

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current
Newspaper

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Friday, March 22, 2024

The 'Boys' came back to town

The Doolin Lads performed at Merriam-Gilbert library



The Doolin Lad, John Ebersold, Hunter Foote and Tim Loftus (from left), performed a concert on the top floor of the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library. TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – It seems it may become a tradition and it would not be unwelcome.

The Boys of the Town, alternatively known as the Doolin

Lads, came back again to play on March 14, close to Saint Patrick's Day.

Last year, it was in the Great Hall of the Town Hall, but this year, it was in the more intimate setting of the top floor of the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library.

The trio consists of John Ebersold, Hunter Foote and Tim Loftus. Their connection is not just in music, but they were all Eagle Scouts; an allusion was made during the performance that little old ladies would not want for help across

See LADS | PAGE 6

Planning Board gives site plan approval for solar array

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Town Planner Jean Bubon said several sets of revisions have gone back and forth between her department and Bear Peak Power,

the applicant for a large scale, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic system at 200 Haynes St.

At the March 12 Planning Board meeting, she said she and two members of the board met at the site with the landscape architect earlier to

answer questions about the visibility from the condominiums and the buffering requirements being met.

Bubon said the large trees will be removed, but it doesn't mean the site will be completely cleared.

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North Brookfield Youth Basketball celebrates two anniversaries

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – There was a lot to celebrate as the North Brookfield Youth Basketball League community flooded the gymnasium of North Brookfield Elementary School.

This all day event featured friends, family and youth basketball players from the past and present all under the same roof that brought the North Brookfield Youth Basketball program to life. This event celebrated two special milestones that the youth basketball program had accomplished.

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North Brookfield Youth Basketball League commissioner Andy Caron is shown alongside his three daughters. Caron was given a gift to commemorate his 30 years of service to the North Brookfield Youth Basketball program. TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Winter Farmers Market signs off for the season

Editor's note: This is the final installment of the Market Spotlight feature. The Quaboag Current has regularly featured a spotlight story on different farmers market vendors to help residents learn about the people that bring food and locally sourced items to the community.

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – Go ahead and say whatever you want about Friday the 13th and bad luck, but Wednesday the 13th of March was glorious.

The West Brookfield Common was bathed in sunshine. Even so, we did not dawdle, but crossed the street and went into the First Congregational Church for the last Winter Market.

Despite the variability of the weather, it has been a good run and we have been able to feature almost all of the vendors, but two are left, B & D ENT. and Flourish Farm.

Save the pallets

Artisans work at home and come to the market to display their crafts. What is on offer are

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- community -

It's Maple Weekend at Grand Maple Farms

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – This past weekend was maple weekend for Grand Maple Farms in New Braintree.

This hilltop sugar house has been operating for about 13 years and continues to expand in popularity.

The Schur family has been living in New Braintree for 43 years, but the sugaring came long after. Co-owner Paul Schur recalls how the family got into the maple sugaring business.

Justin Schur's nephew was studying maple sugaring in college and reached out to him about the idea of tapping into some of his trees around his home. In their first year of trying, Grand Maple Farms tapped into about 23 trees and produced about 3 1/2 gallons of maple syrup.

Year after year, the maple syrup production grew and according to Paul, the farm now averages about 20 gallons of maple syrup a day.

"We keep expanding every year," Paul said. "Each year, expansion work is being done."

As of 2024, Grand Maple Farms now tap into 900 trees that are on their land in New Braintree. As production grew, Grand Maple Farms would soon intro-



The Schur family operates Grand Maple Farms in New Braintree and hosted their Maple Weekend. From left to right is Paul Schur, granddaughter Emily Schur, Marilyn Schur and Justin Schur. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



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The sugar house at Grand Maple Farms is where the operation of making maple syrup happens.



A vintage sign of Grand Maple Farms which has been operating for about 13 years.

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- community -

MAPLE | FROM PAGE 2

duce the sugar house to support the operation producing pure maple syrup and other maple flavored products.

“Everything we sell, we make,” Paul said.

Stores such as Boston Market, Brookfield Orchards, Big Y in Spencer feature maple products from Grand Maple Farms. Throughout the year, Grand Maple Farms get a lot of calls to place orders and also provides local delivery for nearby customers.

Paul’s son Justin recalls getting more involved with the family business by going to many maple seminars and asking makers a lot of questions to better understand the process. Getting books and journals about the maple sugaring business and meeting with other maple makers helped out the Schur family a lot.

Other homemade maple products made by the Schur family include maple candy, maple cream and maple coated nuts. When guests visit Grand Maple Farms they love the product they have to offer, especially the maple flavored goods.

“Once people have it they generally buy it,” Justin said.

Justin makes maple cream and maple sugar and his parents make maple coated nuts. The maple coated nuts are very popular when customers shop for maple products.

Next room over from the room with the evaporator is the packaging room where all the maple syrup is stored and packaged.

Grand Maple Farms is a year-round operation and syrup is bottled and sold year-round.

Justin said over the years of offering maple products, their market has gotten worldwide attention. Customers from all of Europe, Thailand, Saudi Arabia and South Africa have purchased and enjoyed the maple products from Grand Maple Farms.

Justin is also the proprietor of his own business, New-found Landscape Construction providing hardscapes, plantings and excavations.

Grand Maple Farms is a family run business but many friends step in to lend a hand from time to time. It is a true learning experience when seeing the entire process of operating a maple sugarhouse and producing maple syrup.

Grand Maple Farms is located at 727 Moore Road offering 100% pure maple syrup and other maple products and sugarhouse tours in season. To learn more about Grand Maple Farms, visit them on Facebook, Facebook.com/GrandMapleFarms.

The company is a member of the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association.



This firewood operated evaporator helps with the sugaring process.



This tank is outside the sugar house at Grand Maple Farms and is part of the sugaring process that brings in the delicious maple syrup everyone wants to buy.

Easter egg hunt at Lucy Stone Park is March 30

WARREN – The annual Easter egg hunt will be held at Lucy Stone Park, Old West Brookfield Road, on Saturday, March 30.

There will be three separate egg hunts by age, starting with the 5-7 year olds at 10:30 a.m., 8-10 year olds at 10:45 a.m. and ages 4 and under at 11 a.m. Rain date is Saturday, April 6.

There will be prizes for all ages groups, photos with the Easter Bunny and refreshments.

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- opinion -



Thank goodness for the 'happy plant'

It was a bad night and the next day didn't start out much better.

I had heard that the days prior to delivery can be a bit uneasy for a soon-to-be mother (and therefore for her spouse!), now I know it to be true. Luckily, even before my husband came home from work, the smile he is accustomed to had returned to my face.

My grin grew even bigger, however, when I greeted him at the door and found he had a pot of gerber daisies in his hand. Years ago, I deemed this particular potted plant "the happy plant."

For me it is next to impossible to look at its brightly colored flowers and remain in a bad mood. If you feel the same way but have never had any luck growing the gerber daisy, read on to learn just what cultural requirements are necessary to keep it happy.

The gerber daisy was discovered by Robert Jameson in the early 1880s near the gold fields of Barberton, in the Transvaal region of South Africa. The most popular species, the one which we will concentrate on today, bears his name, *Gerbera jamesonii*.

The Barberton daisy, the Transvaal daisy, and the African daisy are all common names for the plant that relate back to its place of origin.

Not long after its discovery, breeding began on the gerber daisy in England, eventually resulting in improved quality and enhanced color variations. Today, the Netherlands and Columbia are the primary producers of gerbers in cut flower form.

In the floral trade, it ranks an impressive fifth in popularity, behind the rose, carnation, chrysanthemum and tulip.

According to floral lore, the meaning behind the gerber flower is one I would wholeheartedly agree with: cheerfulness, probably due to the wide palette of colors it is available in – nearly every one except blue. Look for vivid orange, cool coral, hot pink, crimson red and sunshine yellow, not to mention bubblegum pink and creamy white!

Unfortunately, the gerber daisy is not hardy in our area; it prefers a much warmer location in which to grow. On the eastern seaboard, the only place it will overwinter is the southernmost tip of Florida, in hardiness zones 9 and 10.

Here in New England, it is best enjoyed on the windowsill during the winter months. As long as the plant is provided with normal room temperatures, bright light and sufficient but not excess moisture it should bloom prolifically.

Remember to remove spent flowers to keep up the gerber's good looks as well as to encourage future blooms.

Once the danger of frost has passed, it is also safe to plant the gerber daisy outdoors, just as you would any other summer annual. More and more consumers are doing this each year and with success!

The best type of soil for it is one that is organically rich and well-drained. Full sun is a must for flower production.

If you wish to dig up the plant after the season wanes and attempt to overwinter it indoors, be extra careful not to disturb its deep root system or death may incur. Some gardeners who plan on overwintering their gerbers sink the pot and all at planting time to avoid any potential risk later on.

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A Fiskdale couple reported seeing an American woodcock in their large field.

They said, "On Saturday, March 9 we heard the first woodcocks of the season. So happy to have them back."

The woodcock has an extremely long bill, a short neck, a dark back and buff breast. Its feathers blend into the leaf litter. The long bill allows the bird to probe into the earth and it can open its beak below the surface to grab prey.

It can eat its weight in earthworms within 24 hours. It also eats insects and seeds. Woodcocks inhabit woods and thickets bordered by open areas.

Both sexes make a "peent" call. In spring, woodcocks display in open fields. The male rises in the air in wide circles. When he reaches about 50 feet above the ground his wings start to make a twittering sound. At about 200 to 300 feet the twittering stops.

He give a canary-like flight song and begins a zig zag descent.

Several males may display in the same field. Woodcocks are polygamous. Females are attracted to the area and mate with the males. Males continue to display after mating and may mate with other females.

After mating, the females raise their brood alone. The nest is a scraped depression in the ground lined with twigs or grass and placed within 100 to 200 yards of the male's display ground. The female lays four buff eggs with brown splotches.

Canada geese

On Friday, March 1 I saw a large flock of Canada geese in a field in Spencer. On Monday, March 4 I heard the honking of geese. I looked up and saw two large flocks of Canada geese fly overhead.

The first flock flew lower and landed in my hayfield and the pond next to it. The second flock flew much higher and headed northward.

Belted kingfisher

On Feb. 29, a spotted a pair of belted kingfishers at a small pond in Ware on my way back from the Ware River News/Barre Gazette office. I was surprised to see them this early.

Black bears and more

I received an email from a Wilbraham

resident. He said, "It was March 1, when I woke to see the damage a bear did to our poles and feeders. This was the second time our poles and feeders were damaged by a bear, in the last few years. Shame on me, for not bringing the feeders in at dusk."

He said, "We have been casual bird watchers and feeders for over thirty years. It is relaxing and fun to see the local and migratory birds visit our feeders. Unfortunately, we have to consider the risks associated with placing food sources in our back yards. It means we have to be aware and maybe take the feeders in at dusk, putting them back out in the morning."

He also said, "However, that will not eliminate the chance for a bear/human encounter. Last year, a black bear was in our neighbors back yard, at 10:30 a.m. in the morning. The bear was attracted by the chickens in the coup. Fortunately, they have an electrified fence, surrounding the coup. After getting shocked, it ran across the street and into Cedar Swamp woods.

It will be back, since a bear does remember where the food sources are located." He said he recently saw a male, pileated woodpecker.

Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee in Moultonborough, New Hampshire included these interesting loon facts in their newsletter.

Loons are physiologically adapted for life in the water, so much so that they struggle to walk on land as a result. Their dense, thick walled bones help to weigh them down in the water. The extreme rear-placement of their legs and feet allows them to maximize the propulsive force that they can exert with each kick.

Many studies documented the duration of observed loon dives. Most of these studies have reported that average loon dives last somewhere between 33 and 52 seconds, regardless of season or location.

Loons diving to deeper depths tend to spend more time underwater than those diving in more shallow areas.

In a study of loons using Lake Michigan as a stopover site during fall migration, Kenow et al. (2018) found that loons diving to depths of 40 m (131 feet) were spending, on average, 139 seconds (over 2 minutes) underwater per dive. In contrast, loons diving to depths of just 20 meters (65 feet) in that study were spending less time under water per dive (87 seconds, on average).

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

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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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.



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Quaboag Current Newspaper

- community -

Brookfield UUC presents Jeff Warner in concert

BROOKFIELD – Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church, 9 Upper River St., will host a benefit concert featuring Jeff Warner on Sunday, March 24 at 2 p.m.

A \$20 suggested donation will be taken at the door.

Warner is among the nation's foremost performers/interpreters of traditional music. His songs from the lumber camps, fishing villages and mountaintops of North America connect 21st-century audiences with the everyday lives – and artistry – of 19th-century North Americans.

His songs, rich in local history and a sense of place, bring us the latest news from the distant past.

Warner grew up listening to the songs and stories of his father, Frank Warner,

and the traditional singers his parents met during their folksong collecting trips through rural North America. He accompanied his parents on their later field trips and is the editor of his mother's book, "Traditional American Folk Songs: From the Anne and Frank Warner Collection."

All proceeds from this concert will fund Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church's missions to strengthen the local community, to maintain its wonderful music and choir programs, and to bring all joyfully together again and again by giving the opportunity to share more traditional folk and community music.

To learn more about BUUC, please visit <http://www.buuc.org/>.

Historical Society presents underhammer pistol program March 28

STURBRIDGE – On Thursday, March 28 at 7 p.m. at the Publick House, Bob Arnold, Charlie Blanchard, and Doug Quigley will present a program on a local pistol manufacturer, Gibbs, Tiffany and Company.

In the 1830s they were the largest manufacturer of underhammer pistols. These were sold through an agent in Baltimore, many to people who were moving west.

The simplicity of the pistol's design made it easy and inexpensive to produce. In addition to its low cost, the pistol was small and light, which was convenient to carry making it a popular product for travelers.

This program will look at the history of the company and the pistols they produced.

Arnold is a freelance photographer, amateur historian, and avid collector of all things Sturbridge. In addition to serving clients throughout New England, he has been documenting life in our community since he and his family moved here in 1970.

Arnold's work over the past 50 plus years has yielded a unique perspective on the commercial, cultural, and environmental changes in our community.

After joining CPC Engineering in 1971, Blanchard and his family moved to Sturbridge in 1973. Following the example set by CPC's founders Lloyd Pote and Charlie Ciaffone, he served the community on

the Water and Sewer Commission for 16 years, the Board of Selectmen for 18 years, and is currently serving on the Planning Board.

He is a founding member of the Sturbridge Historical Society and has served as its Treasurer since its inception.

Quigley has lived in Sturbridge for 45 years, coming here to work as an interpreter at Old Sturbridge Village.

Since he was a teen, Quigley has participated in living history events covering the Revolutionary War, the Federal Period, and the American Civil War. As a reenactor, he has collected both original and reproduction firearms that were used in the formation of the country.

He is currently President of the Sturbridge Historical Society.

Arnold, Blanchard and Quigley are all collectors of underhammer pistols who have pooled their interests and collected knowledge to present this program on an important local manufacturer.

The program is free and open to the public, and is generously hosted by the Publick House.

Program provided information on benefits and resources

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Public Library hosted several organizations and members of the Town Hall to share information about various benefits that residents can receive.

Brittany Ruiz and Luz Rivera-Aponte from Tri-Valley Elder Services came to give information on various services that can be used by members of the community.

Ruiz, an options counselor, shared the various services she provides including help with housing applications, signing up for public benefits or Mass-Health, Medicare savings programs, and so much more.

"I meet with people who have a need, and help them find the program right for them," she explained.

River-Aponte, who is the veteran's officer at Tri-Valley, gave some helpful information for veterans so that they can

access all the possible benefits available to them.

Nicole Allen, the town's treasurer, came to deliver some information on the Senior Circuit Breaker Credit, which helps seniors 65 and older to get benefits on taxes and find social security.

The program helps with cash and fuel assistance, food stamps, disability income, and more. You can contact Allen at the Town Hall for more information.

The Town Assessor, Helen Townsend, came to provide information on tax relief and statutory exemptions. These can help benefit those with disabilities, the blind, veterans, those 65 or older, and grandparents raising grandchildren.

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GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

Right now, the "happy plant" sits on the bureau in the nursery, awaiting the arrival of our little girl, just as we are. There is indeed so much to be happy about!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.






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Quaboag Regional hosts African drummers and dancers

WARREN – Recently the Quaboag Regional Middle High School auditorium was filled with the thunderous sound of over 30 African drums being played by students in a rhythmic beat along with professional African drummers.

The assembly was for grades seven, eight and nine and attended by more than 300 students who were cheering, drumming, and dancing along with the professional Ammaya Dance and Drum troupe.

The Ammaya Drum and Dance Troupe brought their high energy show that showcased African culture of music and dance. The troupe played and danced several amazing performances and then had students and staff come up on stage to drum and dance along with them.

The performance was made possible for the students by the generous support of the Warren Cultural Council, a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education grant and the Quaboag Regional School District administration.



The Ammaya Drum and Dance Troupe performed for students at Quaboag Regional Middle High School. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Students received a lesson in African drumming.



Dancers performed several pieces that showcased African culture.

LADS | FROM PAGE 1

the street.

But it was music on Thursday they were upstairs for, and they performed wonderfully.

Loftus, versatile on a few instruments began with a flute of Native American origin and played a tune he wrote, “Hina Hanta,” or the Bright Path, about the Choctaw Nation’s contribution to Irish famine relief despite having not long before suffered on the Trail of Tears.

Ebersold would play guitar with Foote on fiddle, and the three would

have a busy evening.

It was then onto Irish music. They would play a favorite with audiences called the “Wild Rover”, about a man who has lived a wastrel’s life, but is ready to go home and reform...maybe.

Loftus would play the flute on the soulful waltz, “South Wind” and then onto the jig, “Haste to the Wedding”.

There were humorous asides during the evening as Loftus took up his bodhrán drum and the question was asked, “What do you call someone who hangs around with musicians?” The an-

swer, “Drummer.”

The next tune is about the goings on in a piece of land in the sea between Ireland and England called the Isle of Man. First, they had to explain the meaning of the Irish word, craic (pronounced Crack), which, certainly, in terms of the song, “The Craic was Ninety in the Isle of Man”, means great fun.

Then it was on to the road to Lisdoonvarna. After that, with great audience participation, it was the famous English tune, “Drunken Sailor”.

Again, this year, the trio had to an-

nounce that no dogs were drowned in the making of the rollicking tune the “Irish Rover”. The crew of said ship may not have done as well.

Next, the mournful, “Leaving of Liverpool” is the story of a man who must part from his love to sail to the new world to seek fortune on a ship described as a “floating hell.”

Then came the more cheerful “Hills of Connemara” about the efforts of the locals to make Poitin or moonshine without paying the excise.

After the “Hills of Connemara”, it would only be fair to have a tune that could put one off the drink for an extended period. “Johnny Jump Up” is the tale of a fellow who took a bit too much of an extremely hard cider and suffered greatly for it.

It was then on to finish up with a song known as “Will Ye Go, Lassie, Go” or “Wild Mountain Thyme”. It is a lovely tune of courtship that one of the trio described as a tune that could “bring a tear to a man with a glass eye.”

Excellent musicianship was on display, but so was wit and a sense of humor.

All too soon the evening was over, but the lads were happy to take their time and converse with members of the audience.

Eventually, all drifted away to console themselves with the evening’s memory and anticipate March 2025.



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GOLF COURSE OPENS APRIL 1



Pied Potter Hamelin demonstrates at Haston library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Library welcomed Pied Potter Hamelin to demonstrate a pottery wheel and provide a fun history lesson while making samples of some of the unique pieces made by the Paul Revere Pottery Club.

The Paul Revere Pottery Club was founded by Edith Guerrier and the Saturday Evening Girls Club in Massachusetts during the progression era. The Saturday Evening Girls Club was a reading group consisting of young Jewish and Italian working women.

As an extra activity for the SEG club, Guerrier opened a pottery shop and would train members of the SEG club to make pottery. The Saturday Evening Girls Club was established in 1899 and located in Boston's North End.

Soon the Paul Revere Pottery Club would soon emerge as a sub group of the SEG and the pottery would soon flourish for decades, receiving national and international recognition through features in magazines, journals and newsletters.

This organization would become an intellectual and social hub for many women who had few economic, educational, or social opportunities.

“Not just teaching pottery, but teaching how to improve themselves and their lives and the lives around them,” Hamelin said.

Red clay is most commonly used for pottery and plain glazed products were most commonly made at the Paul Revere Pottery Club.

Hamelin has been involved with pottery since 1979 and at one point was a potter at Old Sturbridge Village. With unique histories such as the Saturday Evening Girls Club and the Paul Revere Pottery Company, Hamelin began studying the history and was more invested in the craft.

Soon, Hamelin would begin incorporating his own workshops and demonstrations and now has his own pottery

shop in Warren. He makes his own pottery handmade and with his unique clay mix and lead-free glaze, Hamelin creates both authentic reproductions and original red earthenware pieces.

After World War II, the Paul Revere Pottery Company couldn't keep up with production and slowly ran out of business and ceased operation.

Guerrier cofounded the company and the Saturday Evening Girls Club with partner Edith Brown. At one point, the SEG had over 250 members. The club helped educate members in studies such as civics and reading language arts.

Guerrier was noticed in Washington, D.C. as a pioneer of library science. Guerrier is best known for developing progressive library programs in the 1890s, including a reading program and a pottery studio for girls of Boston's North End.

Hamelin mentioned a talented potter by the name of Sarah Galner, who joined the SEG as a young girl and later worked at the Paul Revere Pottery Company.

One of her fine works was a vase that has been missing for many years. No one knows of the whereabouts of Galner's vase but would be considered a great achievement is a collector found it.

It's one of pottery's biggest mysteries.

There is a lot of Paul Revere Pottery pieces that are collected throughout the United States. In good condition, many items are valued in the high hundreds and SEG products could be upwards to the thousands.

After the demonstration, Hamelin would then get the audience involved in a hands-on pinch pot workshop. The hands on portion of the workshop allows guests to get a close look at pottery making – getting to put your hands on the clay itself, feel its transformation from wet to dry formation.

Hamelin believes that the best thing new potters can do is make mistakes.

“Making mistakes is part of learning pottery,” Hamelin said.

To learn more, visit <https://www.piedpotterhamelin.com/>.



Pied Potter Hamelin arrived at Haston Free Library to demonstrate a pottery wheel and the history of the Paul Revere Pottery Company. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Samples of Rick Hamelin's work are displayed during his workshop and presentation at the Haston Free Public Library.



Rick Hamelin shared a lot of history behind Edith Guerrier and her contributions to pottery.



Paul Revere Pottery was founded by Edith Guerrier in Massachusetts and was based out of the Boston area. The pottery gained national and international recognition.

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BASKETBALL | FROM PAGE 1

The youth basketball program started back in 1984 under the leadership of Diane and Larry Buzzell. Fast forward to the present, the celebration on March 16 marked 40 years of youth basketball in the town of North Brookfield.

The youth basketball league is operated as a recreational league open to all kids of different grade levels, predominantly grades one-six. Some students in middle school, grades seven and eight, had a division to play in as well.

At one point, the program had around 250 kids playing basketball.

The Buzzell's children all played in the North Brookfield Youth Basketball program. Their grandchildren, Seth, Deacon and Logan played as well.

North Brookfield Youth Basketball has become the home of multi-generations of players where relatives have experienced the thrill of playing basketball in the same program.

In 1994, the Buzzells retired from running the North Brookfield Youth Basketball program and handed the responsibility to coach Andy Caron. Born and raised in North Brookfield, Caron lives and breaths North Brookfield basketball.

Caron is a lifelong resident of North Brookfield and has dedicated the last 30 years to running the youth basketball program. Caron in his time with the program served as a volunteer coach and referee for youth basketball.

Like the Buzzells, Caron's children and grandchildren have participated in the youth basketball league. His daughters Crystal, Bethany and Jade now volunteer and help out with the program.

Not only was Caron a phenomenal basketball player during his time in high school, but he also just loves the game of basketball.

For this anniversary celebration, Caron has welcomed back old colleagues, friends and family who have a connection to him and North Brookfield Youth Basketball. The Buzzells were amongst the guests of the anniversary celebration and remain proud of Caron's accomplishments.

Both Larry and Diane were proud in their decision to entrust Caron to continue running the youth basketball program as the league commissioner.

"He really cares about the kids," said Diane Buzzell. "And was an incredible referee and coach."

What Caron always acknowledges is the dedication of volunteers who helped out with the program and gave hundreds of kids the opportunity to enjoy playing basketball and stick with it for years to come.

From coaching, reffing, cleaning up, setting up

chairs and the court the youth basketball league has always been able to run thanks to the volunteers.

"There's a lot of great people in this program," Caron said. "I have always had so much support and so much help."

As a youth basketball player, Caron always remembered being supported by volunteers and when the role of league commissioner was handed down to him, Caron believed having volunteers is an essential source to continue youth basketball for North Brookfield.

In agreement with Caron, Diane and Larry Buzzell believe the volunteers make the youth basketball program a successful program. There have been dozens of volunteers over the last 40 years.

"We couldn't have done all this without the volunteers," Diane said. "They make a huge impact on the kids."

In the last 30 years under Caron's watch, youth basketball league has been part of practice and game from the month of December until the month of March. All the games took place and continue to take place in the gymnasium of North Brookfield Elementary School.

Many families and friends gathered inside the gymnasium to enjoy the party featuring pizza and games and of course playing basketball. The kids and adults participate in a fun game combining basketball and musical chairs.

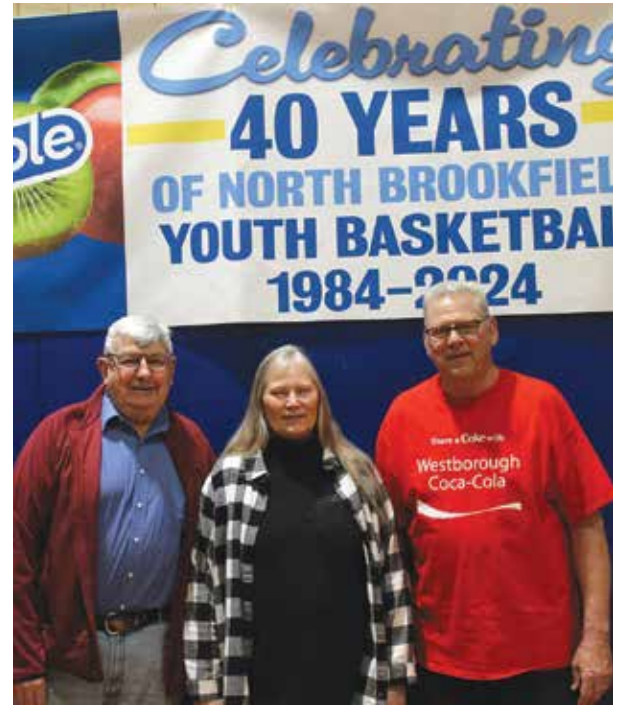
At one point during the celebration, Caron was involved in a big surprise. His three daughters presented him with a custom-made basketball with his name and the colors of North Brookfield school, purple and white, to go along with the traditional orange color of the basketball.

This gift is a thank you to league commissioner Caron and his 30 years of dedication to the North Brookfield Youth Basketball League. In his speech, Caron wanted to acknowledge all the volunteers he had the pleasure of working with and helping him out over the last 30 years.

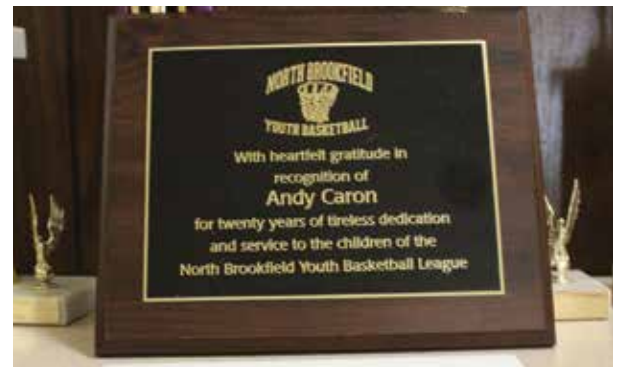
"In this small town we have so many great people," Caron said. "I am blessed to always have the help."

After his speech, Caron went back to reconnecting with old friends and colleagues as the kids continued playing during the anniversary celebration. Many parents and their kids experienced a trip back in time as many poster boards of photos, trophies and banners showcased the history of the town's youth basketball league over the years.

The North Brookfield Youth Basketball League continues running strong with over 100 kids participating. Someday, Caron plans to pass down the responsibility of running the youth league to his daughters.



Andy Caron is shown alongside Diane and Larry Buzzell who started running North Brookfield Youth Basketball back in 1984. Caron took over the program in 1994. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



A plaque given to Andy Caron for his 20 years of service to the children of North Brookfield Youth Basketball.



A table full of memorabilia featuring Coach Andy Caron and the teams of North Brookfield Youth Basketball. This poster has photos of all the teams and coaches of the 2007 season.



A banner thanked the sponsors who contributed to supporting the North Brookfield Youth Basketball program.



Volunteers and kids play a game combining basketball and musical chairs.



Students of the past and present review some of the posters highlighting memories of the basketball program which has now been operating for 40 years.



North Brookfield Youth Basketball features over 100 kids in different grades enjoying basketball, pizza and other games.

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SPORTS



The runners are off in the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

More than 6,000 brighten great day at St. Patrick's Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – After some dreary, cold, or rainy weather during the past few years, the people attending the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race drew a winner yesterday.

On a sun-splashed afternoon with comfortable temperatures, the 47th running of the popular 10K Road Race took place.

With more than 6,000 harriers competing, and many more taking part in the Fun Run or walking events, the first part of St. Patrick's weekend was defini-

tely a success.

Louis Serafini was the big winner of the main event. He completed the very hilly, 6.2-mile course in 30:12. Serafini is from Cambridge.

The top female was a local runner from Western Massachusetts. Anna Steinmen, of

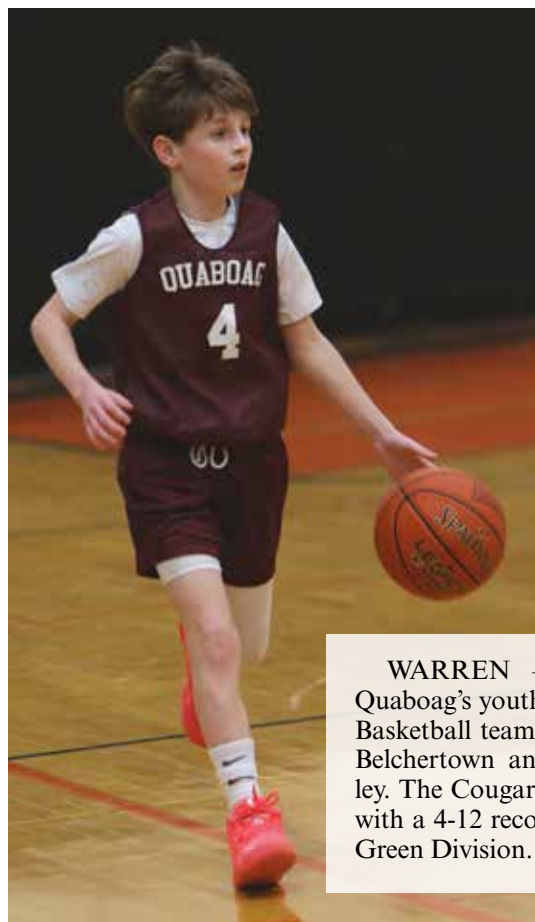
Springfield, came across the finish line at 37:00.

Ryan Davis, of South Hadley, was one of the top local finishers at 34:36. He was 20th overall.

This year's race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surround-

ing states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month on Monday, April 15. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick's Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because **See ROAD RACE | PAGE 10**

Quaboag youth heads for Suburban playoffs



WARREN – Last week, Quaboag's youth 5-6 Suburban Basketball team faced off with Belchertown and South Hadley. The Cougars season ended with a 4-12 record in the Blue-Green Division.

Will Goodwin makes his way down the court. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Zach Dermian attempts a free throw.

Ben McGraph lets go of a long jump shot.

Colton Allen starts out down the court on a play.

- sports -

More players needed to fill Quabbin Valley League rosters

With April looming, the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking for more players to fill its open roster spots.

There are more than 15 open roster spots as the league heads for its open practice and tryout date and teams are looking to fill their 14-player rosters for a 2024 season that will see the league get back to its normal schedule.

The league is very enthusiastic to welcome new members to the league to fill these roster spots so all teams have the full depth they need. To register, go to: www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org and click on the Registration tab.

Following heavy turnover between 2022 and 2023, the league had to downsize to five teams and ran a modified schedule that included scheduled doubleheaders and bye weeks for teams in order to complete a 15-game schedule. Rain also hampered the league's schedule as well last year.

On March 3, the league's board voted to bring in a new team, bringing the league back up to six teams and creating an even schedule with every team playing on 15 Sunday morning starting on Sunday, April 21 through late August with playoffs to follow.

The league is also voted to play a segment of its schedule using wood

bats only. The middle five games of the schedule will be played that way while the rest of schedule is played with either metal or wood bats.

The league will be holding an open practice for all league players and especially players who are new to the league on Sunday, April 7 at 10 a.m. at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley.

Prior to that, the next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 12 noon at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining. The league's board will be discussing final preparations for the 2024 season.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

Games are typically held in the Easthampton and South Hadley area with some expansion to Chicopee, West Springfield, Agawam, and Granby being considered.

Locals named to Senior All-Star Game

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2024 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Thursday, March 21, the Hall of Fame hosted the 2024 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. A total of 60 players were selected from different divisions within the region to participate in three games that will showcase the top seniors in their final high school contest.

“The Basketball Hall of Fame is honored to host the top high school basketball players from Western Massachusetts at our 13th annual All-Star celebration,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “We encourage the residents of Western Mass. to join us as we celebrate these outstanding seniors in the final game of their high school careers.”

A committee of local coaches and media members who represent each division on the boys' and girls' sides selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls' teams, two boys' teams of Class A and B players, and

two boys' teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters can be found on the next page.

For the 13th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court, in addition to their sportsmanship and character off the court.

The three All-Star Games were held on Thursday, March 21. There were two boys games and a girls game on the slate.

Among the all-stars named were Granby's Colin Murdock, Monson's Colin Beaupre, Ware's Jack McKeever and Emily McGrail, Palmer's Andrew Menard, Minnechaug's Lylah Jeanotte, South Hadley's Drew Alley, Holyoke's Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes and Shawn Rivera, Chicopee Comprehensive's Alyssa Caney and Tineus McCluster, and Agawam's Colin Smith.

ROAD RACE | FROM PAGE 1

of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

Of the more than 6,000 runners who were registered, 4,442 finished the 10K course this year. Race officials have said the participation level in the event is still rebounding from the pandemic. Prior to

the pandemic in 2019, race participants totaled about 7,000. The race was not held in 2020 and 2021 before it returned in 2022 with around 5,000 participants. More made their way out to the race last year, but that number was surpassed this year.

Because of that, the start of the race featured multiple waves, though 4RUN3

ran the bibs and electronic results kept accurate results for all those involved.

A number of this year's participants were featured in the usual celebratory costumes and outfits for St. Patrick's Day, while many others opted for cartoon and other fictional characters, such as Spider-Man. Several local running clubs also made their way to the race,

as did the youth of the region. Youth participants in the race were as young as seven-years-old.

Security was in full force at the event with plenty of presence from the Massachusetts State Police, Holyoke Police, and Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and the event went off without any incidents.



Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, was the top female finisher at 37:00.



The pace truck makes its way across the finish line followed by state police, which escorts the first set of runners.



Male top finisher and first overall Louis Serafini, of Cambridge, finishes the race at 30:12.



The wave of runners head down the first stretch of the 6.2-mile course. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

- community -

Purple for Prevention Week

Chris Herren speaks at school and community assemblies

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – For Quabbin Regional High School alumni Cody Handrahan, stepping back into his high school gym and standing in front of an assembly of students and staff; was a feeling almost beyond words.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to be back here,” Handrahan said at an assembly on March 7, held in commemoration of Purple for Prevention Week.

Handrahan attended the high school in 2008-2009, but never graduated. As a young teen, he smoked and drank a lot to fit in with his peers.

“Very quickly, that changed,” he said, when he became addicted to opioids at just 15 years old.

Handrahan had the opportunity to work with Q-DRUG (Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group) when it first started, and had its members’ support when he hit rock bottom and told his mother he would take his life.

“They stuck by my side,” he said.

Q-DRUG’s founder Nehr Jenkins thanked Handrahan for sharing his story, adding that she is “so proud of him.”

Jenkins then introduced former Boston Celtics point guard Chris Herren, who had spent the day at the school speaking with students in middle and high school as part of Purple for Prevention Week.

Herren first came to the school district in 2013, sharing his story from his days playing basketball in his driveway as a kid, to going pro, and losing everything he had to addiction.

“I’ll never be like that guy,” Herren recalled thinking to himself as a teenager when he sat through an assembly similar to this one.

Herren said if he could go back to 1994 to that assembly, he would listen.

Over the last 15 years, Herren has spent most of his time traveling, speaking at schools and connecting with students, hoping to empower them to feel good about themselves and avoid using substances in order to feel comfortable around their peers.

“We put way too much energy into the worst day and not the first day,” Herren said.

Herren grew up in a home that was shaped by addiction, as his father is an alcoholic.

“My mother was always by herself in her bedroom reading,” Herren recalled.

He remembered the first time his mother had the courage to tell his father that she would leave him if his drinking continued, and how at 12 years old, he asked her to take him away with her.

Two years later, she caught him getting drunk on his father’s beers.

“To this day, I don’t understand why no one in my family explained alcoholism,” Herren said.

Herren went on to gain recognition as a basketball player on his high school team in Fall River, before playing for Boston College and Fresno State. He was ranked in the top 20 basketball players in the country at the height of his career.

He was selected by the Denver Nuggets in the second round draft pick in 1999, before being picked up by the Boston Celtics in 2000.

Despite his rising career, addiction continued to have a hold on Herren, who tried cocaine for the first time at 18 years old.

“Just one line...that one line took 14 years to walk away from,” he said.

It also caused him to be kicked out of Boston College, which earned him an embarrassing headline in the newspaper.

Coach Jerry Tarkanian took a chance on him, and he flew out to Fresno, California at 19 years old where he excelled on the court, but continued to fail drug tests.

Knowing he was going to fail another drug test; Herren remembers breaking down and crying in the athletic director’s office. The athletic director said to him, “it saddens me that this addiction will never let go of you.”

Now at 21 years old, Herren was sent to treatment, which was announced in a press conference. Every day, Herren begged his mother and his wife to take him out of the treatment center.

“I wasted my time,” Herren said of his first time in treatment. “I blew the greatest opportunity of my life. I was the 33rd pick, I was unbelievably fortunate...had



Chris Herren gives a fist bump to a student as he walked through an assembly held for middle and high school students for Q-DRUG’s Purple for Prevention Week. TURLEY PHOTOS BY MARY WHITELAW



Former NBA player Chris Herren stands with Q-DRUG members Nehr Jenkins (left) and Mary Whitelaw (right).



Chris Herren autographs a basketball.

a wife and a baby.”

Herren remembers that his teammates wouldn’t let him fall back after treatment.

He moved back home to Fall River when he was 24 years old, and filled with pride at his accomplishments. One day he had a knock on his door, and it was someone he used to play basketball with as a kid.

“He said, ‘there’s a new painkiller,’” Herren said, describing the plastic bag full of little yellow pills. “In 1999 I never heard of Oxycontin.”

Herren gave him \$20 for one pill, threw it in his mouth, and went back to watching cartoons with his son.

“That \$20 turned to \$20,000 a month,” he said.

When he returned to training camp he went through his first detox, and it was at this time that he got the call that he was now a member of the Boston Celtics.

“What should have been a dream come true, was a nightmare beginning for me,” Herren said. “My first phone call was to the kid with the pills. At that point in my life, I never felt so ashamed.”

Following his time with the Celtics, Herren went on to play for the number one team in Europe, where he and his family lived in a beautiful house in Italy, and he earned twice what he was making in the U.S.

Despite smuggling 300 80mg Oxycontin with him to Italy and having a plan to taper himself off of them, Herren quickly went through his supply.

“Unfortunately, Oxycontin doesn’t play that way,” Herren said. In desperation, Herren found a dealer and not knowing how to ask for the painkiller in Italian, he simply pointed to his arm.

He asked for heroin.

Three weeks later Herren and his family were returning to the U.S. following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

“For the next six months I woke up every single morning with no job, went to Dunkin Donuts and buy heroin every day...I’d sit in my little spot and shoot it.”

After shooting heroin, Herren would get in the drive-thru and order himself a coffee and Munchkins to bring home for his children.

It was in this Dunkin Donuts that Herren had his first overdose. He remembers waking up on the pavement, with a police officer on top of him; his arm bleeding with the needle still in it.

After he bailed out of jail, he went back to the heroin dealer for more since it was so good it nearly killed him.

“I kept taking a chance at dying,” Herren said. By 27 years old, heroin had taken over his life.

Another overdose caused him to crash his car into a cemetery fence and he ended up in the hospital.

As a police officer led him through the hospital he said to Herren, “your poor kids have no idea how close you were to dying.” It was at this time that Herren made the decision to take his life, when a nurse that had known his late mother told him she would do anything to help him.

She began by calling every detox facility, while the hospital held him as long as they could. On his last day in the hospital, NBA player Chris Mullin called him and told him that he had found a place for him in New York.

Mullin was also in recovery, and he asked Herren if he was willing to work for it.

On day 35 in recovery, Herren had earned his first phone call, which he made to his wife.

“My wife was broken, she immediately started crying,” Herren recalled, as she was in the hospital giving birth to their third child.

Against his counselor’s recommendation, Herren went home and witnessed the birth of their child. His first sober birth.

His oldest son cried uncontrollably in his arms in that hospital room, and told him “I don’t want you to die. I still want you to be my daddy.”

Herren went for a walk, and he didn’t go back. He went to the liquor store and bought cheap vodka, then called his drug dealer.

“I was back on the street, taking a chance at dying,” Herren said.

The next day he went back to his wife, and she told him she was leaving him. At 32 years old, Herren had nothing left to live for.

His father was waiting for him in the hospital lobby, and drove him back to New York. He went back to his room, thought about his mother, and prayed.

Aug. 1, 2008, is now his sobriety date.

His children and his wife are his life’s biggest blessings and if his teenager ever came home drunk or high, he plans to ask him “why.”

“Why can’t my son feel good enough? Why do you have to change yourself?” Herren said. “There’s a lot of pain and suffering in my family...we all have our ‘why.’”

About Q-DRUG

Q-Drug is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year, working to empower the community to stand together to support substance use prevention. They seek to promote awareness and erase the stigma of substance use disorder to build a recovery supportive community.

For more information, visit qdrug.org, email quabbin.drug@gmail.com, call or text 978-434-2001 or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

SOLAR | FROM PAGE 1

“There will still be vegetation,” Bubon said. This includes digging up and replanting mountain laurel that is growing on the site as well as additional plantings.

Bubon said she believes the board can now recommend approval with conditions.

Brian Yergatian, Professional Engineer with BSC Group, appeared on behalf of the applicant. He said there has been a lot of plan review, as well as revisions, since he first appeared before the board in October of last year.

The site is located on almost 14 acres of undeveloped land, of which nearly nine acres will be cleared and fenced in. All disturbed areas of the site will be loamed and seeded with a pollinator mix at the completion of construction.

The array will be located 200-feet from the property line, and the first 50 feet (between the property line and the condominiums) will remain unchanged.

“The array itself will be about three and ½ acres within the middle of the site,” Yergatian said. There will be a 20-foot wide gravel access road that will run north to south at the start of each row of solar panels for maintenance and emergency services.

“The driveway itself will just have one access point toward the northern

portion of the property. It will be paved up until the point where there’ll be a sliding gate and then it will be gravel from that point forward,” he said.

The driveway will have a “hammer-head” type of turnaround and the applicant has demonstrated to the Fire Department that its apparatus can maneuver around the site.

Yergatian said the site will also have three underground stormwater chambered systems to manage runoff. There is also a long, narrow infiltration system.

“Together, these four systems will serve to attenuate all stormwater runoff from the site, keeping it below the pre-conditioned levels both in the rate of the peak rate of stormwater runoff, as well as the total volume,” he said.

Yergatian said he reviewed correspondences from the abutters voicing concern about stormwater runoff, and explained that the infiltration basin could actually hold a 1,000-year storm.

“I knew there was some excess capacity in it, and I did see that there was a concern from the abutters, so I just kept upping the amount of rainfall until I got to a certain level...That was the equivalent of a 1,000-year storm,” he said. “Hopefully there’s some assurance there for people.”

Yergatian said the system complies

fully with the Department of Environmental Protection’s stormwater management standards and the town’s zoning requirements.

The Planning Board unanimously voted to approve the site plan with 31 conditions.

Noble Energy site

Bubon said she completed the final inspection of the Noble Energy site and she said they are still moving forward with Nardelli’s Grinder Shoppe, the ice cream shop, coffee and more. She said they are trying to hire and train staff for the food services.

“They’re hoping in 60 days, maybe Nardelli’s could be open,” she said.

Bubon said the site is in really good condition, but a bollard had been run over at an electric vehicle charging station and will be replaced. A “do not enter” sign had been reangled for improved visibility.

She said landscaping will be completed in the spring and she will check back at the end of June.

Blueberry Hill Estates

Bubon said a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled soon.

A model home will be placed at the end of the cul-de-sac, before eventually being moved onto its site when a phase is completed. The model home will not be tied into water or sewer at this time.

Town Planner’s report

The next meeting of the Planning Board is March 26 for site plan approval at 5 Snell St., the former tinsmith’s shop. The site will become a small retail shop and there is a shared parking agreement with the neighbor.

Bubon said La Quinta is erecting a new canopy and will need a revised site plan due to the loss of two parking spots. She said there will still be plenty of parking.

Terry Masterson, the Economic Development Director will provide a year-end economic review for 2023 and review survey data at an upcoming meeting.

New business

Bubon said the former Bank of America location on Main Street will now be the Soggy Dog Spa, a pet grooming business.

Bylaw amendments

Bubon said some typographical errors were found in the town’s bylaw amendments after going through the codification process. The board cleaned up the language to make the bylaws clearer and easier to understand.

These changes will appear as articles on the town meeting warrant.

MARKET | FROM PAGE 1

products made from interesting material.

Few of us have not seen wooden pallets.

Pallets are structures used to secure material being moved in bulk. Once their primary use is over with, they are recycled for many other purposes such as fencing or other barriers.

Ware native Bernie Wilson, with assistance from his wife, Debby Morisseau, originally from Chicopee, takes recycling of the pallets to a different dimension.

When asked to speak to the concept of why pallets, Wilson said he was “too cheap to buy wood.”

Of course, metal pen components can’t be recycled and must be bought.

Wilson dilutes paint that he uses on the wood to give the surface a slightly aged look.

You may have heard of Rhode Island’s A.T. Cross Company, famous for supplying pens to the White House? Well, B & D ENT. makes pens just as lovely and only one town over and each one unique in its own right.

Wilson presented me with one of his models and it looks as grown up as a Cross Pen. The heck with president, if I am ever declared emperor, I shall sign my decrees with it.

Pallets are not just for pens. Wilson also makes scoops, bottle openers, trowels, carry-alls, and many other tools. He also displayed a big pizza utility device.

Wilson does this work for the fun of it, but may come to the Summer Market, if the spirit moves him.

Flourish with Linda

Linda Fuchs runs Flourish Farm and has been doing it for some time now. This has been her first year at the Winter Market, though she has been coming to the West Brookfield Summer Market since its inception.

Her varieties of microgreens were welcome in the markets of deepest win-

ter and as we got closer to spring, other greens as well.

She will be at the West Brookfield Summer Market when it starts in June, but if you can’t wait, Fuchs will be down the street at the Brimfield Farmers Market on April 13 where she will bring micro greens as pre-cut or living boxes, like she had at the Winter Market, and cold-tolerant herb and vegetable starter plants: chives, parsley, cilantro, mint, thyme, and lettuce, as well as spinach and other greens and beets.

“I bring starter plants to market when they are appropriate for consumers to plant outside in their gardens. I don’t bring heat loving herb and vegetable plants until the time is right to plant those crops into the garden,” she said.

At the West Brookfield Farmers Market that starts on June 5, Fuchs will bring her usual complement of culinary herb and vegetable starter plants which include a large assortment of tomatoes, eggplants, sweet and hot peppers, cucumbers, summer and zucchini squash plants, lettuce and other greens. Also, container gardens of salad and herb bowls, and hanging tomatoes.

Fuchs is one of those folks of whom one might say they were born to farm. She was involved in 4-H early on and her brother and his wife run Leicester’s Breezy Gardens.

An uncle was a dairy farmer. Kind of in the blood.

When her kids got older it was time to grow, in the garden that is.

As to the markets where Flourish vends, Fuchs makes it a point to sell in towns that do not have groceries, but are served only by convenience stores. She notes there are a swath of such towns in the region.

Flourish Farm grows using organic methods. Fuchs can accept SNAP & HIP (Healthy Incentive Program) which is a good deal for low-income consumers.

See everybody at next year’s Winter Market, if not sooner.



Linda Fuchs of Flourish Farm enjoyed her first season at the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Bernie Wilson, a crafty man, makes pens out of repurposed wood pallets.



This pen was made by Ware resident Bernie Wilson.

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Community choir presents 'Raise the Crown'

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Christian Community Choir presents “Raise the Crown,” a musical for Easter on Sunday, March 24 and Sunday, April 7, both at 3 p.m.






The first performance on Sunday, March 24 at 3 p.m. will be at East Brookfield Baptist Church, 262 East Main St. The second performance on Sunday, April 7 at 3 p.m. will be at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 131 Blaine Avenue.

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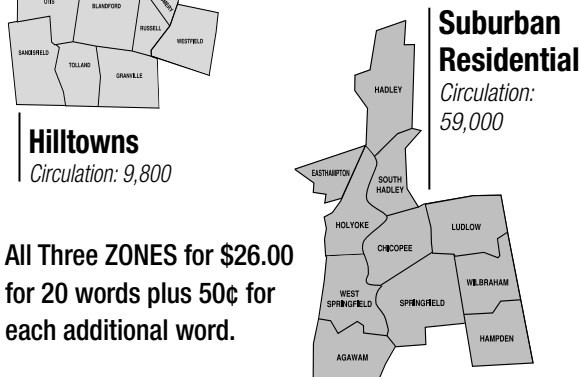
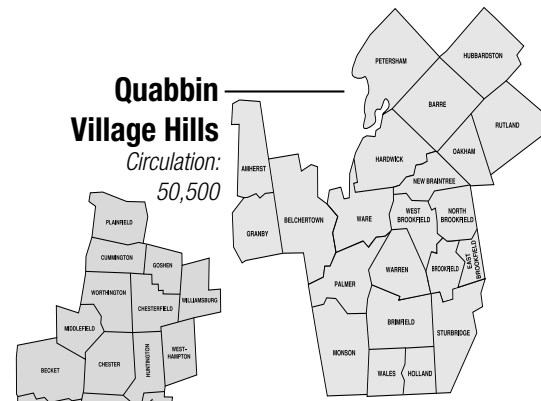
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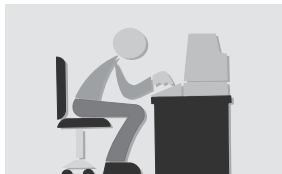
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East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of March 11-17, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 268 building/property checks, 116 directed area patrols, 11 traffic controls, 20 radar assignments, 13 emergency 911 calls, two complaints, one assist other agency, eight citizen assists, one investigation, one fraud, three fire calls, three motor vehicle accidents, five animal calls and 43 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, March 11

9:51 a.m. Assist Citizen, Rail Trail, Services Rendered
11:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Route 49, Transported to Hospital
1:21 p.m. Safety Hazard, East Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
5:05 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Checked/Secured
5:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
6:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Out of Town, Citation Issued
8:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation issued
9:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

Tuesday, March 12

9:55 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Harrington Street, Officer Handled
1:06 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital
3:49 p.m. Assist Citizen, Gleason Avenue, Services Rendered

4:50 p.m. Fraud, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
7:55 p.m. Complaint, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
8:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
9:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Wednesday, March 13

7:41 a.m. Assist Citizen, Faith Drive, Spoken To
10:56 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To
11:36 a.m. Building/Property Check, Harrington Street, Arrest(s) Made
5:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
6:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
10:35 p.m. Complaint, East Main Street, Officer Handled

Thursday, March 14

11:29 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Podunk Road, Transported to Hospital
12:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown, Officer Handled
2:32 p.m. Medical Emergency, North Brookfield Road, Services Rendered
3:26 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Harrington Street, Transported to Hospital
3:26 p.m. 911 Animal Call, East Main Street, Merge
4:35 p.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, East Main Street, Investigated
5:58 p.m. 911 Fire/Structure, East

Main Street, Investigated
7:14 p.m. Medical Emergency, Route 49, Transported to Hospital
7:18 p.m. Assist Citizen, Out of Town, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
9:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Vehicle Towed

Friday, March 15

5:42 a.m. 911 Gunshots, Draper Road, Unfounded
6:03 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, South Street, Transported to Hospital
10:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
10:28 a.m. Investigation, East Main Street, Investigated
11:02 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital
6:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Criminal Complaint
8:18 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Tarbell Drive, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, March 16

11:25 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
11:33 a.m. Fire/Auto, East Main Street, Extinguished
12:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
3:31 p.m. Building/Property Check, Stevens Road, Citation Issued
5:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
6:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning

8:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
9:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
9:48 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Connie Mack Drive, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, March 17

12:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, North Brookfield Road, Vehicle Towed
2:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
3:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
10:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

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CURRENT

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Volume 17, Number 17

Friday, March 22, 2024

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