

QUABOAG CURRENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD

DDT gave update

Page 2

STURBRIDGE

Irish Feast March 16

Page 3

REGION

Summer Camp page

Page 8

Volume 19, Number 15

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Friday, March 6, 2026

Asset management plan reviewed at joint meeting

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Select Board and Finance Committee heard an asset management plan presentation by Tighe & Bond at a Feb. 17 joint meeting.

Town Manager Robin Grimm said asset manage-

ment is “critically important” and will effect water and sewer borrowing in the future.

“I think it’s really important for the board and public to hear and understand the importance of these critical infrastructure changes,” she said.

Engineer April Locke said Tighe & Bond re-

viewed the “vertical” assets in town to create an inventory, which includes the water and sewer pump stations, treatment facilities, water storage tanks and drinking water wells. She said they did not review the “horizontal” assets such as the water and sewer pipes.

Locke said each asset was assigned a risk of fail-

ure, and what would happen if they failed, on a scale of one to five.

She said the sewer portion of the project focused on the wastewater treatment facility, two chemical feed stations used for odor control and 10 sewer pump stations.

Locke said the Route 20 sewer pump station conveys

about 80% of system flow, and the Hobbs Brook sewer pump station about 20%.

“Those stations received a higher consequence of failure scores compared to the smaller stations,” she said.

Locke said the wastewater treatment facility has a permitted flow of 1.3 million gallons per day. She

said the daily treated flows are below permitted capacity due to water conservation of users.

Locke said sewer projects that will come up in the next few years include improvements to the wastewater treatment facility’s influent screening room.

See STURBRIDGE PAGE 6

West Brookfield held CDBG presentation

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – Two members from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission gave a presentation Feb. 19 on the projects that are being proposed for the town, to be funded by the Community Development Block Grant.

John O’Leary and Shannon Sullivan outlined what the CDBG is, and how it can be used for development in West Brookfield.

O’Leary explained that the CDBG is a federally funded program designed to fund housing, infrastructure, and other development. According to an informational handout given to participants at the forum, the CDBG is designed to assist low to moderate income communities, and can also be used to address slum and blight.

O’Leary said that there is over \$3 billion in CDBG funding nationwide, with \$24 million allocated for

See W BROOKFIELD
PAGE 6

Learning takes flight

Live birds of prey visited local schools

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – Last Thursday, the Wickaboag Sportsmen’s Club sponsored two live bird presentations with Monadnock Falconry from Temple, New Hampshire.

Falconer Henry Walters brought three of his raptors to visit students at both West Brookfield Elementary School, and Wildwood Acres Farm and Forest School. These presentations were made possible from a \$500 grant from the Brookfield Lions Club, a \$1,000 grant from the Wickaboag Sportsmen’s Club, as well as a \$500 in-kind donation from the Wildwood Acres School and MassWildlife.

Walters has been a falconer and raptor rehabilitator for over 20 years, and he began his presentation at West Brookfield Elementary School by asking the fifth grade students if they knew what the most common type of bird of prey was in New England. The broad winged



A fifth grade student at West Brookfield Elementary School watched as Harris’ hawk, Mahood, prepared to take off during a raptor presentation with Monadnock Falconry, sponsored by the Wickaboag Sportsmen’s Club last Thursday.

hawk, while it is the most common, is rarely ever seen.

“These are birds that are so solitary and camouflaged, and secretive,” Walters said.

Walters said there is a lot that people don’t know about raptors, including the broad winged hawk.

“My hope today is to give you a little window into what it’s like to be a bird,” he said.

Walters introduced the students to Pitch, a 7-year-old red tailed hawk that he hopes to release in about a year.

Walters said Pitch was found injured and covered

in pine pitch, and suffering from a sinus infection.

The female red tailed hawk weighs about 2.5 pounds, and has an incredible grip strength in her talons.

“Her talons are stronger than a human hand,” Walters said.

See FALCONRY PAGE 5

Board discussed Town Hall improvements

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

BROOKFIELD – The Select Board discussed possible improvements to the Town Hall, and funding that is available to pursue them at their meeting last Tuesday.

Select Board member Sarah Campbell said the town has \$25,000 in funds for Town Hall improvements, and that they need to be spent by the end of June. She said the funds are on a reimbursement basis.

The board said they previously spent \$4,500 on window improvements, and that money can be reimbursed as well. Some projects the board discussed included addressing air quality issues in the basement of the Town Hall, replacing decaying bricks, improving drainage in the basement, and doing duct work to ensure proper heating.

Chairman Richard Chaffee and member Beth

See BROOKFIELD PAGE 9

School Committee OK’d FY 27 budget proposal

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Superintendent Tim McCormick presented a revised version of the school district’s direct-cost operating budget for fiscal year 2027 to the School Committee.

“We were able to, between January and now... based on some needs of certain students that have either come into the district or are leaving the district, we were able to identify some additional costs but also some savings,” he said at the Feb. 26 meeting.

McCormick said they identified an additional \$135,724 for support staff costs, but a \$474,352 reduction in out-of-district tuition costs, for a net reduction of \$387,417. He said there are still costs that are fluid, and that he will share those with the School Committee once they are set.

He said the revised pro-

posed budget for FY 27 is 5.32% less than the approved FY 26 budget.

McCormick said the benefits of a responsible budget include stable class sizes, keeping special education services closer to home, fewer out-of-district transports and tuition costs and staff retention. He said the school district has invested in high-quality instructional materials and professional development through grant funding.

“This work continues,” he said.

The School Committee voted in favor of submitting the proposed budget to the town for review.

Superintendent’s report
McCormick said he attended the annual legislative breakfast with other school superintendents to talk about challenges facing rural schools.

“To kind of talk about, or advocate for, what are the most pressing issues that we see in central Mass.,” he said.

This includes Chapter

70 funding, Circuit Breaker reimbursement rates, transportation reimbursement, and rural school aid. He said this past year, rural school aid was reduced significantly.

“That rural school aid, which only effects 63 districts in the state, would greatly impact North Brookfield if we had an increase with that,” McCormick said.

McCormick was joined by High School Principal Brian Beck, Elementary School Principal Arthur Murphy, and teacher Michael Tift had interviews with the One8 Foundation for the Investigative History application process.

“We’re hoping to procure those grants for our social studies and history curriculum for grade three through five and also grades six through seven,” he said.

McCormick said the two grants would total about \$30,000 to cover training and supplies for teachers. The grant awards will be

announced sometime in mid-March.

“We’re hopeful that we receive these grants,” he said. “We’ve done a lot of work with the One8 Foundation and they’ve supported what we’ve been doing here in North Brookfield.”

McCormick said the IT Director and himself have been meeting with Joe Granda of SchoolInsights about updating the school district’s student information system. He said the current system is “pretty easy to navigate” for parents and teachers, but it has not been so for state reporting.

“We decided to make a move to SchoolInsights... they cater to smaller districts,” he said.

McCormick said this new information system will also save the school district about \$6,000.

He said the second annual district-wide STEAM Night will be held on March 5. This event will

See SCHOOL COMMITTEE
PAGE 9

Fire Chief proposed merging fire departments

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

NEW BRAINTREE – New Braintree Fire Chief Dennis Letendre proposed merging the New Braintree and Hardwick fire departments during a joint meeting between the two town’s select boards on Monday night.

Letendre said the idea was originally proposed during the last meeting of the New Braintree Select Board when they signed the intermunicipal police department agreement, which was also signed by Hardwick at the Monday meeting.

Letendre said both town’s fire departments are struggling with staffing and financial restraints, and they cannot afford full time firefighters. He noted that in the past, the fire departments were well staffed, with 25-30 members of each fire department until the 1990s, and their training nights were well attended.

He said enrollment in the department has cut in half since then.

Proposal

Letendre said his proposal is to merge the two town’s fire officials to provide better coverage, training, and community access to firefighters. He said the firefighters from each respective town would still be assigned to their current station to prevent confusion. He also proposed becoming a member of the regional technical rescue team, as technical calls are currently handled by other municipalities, he specifically mentioned the town of Holden as an example.

He said the towns currently do not have enough money to buy the technology required, and merging the budgets could provide purchasing power.

Additionally, he proposed combining CPR

See NEW BRAINTREE
PAGE 9

- community -

Board heard update from downtown committee

Selectmen heard update from downtown committee

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Sheila Orsi, chair of the Downtown Development Committee gave an update to the Selectmen about the committee's efforts over the past eight years, and its need for new members to continue moving forward.

Orsi said the Downtown Development Committee was formed in October of 2018.

"Our mission was to create a vibrant atmosphere of the downtown and to rejuvenate our town center," she said at the Feb. 24 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Orsi said at the beginning, the committee worked with a District Local Technical Assistance grant in the amount of \$21,000 and its members visited the Upton town hall, which had the same architect as the Town House. She said the committee has worked directly with the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House.

"One of our strategic goals is to revitalize that Town House," Orsi said.

In 2019, the committee worked with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning

Commission to create a strategic plan, which is posted on the committee's Facebook page.

"Our strategic goals are walkable downtown, connected trails, Town House revitalization, downtown development (generally) and business investment," Orsi said.

Orsi detailed some of the highlights of the committee over the years, including receiving numerous grants.

Orsi said the majority of the committee members took a traffic counting course through the Department of Transportation to work toward applying for the Complete Streets grant program to redevelop the downtown's sidewalks and crosswalks.

The committee also hosted business spotlights through live-feed interviews before the pandemic. She said she would like to see this come back.

Orsi said during the pandemic, the committee received a grant from the Cultural Council to host outdoor movies, and the committee partnered with the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House for its CATLab program.

In 2021, the Downtown Development Committee was awarded the Community Development Planning Award from CMRPC.

"Which was pretty amazing," Orsi said.

The committee also was awarded the Complete Streets grant and worked to finalize plans with the BSC Group. The sidewalks were completed last year.

Orsi said the committee has also worked on solving downtown parking issues.

Orsi said she has been chair of the committee for eight years and she is not seeking to continue in that role. The committee is looking for new members to take over.

"We talked about having the next couple meetings and wondering whether we need to dissolve DDC or if other people want to come in and take it over and work toward making it something like it was when we first started... there was a lot of fire in us and we had a lot of stuff coordinated," she said.

Orsi said the committee has brought in about \$800,000 worth of grants to benefit the town since it was formed.

"We've done some really great stuff," she said.

One Stop grant proposal

Parks & Recreation Committee Chair Brandon Avery said the committee is submitting an expression of interest for the Environment and Climate One Stop grant with the help of CMRPC.

Will Talbot, an associate planner at CMRPC, said the committee needs the board's approval to move forward

with the application to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

"This is a project to revitalize the North Brookfield town common," Talbot said.

The proposal includes the removal of three canopy trees on the west side of the common, planting 21 canopy trees around the edge of the common, constructing a pollinator garden at the northeast part of the common and removing pavement from an old basketball court at the south end of the common. He said the two basketball courts slightly to the north of that area will remain as they are.

Talbot said the project will improve shade covering and provide cooling, as well as help the common become a "more inviting and resilient resource" for the community.

There is no financial match commitment from the town for this grant program.

Police Department report

Police Chief Ryan Daley submitted his report for the month of February. He stated in his report that the department was operating with five full-time police officers due to one patrol officer and Chief Mark Smith leaving for other opportunities.

"Despite these staffing challenges, our officers have continued to serve the town with dedication and professionalism," Daley stated.

Officer Robert Nelson was

hired in January to fill one of two vacancies and Officer Jeff Martin was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Daley said the department participated in professional development and training opportunities, including Crime Tracer training and mental health crisis response.

Sewer Commission appointments

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the Sewer Commission members resigned last fall, which resulted in the Board of Selectmen temporarily taking over those positions.

"Because the commission's appointed, we're the ones that have to basically do the job until somebody else is appointed," he said.

Petraitis said town counsel told them the board could appoint themselves as members of the commission, until new commission members can be found. The board members took turns appointing each other as Sewer Commission members – all of which were approved.

School district update

School Committee Chair Matt Grant gave the Selectmen an update about tuition-out agreement discussion. He said the committee voted 4-1 to move away from these talks to seek a tuition agreement with neighboring districts, and to focus on growing and developing North Brookfield Public

Schools. Grant said the Superintendent of Schools will create a five-year plan for the district to outline goals.

Fire safety grants

The board approved applications from the Fire Department for two grants to provide fire safety education to students and senior citizens. The Student Awareness of Fire Education grant is in the amount of \$5,500 and the Senior SAFE grant, \$2,800, respectively.

There is no financial match from the town for these two grants.

Pole hearing

The board approved the placement of a new joint-owned utility pole on Green Road at a hearing requested by National Grid. This pole will replace a tree anchor, which will be removed.

Appointments

The board appointed Mark Anderson and Lindsey Rockwood to serve on the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Avery said he is happy to have the new members on board and he was looking forward to working with them.

Recognition

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Jamie Gilman recognized the efforts of everyone who worked to clean up the roadways after the recent significant snow storm.

Senior Center lists March events

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

Activities include: Free Art Classes March 5 and 19 at 11 a.m.; Free Drawing Classes March 12 and 26 at 11 a.m.; Music Bingo March 16 at 10 a.m.; MassEDP Presentation

March 17 at 11 a.m.; St. Patrick's Day Lunch by Tri Valley (sing up required) March 17 at noon; Ed Spater Medicare Specialist drop in hours March 24 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Bemis Nursery Workshop (sign up required) March 23 at 1 p.m.; and Hip Hop Square Dance sponsored by the North Brookfield Cultural Council March 24 at 1:15 p.m.

Nominations needed for historical society awards

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Historical Society requests nominations for the annual Lucy Stone Achievement Award and the Irving and Jane England Award.

Each year, the historical society recognizes its most impressive community leaders and volunteers with these two awards. The Lucy Stone Achievement Award is given annually in observance of

the commonwealth's designation of Lucy Stone Day on March 8.

Born on Coy Hill in West Brookfield, Stone worked tirelessly throughout her life to get equal rights for all individuals. She was a lecturer for abolitionist and equal rights groups and the founder and editor of The Woman's Journal.

For the Lucy Stone Award, the Quaboag Historical Society requests nomination letters for anyone living in one of the six Quaboag Plantation area towns (the four Brookfields, New Braintree, and Warren). Residents are asked to nominate individuals whose volunteer efforts have helped make their communities better places to live.

The nominating let-

ters should briefly explain why the writer believes the nominee is deserving of the award. The name, address, and phone number of both the nominator and the nominee must be included in the letter.

"For this award, we are seeking nominees who have done an exemplary job of giving back through community service," said QHS Co-President Amy Dugas, who described the motto of the Lucy Stone Award as honoring residents who make the world a better place.

The Irving and Jane England Award, also presented annually by the QHS, is given each year to a resident of West Brookfield who has helped better the community through community

service. Nomination regulations for this award are the same as those for the Lucy Stone Award.

Dugas and other QHS leaders feel it's important to take a few moments each year to honor those who contribute countless hours to improving their communities.

"Those people willing to put in the time and get involved and make a significant contribution to the community should be recognized," Dugas added.

All award nomination entries should be submitted to the QHS by Monday, April 13.

Nomination letters should be mailed to The Quaboag Historical Society, P.O. Box 635, West Brookfield, MA 01585.



SEE YOU THERE
2026

Fly Fishing EXPO



Hosted by:
Western Mass. Fly Fishermen

Monday, March 16

6:30 PM TO 9:00 PM

SPEAKER AT 7:30 PM

Ludlow Elks Lodge

69 Chapin Street, Ludlow, Mass.

REFRESHMENTS
FOOD FOR SALE

Admission: \$8

Free for children under 12 years

Mention where you saw this ad or show your WMFF membership card and get \$1.00 of your admission.

More info at WMFFCLUB.ORG

Exhibitors: Fly rod builders, fly fishing/material vendors. Mass. State and Wildlife experts, other related exhibitors.

Giant Raffle: Many fishing items, bucket raffles for custom tied flies.

Door prize: Fly rod combo.

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Andy J. Danylchuk –
From Striped Bass to Trout:
Science-Based Best Practices
for Catch-And-Release

Visit us at
www.turley.com

Doolin Lads will return to West Brookfield on March 12

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in West Brookfield is pleased to welcome the return of the Doolin Lads on Thursday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m.

This St. Patrick's Day tradition features traditional Irish music and is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Please contact the Library at 508-867-1410 to register.

ROBINSON TREE SERVICE LLC

Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

- community -

Town Planner gave department update

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Town Planner Jean Bubon gave the Select Board an update from the Planning Department.

She said for the past six months, the Planning Department has supported 39 meetings for the various boards it supports. This includes the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Design Review Committee, Historic Commission, Affordable Housing Trust and the Open Space Committee.

At the Feb. 17 meeting, Bubon said the community-wide Historic Survey (phase three) has been completed and submitted to the state to be included in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System database.

“That was a good project and glad to have that completed,” she said.

Bubon said she is working on the request for proposal for phase four of the project, which should be the final phase.

Bubon said she has been working with two property owners to complete paperwork necessary to be nominated to the Historic Register.

She said the Noble Energy project is close to gaining Department of Transportation approval. The owner of the property has been asked to gift land at the front of the property to MassDOT for future roadway improvements.

Bubon said the Open Space Plan was approved and will be valid through November 2035.

She said the Affordable Housing Trust awarded two \$100,000 grants to families to purchase homes in town.

“It was very exciting,”

Bubon said. “I think it just means a lot to them, I don’t think they would have been able to purchase a home without this program.”

Bubon credited April Griffin for her hard work to make this program a reality for homebuyers.

Bubon said Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission will provide technical assistance to the town regarding new wind, solar and battery energy storage system bylaws.

Bubon also provided the board with her notice of retirement. The board accepted her resignation, which will be effective as of Aug. 11.

Select Board Chair Jamie Goodwin said Bubon has been very important to the town.

“You’re really just the entire structure of the town in many ways...keep everybody together, and we just couldn’t love you more,” he said.

Town Administrator Robin Grimm thanked Bubon for her dedication to the town and for her knowledge.

The board members thanked Bubon for her years of service and all she has accomplished for the town.

Parish land use

Peter Mimeault, a resident and member of St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish, was joined by Father Luc Martel (former pastor and current business manager), Father Sal Musande and Attorney Jeffrey Chase to discuss town water infrastructure on church property.

He said the property is owned by the Bishop of Worcester, and managed by the pastor as the administrator of St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish. There is approximately 100-feet of buried waterline directly below the parish’s outdoor shrine walkway.

Mimeault said his request is to work directly with the Select Board members in their capacity as Water Commissioners.

“It is our hope that after hearing our comments tonight, that we can schedule a meeting with the commissioners, to discuss the need to synchronize land use policies that will be the basis for involving of various other entities using the same 100-foot long section of parish land,” he said.

He explained the importance of this section of land to both the parish and the town’s water supply. This section is in need of repairs to its road surface.

“We have dual responsibility over some land,” Mimeault said.

Grimm said there is a contract between T-Mobile and the parish to put the road back in repair. She said the town’s building official will not sign off on the permit of completion for T-Mobile to remove their equipment from the water tower until this agreement has been fulfilled.

Mimeault said T-Mobile is setting a target date of mid-April to complete repairs, but they will not be repaving the road surface. Instead, T-Mobile will use compacted aggregate, which will wash out, he said.

He said the roadway should be put back to the way it was in 2003.

The Select Board will continue this discussion with parish representatives at a future meeting.

Eagle Scout project

Scouting America Troop 163 Eagle Scout candidate Anna Burns proposed the installation of an accessible pier or pedestal at Heins Farm so residents could place telescopes to view the night sky. The project also includes a kiosk, which

would include information about the night sky, and how to check out a telescope from the local library.

The project site has been approved by the Trails Committee and the Conservation Commission. Burns is waiting for approval from Opacum Land Trust. An alternative site for the project is located at 131 Fiske Hill Road.

The Select Board approved the Eagle Scout project.

Appointments

The board appointed Patrick Kackley to the position of full-time Police Officer. Police Chief Earl Dessert said Kackley has worked for the UMass Police Department, as well as Holland, East Brookfield and Charlton.

“He’s got some diverse experience throughout the various departments,” Dessert said.

Stephanie LaChapelle was appointed to serve on the Sturbridge Tourist Association for a term to end Feb. 17, 2029.

Annie Thompson Cantara and Laura O’Donnell were both appointed to the Special Events Committee through Feb. 17, 2029. Select Board member Mary Dowling said they will fill two of the three openings on the committee.

Anthony Crane was reappointed to serve as the town’s Moth Inspector through Feb. 19, 2028 and Janet Garon was reappointed to the Board of Registrars through March 31, 2028.

Resignations

The board accepted the resignations of part-time police officer Hillary Murray, Kenneth White from the Council on Aging and Peter Champagne from the Sturbridge Tourist Association.

Federated Church’s Irish Feast coming March 16

STURBRIDGE – A Sturbridge tradition returns just in time for your St. Patrick’s Day celebration.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale will host its annual Irish Feast on Monday, March 16, at the historic Publick House Restaurant, inviting the community to gather for good food, good company, and a good cause.

This year’s Irish Feast will benefit both the Federated Church and The Center of Hope Foundation, Inc., a Southbridge-based nonprofit that supports people with disabilities and their families from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, helping them access resources, services, and opportunities to live meaningful, fulfilling lives.

Guests will enjoy a buffet-style Irish dinner featuring corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes, carrots and turnips, dinner rolls and Irish soda bread, a choice of beverage, and a cupcake for dessert. Dinner will be served in two seatings: The early seating will take place from 4:30-6 p.m., while a later seating happens from 6:30-8 p.m.

Adult tickets are \$18, and children ages 4-12 are \$7.

Tickets must be purchased by March 15 as no tickets will be sold at the

door. Tickets will be available Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon starting Feb.13 in the Federated Church of Sturbridge parlor, 8 Maple St., where you may use cash, check, credit/debit card, or Venmo.

The church website at sturfed.org and Facebook page both offer payment links and QR codes for those wishing to purchase tickets using PayPal. You may also purchase tickets electronically using Venmo at @Federated-Church.

Please include your address, the number of meals you wish to purchase, and your preferred seating time. Time permitting, tickets purchased by Venmo will be mailed to the address provided. Late orders will be held at the door.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Church Office at 774-304-1021 or Ken Benson at 774-230-3848.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ’s presence and God’s grace in our lives. Learn more at sturfed.org or email churchoffice@sturfed.org.

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.
Let them know you saw their ad in the Quaboag Current

Federated Church announces its 2026 Lenten services schedule

STURBRIDGE – The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale has announced its 2026 schedule of Lenten services, starting with Ash Wednesday, and culminating in the Easter Sunday celebrations.

Services are held at the church located at 8 Maple St. and the community is welcome to attend.

The Rev. David W. Cote will officiate the services, which began on Ash Wednesday and continue through Easter Sunday on April 5. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall following each of the Sunday services.

On April 3, Good Friday, the congregation will gather in the Chapel at noon for meditation and prayer. An Ecumenical Stations of the Cross service will also be held at St. Anne’s Shrine, 16 Church St., Fiskdale.

The sunrise service at Old Sturbridge Village is an ecumenical service, with local faith communities participating, including Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Sturbridge), Brookfield Congregational Church (Brookfield), Elm Street Congregational Church (Southbridge), Holy Trinity Church (Southbridge), and St. Anne/St. Patrick Catholic Church (Fiskdale).

Area residents who wish to attend are advised to enter the Meetinghouse by way of the security gate at the top of the parking lot, dress appropriately for the weather and wear sturdy walking shoes. Food and drink are not permitted, except for bottled water.

The Village will not be open for touring during this event and restrooms will not be available.

The Lenten season in-

cludes the following services: March 8, Third Sunday of Lent, 9:30 a.m.; March 15, Fourth Sunday of Lent, 9:30 a.m.; March 22, Fifth Sunday of Lent, 9:30 a.m.; March 29, Palm Sunday, 9:30 a.m.; April 1, Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m.; April 3, Good Friday Meditations and Prayer (Federated Church) and Ecumenical Stations of the Cross (St. Anne’s Church), noon; April 5, Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Serve at Old Sturbridge Village, 6 a.m.; April 5, Easter Sunday Service (Federated Church), 9:30 a.m.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ’s presence and God’s grace in our lives. Community members are always welcome to join in worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Services are also live-streamed

on the church’s Facebook page.

For more information, call 774-304-1021 or visit sturfed.org.

FOR RENT
Quabbin Estates
41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094
Accepting applications for wait list.
The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and “Barrier Free” accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
413-477-6496
TDD (800)439-2379

JOIN THE TEAM!

JP McCarthy & Sons is now hiring great van drivers to help transport the students of the Quabbin Regional School District.

Beginning July 1, 2026, McCarthy will be adding van service to serve the District. Vanpool drivers are encouraged to apply and will get preferred assignments!

Email your interest to: jobs@mccarthybus.com

J.P. McCarthy & Sons
www.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

THE CENTERED PLACE
SINCE 1988
Yoga & Meditation Classes
Offering both onsite and online classes
Voted Best Yoga in the region by Town & Country Living Magazine
Yoga leaves you more relaxed, centered, open and energized. Come experience this for yourself.
413 436 7374
286 BRIDGE ST, WARREN MA
WWW.THECENTEREDPLACE.COM



YOGA FOR EVERY BODY

- opinion -

Guest Column



Garden related chores to ease in the season

Last week I'm writing about a blizzard, while this week it looks as if the mercury is going to climb! How about our crazy New England weather?

If the skyrocketing temps have you feeling the urge to get a jump on the gardening season, you are not alone! Here are a few tasks, straight from the archives that will get you outside, and a few more to get you back indoors, because inevitably, winter is here for awhile longer. I think.

Perform appropriate garden chores.

I am usually negligent in cutting down asparagus foliage in the fall. Weather permitting, in other words, if the snow melts enough over the course of the next two weeks, I will get out there and cut it back to its base soon, then haul off the branches to prevent any bugs that overwintered there from infesting this year's spears.

It is also time to prune blueberries, apples, raspberries and grapes.

Pruning can vary depending on the age and health of your specimens. If you are not experienced at it, consult any number of good books on the subject before you head outdoors with your pruning shears and loppers.

Assess your tools

Was the rototiller running rough last fall? Perform or schedule a tune up for later this month and beat the rush. Same goes for the weed whacker and lawn mower.

Hoe and spade blades can be washed of dirt and debris then sharpened with a metal file. Medium grit sandpaper works wonders to smooth out the wooden handles of these and other garden tools.

After which, boiled linseed or tung oil can be applied to both the handle and the metal blade. It helps the wood resist moisture which leads to cracking and prevents rust on the blades.

I love my Dad's old spade. It has a great, hand-made wooden handle that is about to crack through; sure wish I had oiled it 20 years ago!

Take inventory.

Many of us have our seed orders in by now. If you don't, or if you plan to buy your seeds locally, it is a great idea to go through your leftovers.

Before you decide whether or not they are keepers, consider their age and how they were stored. My rule of thumb is that if any seed is over three years old it isn't worth the risk. Some seeds, such as those for parsley, hybrid onion,

carrot and parsnip expire even sooner. These are discarded after only one year.

If seeds were stored in a moist or overly hot location, their viability can be cut short sooner than normal. If you have concerns that they might not germinate, sow a few seeds indoors in pots in a warm location and see what kind of results you get.

Nothing is more upsetting than planting seeds in the garden and having few or no seedlings come up. Time is wasted and the harvest is delayed by unknowingly utilizing dead seeds.

We can also take inventory of the various supplies we use during the growing season. How are you set on lime, grass seed, and fertilizers?

Plan to take advantage of preseason sales by knowing what you need ahead of time. Do you have enough containers, trays and labels?

If you find yourself short, you need not buy them. You can start seeds in repurposed fruit and vegetable boxes, the kind that mushrooms, strawberries and lettuce mixes come in. They work great as long as you make a few drainage holes in the bottom.

Pint sized ice cream containers are perfect for a second transplanting of tomato or pepper plants. Seeds of squash or annual flowers can be sown in single serving ice cream cups. As a kid I always saved our Popsicle sticks for labeling seedlings or garden rows.

When I run out of labels, all it takes is a trip to the recycle bin to make some more.

Last year I cut them out of quart-sized yogurt containers; they were the perfect length.

Practice good garden hygiene

Disinfect any containers, labels, stakes etc. that you wish to reuse this gardening season by washing them in hot soapy water then a quick rinse of one part bleach to nine parts water. This mixture will kill any pathogens left behind from previous gardening endeavors.

Out with the old, and in with the new – all in due time!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

Trauma, ACES, mental health and addictions

The interconnection of substance use and eating disorders

By Suzanne Yerdon Lewandowski, M.Ed.
Guest Columnist, 32 ½ years sober, 30 year tobacco free, 26 years eating disorder free

Up to 50% of individuals with eating disorders misuse alcohol or illicit drugs, a rate five times higher than the general population. (1)

Up to 70% of adults with bulimia nervosa and up to 18% with anorexia nervosa have a coexisting substance use disorder. Conversely, up to 35% of those with substance use disorders have a co-occurring eating disorder, a rate roughly 11 times higher than in the general population, confirming a strong, dangerous link.

These intertwined, often hidden, conditions share common risk factors like anxiety, depression, and trauma. (2)

Scientifically defined, "Addiction is a complex, chronic brain disease driven by a combination of biological, environmental, and developmental factors, rather than a mere failure of willpower or moral weakness."

Addiction is also a developmental disorder, usually beginning in adolescence as a result of what is identified as ACES. Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences are the strongest predictors of addiction.

Trauma may be caused by a single stressful or dangerous event, or repeated and prolonged exposure to highly stressful events such as child abuse, bullying, or domestic violence.

Individuals with an ACE score of four or higher face significantly elevated risks for substance use disorders: they are seven to 10 times more likely to report illicit drug addiction, and seven times more likely to be alcoholics.

Research considers trauma as the "gateway drug." Trauma survivors struggle with anxiety, depression, PTSD, emotional dysregulation, shame and low self-worth. Many individuals use substances to escape, "not feel," or self-medicate for emotional, physical, or sexual abuse.

Because the brain does not fully mature until age 25, young people are more vulnerable to addiction; PTSD and trauma can have varying degrees of severity and long-term effects

SAMHSA 2024 data reveals that 16.8% of the U.S. population aged 12 or older (about 48.4 million individuals) met the criteria for a substance use disorder (SUD)

and that 10.1% of youths aged 12-17 reported significant suicidal thoughts. 2.7% attempted suicide.

Prevention and intervention by friends, families, teachers, and professionals, at any stage of development, can reduce the risk of an individual turning down the very dangerous path of addiction.

Awareness and education are the best places to begin and why public and mental health agencies and advocacy groups designate certain months to encourage people to recognize the signs of trauma and associated mental health concerns.

January brings us National Mental Wellness Month as well as Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month. Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and National Eating Disorders Awareness Month follows in February. All mental health conditions are interwoven!

Eating disorders, again scientifically defined, can be understood as a maladaptive coping mechanism. This means that they serve a function for people; an eating disorder may help someone feel safe or in control during challenging times.

Eating disorders in teens often emerge as a coping mechanism for control, trauma, or emotional pain stemming from unhealthy relationships. Eating disorders are serious mental illnesses, where one's relationship with food and eating is disturbed. This can also extend to pre-occupation with movement and body size/weight/shape.

Early signs of an eating disorder include body dissatisfaction and feelings of unhappiness, rapid weight loss or weight gain, changes in body shape and size, or particular body parts/areas, an intense fear of gaining weight, fear, avoidance or lack of interest in food and certain types of foods, denial of being hungry, deceptive behavior around food (hiding or tossing out food), avoiding food and eating in social situations, excessive or compulsive physical activity, cutting out particular food groups, developing food rituals – such as always using the same bowl, cutting food up into tiny pieces or eating very slowly.

These in turn can bring on behavioral changes such as social withdrawal, or not engaging in activities once enjoyed, sleep difficulties, low self-esteem, moodiness, and/or irritability.

Binge Eating Disorder (BED) is defined by recurring episodes of eating large quantities of food, often quickly and to the point of discomfort, accompanied by a feeling of a loss of control

and shame.

Bulimia Nervosa is characterized by frequent episodes of binge eating followed by vomiting, using laxatives, or exercising to excess to avoid gaining weight. Your hungry body responds to its need for food with powerful cravings and another binge ensues. To feel (short-lived) relief and regain control, you purge, but purging only reinforces binge eating and a vicious cycle of bulimia begins.

Anorexia Nervosa is a restrictive eating disorder, characterized most notably by weight loss and nutrient deficiency. Those with anorexia have difficulty maintaining an appropriate weight for their size and shape. In addition to restricting calories, compulsive exercise, use of laxatives, and/or purging is used to keep their weight low.

There are other specified feeding disorders (OSFED) that are subcategories of eating disorders that do not fit into the diagnostic criteria. A few include:

- Atypical Anorexia is a disorder that despite food restriction, the person's weight is average or above for their height, not under
- Rumination disorder (habitual regurgitation of food after eating, which may then be re-chewed, re-swallowed, or spit out) avoidant or restrictive food intake
- Pica (the persistent eating of non-food substances with no nutritional value, such as dirt, hair, paint chips, or soap)
- Orthorexia (an obsession with healthy eating with associated restrictive behaviors)
- Drunkorexia (skipping meals or excessive exercise along with heavy alcohol consumption.)
- Diabulimia is a life-threatening eating disorder specifically affecting individuals with Type 1 diabetes, characterized by the intentional restriction or omission of insulin to induce weight loss.

• Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID) is similar to picky eating in children or restricted intake in adults, this involves limiting food intake based on a lack of interest in food, avoidance of sensory characteristics (texture, smell), or fear of negative consequences (choking, vomiting).

In addition to affecting mental health, addictions can seriously damage the physical health systems: gastrointestinal, endocrine, nervous, cardiovascular, immune, respiratory problems, as well as liver damage and kidney disease.

It doesn't take long for tolerance to increase with sub-

See GUEST COLUMN PAGE6

QUABOAG CURRENT TEAM



EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Ryan Drago
rdrago@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

THE QUABOAG CURRENT (USPS# 10860) is published weekly (every Friday) by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 413-283-8393 or fax at 413-289-1977. Periodical Postage Prices are Paid at Palmer, MA. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: Quaboag Current, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



@QuaboagCurrent



www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President



www.turley.com

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

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500 and 800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:

Letters to the Editor, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 OR e-mail to pouimette@turley.com. Deadline for submission is Monday at noon for the following week's edition.



©DAVEGRANLUND.COM

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

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

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Quaboag Current, please email pouimette@turley.com.

Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Quaboag Current

- community -



Mahood perched on fifth grade teacher Nicole Jones' arm.



Pitch, a red-tailed hawk, earned her name because she was found covered in pine pitch when she was rescued.



Falconer Henry Walters is shown with Harris' hawk Mahood.

Learning takes flight

FALCONRY
FROM PAGE 1

Walters explained that it is essential that raptors hunt for prey daily, and how he helps Pitch find mice by flushing them out of stone walls. Meals can be hard to come by for raptors, especially in the winter.

He said a red tailed hawk such as Pitch could have a life expectancy of 10-12 years in the wild, and nearly double that if living with a falconer, due to having a steady supply of food.

Walters said that raptors have incredible eyesight, and that they can look in more than one direction at a time. He said that the red tailed hawk's eyes change color, starting out as yellow when they are young, and darkening to an amber/brown as they age.

Walters then introduced the students to Pete, a great horned owl.

He explained how Pete's feathers help him to stay camouflaged and hidden in his habitat, and also keep him warm in a colder climate.

Pete, who is 16, was rescued after his nest collapsed and he imprinted on people, which makes it unlikely that he will ever return to the wild.

Walters said the great horned owl has powerful hearing, and can hear a mouse's footsteps under the snow from its perch in a tree.

The third bird Walters brought was Mahood, a 10-year-old Harris' hawk. Mahood was orphaned, and has adopted Walters as part of his foster hunting pack.

This bird is not native to New England, and is also known as a wolf hawk, because it hunts in packs similar to a wolf.

"It's a social bird by

nature, which is unusual," Walters said.

The students joined Walters outside to watch Mahood fly, and to get a chance to have him land on their arms, while wearing a heavy duty leather glove.

As Mahood flew up into a tree outside the school, a crow began calling and landed near him on a branch. Soon about 10 more crows arrived, and worked together to get the hawk out of the tree.

"Harris' hawks are not native to the area so the crows have never seen one before," Walters said.

He explained how birds such as crows work together to drive off birds of prey, like Mahood.

As students and staff took turns giving Mahood a safe place to land (and a treat of raw chicken), the hawk kept his eyes to the sky where two bald eagles were circling. Walters noted that Mahood was wary of the larger birds of prey, and that was part of the reason he stopped flying.

Walters added that Mahood also doesn't like horses.

While adept at flying, the hawk isn't as fast as you might think, ranking third in speed behind pigeons and ducks. The hawk can make quicker turns than those two bird species, due to its long tail, which acts as a rudder.

The students thanked Walters and his raptors for visiting the school, and also the members of the Wickaboag Sportsmen's Club, for continuing to bring environmental education programs to the school.

Walters left the students with a reminder that the outdoors is still largely a mystery, and a great source of learning.

"The natural world is full of undiscovered things," he said.



Fifth grade teacher Lindsay Yeager had Mahood perched on her arm



Pete, a great horned owl, is camouflaged to blend in with his habitat.



Falconer Henry Walters explained how hawks such as Mahood use thermals in the air to fly.



Mahood flew from a tree to land on a student's arm.



Mahood kept his eyes to the sky, where two bald eagles were flying.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!		INFLATION	PRICE BUSTERS	PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!
USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS.....	\$2.22 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF BONE-IN BEEF RIB EYE STEAKS	\$9.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.....	\$2.22 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAK	\$6.19 lb	\$1.66 lb
USDA INSP. S SMOKED PORK SHOULDER PICNIC.....	\$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG
SLICED IN OUR DELI	USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST	\$3.99 lb		77¢ lb
USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE.....	\$4.44 lb			Lenten Specials
SOUP'S ON!	USDA INSP. FROZEN CUBED GOAT MEAT.....	\$6.69 lb		USDA INSP. FROZEN RED EXPRESS 14" CHEESE PIZZA 35 OZ
USDA INSP. FRESH SOUP CHICKEN (FOWL)	\$1.49 lb			\$2.99 ea
				USDA INSP. FROZEN TALAPIA FILLETS
				\$3.99 lb
				USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 21/25 COUNT 2 LB BAG
				\$16.99 ea
				90 Meat Outlet
				90 Avocado St. Springfield
				413-737-1288
				www.90meat.com
				We reserve the right to limit quantities.

- community -

Burgess third graders kick-off Sturbridge Celebration of America 250

Family Fun Day and Parade also planned

STURBRIDGE — One-hundred and twenty “Happy Birthday America” cards created by Burgess Elementary School third graders are now hanging in the Senior Center. This project was developed in collaboration with the Sturbridge America 250th Anniversary Committee, established in January 2025. In the coming months, residents and visitors will enjoy a number of community

programs created by and coordinated with this Committee.

Expect to see special commemorative banners featuring an historical flag posted on poles along Routes 20 and 131. Look for programs focusing on the history of America at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, and from the Sturbridge Historical Society.

Old Sturbridge Village is hosting Revolutionary Game Nights at the Ox & Yoke Café. Participants will have the chance to win prizes

such as special event tickets, Village crafts, and more. Check out “Revolutionary Bingo”: March 27, May 29; and “Revolutionary Trivia”: Feb. 27, April 24, and June 26. For more information about these events and the many other new 250th events that the Village will be hosting go to: osv.org.

Additional events sponsored by the Committee include an essay program for grade five students titled “What Does America Mean to You?” with an option for students to voluntarily submit essays to a town-wide

recognition contest.

Local restaurants will participate in a “Taste of Sturbridge” event during March and April featuring patriotic-themed offerings.

Opacum Land Trust will incorporate Sturbridge historical landmarks into its April 2026 Vacation Scavenger Hunt. Also planned for May at the Senior Center are a tree planting and the burying of a time capsule

Events will culminate in May and June. A Family Fun Day on May 16 features a Children’s Bike

Decorating and Parade, followed with activities on the Common including: a Mini Big-Top Circus, face painting, T-shirt decorating, yard games, potato sack and three-legged races, music and more. A hot dog cart will also be available.

The Committee’s signature event will be held on June 27, and will feature a parade along Route 20 and Route 131 followed by a community festival on the Town Common. More information on these events will be forthcoming.

Volunteer recruitment

and community engagement have been central to the Committee’s work. The Committee extends its appreciation to all residents, volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses supporting the America 250th Anniversary celebration.

If you are interested in participating in either/ both the Family Fun Day and the Parade, or simply wish to find more information, please contact the Sturbridge250 Committee by email: Sturbridge250@gmail.com.

STURBRIDGE FROM PAGE 1

“The influent fine screens are in poor condition and have reached the end of their use of life and one of the screens recently stopped working,” she said.

Locke said the concrete channels are also beginning to separate and the HVAC equipment is not functioning due to severe corrosion.

“Staff frequently have to leave the door open when they are in this area for maintenance,” she said.

Locke said the recommendation is to replace the screens, modify and repair the concrete channels and replace the HVAC equipment. She said the estimated cost for this project is \$1.7 million for design and construction.

Locke said the next sewer project is the replacement of the Route 20 sewer pump station that was constructed in 1969.

“The majority of the equipment has reached the end of its useful life,” she said.

Locke said the roof leaks, the wet well piping is corroded, and there is a lack of ventilation in the wet well that requires staff to wear hydrogen sulfide monitors.

She said the sewer pump

station is located in a Federal Emergency Management Agency 100-year flood zone, and if it were to fail, it could impact the town’s drinking water.

“That just further highlights the high consequence of failure for this facility,” Locke said.

Locke said a planning study would need to be completed for the Route 20 sewer pump station to determine if a new station is needed, or if upgrades can be made. The study would cost \$100,000 and the town already has funding in place to cover it.

A new sewer pump station would cost an estimated \$4.8 million.

“This is a big investment, which highlights why the planning study is an appropriate first step,” Locke said.

A third project is the rehabilitation of process treatment unit 3, the largest of the three at the wastewater treatment facility. PTU 1 was already rehabilitated and PTU 2 is scheduled for rehabilitation later this year. This PTU 3 project is estimated at \$1 million for design and construction.

“The PTUs provide primary and secondary treatment steps at the plants, so they are pretty key for the town to meet effluent permit

requirements,” she said.

Locke said a fourth and final sewer project is for the reserve sewer pump station generator replacement, which is estimated at \$80,000 for design and construction. She said town staff will coordinate this work in-house to save on engineering fees.

Engineer Abbie McNamee gave a review of the town’s water system and its need for improvements.

She said the town has three water storage tanks, two booster pump stations, four groundwater supply wells and two treatment plants.

McNamee said the iron removal treatment plant produces the majority of the town’s water supply.

“The IRP’s an important facility for the town,” she said.

She said existing water quality was also looked at during the review, and it was noted that wells #1, 3 and 5 have a high concentration of iron and manganese, as well as sodium. She said per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances have been detected in all five town wells.

“These levels are below the maximum contaminant levels right now,” she said of the detected PFAs.

McNamee said wells #1, 3 and 5 iron replace-

ment treatment plant and the water office were all identified as projects of critical priority. These buildings were constructed in the 1980s and have structural deficiencies, poor ventilation, corrosion and more.

The water office building does not have working heat.

McNamee said the recommendation is to replace the iron treatment plant at an estimated cost of \$20-30 million. The well #4 treatment plant is recommended to be rehabilitated, along with the new construction of an eye wash station.

McNamee said the final recommended project is the replacement of the Stallion Hill water storage tank. This is estimated to cost \$3.3 million for design and construction.

McNamee said the next steps for the town would be to conduct a formal rate evaluation, implement project recommendations, reevaluate the CIP after five years or sooner, and update inventories as new equipment is installed.

“This plan is really meant to be a living document and a tool for the town to cost effectively prioritize future needs for the water and sewer systems,” she said.

W BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

Massachusetts. He said West Brookfield is eligible to apply for up to \$950,000 dollars in grants.

O’Leary further explained that the town has a Community Development Strategy, which can be found on the town website (www.wbrookfield.com). He said this strategy is a short term outline of potential projects, proposed projects, and planning.

According to the handout, goals on the strategy include improving transportation, social services, economic development, and accessibility.

Proposed projects

O’Leary and Sullivan said there are three proposed projects for the town, including Front Street improvement, a study on the Depot area infrastructure, and an American with Disabilities Act evaluation and transition plan. He said they are currently qualifying the Front Street project with income surveys, as a majority of residents must be low to mid income for the project to qualify under the grant.

He said the Depot Area plan is currently to assess and prioritize repair needs, and give cost estimates. He said they could phase the project over many grants to complete it if needed.

He said the ADA plan is related to ramps and doorways.

Key dates

O’Leary said there will be a public hearing in late March related to the CDBG application, and the applications for the grant are due on April 21. He said award announcements are anticipated by this summer.

He said procurement would begin next year, with work starting in the spring of 2027 and completion coming in 2028.

The Community Development Strategy

According to the draft of the previously mentioned CDS, the in depth goals of the Depot Area improvement plan is to improve water, drainage, sewer, and sidewalk infrastructure, including improving old water mains. The CDS also has goals related to transportation, including repairing sidewalks in town, making them ADA compliant, and encouraging bicycle transportation in town.

Another goal is to encourage economic development in town, including reusing vacant buildings, and incentivizing development. Cultural preservation is also included in the CDS, including updating bylaws to include historic preservation, and preserving buildings in the town center and Wickabog Valley district. The strategy also plans for rehabilitating town parks, and improving the town center.

GUEST COLUMN FROM PAGE 4

stance use; more of the drug/ alcohol is required to have the same effect. Dependence follows, and the body needs the substance to function

normally.

Addiction takes time to develop but soon the cravings and compulsions are stronger than the consequences that follow. If you try to quit, the negative physical and mental health symptoms of with-

drawal take over.

Recovery from substance use disorders and eating disorders have many similarities but also a big difference. Abstinence is the goal for many recovering from SUD, but for anyone with an eating disorder, abstinence becomes an eating disorder.

Never in your right mind would you even think about telling an alcoholic to have a beer for breakfast, wine for lunch, cocktails for dinner and a few shots for snacks. One sip, one drug, or one cigarette and the body and mind crave the substance – substance reuse ensues!

For an eating disorder, food is both the enemy (drug) AND the cure. The body and mind crave food in the same way as a SUD, but eating is essential for recovery.

One must eat to regain both mental and physical health, yet EVERY SINGLE BITE triggers intense emotions, anxieties and potential knee-jerk bingeing/restriction reactions. One must sit with those overwhelming negative feelings day in and day out.

You can only imagine what it is like for those 35%-50% with dual diagnosis to abstain from substance use while relearning what is the right amount of food to provide the best nutrition for healing. What is good for the body will not feel good to the mind and the person resists!

The interplay between physical health and mental

health is intense.

With food disorders, there is an interplay of the endocrine and nervous system constantly trying to keep the body at equilibrium whether a person is suffering from bingeing, purging or starvation caused by anorexia nervosa.

Once you’re in recovery, it can take three months or more to heal metabolism after an eating disorder. This includes unwanted weight gain, digestive issues, thyroid and hormone problems, and fatigue.

Like alcoholism, anorexia can have fatal consequences without medical intervention. Typical eating disorder recovery takes three-six years.

Marilyn Barrett, author of “Creating Eden: The Garden as a Healing Place” encapsulated my recovery when she wrote:

“Come into the garden with me. Don’t worry about not knowing your way: Your heart remembers, even if your head has forgotten. When you were small and first had time to create your dreams, you were at one with the earth you played in and with each leaf, bird, and cloud you saw. This is the garden to which I invite you to return.

Imagine a place to which you can bring stress, sorrow, loneliness, and confusion and from which you can leave with a sense of resolution, understanding, and calm. Imagine a place where

you can express your own unique nature, create beauty, grow pure food, and gain control over your life. In my life, the garden has been such a place.”

Marilyn so aptly penned that the garden is a place for clearing away anger, confusion, and pain, the trash of the past. She added this clearing is a prerequisite to achieving inner peace, balance and harmony and people must sort through the emotional rubble of the past they have inherited, and they must get to the roots of attitudes and behavior patterns that have stunted their growth.

Getting to the roots of attitudes and behavior patterns that have stunted growth doesn’t have to be in the garden. Return to what you loved as a child – sports, art, music, writing, hiking. Find a safe place to face the past.

If you are able, volunteering can be crucial in recovery addiction because it provides structure, fosters a renewed sense of purpose, provides new skillsets, builds a supportive sober community, and improves mental health by reducing depression and anxiety.

It helps individuals replace the self-centered nature of addiction with empathy and structure, ultimately reducing relapse risk by providing meaningful, productive activity.

Additionally, employers value volunteers because

they demonstrate key, transferable skills like initiative, teamwork, and leadership, while also signaling a strong work ethic and passion. On a resume, it fills gaps, shows practical experience, and indicates a proactive, community-minded employee.

For every addicted individual, the descent into dependency is uniquely complex as is the journey of recovery. Professional treatment makes for a more successful outcome, so please insist that all your symptoms and conditions are addressed.

Be honest so that you can understand your past and how it affects today’s choices.

Joy and well-being will return with each little success!

National Eating Disorders Association: <https://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/>

Multiservice eating Disorders Association: <https://www.medainc.org/>

Online Eating Disorder Treatment: Equip <https://equip.health/>

Quaboag Hill Substance Use Alliance: <https://qhsua.org/>

Recovery Center of Hope: <https://www.facebook.com/RecoveryCenterofHOPE-Ware/> 52 Main Street, Ware. RCH is run by people in recovery and helps those reach goals through a strengths-based and community-based approach.

(1 National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA), 2 National Institute of Health)

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**.



Operating Since 1965

1130 S Main Street
Palmer, MA 01069
(413) 267-4555

WORK DAYS

Saturdays 9 am to 1 pm

March 7, 14, 21, 28

COME ON SATURDAYS & DRIVE A TRAIN!

Interested in more information

amherstrail.org



SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

Warriors defeated in Clark tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

ASHBURNHAM – Sophie Ezzo, Steph Krog, and Jules Petersen are the only remaining members of the Tantasqua girls' varsity basketball team, which captured the 2024 Clark Tournament Large School championship title.

The Lady Warriors exited this year's Clark Tournament a little bit earlier than they did two years ago.

With 14.6 seconds remaining in regulation,

sophomore Addie McGrath buried a 3-point shot from the top of the key, which helped the third-seeded Grafton Gators defeat the sixth-seeded Lady Warriors, 49-47, in a quarterfinal game held at Oakmont Regional High School on Feb. 14.

"One of our goals before the start of each season is to qualify for the Clark tournament. If you do qualify, you always want to win the championship game, which we failed to do this year," said Tantasqua head

coach Andy Haley. "This is a tough loss, but we're a young basketball team, and it's going to be a very good learning experience for us. We'll start preparing for the state tournament now."

Ezzo (5 points) and Petersen are the Lady Warriors only seniors this season. Krog, who's a junior, didn't play in the quarterfinal loss.

"I'm disappointed that we lost on a last second shot, but I'm very happy that we were able to qualify for the Clark Tournament

for the second time in my high school career," Ezzo said. "This loss is going to make us work a little bit harder in the state tournament."

Two years ago, the Lady Warriors celebrated a 40-29 win over Northbridge High School in the Clark Tournament Large School finals, which took place at the Kneller Athletic Center located on the Clark University campus in Worcester.

The boys' basketball teams have been competing

at the Clark Tournament almost every February since 1939.

The Clark Tournament sponsored a girl's tournament for the first time in 1973. The next time that the girl's teams competed at the Clark tournament was in 2023. Grafton High School captured the Large School championship title that season.

"This is the third oldest high school basketball tournament in the country," Haley said. "Tantasqua wasn't eligible to play at the Clark

until a couple of years ago. There is a lot of tradition in this tournament. While some high school players never get to experience playing at the Clark, we've been here twice during the past three years."

The Lady Warriors (12-7) were scheduled to host Littleton in a Clark consolation game on Tuesday morning before beginning the Division 3 state tournament next week. The state tournament pairings are

See **WARRIORS**
PAGE 8

Pioneers edged by Franklin Tech in final home game

PALMER – On Thursday, Feb. 12, Pathfinder Tech boys basketball was in nonplayoff action and faced Franklin Tech and fell 53-49. Pathfinder got off to a slower start, trailing 16-9 early. They came back slowly and nearly pulled off the win, but came up just short. Cassian Kowalik had 28 points to lead all scorers in the game. Dayne Shoney scored eight points. Pathfinder had one final non-playoff game after that, also against Franklin Tech.



Dustyn Cook prepares to shoot a three-pointer.



Cassian Kowalik gets ready to shoot.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Cayden Bousquet calls out a play as he crosses midcourt.



Maddox Baer inches toward the hoop.

HCC Women celebrate final home game

HOLYOKE – Women's basketball played their last regular season game on Friday evening, Feb. 20, hosting regional opponent Bunker Hill CC. The Lady Cougars defeated their opposition 67-56 to earn their seventh straight win. Holyoke's two second-year players, Emily McGrail (Ware, MA / Ware HS) and Erin Bullough (South Hadley, MA / South Hadley HS), were honored with a sophomore night that included a pregame ceremony recognizing the athletes and their accomplishments. Posters, photos and decorations were hung on the walls and in the stands around Golas Court.

McGrail led the Cougars in blocks during Friday's game and was second in rebounds, tallying six of each. She leads Holyoke in blocks this season with 59 and blocks per game, averaging 3.5. McGrail is sixth in NJCAA Division III in blocks and third in blocks per game. Bullough sunk the Lady Cougars first basket of the game on Friday. She leads Holyoke in three-point shooting percentage this season and is second in three-pointers made. Bullough has made 41.3% of the three-point shots she has attempted this year,



Mileidy Rosado avoids a block and gets a shot.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Johany Andrade goes for the layup.

ranking her fourth in NJCAA Division III. She has drained 31 total shots from long range on the year. Anastacia Dixon (Keene, NH / Keene HS) had an outstanding game in the regular season finale, leading Holyoke in points with 24 and rebounds with eight.

Women's basketball closes out the regular season with a 10-3 regional record and a 14-7 overall record. They are the second-place team in the New England (Region XXI) standings and will be the #2 seed entering the regional tournament. This will be HCC women's basketball's first postseason appearance in over 15 years. The Lady Cougars will get a bye to the tournament semifinals and will host the winner of one of the two quarter-



Tatiyana Zuniga passes in transition.



Erin Bullough, of South Hadley, tries to overcome pressure.

Registration now underway for QVBL

SOUTH HADLEY – Registration has opened for the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added

to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a weeknight game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's

Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determined as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the

See **QVBL** PAGE 8

- community -

WARRIORS FROM PAGE 7

scheduled to be released on Saturday.

The trio of freshman Teagan Baker (14 points), freshman Ellie Barnes (13 points), and junior Tessa Sheldon combined to score 38 of Tantasqua's points against Grafton (8-11), who were scheduled to face second-seeded Northbridge in the semifinals on Monday.

The Lady Warriors' other two freshmen players are Milayna Bousquet and Maya Lewis (4 points).

In last Saturday's game, Tantasqua built a double-digit lead late in the

first quarter.

Barnes began the contest by hitting a jumper from the right side of the key. Sheldon then buried back-to-back 3-pointers from the opposite side of the court making the score 8-0 with 5:30 left in the opening quarter.

Late in the first quarter, Ezzo made a free throw. Baker followed with an inside basket and a 3-pointer, putting the Lady Warriors ahead 17-7 going into the second quarter.

The Lady Warriors were outscored, 42-30, during the final three quarters of the game.

Tantasqua scored only two field goals and four

free throws in the second stanza, as the Gators sliced their deficit to 25-21 at halftime.

With 3:30 remaining in the third quarter, Grafton tied the score for the third time at 29-29 following an inside hoop from junior Brooke Burton, which were her only points of the game. Then a put-back basket from junior Abbey Lazeren (11 points) gave the Gators the lead for the first time.

Grafton's led by four points (37-33) before Barnes tossed in a 3-point-er at the buzzer.

Baker began the final eight minutes with an inside hoop giving the Lady

Warriors the lead back at 38-37.

After Grafton took a 44-41 lead following back-to-back baskets in the middle of the final quarter, a pair of Barnes lay-ups gave Tantasqua a slim 45-44 advantage with 1:50 left. Then Lewis added an inside hoop increasing their lead to three points.

Grafton answered back with a lay-up from freshman Emersynn Clark, who scored 12 of her game-high 16 points during the second half.

Then McGrath made her 3-pointer with 14.6 seconds left, which turned out to be the difference maker for Grafton.

QVBL FROM PAGE 7

region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall league last year, the league will also have a fall league in

September and October this season.

The registration is live at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.



summer@HCC

Holyoke Community College Summer Youth Programs for Ages 8-16

Save your spot and register today for summer fun!



- July 27-31, Minecraft Designers (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- August 3-7, Python Programmers (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- July 20-24, Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- July 13-17, ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- July 6-10 and 13-17, Fun Bites with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
- July 20-24 and 27-31, Around the world with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
- July 6-10 and 13-17, Cooking without Borders with Chez Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)
- July 20-24 and 27-31, Passport to Flavors with Chef Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)

Check out our adult enrichment courses, too! hcc.edu/bcs

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Make the most of the summer camp

Summer camp season will soon be here, and throngs of children will board buses each morning or pack their parents' cars full of essentials to survive a few weeks away from home.

Looking back, many adults who experienced summer camp have fond memories of their adventures — whether they all went according to plan or there were some hiccups along the way. Parents want their children to make their own summer camp memories. Even if the canoe capsizes or the cabin leaks during a summer thunderstorm, such experiences can build character and strengthen friendships.

According to RegPack, an online registration software company, more than six million American children participate in some form of camp each year, including sleep-away camp or day camp. The American Camp Association says that number is closer to 14 million, with the most popular camp session length around one week or less. Families getting prepared for camp can follow these guidelines to ensure the experience is one kids won't soon forget.

Search for an accredited camp

Accredited camps must meet more than 300 standards related to program quality, safety and health, according to the ACA. An accredited camp will likely give parents the most peace of mind.

Consider children's readiness

There's no magic age when a child may be ready to go to camp, but generally kids who are ages seven or eight may be fine to start a resident sleep-away camp. Day camp kids can begin as early as age three, the same age kids often begin preschool programs. Gauge whether the child has spent time away from home at friends' or family members' homes to decide if a resident camp will be the right fit or if a day camp is a better fit.

Connect with fellow campers

If possible, attend a meet-and-greet prior to the start of the season. Neighborhood day camps tend to draw kids from local communities, so there's already a chance kids will know a few fellow campers.

Get to know camp counselors early on

Campers can introduce themselves to camp counselors and other program directors and are urged to ask questions about specific programs. Counselors can direct campers toward activities they may enjoy.

Make the most of all situations

Much of summer camp will likely be smooth-sailing, but it's reasonable to expect some bumps along the way. Campers shouldn't expect perfection, but use the situations that may go awry as learning experiences on how to handle adversity — trying to find the fun in them anyway. Even a medical situation can be overcome, particularly because camps staff qualified medical personnel to ensure campers are safe and well.

Greene Acres Equestrian Center L.L.C.

2026 Summer Riding Sessions

June 29 - July 3 • July 20 - July 24
August 10 - August 14 • August 24-28

9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up

Call to Register (413) 813-9291

53 Ware Road, Belchertown
Email: Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com



Girl Scout Camp For All Girls!

DAY & OVERNIGHT

www.gscwm.org



Belchertown Kidz Club

TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • SCHOOL AGE

Offering Flexible Care Programs For Kids Ages 15 mo. - 12 yrs.

Open 7:00 a.m.-5:30* p.m. / MONDAY - FRIDAY
Both Full Time & Sibling Discounts

Caring For Kids For 30+ Years!

NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING/SUMMER/FALL PROGRAMS



KIDZ SUMMER PROGRAM/K-6TH GRADE

Ages 5 - 12 yrs. • JUNE 22ND-AUGUST 21ST
9 Weeks • Full & Part Time Options/Single Weeks or All Summer!
Swimming • Field Trips • Close walk to Playgrounds & CHCS Pool
Daily Creative & Educational Indoor/Outdoor Activities!
*Start of camp based on Belchertown School Schedule

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

K-6th Grade • Full & Part-Time • Homework Support
School Bus Pick Up & Drop Off • Indoor & Outdoor Activities

PRESCHOOL Year round program for Ages 3-5 yrs.
Full & Part Time • Choose from Full Day or 3/4 Day Options
Creative Educational Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum

TODDLER/YOUNG PRE-K Year round program for Ages 15 mos.-3 yrs.

Choice of Full Day 7:00-5:00 or 3/4 day option 8:30-2:30
Come Grow, Learn, and Play!

Join Our Toddler Room Waitlist

4 Stadler Street • (413) 323-5439 Follow Us belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com EEC LICENSED PROGRAM #177446

REGISTER FOR SIX WEEKS, GET THE SEVENTH FREE!

BEMENT SUMMER CAMP

FOR CHILDREN ENTERING GRADES K-9
Campers participate in a wide variety of fun activities including arts & crafts, swimming, nature programs, hiking, and 18 enrichment themes! Lunch is included and before and after care is available!

WEEK 1: JUNE 15-19	WEEK 2: JUNE 22-26	WEEK 3: JULY 6-10	WEEK 4: JULY 13-17	WEEK 5: JULY 20-24	WEEK 6: JULY 27-31	WEEK 7: AUGUST 3-7
DAY CAMP	JR. DAY CAMP	ENRICHMENT CAMPS	Weekly Tuition \$350-\$500	MOUNTAIN BIKING & ADVENTURE CAMPS		
Studio Arts & Crafts	Speech & Debate	Broadway at Bement	Magic Behind the Music	Graphic Novel Camp	Little Explorers Camp	Movie Magic Camp
Cross Country Camp	Taylor Swift Camp	Soccer Club	D&D Camp	Counselor in Training	Soccer Camp	Spanish Explorers
Game's Guild	STEM Challenges!	Mission Monadnock	History Hunters	Flag Football & More	PE Games & Sports	



The Bement School
94 Old Main Street
Deerfield, MA 01342

Registration Link
bement.org/summer



- community -

NEW BRAINTREE FROM PAGE 1

and first aid training to cut costs, facilitating the recording software for writing incident reports, combining hose and pump testing, and upgrading and sharing an air compressor, which he said could be earmarked by the state.

He said under the agreement, the towns would have two fire engines, down from the three current, two tankers, a rescue, a brush truck, and a utility terrain vehicle. Letendre said he would be the chief and Nick Gaumont the deputy chief.

Residents comments

One resident asked how response times and homeowner's insurance would be affected under

the agreement. Letendre said there would be no change in response times, and said that the reduction of fire engines could have an effect on insurance. Liz Cyran, a resident from Hardwick, said that she lives 25 minutes from the fire stations, and response times to her area are already too long.

Cyran also noted that Hardwick could merge with Barre or Ware, as both of those towns have ambulances.

Hardwick Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker seconded that idea, and Letendre said it would cost a lot of money.

One resident said those towns are also unionized, and it could be difficult to work with on-call departments. Tinker said Barre has three ambulances,

but Gaumont said there is only one, and it is not always staffed.

Another resident noted Hardwick and New Braintree already have existing agreements with other municipalities for ambulance coverage.

Cyran asked if the fire department had looked into the numbers to verify if the agreement would be financially beneficial. Letendre said he had not yet, because he wanted to make sure the town of Hardwick was interested in the idea before pursuing that research.

Hardwick Select Board member Jeff Schaaf said it is worth being interested, and said small towns must regionalize. The Hardwick Select Board said they would continue discussing the proposal.

West Brookfield Historical Commission to award its 2026 scholarship

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Historical Commission is pleased to announce its 2026, 15th annual scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.

Qualified students must reside in West Brookfield and may attend Quaboag Regional High School, or be school-choice students, home schooled students, and independent school students.

This award is made possible through the J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust.

The students must be planning to attend either a four-year college/university program or a two-year college with

the intent to transfer to a four-year college.

The Commission will show preference to study plans with concentration on History and Histo-



ry-related areas. Major or minors may include Political Science, Social Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Historical Preservation, Museum Studies, and Education in

any of these related fields.

Applicants must submit a brief essay based on one of the Notable Persons or Significant Places listed on the application. All necessary information will be found on the West Brookfield Historical Commission website. <http://westbrookfield.org>

Essays are due no later than April 6.

Email info@westbrookfield.org or mail to: West Brookfield Historical Commission, P.O. Box 372, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

The application and details can be found on the Historical Commission website- <http://westbrookfield.org>.

BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

Coughlin said they would work to get quotes for drainage and windows by the next meeting. Resident Brad Kadelski suggested addressing the bell tower on the Town Hall, and Chaffee said he would inspect it.

Foster homes for dogs

The board authorized animal control to allow and inspect foster homes for dogs in Brookfield. The board said this is because the town does not have a kennel, and therefore no safe place to shelter dogs.

This authorization allows residents to foster and possibly adopt dogs if own-

ers do not claim the dog.

Highway spending request

The Highway Department requested a \$3,000 payment for a highway dump truck which sustained damage to its springs.

Town Accountant Laurie Bartkus suggested they use funds from the repair and replace fund rather than snow and ice deficit, because the snow and ice account is \$60,000 in debt, and there is still over \$90,000 allocated in fleet repair and replace. The board authorized the spending request from repair and replace.

Cultural Council appointments

The board appointed Ana Afton, Jeanne Lytle, Doreen Neifert and Tyler Neifert to the Cultural Council. The appointees were given open meeting law guides to review.

Sustainable purchasing policy

The board approved a sustainable purchasing policy for the town, which is designed to minimize environmental impacts and pollution.

Municipal financial clerk

Bartkus said there is a need for a clerk to help with payroll and other financial needs, as the town treasurer is in need of the assistance. She said two of the six applicants are qualified and

would be interviewed.

Coughlin suggested clarifying the job description so applicants better understand what they are applying for, saying that could help with receiving more qualified candidates.

Library Annex tree work

Library Board of Trustees Chair Shelby Hill said they need to remove a tree from the parking lot of the library in order to make space for an Americans with Disabilities Act accessible parking space for vans, in an attempt to make the library ADA compliant. Chaffee recused himself from this agenda item, as he volunteered to take the tree down.

The board said a public tree hearing will need to be held before the tree is taken down. Campbell and Coughlin approved to move forward with the process of removing the tree, and scheduled the tree hearing for April 2.

Open meeting law complaint

The board approved sending out the legal response to Brad Kadelski, who filed an open meeting law complaint against the Select Board in late January, concerning executive sessions held on Nov. 25 and Dec. 9.

Coughlin said the executive session procedure is a "grey area" and suggest-

ed a future agenda item to discuss it. Chaffee suggested the town administrator, Bob Ayers, write the policy.

Resident Chris Kelleher said he would prefer the board to give more details about what the complaint was about during their responses.

Other business

The board approved invoices from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission for the 2022/2023 Community Development Block Grant, and Weston and Sampson for the Kimball Street project. The board approved a Kimball Street pavement application by M.L Partlow and Son.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE FROM PAGE 1

showcase what students are learning in STEM, as well as the arts and music programs.

"It was very well-attended last year, we had over 250 people in attendance," McCormick said.

Recognitions

McCormick thanked the school district's custodial staff for making sure the buildings were ready and safe to open school following the second major snow storm of the year.

"I just want to applaud the entire team again," he said.

McCormick talked about the Quaboag Hills Choice Awards, and how preschool teacher Jackie Fernandez was nominated as teacher of the year.

"She is one of five teachers from the area who's been nominated for teacher of the year," McCormick said. "Jackie's done a fantastic job with our pre-K/Bridges program."

He encouraged people to go online and vote for Fernandez.

Administrators' reports

Beck said math teacher Stanley Cijka reached out to community organizations and North Brookfield Savings Bank will provide a financial education series for juniors and seniors at the high school. The students will learn about paying rent, securing loans, how credit works, purchasing a car and more.

On March 6, the Class of 2026 will compete with high school faculty in the gymnasium during a basketball fundraiser. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, children and senior citizens.

A career day will be held on March 9.

Murphy said the elementary school students will create 200 cards to be distributed to veterans during WooSox games. He said a special guest from the WooSox will visit the school to collect the cards.

"We're very excited about that," he said.

The students celebrated reading with Camp Read-A-Lot Day at the end of the PTO's spirit week. He said the PTO members made pancakes, the Fire Department visited, and students visited various reading stations.

Director of Student Services Dr. Michael Baldassarre said the state allocated \$3 million for districts across the state, and the school district received a grant award.

"I think it's a badge of honor for a district to have a program that the Department of Education believes in and that they'll back up with their funding," he said. "And that's happening right here in North Brookfield."

Baldassarre spoke about having a successful crisis intervention program, which requires involvement and modeling by school leadership.

He said the special edu-

cation department is currently undergoing an audit for Title I, II and IV grants.

Baldassarre said, "Things are going really well and I'm really proud of the work we're doing."

Student update

McCormick said Unity Week was held prior to February break to celebrate inclusivity. He said the Student Council is preparing to head to Hyannis for the annual Massachusetts Association of Student Coun-

cils conference March 3-6.

He said there are about half a dozen students from the Student Council attending the conference and he is excited to see the recognized for their hard work.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13		14				15			
16					17		18			19			
20						21				22			
				23		24			25				
26	27	28	29				30						
31							32						
33								34	35	36	37	38	
				39	40	41		42	43				
			44	45			46						
	47						48						
49					50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58					
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

CLUES ACROSS

- Unit of dry measure
- One who defies authority
- Social media giant
- Render holy
- "Much ___ about nothing"
- Computer manufacturer
- Creed
- Immoral act
- Mountain pass
- Winged nut
- Don't know when yet
- Elected officials
- Corrupt tendencies
- Popular adult beverage
- Made a mistake
- Morally correct
- Portable conical tent

- Native people of the Congo
- More (Spanish)
- Classroom implements
- Cognizant of
- One who tells
- Free from bondage
- Thick piece of something
- Containing two adjacent nitrogen atoms
- Removed from the record
- Legendary singer
- Broke up the earth
- Hunting expedition
- Contributes
- Unit of work or energy
- Wreckage on the sea bed
- Affirmative! (slang)

- Witness
- Scrape (Archaic)
- "___ and flows"
- Humble request for help
- A position of leadership
- Continent
- Adherent of a particular religion
- Things that can be eaten
- Self-governing Netherlands territory
- Long-tailed crow
- Repeated
- Bluish greens
- Humanities
- Someone who serves in the armed forces
- Labor (Spanish)
- Shared by involving three parties
- Queens ballplayer

- Consumed
- Rest here please
- Men's fashion accessory
- American time
- Sound unit
- They ___
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Places to play video games
- A sudden attack of illness
- When you hope to arrive
- Charges
- Actress Seyfried
- A tributary of the Ohio River
- Omit when speaking
- Armored fish
- Remain
- From a distance
- Adventure story
- Geological times
- Eat dinner

Now Hiring!

Advertising Sales Representative

➤ Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?

➤ If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers and supplements. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

➤ You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

➤ Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?

Send resume & cover letter to:

Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

- community -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Feb. 2-8, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 152 building/property checks, 74 directed area patrols, nine radar assignments, eight traffic controls, 10 emergency 911 calls, nine citizen assists, four assist other agencies, four safety hazards, one scam, four motor vehicle accidents, one complaint, one animal call and 19 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, Feb. 2

8:09 a.m. School Zone Traffic, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:18 a.m. Scam, East Main Street, Spoken To
 12:09 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Adams Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 6:50 p.m. Radar, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 7:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Tuesday, Feb. 3

8:10 a.m. Assist Citizen, Telephone, Spoken To
 8:25 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
 9:14 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
 9:42 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive,

Services Rendered
 12:31 p.m. Safety Hazard, Shore Road, Unfounded
 5:30 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled
 8:53 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, West Sturbridge Road, Criminal Complaint
 10:09 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Howe Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Feb. 4

9:31 a.m. Assist Citizen, Flagg Road, Services Rendered
 10:48 a.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Officer Handled
 1:46 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 8:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Pleasant Street, Citation Issued

Thursday, Feb. 5

1:17 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Officer Handled
 12:01 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
 12:50 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Meadowview Lane, Services Rendered
 1:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
 4:05 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 7:23 p.m. Serve Warrant, East Main Street, Arrest(s) Made

Friday, Feb. 6

5:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:51 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, East Main Street, Spoken To
 2:51 p.m. Complaint, East Main Street, Officer Handled
 5:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To
 6:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Negative Contact
 7:28 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled

Saturday, Feb. 7

12:28 a.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Dispatch Handled
 3:41 a.m. Medical Emergency, Terry Lane, Transported to Hospital
 4:16 a.m. Safety Hazard, Terry Lane, Dispatch Handled
 4:19 a.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Dispatch Handled
 5:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Podunk Road, Report Taken
 11:27 a.m. 911 Fire/Alarm, Podunk Road, False Alarm

Sunday, Feb. 8

8:17 a.m. Radar, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation issued
 11:01 a.m. Radar, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Feb. 16-23, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 10 building/property checks, 32 directed area patrols, 11 radar assignments, two traffic controls, four emergency 911 calls, one safety hazard, nine citizen assists, one assist other agency, one animal call and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Feb. 16

1:58 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered
 5 p.m. Assist Citizen, Dennis Whitney Road, Negative Contact

Wednesday, Feb. 18

8:17 a.m. Assist Cit-

izen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 8:33 a.m. Medical Emergency, Oakham Road, Officer Handled
 8:34 a.m. Medical Emergency, Oakham Road, Patient Refusal
 10:06 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 2:01 p.m. Medical Alarm, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:02 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 6:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Prouty Road, Arrest(s) Made

Thursday, Feb. 19

9:02 a.m. 911 Mis-dial, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 9:59 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive,

Services Rendered
 11:14 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 5:06 p.m. Assist Citizen, Dennis Whitney Road, Officer Handled

Friday, Feb. 20

2:23 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 6:25 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Road, Patient Refusal

Saturday, Feb. 21

1:26 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 7:46 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Mara Road, Referred to Other Agency
 11:19 p.m. Safety Hazard, Area Roadways, Officer Handled

Town Clerk lists annual election information

WEST BROOKFIELD – Town Clerk, Klarissa Rose, announces that Nomination Papers are available for the upcoming Town Election to be held on Tuesday, May 5.

These papers must be filed with the Board of Registrars, in the Town Clerk's office, for certification on or before Tuesday, March 17 at 5 p.m. Final day to withdraw as a candidate is Thursday, April 2 at 5 p.m.

Appearing on the ballot will be the fol-

lowing: Selectman, three-year term; Board of Health, three-year term; Assessor, three-year term; Common Committee, three-year term; Library Board of Trustees, three-year term; Library Board of Trustees, three-year term; Planning Board, five-year term; Housing Authority, five-year term; Water Commissioner, three-year term.

The Quaboag Regional School District positions will also be incorporated on the Town Ballot. Two mem-

bers from the Town of West Brookfield for a three-year term and two members from the Town of Warren for a three-year term.

These nomination papers are available at the Superintendent's office at 284 Old West Brookfield Road, Warren. Deadline for returning these papers is Friday, March 20 by 4 p.m.

Last day to register to vote before the Town Election is Friday, April 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office at 2 East Main St.

- legals -

Town of North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing

The Town of North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing on **March 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center 29 Forest Street.** The application is for a Special Permit to convert and renovate the existing building at 75 School Street into a four-unit multifamily residential building by AUM Blackrock Investments

LLC. The request is being made under the North Brookfield Zoning Bylaws, Section IV(A)(2)(1), which allows an existing dwelling to be converted to multifamily use if the ZBA grants a Special Permit.
 03/06, 03/13/2026



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

E	P	H	A			R	E	B		M	E	T	A					
B	L	E	S	S		A	D	O		A	C	E	R					
B	E	L	I	E	F		S	I	N		G	H	A	T				
S	A	M	A	R	A		T	B	A		P	O	L	S				
				V	E	N	A	L	I	T	I	E	S					
M	A	R	T	I	N	I			E	R	R	E	D					
E	T	H	I	C	A	L			S	E	I							
T	E	P	E	E						L	U	B	A	S				
						M	A	S		E	R	A	S	E	R	S		
						A	W	A	R	E		T	A	T	T	L	E	R
						E	M	A	N	C	I	P	A	T	E			
S	L	A	B			A	Z	O			E	R	A	S	E	D		
T	I	N	A			D	U	G			S	A	F	A	R	I		
A	D	D	S			E	R	G			L	A	G	A	N			
Y	E	A	H			S	E	E				R	A	S	E			

Spring home

DISTRIBUTED IN ALL 12 TURLEY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

AD DEADLINE: MARCH 11, 2026
 PUBLISHED: APRIL 8, 2026

DON'T MISS OUT!

Contact **Dan Flynn** to reserve your space today
413-297-5886 or **dflynn@turley.com**

home
garden
lawn
family

APRIL 2026

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO

WWW.TURLEY.COM

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

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

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

WANTED

WANTED! CASH for:

- Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
- Electronics & Audio Equipment.
- Sports Cards.
- 70s/80s/90s Toys.
- Antiques & Collectibles. Much, much more!

Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

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

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

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

Call Paul 413-206-8688

JUNK REMOVAL

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

SERVICES

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

ELECTRICIAN

PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN
• Licensed & Insured •
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.
NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
Call today to schedule your appointment.
(413) 366-1703
(Lic. #24046-A)

SERVICES

BUILT 'N POWERED. Serving all your electrical and construction needs. Fully insured and licensed. Free estimates. 10% Senior and Veteran's discounts. Call Tom 413-472-4104. Electrical Lic. #56789/CLS Lic. #104505

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Walker Home Improvement
Handyman Services
Licensed & Insured
Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!
(413) 687-5552

SERVICES

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC

Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.

Call John at (413)206-6509
Every customer gets a free gem stone.

Find archives of this local newspaper at
www.newspapers.turley.com

SERVICES

LANDSCAPING

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

MASONRY

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

PLUMBING

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

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

TREE WORK

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

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

STUMP GRINDING

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

PETS

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F. Ready, w/shots. Now \$1,200. 413-218-2321

HELP WANTED

The Town of Oakham is seeking an experienced certified municipal **TOWN CLERK**. 10 hours a week. \$31.82 - \$40.30 depending on experience.

Email admin@oakham-ma.gov for a full job description and town employment application.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

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

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

TAX SERVICES

2026 TAX TIME

CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES
For Full Accounting & Tax Service
Registered Tax Return Preparer

228 West St., Ware, MA 01082
413-967-8364 Call For An Appointment

The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States

FAST TAX USA TAX PREPARATION SERVICE
413-348-2279

IRS Certified Tax Preparers
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.

1622 B North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069
www.FastTax-MA.com
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

AJE FINANCIAL SERVICES

588 Center Street
Ludlow, MA 01056
www.aje-financial.com (413)589-1671

Personal, Business, Corporate and Partnership Tax Filing
Bookkeeping and Accounting Services
Trusted Experts Since 1995

TAX-TIME SURVIVAL GUIDE

Call your local Turley Publications sales representative for information and rates on advertising your tax service here!
413-283-8393

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here
CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

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

HEATING & AIR COND.

NO HEAT? Taking no heat calls - Oil and Gas, AC service also. 413-222-2904 Bobby.

INSTRUCTION

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

Post your job openings in our classifieds. WE GET RESULTS!

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

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

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

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

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

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

DON'T BUY 'TIL YOU SEE US!!!!
PRE-SEASON BIKE SALE!!

GIANT APPLIANCE REBATES!!!
MATTRESS SALE!!!
SLEDS, SKATES, TOBOGGANS, TUBES!!!

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

POST ROAD REALTY
 BUYING OR SELLING... WE HAVE THE PERFECT FIT FOR YOU!
 www.PostRoadRealty.com

WATERFRONT & POSSIBLE ADU
\$674,900
 22 Beach Drive
 West Brookfield, MA

OPEN HOUSE:
Sunday, March 8, 11:00 to 12:30

Cassie Paolucci
774-200-3523

The Optical Shop
 at Kelly & Velazquez Eye Center

"The Finest Quality at Reasonable Prices"

The Most Advanced Lens Designs Available
 Frames to Fit Any Budget
 Large Selection of Designer Frames For All Ages

SUNGLASSES
 Maui Jim • Ray Ban

1504 N. Main St., Palmer, MA **413-283-3511**
 362 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA **413-589-1806**
 Expert guidance in selecting the right frame with the best fit & lenses for every lifestyle.

LOCAL BUSINESS ADVERTISING SPECIALS

CONTACT US TODAY FOR DETAILS

12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

www.turley.com • 413.283.8393

SAVE 10% OFF
 Select Lawn & Garden And Marine Batteries

NAPA AUTO PARTS WARE • WEST BROOKFIELD

175 West St., Ware **413-967-5121 • 967-3184**
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-7, Sat. 8-3, Sun. 9-2

116 Federal St. (Rt. 9) Belchertown **413-323-7661 • 323-9296**

117 West Main St., W. Brookfield • **508-867-9947**
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-5:30, Sat. 8-3, Sun. 9-2

FOUNTAIN And Sons Construction Company INCORPORATED

- Excavation Complete Site Work • Demo • New Home Construction
- Screened Loam, Sand, Stone, Gravel, Septic Sand
- Trucking • Backhoe, Dozer, Excavator Work
- Water & Sewer Line Repairs & Replacements

YOUR BUSINESS IS IMPORTANT TO US!

177 Brimfield Road, Warren, MA 01083
413-436-5705 • www.fountainandsons.com

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!

LANDSCAPE STONE
 White • Blue • Purple • Red
 Lt Gray • Dark Gray • Beige • Rip Rap

SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING

Construction Stone • Title V & Presby Septic Sand
 Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand
 Pool Liner Sand • Stone Dust • Silt • Crushed Gravel
 Crushed Asphalt • Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch

Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums
PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

Bond Sand, Gravel & Asphalt
 98 North Spencer Rd., Spencer
 bondsandandgravel.com
508-885-6100
508-885-2480

JARS Café & Bakery

23 Summer Street
 North Brookfield
 MA 01535

- ☖ COFFEE
- ☖ GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS
- ☖ BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
- ☖ SOUPS
- ☖ COOKIES
- ☖ MUFFINS
- ☖ PASTRIES
- ☖ MAC'N CHEESE
- ☖ LUNCH & BREAKFAST MEALS

In-House Fresh Bakery
 All Occasion Cake
 Cupcakes and Cookies

See website for specials
JARSCafe.com

☖ Future Events
 Contact us to plan your next private event.
508-637-1577

TEA FOR TWO
 1st Sunday Every Month
 Reservations Required

508-637-1577
 Tuesday-Sunday
 8am-2pm

BRING IN ENTIRE AD FOR \$5 OFF
 with \$10 minimum purchase.

Adventure tours of Warren
 Share the Adventure with us!

Two Great Cruises aboard Norwegian Breakaway!

June 9-12 4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation\$899
 June 27....Lake George Cruise & Lunch\$185
 July 11.....Provincetown by Fast Ferry.....\$220
 July 19.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
 Aug 30.....8-Day Nova Scotia Cruisefrom \$1699

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

WATERWHEEL REALTY
Paul Varney Sr.
 Real Estate Broker and Owner

978-355-4438
 978-355-3454
paulraymondvarney@gmail.com

NO ENTRANCE FEE
 Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. **Asking \$279,000.** See listing on MLS # 73433198

NO ENTRANCE FEE
 Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 21 Varney Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and Better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a large attached bathroom. Two full bathrooms, large back deck, and two large wood sheds. **Asking 245,000.** See MLS#73457117.

NO ENTRANCE FEE
 Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 32 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. Includes large carport and two large garden sheds. Approx. living area 1,000 SqFt. **Asking \$134,900.** See listing on MLS # 73398863.

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

Special Ad Size Pricing
 3" x 1" ... only \$33
 3" x 1.5" only \$48

3" x 2" ... only \$66
 3" x 2.5" only \$82
 3" x 3" ... only \$99

FULL COLOR INCLUDED!

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

hardwickcrossing.com
 262 Lower Road, Gilbertville • 774-757-8907 • Pro Shop 774-261-2634
OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH, DINNER & GOLF

HARDWICK CROSSING COUNTRY CLUB
 EST. 2022

Prime Rib
 Every Thurs., Fri. & Sat.
 Online Ordering Available
 Monday - 6:30 p.m.
TRIVIA NIGHT
 Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.
MUSIC BINGO

St. Patrick's Day
 at Hardwick Crossing
Sunday, March 15th • 2-5 p.m.
TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD

Function Space Available For Parties
CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK FOR SPECIALS

Paint & Sip Night
 April 7th
 Petals Fall