

of the softball team and a Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association ambassador.

“He did all that and he’s also the top five in his class academically,” McCormick said.

McCormick also recognized the North Brookfield Elementary School PTO, Jess Wisniewski and the Student Council for organizing a pancake breakfast for veterans to recognize Veterans Day.

“We had over 35 veterans this year who were in attendance,” he said.

The names and branches of the veterans were read, and students performed songs and gave them cards. McCormick said this has been a well-loved event for the both school and community.

#### Superintendent’s report

McCormick said the school district’s Handle with Care initiative should be in place by next month. This initiative is in partnership with the North Brookfield Police Department to notify the school of a student that may need additional support due to an incident at home.

“The police officer who is on scene will send a message with the student’s name and just a simple text message of ‘handle with care.’ They do not get into confidential information, they don’t share details. It’s just to alert the school that we have a student or students that may be arriving the next day who may need extra attention or care,” he said.

McCormick said the Handle with Care initiative has been adopted by 40 different states and is currently implemented at the Quabbin Regional School District and Gardner Public Schools as well as others.

McCormick said the new swings have been installed at the elementary school’s playground thanks to a donation from Jamie Gilman.

He said the school district’s new instructional coach, Dr. Emily O’Rourke has “hit the ground running” and has been meeting with staff.

#### MCAS results

McCormick shared Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System testing results from last spring. He said all students took the Next Gen version of the test, which he said has more rigorous and challenging questions than the earlier generation of the test.

“Test scores have gone down...it’s a different kind of test than it was 10 years ago,” he said.

Overall, the school district did not require assistance or intervention due to its MCAS scores, he said.

McCormick said English Language Arts scores did not meet the target across the school district, which looked at results from grades three through eight and high school.

Math scores exceeded the target score for the lower grade levels, but lost points at

the high school level. For math, the grade four scores actually exceeded the state average.

“This is quite an accomplishment,” he said.

Low growth was reported for both math and ELA, but McCormick said the school district reduced the drop-out rate and improved chronic absenteeism.

“There’s some things that obviously we’re going to talk about that we need to continue to address and work on, but there’s some things that we made some progress with that we should be proud of, the work that we’re doing in each building,” he said.

McCormick highlighted some of the “glows” the school district achieved with its MCAS scores, including math showing improvement over the last four years, grade four growth and achievement in math, as well as grade six growth and achievement in ELA. He said when compared to other comparable school districts, North Brookfield’s math scores fall into the middle.

Areas where improvement is needed include grade eight students for both math and ELA, as these students did not earn a meeting or exceeding expectations ratings. McCormick said they will target these areas through math interventions, implementing district-wide research based writing methods and strategies, evaluating the science curriculum, and more.

“District wide, very few students scored an ‘exceeding expectations’ rating,” he said.

McCormick said they will continue to support teachers for long term success as well as build up students’ reading stamina.

#### Administrators’ reports

High School Principal John Diorio said a group of students participated in the Mass Makers STEM Conference with STEM teacher John McNeil, where they made an emergency shelter bed using cardboard and tape.

“I’m proud to say that North Brookfield High School, Mr. McNeil’s team, won the competition,” he said.

The Worcester County District Attorney’s Office met with middle school students about bullying and cyber safety. The DA’s office will continue the talk with high school students in January, and address healthy dating relationships as well.

Students in science teacher Karlee Kemp’s forensics class and ELA teacher Heather Macpherson’s true crime class will take a field trip to Lizzie Borden’s house in Fall River.

McNeil is spearheading a toy drive called Operation Holiday Cheer, which first started in Sturbridge four years ago. The

toy drive will be held on the same day as the Christmas in North Brookfield event and will feature a ruck from the high school to the police station, where the toys will be distributed from.

He said the main mission of Operation Holiday Cheer is to “raise awareness and spread some holiday cheer.”

Elementary School Principal Arthur Murphy said the school just concluded its fall food drive to fill its food pantry for the holiday season.

Murphy said staff continue to focus on behavior expectations and there has been a decrease in behavior over last year’s numbers. He said they continue to celebrate student success with items in the school store, including experiences such as “principal for a day,” police cruiser rides to school and more.

“It’s been a huge hit with families and with the students,” he said.

#### Student Council update

Student Council Representative Dante Giangrande said the Student Council helped out at the family conference night.

“Our goal for this night was to make it a community event where parents and families can come to meet teachers and see fun things we offer,” he said.

Giangrande said the annual Giving Turkey will be held throughout November and the annual Giving Tree will be held in December. The Christmas in North Brookfield event will feature games, raffles and concessions and more and continues to be the Student Council’s most popular event.

## Petersham Montessori students hold meal

PETERSHAM – On Tuesday, Nov. 26, students gathered with Head Teacher Cheryl Calcari to discuss the Thanksgiving holiday while teachers Pam Manjourea and Lynn Scott finished preparing platters that the students had started prepping of sliced vegetables, plates of sliced cheese and a large bowl of fruit salad.

Mom and board member Krysten Harty came to assist with the feast. While the food was prepped, she set the long feast table with plates, napkins, and utensils.

Before the children left their cushions, they were asked to recognize which of their classmates were out sick and pray for them to get well soon so they could enjoy Thanksgiving with their families.

Once all the students had gathered at the table, another prayer of thanks was said, and everyone began to eat. Most children accepted a variety of foods on

their plates and some attempted foods that they wouldn’t normally eat, like cucumbers and apples. A homemade ranch dressing provided for dipping made vegetables more fun and tastier for many children. The teachers opted for homemade ranch as an alternative.

The students ate their own homemade butter made a previous day by shaking heavy cream in take-out containers with rolls and/or allergen-free combread. A parent of a student with allergies provided the cornbread, and several children took many helpings, using tongs to serve themselves and develop their fine motor skills.

Before leaving for the day, the children gathered on the sensorial mat to listen to Ms. Pam read “The Night Before Thanksgiving” by Natasha Wing. Students left for home having practiced counting blessings, considering others and developing life skills.

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# 19 artists to exhibit at Northampton Center for the Arts

NORTHAMPTON— The Quabbin Art Association is hosting its first ever New Artists, New Perspectives exhibit at the Northampton Center for the Arts, featuring nineteen emerging artists from nine Pioneer-Valley Universities, Colleges, and Community Colleges. The exhibit runs Dec. 4, through Jan. 3, 2025, at NOHO Arts, 33 Hawley St. Northampton Center for the Arts

and the Quabbin Art Association will also host a Meet the Artists Reception at the exhibit on Dec. 13, from 5 to 8 p.m. This new initiative is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council Festivals and Projects grant and awards a \$250 cash stipend and 2-year QAA membership to each participating artist. Projects like this one reflect the Quabbin Art Association's mission to support the

artists in Pioneer Valley. Congratulations to all of the new student artists that will be featured in the up-coming exhibit: Rhaymi Porter—American International College; Caly Van Leeuwen and Eads Fouche—Amherst College; Elms College—Sarah Paradee and Catalyna Alexopoulos; Valentina Cacaj, Mari Champagne and Erin Shabunin—Greenfield Community College; Emma Aiken

and Malyna Dansereau—Holyoke Community College; Lize Brown, Sophia Jakobson and AJ Treat—Mount Holyoke College; Christopher Sanabria and Nhu Trung—Springfield College; Jenezy Ortiz and Heeju Yoon—The University of Massachusetts; Ariana Masterjohn—Western NewEngland University; and Maddison Deboise Wetherell—Montserrat College

## MURAL, continued from page 6

collaboration, and student friendships developed that led up to completing this community project will be a memory cemented in the minds and hearts of these students forever," said Henshaw. "We are so incredibly honored and thankful to these special Pathfinder Tech student artists for sharing their talents, imagination, and most importantly for bringing comfort to our smallest patients and their families," said Karli Barrett, president, and chief operating officer for Baystate Wing Hospital. "This healing environment will greatly enhance the care our ED team provides."



Shown from left are Ryleigh LaRocque, Mya Welch, Kayla Bingle, Trish Murdock, Mason Cardin, Evelyn Shilosky, Jameson Sterner and Darlene Henshaw, Art Teacher. Not pictured was Blair Shown.

# Gas prices decrease by a penny last week

WESTWOOD – Gasoline prices across the Northeast are holding mostly steady and likely within pennies of what ultimately will be the lowest prices of 2024.

Historically, barring unexpected refinery disruptions or geopolitical curveballs, prices at the pump are lowest in the final weeks of December, which is when demand for gasoline similarly reaches its bottom. Thanks to relentless domestic production and crude oil prices stuck at or just below \$70 a barrel, pump prices across the country including here in the Northeast are at or in nipping distance of three-year lows.

Last week, prices were subjected to downward pressure despite OPEC+ formalizing plans to again pause the unwinding of their output cuts, which will now continue until April of next year. The group has curbed production by about 2.2 million barrels a day since January in an effort to prop up crude oil prices, but strong U.S. production and weak global demand has dampened those efforts.

The supply and demand picture here at home is supportive of lower prices, even though crude inventories are down 5.1 million barrels from the prior week. The drawdown of crude oil is due in part to an uptick in refinery run rates, which led to a sizable build in gasoline inventories. Here in the Northeast, supplies swelled by 2.4 million barrels, according to the Energy Information Administration.

The average gas price in Massachusetts is down a penny over last week (\$3.03), averaging \$3.02 per gallon. Today's price is down a penny from month ago (\$3.03) and 31 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.33). Massachusetts' average gas price is one cent higher than the national average.

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6.5 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance and auto-related services.

## SCHEDULING, continued from page 9

Gomez says she has to back on the site and make sure rosters are updated for the playoffs to ensure JV players added to rosters for tournament are included.

When looking at an individual team's schedules, most teams play 16 to 18 regular season contests. The filler dates are then replaced by Western Mass. playoff games or "nonplayoff" games. Some of those nonplayoff games are needed, however. A team that finishes the regular season with a 7-9 record can get into the state tournament with a .500 record. The nonplayoff games played by that team then mean something as they can use them to finish season 9-9 and qualify.

The Arbiter website is exclusively used now for schedules, rosters, and score postings. The results are used by the MIAA to quantify Power Rankings for tournament seeds.

## ORTYL, continued from page 9

Minutemen men's basketball coach was Matt McCall. He also worked under current head coach Frank Martin.

While most high school basketball coaches begin at the junior varsity level, Ortyl is starting his coaching career at the varsity level.

"It's definitely going to be challenging coaching at the varsity level, but it's something that I'm really excited about," Ortyl said. "I think I can be a very good leader and mentor for these kids. I wouldn't have applied for the coaching position if I didn't think I could handle it."

The first practice of the high school basketball season was held on December 2.

The Pioneers, who graduated seven players from last year's squad, don't have any seniors listed on this year's varsity roster.

"We're going to be a young team and we're going to mold together," Ortyl said. "I'm very excited about working with this group of players."

The only two returning varsity players are junior Matthew Vanasse and sophomore Cayden Bousquet.

The other juniors are Dustyn Cook, Aiden Girard, Jack Marceau, and Dayne Shanley. The foursome were members of the j.v. basketball team a year ago.

Sophomore's Ian Sauri Nieves and Cassian Kowalik are also making the step up to the varsity team from the junior varsity basketball team.

Rounding out the varsity squad are freshmen Jordan Mbi, Grayson Griswold, Maddox Baer, and Mason Baer.

Pathfinder Tech is scheduled to begin the 2024-25 regular season by hosting Duggan Academy in a non-league contest on December 12.

The Pioneers, who are members of the Tri-County South Division, finished the 2023-24 campaign with an 11-10 overall record. They lost to cross-town rival Palmer in the preliminary round of the Division 5 state tournament.

The Pioneers will be making the short trip down Main Street in Palmer to battle the Panthers in a non-league contest on February 5. A couple of other non-league games on the Pioneers schedule are at Ludlow (Jan 17) and at home against Monson (Jan.24).

3

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### Enrichment programs capture the holiday spirit

The holiday season will be celebrated during the "Seasonal Art Project" class taught by Jan Bane.

By Paula Chubb

BARRE – Learning Wellness Center, 100 South St., will offer enrichment programs for children during the holiday season. These programs are designed to help children understand the meaning of the season and the importance of giving.

The program is open to children ages 5-12. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child. For more information, call Jan Bane at 345-3333.

### Town clerks list unofficial results

By Ellen Press

RESULTS from unofficial counts of town clerks for the 2024 election are as follows: Barre: 1,234 (50%); Oakham: 1,567 (52%); Hubbardston: 1,890 (51%); North Brookfield: 2,123 (53%); Petersham: 2,456 (54%); Rutland: 2,789 (55%).

### Selectmen hear fiscal recommendations

By Ellen Press

The selectmen of Barre heard recommendations from the Finance Committee on Monday. The committee recommended a 2% increase in the mill rate for 2025.

### Voters approve STM warrant

By Ellen Press

Oakham voters approved a warrant for a State Troop (STM) on Monday. The warrant was approved by a vote of 15-5.

### Remembering Quabbin's First Champions

By Mike Richard

The 1970 Western Mass. Soccer Championships, Part 2. The tournament was held in Barre and was won by the local team.

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# Church News

## Local pastor offers sermon

### Season of Giving part 2

My father, God rest his soul, was a difficult man to buy gifts for.

He would jokingly say, "What can you give the man who already has it all?" Thus, he tended to end up with a lot of Old Spice cologne and white t-shirts on Christmas morning. Over the years, however, I came to understand what my father truly wanted from his children:

#### 1) Quality Time

My dad reveled in quality time spent with his kids. He cherished moments of undisturbed, undivided attention wherein we could be together. Whether it was one-on-one or in group settings, during the holidays or throughout the year, what he desired was intimate connection with his family.

#### 2) Affection

I can still remember the look on my father's face upon hearing the words "I love you" or "thank you, dad." To him, these tokens of my affection meant more than any physical gift item I could have sacrificially offered. I learned over the decades that a spirit of tender affection and gratitude did much to move his heart.

#### 3) Honor

My father delighted in the reverence of his children. He was a man who worked to model character, integrity and morality and it blessed him when we recognized him in kind. Whether our regard was evidenced by listening to the wisdom he had to offer, heeding his sage advice, or choosing to mimic the example he set forth, he exulted in the honor that he was due—and it was our privilege to offer it.

Thus said, I posit that God our Father is much the same in many regards. There is nothing we can purchase or present to Him that He genuinely needs. Last I

checked, the Father has not distributed a divine wish-list of holiday items with accompanying links to Amazon Prime. Yet, I do believe that He longs for what all good fathers desire:

#### 1) Quality Time

The Lord delights in quality time spent with His children. I believe He cherishes moments of undisturbed, undivided attention wherein we can be together. Whether it is one-on-one or in group settings, during the Christmas season or throughout the year, He wants intimate communion with His own.

Is it our joy to spend such time with Him? When was the last time you spent some time with the Lord? When was the last time you shared intimate connection with Him? When was the last time you sought Him in prayer, worship, and so forth? Let us follow the example of Christ, who habitually made time to spend time with the Lord. Scripture reveals that Jesus often removed Himself from the hustle and bustle of living to commune with His beloved Father. As Luke 5:16 (NIV) notes, "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."

#### 2) Affection

I often imagine the look on my heavenly Father's face upon hearing the words "I love You" or "thank You, Lord." To Him, these tokens of affection mean more than any item I could sacrificially offer. I have learned over my decades as a believer that a spirit of tender affection and gratitude does much to move His heart.

Is it our pleasure to offer such things to the One who is most worthy? When was the last time you said, "I love You, God"? When was the last time you said, "Thank You, Lord"? Let us be spiritual sons and daughters who heed and embrace passages like the following:

#### 1 Chronicles 16:8, 34

8 Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

34 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

#### 3) Honor

Our Father delights in the reverence of His children. He is matchless in character and majesty, and it blesses Him when we recognize Him in kind. Whether our regard is evidenced by listening to the wisdom of His Word, obeying His commands or choosing to mimic the example He set forth in Christ, He exults in the honor He is due.

Is it our privilege to show such honor? Is your heart attuned to the Word of God? Do you seek to heed His precepts and embrace His ways? Are you following the example of Jesus Christ and living as He did? Consider this word of the Lord, shared through the prophet Isaiah millennia ago:

#### Isaiah 66:2

"These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word."

Is it your intent to give God what He really wants this Christmas? Then receive the points outlined above as His "Wish-List" and get to work in this season of giving! Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your leisure using the information below.

Also, feel free to visit us online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org) or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you soon

#### Pastor James Foley

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

## Festivals of Lessons and Carols takes place Dec. 14

OAKHAM – On Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold their annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. The church and community members choir will be accompanied

by Quabbin Regional High School musicians will perform "Gloria in the Highest" by Marty Parks. Dawn Thistle is the piano accompanist and John Baptista conducts. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

## Congregational Church lists Christmas schedule

BARRE – The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., welcomes Rev. Charlie Page as the guest preacher on Sunday, Dec. 15.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 22 Pastor Margret Keyser will be preaching from South Africa. The Sunday School will have a Christmas Party. Sunday School students will decorate cookies and

play games.

On Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24 Sue Musnicki will coordinate a Family Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m. The Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be at 11 p.m. with Rev. Charlie Page, preaching.

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 29.

## Mesa Farm holds Living Nativity Dec. 14-15

RUTLAND – A Living Nativity will be held at Mesa Farm, 67 Muschopauge Road, on Saturday, Dec. 14 and on Sunday, Dec. 15.

Two performances will be held each evening; at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The forty minute shows will consist of carol singing and a nar-

ration and re-enactment of the nativity story in a barn with live animals.

There will be no charge although attendees are requested to bring a plate of cookies to share. There will also be an opportunity to donate to the City to Saddle non-profit organization

to support equestrian programs at Mesa Farm. Hot chocolate and coffee will be provided. All performances will have sign language interpretation.

Directions and more information can be found by visiting [www.mesafarmrutland.com](http://www.mesafarmrutland.com) or calling 508- 886-6898.

## Circle of Song to perform 'Requiem for the Living'

BARRE – On Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m., the Circle of Song will be performing Dan Forrest's "Requiem for the Living" in the Town Hall, 2 Exchange St.

"Requiem for the Living," a choral composition in five movements, was completed in 2013. The Latin text that Forrest set combines sections from the Requiem with biblical texts from Ecclesiastes – (Vanity of Vanities, All is Meaningless) and the Book of Jobm (the problem of evil).

"Requiem for the Living" is an extended setting of the Requiem, a Mass for the dead in the Catholic Church. Forrest took some parts from the Requiem Mass, however arranged in different order and added a movement, "Vanitas Vanitatum," as

the second movement. The five movements are "Introit- Kyrie," "Vanitas Vanitatum," "Agnus Dei," "Sanctus" and "Lux Aeterna."

The first movement uses the traditional text Introit and Kyrie from the Requiem. The second movement deals with the transience of everything living. The third movement is Agnus Dei, normally found towards the end of a Requiem and requesting the Lamb of God to grant mercy and eternal rest. The fourth movement is Sanctus. The text "Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua" (Heaven and Earth are full of your glory) is set to music inspired by images taken from the Hubble Space Telescope and the imagination of a city full of life. The final movement, Lux Aeterna (Eternal light)

also includes text from the Gospel of Matthew, "Come unto me, all ye that labour."

In the Circle of Song performance of "Requiem for the Living," solos will be performed by Karen Guertin, Marna Mucha, Anne Kneeland, Nancy Afonso, Mark Doyle and Jennifer Williams.

Under the direction of the COS pianist, Cailan McClure, "Aint a That Good News" and Ave Maria will also be sung.

If people are interested in joining Circle of Song, they may email Julie Rawson, director, at [julie@mhof.net](mailto:julie@mhof.net), call 978-257-1192 or show up at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. To learn more about Circle of Song visit <https://circleofsong.net/>.

# Obituaries

## Joseph "Larry" Higgins Jr., 77

BARRE – Joseph (Larry) Higgins Jr., aged 77, passed away peacefully on Nov. 30, 2024 with his loved ones by his side.

Born on Oct. 9, 1947, Larry spent his childhood in Barre. He joined the Army and was stationed in Germany during the Vietnam war. After his time in the Army, he resided in Florida, Alabama and Texas, before returning to Barre.

Larry was a sales rep for American Bank Stationery until his return to Massachusetts.



He then owned and operated Belanger's Package in Orange, until his retirement.

Larry enjoyed golfing, racing sailboats off the coast of Florida and driving his beloved 1961 Corvette.

Later in life, as an avid Dolphin football fan, he was happiest spending time with family and friends discussing football games and reminiscing about times gone by.

Larry is survived by his broth-

er Ron Higgins and wife Susan; nephew Christopher Higgins; nieces, Jennifer ( Sean) Nadeau and Lindsay Higgins; step mother Mary Higgins Martin and great nephews and nieces, Brayden and Tyler Nadeau and Baelin, Cian and Asa Higgins Sullivan.

Services for Larry will be held privately at the convenience of his family.

### DEATH NOTICE

Higgins, Jr., Joseph "Larry"  
Died Nov. 30, 2024  
Services private

## Pioneer Valley Brass performs Dec. 15

WINCHENDON – Pioneer Valley Brass will perform Sunday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. in the Unitarian Universalist Church, 126 Central St., Winchendon. The First Universalist Parish of North Dana will sponsor a free program of traditional and modern holiday music arranged for brass quintet. The concert is part of a series of Vespers programs with musical

services sponsored by the North Dana Parish since 1930 when the Parish had to leave North Dana for the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir. This is the 811th such program benefitting from a trust fund set up by sisters, Catherine Mason and Mary Hale to ensure that the Parish will not be forgotten. Descendants and friends of original Parish members meet

annually in April to oversee the Parish activity. The Pioneer Valley Brass was founded over forty years ago by Cedric and Jeri Bannister and has often performed these vespers services. Current members of the Brass include Dick Tandy and Steve Babineau on trumpet, Susan Lemei on tuba, Tabitha Greenlees on horn, and Dana Tandy on trumpet.

## Omolewa Fagboore receives Salute to Excellence Award

FRAMINGHAM – The Association for Behavioral Healthcare, a statewide nonprofit organization representing 80 community-based behavioral health care providers, honored the winners of its Salute to Excellence Awards at its annual celebration on Oct. 25 at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center.

"These individuals and teams demonstrate what community-based providers in the behavioral health sector can achieve when care and commitment come together," said ABH President and CEO Lydia Conley. "As the demand for mental health services has surged across Massachusetts, individuals and organizations, like this year's awardees, have stepped up to meet the challenge and expand access to critical care."

A 2024 Salute to Excellence Award winners is Omolewa Fagboore of Rutland. He is Director of the Central Massachusetts Behavioral Health Career Pipeline, Open Sky Community Services/Seven Hills Foundation.



Omolewa Fagboore

Fagboore leads a collaborative partnership supporting immigrants, refugees and BIPOC incumbent staff. He is an inspiration to his Human Services Career Support Program participants, most of which are still employed in the field. A Higher Education program he runs has 42 incumbent staff pursuing a graduate degree in

mental health counseling at Framingham State University.

The Association for Behavioral Healthcare represents 80 organizations that are the primary providers of community-based behavioral healthcare in Massachusetts. Their nearly 50,000 dedicated employees provide clinically effective and cost-sensitive care to more than 80,000 individuals on any given day in communities throughout the state. ABH is recognized as the leading statewide association advocating for the preservation, promotion and advancement of community-based mental health and addiction services. People may visit [www.abhmass.org](http://www.abhmass.org) for more information.

## Tips for a health holiday

SPRINGFIELD— At a time when doctors' offices typically get flooded with patients, Dr. Andrew Koslow, associate medical director of American Family Care for Massachusetts, is offering tips to make sure people are spreading holiday cheer instead of viruses and illnesses. The advice is simple: Wash hands more frequently; Get plenty of rest; Stay hydrated; Eat well-balanced nutritious meals; Get flu, COVID, pneumonia and RSV

vaccinations as recommended; and avoid anyone who is sick.

"People tend to run themselves down in the weeks and days leading up to holidays. It's easy to get caught up in the frenetic pace of parties, shopping and burning the candle at both ends," said Koslow. "Even if you're young and healthy, when visiting relatives who may be at risk, you could make them sick."

Koslow said it's also important for families to be aware of

a recent spike in mycoplasma pneumonia infections across the country, also known as walking pneumonia. Symptoms can vary, ranging from cough to fever, shortness of breath, chest pain and nausea.

"Mycoplasma pneumonia is easily treated with antibiotics," said Koslow. "The important thing is to get lots of rest if you experience these symptoms. See a doctor and stay home."

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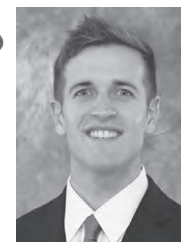


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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: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

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



# Public Safety

## Barre Police Log

**Sunday, Nov. 24**  
5:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Common Street, Transported to Hospital

**Monday, Nov. 25**  
9:33 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty  
10:37 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Hubbardston Road, Negative Contact  
10:41 a.m. Identity Theft, Broad Street, Information Taken  
3:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Criminal Complaint  
Summons Boudreau, Catherine, 57, Athol  
Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No  
4:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Written Warning  
5:15 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Worcester Road, Removed Hazard  
8:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wheelwright Road, Citation Issued  
9:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wheelwright Road, Citation Issued

**Tuesday, Nov. 26**  
1:17 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Summer Street, Entry Gained  
3:54 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Negative Contact  
7:57 p.m. Road Condition

Notification, Pleasant Street, Message Delivered  
8:36 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

**Wednesday, Nov. 27**  
1:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, West Street, Vehicle Towed  
12:11 a.m. Animal – Lost and Found, South Barre Common, Returned to Family/Guardian  
4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning  
5:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning  
8:58 p.m. Public Assist, Adams Road, Officer Spoke to Party

**Thursday, Nov. 28**  
5:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, South Street, Mutual Aid Assist  
4:52 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Ruggles Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Friday, Nov. 29**  
5:27 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Orange, Negative Contact  
7:33 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Hubbardston Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
7:47 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Hubbardston Road, Vehicle Towed

5:56 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Constipation, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital  
6:47 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Elm South Street, Information Taken  
8:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Mutual Aid Ambulance, Hubbardston Route 62/68, Transported to Hospital  
8:55 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Mechanic Street, Vehicle Towed  
9:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, No Police Service Necessary  
9:59 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Broad Street, Negative Contact

**Saturday, Nov. 30**  
10:57 a.m. Burglary, Ruggles Lane, Report Filed  
12:24 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Hubbardston Road, Transported to Hospital  
4:50 p.m. Welfare Check, Broad Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
8:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital  
10:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Vernon Avenue, Ambulance Signed Refusal

## Rutland Police Log

**Sunday, Nov. 24**  
9:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning  
11:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachusett Street, Written Warning  
11:58 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Paddock Road, Investigated  
12:41 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Main Street, Information Taken  
12:43 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Wachusett Street, Report Filed  
1:14 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
1:51 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Lewis Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
5:36 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Campbell Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
6:11 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Johnson Way, Mutual Aid Transport  
8:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
11:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Soucy Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Monday, Nov. 25**  
12:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Glenwood Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
2:39 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Blair Drive, Written Warning  
2:43 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Beechwood Drive, Written Warning  
7:16 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Overdose/Poisoning, Wachusett Street, No Fire Service Necessary  
8:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
8:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued  
8:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued  
9:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wilson Way, Criminal Complaint

Summons Regardiz-Morandy, Aida Cecilia, 38, Rutland  
Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With Uninsured Motor Vehicle  
9:15 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Fitchburg, Officer Spoke to Party  
3:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
3:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
Summons Kubiis, Nathan R., 36, Rutland  
Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle  
8:17 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
11:11 p.m. Erratic Operator, Maple Avenue, Negative Contact

**Tuesday, Nov. 26**  
1:02 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Juniper Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
8:55 a.m. Threats, Wilson Way, Report Filed  
Summons Sullivan, John L., 61, Rutland  
Charges Threat to Commit Crime  
2:44 p.m. Threats, Finn Park Road, Report Filed  
4:05 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, Vehicle Towed  
8:27 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, Vehicle Towed  
8:32 p.m. Road Condition, Town Wide, Message Delivered  
9:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMSResponse, Barre Paxton Road, Public Assist  
10:08 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, No Action Required  
11:36 p.m. Identity Theft, Briarwood Road, Officer Took Call

Parking Issues, Joanna Drive, Written Warning  
2:55 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Brooke Haven Drive, Written Warning  
3:04 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Morris Lane, Written Warning  
6:13 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Charnock Hill Road, Investigated  
8:49 a.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, Michael Drive, Officer Spoke to Party  
9:43 a.m. Complaint, Main Street, Chief Met with Party  
11:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning  
4:23 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Pleasantdale Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
4:27 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, River Road, No Fire Service Necessary  
8:47 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Orchard Hill Drive, Officer Spoke to Party

**Thursday, Nov. 28**  
9:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Barre Paxton Road, Removed Hazard  
1:16 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Friday, Nov. 29**  
9:15 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
9:38 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Beechwood Drive, Information Taken  
1:39 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, William Circle, Report Filed  
2:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Spencer Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
8:11 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Saturday, Nov. 30**  
4:10 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issue, Miles Road, Written Warning

## Oakham Police Log

**Sunday, Nov. 24**  
12:08 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Old Turnpike Road, Secured  
4:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

**Monday, Nov. 25**  
8:49 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty  
11:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning  
12:55 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Crocker Nye Road, Negative Activity  
3:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

**Tuesday, Nov. 26**  
3:54 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Negative Contact  
8:27 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, Vehicle Towed  
9:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Barre Paxton Road, Public Assist

**Friday, Nov. 29**  
1:54 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Old Turnpike Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
2:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Spencer Road,

Ambulance Signed Refusal  
8:20 p.m. Notification, Barre Road, Message Delivered

**Saturday, Nov. 30**  
4:11 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, New Braintree Road, Referred to Other Agency  
4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Parmenter Road, Written Warning  
5:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
5:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
6:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

## Hubbardston Police Log

**Sunday, Nov. 24**  
8:10 a.m. Fire – Power Line/Arcing, Flagg Road, Referred to Other Agency  
10:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Public Assist

**Monday, Nov. 25**  
7:30 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Williamsville Road, Referred to Other Agency  
8:14 a.m. Keep the Peace, Mt. Jefferson Road, Public Assist  
8:49 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Court Duty  
10:50 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Healdville Road, Negative Contact  
10:58 a.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
11:19 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Gardner Road, Information Taken  
11:22 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Grimes Road, No Transport Required  
2:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
3:07 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Underwood Road, Information Given

7:55 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Healdville Road, Transported to Hospital  
8:10 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Simond Hill Road, Information Taken

**Tuesday, Nov. 26**  
10:11 a.m. Fraud, Halfrey Road, Information Taken  
1:09 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Brigham Street, Transported to Hospital  
6:40 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
7:41 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Williamsville Road, Referred to Other Agency

**Wednesday, Nov. 27**  
6:13 a.m. Fire – Structures Fires, Charnock Hill Road, Investigated

**Thursday, Nov. 28**  
7:28 a.m. Complaint, Malone Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
2:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Williamsville Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Friday, Nov. 29**  
12:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Old Princeton Cutoff, Mutual Aid Transport  
2:08 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Madison Way, Mutual Aid Transport  
7:28 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Underwood Road, Referred to Other Agency  
8:08 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Halfrey Road, Fire Extinguished  
8:11 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
11:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Old Princeton Road, Mutual Aid Transported

**Saturday, Nov. 30**  
12:07 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Mayo Road, Transported to Hospital  
3:58 p.m. Fire – Illegal Burn, High Bridge Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
6:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Old Boston Turnpike, Officer Spoke to Party

## Chimney fires prompt heating fire safety reminder

STOW—After two recent fires that spread from chimneys to the surrounding structures, Holland Fire Chief James Gagne, Holyoke Fire Chief John Kadlewicz and State Fire Marshal Jon Davine are reminding residents that having their chimneys and flues inspected and cleaned can help reduce the risk of one of the season's most common types of fires.

The fires took place on Island Road in Holland on Nov. 24 and on Lynch Drive in Holyoke on Nov. 28. Fortunately, no injuries were reported at either event. The Holyoke fire caused damage to the area around the home's fireplace, but the Holland fire caused serious damage to the structure. Local officials and State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office determined that voids or gaps allowed flames or embers to escape the homes' chimneys.

"Most chimney fires start with a buildup of creosote from a season or more of burning wood," said Chief Gagne. "Creosote is flammable and having your flue professionally cleaned each year can reduce the risk of it catching fire."

"A crack or gap in your chimney can allow sparks, embers, superheated gases and creosote fires to ignite the walls or roof around it," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "Having a professional inspect your chimney each year can identify problems before they become emergencies."

Massachusetts fire departments reported 1,351 heating equipment fires last year, and nearly 500 of them involved chimneys and flues. These fires caused five firefighter injuries, one civilian injury and more than \$3.3 million in damages. Most of these fires can be prevented by having the chimney and flue professionally inspected and cleaned each year. It's not too late to have it done this season, fire officials said: it could save your home, and more importantly, it could prevent a tragedy.

To learn more about solid-fuel heating fire safety, people may visit the Department of Fire Services' website. [www.mass.gov/info-details/chimney-and-woodstove-safety](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/chimney-and-woodstove-safety).

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## Public Notices

**BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, 3rd Floor**, requested by American Tower, and LD Acquisition Company, LLC/Breitenwischer, James K. & Kelly L., holder of option, for a special Permit/Eligible Facilities Request for the modification of an existing wireless communication facility by collocating Verizon Wireless' wireless facility which includes an emergency backup power generator on a proposed concrete pad within a vinyl fence with noise reduction equipment, the same design as previously approved at property located at 937 Hubbardston Road, Assessors Map F, Lot 79 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 68695, Page 39.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Planning Board.  
Floyd Kelley  
Chairman  
12/05, 12/12/2024

**BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Barre Planning

Board will hold public hearing on **Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, Boards' Office, 3rd Floor**, requested by 499 Vernon Properties, LLC assignee Sally Ann Kingsbury Revocable Trust for a special permit for an audio and video recording studio for property located at 499 Vernon Avenue, Assessors Map H, Lot 52 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 67145, Page 251 and 252.

All persons who wish to comment on this matter should attend the hearing, or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Planning Board.  
Floyd Kelley  
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12/05, 12/12/2024

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Chairman  
12/05, 12/12/2024

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

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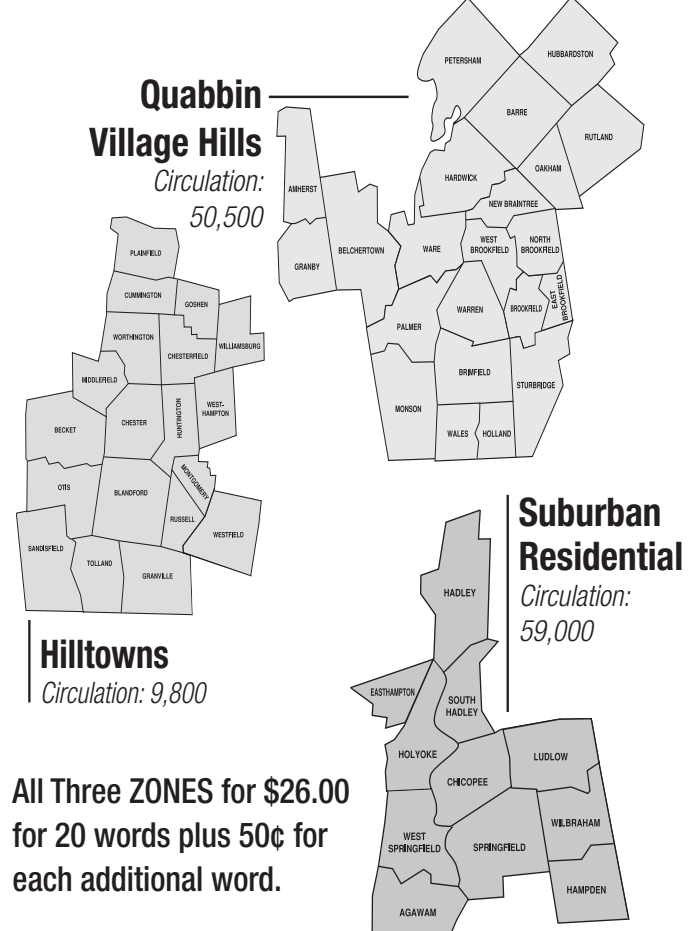
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