

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current
Newspaper

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Volume 17, Number 23

Friday, May 3, 2024

Plein air painting

Artists take to historic common last weekend

WEST BROOKFIELD – This past Saturday, artists from the West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery set up on the Common and used their talents to capture some of its stunning scenery.

Artists painted houses, trees, the water fountain, and even a red wheelbarrow that was briefly parked alongside a house in the midst of yardwork. They used a variety of mediums, from oil paints to acrylics and pastels.

The following day, the artists displayed their work at the gallery for the first ever “Wet Paint Sale.”

Following the “Wet Paint Sale,” the next show displayed at the gallery will be “Spring Greens,” with an opening reception on Friday, May 3 from 5-7 p.m.

See **ARTISTS** | PAGE 8



Susan Tilton Pecora sets her paintbrush to capture the church and houses around the Common. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Selectmen receive draft HCA from Green Gold

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Erin Lynch of Green Gold Group presented the Board of Selectmen with two templates for a new Host Community Agreement.

At the April 23 meeting, Lynch updated the board about changes made back in October, when the legislature declared all prior Host Community Agreements as “non-compliant.”

She said when Green Gold initially opened in town, they did not have an HCA. Once an HCA was in place, Green Gold was required to pay a community impact fee.

“We have had a Host Community Agreement that required us to pay 3% of our earnings [over five years] or up to \$500,000,” she said. “We have paid the impact fee that is required.”

Lynch said the board has some options with the new HCA, including either eliminating the impact fees that are

See **SELECTMEN** | PAGE 12

Union rep. questions conduct during special meeting

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Damian Sarrette, president of the North Brookfield Teachers Association, was joined by a number of staff members to express concerns over a special School Committee meeting held on March 25.

At the April 22 School Committee meeting, Sarrette said the committee allowed a parent to “defame and abuse teachers and school personnel in public session.”

“Which directly violates your own School Committee policy,” he said.

“I understand and acknowledge a person’s need to be heard, however, there are guidelines and protocols that need to be followed and enforced to protect everyone’s privacy.”

– Damian Sarrette,
North Brookfield
Teachers Association

He cited Section BEDH, Subsection 4 which states: “improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. If the speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks, the chair may terminate that individual’s privilege of address.”

He continued, reading from Subsection 6: “Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of the school operations and programs as concerned them, but in public session, the committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against

See **MEETING** | PAGE 12

‘Mamma Mia’ takes the stage in North Brookfield

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – For the first time in its history, the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield will be performing a production of “Mamma Mia”.

The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield is a nonprofit organization that has been creating and presenting local community theatre for over 40 years. Bringing opportunity and community through a variety of shows, events and programs.

Throughout the month of May, the auditorium of North Brookfield Elementary School

will be the stage for the production of “Mamma Mia”.

See **STAGE** | PAGE 6

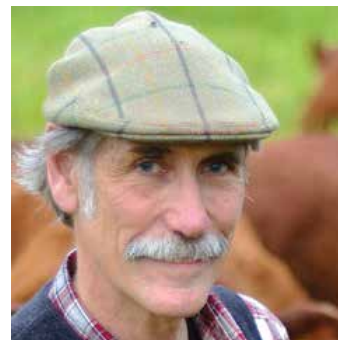
Ridge Shinn is on a mission to regenerate the land

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

Finally, a day that felt like spring here in western central Massachusetts.

I was in Hardwick Center to meet with Ridge Shinn and it was warm enough that we could take seats, and sip coffee on the porch of Mimi’s Coffeehouse.

Though many in farming in



Hardwick resident Ridge Shinn has released a book about grass-fed beef. SUBMITTED PHOTO

our neck of the woods know of Shinn, most of the citizenry don’t. Shinn is a bit of a radical in that he advocates raising beef on a 100% grass diet.

The man has had long experience with livestock. In the late 1970s he was a founder of the American Minor Breeds Conservancy (now: The Livestock Conservancy). He was as important as anyone in promot-

See **RIDGE** | PAGE 6

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- community -

Quaboag and Country Bank hold first responders luncheon



Over 20 first responders enjoyed a luncheon made possible by Quaboag Regional School District and Country Bank. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

WARREN – Recently over 20 first responders consisting of State Troopers, local EMS, firefighters, police officers and Community Emergency Response Team members converged at Quaboag Regional High School.

There was no emergency, fire drill, or lock down drill this time but a luncheon for the first responders sponsored by the Quaboag administration and Country Bank for Savings. The luncheon was a way to say “thank you” to the first responders for all they do in helping keep the students and staff in the Quaboag Regional School District safe.

With close to 700 students and staff in the building at Quaboag Regional on any day school is in session there are many safety issues and concerns that the administration, Safety Committee, and local first responders have to be aware of and address.

Many are aware of the obvious

safety drills such as fire drills, lock down drills, and bus evacuations that take place throughout the year but much of school safety is behind the scenes planning. Planning comes in the form of many meetings of the Safety Committee to write and update the district’s safety plan and to coordinate with the local and state first responders.

Foremost in this planning are Superintendent Stephen Duff, Safety Committee Chairperson Eric Urban, Warren Police Chief Gerald Millette, Warren Fire Chief Adam Lavoie, West Brookfield Police Chief Nathan Hagglund and West Brookfield Fire Chief Richard Lapierre.

So as a way to express that gratitude, the Quaboag administration along with Country Bank sponsored a luncheon for first responders at Quaboag Regional.

The luncheon and food were prepared and served by eighth grade students in Mr. Salvadore’s Honors



First responders ate a lunch prepared and served by students in the school district.

Civics classes and sixth grade Leadership Club Students from West Brookfield and Warren Community elementary schools. Students also

made hand drawn thank you placemats and a banner to decorate the tables and cafeteria that officers later took to hang in their offices.



PHONE
413.967.3505
Fax: 413.967.6009
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

Tim Mara
tmara@turley.com

Editor
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WEB
www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

@QuaboagCurrent

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- community -

DV training conducted for local police departments

WARE – Attorneys from the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office and Community Legal Aid, survivors of domestic violence, and domestic violence advocates from Valley Human Services at Behavioral Health Network in Ware recently presented a training for Ware, Warren and Hardwick police.

Two domestic violence survivors shared what the police did that helped, what they wished the police didn’t do and what they wanted the police to know.

Catherine Kay, Senior Supervising Attorney, Community Legal Aid for Victims of Crime, shared information about protective orders and Northwestern District Attorney Office’s Erin Aiello, Lead DV Prosecutor spoke about high-risk factors, trauma informed lens, body camera and witness intimidation.

Local services and positive outcomes from police referrals were shared by Andrew Howard, Assistant Director DV Services, BHN and Ashley Higgins, Civilian Police Advocate, BHN.

For more information about the Task Force see www.waredvtaskforce.org, visit the Task Force on Facebook, or email wrvdtaskforce@gmail.com.



The Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force facilitated a training for law enforcement in Ware, Warren and Hardwick. SUBMITTED PHOTO

St. Aloysius Catholic School to host 3rd annual 5K for Play

WARE – For many years the children of St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville have been dreaming of a safe, interactive, engaging playground.

The Spaghetti Supper held at St. Mary’s on April 6 was incredibly successful and the beginning phases of installation will begin in the coming weeks, but more money is needed to truly complete the Joe C. Knight Memorial playground.

The 5K for Play will be held at Greenville Park on Saturday, May 4, beginning at 9 a.m. This is a family friendly event, walkers and runners of all abilities and ages are welcome.

There will be games, raffles, music by DJ Brian, and Mass Appeal Pizza.

“Registration is open for participants and we are seeking donors. Any dona-

tion you can make, no matter how large or small, is greatly appreciated. This is sure to be another fun family event!” said Kayla Casiello, St. Aloysius office manager, parent, and chairperson for the event.

Registration is \$10 per person (ages 9+); \$5 per person (ages 4-8); and children 3 and under are free. You may choose to purchase a 5K T-shirt for an additional \$20 for adult sizes and \$15 for youth sizes.

Those interested in registering, becoming a sponsor, or making a donation can do so at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Ware/5KforPlay>. You may also call the school directly at 413-477-1268 or email chairperson Kayla Casiello at k.casiello@staloyuscs.com with any questions you may have.

Annual May Festival returns on May 4

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Friends of the Hoston Free Public Library, with support from the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House, are excited to once again host the May Festival on the grounds of the Congregational Church across from the Library on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m..

The May Festival will have live music, the North Brookfield Cultural Counsel Plant Swap, tours of the Town House, a preview of the Mamma Mia show from the North Brookfield Theatre Guild, as well as an Open House at the North Brookfield Fire Department and the North Brookfield Historical Society. Children’s activities will be led by

the Friends of the Town House.

There will be many vendors and local committees set up on the lawn to welcome the community. Some of the vendors we have confirmed so far are: Better Bees Soaps, Chauvin - Mixed Media Art, Enchanted Garden Creations, Night Owl by Bri, North Brookfield Savings Bank, Positively Perennials and In-a-Jam, Pristine Pearl Designs, Thompson’s Maple Farm, Tower Hill Candle, Inishowen Farms, East Quabbin Land Trust and Common Ground Coffee Works.

The Friends are looking forward to seeing all their friends in the community.

Brookfield Conservation Commission meeting on May 15, 2024 at 6:30 PM
to Review Wetlands Permitting
Submitted by
MassWildlife for Work
at the Richardson WMA.

Meeting held at Brookfield Town Hall, 6 Central Street, Brookfield, MA 01506

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What to do when and how to do it

The last few gorgeous days got us all outside and into our home landscape. Maybe you looked at this or that and said “Now what do I do?” Here is a column straight from the archives to best guide you through the next oh so fun (and busy) weeks in the garden.

DO remove spent blooms from spring flowering bulbs. Once “deadheaded” the bulb won’t expend energy making seeds, instead, it will store it and delight you with an even healthier stand of flowers next year.

DO NOT cut, braid or otherwise alter bulb foliage. It may not be the prettiest, but as long as it is green, (and to some degree even when it is yellowish) it is photosynthesizing, making a storehouse for next spring’s blooms.

DO turn under your covercrop of winter rye now, a few weeks prior to planting your vegetable garden. Plant residues will have a chance to break down without stealing valuable nutrients from newly transplanted seedlings.

DO NOT add fresh manure to garden plots as it will burn plants. Be sure to compost it for at least six months prior to use. Make your compost pile “hot” by balancing the amount of green and brown ingredients and by turning it regularly. The result is a near neutral weed-free source of organic matter.

DO prune spring flowering shrubs soon after blooming. Forsythia and lilac for example, bloom on the previous season’s wood. By pruning once their blooming period is complete you will allow enough time for regrowth without sacrificing next year’s blooms.

DO NOT prune fruit trees now. Better to wait until the trees are dormant. You can, however, rid apple trees of pencil sized or smaller water sprouts in mid summer. Simply grab one with your hand and give it a quick jerk. Removing a small portion of the branch from which it grows will likely prevent future sprouts in this area.

DO begin to harden off homegrown seedlings and garden-bound indoor plants over the course of the next few weeks. By gradually acclimatizing plants to the outdoors you will likely prevent transplant shock and other maladies such as sunscald and windburn. Start off with a few hours outside each day, working up to all day and overnight. Then, as long as the threat of frost has passed the plants can successfully be planted in the ground.

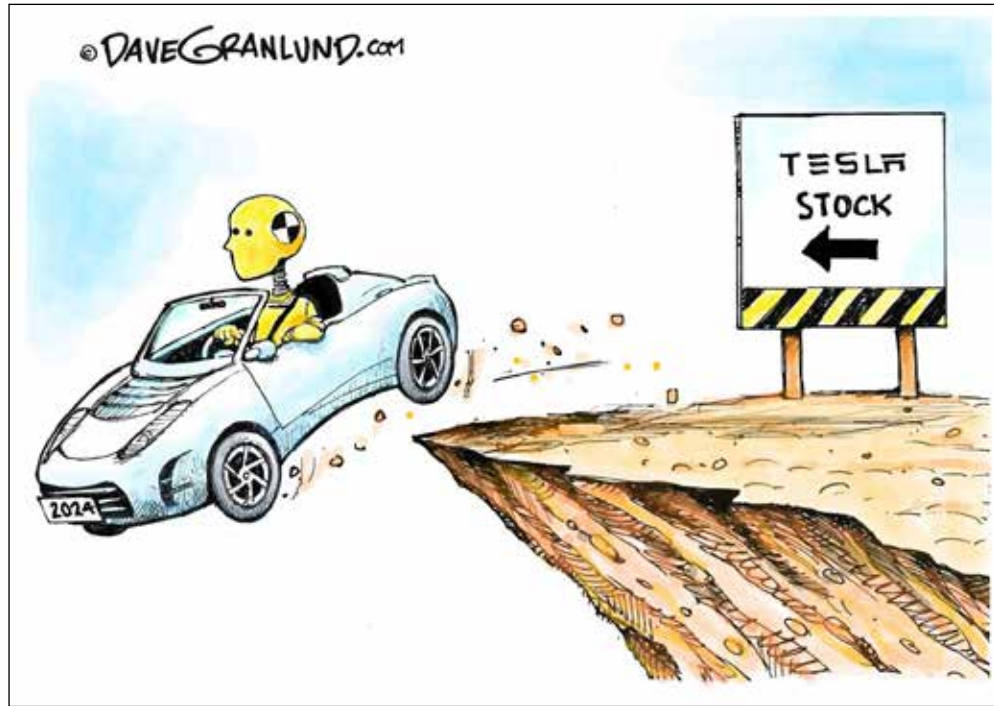
DO NOT plant pepper seedlings until the soil has sufficiently warmed (usually by the first week in June). Research indicates that planting peppers in cold soil will stunt plants and reduce yields. You can warm the soil where peppers (and other heat lovers) are to grow by laying down sheets of IRT mulch a couple of weeks prior to planting. Then simply cut holes in the plastic and plant as normal.

DO cut asparagus with a knife just under the surface of the soil. In established plantings you can harvest spears for about six weeks. Leave those that are thinner than a pencil. Although we wish the season could go on forever, allowing foliage to form will only return energy to the roots, making for tasty shoots next spring!

DO NOT allow weeds to take over the

See GARDEN | PAGE 5

- opinion -



Letter-to-the-Editor

St. Aloysius families thank playground supporters

To the editor,

St. Aloysius Catholic School family would wholeheartedly like to thank the members of this community for their outpouring of support at the recent Spaghetti Dinner, hosted by the Knights of Columbus Council #183 and held at St. Mary’s Hall.

We owe our success to our many sponsors, those of you who bought and sold raffle and dinner tickets or donated your time and services. We especially want to thank Father Piotr Pawlus for use of the venue, the Eddie Foreman Band for providing the music and the K of C for all of their hard work feeding such a big crowd.

All in all, over \$33,000 was raised towards the Joe C. Knight Memorial Playground. Students returned from April break very excited to see the first piece of equipment installed on the school grounds.

Again, thank you to all who worked so hard for the benefit of our students.

On behalf of the St. Aloysius Catholic School Spaghetti Dinner Committee:

**Megan Morrison
Jenn and Bill Moryl
Joanne Barbale and the rest of the St.
Aloysius Catholic School Family.**

Guest Column

New candidates run for Haston Free Public Library Trustees

By Diane Buzzell and Janice King

When opportunity knocks a door opens...a successful life usually involves learning and education.

Free public libraries have historically and continue to be spaces to experience life-long learning and to provide enrichment for emerging learners, for Gen X, Y, Z, and Alpha, or for seasoned learners! Each age group has unique needs, and the Haston Library can be influential in supporting you and your family!

To continue this tradition, we need to make the library relevant to the needs of each generation.

On Monday, May 6, the Town of North Brookfield will hold its Annual Election, and voting will take place at the Senior Center on 29 Forest St. from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. We hope you will mark your calendar and come out to vote!

This is your opportunity to support Diane Buzzell and Janice King as new candidates for Library Trustee. We believe we have the professional background, experience, fresh ideas, and new perspectives, that will enhance current programming, services, and activities that presently exist at the library.

Program initiatives

Enhancements in the development and communication of library programs through innovation with online technology are needed to inform the members of our Town about what is offered and what services are available. With the busy lives everyone has, it is essential that we provide information through many formats to promote

awareness and encourage participation in library programs.

This would involve investigating relevant technology and services that support inter-library programs, locally, statewide and nationally.

We would propose these as a short list of initiatives:

Generate new creative revenue streams, locally, and through grant writing, to bring the library forward as a hub of activity for the community. With funding challenges, this must be a focus and primary goal.

Expand the outreach and use of the facilities. Encourage increased community involvement and interaction. Enhance the utilization of communication channels to provide program resources and events.

Develop and communicate vibrant programs and services with the North Brookfield Public Schools, students, families and stakeholders, community organizations, and home-schooled children and families.

Sponsor formation of groups for building active sources of connectedness and interests within our community.

Develop increased access and use of programs, library resources, and services for Senior Citizens in Town.

Enhance current programs, and expand those for the increasing needs and interests of all members in Town.

Facilities management, repairs and maintenance.

Budget performance and financial planning, short and long-term.

Strategic planning and utilization of metrics for analyzing and achieving goals and objectives to share with the Town through

See LIBRARY | PAGE 5

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.



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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
Tim Mara

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA



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- community -

Quabbin Community Band begins rehearsals

BARRE – Rehearsals for Quabbin Community Band will start on Monday, May 6.

Rehearsals run from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will be held at the Barre Town Hall, corner of Mechanic and Exchange Streets. Musicians should bring a stand and bring their friends and family members, who play instruments.

This is Margaret Reidy's third year as conductor. Each year, the band grew in numbers and competence as a band. All musicians are encouraged to be part of this community group of folks from their early teens to those in their 70s.

Rehearsals start Monday, May 6 and end Monday, Aug. 5 and are from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall. There are two exceptions: Monday, May 20 rehearsal will be held at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., in the band room under the direction of Toni Brown and there will be no rehearsal on Monday, May 27 due to Memorial Day holiday.

The Quabbin Community Band will play in the Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 27. Upcoming contests are Sundays, June 16, 23 and 30 at 6 p.m. at South Barre Common Bandstand, Nornay Park, Main Street. The remaining Sunday concerts July 7, 14, 21 and 28 and Aug. 4 at 6 p.m. will be in the Harding Allen Bandstand on Barre Common.

The Sunday, Aug. 4 concert will celebrate Barre's 250th anniversary including alumni band members. The Quabbin Community Band will also play during the Barre 250th parade on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 1 p.m.

For more information, people may email Julie at julie@mhof.net or call or text 978-257-1192.

A railroad, and its important history

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

BELCHERTOWN – Between the years of 1871-1938, the Rabbit Run Railroad was a hub for travelers, school children, and workers to travel through the area that we now know as the Quabbin Reservoir.

The rail ran from Athol to Springfield, and up until it's last ticket was sold in 1938, served as an important part of the area.

"The Rabbit Railroad was the lifeblood of the Swift River Valley," Ken Levine of the Petersham Historical Society said at a recent program at the Clapp Memorial Library.

The valley was important to many people, and because of that, the Swift River Historical Society in New Salem wanted to preserve the history for all to see and learn about.

"I felt there was a lot of history that deserved attention in the area," Levine said. "The valley was important to many people, and it was heartbreaking when people had to leave."

After the valley filled with water to become what is now the Quabbin Reservoir, most of the tracks became submerged in water, however, there are still areas where parts of the tracks are still visible.

Levine created a diorama of the Rabbit Run Railroad, that can now be seen at the Society today. Two years in the making, it is a wonderful and beautiful creation.

"As a kid, I always found making shoebox dioramas exciting," Levine said. "It was like having your own little world."



A model engine of the Rabbit Run Train, stationed and ready for passengers in Ken Levine's diorama.

The diorama itself is huge, using the map of the area to create the parts of the towns to be as realistic as possible.

The Rabbit Run is an important part of our history, and Levine has captured it in his diorama, as if it was frozen in time.



Ken Levine is shown holding his banjo with a map of the Rabbit Run Railroad. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

strawberry patch! Applying a mulch of shredded leaves, composted sawdust or pine needles will not only keep the weeds at bay, but it will feed the plants and keep developing berries clean at the same time!

DO sow grass seed soon, before crabgrass has a chance to take hold. Or better yet, sow seed in late August, or early September, when this dreaded weed is near done its life cycle. Water sown areas daily to promote timely germination.

DO NOT rototill patches of perennial weeds; you are merely spreading them about the garden! Better to hand weed, digging out the roots completely. After planting is complete mulch around plants to cut down on future weeds, conserve moisture, and add organic matter to the soil. When applying mulch around trees and shrubs remember to pull it back, away from the trunk to prevent girdling.

DO have fun in the garden this spring!

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.

LIBRARY | FROM PAGE 4

annual reports and communication.

Collaborations with area town libraries to share resources and to offer joint programs and initiatives.

In summary, Diane has lived in North Brookfield for over 50 years, and Janice for over 34 years. Throughout this time, we have admired the numerous accomplishments of the library.

However, we believe we can provide new insights, and additional professional expertise to advance the central work of the library and the Board of Trustees.

We love North Brookfield and are fully vested and committed to fulfilling our

roles if we are fortunate to be elected by voters in our Town. We believe through our support and dynamic collaboration with the library staff and community, we will build upon the unique advantages we have as a small town.

We seek your support and vote on Monday, May 6. Thank you very much!

Please be sure to stop by the annual Haston Free Library May Festival to celebrate spring on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the library and the Town Center. It is truly a wonderful event!



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Lake Association to host annual lake clean-up

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association is hosting its 25th annual lake cleanup day, from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 4 at the town beach.

Refreshments will be provided for lake clean-up volunteers.

Reed Savary, event chairman, encourages local volunteers to help LWPA members in removing trash from the lake and along its shoreline. As in previous years, the clean-up effort will also

include the lake area along Wickaboag Valley Road to Snow Road and the rest area on Route 9 across from the lake.

The LWPA will also sponsor an information table, which will include lake publications and association membership applications. LWPA sweatshirts, T-shirts, hats and other Lake Wickaboag branded merchandise will be available for sale.

For further information, please visit LakeWickaboag.com.

RIDGE | FROM PAGE 1

ing breed preservation.

Since, he has been busy promoting the idea of grass-fed beef in different ways.

Shinn was a founder of the New England Livestock Alliance, Hardwick Beef, Big Picture Beef and other entities. He grazed cattle on a local land trust property and ran Hardwick-based Big Picture Beef

What he is doing currently is different, but is still in the livestock game.

Shinn is executive director of Northeast Grass-fed Beef Initiative. The goal is to partner with farmers to support transitions to regenerative grazing and pasture management practices.

If all that is not enough, he has, with Lynne Pledger, written “Grass-Fed Beef for a Post-Pandemic World: How Regenerative Grazing Can Restore Soils and Stabilize the Climate”. Our world has changed since COVID and Pledger and Shinn look at how we should adapt to our new world disorder with a local answer.

The book is available from its publisher, Chelsea Green as well as Amazon, and other outlets.

How necessary is the mission? Shinn pointed out that when he moved to Hardwick, there were 13 dairy farms. Now, there are none.

So how is the land being used? Has it gone to housing in that pretty town?

No. The farms still cut the hay, but as there are no cows, the hay is sold off.

This is essentially a mining operation as the nutrients in the soil go into the hay and are not replenished. The nutritional value of the soil declines.

Contrast this with a situation in another state where some of the farmers have decided to heed Shinn’s message.

Wyoming is known for cold weather most of the year. Our region of the Bay State is not a tropical climate, but there is no comparison with the harsh winters out west.

Shinn spoke of farmers in the Cowboy State who keep cattle in the conventional manner and others who opt for the grass-fed method he advocates.

One farmer, Glenn, utilizes the method and his cattle remain outside throughout the winter, and it’s a long winter.

So, what is the method that Shinn advocates? The term he used was Adaptive Multi-Paddock Grazing or AMP. The cattle are moved regularly, and the land regenerates.

This is key because the top of the plants grazed are the most important as that is where the nutrients are.

Cows are not mowing machines. They are herbivores with no top teeth.

With adequate browse, they can be moved to the next paddock and photosynthesis can do its job and regenerate the pasture. By the time they get back to the first paddock, they can repeat the process.

This is the method Shinn practiced when he had stewardship of a land trust property that would see it improve during his tenure.

At one point, he stated, “water is the real story.” That conventionally farmed land resists absorbing water but water will readily penetrate the soil of regenerated land, and thus plant productivity and biodiversity are improved.

Plants breathe in carbon and is not carbon sequestration greatly to be desired?

The word regenerative is in the sub-title of Pledger and Shinn’s book and is the opposite of the Big Ag system of CAFOs. CAFO stands for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation.

They do concentrate animals, lots of them in a feeding operation. Thus, there is horrible waste products and the degradation of the land.

This is ultimately our food supply.

Shinn mentioned the words of authors Professor David Montgomery and wife and collaborator, Anne Biklé. People say you are what you eat, but the aforementioned couple has it as “You are what your food eats.”

In the end, what we eat is a product of soil, and we too are products of that soil.

Free performance of John Morello’s ‘Dirt’ is May 8

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Public Schools, District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance are presenting John Morello’s free one-man show, “Dirt” at North Brookfield Elementary School on Wednesday, May 8 at 6 p.m.

Through the portrayal of relatable and memorable characters, Morello gives voice and reassurance to those who sometimes feel as though they are not heard or understood. He explores

the challenges and decisions that young people face every day through the lens of mental health, substance use, bullying and self-esteem.

Informational resources will be shared prior to the performance, starting at 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

A meet and greet with Morello will be held in the North Brookfield Jr./Sr. High School at 7 p.m.

All are welcomed and encouraged to attend this free community event.

STAGE | FROM PAGE 1

will be full of singing, laughter and applause as local theatre stars take the stage and bring a familiar story to life. The show features over 30 cast members consisting of Theatre Guild regulars and first-time performers making their debut on stage.

“Mamma Mia” is a musical written by British playwright Catherine Johnson and based on songs by Swedish pop group ABBA. The story is a romantic comedy contrasting the dreams and aspirations of a 1970s girl and a 1990s girl.

As many musical followers know, “Mamma Mia” is the story of Donna, an independent single mother and her daughter Sophie, who is about to get married and have the wedding of her dreams. However, Sophie wants her father to be at the wedding.

If only her mother could tell her who her father is.

Directing the production of “Mamma Mia” is Jay Valencourt, the vice president of the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield. Valencourt is also portraying the role of Sam Carmichael, one of the presumed fathers of Sophie.

Valencourt mentioned that their spring musical is one of the Theatre Guild’s biggest shows of the year. The cast and crew have been rehearsing since February and Valencourt has witnessed a lot of hard work, excitement and dedication put into this production.

“We have a lot of fun,” Valencourt said. “I still have the theatre bug.”

Joining Valencourt on the creative team is Director of Choreography Erin Smith. Growing up with a theatre family in southern California, Smith has always enjoyed listening to cast recordings, dancing, choreographing and performing.

Smith is excited to be back working with the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield and be surrounded by a talented group of performers and creative staff.

Many cast members who are also a part of the ensemble are also students of North Brookfield High School. Some

of them starred in the Theatre Guild’s recent production of “Willy Wonka”.

One of the performers making their debut is North Brookfield Police Chief Mark Smith. The newcomer to the stage will be portraying the role of Bill Austin in “Mamma Mia” and has been given a lot of encouragement and support.

“I’m the new guy and they made me feel like family,” Smith said.

Smith is excited to be making his debut on stage and hopes to make his fellow cast members proud. He has always appreciated theatre arts and those brave enough to get on stage.

Playing the infamous Donna Sheridan in “Mamma Mia” is Sarah Priestley. This show will be Priestley’s debut with the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield but brings a lot of experience and charisma to the stage.

Priestley has performed in shows for the Gilbertville Players and the Barre Players and is ready for a new adventure with the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield.

For a world of laughter, love and music check out “Mamma Mia”. The shows will take place at North Brookfield Elementary School at 1 New School Drive.

Show dates are Friday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, May 5 at 2 p.m., Friday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 12 at 2 p.m.

For tickets, visit www.onthestage.tickets/show/theatre-guild-of-north-brookfield/65f0a580c652930e3fe1ac60/ and the same link to learn about the cast, crew and the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield.

Merchandise is also available online through the on the stage link. Merchandise consists of mugs, T-shirts, sweaters, posters, bags and water bottles.

Merchandise sales help support the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield. A percentage of sales goes directly to fund future activities and programming.



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- community -

Federated church starts major renovation project

An open letter to the community,

As stewards of the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale's historic Meetinghouse, a familiar landmark in the Sturbridge Town Common historic district since 1910, we are pleased to announce that we have embarked on its first major renovation project in three decades.

This ambitious project includes a comprehensive refurbishment of both the interior and exterior, encompassing the office, parlor, Fellowship Hall, Haynes Chapel, and entryways.

The highlight of this renovation is our sanctuary, where we have revitalized walls, ceilings, pews, and other surfaces, ensuring that our Meetinghouse remains a cherished space for worship and community events.

In the spring, our focus will shift outdoors with a gentle cleaning of the exterior siding, painting of all wood surfaces, and essential repairs to the historic clock faces in the steeple tower, which also houses the church's treasured Paul Revere bell.

The total estimated cost of these renovations is \$200,000. Thanks to the generosity of our church members, the majority of the interior work has already been completed and paid for.

However, we need your help to complete this project. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, your contributions are tax-deductible, and any amount, big or small, will be deeply appreciated. Donors will be acknowledged for their gracious support.

Contributions can be made payable to Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale, P.O. Box 193, 8 Maple St., Sturbridge, MA 01566, and designated for Capital Funds.

Your support is not just an investment in a historic building but a testament to our collective heritage and community spirit.

Since the Federated Church took residence in 1923, the Meetinghouse has been more than a church; it's been a central hub for countless community organizations, events, and gatherings. At present, it is serving as the temporary home of the Sturbridge Senior Center.

By joining hands in this effort, we can ensure that the Meetinghouse continues to serve our community for generations to come.

For more information or to discuss how you can be a part of this exciting project, please contact our Church office at 774-304-1021 or churchoffice@sturfed.org.

Rev. David W. Cote, Pastor
Tim Bardsley, President



The interior was also revitalized, including the walls, ceiling, pew and more.



The exterior of the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale has been refurbished. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

May has only one Monday story time

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, is offering one Story Time program for preschoolers during the month of May, on Monday, May 13 beginning at 9 a.m.

Two of our feathered friends will be featured with “Mel Fell” by Corey Tabor and “Good-Night Owl” by Pat Hutchens.

This reading and crafts program for preschool children is typically held twice a month on Mondays at the library. Parental supervision is required.

People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

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.

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- community -

Second Chance celebrates milestone anniversary with block party

EAST BROOKFIELD/SPENCER – Second Chance Animal Services will collaborate with Klem’s and Timberyard Brewing Company for a fun-filled Anniversary Block Party, commemorating 25 years of unwavering dedication to improving the lives of over 386,000 cherished pets.

The celebration, set for June 22, promises a dizzying array of exciting activities and heartfelt reunions.

Since its humble beginnings in 1999 as a small, volunteer-driven shelter on the founder’s sunporch with just \$400 and a dream, Second Chance has evolved into a beacon of hope for over 49,000 animals annually.

Founder and CEO Sheryl Blancato reflects on this remarkable journey with gratitude, stating in a press release, “Our achievements are a testament to the incredible support of our communi-

ty. What better way to honor this milestone than with a block party where it all began? The event will celebrate not just past accomplishments, but all that we can accomplish in the future.”

Chief Development Officer Lindsay Doray echoes Blancato’s sentiments, emphasizing the interconnectedness of success among event’s cohorts: “There’s an abundance of milestones to celebrate, including Klem’s 75th Anniversary and Timberyard Brewing Company’s recent 5th Anniversary. Our journeys have intertwined over the years, reinforcing our shared commitment to animals.”

The festivities kick off at 10 a.m. with exciting demonstrations at Klem’s and a vendor fair in the adjacent field offering a wide range of items for people and pets.

At 11 a.m., animal enthusiasts are invited to a special book signing of Walk-

ing Off Leash with authors Joe and Sheryl Blancato at Timberyard. The book tells the story of Second Chance and was originally released in 2020 with no opportunity for a debut book signing.

Meanwhile, a Reunion Yappy Hour awaits pets and their adoptive families from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Timberyard beer garden, with a group photo at 11:30 a.m. The day continues with a range of engaging activities, including special guests, pet trivia, raffles, an auction, and the opportunity to meet and adopt furry companions from the mobile adoption unit stationed in the Timberyard parking lot.

Tickets are now on sale for the anniversary barbecue featuring wood-fired grilled chicken dinner cooked over local hardwood and smothered in house-made stout barbecue sauce, ba-

con-braised collard greens and homestyle mac and cheese. The vegetarian option will be tahini smoked local carrots with honey, toasted sesame, sunflower, and pumpkin seeds with a side of homestyle mac and cheese.

Tickets must be purchased in advance for the meal, with seatings at noon and 6 p.m. Visit secondchanceanimals.org/anniversary/ to purchase tickets and for a detailed schedule of events.

Second Chance extends a warm invitation to potential sponsors, donors, and vendors interested in contributing to this memorable occasion. The vendor fair, scheduled from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., offers a prime opportunity for businesses and individuals to engage with a passionate audience. Complete information can be found at secondchanceanimals.org/anniversary/.



Cruger Johnson Phillips uses pastels to capture the beauty of this tree on the West Brookfield Common. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE



Rebecca Fay adds fine details to her oil painting.

ARTISTS | FROM PAGE 1

Gallery hours at West Brookfield Art & Frame, 10 East Main St., are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information about West Brookfield Art & Frame, or upcoming shows, follow them on Facebook, visit www.westbrookfieldartandframe.com, email yafacceber@hotmail.com, call 508-753-8604 or stop by during open hours.



Vanessa Varjian looks at the Common's iconic tree that she painted.



Gerard Blouin was inspired by the Rice Memorial Fountain.



Cheryl O'Donnell's painting blends perfectly with the bright colors of the spring day.



Joanne Quinn captures the details on a red wheelbarrow located next to this house.

sports@turley.com

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SPORTS

Cougars set to face Ware at Polar Park

WARREN – Quaboag Regional High School's baseball team will have the opportunity to play a game this Monday night at Polar Park, the new home of the Boston Red Sox Triple-A team, the Worcester Red Sox. Polar Park opened in 2021 after the minor league team moved from Pawtucket, R.I.

Minor league ballparks have been very popular for high schools to play games at. In Western and Central Massachusetts, Hartford's Dunkin' Park has also been very popular. Several Western Mass. teams have had games at the Double-A ballpark.

Quaboag will be facing neighboring rival Ware in this special game. Ware has already been in a professional ballpark, facing Monson at Dunkin' Park on April 19.

Tickets are available for the Polar Park game on Monday, May 6 by contacting the school or any member of the Quaboag High School baseball program.

Quabbin gets by Clinton

BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon, the double teams helped lead Quabbin girls tennis to victory over Clinton 3-2. Both doubles teams were winners along with third singles Carlee Rich. It took three sets, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2, but Farrah Wojcik and Kalina Dyer were winners. Elizabeth Matheson and Madelyn Stauder swept their match 6-1, 6-1.

See MORE PHOTOS | PAGE 11



Annabelle Magill sends a return hit in first singles action. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Unified track in action



Chris Howes looks for a long distance with his jump. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Olivia Gregory with partner Aubrey Raposa competes in the 100 meter.



Ryan Morin throws the javelin.



Bailey Burke competes in the long jump.



Luke Salvatore makes his way down the lane. He is a partner for the program.



Baylee Garcia runs in the 800 meter.

- sports -

Pioneers walk off in wild matchup



Andrew Sullivan delivers a pitch for the Pioneers. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Zander Auffrey heads for second.

PALMER – It took almost three weeks for Commerce and Pathfinder to finally matchup last Saturday afternoon at St. Joe’s Field. Pathfinder scored a run in the bottom of the eighth for a 17-16 win. In the win, Brayden Mega had three hits and three runs scored. Hunter Griswold and Miguel Velasquez had two hits and three RBI each. The Pioneers are now 5-1 on the season despite limited action due to several rainouts this month.



Hunter Griswold gets dirty as he slides safely into second.



Branden Hnitecki slides into an opposing player.



Camron MacDonald catches a pickoff throw to first.

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to

accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us. Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey. Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from

the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

- sports -

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks made it to their final regular week of league candlepin bowling.

These series of matches will conclude the final round and will determine the third qualifier for the playoffs.

As of April 16, The Champs R Here are in first place at 27-9. In the running Acres is in second place at 25-11. Team BK is in third place at 24-12. The remaining teams are mathematically eliminated from playoff contention.

Compression and Life is Good have already qualified for the playoffs.

One match took place between #1 seed Champs R Here against #2 seed Acres. In game one, Acres defeated Champs R Here by a score of 398-382. Matt Bertelli and Paul Tereso of Acres each broke 100 in the opening game (Tereso 101, Bertelli 106). Stephen Manolakis of Champs R Here began with a 114.

In game two, Champs R Here defeated Acres 375-362. Manolakis led the team with a 113.

In game three, Champs R Here defeated Acres 385-367 to win a total of three points and secure the last playoff spot. Manolakis finished with a 109 and a series of 336.

The final score is Champs R Here at 1142 and Acres at 1127.

#3 seed Team BK bowled against Last in Line. Team BK won the first game 353-345. In game two, Last in Line won 367-354. Vinny Navarro bowled a 112 to lead Last in Line to a victory. Mark Fitzpatrick of Team BK bowled 118.

In game three, Team BK won the last game by a score of 378-361. The final score was Team BK at 1085 and Last in Line at 1073.

The two playoff teams, Compression and Life is Good, bowled each other in the last week of round three. In game one, Compression took the first game from one of their playoff opponents 361-345.

In game two, Compression won again by a score of 352-341. Jason Dominick of Compression led the team in the second game with a 104.

In game three, Compression won for a three-game sweep over Life is Good. The score in game three was Compression at 364 and Life is Good at 357. The final score was Compression at 1077 and Life is Good at 1043.

As a result of winning three points against Acres, Champs R Here are the winners of round three and will be in the playoffs. Compression, Life is Good and Champs R Here will compete against each other in the final week of the season for the league championship.

The remaining four teams who didn't receive a playoff berth will compete in a consolation roll off.

Monday Night League Playoffs

The final two teams who made it to the final week of the season are Tag Team and the Four Stooges. After three competitive games, Tag Team prevails and are the 2023-2024 candlepin league season champions for Monday nights.

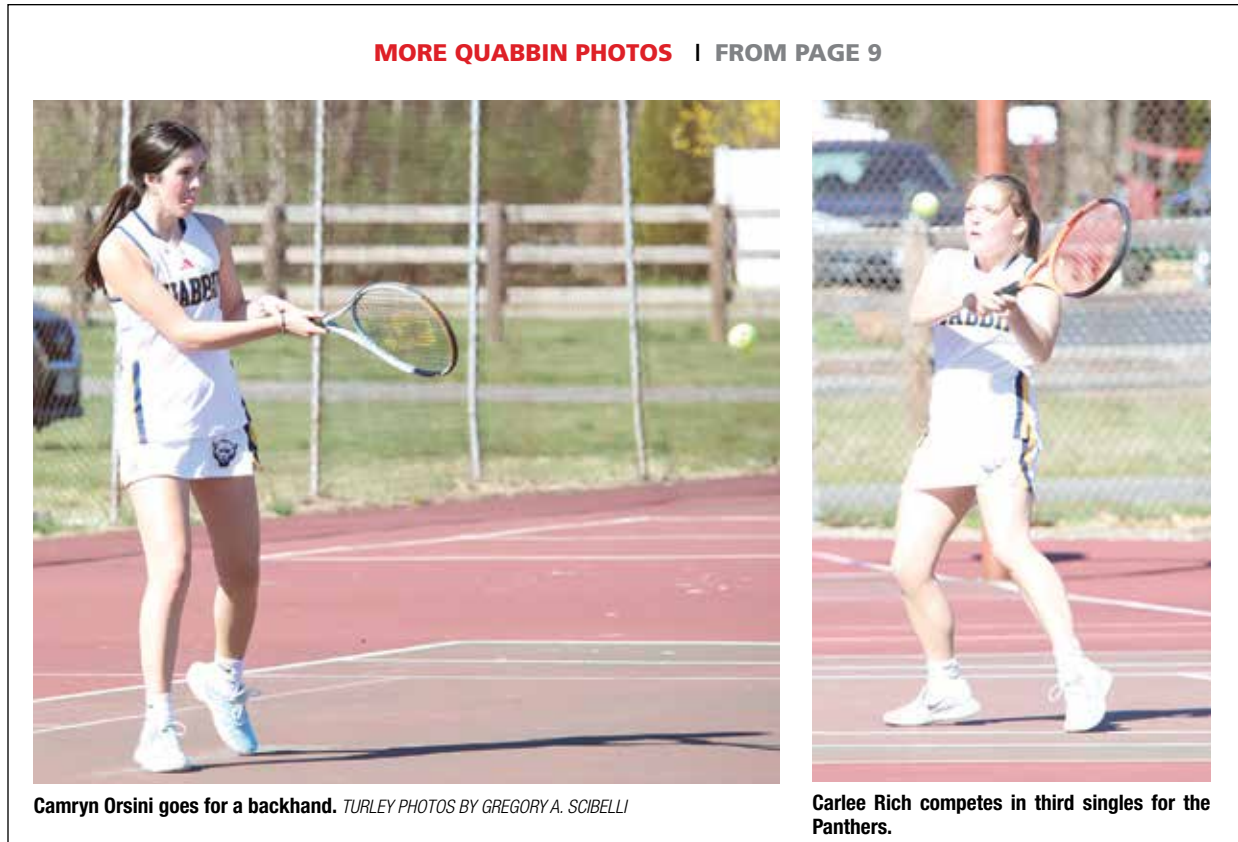
Tag Team consists of John Havens Sr, John Eckart, John "JT" Terault and Nick Maslon. The runner ups of the season, The Four Stooges, consist of Dave Chambers, Rich Chambers, Joe Grant and Marc Pellissier.

Quabbin League wants to fill remaining roster spots

Rosters spots are dwindling, but there are still some spots available as the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball has begun its season. There are still several open spots to get filled despite the season being underway.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league.

The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley used as well some expansion to the surrounding area this



MORE QUABBIN PHOTOS | FROM PAGE 9

Camryn Orsini goes for a backhand. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Carlee Rich competes in third singles for the Panthers.

T-Birds put bow on successful season at MassMutual

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds completed a historic season in style on Saturday, hosting a 14th consecutive sellout crowd inside the MassMutual Center. The capacity crowd for the finale also marked the 20th time during the 2023-24 season that “the Thunderdome” hit its maximum occupancy.

Both the 14-game sellout streak and the 20 total sellout crowds set Springfield AHL hockey records, and those were merely two statistics from a year full of shattered records and overwhelming support from the fanbase. The Thunderbirds’ ticket sales department saw distinct growth in numerous categories, including group ticket revenue (up 30% from 2022-23), season ticket revenue (up 15%), and total full-season tickets sold (up 5%).

“The support this franchise has received from day one has been indescribable,” said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. “It takes so many factors for an American Hockey League franchise to succeed, and our front office staff is right up there with the best in the business. Their tireless efforts, coupled with the passion and energy of the Thunderdome crowd, made this historic season a reality. We have no intention of slowing down either, which should make our fans so excited for what will come.”

Of the 6,321 fans who attended Thunderbirds games on average last season, about 25% were members of various groups participating in a wide variety of in-game experiences, from Premium Suite and Executive Perch parties to on-ice activities like national anthem performances and high-five tunnel teams. Springfield’s front office staff efforts helped the club generate the eighth most group tickets sold in the league.

“We have long worked at making Thunderbirds games a lifelong memory for fans of all ages,” said Costa. “In the process of doing that, we have been able to showcase members of our community, which has led to amazing opportunities for these groups to have a huge audience and grow their followings. Performing at Thunderbirds games has become a checklist item for thousands in this area, and we take great pride in that.”

This season, the T-Birds saw an average of 93.1%

of all seats filled inside the MassMutual Center, the highest average attendance to capacity in the AHL’s Eastern Conference and second-highest in the league. Such successes in filling the arena directly led to the Thunderbirds’ corporate sales department reaching new heights.

In the 2023-24 season, the T-Birds saw a 15% growth in corporate revenue while sitting atop the league rankings in total sponsorship deals. Integrations with sponsors have continued to be showcased across various mediums, from in-arena and in-ice signage to social media post sponsorships and elements of the in-game broadcast production.

“Having widespread support from our business partners is also paramount to success in the American Hockey League,” Costa added. “Our corporate team has fostered meaningful relationships beyond return on investment and emphasized Springfield’s pride for the city. Their accomplishments are remarkable when compared to markets of exponentially greater size.”

Supplementing the Thunderbirds’ success in tickets and corporate business, the franchise experienced a seventh consecutive season of brand development and merchandise growth as the club rose to the top 10 in the AHL in-game night merchandise sales, with an emphasis on creating high-quality product lines across not just the T-Birds brand, but specialty nights as well.

“We are aware of how impactful merchandise can be from a grassroots marketing perspective,” said Costa. “Giving our fans the ability to show their pride for specialty evenings like Pink in the Rink, Ice-O-Topes, and Military Appreciation further bolsters our connection between our team and the community.”

The Thunderbirds will look to build upon their record-breaking success when the 2024-25 season, the eighth Thunderbirds hockey campaign, gets underway this October. Schedules and single-game tickets will go on sale later this summer. Fans can reserve their seats for Thunderbirds’ hockey action in the 2024-25 season with a ticket membership by calling (413)-739-GOAL (4625) or visiting www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

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- community -

MEETING | FROM PAGE 1

any member of the school community.” Sarrette questioned School Committee Chair Ron Ryel and the members of the committee, asking why they allowed a parent of a former student to “vilify, malign and defame the reputations of our colleagues.”

Sarrette said the parent was also allowed to speak for over 10 minutes at the March 25 meeting, despite there being a three minute time limit for public comment.

He said allowing this to happen in open session puts teachers in an “impossible situation,” as they cannot respond publicly due to open meeting privacy laws.

“I understand and acknowledge a person’s need to be heard, however, there are guidelines and protocols that need to be followed and enforced to protect everyone’s privacy,” Sarrette said. He said the School Committee owes the Teachers Association a response.

Sarrette said as president of the Teachers Association, he will remind his disparaged colleagues of their rights to take legal action against the School Committee for defamation of character.

Policy changes

Executive Director of the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative, Arnold Lundwall, discussed policy changes with the School Committee.

Lundwall said the collaborative is looking to form a Capital Surplus Fund, and needs a two-thirds majority vote from the 15 member school districts in order to do so. The fund would build up over time and would be limited to \$2 million.

“At no point, does the collaborative ask any of its member districts to fund this,” he said.

Lundwall said he looks at this fund as a “safety net” for the collaborative.

He said there are two campuses with-

in the collaborative that provide services to special education students and medically fragile students. Both of these campuses are rented.

He said the fund can be used for building maintenance, wheelchair vans and more.

In the event either property were put up for sale, the collaborative would have the right to first refusal, but without the fund, there would be no money for a down payment.

“I’m looking at it as a savings account; I’m looking at it as a way to protect ourselves as well as to try to keep tuition costs down for our member districts,” Lundwall said.

Ryel questioned why surplus money wouldn’t just be returned back to the contributing school districts, rather than go into a capital fund.

The School Committee voted in favor of accepting the policy change, with Ryel opposing.

Superintendent’s report

Superintendent Timohty McCormick said earlier this year, a group of about 20 people worked to create a new strategic plan for 2024-2027.

“We did a lot of great work,” he said.

He said they worked with Martinez to create visual representation for the strategic plan. McCormick said he was “very impressed” with the work art teacher Louis Martinez did.

The school district received an additional \$11,000 to add to its existing grant to fund Project Lead the Way initiatives.

“We are very fortunate to have received that grant award that will now total \$16,000,” he said.

McCormick said the school district has hired an ABA in the elementary school.

Administrators’ reports

High School Principal John Diorio said students in grades seven-12 enjoyed a career fair at the end of March. He said many of the presenters at the fair

approached him afterward and said the students did a great job.

“One of our presenters said it’s the best school he’s ever been in, and he can’t wait to come back,” Diorio said. “I’m really proud of our students... we’re really looking forward to doing this again next year.”

Diorio said the high school’s work-based learning program is underway, with five students interning at FlexCon Corporation.

“These students are learning important job skills that will help them become successful employees after graduation,” he said.

Elementary School Principal Sarah Priestley said staff are revising their academic reporting standards to bring them more in line with the state frameworks.

“We need to be reflecting on what skills the state is asking us to teach our students,” she said.

Priestley said kindergarten registration is ongoing for children who will be 5 years old by Aug. 31. If families have not received a packet in the mail, they should reach out to the school.

Director of Student Services Ann Knapp said staff participated in a training about testing led by the school district’s psychologist.

Knapp said a follow-up training is being compiled now to be conducted at the end of May. This training will address how to teach students strategies to overcome their cognitive challenges.

Knapp said the school district welcomed a new special education elementary school teacher, Tracy Burlingame.

“She provides great service to our students,” she said.

Student Council update

Student Council Representative Olivia Giangrande said staff defeated students during a basketball game, with a four-point lead.

“It was a lot of fun and I really hope the tradition lasts for a very long time,”

she said.

The week before April vacation was spirit week with different themes for each day. She said the senior class won the lip sync contest, as they have for the past three consecutive years.

The Student Council attended the annual spring conference before April vacation and two groups of members ran workshops.

Giangrande said the Executive Board elections will be held on Monday, May 6 for the 2024-2025 school year.

Teacher Appreciation Week will be held May 6-10 and each day the Student Council will give out gifts to staff, and host a breakfast at the end of the week.

A Student Council lock-in will be held June 7-8 at the school. Council members will engage in team building activities, workshops and more.

Recognitions

McCormick recognized first grade teacher Mike Shelburne, staff and volunteers for continuing the tradition of the elementary school’s Earth Day celebration.

He also thanked Caitlyn Malone and the Student Council E-Board for hosting a lip sync contest.

Which had “a lot of tremendous talent by our underclassmen this year,” he said.

McCormick also recognized Martinez for his visual representation of the school district’s “portrait of a graduate.”

New curriculum

The School Committee voted in favor of accepting new reading and science curriculums.

Regionalization committee

The School Committee appointed Tim Canada to serve on the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee. Ryel previously served on the RAAC during his time on the School Committee, but has chosen not to run for re-election this term.

SELECTMEN | FROM PAGE 1

required of new companies, or granting a waiver.

“This is the same Host Community Agreement that is going across the commonwealth from all companies to their municipalities,” she said. The company has already signed HCAs with the towns of Marlborough and Charlton, and will soon with the town of Palmer where the company’s newest facility is located.

She said having this new HCA is a Cannabis Control Commission requirement in order to renew Green Gold’s license. The board members will review the draft HCA before selecting the preferred template and signing it.

Appointment

The board appointed Robert Filipkowski to serve as an alternate member on the Finance Committee.

Resignation

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraits said the board received a letter of resignation from Council on Aging Director Michelle Thayer, effective June 30, unless a replacement can be found sooner.

Council on Aging members said they are interviewing one candidate, current Outreach Coordinator Courtenay Rivera.

The board gave approval to hire a new Outreach Coordinator in the event Rivera is named Director, noting these are both vital positions in the town and not subject to the hiring freeze.

ATE warrant

The board approved the warrant for the annual town election, which will be held on Monday, May 6 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. at the North Brookfield Senior

Center, 29 Forest St.

Positions include one Board of Selectman, one Assessor, two School Committee members, one Water Commissioner, one Board of Health member, one Cemetery Commissioner, three Library Trustees, one Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District member, one Cemetery Commissioner (two-year term), one Planning Board member and one Housing Authority member (both five-year terms).

Access to military records

The board voted to allow the Veterans’ Services Officer Holly Kularski to have access to a military records online system.

Kularski stated in a letter to the board, that the system will “assist in the performance of my official duties and assisting to obtain benefits for veterans and dependents.”

Fire report

During the month of March, the Fire Department received 25 calls, including one fire, seven medical assists, one motor vehicle accident with injuries, one motor vehicle accident without injuries, one extraction of a victim from a building or structure, one mutual aid, one electrical/wiring and equipment problem, one potential accident, one attempted burning or illegal action, two water problems or other, one public service assistance, two assist police or other governmental agency, two public service calls, one smoke scare, one system malfunction, two smoke detector activations due to malfunction and 11 permits/inspections.

Announcements

Water main flushing will take place

May 1-31. The flushing removes sediments in the mains and may result in temporary discoloration of the water.

Flushing will occur from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and the daily schedule will be posted on the North Brookfield Water Department’s Facebook page. People may also call the department at 508-867-0207.

A free performance of John Morello’s “Dirt” will be held at the North Brookfield Elementary School auditorium on May 8 at 6 p.m.

Morello will explore the challenges and decisions young people face daily, including mental health, substance use, bullying and self-esteem.

A special town meeting will be held on May 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the elementary school.

Approvals

The board approved a series of one-day liquor licenses for Brookfield Orchards on May 11, June 15, Aug. 10, 24 and 31, Sept. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29, and Oct. 5, 6, 12, 13 and 14.

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of April 22-29, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 12 building/property checks, 19 directed/area patrols, one traffic control, five emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one illegal dumping, one trespass, one motor vehicle investigation, two animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, April 23

8:56 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, April 24

5:26 a.m. Medical Emergency, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital
3:12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
7:26 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency,

Sibley Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, April 25

1:44 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Hardwick Road, Investigated

Saturday, April 27

4:44 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bernard Whitney Road, Transported to Hospital
4:26 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Sunday, April 28

2:33 p.m. 911 Trespass, Padre Road, Officer Handled

Monday, April 29

3:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

- public safety -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of April 15-21, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 150 building/property checks, 74 directed area patrols, eight traffic controls, 17 radar assignments, seven emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, four assist other agencies, two investigations, one safety hazard, one complaint, one burglary (breaking and entering), six animal calls and 74 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, April 15

6:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation issued
 6:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued
 7:04 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Podunk Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:13 a.m. Assist Citizen, West Main Street, Services Rendered
 7:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 7:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 8 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasant Street, Citation Issued

10:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Evergreen Street, Citation Issued
 11:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:47 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Paula Circle, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 12:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 12:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 12:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 1:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
 1:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 1:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 2:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 2:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 2:35 p.m. 911 Assault, Spencer, Investigated
 6:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
 6:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 6:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 7:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East

Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:36 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Howe Street, Dispatch Handled

Tuesday, April 16

12:41 a.m. Medical Emergency, West Sturbridge Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:14 a.m. 911 Burglary (Breaking and Entering), West Main Street, Checked/Secured

Wednesday, April 17

7:46 a.m. Radar, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 7:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 10:14 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
 10:41 a.m. Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 11:03 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Unknown Location, Spoken To
 2:34 p.m. Radar, Podunk Road, Written Warning
 2:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued
 7:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 9:40 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Officer Handled

Thursday, April 18

5:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued

6:51 a.m. Safety Hazard, Route 49, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 9:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 11:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Written Warning
 11:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Written Warning
 4:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
 7:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Adams Road, Written Warning
 11:09 p.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Officer Handled

Friday, April 19

9:45 a.m. Investigation, Young Road, Officer Handled
 10:19 a.m. Investigation, Terry Lane, Officer Handled
 6:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, April 20

2:40 p.m. Serve Warrant, Depot Square, Arrest(s) Made
 2:45 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Harrington Street, Negative Contact
 2:58 p.m. 911 Misdeal, Lane 4, Spoken To

Sunday, April 21

10:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 10:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

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HELP WANTED

BRIMFIELD ANTIQUE MARKET. May 15-18, seeks food service help. This is a fast paced gig. Email contact information to emaysfoodservice@gmail.com

CLASS A DRIVER. Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

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Try a free Tai Chi Class at the Senior Center

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Join the North Brookfield Senior Center for Tai Chi classes on Tuesday afternoons at 1 p.m. for strength, balance, relaxation and fun

The cost is only \$5 per 45-minute class led by certified Tai Chi instructor Jen Tetreault. Tetreault will take you through some easy warm up exercises, then move on to gentle relaxing movement patterns that will increase your strength, ease stress and improve cardiovascular health.

You do not need to be a North Brookfield resident to take advantage of this weekly class, and your first ses-

sion is free.

The classes are open to anyone between the ages of 50 and 99. Tetreault will help you modify the movements, if necessary, by using a chair for seated moves or to have on hand for balance.

Who knew caring for yourself and improving mental health and well-being could be so much fun? It's all here at the North Brookfield Senior Center, 29 Forest St.

Call the senior center at 508-867-0220 if you have questions about the Tai Chi class or want information on other center programs.

Tri-Parish church seeks vendors for tag and craft sale

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church announces their 18th Annual Plant and Bake Sale, on the Hardwick Common on Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each day.

This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite and connoisseur perennials plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants and herbs in time for spring planting. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman's Farm of New Braintree, Howe's Farm of New Braintree, Tracie's Greenhouse of Ware, the Hardwick Farmers Co-op of Hardwick and private gardens.

A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The event is held rain or shine.

The church is also seeking vendors for their annual tag and craft sale to coincide with the plant and bake sale. Spaces on the Hardwick Common will be offered for \$35 each. Applications may be obtained by emailing Marguerite at mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6942.

People should reserve their space early. All are welcome.

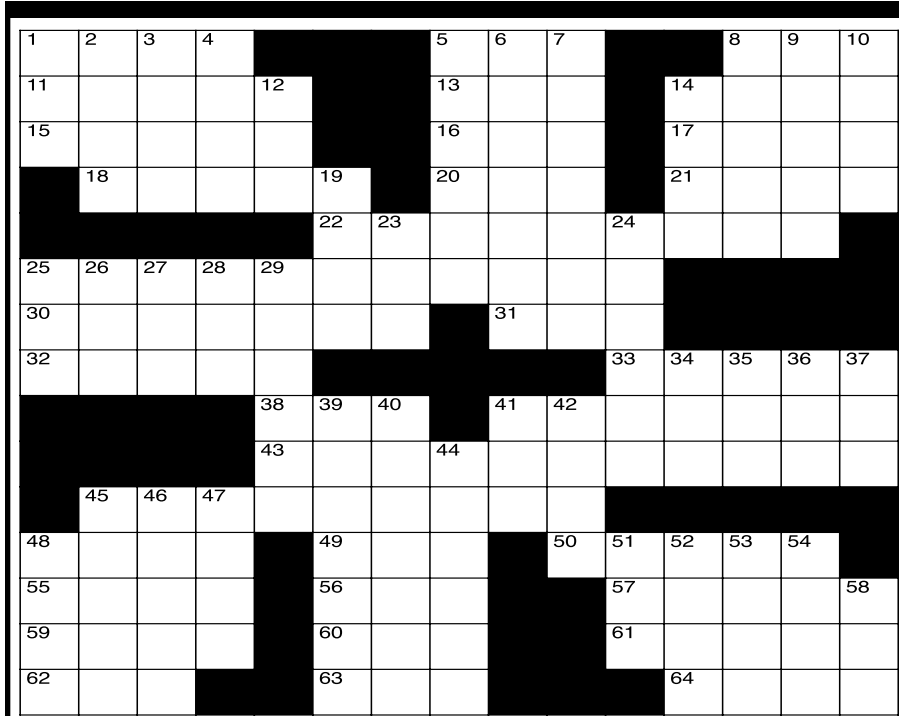
public notice

North Brookfield Public School Notice of Public Hearing FY2024-2025 Budget

A public hearing on the proposed North Brookfield Public School budget for 2024-2025 will be held on **Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**, at the North Brookfield Police Dept., Training Room, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 71, §38N. Copies of the proposed budget are available from the Office of the Superintendent, 10 New School Drive.

John Magario, Vice-Chairman North Brookfield School Committee

05/03/2024



CLUES ACROSS

1. Lions do it
5. In favor of
8. Rest here please (abbr.)
11. Pulpits
13. Leisure activity
14. Fertility god
15. Financial obligations
16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
17. Spanish river
18. Sporting events
20. Type of tree
21. Ceased to be
22. Persons
25. Synthetic resin
30. Relates to photochemical reactions
31. Father
32. Former Cowboys coach
33. City in Finland
38. Run batted in

41. Got through
43. They darken skin
45. In a harmful way
48. Form of weaving
49. City of Angels hoopster
50. Caucasian language
55. Syngman ___, Korean president
56. Sun up in New York
57. Paddled
59. Fishes
60. Affirmative
61. Nimble
62. Doctor of Education
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. A small island

CLUES DOWN

1. Cool!
2. Hebrew unit of measure
3. Swedish rock

4. College army
5. Favor over another
6. Called it a career
7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
8. Israeli statesman
9. Hurries
10. Slog
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Benedictine monk
19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
23. Family of regulator genes
24. Surrendering
25. Political action committee
26. S. American plant
27. Long-term memory
28. Bark
29. Breathes in
34. Take hold of
35. Everyone has one

36. Valentine's Day color
37. Drivers' licenses and passports
39. Outer walls of castles
40. Enters with force
41. One thousandth of an inch
42. Deceased Chinese politician
44. Sugary secretion of plants
45. Expressed pleasure
46. Shelter
47. Utilizes
- 48 Forest resident
51. Fashion accessory
52. A sharply directional antenna
53. ___ Kristofferson, actor
54. A bad place to end up
58. MLBer Gordon

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WARE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Description: The Ware Housing Authority (WHA) is seeking a qualified and experienced housing administrator for the position of Executive Director. The Authority's portfolio includes 86 units of Ch. 667 Elderly/Handicapped, 23 units of Ch.705 Family and 61 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. The candidate should be familiar with both the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program requirements.

Minimum Requirements: A minimum of 2 years' experience in public or private housing management, community development, public administration, non-profit administration, or a related field that demonstrates strong management and organization skills. Knowledge of the principles, practices of state and federal public housing management programs, capital improvement planning, technology systems, maintenance, and finances desired. Strong organizational and personnel management skills desired. One year of experience overseeing at least three staff persons or as a significant project team leader or program administrator strongly preferred.

Possess excellent written and verbal skills for an ability to communicate effectively with local officials, boards, residents, service providers and funding agencies. Experience working with the public, as well as individuals of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator (MPHA) desired or obtained within one year.

Must be proficient in Word, Excel and Outlook. Familiarity with centralized public housing wait lists (CHAMP), housing software, HUD and EOHLC databases and reporting systems desired. Other preferred credentials include graduation from an accredited two to four-year college or university and a passion for the mission of affordable housing.

The maximum salary is \$94,975 and is dependent upon experience, education, and certifications in accordance with EOHLC Executive Director Salary Schedule. The required work hours are 37 ½ hours per week and the position includes excellent benefits. The candidate will be subject to qualification verification prior to employment.

To apply in confidence please submit a cover letter and resume to Kenneth R. Martin, Consultant, at kenmartin1208@gmail.com with "Ware ED position" in the subject line.

The deadline is no later than the close of business on May 24, 2024. Late applications shall not be considered. More detailed information will be required of applicants that advance to the next level of consideration.

Diverse applicants are encouraged to apply.
 The Ware Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

QUABOAG CURRENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD
May festival is May 4
p3

WEST BROOKFIELD
Lake cleanup this
weekend p6

STURBRIDGE
Church begins
renovations p7

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