

BARRE GAZETTE

USPS 044560

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

December 26, 2024 | Vol. 190, No. 38 | \$1.00

www.barregazette.turley.com

Land Court awards town West Street property

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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BARRE – Treasurer/Collector Jake K. Voelker, JD said Land Court awarded the town the parcel at 1,000 West Street for tax title to the town.

It took several years, but the town now owns the parcel, which has junk vehicles and debris. A house on the property burned down, but the foundation remains. Treasurer /Collector Voelker said the tax attorney recommended the town sell the property “as is” for \$73,000, the amount owed in back taxes and tax title fees. The property was currently valued at \$60,000. The new owner would be responsible for the clean up of the property.

He said if the land did not sell in a year, the town could auction it off. The Select Board unanimously voted to sell the property “as is” as recommended by the tax attorney.

Electricity contract

The Select Board approved a 35 month contract with Constellation Energy. The current cost is 0.134 per kilowatt hour, but Town Administrator Tammy Martin said the price varies daily. The town’s rate, would be set tomorrow Dec. 17 at the contract signing at 10 a.m. It most likely will fluctuate slightly from the above rate for Dec. 16.

Police Officer resignations

Tyler Hosley gave his resignation as a Barre Police Officer. He accepted a position with the Franklin Police Department. Joshua Pease also resigned as a Police Officer for the Barre Police Department. He accepted a position with the Palmer Police Department. The Select Board accepted the two resignations.

Step raises

The Board granted a raise for Timothea Ford, Adult and Technology Service, at the Woods Memorial Library from Step 1 to Step 2. Her new rate will be \$20.78. They also set the wage for Cooper Sonan at \$18.98 as part-time call firefighter.

Town Administrator Report

Town Administrator Martin said she was working on a final list of American Rescue Plan Act fund for the Select Boards Monday, Dec. 30 meeting. She said all funds charged to ARPA must have been disbursed or have contracts for 2025 to do the work by Tuesday, Dec. 31. Any Federal monies not appropriated in this way must be returned to the Federal Government.

Select Board reports

Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon said he has been working with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission on the Community Block Development funds. He said in the past Barre partnered with another town, but was looking to go on their own this time.

Select Board Chair Maureen

See BARRE, page 5

Fire Department welcomes gift from Algoo family



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

The Fire Department was able to purchase 200 feet of firehose thanks to a generous donation from the Algoo family, owners of North Brookfield Farms gas and convenience store. Shown with the Fire Department are (from left, back row) John Tripp, state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, state Sen. Peter Durant and Ramkumar “Al” Algoo.

Generous donation replaced 200 feet of attack line firehose

By Paula Ouimette
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Algoo family, owners of North Brookfield Farms gas and convenience store, presented the town’s Fire Department with an incredible gift this Christmas season with the donation of 200 feet of attack line firehoses.

“When I heard the department was using 50 year old hoses and equipment, I decided to call up the Chief,” Ramkumar “Al” Algoo said at the store this past Saturday, when he invited members of the department to receive the donation.

“This is a good start,” Algoo said.

Fire Chief Darin Anderson said the donation was “an incredible gesture,” and a major help to the department.

“It’s unbelievable,” Anderson said of the support.

Anderson said the department



The Algoo family and employees of North Brookfield Farms posed for a photo with Santa Claus.

recently had its hoses and nozzles inspected, and catastrophic failure of the equipment was detected.

“We lost eight nozzles and thousands of feet of hose,” Anderson said.

Algoo’s donation will replace critical attack line firehoses, because right now, the department doesn’t have any backup. Anderson said it’s necessary to have backup in order to allow the

hoses to dry between use in order to prevent damage and mold.

“I can’t thank Al enough,”

See DONATION, page 5

Select Board set single tax rate

By Ellenor Downer
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OAKHAM – Assessors Peter Joyce and Diane Peterson attended the Monday, Dec. 2 Select Board meeting for the tax classification hearing.

Assessor Peterson said the Board of Assessors recommended the town stay with the single tax rate, a residential factor of one. She said there was not much new growth in town for 2024. She said there were eight properties that should have had growth this year and they would be looked at. She also said 2025 would be a revaluation year.

Last year’s tax rate was \$11.08 and if approved by the Department of Revenue the tax rate would be \$11.55 this year. Thirty-one cents of that rate was the cost of the new fire truck the town purchased this year. Assessor Peterson said the town was near the levy limit capac-

See OAKHAM, page 5

Orchestra accompanies chorus for Lessons and Carols

By Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM – The 28th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols marked the return of an orchestra to accompany the chorus in “Glory in the Highest.”

The cantata by Marty Parks for chorus and orchestra also included the founder, Dawn Thistle, on piano. John Baptista conducted and Toni Brown worked with a group of Quabbin Regional High School musicians. This popular event sponsored by the Oakham Congregational Church happened on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.

The chorus, which included members of the Oakham Congregational Church choir and

See LESSONS AND CAROLS, page 6

Boards/committees continue PILOT policy discussion

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board continued reviewing a Payment in Lieu of Taxes policy, drafted by board Clerk William Tinker, with members of the Finance Committee.

At the Dec. 16 meeting, Select Board Chair Kelly Kemp said town counsel has also reviewed the draft policy and provided written feedback about it.

Tinker said one of town counsel’s recommendations was that the policy define “tax exempt.” He asked how many nonprofits exist in the town.

Kemp said not including

municipal properties, there are 109 properties. This figure also includes state-owned land, the East Quabbin Land Trust, churches, the Gilbertville Public Library and Eagle Hill School.

She said Eagle Hill School is currently in two PILOT programs with the town already. She said originally there was a verbal agreement to pay \$25,000 a year to the town, before it shifted to multiple properties being placed back on the tax roll and the school paying betterments on the sewer.

Assessor Jennifer Kolenda said the state’s Department of Conservation and Recreation also pays a PILOT to the town for the Quabbin Reservoir, and money

comes in from the Department of Fisheries & Wildlife on the cherry sheet. The PILOT payment was \$190,000 and the cherry sheet was \$94,000.

“So we get monies from the state both ways,” Kolenda said.

Select Board Vice-Chair Eric Vollheim said he would like to see a cost-benefit analysis to keeping land undeveloped.

“It’s never been looked at carefully,” he said.

Finance Committee Chair Christopher Culross said he believes that any piece of property that is developed will have a negative financial impact on town, as it will increase the number of services needed to meet an increase in

population, including education.

“The cost of public education is so incredibly expensive,” he said.

Finance Committee member Mark Korzec said they could collect quantitative data regarding the number of students in public school, police and fire calls linked to each nonprofit. He said they should look at that information prior to reaching out to the nonprofits and having a conversation.

“You could just look at that and say, ‘where is it costing us?’” he said.

The draft policy seeks up to 3% of a nonprofit’s gross revenue, and a catch-up surcharge that goes back six years.

Korzec asked Tinker if this

would also apply to revenue collected by churches.

Tinker said churches help the community, and they are exempt according to the policy’s list of qualifying exemptions under article 6, “in-kind contributions and community benefits.” He said the churches do not cost or impact the town’s services.

Kemp said the policy needs to be more black and white in regard to exemptions. She said she still didn’t feel comfortable with the catch-up surcharge, which she said could place a financial hardship on the nonprofits.

Tinker said the nonprofits have

See HARDWICK, page 8



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Round Town
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Barre Winter Market takes place Jan. 11
On Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. the Barre Winter Market located in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre will take place. Other dates are Saturday, Feb. 8; Saturday, March 8 and Saturday, April 12, all from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This is the third year of the market. Local crafters and farmers sell their crafts and products. For more information, people may call Celia at 978-355-0139 or email rebellbathandbeyond@gmail.

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. The evening promises an unforgettable celebration.

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. 30. 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 — Beef Tagine, rice, green beans, Mandarin oranges, Italian bread
TUESDAY — Buttermilk chicken, herbed stuffing, mixed vegetables, fruited Ambrosia, whole wheat bread
WEDNESDAY — Holiday no meal served
THURSDAY — Hot dog on bun, baked beans, coleslaw, baked apples, mustard
FRIDAY — Shepherd's pie, carrots, peas, butterscotch pudding, diet = sugar free tapioca pudding, pumpkinnickel 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.

Girl Scout Cookie Drop happens Jan. 11

Girl Scout cookie season is almost here. Soon it will be time to buy Do-si-dos, Thin Mints, Tagalongs, Samoas and other favorites. The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world, with Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serving over 5,000 girls from five counties in central and western Massachusetts. And it all gets rolling with the annual Cookie Drop.

Saturday, Jan. 11, hundreds of Girl Scouts, troop leaders, staff and volunteers from across central and western Massachusetts will descend on central locations in Springfield, West Springfield, Townsend and Worcester to unload the initial run of 32,629 cases (391,548 packages) of Girl Scout Cookies to bring back home and sell. It's a fun and exciting time for everyone involved.

The annual Cookie Drop will take place on Saturday, Jan. 11 beginning at 7 a.m. in all locations save for Townsend.

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Shown are from left, Meghan McGinn, Jaclyn Packard DeAcetis from Pine Acres and Bill Moore, President of Project New Hope.

Pine Acres Family Campground raised money for Project New Hope

OAKHAM — Every season Pine Acres Family Campground chooses a charity to raise funds for throughout the camping season.

In the past, this family-owned campground has chosen to support local causes as well as charities chosen by their campers or employees.

This season Project New Hope Inc. of Worcester and Westfield was chosen as the 2024 season charity. Project New Hope is a local organization dedicated to helping veterans and their families. They provide support in many different ways including retreats, a food pantry, navigation of government forms and more.

Our campers and staff raised money throughout the season with many different events. From raffles, corn hole and pickle ball tournaments, bake sales and gift basket bingo we are proud to announce that these efforts resulted in a donation of \$7,000. We would like to thank Bill Moore, Tracy

Linch and Jenny Linch for stopping by the campground to share the Project New Hope mission with our campers and take part in the check presentation.

Previous organizations that Pine Acres Family Campground has partnered with include Why Me and Sherry's House, Compassionate Cares ALS, Positively 4 Pink, the Karen Wellington Foundation and Veteran's Inc. Our 2025 partnership will be announced in May.

NBSB hosts successful food/toy drives during season of giving



North Brookfield Savings Bank employee Joseph Ribeiro stands inside the West Brookfield Branch to present the West Brookfield Police Department with toy and monetary donations from NBSB's Annual Toy Drive Collection.

NORTH BROOKFIELD — In the spirit of the season of giving, North Brookfield Savings Bank is thrilled to announce the success of its annual Food and Toy Drive.

These initiatives reflect the bank's ongoing commitment to supporting the communities it serves and making the holidays brighter for those in need. Due to the overwhelming generosity of community members, employees and neighbors of NBSB, the Food and Toy Drive made an impact in each of the bank's communities.

During the NBSB annual Food Drive, held from Oct. 1-25, the bank's communities came together to donate 693 non-perishable food items and over \$1,000 in monetary donations. NBSB contributed an additional \$3,000 to further support local food pantries.

These generous donations have had a profound impact this season of giving, providing crucial assistance to individuals facing food insecurity.

The generosity from their communities continued through the annual Toy Drive, which ran from Nov. 1-29. Community members, employees and neighbors stepped up to the plate again, where NBSB was able to collect 388 toys for children in need, alongside \$1,432 in monetary donations.

NBSB contributed an additional \$1,500 to support those who need it the most and bring joy to children in the communities it serves this holiday season.

"Community is at the heart of everything that we do, and the success of this year's Food and Toy Drives is a testament to the compassion and generosity of our customers, employees and neighbors," said Audrey Moulton, Marketing Manager at North Brookfield Savings Bank. "We are proud to hold our annual Food and Toy Drives, making a positive impact for those in need during the Season of Giving."

See TOY DRIVE, page x

Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
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Hubbardston receives 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.

Hubbardston Public Library
The Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025 for the New Year's holiday. Regular library hours are Mondays 1-7 p.m., Tuesdays 4-7 p.m., Thursdays 1-7 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-noon. Not Just Knitting group meets Tuesday, Jan. 7 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Participants should bring their needles, hooks, cross stitch, felting, yarn or whatever they are working on and spend a couple hours with other crafters. No registration is necessary.

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.

Donations sought for Sullivan family

RUTLAND - Pat Sullivan has faithfully served the town of Rutland for more than 13 years. He worked with Rutland Regional Emergency Communications Center as a 911 Dispatch Supervisor, ensuring the safety of residents across Rutland, Barre, Oakham, Hubbardston, and Warren. He is currently a firefighter/EMT for the town of Rutland, devoting his life to helping others in their times of greatest need.

On Dec. 17, 2024, just hours before Ciara Sullivan, also a former 911 dispatcher, was scheduled to deliver their twins, what should have been the happiest day of their lives turned into a nightmare for Pat and his wife, Ciara.

Ciara suffered a severe medical emergency requiring significant intervention. She has been intubated ever since and their twins were delivered via emergency C-section. Both infants are on ventilators, and updates on their prognosis remain grim.

As of today, Dec. 22, Ciara is undergoing an MRI to determine if there is any brain damage and, if so, the extent of it. We have no new updates on the twins at this time.

The Sullivan family is in need of miracles and the support of the community. The Rutland Fire Department has set up a donation platform to help ease the financial burden on the family during this devastating time. People should visit <https://www.classy.org/.../patrick-sullivan-family/c651509> to make a donation.

Rutland Regional Dispatch Center is asking for the public to mail cards and letters of encouragement to the station: Pat Sullivan 242 Main St., Rutland MA 01543. While people pray for Ciara to pull through, we want Pat to know he is not alone.

Pat has given so much to the community, and now it is the community's turn to give back to him. Please continue to keep the Sullivan family in thoughts and prayers as they navigate this difficult journey.

Updates are being made available via the Rutland Regional Emergency Communications Center FB page as well as the Rutland Fire Department facebook pages:
<https://www.facebook.com/RRECCdispatch>
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=rutland%20professional%20firefighters%20local%204878>

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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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Select Board – Dec. 30 at 4 p.m. and Jan. 6, 2025 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 7, 2025 at 6 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – Jan. 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Jan. 7, 2025 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Jan. 8, 2025 and Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Jan. 8, 2025 at 6:30 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.
 250th Anniversary Committee – Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
 Sewer Commission – Jan. 16 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Council – Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Paige Library Trustees – Jan. 2, 2025 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – Jan. 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
 Recycling Commission – Jan. 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
 Assessors – Jan. 8, 2025 at 10 a.m.
 Council on Aging – Jan. 8, 2025 and Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – Jan. 8, 2025 at 4 p.m.
 Board of Health – Jan. 14, 2025 at 6:45 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Jan. 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – March 17 at 3 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Board of Selectmen – Dec. 30 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Select Board – Jan. 6, 2025 at 6 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Jan. 10, 2025 at noon

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Jan. 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Jan. 2, 2025 at 6 p.m.
 Petersham School Committee – Jan. 6, 2025 at 10 a.m. and 5 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.
 Cemetery Commission – Jan. 14, 2025 at 10 a.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Jan. 16, 2025 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 17, 2025 at 9 a.m.

RUTLAND

Planning Board – Dec. 27 at 6 p.m.

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust celebrates conservation projects



Gaston Pond and the surrounding woods and wetlands in Barre are among the places protected by this new partnership.

ATHOL – As the year draws to a close, Mount Grace celebrates a series of monumental land conservation projects across central and western Massachusetts.

From sweeping landscape-scale initiatives to small but mighty community projects, 2024 has been a year of milestones for the regional land trust. This year, as in any year, no two chapters of Mount Grace's conservation story were the same.

The year began with Mount Grace and Mass Audubon finalizing a project in Winchendon that protected over 1,000-acres of unfragmented woods and streams within the headwaters of the Miller River. As this project concluded, Mount Grace quickly turned its attention to another significant undertaking, the Hawes Hill Conservation Corridor in Barre.

The Hawes Hill project was a chapter of Mount Grace's story that took years to write. This collaborative, landscape-scale project in Barre stitched together a mosaic of biodiverse natural and working landscapes and protected 800+ acres of important wildlife habitat and farmland. "For five generations our family has been caretakers of the land," Molly Stevens Dubois, whose family of farm owners protected four of the properties, said at a celebration of the project's closing. "We value the importance of maintaining space as open fields and forests. Working with Mount Grace on this project has enabled us to ensure that the land is protected for the future generations of farmers."

Some chapters this year were brief—perhaps only a few word,



This aerial shot shows a riparian habitat protected in Winchendon this year by Mount Grace and Mass Audubon.

but still proved significant for the communities they served. In Royalston, Mount Grace protected 0.19 acres one of their smallest projects to date by partnering with the town to ensure that the site of the beloved Pete & Henry's restaurant can be transformed into a town park. Thanks to the town and the dedication of many committed volunteers, the site will continue to be a place where neighbors will gather for generations to come.

By the end of the year, Mount Grace will have protected over 2,000-acres of land. "The urgency of the conservation work we do is escalating in the face of increasing development pressures," says Emma Ellsworth, Executive Director at Mount Grace. "Our little corner of North Central Massachusetts and the Connecticut River Valley is identified as containing over 100,000 priority acres for conservation. To meet our statewide conservation and biodiversi-

ty goals, we must conserve as much of this land as we can."

To address the growing challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and encroaching development, Mount Grace has developed a strategic plan to guide the organization over the next three years. This plan includes expanding staff capacity, enhancing people's connection to the land and further embracing land justice in conservation.

"This is a great opportunity, yet it is also a responsibility," says Emma Ellsworth, Executive Director at Mount Grace. "The issues we collectively face are daunting, and can make us feel powerless to change, but Mount Grace provides the opportunity to address them here, in our backyard. Projects like these, which you can support online now through the Mount Grace annual appeal, can be a model for new land conservation here and beyond."

Oakham

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 edowner@turley.com



Pen pal letters due Jan. 9

Seniors should return their pen pal cards and letters in one envelope by Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025 at the box provided in the lower level of the Fobes Memorial Library.

OHA lottery tickets

Oakham Historical Association still has some lottery tickets for sale. Deadline to purchase them is Tuesday, Dec. 31. Tickets are \$20 each. People may make out a check to the Oakham Historical Association and mail to P.O. Box 236, Oakham, MA 01068. There are two drawings each week beginning Jan. 7 through March 17. If their number is drawn, they will receive a check for \$50.00. Any questions, people may call Kathy Young at 508-882-3137.

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.

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. 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.-12.15 p.m. by calling 508-882-407.

Berthiaume and Durant hold office hours across region

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's Chief of Staff Donna Farmer and State Sen. Peter Durant's District Liaison Jared Grigg and Communications Director Kim Mongeau invite constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with.

Upcoming dates include Monday, Jan. 6, East Brookfield Senior Center from 9-10 a.m., Brookfield Town Hall from 10:15-11:15 a.m. and West Brookfield Senior Center from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 8, Ware Senior Center from 9-10 a.m., Hardwick Municipal Offices from 10:15-11:15 a.m., New Braintree Town Hall from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and North Brookfield Senior Center from 12:45-1:45 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 13, Hubbardston Senior Center from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Barre Senior Center from 10:45-11:45 a.m. and Oakham Town Hall from noon-1 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 14, Spencer Town Hall (Tammy Ruda from State Rep. John Marsi's office will also attend) from 10-11 a.m. and Leicester Senior Center from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

To arrange a private meeting, contact Farmer by calling 774-402-4742.

Listening Center lists upcoming classes

BARRE – Listening Center, South Street, lists upcoming workshops and new classes.

Rhonda Hamer will hold Strength and Stretch Fusion on Wednesdays, Jan. 8 to Feb. 12 from 1-2 p.m.; Understanding Osteoporosis on Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 5:30-7 p.m.; Gentle Yoga for Osteoporosis on Mondays, Feb. 24 to April 14 from noon-1 p.m.; Nutrition

for Osteoporosis on Wednesday Feb. 26 from 5:30-7 p.m. and Improved Posture Wednesday, May 14 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Body of Earth beginners class with Loren Magruder starts Thursday, Jan. 9 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for five weeks \$100 to be paid at first class in the Yoga Studio at Listening, 28 James St.

People may register by emailing loren@creativeyogaworks.com or calling 802-683-8383.

Loren Magruder will offer a Body of Earth Winter Yoga Journey beginning on Sunday, Jan. 12 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Yoga with Lisa classes are \$12 each or 8 for \$72 if paid at first class. People may try a free class to see if they are interested. They may call Lisa at 978-257-8180 or email lisa@burnoutoblihealth.

EQLT holds New Year's Day walk

NEW BRAINTREE – East Quabbin Land Trust will start off 2025 with a New Year's Day walk, Wednesday, Jan. 1 at noon at the New Braintree Trail Station Site, 1700 Hardwick Road.

This will be a casual walk on the Mass Central Rail Trail in New Braintree and Hardwick. EQLT will also dedicate the Terry Briggs Memorial Bench in Wheelwright.

**SUBMISSIONS
 ALWAYS WELCOME**
 Send your stories and photos to
 edowner@turley.com

Editorial deadline reminder

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

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

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

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

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

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Opinion

Guest Column



Have I saved Social Security money by claiming at 62?

Dear Rusty:
I had to start collecting Social Security at 62 and I am 75 now.
I believe that in the last 13 years I have saved Social Security money, so I do not know why I cannot draw my full benefits now.
If I had started drawing at 65 at \$1,200 per month, then I would have drawn \$16,400 per year. Instead, I got \$680 per month from 62 to 75 or \$8,160 per year or about \$106,000 over 13 years. Compare that to the age 65 amount of \$14,400 per year for 10 years, which is \$144,000. So, by claiming at 62, at age 75 I have saved the government over \$38,000. It would make seniors lives so much easier if they could draw full Social Security at 75 years old, after getting only part of their SS.
Signed: Second-guessing

Dear Second-guessing:
The difference between benefits claimed at various ages causes many to reflect, as you have done, about what might have been had you waited longer to claim. But there is an error in your calculations. If your age 62 monthly benefit is \$680, your age 65 monthly benefit would have been about \$845, not \$1,200. Thus, at 75 you would have collected about \$101,400 by claiming at 65, vs. the \$106,000 you have received by claiming at age 62. In other words, you still would not have broken even had you claimed at age 65.
Social Security says that it doesn't matter when you claim they say that if you claim early your payments will be less, but you'll get more of them. Where SSA's argument falls apart is when life expectancy is longer. Our experience is that if you wait until your Full Retirement Age to claim, which is age 66 in your case vs. claiming at age 62, you will collect the same amount of total money at about age 78.

In other words, the "breakeven age" for waiting until FRA to claim is about 78. So, you will reach your personal "breakeven age" in about 2 1/2 years, at age 78. And this is precisely why we encourage everyone to understand their life expectancy when deciding when to claim Social Security those who expect to live longer will, indeed, get more SS money if they delay claiming.
Your benefit is determined by your age when you claim and if you claim before your FRA your monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you claimed at age 62 and your monthly amount was \$680, then in the four years until you reached age 66, your FRA, you would have received about \$32,640. If you had, instead, waited until your FRA to claim, your benefit at age 66 would have been about \$906/month. Collecting \$906/month (at 66) vs. \$680/month (at 62) would make your breakeven age about 78. If you claimed at age 65 instead of 62, your breakeven age would have been about a year earlier (77).

So, have you saved Social Security money? Up to this point, you have not. Since you claimed at age 62, you have collected about \$680/month for 13 years until you were 75 (or about \$106,000). If you had waited until age 65 to claim you would have, instead, collected about \$101,400 - in other words you have received more, so far, by claiming at age 62. But that will change when you reach 77, your breakeven age, had you claimed at 65). Starting at age 77, you will have received less in cumulative lifetime benefits because you claimed at age 62.

Which, again, is why - at the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service - we encourage everyone to consider life expectancy when deciding when to take Social Security. Of course there are other factors too, not the least of which is financial need, but life expectancy is key. And since the benefit you get when you claim is permanent except for annual Cost of Living Adjustments, deciding when to claim Social Security is a decision which affects a lifetime.

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



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A Christmas card gardening question

My long-time friend Jane sent a column request via her Christmas card!
"I still read your columns, Roberta. I like the folksy way you write! Can you please provide some tips on keeping my Poinsettia healthy?"
So, out of the archives comes this column, devoted to Jane and you guessed it, the poinsettia.
Every Christmas the poinsettia takes the stage, front and center, in grocery and box store displays. The deep red bracts lure buyers to make them part of their holiday decorating.
Pretty? For sure, but without proper care, the plant won't have a chance past New Year's Day.
Let's learn what we can do to keep this favorite looking its best throughout the holiday season and then some.

It's important that you start off with a healthy plant. Choose a poinsettia with dark green foliage all the way to the soil line. Color should completely cover the bracts on the upper portion of the plant.

Avoid plants whose flowers (located in the center of the bracts) show pollen. If pollen is evident, the plant is old.

Be wary of those that are displayed in plastic or paper sleeves or even those that are elbow to elbow. Poinsettias need room to spread out, and the longer they are cramped, the more likely it is that their quality will be impacted.

Wilted plants are also best avoided, as this may indicate more than dry soil alone.

Poinsettias are cold sensitive. I was aghast when an out of town florist delivered these to me without a proper covering!

Temperatures under 50 degrees for even a few minutes can damage the plant. Therefore, insert into a bag or protective sleeve for the ride home from the store and do not leave in an unheated car while you run other errands!

Once home, position the poinsettia in a location where it will receive indirect light for at least six hours a day. Avoid drafts, warm or cold, and place far enough away from windows to prevent the foliage from touching cold glass.

Chances are if you are comfortable inside, your poinsettia will be as well. Temperatures from 65-70 degrees during the day to around 55 at night will extend its life.

Check the plant often to see if it needs water. If the soil is dry, water until droplets leak through the drainage holes in the pot. Saucers shouldn't accumulate water. Dump the excess out after each watering so the plant won't reabsorb it and become waterlogged.

Soil that remains soaking wet is likely to cause root rot. A visual indication of this irreversible disease is curled, wilting foliage and bracts. Hold off on fertilizing the plant while it is in bloom.

It's unfortunate that few people keep their poinsettias past the holiday season. My mom tries for repeat bloom each year with varying degrees of success. This year, some bracts are just starting to turn red!

Here's what to do if you'd like to try it: In early April cut back the plant to eight inches. Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month.

See GARDEN, page 10

In Past Pages

5 years ago (Jan. 2, 2020)

The Barre Town Hall was a flurry of activity Saturday, Dec. 21 as plenty were on hand to celebrate the winter solstice and attend the annual Circle of Song's holiday concert. Although not the typical holiday mix, the choral group along with an instrumental ensemble performed some challenging pieces to warm the souls on a bitter cold night. "It's nice to see lots of people, who don't do this professionally gelling together to do complicated music and making it work," said Jean Rogers, a friend of one of the choral members.

The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts and the Barre Lions Club joined forces this all and winter for a couple of fund-raising projects. The Barre Lions reached out to the Hanover Theatre in Worcester for some help and they proved to be willing partners with the Lions Club. The theatre generously donated two sets of tickets to shows, which were raffled off at the Barre Lions Club's eighth annual car show in September. The Anne-Marie Cancer Fund was the main beneficiary of the proceeds that were raised in this venture. The Hanover Theatre also worked with the Barre Lions Club in a special benefit derived from the matinee performance of Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" Saturday, Dec. 21.

Frozen Assets in Hubbardston returns for 2020. People may take five guesses on when the "outhouse" will fall through the ice for a \$20 donation. All donations will help fund future special events in town. An outhouse will be located on Williamsville Road Country Hen pond starting in February. All forms must be submitted by Feb. 1. The closest guess wins a \$300 gift card, second place \$150 gift card, third place a \$75 gift card and fourth place one flat of eggs for eight weeks courtesy of Country Hen.

10 years (Jan. 1, 2015)

The Oakham Board of Selectman discussed the need to insulate the municipal building. Selectman Eliot Starbard commented the town "spends a ridiculous amount on oil." The building that both the highway and fire department between 5,200 to 7,200 gallons of oil per year. John Couture recommended the selectmen do an evaluation of the building to see where the heat loss takes place in the building. He guessed most like it would be between the walls and roof.

Several people responded to a request to hear from people born on New Year's Day, Jan. 1. Samuel Sidoti was born at home at 19 Ash St. in South Barre at 5 a.m. on Jan. 1, 1938. Dr. Warner was the attending doctor. He said he may have been the first one born that day. He liked being able to celebrate his birthday and New Year on the same day and he did not see any disadvantage to having a Jan. 1 birthday. Rick Hendra of Oakham was born in Detroit,

LOOK BACK Look Back — Model Congress — 1982



File photo
Quabbin Regional High School students participated in the 42nd annual Model Congress. They are kneeling from left, John Vincent, Anne Kowal and Bernie Audette. Back row from left are Theresa Reed; James Pickens John Musante; advisor Glenn Stratton and advisor Julia Sullivan.

Michigan at 8:10 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital.

Members of the Greater Barre St. Cleophas Council #15756 of the Knight's at Columbus announce that this year they were able to take part in the Coats for Kids Campaign. This local chapter of the Knight's of Columbus raised funds with a 5-K road race and walk held in October, then they purchased coats of various sizes so as to provide coats to the local schools Ruggles Lane in Barre and Oakham Center School in Oakham.

25 years (Jan. 6, 2000)

If everyone who took out nomination papers for the Town's Feb. 28 election turns them in to the Town Clerk Ellen Glidden by Jan. 10, there will be five contests this year. The potential contest are for Treasurer, School Committee, Planning Board, Felton Field Commissioner and Library Trustees.

Four town dispatchers told Barre Selectmen Monday night they would like to have more say over hiring new dispatchers, scheduling work times and setting budgets. The dispatchers had expressed these concerns at the previous meeting and Selectmen asked that they return when Police Chief

James Thompson currently in charge of the dispatchers, Fire Chief Joseph Rogowski and Rescue Squad Captain Michael Kowal could be present. Kathy Howard, Amy Crawford, Carol Sullivan and Pat Sibley said there had been recent problems in the department with

new hires.

Dorothy Holmes tried last year to celebrate Epiphany, "Little Christmas" or Three King Days at the Oakham Congregational Church. It is recognized as the day the Three Magi or Kings arrived with gifts for Baby Jesus. However, because she planned the event last year for the actual day during the week, it was not convenient for most people. This year she decided to hold the event following the Sunday, Jan. 11 worship service rather than on the actual day on Tuesday, Jan. 6. Most people stayed for this family friendly event that included a potluck luncheon, games and a pinata for the children. One of the highlights was the crowning of the King or Queen of the Bean. Gail Pryce was the lucky person who found the bean in her piece of cake. She wore a crown and a purple robe and held court.

38 years (Jan. 8, 1987)

The New Braintree Board of Selectmen met with the townspeople Dec. 5 to discuss the alternatives to having a prison located within the town. The Selectmen, Conserve Our Small Town and the town's lobbyists initiated the meeting with an explanation of recent developments followed by a question and answer period and culminated in asking the townspeople what they wanted to do. The people of New Braintree want to keep the fight going as was demonstrated when the Chairman of the Selectmen, Steven Cronin,

See PAST PAGES, page 5

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. 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.

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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

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

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

This week sure has been frigid. I was glad I did not have to go out. My handyman got our mail. I was afraid the mail lady would think we were passed away if we did not get it for two days.

I spent a couple of days in the office going through scrapbooks and bringing them up to date. Some pages I put new plastic sleeves on as the pictures were falling and I had to put tape on the backs. It was interesting to read through the many articles I had saved over the 88 years.

One picture I found interesting was a scene at my old homestead in which a lady who rented our upstairs apartment was sliding down Worcester Road with my younger brother on a sled. Behind her was the "Dummy Cop," which used to be in the middle of the intersection of Main Street, Worcester Road and Barre Road. I believe the picture was taken in about the year 1942.

With the traffic on Main Street today one could never do that. At one time the town fathers closed Depot Road, which is now Brigham Street, in the winter so youngsters could slide down that street. I remember one of the boys had a toboggan and we would all jump on it, go down the hill and another older boy would pull us back up the hill. If I remember right by a car.

Skating at Brigham Pond was fun also. A group of boys would clear off the snow and we had a nice skating rink. I did not know how to skate so they would pull me around the ice on a sled. We used to slide down Hallock's hill to Brigham Pond. They used to ice fish on the pond also.

I hope you all had a nice holiday and now with the new year upon us you might like to make a quiche for your New Year Buffet. Here is one I like to make.

BROCCOLI QUICHE

1 small onion, sauteed in butter
8 ounces cheese, any kind, coarsely grated
4 ounces milk
3 eggs
1/8 teaspoon pepper

1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup flour
pinch of garlic salt
1 small package frozen, chopped broccoli, slightly cooked

1 pie crust
Place onions on bottom of prepared pie crust. Spread broccoli over onions. Sprinkle cheese over broccoli. Mix the eggs, salt, pepper, garlic salt, milk and flour together with mixer or blender. Pour over cheese. Place in preheated oven and bake at 400 degrees for 25 minutes, then 300 degrees for 20 minutes, until knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

This and That

I was going through my folder on Christmas ideas to see what I could do for projects. I came across an article on making holiday potpourri. I had a container of flower petals, which I had dried so I added cinnamon sticks, small cones and some dried orange peels to it and some scents. I placed it all in a large wooden bowl and have it on the fireplace hearth.

Another project I did was to make some package labels. I take the pictures of all those who I buy presents for and copied them on the printer, glue them to a cardboard backing, punch a hole for the ribbon and they are ready to be placed on the package. The secret to it is they are baby pictures of the ones receiving the gift so the one who plays Santa has to figure out who the picture is.

Another idea I have in the folder is to use an old wooden wheel barrel, fill it with evergreens, flower stalks, berries, clay flower pots, watering can, large pine cones, pumpkins, apples and oranges and place it on the front lawn.

I did pick some more holly and placed it on the coffee table as the Paper white Narcissus have gone by.

May you my readers have a very happy and healthy new year.

BARRE, continued from page 1

Marshall said she and Town Administrator Martin are working on a list of contracts Barre has with other towns to make sure the town is getting compensated. She also said she would be attending the municipal meeting with the Quabbin Regional School District as the Barre Select Board's representative. She said the Quabbin Regional School District and Wachusett Regional School District, the largest regional school district in the state, both have declining enrollment.

The state was not giving any additional funds to school districts throughout the Commonwealth in this situation. She said in her memory the state never gave the 100% transportation reimbursement to regional schools. The amount was about 80%.

Other business

The Board discussed the lack of work by Matrix for cable access on Springhill Road. The town received a bill, but will hold off on paying it. The Board will have the special attorney they hired for cable access issues handle the matter.

OAKHAM, continued from page 1

ity. The Board said there was a 3% increase on values and it was a conservative number. The Board of Assessor hired a principal assessor, Nohika Cherubin, but they were still looking for a third member for the Board.

Select Board Chair Lucy Tessnau said she received a call regarding the light, which provide illumination for the Senior Center. The person said the light shines in the drivers face when coming down Maple Street. They asked if the light could be adjusted to eliminate

the problem. The Board will look into the matter.

The only other business on the agenda was executive session. Select Board Chair Lucy Tessnau cited Chapter 38, Section 21A and read the reason, "To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition, mental health rather than profession, competence of an individual or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of or complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff, member or individual." They also voted to return to open session for the purpose of adjourning.

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

asked the townspeople if they wanted the fight to continue. All but four of the approximately 90 residents in the room rose to their feet applauding.

A new bridge on Route 62 was the topic of discussion at the Monday, Jan. 5 Barre Selectman's meeting. John May of Green International Affiliates came before the board to discuss the partial design proposal for the repair of the Hubbardston bridge. The selectmen's main concerns lay with the maintenance of traffic on Route 62 while construction is taking place. The bridge is the main route for many school buses out of Hubbardston. According to May, a detour would have to be in effect or

approximately three weeks to one month. Several alternatives to an actual detour were also discussed including building the bridge a "half width at a time" and reviving an old bridge built in 1938. The later suggestion would not be cost effective according to May.

Six hundred and ten families in the Quabbin School District including Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Oakham and New Braintree received an Early Childhood Survey in the mail in December, but only 28% have returned the surveys. Results are being tallied to be presented at the Jan. 12 meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory. So far, over 170 responses are in, but the district would like as many as possible. Every answer counts. The district will continue tallying responses until mid-January.



By Ellenor Downer

American wigeon



I received an email from a Brimfield resident on Dec. 15.

He said he checked out a pond in Ludlow in preparation for doing the Christmas Bird Count with the Allen Bird Club. He said, "My wife and I have been covering the town of Ludlow since 1989 and did my first count with the club in the late 1970s."

He saw four American Wigeons. He said, "Males with white crown/forehead and female with gray head brown body was swimming with the males. The male's white spot was very visible even to the unaided eye."

The American wigeon is 21 inches long. The male has a white forehead and crown, gray head and a green iridescent patch through the eye. The male has a white spot before the tail, which the Brimfield mentioned in his email.

The female has brownish sides, grayish head and sides, a dark eyespot and light gray bill with black tip. The female wigeon lays six to 12 white eggs in a grassy nest. The nest is concealed in rushes, sedge or under tree clumps.

American wigeons feed on pond weeds, milfoil, wigeon grass, wild celery and eelgrass. They may eat vexation stirred up by diving ducks such as canvasbacks. They summer on lakes and marshes and winter on wet meadows, lakes and protected costal waters. They are usually found in small flocks. During courtship competing males give whistling calls and lift folded wings nearly vertical above their back. Males give soft descending three syllable whistles.

Other birds

Other birds seen by the Brimfield resident at

the Ludlow Reservoir were 63 Canada geese, six mallards, 83 hooded mergansers, 161 common mergansers, one ring-billed gull, three common loons and one bald eagle flew directly overhead just above the tree tops. Other birds were two American crows, two tufted titmice and two dark-eyed juncos.

Hooded mergansers

I received an email from a woman on Dec. 14. She said, "The ponds on Brook Road in West Warren have more treasures. Two days ago I saw a pair of hooded mergansers. I sat and watched for several minutes and they spent most of the time under water."

Bird at feeder

I received an email from a woman on Dec. 20. She wrote, "I have spotted a bird I believe to be a yellow warbler coming to my feeder. My knowledge of the bird is that it migrates south or the winter." She sent a photo, but the bird was eating so the beak and head were not visible. It had two white wing bars, olive color and some yellow. It may be a male American goldfinch in winter plumage. They do spend the winter here and retain some of their yellow feathers.

Loon fact


Most of the fish loons catch are small enough to be swallowed whole when they're still underwater. However, when a loon captures a larger fish, it may need to return to the surface to subdue it before it is able to consume it. Loons may slap a fish against the surface of the water or repeatedly drop and recapture it until the fish stops struggling and is manageable enough to be swallowed.

Loons swallow fish whole, headfirst. When a loon starts to swallow a large fish, it will first ensure that it is oriented properly, sometimes dropping the fish and picking it up several times until it is properly positioned. Once the fish is aligned so that it is headfirst in the loon's mouth, the loon begins the process of swallowing. Loons have sharp, rear-facing projections along the roof of their mouths and on their tongues. These projections, called denticles, interlock with the fish's scales, ensuring that the fish is not able to escape back into the water. Loons then press their tongue into the fish and begin to inch it down the throat, into the esophagus. Depending on the size of the fish a loon is trying to eat, it may take a few seconds to several minutes for the loon to swallow. Once in the esophagus, the fish moves down into the gizzard. A loon may open its mouth and repeatedly extend its neck upward and then contract it back towards its body to help move particularly large fish through the esophagus to the gizzard.

American crow

I saw about five or six American crows foraging on a lawn on my way to church this cold Sunday morning. With the temperature registering 8 degrees F, the crows had their feathers all puffed up for warmth.

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



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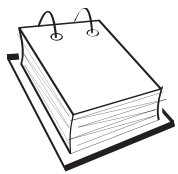
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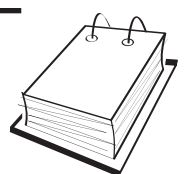
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Calendar of Events



TUESDAY, DEC. 31

250th MASQUERADE BALL hosted by Barre's 250th Anniversary Committee will be held today from 8p.m.-12:30 a.m. at the 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. 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. The evening promises an unforgettable celebration.

THURSDAY, JAN. 9

TALES OF THE TROUBADOUR with musician Bob Jordan will take place today at 6:30 p.m. in the Stevens Memorial Library, 20 Memorial Drive, Ashburnham. The event is free and open to the public. The library requests people call 978-827-4115 to reserve a seat. This program is supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Service administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

SATURDAY, JAN. 11, 2025

BARRE WINTER MARKET located in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre will take place today from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Other dates are Saturday, Feb. 8; Saturday, March 8 and Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This is the third year of the market. Local crafters and farmers sell their crafts and products. For more information, people may email rebellbathandbeyond@gmail.com or call Celia at 978-355-0139.

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

GRANDPARENTS AND KINSHIP CARE

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Elenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from New Braintree. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Dec. 30. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Rosemary Horan, Evelyn Luukko and Philip Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the seasonal display including a menorah on the Common in Hubbardston.

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.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

THEATRE AT MOUNT AUDITIONS for "Curious

George, the Golden Meatball" will be held today by appointment only for ages 8 to 12 at 11:30 a.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 2 p.m. at Mount Wachusett Community College, room A110 (formerly 182), 444 Green St., Gardner. People should call the Theatre at the Mount Box Office at 978-630-9388 Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or email an appointment request to box-office@mwcc.mass.edu. Auditioners will be asked to sing a short vocal selection, which will be taught at the audition and there will be a dance audition, combination also taught at audition, for all roles and chorus. They should wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Some performers will be asked to do cold readings from the script. Performance dates are April 12 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for the general public; April 8 and April 9 at 10 a.m. and April 10 and April 11 at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. for school groups. Performances are held during school hours, so all cast members must be willing and able to take four days off from school/work. Tentative rehearsal schedule is Sundays from 2-5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. beginning mid-February.

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.

DONATION, continued from page 1

Anderson said. Anderson said the Fire Department will need about \$50,000 to replace all of the department's hoses and nozzles in order to maintain the classification for its pumper. He said that some of the nozzles that failed are older than he is. "Some of the hose is from 1977," he added. Anderson said the department

has also applied for a state grant, which if awarded, would provide over \$100,000 in funding to purchase necessary equipment at a cost of only \$5,000 to the town.

He said the town of Warren was awarded the same grant last year and he has worked with that town's department to complete the application which has been submitted. The grant awards should be announced at the beginning of 2025 and distributed in July.

"A lot of towns are in the same

boat," Anderson said of the need to replace aging equipment.

After the presentation, resident John Tripp donated \$100 to the Fire Department, to help with the efforts to replace the equipment. Anderson expressed his gratitude for the donations received, adding that the department will "take anything anybody wants to give."

People who would like to donate can mail a payment to the North Brookfield Fire Department, 56 School St., North Brookfield, MA 01535.

Santa, snowmen and story time

Santa Claus visited Hardwick Playgroup

HARDWICK – Santa Claus may have been busy preparing for his trip to deliver gifts to children around the world, but he still found time to visit his friends at Making Opportunity Count Coordinated Family & Community Engagement's Hardwick Playgroup last Friday morning.

Children were able to make snowmen crafts, have a visit with Santa Claus and enjoy some songs and books.

Hardwick Playgroup will resume in the new year, on Friday, Jan. 10 from 10-11 a.m., upstairs in the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, 307 Main St., Gilbertville. Please use the side entrance facing the Stone Church.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Santa Claus made a special visit to Making Opportunity Count Coordinated Family & Community Engagement's Hardwick Playgroup last Friday.



This child thinks about what he would like for Christmas.



Santa Claus visited with children and heard their Christmas wishes.

LESSONS AND CAROLS, continued from page 1

community members, rehearsed since October. Sunday night's large audience was a mix of community members, family of the orchestra and chorus and church members.

The cantata opened with Rev. Carissa Rodriguez, interim minister, giving a prayer. The audience joined the chorus to sing three carols "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "What Child Is This" and "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" accompanied by Dawn Thistle playing the church organ.

The cantata began with "Angels We Have Heard on High." The "Glory of God" (Interlude 1) played as the first reader, Joanne Bedard, spoke. Soprano Maeve Hilferty-McMahon had a solo part in the next selection "Ordinary Baby." Gail Pryce was the second reader for "God Has a Name" (Interlude 2).

Laura Guilbault sang a solo

part in "What Did You Say Was the Baby's Name?" Chris Nahkala was the reader for "Quiet Night" (Interlude 3). The next selection was "Noel, Noel! Sing Glory!"

The final reader was Linda Barringer for "A Way to Return" (Interlude 4). Peter Guilbault, tenor, had a solo part in "Glory in the Highest/Bring Back the Glory." The cantata ended with "Glory in the Highest Finale." Dawn Thistle then returned to the organ to play the final carol, "Joy to the World." The Rev. Carissa Rodriguez gave the benediction.

The choir consisted of Ellie Downer, Maeve Hilferty-McMahon, Julia Tuttle and Midge Wetzel, soprano; Laura Biro, Janelle Hutchinson, Laura Guilbault and Marna Mucha, alto; John Baptista, Bernie Keane and Jack Mellish, baritone/bass and Abigail Bedard, Peter Guilbault and George Paradis, tenors.

Orchestra members were Abraham Brown and Brendan Welch, violin; Quinlan Fauteux,

cello; Kailynn Schuster, flute; Bryan Dunphy and Abigail Falconi, clarinet; Toni Brown, bass clarinet; Tess Dunphy, alto saxophone; Arianna Riendeau, baritone saxophone; Brennan Gabrenas and Jillian Rigney, trumpet; Anthony Quartarone, euphonium and Benjamin Darcey, tuba.

There were several family members participating. Gail Pryce, Joanne Bedard and Abigail Bedard consisted of three generations. Toni Brown and Abraham Brown were two generations. John Baptista was Peter and Laura Guilbault's son-in-law.

"This program is funded in part by a grant from the Oakham Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency." Donations were gratefully accepted in support of the Oakham Congregational music program and Quabbin Pro Musica. Refreshments under the direction of Barbara Crawford followed the performance.

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Boys middle school basketball action



Lucas Gaspar looks for an open teammate.

BARRE – Prior to the Christmas holiday, Quabbin boys middle school basketball faced Paxton, coming up with a big win. It was Quabbin's final game before taking a break for the holidays. The middle school team is back in action on Jan. 7 against Bromfield.



Nathan Gingras tries to keep the ball inbound.



Robert Tobin eyes the hoop.



Jack LeClair heads down the court.



Ashton Dahlstrom hustles across midcourt.

Middle school girls face Paxton



Emma Stauder looks to pass an opponent tries to steal the ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

BARRE – Last Friday afternoon, Quabbin girls middle school basketball hosted Paxton. The Panthers then had two weeks off before returning action in 2025 when they face Bromfield Jan. 7 at 4:45 p.m. on the road.



Ayla Clark looks to bring in the rebound.



Raegyn Wnek dribbles near the arc.



Katy Twarog tries to make a pass under pressure.



Maggie Leander works near the end line.

Pioneers jump out to a good start

PALMER – Last Monday and Wednesday, Pathfinder girls basketball was able to put up a pair of wins to get its season started. Last Monday night, the Pioneers

opened up the year with PVCIC, defeating the visitors 36-12. Their defense was excellent throughout the game though it took some time for the offense to get mov-

ing. Desiree Croteau had 15 points to lead all scorers. The Pioneers defeated Duggan 49-27 on Dec. 18 and are back in action Dec. 27 against Smith Academy at 6 p.m.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Greenly Lagimoniere attempts a three-pointer.



Aubrey Pope heads for the corner.



Desiree Croteau makes a pass along the perimeter.



Addison Doktor goes for a put-back.

Maggie Leander works near the end line.

Pathfinder gets in early hole, falls to PVCA

PALMER – Last Monday night, Pathfinder found itself in 14-2 deficit very early, and the Pioneer Valley Christian Academy rode that to a 49-37 win over Pathfinder. While Pathfinder was able to muster some

more offense in the middle of the game, PVCA finished stronger for the win. Cassian Kowalik had 15 points while Sauri Nieves had 11 points for the Pioneers.



Dustyn Cook goes for the shot with pressure underneath the hoop.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Cayden Bousquet runs into traffic in the paint.



Matthew Vanasse waits for his opponent's jump to finish before taking a shot.



Cassian Kowalik shoots over an outreached defender.

Sports

T-Birds fall to Checkers on the road

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-10-2-1) fell victim to a two-goal comeback by the Charlotte Checkers (15-6-1-2) last Wednesday night at Bojangles Coliseum in a 4-3 defeat.

The T-Birds did themselves no favors by taking back-to-back penalties just four seconds apart, resulting in 1:57 of two-man advantage time for the league's top power play. Steve Konowalchuk's team dug in, though, as Vadim Zherenko and the penalty killers did the job to survive the lengthy threat.

Charlotte still rode the momentum from the power play to the game's opening tally by Oliver Okuliar at 4:45 of the first period, giving the Checkers a 1-0 advantage.

After the burst from Charlotte, the T-Birds quickly chipped away on the shot board. At 15:00 of the frame, Dalibor Dvorsky brought Springfield even with his team-leading 11th of the season, cashing in on a rebound at the edge of the crease and driving it past former T-Bird Chris Driedger.

The 1-1 score continued for nearly a whole period of game action until the T-Birds' third and fourth units capitalized on back-

to-back shifts. Tanner Dickinson started the scoring blitz with a wristed from the left circle that glanced off traffic and eluded Driedger at 14:02 of the second period, making it a 2-1 lead for Coliseum in a 4-3 defeat.



Springfield.

34 seconds later, Mathias Laferriere and Drew Callin entered the offensive zone on a 2-on-1 and took advantage of the situation. Driedger made an initial pad save off a Laferriere shot from the left circle. However, the rebound kicked right to Callin, who quickly deked to the forehand and put it behind Driedger to give the T-Birds a 3-1 advantage.

Penalties, though, continued to throw a wrench in the T-Birds' plans, and the Charlotte power play finally connected in the final minute of the second as Rasmus Asplund redirected a Trevor Carrick wrist shot behind

Zherenko, chopping the lead to 3-2 at 19:21 of the middle frame.

For a second straight night, rookie Ben Steeves provided a clutch tying marker for Charlotte, taking a feed from Okuliar in the right circle and snapping a shot past Zherenko's stick hand at 3:55 of the third, bringing the game to a stalemate, 3-3.

The two teams did not generate much after the Steeves goal, with the two clubs combining for only eight shots in the entire third period, and the tie score carried into the final three minutes of the game.

Again, discipline proved pivotal, as Tobias Bjornfort drew a high-sticking double minor and a four-minute power play for the Checkers with 2:39 remaining.

The league's top man advantage lived up to their billing in the final minute, as Wilmer Skoog unloaded a blistering one-time slapper that found twine with 54 seconds left to give Charlotte the 4-3 lead. Springfield's last-ditch efforts to tie came up empty in the closing moments, and Charlotte completed the two-game sweep of the T-Birds.

Railers announce major coaching change

WORCESTER — The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) and Chief Operating Officer Michael G. Myers have announced that Bob Deraney has taken on a new role within the organization, Head of Scouting, effective immediately. Nick Tuzzolino has been named Head Coach & General Manager of the Worcester Railers.



continuing to work with the team in this new role."

"Bob has been a part of the Railers family for a number of years," Myers said. "We can't thank him enough for his dedication and commitment to this organization over the past several seasons. We look forward to him

Tuzzolino becomes the fifth head coach in Worcester Railers history after serving as General Manager & Associate Head Coach to begin the season. He first came to Worcester in June after he spent the 2023-24 season as assistant coach and direc-

tor of player development with the Savannah Ghost Pirates. As a defenseman, he played over 500 games professionally between the UHL, IHL, ECHL & American Hockey League from 2007-2023. During his initial retirement, he coached the Buffalo Jr. Sabres of the Ontario Junior Hockey League from 2016-20.

"In his time here, Nick has demonstrated his readiness to lead the team both on and off the ice," Myers said. "He has a wealth of experience in dissecting professional systems and working in pro player development. We're excited for him to take the reins and continue his work on bringing a winning culture to Worcester."

Next HoopHall ceremony announced

SPRINGFIELD — The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced that the Class of 2025 Enshrinement Ceremony will take place on Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield — the Birthplace of Basketball.

The nominees for the upcoming class were set to be revealed on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m. during "NBA Today" on ESPN. The Class of 2025 Finalist Announcement

will be Friday, Feb. 14, as part of the NBA All-Star Weekend in San Francisco, and the Class of 2025 will be announced on Saturday, April 5, during the NCAA Final Four Weekend in San Antonio.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, September 5, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, inclusive of the Class of 2025

jacket and ring presentation and the annual Hall of Fame Awards. The Enshrinement Ceremony will take place the following day in Springfield's historic Symphony Hall and will be available to a global audience.

A full schedule of events will be announced at a later date.

Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of

Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer)

are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed

Education

Theatre at the Mount to hold auditions

GARDNER — The Theatre at the Mount will hold auditions for "Curious George, the Golden Meatball" on Sunday, Feb. 2 by appointment only for ages 8 to 12 at 11:30 a.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 2 p.m. at Mount Wachusett Community College, room A110 (formerly 182), 444 Green St.

To schedule an

appointment, people should call the Theatre at the Mount Box Office at 978-630-9388 Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or they may email an appointment request to box-office@mwcc.mass.edu.

Auditioners will be asked to sing a short vocal selection, which will be taught at the audition and

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

Performance dates are April 12 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for the general public; April 8 and April 9 at 10 a.m. and April 10 and

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

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

St. Aloysius Catholic School lists honor roll

HARDWICK — St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville lists students named to the first trimester honor roll.

Honors

Sophia Adams, Hannah LaRochelle, Rose Theriault, Jackson Boudreau, Alex Velez and Connor Shunaman.

Declan Cady elected into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA — Declan Cady of Rutland, was recently elected to membership into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at The University of Tampa.

Cady is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10% of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni, who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines.

Sophie Borbone receives Collaboration Recognition Award

NEWTON, — Sophie Borbone of Barre was selected by her peers to receive the Collaboration Recognition Award at Lasell University for the 2024 fall semester.

Recipients of the Collaboration Recognition Award are selected by their peers for exemplifying superior skills in collaboration by sharing ideas and useful information, communicating in a professional manner and cooperating in a way to ensure success.

Collaboration is a main objective of the Lasell University mission statement. A key feature of this program is a peer-nomination process at the end of the semester. This intentional experience in collaboration builds on the Core Curriculum learning outcome of Teamwork, which is recognized by the National Association of Colleges & Employers as one of eight key competencies of career readiness and research shows that 81% of employers hiring college graduates are looking for evidence of an ability to work in a team.

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Turleysports
 Athlete of the Month
 NAME: Luke Salvadore
 SCHOOL: Quabbin
 Salvadore finished the football season with a strong performance in the rain on Thanksgiving morning against Gardner. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Central processing unit
- Taxi
- Body part
- Papal court
- Young women making their public debuts
- Metal shackles
- Joseph's wife
- Licensed professional
- Partner to cheese
- Mild fruits
- File format
- Province of Indonesia
- Beloved grilled foods
- Bar bill
- Don't know when yet
- Whale ship captain

CLUES DOWN

- Of cadmium
- Deliver a sermon
- Inner regions of a shadow
- Aggressive dog
- Smells
- Twofold
- Former OSS
- Computer language
- Indian groom
- Automobile
- Hairstyle
- Atomic #76
- Guy (slang)
- Ladies' undergarments
- Furniture with open shelves
- Back-arc basin
- Partner to flow
- A type of horse

CLUES ACROSS

- Touches softly
- Mock
- Red-brown Pacific sea bream
- Summer entertainment options
- Protective crust
- Cool!
- Behave in a way that belittles
- Denial
- A place to sleep
- Electronic counter-measures
- Intestinal pouches
- SE Asia family of languages
- Sound
- Select
- Give the impression of dishonesty

CLUES DOWN

- Witness
- Small amount
- Flat-bottomed riverboat
- Not good
- Atomic #31
- Assist in committing a crime
- Chauvinists
- Get away
- One of a people who speaks a Semitic language
- Civil rights college organization
- Combustible dark rocks
- Grocery container
- Central nervous system

NOTICE

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

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Public Notices

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON

January 11, 2025 AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

- 2008 Audi Q7 VIN: WA1AY74L58D040261
 - 2013 Dodge Avenger VIN: 1C3CDZAB3DN566995
 - 2013 Chevrolet Volt VIN: 1G1RB6E43DU102514
 - 2003 BMW K 1200 GT VIN: WB10558A73ZK01323
 - 2005 Honda CR-V VIN: SHSRD78835U346351
 - 2012 Nissan Murano VIN: JN8AZ1M1W1CW208635
 - 2007 Honda Civic VIN: 2HGFA55577H706155
 - 2007 Ford Crown Victoria VIN: 2FAHP71W07X127911
 - 2011 Suzuki SX4 Crossover VIN: JS2YB5A30B6301280
 - 2015 Nissan Versa Note VIN: 3N1CE2CP4FL393339
 - 2019 Dodge Charger VIN: 2C3CDXBG5KH623363
- The sale will be held at Early's on Park Avenue 536 Park Ave., Worcester, MA 01603 12/26, 01/02, 01/09/2025**

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Eric Michael Allen and Angel Marie LeBlanc** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Total Mortgage Services, LLC dated September 10, 2020, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63225, Page 27; said mort-

gage was then assigned to Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency by virtue of an assignment dated May 23, 2024, and recorded in Book 70578, Page 50; of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 11:00 AM on **January 15, 2025**, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of **198 School Street North, Barre, MA 01005**. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

A certain parcel of land with buildings thereon, situated in Barre, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, containing 17,041 square feet, and being Lot B as shown on a plan labeled "Plan of Land in Barre, Mass. Owned by Kirk A. Kenneway Scale: 1"=20", June 14, 2005, by William L. Berry, Jr. Land Surveyor," said plan recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 829, Plan 6, and bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at gun barrel set on the easterly side of School Street and the intersection of Lot A;

THENCE N. 34 degrees 05' 56" E. twenty-five and 7/6100 (25.76) feet along School Street as depicted on said plan to a gun barrel set;

THENCE S. 55 degrees 17' 18" E. one hundred thirty-seven and 24/100 (137.24) feet along land now or formerly of Pulliafico as depicted on said plan to a point;

THENCE N. 28 degrees 42' 01" E. one hundred thirty-eight (138.31) feet along a stone wall and land now or formerly of Pulliafico as depicted on said plan to a .6' m barrel set;

THENCE S. 89 degrees 43' 08" E. forty-three and 56/100 (43.56) feet along a stone wall and land now or formerly of Barbara J. Williams as depicted on said plan to a gun barrel set;

THENCE S. 21 degrees 28' 09" E. nineteen and 13/100 (19.13) feet along a stone wall as depicted on said plan to a drill hole set; THENCE S. 28 degrees 42' 01" W. one hundred fifty-nine and 82/100 (159.82) feet along land now or formerly of Steven W. Clark as depicted on said plan to a gun barrel set;

THENCE S. 74 degrees 47' 28" W. one hundred and 10/100 (100.10) feet along Lot A as depicted on said plan to a rebar set; Thence N. 45 degrees 42' 44" W. thirty-five and 20/100 (35.20) feet along Lot A as depicted on said plan to a gun barrel; THENCE N. 15 degrees 35' 33" E. thirty-nine and 67/100 (39.67) feet along Lot A as depicted on said plan to a railroad spike set;

THENCE N. 40 degrees 39' 02" W. seventy-three and 27/100 (73.27) feet along Lot A as depicted on said plan to a drill hole set;

THENCE N. 79 degrees 34' 13" W. eight and 76/100 (8.76) feet along Lot A as depicted on said plan to the point of beginning.

Containing 17,041 square feet, more or less, according to said plan.

Said premises are described together with an easement in perpetuity over Lot A to inspect, repair, and maintain the water lines and pipes which service Lot B. Said premises are described together with an easement to the grantee in perpetuity to pass and re-pass over the driveway, a portion of which is located on Lot A as depicted on the above-referenced plan.

For title see Deed recorded herewith.

Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control

by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.

Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Dated: October 7, 2024
Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency
By its Attorney
DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC,
100 Cummings Center,
Suite 303C,
Beverly, MA 01915
(978) 921-2670
www.dgandl.com 57682 (ALLEN)

12/19, 12/26/2024, 01/02/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of Marlon Barrios Solano, Russell Seitz, Alyssa McAuliffe, and Shawn Stevens will be auctioned off at **Barre Self Storage, 50 Worcester Rd., Barre, MA at 9:00 AM on January 8, 2025**. Subject to all or partial cancellation for good cause.

12/19, 12/26/2024

HARDWICK, continued from page 1

the option to refuse to participate in a PILOT with the town, as it is only voluntary.

"We just basically don't want a nonprofit costing the town and the taxpayers money, period," Tinker said.

Kemp said she doesn't think the policy is a bad idea, but that it needs more revision. Members of the Finance Committee also suggested shortening the policy.

"Let's get some other ideas and boil it down and see what we come up with," Vollheim said.

Conservation Commission Chair Bill Zinni said there are plenty of studies and surveys that have shown the economic benefit of open space land, trails and recreational access. He said the state land also provides areas to hunt and fish.

"The people that come to enjoy that stuff, they benefit from our investment, including town investment," he said. "We just spent several years improving some trails to attract people and people are using them. The land trust spends plenty of effort and money (their Stewardship Committee) in maintaining the trail network that people enjoy and come here for. These things result in economic benefits for the town."

Zinni said these benefits should be evaluated in addition to a nonprofit's use of town services.

"If we're going to try to evaluate costs in terms of services, we should balance those against benefits," he said.

Zinni shared a recent study that detailed the cost of community services, which showed that residential development costs more in services to the town than it bring in from tax revenue.

"You could view conserving some lands...as avoiding more expense to the town," he said.

Tinker said 33% of land in the town is owned by nonprofits, which includes the land owned by the state.

"It's a pretty big number," Tinker said.

Erik Fleming, who serves on the town's Planning Board, asked since the policy is voluntary, why the board was spending money on town counsel fees to review something that ultimately can't be enforced.

Eagle Hill School's Head of School Erin Wynne said if the board sets the policy as it's drafted now, the school will not be able to pay it.

"Most people probably don't know that we pay two PILOTs right now...most people probably don't know that we probably pay more taxes than anybody else in town," Wynne said. "Nobody knows that we forgave nearly \$500,000 in the loan when it came to the sewer... people don't know those things."

Wynne said if Eagle Hill School can't pay what is drafted in the policy, she worries the school will be seen in a bad light by the town and vilified.

"So if we're to come up with a new policy that essentially negates the existing policies and we can't meet the guideline that you set, then it's going to be 'Eagle Hill hasn't done what it needs for the town,'" she said.

Kemp said, in her opinion, since Eagle Hill School is already in PILOTs with the town, she doesn't think the policy would apply to them.

Wynne said the school entered into these PILOT agreements with the town in good faith.

Tinker said he believes nonprofits should cover their costs if they are a burden on the town's services, including the number of Eagle Hill School staff who send their children to the local school district.

"If you look at the number that you send to our public school and just do the math on that, you run a negative on this town," Tinker said.

Wynne disagreed with Tinker and said she does not view the school as a burden, noting that most of those public school students reside in houses that are voluntarily listed on the town's tax roll. She said residents of town also send their children to Eagle Hill School.

Kemp suggested the board host another working meeting to continue discussion about the proposed

PILOT policy. The working meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Annual license renewals

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano presented the Select Board with recommendations for license renewals. She said all of the properties have been inspected by the Building Inspector as well as Police and Fire departments.

The Select Board approved the renewal of the following licenses: common victualler – South Barre Rod & Gun Club, Hardwick Vineyard & Winery (as well as an innholder license), Eagle Hill Foundation, Hardwick Rod & Gun Club, DCTF Corp. (Old Furnace General Store), Hardwick Market & Package Store, Mimi's Coffeehouse of Hardwick, Hardwick Crossing, Hardwick House of Pizza and the Whistle Stop Restaurant.

Class II and III auto –L&S Used Auto Parts, Gillespie Car Care 1, Gagne's Garage, LJ Ostiguy Repair, Motor Specialties Company, Hardwick Auto Sales and Regin's Repair.

Surplus equipment

The Select Board approved a list of surplus equipment from the Highway Department to be auctioned off by the town. Equipment includes a tractor, trackless sweeper and parts, trackless snowblower parts, a 1986 sweeper, a dumper/sander and various vehicles.

Cost of auction services

Caggiano said if the board decided not to auction off the three properties, the town would owe Zekos Group costs for their services in addition to 12%. She is unsure of what the total cost will be.

The properties include the former senior center on Main Street in Gilbertville, the Ruggles Hill Road school and the Paige building, both of which are located off the common.

She said if the town continues with the auction, it will not cost the town anything as the fees will be taken from the auction proceeds.

"It would be a breach of their contract," Caggiano said if the town decided not to auction the buildings.

Church News

Local pastors offers sermon

2024 - Year In Review

This is the final edition of 2024.

Before we enter 2025 it would be of benefit to review the past year in a spirit of reflection:

1) High Points
What were your high points in 2024? Do any positive, memorable moments stand out in your mind?

Perhaps your high point revolved around an answered prayer. After all, Scripture affirms that God hearkens to the prayers of His people (Matt. 7:7-8, NIV): "7 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Perhaps your high point revolved around a personal achievement. Was this the year in which you were promoted at work, completed your education, or surpassed some key milestone in life and living (e.g., birthday, anniversary, and beyond)? In what way(s) have you advanced throughout the year?

Perhaps it revolved around personal relationships or moments with loved ones. There is nothing like vital companionship!

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:

10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone?

12 Though one may be over-

powered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

What is the rightful response to your high point? What should you do in light of the blessing(s) you have experienced? Firstly, recognize that "every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down" from our heavenly Father (James 1:17). Secondly, take the time to offer thanks and praise to Him in kind.

Psalm 103:1-5
1 Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

2 Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits-

3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

2) Low Points

Of course, life also abounds with difficulties. Christ spoke clearly to this reality:

John 16:33b
"33 . . . In this world you will have trouble . . ."

What was your low moment in 2024? What trials and tribulations did you endure?

Perhaps your low point revolved around a seemingly unanswered prayer. There are moments in life wherein we pray and heaven seems to have no response-or at least not the response we wanted. Though God loves us enough to say "no" at times, this can be jarring for even the most faithful of believers.

Perhaps your low point revolved around personal connections with friends and family-or the lack thereof. Moreover, perhaps it was the year in which you

experienced an unexpected setback. Did you lose your job, your business, your health or a loved one?

What is the rightful response to your low point of 2024? What should you do in light of the challenges you have faced? Though I cannot offer an exhaustive response in so short a space, allow me to note the following: a) cast your cares upon the Lord; b) consider the reality of His presence and power; and c) respond to His offer of comfort. Hear these passages afresh and anew:

1 Peter 5:6-7
6 . . . humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

John 16:33b-c (Christ Speaking)
"33 . . . In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Matthew 11:28-29 (Christ Speaking)
28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

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 check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you soon and Happy (early) New Year.

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

TOY DRIVE, continued from page 2

The bank proudly partnered with the East Brookfield Baptist Church Food Pantry, Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry - First Congregational Church, St. Joseph's Parish Food Pantry, First Congregational Church of North Brookfield, Trinity Episcopal Church - Jubilee Cupboard, St. Francis of Assisi

Parish Food Pantry and Palmer Food Share, Inc. through their Food Drive.

During the annual Toy Drive, NBSB proudly partnered with the North Brookfield Police Association's Toys for Joy Program, East Brookfield Toys for Joy Program, West Brookfield Police Association Holiday Toy Program, Ware Police Department "Christmas for Kids" Program, Belchertown

Firefighters Association Adopt-a-Family Program and Palmer Lions Club Holiday Toy Program to offer support to the communities they serve through the Toy Drive.

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank's community giving efforts and the convenient banking products and services offered, visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

GARDEN, continued from page 4

New growth should appear by the end of May. After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks.

Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. At this time you may also wish to replot the poinsettia. Select a pot one size larger, filling around the root ball with a good potting soil.

Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. In greenhouses, growers go to great lengths to withhold light, as even small amounts can delay or stop the plant from setting bud.

At home, putting the plant in the closet for 14 hours each night is your best bet. Most people get on a 5p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts.

Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

Regardless of whether you enjoy the poinsettia for the season or longer, may its colorful bracts brighten your holiday!

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 with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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Barre Gazette

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

BUSINESS

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

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

For more information on business coverage for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 8
 7:30 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Mechanic Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 8:05 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Barre Road, Ambulance Signed
 8:26 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, Mutual Aid Assist
 12:13 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, South Barre Road, Report Filed

Monday, Dec. 9
 8:35 a.m. Erratic Operator, Valley Road, Officer Spoke Party
 9:17 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 9:20 a.m. Safety Concern, James Street, Investigated
 12:10 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Petersham, Mutual Aid Assist
 1:12 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Ruggles Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Tuesday, Dec. 10
 10:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 1:14 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gilbert Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 2:20 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard,

Washburn Road, Referred to Other Agency
 4:45 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Gauthier Road, Transported to Hospital
 6:18 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:32 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Dana Road, Vehicle Towed

Wednesday, Dec. 11
 8:57 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Moulton Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 10:58 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Ruggles Lane, No Transport Required
 11:03 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Worcester Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 11:19 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Worcester Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 4:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 5:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Oakham Road, Mutual Aid Transport

Thursday, Dec. 12
 2:07 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Pleasant Street, Removed Hazard

7:35 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Old Dana Road, Investigated
 9:01 Vandalism, Wauwinet Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:09 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Old Petersham Road, Information Taken
 2:40 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Summer Street, Entry Gained
 10:26 p.m. Threats, Old Hardwick Road, Report Filed
 11:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures North Brookfield Road, Report Filed

Friday, Dec. 13
 1:47 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Wauwinet Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 2:03 p.m. Broken Knee, Worcester Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 8:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Vehicle Towed
 8:59 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic) Ruggles Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Saturday, Dec. 14
 9:42 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Edwards Lane, Report Filed
 6:29 p.m. Erratic Operator, West Street, Information Given

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 8
 12:02 a.m. Road Condition Notification, All Town Roads, Message Delivered
 12:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 5:48 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Neurological/Head Injury, Barre Paxton Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:43 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Autumn Wood Drive, Transported to Hospital
 12:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Beechwood Drive, Mutual Aid Transport
 10:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning

Monday, Dec. 9
 5:31 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Laurelwood Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:53 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Soucy Drive, Transported to Hospital
 6:52 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pommogussett Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 8:05 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Tuesday, Dec. 10
 12:21 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Autumn Wood Drive, Transported to Hospital
 4:45 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Watson and Bernard Roads, Message Delivered
 7:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Emerald Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:25 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 10:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle stop Pleasantdale Road, Criminal Complaint Summons Jones, Chase K., 25, Westminster
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
 11:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 12:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Glenwood Road, Citation Issued
 1:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 1:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 1:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 1:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint Summons Da Costa Dos Santos, Christiana, 39, Northborough
 Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Uninsured Motor Vehicle
 Summons Xavier Moraes, Renan, 39, Northborough
 Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle
 1:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest Fountain, Deborah Lynn, 52, Rutland
 Charges Drug, Possess Class B, Subsequent Offenses, License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 Arrest Fountain, Robert Francis, 71, Rutland
 Charges Unlicensed/Suspended

Operation of Motor Vehicle, Permit C90 S12(B)
 4:21 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Paxton, Area Search Negative

Wednesday, Dec. 11
 11:03 a.m. Serve Warrant, Brunelle Drive, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest Quayson, Clifford A., 36, Rutland
 Charges Warrant
 11:49 a.m. Escort/Transport, East Brookfield District Court, Removed to Court/Lockup
 Arrest: Quayson, Clifford A. 36, Rutland
 Charges Warrant
 12:27 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Investigated
 1:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 2:30 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Marjorie Lane, Investigated
 2:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest Karb, Richard D., Jr., 73, West Brookfield
 Charges: Operating Under Influence – Liquor OR .08%, Marked Lanes Violation
 3:31 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Maple Avenue, Officer/Chief Advised
 5:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital
 6:08 p.m. Safety Concert, Worcester Road, Public Assist

Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Dec. 13
 7:37 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 7:44 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Central Tree Road, Information Given
 7:46 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Kenwood Drive, Returned to Family/Guardian
 9:07 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:12 a.m. Property – Lost and Found, Memorial Drive, Property Picked Up
 3:58 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Wachusett Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 3:57 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Central Tree Road, Area Search Negative
 4:03 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Prospect Street, Investigated
 7:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Whitehall Road, Investigated
 8:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Brooke Haven Drive, Transported to Hospital
 10:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
 11:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 11:55 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Christmas Tree Lane, Report Filed
 11:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, Dec. 14
 12:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 12:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 12:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 12:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 1:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
 1:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued
 2:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 2:43 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Nancy Drive, Transported to Hospital
 3:32 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:03 a.m. Stolen Vehicle, Brunelle Drive, Report Filed
 12:52 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Pleasantdale Road, Report Filed
 4:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 5:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 5:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:34 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Negative Contact
 11:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
 11:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
 11:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 8
 1:54 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Gardner Road, Mutual Aid Assist
 1:58 a.m. Safety Concern, Old Boston Turnpike, Officer Spoke to Party
 3:26 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issue, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed
 3:59 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issue, Morgan Road, Vehicle Towed
 6:43 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, New Templeton Road, Message Delivered
 3:17 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Underwood Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Dec. 9
 2:17 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed

Tuesday, Dec. 10
 5:41 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle –

Parking Issues, Pitcherville Road, Vehicle Towed
 9:01 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Madison Way, Transported to Hospital
 11:01 a.m. Complaint, Pitcherville Road, Information Taken
 11:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Penobscott Avenue, No Fire Service Necessary
 12:42 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Bemis Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Dec. 11
 4:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Thursday, Dec. 12
 8:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Vehicle Removed
 10:23 a.m. Keep the Peace, Barre Road, Information Taken
 3:14 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor

Dispute, Elm Street, Negative Contact
 4:31 p.m. Safety Concern, Hale Road, Referred to Other Agency
 5:11 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Lombard Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:44 p.m. Erratic Operator, Burnshirt Road, Investigated

Friday, Dec. 13
 12:16 a.m. ACO Lost and Found/ Wildlife, Gardner Road, Information Taken
 3:41 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Natty Pond Drive, Mutual Aid Transport
 4:30 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Underwood Road, Investigated
 8:43 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Vehicle Towed
 9:02 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Gardner Road, Negative Contact

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 8
 8:58 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, New Braintree/Hardwick, Mutual Aid Assist
 11:11 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Edson Road, Report Filed
 12:11 p.m. ACO Lost and Found/ Wildlife, Farm Pond Road, Message Delivered
 2:11 p.m. Vandalism, Crawford Road, Report Filed

Tuesday, Dec. 10
 12:53 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Gaffney Road, Public Assist
 5:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Dec. 11
 6:08 p.m. Safety Concern,

Worcester Road, Public Assist
 9:50 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Old Turnpike Road, Removed Hazard

Thursday, Dec. 12
 7:20 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Coldbrook Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 10:12 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Deacon Allen Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 2:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 2:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 3:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Corner Road, Written Warning
 3:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 3:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

4:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 6 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 10:19 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Old Turnpike Road, Removed Hazard

Friday, Dec. 13
 11:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 5:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 5:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

Saturday, Dec. 14
 7:34 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Negative Contact

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Dec. 9-16, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 11 building/property checks, 19 directed/area patrols, three radar assignments, three traffic controls, six emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one assist other agency, six safety hazards, four complaints, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Dec. 9
 12:58 p.m. 911 Animal Call/Complaint, Hardwick Road, Unknown Outcome
 3:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
 4:04 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Dec. 10
 8:03 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Prouty Road, Services Rendered

9:33 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, Dec. 11
 8:26 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered
 1:29 p.m. 911 Transfer, Out of Town, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 2:23 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 2:57 p.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 9:27 p.m. Safety Hazard, Moore Road, Services Rendered

Thursday, Dec. 12
 3:23 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Cut Off Road, Officer Handled
 8:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barr Road, Report Taken
 2:05 p.m. Safety Hazard,

Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 3:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Citation Issued
 5:47 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Pierce Road, Negative Contact
 6:02 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Gilbertville Road, Negative Contact
 10:48 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Friday, Dec. 13
 9:19 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Saturday, Dec. 14
 4:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning

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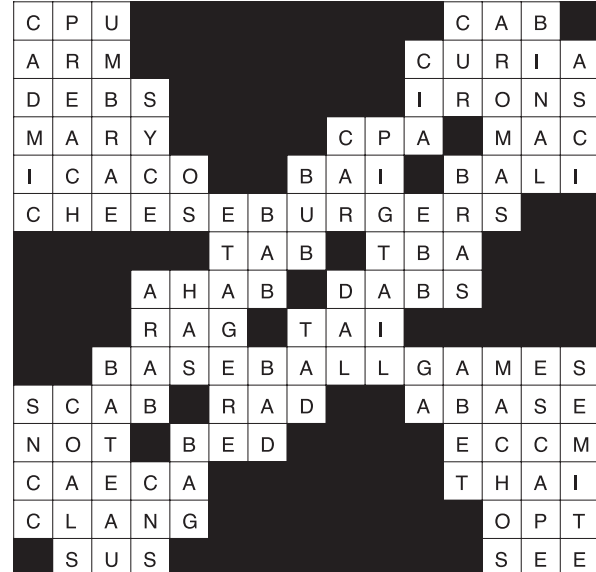
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Public Safety

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Dec. 9-16, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 57 building/property checks, 44 directed/area patrols, 10 radar assignments, seven traffic controls, 11 emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, two assist other agencies, one safety hazard, one complaint, one stolen motor vehicle, one motor vehicle accident, four investigations, one scam, one fire, five animal calls and 15 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Dec. 9
9:09 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Broad Street, Dispatch Handled
10:18 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
12:40 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Report Taken

Tuesday, Dec. 10
1:07 p.m. Investigation, Spring Street, Officer Handled
5:36 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital
9:11 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Dec. 11
12:54 p.m. Stolen Motor Vehicle, Prospect Street, Report Taken
2:01 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled

10:23 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
Thursday, Dec. 12
4:53 a.m. Medical Emergency Fiske Road, Transported to Hospital
12:37 p.m. Investigation, Greenwich Road, Negative Contact
2:21 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
4:29 p.m. 911 Carbon Monoxide Alarm, Ruggles Hill Road, Services Rendered

Friday, Dec. 13
6:14 a.m. Fire Alarm, School House Drive, Investigated
1:37 p.m. Scam, Barre Road, Officer Handled
9:37 p.m. 911 Complaint, Lower Road, Negative Contact
11:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
11:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridge Street, Citation Issued
11:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, Dec. 14
12:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
12:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

6:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning
6:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning
6:49 a.m. Alarm, Barre Road, Investigated
2:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
7:30 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
11:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Sunday, Dec. 15
10:40 a.m. Fire/Other, Church Lane, Services Rendered
11:23 a.m. Assist Citizen, Church Street, Dispatch Handled
11:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, New Braintree Road, Written Warning
12:56 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Greenwich Road, Arrest(s) Made
4:44 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
8:12 p.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

Monday, Dec. 16
4:07 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Country Bank supports QV CDC with \$10,000 donation

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, announced a \$10,000 donation to the Quabog Valley Community Development Corporation to help local communities in the region.

“The Quabog Valley Community Development Corporation is grateful for this generous donation from Country Bank. This donation will help us continue to run our Senior Outreach Program, which helps seniors with prescription pickup, grocery shopping, food bank deliveries and other chores. Country Bank’s support is not only an investment in the Quabog Valley CDC’s mission, but an example of Country Bank’s commitment to making a difference in the community,” stated Melissa Fales, QV CDC Executive Director.

Seniors with underlying medical conditions can significantly impact their ability to get out safely to meet their everyday needs. The deliveries allow them to remain safely at home while addressing their critical needs.

To learn more about the various support programs the QV CDC



Submitted Photo

Shown from left to right are Melissa Fales, Quabog Valley Community Development Corporation’s Executive Director, Carol Zins, QV CDC Senior Outreach Program Coordinator and Jodie Gerulaitis, Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank.

offers, visit www.QV CDC.org.

About Country Bank

Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking customers through financial solutions with FDIC and DIF insurance for added security. Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8 billion mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with

14 banking centers and two business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge and Worcester.

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