

# QUABOAG CURRENT

**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
*King Philip's War*

Page 2

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
*Memorial Day events*

Page 3

**BROOKFIELD**  
*Spring planting*

Page 5

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## School committee votes to close elementary school

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
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WARREN – The Quabog Regional School Committee voted Monday to cease operations at West Brookfield Elementary School following the conclusion of this school year.

At the May 18 meeting, Superintendent Stephen Duff said this follows meet-

ings with the West Brookfield Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee, who say the town cannot afford to put forward the School Committee's approved budget, and the only option the town could afford was the closing of the elementary school.

Duff said this followed the town of West Brookfield already making cuts and finding out they were still

\$75,000 short of having a balanced budget to present at town meeting.

Duff said the district estimates that closing the elementary school will lead to 70% of students enrolled through school choice leaving, resulting in a loss of \$350,000 of revenue. He said another consequence of this would be foundation students choosing out.

Duff said if Warren Com-

munity Elementary School is the only school, class sizes would average at 21-29.

Many residents came up to speak during the public session, which happened before the vote was taken to express their concerns with the option of closing the school. One resident named John said closing the elementary school could lead to a lot of loss down the road, saying that nobody is going to send

their kids to Warren schools with a 45 minute bus ride or 25 or more children in one classroom.

Jordan Brooks, another resident, said he was ready to "jump ship" and switch over to the North Brookfield district, and thinks Warren will be in trouble with the decision to close the school.

A resident named Maureen asked if there were any amendments to the regional

agreement that would require town meeting votes of both towns to cease operations at the school.

The School Committee chair said according to the regional agreement, which is nearing 40 years old, the vote comes down to the committee and requires a ¾ majority.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
PAGE 3



TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY

Linda Fuchs of Flourish Farm was at the festival.

## Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival

Annual celebration had perfect weather, large crowd and more

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Asparagus and Flower Heri-

tage Festival of 2026 took a bit of a welcome departure from prior years that had experienced rainy or cloudy days or a mix.

May 16 was the last day of a week that had seen unsettled weather, but would itself dawn gloriously, and pass the day that way until the end.

It was so lovely almost everyone remarked about the superlative climate. One could not help but enjoy the day on the Town Common.

Many of the exhibitors and vendors came back from prior years, while new

See ASPARAGUS  
PAGE 3

## Board OKs site plan for library

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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STURBRIDGE – The Planning Board held a site plan review for Americans with Disabilities Act improvements and the outdoor programming space at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, 306 Main St.

The new programming space will allow ADA accessibility to the lower levels of the library, in addition to the accessible outdoor space. The basement doors will also be corrected to meet ADA requirements.

At the May 11 meeting, Town Planner Jean Bubon said the library has also been facing challenges with its elevator, and patrons have been stuck.

Bubon said a deck will be added to the rear of the building, which will also provide an egress in the event the elevator fails, or if there's an emergency. This deck will also serve as

the outdoor programming space.

She said the current outdoor programming space does not meet ADA requirements.

"The library needs to be able to provide accessible programming for everybody," she said.

A concrete walkway will be added to provide accessible grading to and from the library. Bubon said there will also be stairs to one side of the deck.

The deck will be built around the mature elm tree that grows there.

Bubon said the only lighting included in this project is the existing lighting over the back door. She said Library Director Becky Plimpton will monitor the need for more lighting in the future.

The board approved the site plan with 11 orders of condition.

Open Space Plan  
The Open Space Committee presented the 2025

Open Space and Recreation Plan to the Planning Board. Carol Goodwin, chair of the Open Space Committee, said the plan provides the board a "tool to evaluate your ecological options and all that you do for our towns."

Goodwin said the plan provides information gathered from multiple sources in order to fulfill the recreational needs of the town, while protecting water resources and habitats and quality of life.

"The Open Space Committee has had a great success this year," she said. "For accomplishing many of our longtime Sturbridge goals."

One of these goals was receiving the gift of the 222-acre Barrett Farm.

"The Barrett Farm was the missing key property necessary for this part of the trail network," Goodwin said.

See STURBRIDGE  
PAGE 5

## Barbara Clancy named distinguished citizen

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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BROOKFIELD – The 2nd Annual Brookfield Gala was held at Oakholm Farm Estate this past weekend.

The annual Brookfield Gala is run by the Friends of Brookfield, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the community by fostering economic growth, supporting local organizations, and preserving the town's history.

Proceeds from the Brookfield Gala will go to support local projects and programs that benefit the town residents of all ages. The Gala featured a silent auction and raffle prizes in addition to a delicious meal, beverages, live music and a flag cere-



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, left, and state Sen. Peter Durant presented citations to Barbara Clancy, the recipient of the Brookfield Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award.

mony. Over 150 guests attended this year's Brookfield Gala,

which had a patriotic theme. Joining the celebration was Army National Guard

Lieutenant Colonel Justin Culverwell. Culverwell has served since 2002 and participated in the raising of the flag ceremony during the Brookfield Gala.

As the flag was raised by Culverwell and Shelby Hill, Jason Kida set off the cannon for the ceremonial shot and the National Anthem was played.

American is celebrating its 250th birthday this year and the Friends of Brookfield wanted to highlight that as well in addition to recognizing the members who make Brookfield the great community that it is.

Don Tafft of the Friends of Brookfield came up to speak and wanted to recognize the founding fathers of the nation, the veterans, first

See BROOKFIELD GALA  
PAGE 5



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Glenys Hachfeld left, and Klaus Hachfeld as the Statue of Liberty and Uncle Sam during Family Fun Day, which included a Patriotic Costume Contest.

## Patriotic spirit celebrated during Family Fun Day

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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STURBRIDGE – It was a day to feel historical, proud and patriotic as Family Fun Day was held on Sturbridge Common this past weekend.

The weather was perfect for the town to come together and celebrate as part of the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Family Fun Day was organized by the

town's 250th Anniversary Committee.

Family Fun Day was supported by sponsors and in-kind donations. These supporters include Veolia, the Sturbridge Cultural Council, Publick House, Sturbridge Coffee House, Stephanie Lachapelle Group and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

See FAMILY FUN DAY  
PAGE 6

## Select Board delays TA appointment again

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
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BROOKFIELD – The Select Board discussed appointing a town administrator again at their meeting last Wednesday, but again deferred the decision

to their next meeting.

During the week of May 4, the board interviewed three candidates including Blythe Robinson, David Snowden III and Eric Weiss. At their May 6 meeting, the board discussed these three candidates but delayed a decision.

During the May 13 meeting, the item was again on the agenda, but board member Richard Chaffee said he was not ready to make a decision yet.

Board member Beth Coughlin echoed her position from their last meeting, saying it would not

be in the best interest of the town to go on without a town administrator, and they should have someone in that day-to-day position.

Coughlin said Robinson was still her choice, citing

See BROOKFIELD  
PAGE 8

## - community -

# Students honor veterans for Memorial Day



**WEST BROOKFIELD/WARREN** – Eighth grade students from Quaboag Regional Middle High School helped place American flags on veterans' graves in cemeteries in West Brookfield and Warren in preparation for Memorial Day.

Jariella Male placed an American flag at a veteran's grave.



Julian Toohey helped honor veterans for Memorial Day.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Leah Vongratsamy is shown holding an American flag.



Cody McKusick placed an American flag in a holder.



Sarah Louis helped honor veterans.



Noah Plante is shown placing an American flag at a veteran's grave.

## Local author presents book 'To Defend All That is Dear'

STURBRIDGE – On Thursday, May 28 local historian and author Walter J. Hersee will give a presentation on his recently published book, "To Defend All That Is Dear: Sturbridge Soldiers in the Revolution".

This program, sponsored by the Sturbridge Historical Society, will take place at 7 p.m. at the Publick House.

Hersee's book centers on the recovery of the men who served but were never fully acknowledged – those omitted from monuments, misidentified in town histories, or lost to transcrip-

tion errors in early archival work. Through meticulous cross-referencing of archival sources, Hersee has identified 186 previously overlooked soldiers connected to Sturbridge, and confirmed the service-related deaths of 23 men.

Many of these names had been absent from local memory for more than two centuries.

"Every town has missing patriots," Hersee noted. "Not through intention, but through the quiet erosion of memory and record keeping over generations. This book shows how any community

can find its forgotten soldiers and restore them to their rightful place in history."

The book is designed by Hersee both as an historical contribution and as a practical tool for others.

"This is more than Sturbridge's story," Hersee noted. "It's a model. Any town, from the smallest village to the largest city, can do this work and recover those who stood 'to defend all that is dear.'"

### About Hersee

Walter J. "Wally" Hersee is a local historian, research-

er, and author based in Sturbridge. His work focuses on restoring forgotten stories through deep archival research and community engagement.

He serves on several town boards and historical committees and is the author of "Common Witness: Stories from a New England Town" and additional forthcoming works through Heritage Oak Press. These books will be available for sale at the presentation.

This program, graciously hosted by the Publick House, is free and open to the public.

## Amateur radio operator club hosts meeting on May 26

WEST BROOKFIELD – Local amateur radio operators and the public are invited to the next Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club meeting, Tuesday, May 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

This month's program the club will be discussing their plans for Field Day on June 27-28.

ARRL Field Day is the most popular annual on-the-air amateur radio event in the U.S. and Canada, held on the fourth weekend of June. It acts as a combined emergency communication exercise, community open house and technical competi-

tion. Operators set up temporary, often off-grid stations to simulate disaster response while making as many radio contacts as possible. It is primarily an emergency preparedness exercise designed to teach operators how to set up stations in less-than-optimal conditions (e.g., tents, parks) when using standard infrastructure. Operators use generators, batteries, or solar power. It is open to the public.

All are welcome to attend. For more information about the club, upcoming events, or licensing opportunities, visit [www.QVARC.com](http://www.QVARC.com).

## Renowned author presents lecture on King Philip's War

WEST BROOKFIELD –New York Times Bestselling Author Michael J. Tougias will present a free slide lecture about King Philip's War at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St., on Sunday, May 24 at 1 p.m.

This lecture is sponsored by the Quaboag Historical Society.

Named after "King Philip," who was also known as Metacom, a Wampanoag chief, the war was fought between the colonies and many of the Native American tribes from 1675-1676.

During the lecture on May 24, Tougias will share maps and show where the battles happened, and what they look like today. He

said his lecture will be like watching a documentary and will captivate audience members of any age; even children.

Tougias has authored a total of 38 books over the course of his career, including "The Finest Hours", which was made into a Disney movie starring Chris Pine and Casey Affleck.

His latest book, "In Deep Water: A Story of Sharks, Survival, and Courage" tells the story of three recreation fishermen whose boat sinks off New Orleans in the Gulf of Mexico.

For more information about Tougias and his books, visit [www.michaeltougias.com](http://www.michaeltougias.com).

## First Congregational Church hosts Memorial Day chicken BBQ

NORTH BROOKFIELD – First Congregational Church of North Brookfield, 144 Main St., will host its annual Memorial Day chicken barbecue on the church lawn under the big tent on Monday, May 25 from noon-2 p.m.

The meal includes a ½ barbecued chicken, whole potato, green beans, salad, dessert and drink for \$15.

A hot dog meal for children over age 10 is \$5 and free for children under age 10 (when you purchase a chicken barbecue ticket).

The Steve Bell Trio will perform at 1 p.m. on the church lawn. There will be cornhole games, gaga ball and facepainting.

To reserve tickets, call the church at 508-867-8428.



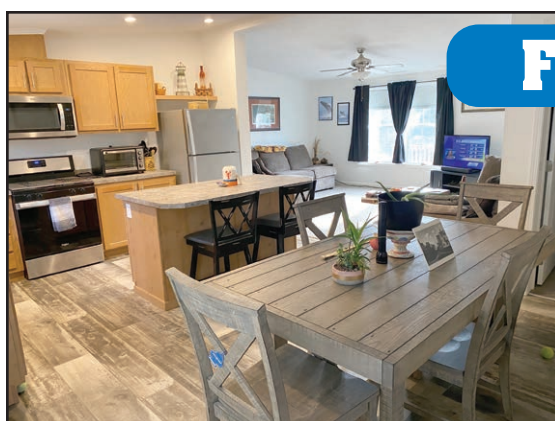
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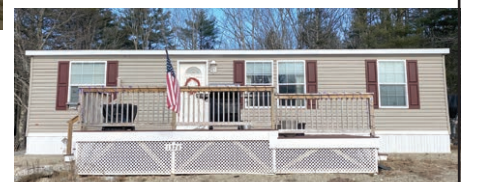


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# - community -

## ASPARAGUS FROM PAGE 1

folks joined them. So how did a small town in rural Massachusetts become the locale of a festival celebrating a perennial vegetable?

Therein lies a tale. A gentleman from Holland, Diederik Leertouwer, in 1784 was appointed as "consul for the provinces of New Hampshire and Massachusetts Bay" by the Dutch government. In this capacity he arrived in West Brookfield.

Consul Leertouwer started growing asparagus here in Quaboag.

Legend has it, he was the first to grow the perennial in this country, importing the vegetable from his homeland, and beginning a tradition, if not an industry.

How exactly he ended up here is difficult to say, but why quibble. We got the West Brookfield Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival out of it.

Also, rare is it that a small town has a diplomatic community. Maybe our town should petition the government of the Netherlands to send another consul?

During the day, we met consul Leertouwer.

Of course, Diederik did not time travel. Rudy Arn from Switzerland, now North Brookfield was acting as the Dutchman in period costume.

What to visit first? Well, if you are not completely awake, the town's coffee shop, Joy of Beans was there with gourmet brews. Joy Hinton, the entrepreneur was represented by family members, Travis and grandchildren Eavia, Aubrey.

It would take a while, but the improvised bandstand would feature bands of rockers who also had some bluesy overtones. In the morning, it was Bigelow and later in the day, Moonlight Saints.

Civic organizations with a West Brookfield flavor were on the Common. There was a headquarters tent, and the Quaboag Historical Society as well as Amy Dugas at the West Brookfield Farmers Market Tent. The Market is starting up again on June 3.

The East Quabbin Land Trust has a mission of car-



West Brookfield Police and Rescue Squad members helped out at the event.



Sweet Babu's had granola at its best.

ing for the land that sustains us and that accurately describes what they do.

At their table they were enthusiastic to talk about Pynchon's Grist Mill. This was a mill built to grind grain that was destroyed in King Philip's war. The mill is in an area of 75 acres that the Trust is working to preserve.

We came across Nancy who was giving out trees on behalf of Grassroots Central Mass. It was a bit of climate activism. One tree, Tulip Poplar, was interesting in that it grew tall, but would have, you guessed it, a tulip shaped flower.

Near Nancy was a lady running a school with a mission. According to Marcie, Wildwood Acres offers an "educational experience rooted in building the next generation of land stewards and encouraging an intrinsic love of learning." The school offers various home-school programs.

Moving on, there was still much to see. Stacia Caplanson was here at the Rainbow Kids tent with tied dyed clothing for children. As long as Stacia is coming, the 60s will never die.

Out here in the exurbs,

they have left to take money from is theater, art, music and sports.

He said they can't cut at the elementary level. The students said cutting theater would lead to a decrease in enrollment since the school is well known for the theater and arts program.

The motion to cease operations at the elementary school was made by committee member Megan Sears and was passed unanimously. The motion included giving the building back to the Town of West Brookfield and all the students with the exception of grade six being transferred to Warren Community Elementary School.



The Joy of Beans had fresh coffee for festivalgoers.

we do like our dogs. There are vendors who cater to that. Sir Barks-A-Lot Homemade Dog Treats are, as stated made at home by Sue and seem popular.

Around the corner was Sweet Babu's. Liz was at the table offering small batch, gluten free granola in many different flavors.

An interesting couple brought pasta all the way from Italy. Well, they did not carry it through the Mediterranean and across the Atlantic, not physically anyway.

Angelo of L'Amore Della Pasta, from Calabria, down toward the toe of Italian peninsula, brought his knowledge of the various forms and shapes his homeland is famous for.

As noted above the West

Brookfield Farmers Market is starting for the summer soon. One of the stalwart farmers each year is Linda Fuchs of Flourish Farm. At the Asparagus festival, she had a plethora of started plants and will have more at the upcoming market.

There were so many choices to shop for. The famous Pig Park Barbecue from Ware, and Street Tacos were two choices close together, but that was only start.

The Congregational Church had their celebrated Asparagus Chowder.

Eventually, it would be 3 p.m. and time to end, but people did linger, for it was a lovely day that made us forget the less than salubrious weather of some past years.



L'Amore Della Pasta offered authentic Italian pasta.

## North Brookfield lists schedule of Memorial Day observance

NORTH BROOKFIELD - The North Brookfield Memorial Day Observance Program will take place on Monday May 25.

The program will begin at 8 am - a Military Color Guard, Firing Squad, Bugle Players and Drum will render appropriate salutes/taps honoring Deceased Veterans at the Walnut Grove and St. Joseph's cemeteries respectively. This ceremony will not be cancelled in inclement weather.

Following that (weather permitting) a Memorial Day Parade is planned as well. Parade participants will form at the North Brookfield Firehouse parking lot. The parade

will step off at 9:15 am. A Memorial Day Program will then take place, following the parade, in front of the North Brookfield Haston Public Library. All public is welcome.

All veterans are welcome and encouraged to participate in the cemetery programs, parade, and to join fellow veterans in front of the library.

In the case of inclement weather, an abbreviated program will be held in the Sanctuary of the First Congregational Church of North Brookfield, following the cemetery programs.

Please call Veterans' Services 508-867-0205 with any questions.

## Concerts on the Common schedule announced

NORTH BROOKFIELD - North Brookfield Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with North Brookfield Cultural Council, will be hosting Concerts on the Common this summer season.

A Mass Cultural Council grant is making these concerts possible for all residents to enjoy.

Dates and bands include May 30 from 6-8 p.m. - North Brookfield High School band, followed by DJ Tabby Leblanc; June 20 from 6-8 p.m. - Ravenwood, an easy listening blue grass band; July 25 from 6-8 p.m. - Sue Lyons, an acoustical guitar player and vocalist; Aug. 15 from 6-8 p.m. - Stan Matthews,

country music with some exceptional Johnny Cash tunes; and Aug. 29 from 3-5 p.m. - the Superchargers, a fun rock and roll band.

All concerts are free, they are held on Saturdays and start at 6 p.m. and end around 8 p.m. Food will be available for purchase but folks are welcome to bring their own. Feel free to bring chairs, blankets, bug spray and sunscreen - whatever makes you comfortable.

The playground is right on the common, located on Grove Street in town.

There will also be games for families to enjoy and some surprise craft tables during some concerts.

## Kindergarten registration now open at NBES

NORTH BROOKFIELD - North Brookfield Elementary School is excited to announce that kindergarten registration is now open for the 2026-

2027 school year. Please contact Katelin at North Brookfield Elementary School by calling 508-867-8326 or emailing kgaines@nbschools.org.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

Richard Eichacker, the chair of the Warren Board of Selectmen said Warren can afford option three, which is closing the school, but would likely need to pass a proposition 2.5 override to afford the level funded budget.

Two students said they understood the concerns of the citizens, but said they attended school in the district and had larger class sizes, and still got all of the help and support they needed. They asked what the cuts at the high school will look like, and Duff said the only place

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# - opinion -

## Why do we wait until Memorial Day to plant?

For as long as I can remember, the “safe date” for planting tender crops was always Memorial Day.

This year in particular the holiday is on the early side, the 25th of May, as opposed to the 30th or 31st. Here in New England, five or six days can make all the difference in the world.

Sure, as I write, the mercury is set to rise well into the high eighties for three or four days, then become more seasonable again. It’s a wonder the plants know what to do.

Anyhow, read on to learn about some tender plants and how they respond better when soil or air temperatures have warmed.

Although cool loving peas and warmth loving beans are both legumes, bean seeds in particular crave seventy to eighty degree soil in which to germinate. This

is particularly evident with white seeded bean varieties, since the white seeds reflect the heat instead of holding on to it like dark seeds do.

Oftentimes, white seeds will rot before they sprout if planted too soon. If you are in the mood to gamble and desire an early sowing of beans, use a dark seeded variety.

Untreated corn seeds will not germinate in soil below 60 degrees. We are advised to be patient and trust that seed planted in warm soil will make up for lost time, and they typically will, in no time flat.

Those of us who plant only a small plot have luck starting corn seeds indoors then transplanting the seedlings outside. I sowed my corn two seeds per six pack a few days back and have it on heat along with a saving

of winter squash and melons and all are popping up nicely.

I usually pick the best



of the two in the cell of the pack and pinch away the slower one so there is no competition, giving the stronger seedling all of the room to grow nicely. Never pull out when thinning; roots may be disturbed.

Speaking of seedlings, it’s also important not to shock our home grown pepper or tomato seedlings by transplanting them into cold soil or cold air. Night temperatures should be a consistent

50 degrees before planting out peppers.

I typically preheat the soil my peppers are to be planted in with black plas

For added warmth, some gardeners looking to get a head start often use a row cover to add a few degrees of warmth and protect plants from the wind.

Tomatoes are planted outside after all danger of frost has passed. Typically on Memorial Day! In fact, I think the whole “safe date” theory came to be because of tomatoes! When I was just getting started in horticulture I remember all sorts of contraptions people used to use to try and get the first ripe tomato in the neighborhood.

By planting tomatoes transplants earlier you could get earlier fruiting. Cloches or wall-o-waters were popular before the floating row

covers became the rage.

I typically wait to transplant my tomatoes. Mine are huge this year.

Remember, if your plants get big and your are still a few weeks away from getting them from the six pack into the ground, “pot them up.” It’s a term for going up a size, say from a cell to a four inch pot, so roots don’t get bound before they get the chance to live happily ever after in the garden.

Soon enough, for sure!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

QUABOAG CURRENT

We Want to Hear From You

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## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

### When a spouse dies will the other get a Survivor Benefit?

Dear Rusty: I am 79. My husband is also 79 and we both receive Social Security benefits. We were both married before and we married each other at the age of 58. Am I to understand correctly that when either of us dies, the surviving spouse is not eligible to collect the deceased spouse’s Social Security benefits? Please correct me if I am wrong.

Signed: Curious Spouse

Dear Curious Spouse:

A surviving spouse only gets one benefit - either their own SS retirement amount, or their deceased spouse’s amount, whichever is more. So, the Social Security benefit that the deceased was receiving at death will be paid to the surviving spouse, replacing any smaller SS payment the survivor was already collecting. To be sure you are aware, the surviving spouse will also be eligible for a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255 (I know it isn’t much, but it should be claimed anyway).

Also, unless the surviving spouse was already receiving a spousal benefit while both partners were living, the surviving spouse will need to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or at the local SS field office to make an appointment to apply for their survivor benefit.

One other thing to be aware of since you were both married before: if either of you die, and your first marriage lasted at least 10 years and your ex-spouse has also died, the surviving spouse will have a choice to collect a survivor

benefit from either the ex-spouse or the most recently deceased spouse, whichever amount is more. But, again, you can only collect one benefit payment as a surviving spouse either from your ex-spouse or from your recently deceased spouse, whichever benefit is higher.

FYI, survivor benefits are a confusing area of Social Security, so you might also find informative this article I recently published, as it goes more deeply into surviving spouse benefits including benefits for surviving minor children and surviving adult disabled children. Read the article titled “Demystifying Social Security Survivor Benefits” at www.amacfoundation.org/demystifying-social-security-survivor-benefits/. Of course, if you have any further questions, please contact us at 1-888-750-2622 or email us at SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org. There is never a fee for our services.

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

## in my BACKYARD By Ellenor Downer



PHOTO BY CONNIE SCHWAIGER Brown thrasher

A Western Massachusetts resident spotted this brown thrasher in the Berkshire foothills.

Sometimes they visit feeders like the one in the attached photo. Brown thrashers blend in with their surrounding and are tricky to spot.

They are fairly large, slender songbirds with long proportions; the legs are long and sturdy, the bill is long and slightly down curved and the tail is long.

They often cock the tail upward in the manner of wrens. A bright yellow eye, gray brown face and black and white wings bars are other identifying features.

Thrashers are reddish brown on the head, back, tail and wings. They have a white breast and belly with darker speckling.

They are 9.1 to 11.8 inches long or slightly smaller than a blue jay. The brown thrasher is the only thrasher species found east of Texas.

Thrashers have one of the largest repertoires of

any North American songbird over 1,000 different songs. Since they rarely venture far from thick undergrowth, there singing give their location away especially when perched in a treetop or shrubs.

Their songs are a complex string of many musical phrases, many copied from other birds’ songs with each phrase typically sung twice. They also make a distinctive, harsh “tsuck” note.

They imitate other birds including Chuck-will’s-widows, wood thrushes and northern flickers.

Both males and females incubate the eggs and feed the young. Nestlings sometimes leave the nest fully feathered within nine days of hatching, earlier than either of their smaller relatives, the northern mockingbird and gray catbird.

An aggressive defender of its nest, the Brown Thrasher is known to strike people and dogs hard enough to draw blood.

Shrubby habitats are popular hideouts for nest predators, which may explain why the thrashers fledge so quickly for birds of their size. Brown Thrashers are the largest common host of parasitic brown-headed cowbirds.

The oldest Brown Thrasher on record was at least 10 years, 11 months old. It was found in Florida in 1978 where it was banded in 1967.

### Rose-breasted grosbeak

A Worthington resident saw a rose-breasted grosbeak showed up at his feeder earlier than usual on May 1. He said they always arrive the first week of May. Last year it was not until May 7.

Belchertown birds A Belchertown resident sent an email reporting birds seen and heard on his property. They included Baltimore oriole, grey catbirds, a Blackburnian warbler in the maple tree, and he heard, but not seen, a northern parula. He also has a pair of eastern phoebes nesting under an eave of the house.

At nearby Lake Wallace, he took photos of yellow warblers and a green heron catching fish.

### Red-shouldered hawk

A Montgomery resident saw a red-shouldered hawk recently.

### Nesting sparrows

A Belchertown resident said she had sparrows using a nest box in her yard. She found a few of their babies on the ground. At first, I thought something got into the nest, but today a found another one. I think the nestling had died and the parents got them out. She said she may remove the nest box and replace it with a new one in case the sparrows succumbed to disease.

### Brimfield birds.

A Brimfield resident said he put up the hummingbird feeders in late April when he learned of a ruby-throated hummingbird in Ware. A couple days later he had an adult male ruby-throated hummingbird and a few days later he saw a female.

He said, “One each gray catbirds, male Baltimore oriole and males rose-breasted grosbeak showed up last week. This week a second male oriole and two more grosbeaks show up, another male and a female. He also has a male eastern towhee in his yard. He said, “A couple of years ago we had two male towhees in the yard and one spent the summer attacking its reflection in the many windows despite best efforts to dissuade it.”

He said elsewhere, in Warren on South Street there are three occupied great blue heron nest and two others he was not sure if they were being used. The osprey pair has been around for awhile. The nest has gotten deeper over the years and on a recent visit he could only see the tail or maybe wing feathers barely showing above the nest. I think incubation has started, but can’t be sure.

He also has a male common yellowthroat and house wren in his yard.

He said, “House wrens have nested in nesting boxes in the yard several times and I saw feathers near the entrance hole on a box they have used before. The wrens have a habit of building false nests in a couple of boxes that hey never use.”

He also said, “A male yellow-bellied sapsucker spent some time on a native dogwood and today a sapsucker, probably the same one, spent several hours tapping away at the same tree.”

### Geese in a pavilion

On May 12, I drove by Camp Putnam in New Braintree and saw four geese under their pavilion near the pond. I see many Canada geese in fields or ponds, but I have never seen them in a pavilion.

See BACKYARD PAGE 9



## 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.

## Quaboag Current OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

# - community -

## Ag. Comm. highlights spring planting opportunities

BROOKFIELD – The Brookfield Agricultural Commission is pleased to share upcoming spring planting activities taking place on the Brookfield Common on Saturday, May 23.

The day will begin with the long-standing tradition of the Brookfield Garden Club's annual plant sale.

As in previous years, the Garden Club has invited the Agricultural Commission to participate. The Commission will once again offer free seed giveaways for young people interested in starting their own gardens.

This initiative is made possible through a grant from the Brookfield Com-

munity Club, along with additional donations.

Free starter fertilizer kits will also be available. While composting and fertilizer use are familiar practices, they've become especially important topics as fertilizer costs continue to rise.

Beginning at 11 a.m., Oakholm Farm Estate will host hayrides around the Common to celebrate the start of the planting season.

This year will also feature "Big Boy" tomato plants, grown by the youth group from Brookfield Congregational Church. Proceeds will help support their upcoming mission trip to a small town

in New Jersey, where they will join other groups in assisting residents with needed home and community projects.

For the first time, the Brookfield Cultural Council will join the event, offering starter plants and berry bushes.

As always, experienced growers will be on hand throughout the day to answer questions and provide gardening advice. The timing of this event coincides with the typical end of the frost season.

There is also a bit of local folklore suggesting that more delicate plants should not be placed outdoors until the "Blue Moon," which this year falls on May 31.

## Church hosts solstice concert scheduled for June 20

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC, 36 North Main St., will host a concert on Saturday, June 20 at 7 p.m., preceded by a social hour from 6-7 p.m.

"Solstice Sing for Peace and Justice - Songs to Cultivate Community, Compassion, and Commitment" will feature local singing group, A Chorus for These Times, directed by Nym Cooke with instrumentalists and guest artist Leslie

Sweetnam.

All are welcome and snacks will be served.

There is no admission charge but donations will be accepted to support Abby's House, Worcester's largest provider of affordable housing specifically designed to meet the needs of women and children.

For more information, call the church at 508-867-7078, or contact Karen Murphy (kmurphy718@charter.net) or Nym Cooke (nymcooke@gmail.com).

## Senior Center lists events

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

Activities include: Medicare Help with Ed Spater, Thursday, May 28 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. by appointment; and Free Art Class, Thursday, May 28 at 11 a.m.

Read The Quaboag Current online at [quaboagcurrent.turley.com](http://quaboagcurrent.turley.com)

### BROOKFIELD GALA FROM PAGE 1

responders and those who thrive on independence.

"We want to build a stronger community and spirit," Taftt said.

This year's Gala featured the presentation of the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award. This award highlights and celebrates individuals who have made a profound impact on the town.

This year's recipient of the Distinguished Citizen Award went to Barbara Clancy, who has made countless contributions to the town and has served the community for over 50 years.

Presenting the award and sharing some stories about Clancy was Brenda Metterville, Library Director at the Merrick Public Library. Metterville had a scroll full of stories and memories that highlighted Clancy's dedication to Brookfield.

Clancy has been involved with the Brookfield Community Club, 300th Anniversary Celebration & Parade, Tri-Valley Elder Service, Council on Aging, St. Mary's Parish, Library Trustee and Friend of the Merrick Public Library, Brookfield Board of Health, Quaboag Historical Society,



State Sen. Peter Durant, left, and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume made announcements during the 2nd Annual Brookfield Gala.



Musician Brian Kearsley performed on the saxophone at Oakholm Farm Estate. Brookfield Gala



Brenda Metterville is shown during the Brookfield Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award announcements which highlighted some of Barbara Clancy's services to the community.



Don Taftt spoke during the 2nd Annual Brookfield Gala.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO  
U.S. Army LTC Justin Culverwell is shown with Shelby Hill of the Friends of Brookfield during the raising of the American flag during the 2nd Annual Brookfield Gala at the Oakholm Farm Estate.

tographer Anna Berd.

Music was provided thanks to DJ and saxophone player Brian Kearsley.

The Brookfield Gala was supported by generous sponsors: Southbridge Credit Union, Tasse Crowley Energy, Smokestack Lightning, Inc., Hometown Mental Health & Wellness, Ardizzoni Plumbing and Heating, Oakholm Farm

Estate, Willow Brook Academy and St. Mary's Credit Union.

The annual Brookfield Gala was a success and is a celebration of the residents, leaders, and the community.

"The success of this event underscores the town's deep sense of community and shared commitment to making Brookfield a better place for all," Hill said.

### STURBRIDGE FROM PAGE 1

The farm will be connected to the trail network via a bridge that will be constructed over the Quinebaug River. This bridge will also connect the trails to the commercial tourist district on Route 20.

"We believe that connectivity provided by the bridge and the Barrett Farm property helps to create an economic engine for our community," Goodwin said.

Goodwin noted that the town has received millions of dollars in grant thanks to the continuity of its goals outlined in its Open Space and Recreation plans.

Joining Goodwin was Dina Sexton, who explained some of the goals and action items in the 2025 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

One of the goals is to enhance the walkability/bikability throughout the town and creating trail connections. This includes improving access to conservation and recreation areas.

Sexton said the plan lists the incorporation of the Complete Street design recommendations, building and repairing sidewalks, adding safe crosswalks and other necessary improvements.

The plan also supports the efforts of the Sturbridge Trails Committee.

Goodwin said the committee would also like to see stricter requirements for zoning around wells and water resources.

"We're using a lot of water," she said. "It's something we really have to pay attention to."

Goodwin said another objective of the plan is to expand tree planting efforts. This will help reduce carbon footprints, cool lakes, impervious surface and mitigate stormwater runoff.

"Those things all really make a difference," she said.

Goodwin credited Bubon with creating the 10-year plan, which was accepted by the state in December 2025. She thanked Bubon and her administrative assistant Jeneé Lacy.

"The completion of the Open Space plan enables the town to take full advantage of state grants and programs that enhance our ability to acquire open space, in order to preserve the rural character of the town, preserve forests and woodlands, protect water quality, water resources, wildlife, historic assets and create active and passive recreation," Goodwin said.

#### Town Planner update

Bubon said there are two openings on the Historic Commission and three on the Design Review Committee. Interested residents can contact the Planning

Department or reach out to Town Administrator Robin Grimm.

She said she is now able to close out the Mass Works grant as the Department of Transportation has approved the plans for construction. She said now it will be about a month for the plans to be recorded.

Bubon said she has been working on this grant since 2022 and it was set to expire on June 30.

"They did give me a letter of support to close out the grant," Bubon said.

She said the housing forum was held recently and had good participation. She said the final plan should be completed by the end of the month, and presented to the Planning Board at its June 8 meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Bubon said the board has to accept the housing production plan. After which it will need approval by the Select Board and the state.

Bubon said a visioning session will be held to determine potential uses for the Douty Road property that was donated to the town.

"We're hoping to get everybody's input into that piece of property...so that we can have a master vision before any work at all starts on that property," she said.

#### Roundabout public hearing

Bubon said the public hearing for the proposed roundabout at Route 20 and Route 131 intersection will be held on Tuesday, June 16 at 6 p.m. in Town Hall Veteran's Hall.

Bubon said the hearing will address the 25% design plan for the project, which is on the Transportation Im-

provement Program list.

"The public will have the opportunity to comment on that plan at that time," she said.

#### Reorganization

Charles Blanchard was appointed to serve as the Planning Board chair and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission delegate; Sue Waters as the vice-chair and Betterment Committee representative; and Dane LaBonte as the Community Preservation Committee representative.



**Saturday, June 6th**  
7pm-11pm

# The Loose Knit Whits

<p>EVERY FRIDAY <b>Karaoke</b></p>	<p>EVERY WEDNESDAY <b>Wise Guys</b> <b>MUSICAL BINGO</b> 7:30-9pm</p>	<p>EVERY SUNDAY <b>DARTS</b> <b>LUCK OF THE DRAW</b> 5:30pm • All Welcome</p>
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948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

# - community -

**FAMILY FUN DAY**  
FROM PAGE 1

One of the organizers of Family Fun Day, Tara Linton, said Family Fun Day was a “great way for families to come out” and enjoy the festivities that make people feel patriotic.

“A way to kick off the nation’s birthday,” Linton said.

The day began with Burgess Elementary School sixth grader, Jadyr Adjirackor-Akuffo, singing the National Anthem.

Family Fun Day featured a Patriotic Costume Contest where contestants could show their American spirit by sporting their most patriotic costume. People dressed as Uncle Sam, Lady Liberty, Rosie the Riveter and many more.

The participants, youth and adult, marched in a costume parade throughout Sturbridge Common while a group of judges declared winners of the costume contest. Prizes were awarded to the most patriotic, most historical and best family/group theme.

Veolia donated the gift cards for the costume contest.

There were a lot of fun activities happening on Sturbridge Common. There was face painting and temporary tattoos provided by the Joshua Hyde Public Library. Girl Scout Troop #65394 had a kid’s craft corner, with everything being red, white and blue.

Animal balloons were being made by The Birthday Girl Kristy Collins. Kids also got to enjoy an inflatable slide which was set up on the Common.

Food trucks and ice cream were available during Family Fun Day. The first 250 attendees received a free hot dog and chips.

The Daughters of the American Revolution, General Ebenezer Learned Chapter were at Family Fun Day helping kids make Uncle Sam hats or Statue of Liberty crowns.

Daughter of the American Revolution is a volunteer service organization dedicated to promoting pa-



The Sturbridge Common was busy during Family Fun Day with dozens of families enjoying their time during a patriotic celebration.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

triotism, preserving American history, and securing the country’s future through better education for children. This organization is the largest women’s service in the United States.

During the festivities, Sturbridge welcomed Small but Mighty Circus starring Little L and Circus Celia as the performers. The circus came to Family Fun Day thanks to the Joshua Hyde Public Library and through the Sturbridge Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The show featured ribbon dances, hula hoop tricks, acrobats and Circus Jeopardy. Little L and Circus Celia asked circus related questions so children could win some cool prizes during the circus performance.

The 250th celebration will be hosting a parade and festival on Saturday, June 27. Parade will begin at 10:30 a.m., rain or shine. There will be marching bands, entertainers, antique cars, and creative floats.

Bill Emrich will serve as Emcee for the parade, and the Grand Marshal will be Bob Briere. The guest of honor will be Virginia Jalbert.

The festival will take place on the Sturbridge Common from 1-5 p.m., weather permitting. Enjoy some live music from the 215th Army Band. There will be historical reenactors with patriotic music.

A reading of the Declaration of Independence will



Little L of Small but Mighty Circus is shown during her hula hoop performance.

take place on this historic



The Bouvier family is shown in their patriotic costumes during Family Fun Day. Costumes include Rosie the Riveter, U.S. Army Soldier, Lady Liberty and Uncle Sam.



Circus Celia took to the air during an acrobat performance during



Balloon animals were made by the Birthday Girl.

occasion. Guests will enjoy family friendly activities, food trucks, beverages, and a cherry pie eating contest.

For more information or to volunteer, email Sturbridge250@gmail.com.



A patriotic costume parade took place on the Sturbridge Common during Family Fun Day.

1	2	3			4	5	6	7			
8			9			10					
11						12					
13			14			15					
16						17					
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	34						35				
36							37				
38								39			
40								41			
42										43	

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Government lawyers
- The back of a person’s neck
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- In a less flashy way
- Living room piece
- Shepherd dog
- A citizen of Iran
- Moved slowly
- Small finch
- Previously
- What a kid does on Halloween
- Monetary unit
- Using dry humor
- Ocean

- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Not close
- NHL legend Bobby
- A ballplayer would love to do this
- Charity
- City in Finland
- Loomed over
- Vaccine developer
- Avoids capture
- We all need it
- Openwork fabrics
- Get away
- Something you might hit
- Soviet Socialist Republic

**CLUES DOWN**

- Abstain from
- Admirer
- Expedition to observe animals
- Act that is legally void
- WW2 combatants
- A tool
- Looked at
- Showing wild excitement
- Banknotes
- Tired
- Printers need it
- Women’s patriotic group
- When you anticipate getting somewhere

- Functions
- Breed of sheep
- Mocking pieces
- A major division of geological time
- Andiron
- Many not ands
- Cuban city
- He voiced “Olaf”
- Criticize
- “Thundercats” character
- Markings
- Gets up
- MLB lefty reliever A.J.
- An assembly of witches
- High energy lasers (abbr.)

## Don't Miss Out!



The May 29 & June 5 issues of the *Quaboag Current* will be **DIRECT MAILED** to all residents! This is a **GREAT OPPORTUNITY** to reach many potential customers.

CONTACT DAN AT 413-297-5886  
DFLYNN@TURLEY.COM

**NOTE EARLY DEADLINES:**  
May 22 issue deadline is **Friday, May 29.**  
June 1 issue deadline is **Friday, June 5.**

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# SPORTS

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SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

## Warriors suffer walk-off loss to Comp

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE-- The first meeting on the baseball diamond between the Tantasqua Warriors and the Chicopee Comp Colts since 2019 saw a dramatic conclusion.

The non-league contest was tied, 2-2, entering the seventh inning before the two squads combined to score nine runs.

The visitors from Fiskdale hit for the cycle in the top half of the final frame leading to four runs, but they wound up leaving the bases loaded.

Comp responded with five runs in the bottom half of the inning and celebrated

a thrilling 7-6 walk-off victory at the newly rededicated Coach Dulchinos Field in Chicopee on May 11.

"After the top of the seventh inning, it was as low as you could feel," said Chicopee Comp head coach Justin Franczek. "There isn't a better feeling than the jubilation following a walk-off victory. It's just a great feeling."

The victory kept the Colts dreams of qualifying for the Division 2 state tournament alive.

"We also kept our state tournament chances alive," Franczek added. "We just need to find a way to win our final regular season game and our two non-playoff games next week."

The Colts (7-11) hopes of playing in the state tournament came to an end following a 10-5 home loss to East Longmeadow the following afternoon.

The Warriors (5-11) were in a similar position. They were eliminated for the Division 3 state tournament after being shut out by Millbury at home two days later.

"This loss hurts our postseason chances," said Tantasqua head coach Jon Leroux. "We did a very good job of taking the lead in the top of the seventh inning, but we couldn't hang onto it. We just didn't make any plays in the bottom of the seventh inning. It's a very frustrating loss."

Junior righthander Jaco-

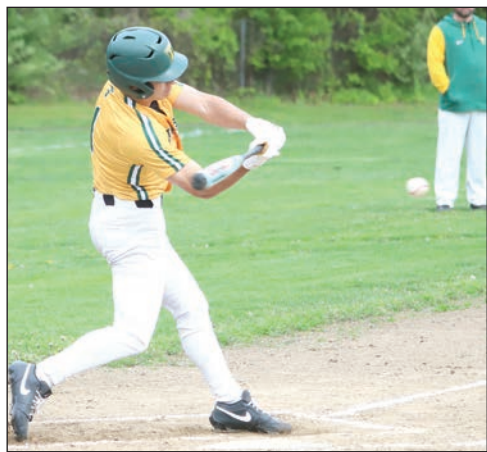
by Haney, who was Comp's starting pitcher, retired the first two Warriors batters

in the seventh inning on a strikeout and a ground-ball out. He couldn't record the third out of the frame.

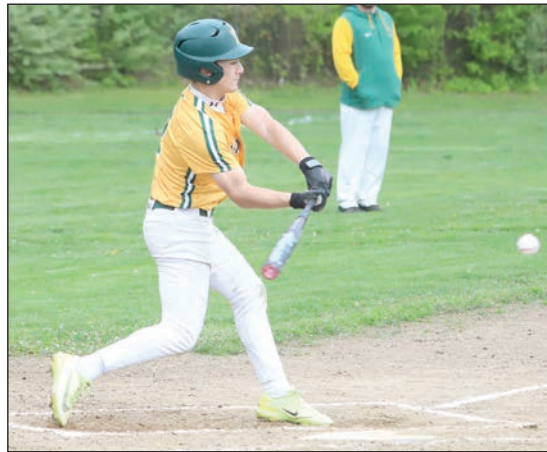
Tantasqua's rally began with sophomore third baseman Paul Savage (2-for-4) hitting a triple to right field. He crossed the plate when sophomore leftfielder Jack Nichols blasted the first pitch that he saw to deep leftfield for an inside-the-park home run. Following a line-drive single by senior centerfielder Brady Willitts, who was a perfect 4-for-4, junior second baseman Mason Boucher(2-for-4) tri-



Gabe Lopez sends the ball back to the infield



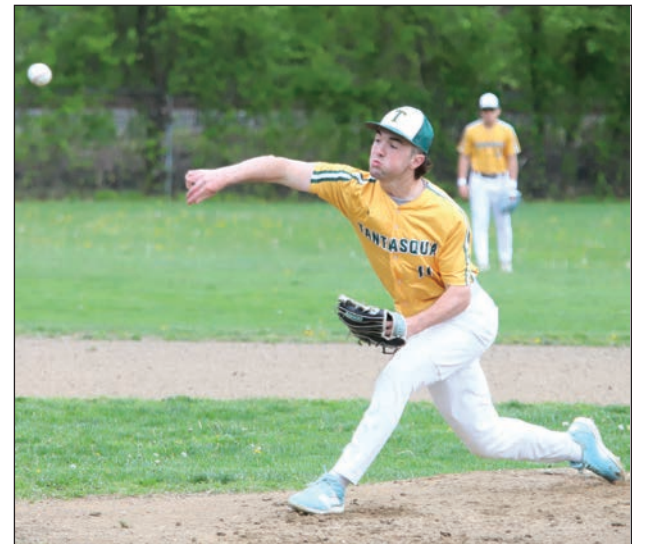
Tyler Truax takes a swing.



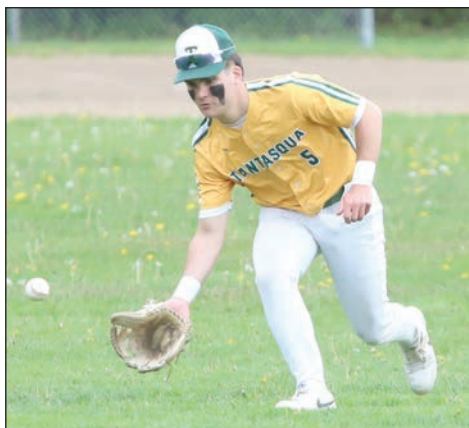
Paul Savage makes contact on a grounder.



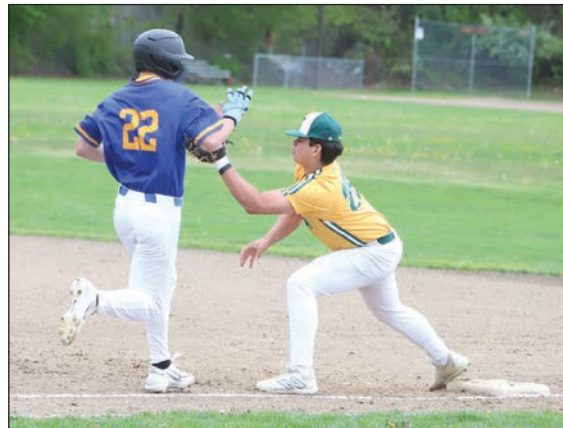
Mason Boucher sends a throw to first.



Evan LaFountain sends a pitch away.



Brady Willitts fields a base hit to center.

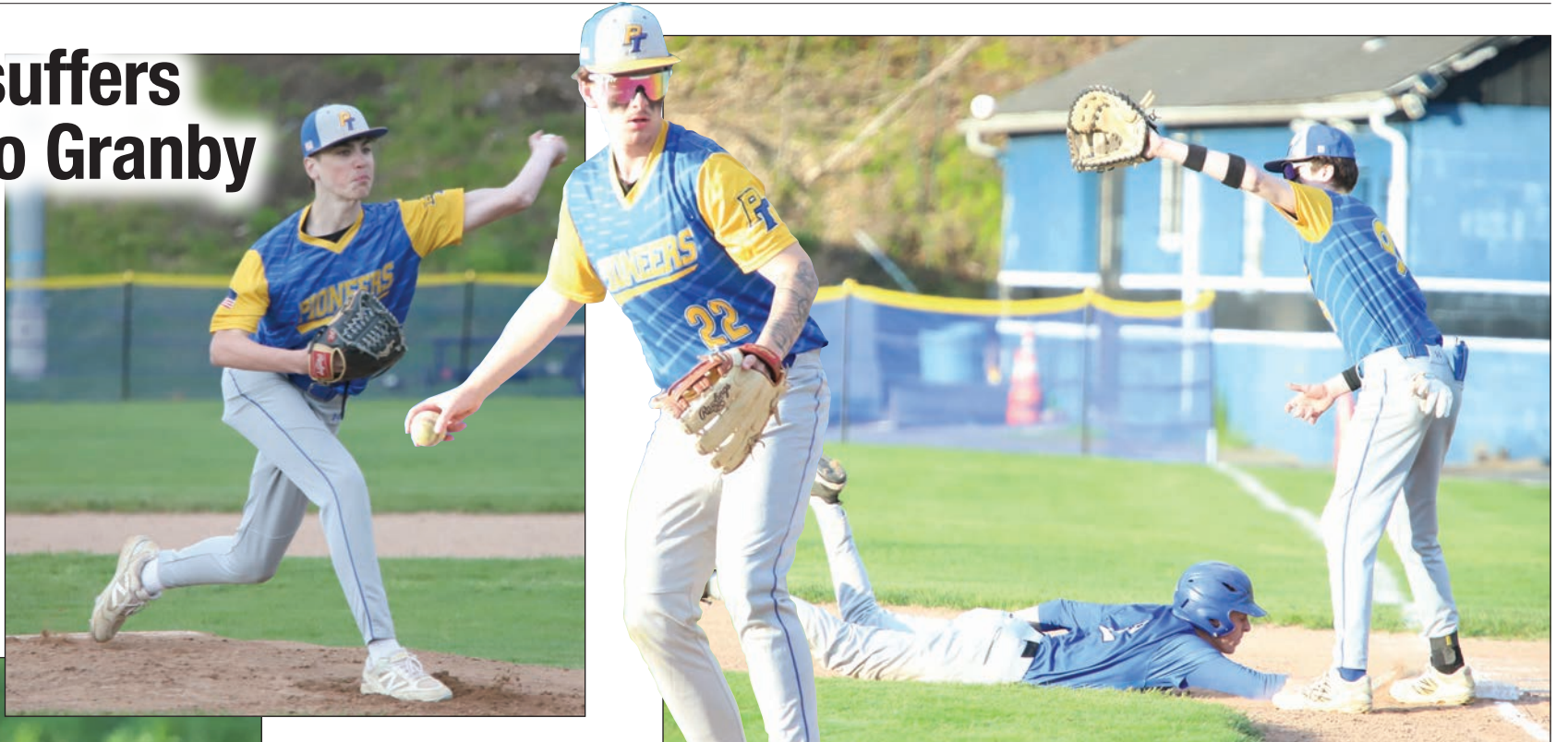


JD Gunagan gets the out at first base.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## Pathfinder suffers home loss to Granby

PALMER – Last Monday under the lights of Legion Field, the Granby High School baseball team had a 10-run third inning and it powered the Rams to a 17-4 win over Pathfinder that ended after five innings because of the mercy rule. Brandon Carillon and Anthony Santiago had three hits each. Carillon had five RBI. The Rams are just 4-12 on the season while Pathfinder fell to 1-13.



Above, Zachary Smith delivers a pitch for Pathfinder. Right, Aiden Girard slings a throw to first.

Dayne Shanley brings in a pickoff throw.



Brody Wetnicka sends a throw across the diamond for the Pioneers.



Joseph Szostek tries to frame a strike.



Ian Suari Nieves looks to tag out a runner.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

- sports -

# Quabbin softball rebounds with win

BARRE – Until last Thursday, Quabbin Regional High School softball was on a three-game losing skid. The Panthers changed their fortunes with an 8-4 win over Leicester on May 7. The Panthers are now 4-7 on the season, with plenty of time to get back to .500. The Panthers are in action on Thursday, May 14 against Murdock at 3:30 p.m. and then face Bromfield on Monday, May 18 at 3:30 p.m.



Lindsay Fors reaches for the catch to make the tag at second base. TURLEY PHOTOS BY JEFFREY HAYNES



Maggie Leander delivers a late-game pitch.



Izzy Doty makes the catch on a deep shot to center field.



Maci Roseberry watches the play as she runs for third base.



Josie Castell fields a ground ball.



Raegyn Wnek, right, scrambles to make the catch on a foul ball.

**WARRIORS**  
FROM PAGE 7

pled to left, which extended the Warriors lead to 5-2. Senior catcher Ethan LaPlante, who had walked twice, drove home another run with a double. Sophomore first baseman J.D. Gunagan and senior DH Chase Bond drew back-to-back walks, which loaded the bases. At that point, Haney was replaced on the mound by senior righty Julian LaFlamme, who began the game behind the plate. La-

Flamme, who wound up earning the victory, struck out the only batter that he faced which was the third out of the inning. Trailing by four runs, senior leftfielder Jack Corriveau drew a walk against Savage, who had replaced Comp senior righthander Evan LaFountain on the mound with no outs in the fifth inning. Freshman DH Brayden Klett also drew a walk against senior righty relief pitcher Jack Blood. Haney (2-for-4) followed with an

infield hit, which loaded the bases. Then junior right fielder John Rentas was hit-by-a-pitch forcing home the Colts' first run of the seventh inning. Senior first baseman Justin Lafontaine continued the Colts comeback with an RBI single to left field, which set the stage for senior third baseman Tanner Martell. He hit a fastball into centerfield scoring a pair of runs. Lafontaine also scored the game winning run on the play following a throwing error giving the Colts their

first walk-off win of the season. "We were down four runs entering the bottom of the seventh and I knew that we could make a comeback," Martell said. "This was my first game winning hit during my varsity baseball career. It just feels amazing." The Colts took a 1-0 lead in the second inning. Senior centerfielder Jaylen Gonzalez hit a lead-off groundball single into centerfield before stealing second base. Martell drove

him home with a line-drive single to left field. Savage tied the score at 1-1 with two outs in the fifth with an RBI single to center. Then sophomore leftfielder Jack Nichols hit a groundball that glanced off the shortstop's glove. The ball rolled to senior second baseman Zach Bajgier, who then made a throw to LaFlamme. He tagged out the runner trying to score on the play keeping the score tied. Bajgier lead off the bottom of the fifth by blasting

a double to left field. He scored the go-ahead run when a groundball hit by Corriveau was mishandled by the shortstop for an error. Tantasqua junior second baseman Mason Boucher tied the score for the second time by hitting a run single to left field with no outs in the sixth inning. Haney struck out the next three batters and the Colts weren't able to score in the bottom of the sixth, which led to the exciting final inning.

**BROOKFIELD**  
FROM PAGE 1

her HR experience and experience with the Department in Public Works in another town. "I think Blythe would be a great addition to Brookfield," she said. Coughlin also said it is not a negative that Robinson specializes in the interim role, saying it puts the town in power to look for a permanent town administrator.

Chaffee referred to Robinson's resume, saying it looks like she is working full-time somewhere else, and was unaware of how much time she could give to the town. Chaffee said he wanted to reach out to her and another applicant to discuss their availability. Coughlin said during the interview, Robinson said that she was a consultant, and she did not express any conflicts to the board. The board agreed to wait another week, to give

them time to reach out to candidates for more information. **TA search committee** The board voted to appoint Jeff Clark, Laurie Bartkus, Michael Seery, Kermit Eaton and Peter Masuzzo to the town administrator search committee. They also appointed Holly Chisholm and Sean Mulligan as alternates. **Policies and procedures** Michele Randazzo from

KP Law joined the meeting to discuss policies and procedures, saying the town adopted a certain set in 2019, and it might be time for the town to re-adopt the policies, and ensure familiarity with them. The board said they would send out the policies to department heads for them to review and seek clarification on. **Bell tower repairs** The board accepted a quote of \$21,200 from the

Yankee Steeplejack Company for repairs of the bell tower. Coughlin said they are on the schedule before June, and are targeting repairs to start on May 28. Coughlin said she sent out the proposal to three companies. **Administrative items** The board signed contracts with Bishop and Associates for assessors work like inspections and valuations for \$9,900. The board signed the Student Aware-

ness Fire Education Grant, about \$5,173 for the SAFE program and about \$2,633 for the senior SAFE program. The board signed the fiscal year 2027 public safety insurance renewal. The board also approved minutes from Jan. 20 and 28, March 10, 18 and 23. **Use of town property** The board approved the use of the common for the Apple Country Fair on Oct. 10.

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

# - obituary -

## Patricia (Clow) White, 85



Patricia (Clow) White beloved wife, devoted mother, and spirited soul, lived a life rich in warmth, curiosity, and an unmistakable zest for connection.

preserving the past, and she was eager to share the tales behind her treasures with anyone willing to listen.

To know Patti was to be welcomed, loved, and often delightfully entertained. She leaves behind a loving family who will forever cherish her laughter and love: her devoted husband of 65 years, Frank; their children, Eric, Donna, Jeff and Kathy; three grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, all of whom were touched by her boundless affection.

Patti and Frank's story began as teens, during the many summers they worked at the vacation resort Allen A in Wolfboro, New Hampshire. Their meeting blossomed into a lifelong partnership filled with humor, devotion, and shared love.

A dedicated elementary school teacher, Patti spent her career shaping young minds with patience, creativity, and a genuine belief in every child's potential. Her classroom was more than a place of learning, it was a haven of encouragement, laughter, and discovery. She had that rare ability to make each student feel seen, heard, and capable, leaving a lasting imprint that extended far beyond their school years.

At home, Patti's nurturing spirit extended to her love of animals, especially her different dogs. Through the years, she was the proud and joyful "den mother" to a host of hounds - including goldens, Bernese, black shepherds, and affectionate mutts. Each one was special to her, and her home was usually filled with wagging tails and wet tongues.

Patti also found joy in the stories hidden within antiques. Whether collecting or selling at her Sturbridge booth, she delighted in the history and character of each piece. She had an eye for the unique and a passion for

Of all the seasons, Halloween held a special place in her heart. Each year, she transformed her home into a delightfully spooky spectacle, welcoming neighbors, families and even the dogs into her world of playful tricks or treats. Dressed as a witch, she fully embraced the mischief and magic of the night, while Frank stood near the treasure chest of candy reminding trick-or-treaters: "only take one piece."

Known for her vibrant personality, Patti enjoyed music, dancing, and above all, conversation. A proud and joyful chatterbox, she loved engaging, expressive, and passionate stories. And when something truly delighted her, she would lift her arms overhead in a triumphant circle, and exclaim, "Standing O!" - a gesture of deep appreciation.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the in Patti's name to the Worcester Animal Rescue League at [www.worcester-arl.org/donate](http://www.worcester-arl.org/donate).

Calling hours are 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, May 28 at Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main St., West Brookfield. A graveside service will be held privately at Pine Grove Cemetery in West Brookfield.

Her legacy is one of love freely given, generous laughter, and a life fully lived with wholehearted enthusiasm. Patti will be deeply missed, fondly remembered, and forever celebrated by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Please visit Patti's memorial page at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com) for expressions of sympathy.

### Death Notice

**White, Patricia (Clow)**  
Died May 4, 2026  
Services May 28, 2026

### BACKYARD FROM PAGE 4

#### Other birds

On May 8 I received an email reporting a scarlet tanager, grosbeaks and hummingbirds.

People may report a bird sighting or bird relat-

ed experience by emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

# - public notices -

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Removal of Public Shade Trees Town of West Brookfield, Tree Warden

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Sections 3 and 4, a public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm** in the Library of the West Brookfield Elementary School, 89 N Main St, West Brookfield, MA 01585, to consider National Grid's proposed removal of the following public shade trees, which include 42 non-hazard trees and 40 hazard trees:

Species	Diameter	Location (Pole Spans)	Hazard (H) or Non Hazard (NH)
<b>BEAMAN RD</b>			
Maple	20", 22"	3 to 3.1 (New Pole)	H
Maple	20"	Across from 3 to 2	NH
Ash	23"	2 to (across from) 1	H
Ash	11"		
	10"x2, 9"	2 to (across from) 1	H
Hickory	20"	2 to across from) 1	NH
Ash	12"	2 to (across from)1	H
Hickory	19"	2 to (across from) 1	NH
<b>COY HILL ROAD - Referencing Proposed Pole Locations</b>			
Maple	17"	12 to 11	NH
Ash	8"	12 to 11	H
Ash	10"	12 to 11	H
Ash	10"	12 to 11	H
Ash	12"	12 to 11	H
Maple	30"	12 to 11	H
Maple	8"	12 to 11	NH
Maple	6"	12 to 11	NH
Hickory	12"	11 to 10	NH
Oak	12"	11 to 10	NH
Oak	42"	10 to 9	H
Oak	37"	9 to 8	H
Oak	27"	9 to 8	NH
Maple	19", 11"	8 to 7	NH
Maple	28"	7 to AF 6	H
Maple	25"	7 to AF 6	H
Ash	14"	AF 7 to 6	H
Maple	8"	AF 7 to 6	NH
Maple	10"	AF 7 to 6	NH
Maple	10"	AF7 to 6	NH
Maple	18"	6 to 5	H
Birch	7"	6 to 5	NH
Maple	19"	6 to 5	H
Maple	10"	5 to 4	NH
Oak	15"	4 to 3	NH
Maple	6"	4 to 3	NH
Oak	10"	1 to 50.50	NH
Ash	10"	1 to 50.50	H
Maple	9"x3	1 to 50.50	H
<b>W MAIN ST (RT 9)</b>			
Oak	11"	AF 49.5 to 49.25 (New Pole)	NH
Oak	13"	AF 49.5 to 49.25 (New Pole)	NH
<b>PIERCE RD</b>			
Oak	9"	49.25 to 1	NH
Oak	11"	49.25 5o 1	NH
Maple	19"	49.25 to 1	NH
Oak	16"	49.25 to 1	NH
Oak	32"	1.5 to 2	NH
Ash	17"	16 to 17	H
Pine	24"	20 to 21	NH
Maple	7"x2	21 to 22	NH
Maple	13"	21 to 22	NH
Maple	16"	21 to 22	H
Maple	12"	21 to 22	H
Oak	14"	23 to 23.84	NH
Aspen	12"	23 to 23.84	NH
Hickory	7"	28 to 28.5	NH
Ash	15"	30.5 to 31	H
Oak	12"	30.5 to 31	NH
Hickory	14"	30.5 to 31	NH
Ash	18"	(across from) 31 to	H
Ash	14"	(across from) 31 to	H
Ash	13"	(across from) 31 to	H
Hickory	17"	(across from) 31 to	NH
Ash	12"x2, 20"	(across from ) 31 to	H
Ash	10"	At 31.5	H
Ash	14"	(across from) 32 to 33	H
<b>RAGGED HILL RD</b>			
Maple	34"	59 to 59.5	NH
Maple	8", 7"	59.5 to 60	NH
Maple	8"	59.5 to 60	NH
Maple	15"	60 60 60.5	NH
Maple	40"	60 to 60.5	H
Maple	45"	61.5 to 62	H
Maple	42"	62 to 62.5	H
Ash	9"	62 to 62.5	H
Maple	36"	62 to 62.5	H
Maple	9", 5"	At 62.5	NH
Maple	41"	At 63	NH
<b>LYON RD</b>			
Ash	35", 30"	63 to 63.5	H
Maple	26"	63.5 to 64	H
Basswood	8"	65.25 to 65.5	NH
Maple	9"	65.25 to 65.5	H
Maple	8"	65.25 to 65.5	H
Oak	40"	65.25 to 65.5	H
Maple	22"	66 to 66.5	H
Oak	27"	66 to 66.5	H
Oak	21"	AF 73 to 73.5	H
Maple	8"	73.5 to 74	NH

The trees identified above have been posted with a notice of public hearing in the field for public inspection.

West Brookfield Tree Warden

05/15, 05/22/2026

### Town of West Brookfield Treasurer/Collectors Office May 22, 2026

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 200A, Section 5, below names of persons appearing to be owners of checks issued by the Town of West Brookfield, which have not been cashed are deemed abandoned.

If your name is on the list, please send inquiries to: Town of West Brookfield, Treasurer/Collector, PO Box 551, West Brookfield MA 01585 or telephone 508-867-1421 Opt 3. You may also download a claim form from the Town of West Brookfield website and submit it along with the appropriate supporting information to the Treasurer/Collectors Office.

After sixty days from the date of this newspaper article, checks of under \$100.00 will be credited to the general treasury of the Town of West Brookfield, if they remain unclaimed.

#### PAYEE

- Allen R Everett
- Alvey & Linda Blier
- Alyssa M Joyce
- Amanda Mcdermott-Burr
- Ashley Leger
- Autumn Ballard
- Barbara A Hall
- Bernice Beauregard
- Billy J Mcknight
- Burdett Trash
- Caitlin Christopher
- Cari A Mccaughey
- Catherine A Strain
- Cody Hiliker
- Collins Family Trust
- Commonwealth Of Mass
- Community Fire & Police Eq
- Conrad Wieszicki
- Daniel Stuart
- David E Whittemore Irrevocable Trust
- David J Callahan
- Derek P Worthington
- Destiny Anissa Cordell
- Deutsche Bank National Trust Company
- Donald C Miles
- Donna M Bell-Paolucci
- Eric J Devos
- Eric Whittemore
- Evan Paquette
- Gary G Brisbois
- Ghislaine B Leboeuf
- Helen B Pluta
- Henry Hobbs
- Jacob Oveka
- Jacqueline Ward
- James A Paquette
- James Dimaio
- James Rust
- Jamiee Lee Gossman
- Janet M Callahan
- Jay F Mooney
- Jjc Materials Inc
- Joel Hershey
- John C Emerson
- John David Holdcraft
- John L Higgins
- John S Oconnor
- Jonathan W Guite
- Joseph Daniel Rivera
- Joseph Fitzgibbon
- Joshua R Allen
- Joshua Ritzer
- Jp Morgan Chase Bank Na

- Judith Fredette
- Julianna M Gay
- Justin J Larivee
- Justin Paquette
- Kathleen Mcintosh
- Keith E Rojewicz
- Kevin R Blaine
- Kyle Chaves
- Larisa Mironova
- Laurie D Slobody
- Lavon R Winkler
- Madison Creamer
- Marilyn San Clemente
- Margaret J Beer
- Margorie S Wilson
- Marlene Hoteling
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- Mary S Wilson
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- Matthew C Woodward
- Matthew T Savage
- Mci Communication Services Inc.
- Mcreevey Family Trust
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- Michael F Murphy
- Michael Sroka
- Nicholas Lucia
- Patricia Lupacchino
- Patrick Mark Odonnell
- Patriot Farm Development Llc
- Paul Robinson
- Peter Vitols
- Rhodes Realty Trust
- Richard A. Chaffee
- Richard W Hibbard
- Robert J Erickson
- Robert Jp Crowley
- Robert S Butler
- Ronald E Hale
- Ronna Shea
- Ryan Jano
- Sarah Allen
- Sue B Calverley
- Susan M Harry
- The Community Economic Development Fund
- Tyler Posusky
- William A Gray
- William F Pelletier
- 05/22/2026

### LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY June 3, 2026 at 6:00 pm** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.

**6:00 - Public Hearing:**  
**RDA** - 184 West Main Street - Continued - Copper Lantern - Brush Clearing along river  
**NOI** - 153 Wickaboag Valley Road - East Quabbin Land Trust - Repair Farm Road and culverts with bridge  
**NOI** - 142 Wickaboag Valley Road - Continued - Johnson - Accessory Use Construction  
**NOI** - 380 West Main Street - Continued - Raymakers Construction - Staging area  
05/22/2026

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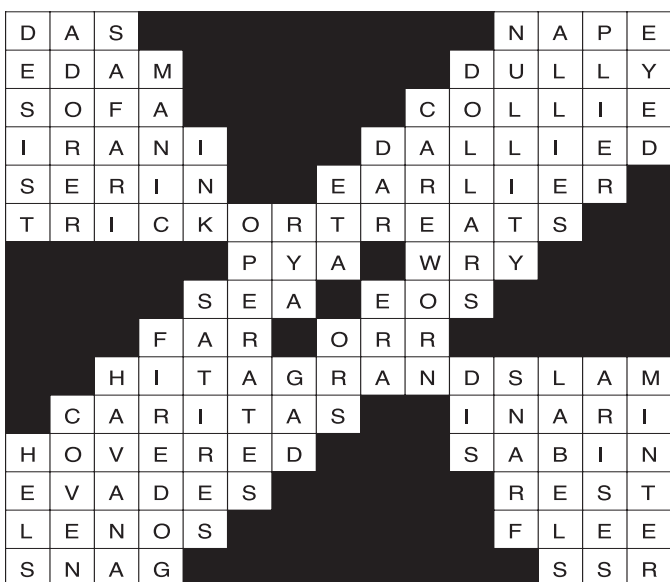
We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

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

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.

## NOTICE

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



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Messages

Edit

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## - community -

### Farmers Market lists vendors for 2026 season

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Farmers Market returns on Wednesday, June 3 on the beautiful West Brookfield Common for its 16th consecutive season. The 2026 Season market will feature 15 vendors with a wide array of locally grown and made goods including three new vendors sure to please customers. The West Brookfield

Farmers Market is held every Wednesday afternoon from 3-6 p.m. on the West Brookfield Common starting on June 3 through Oct. 7, rain or shine. 2026 featured vendors and crafters include Autumn Leaf, mushrooms all sorts, eggs, microgreens; Roundtable Cheese; Bucha Bros., kombucha; \*Dragonfly Flower Farm, freshly grown flowers – treat your-

self; Flourish Farms, organic vegetable and herb plants, microgreens, turmeric and ginger root, figs in season; Grime's Apiary, honey, honey sticks, bee pollen, hand cream, whipped honey; \*Hoffman Breads, artisanal breads, pastries; JARS, savory pastries, premade foods, baking and soup mixes; Joy of Beans, fresh roasted coffee, whole bean or ground, specialty teas;

Kate Bakes, sweet baked goods; Naultaug Farm, maple syrup; \*Stillman Farm, fresh produce, vegetable and fruits; Thompson's Maple Farm, ice Cream, roasted maple pecans, bourbon aged maple syrup; Chairman of the Board, cutting boards, birdhouses, garden trellis; and B & D enterprises, turned wood products, beautiful salad forks, knives and ink pens.

### Relay for Life fundraiser concert set for May 30

STURBRIDGE – The 10th annual Rocking for a Cure will be held on Saturday, May 30 from noon-9:30 p.m. at Hyland Orchard & Pavilion, 199 Arnold Road, Fiskdale. The event is a fundraiser for Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County team, Battling Sox. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.

There will be two stages this year, one for acoustic performers and one for bands. There will be a battle of the bands contest, one for acoustic and one for bands. The event is rain or shine. Bring a chair or blanket. The event organizers ask for a \$10 donation for entry. There will be a raffle table. There will be food for sale from Paradise BBQ and Ca-

tering and sweet treats to purchase from Glazed Gourmet Bakery. Beer and wine will be for sale at the pavilion bar. The schedule is as follows but is subject to change: noon-12:30 p.m., Emma; 12:30-1:30 p.m., Back Seat Boogie; 1:30-2 p.m., Steve Robinson; 2-3 p.m., Shedding Sox; 3-3:30 p.m., Mama Kilsmith and the unofficial T.Swift Experience; 3:30-4:30 p.m., SuperChild; 4:30-5 p.m., FM Radio; 5-6, The Vig; 6-6:30 p.m., Princess Pupule and the Pineapple Cowboy performing "Barefoot in Margaritaville"; 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wonderland Mafia; and 8-9 p.m., Vivi and Da Funk. Join the event for live music, come for your favorite or stay for the day. Sound provided by Flip Flop Entertainment.

### Join the Sturbridge America250 Parade June 27

STURBRIDGE – The Sturbridge America250 Committee is moving forward with plans for a parade and festival on Saturday, June 27 – rain or shine. The parade will step off from the Old Sturbridge Village Museum Education parking lot at 10:30 a.m. It will proceed on the OSV access road to Route 20, then to Route 131 and end at the Town Common. Bill Emrich will emcee the parade. The parade will include marching bands, entertainers, antique cars, floats made by local businesses, and area groups. Bob Briere, recognized by many as the town's his-

torian, is the parade Grand Marshall. Virginia Jalbert, the town's oldest resident at 101, is the guest of honor. There is still time for businesses or groups to get involved – with a float, vintage car, or marchers. Children are invited to decorate their bikes or scooters and ride in the parade (helmets are required and a parent/guardian must walk alongside their child throughout).

Anyone wishing to participate can email sturbridge250@gmail.com. Following the parade there will be a Festival on the Common. This festival will include historical reenactors, entertainers, patriotic music, a reading of the Declaration of Independence, a cherry-pie eating contest and other participatory activities and food trucks.



### Library celebrates America from the beginning

EAST BROOKFIELD – Come learn about how the National Parks played key roles in the Revolutionary War, enter for your chance to win a book and view a musket, and pick up the National Commemorative Stamp and

coin, that tells the history of the National Parks at the East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Drive. This is a two-part program by Vincent Kordack: "Road to Independence" Monday, June 29 at 5:30 p.m.

and "World Turned Upside Down" Monday, Aug. 10 at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments from the Revolutionary War will be served. All ages are welcomed; however, the program should hold the interest of people

from 12 and up. Kordack is an East Brookfield resident with more than 38 years of experience as a National Park Ranger; He was assigned to 16 of the 18 National Parks that revolve around the Revolutionary War.



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## TAG SALE

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33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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# Concert highlights senior soloists

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School hosted its annual Senior Night Concert to highlight its graduating class and the music department.

Senior soloists included Aidan Mahoney, who opened the concert with a Jimi Hendrix-inspired rendition of the National Anthem on electric guitar. This performance was followed by an arrangement of “In My Life” featuring all of the seniors on chorus, band and orchestra.

Garrett Erickson on piano and Aiden Fuller on drums performed “Imagine”, followed by Gabriel Miller singing “Bloodsport”, which he dedicated to his mother.

Elizabeth Lambert sang “So Anyway”, followed by “I’m Moving On” by Rose Lyden and “Amor Eterno” by Juliana Lindsten. Lindsten sang her song in Spanish, and a capella, after a technical glitch stopped her



Juliana Lindsten sang “Amor Eterno” in Spanish for her solo.

music.

Maxwell Ure performed an excerpt from “Money” on the tenor saxophone and Finnegan Leander performed an excerpt from “Swan Lake” on bass clarinet.

Bailey Burke performed a duet with Symphonic Winds Director Toni Brown for the song “Samba-lele”. Abigail Falconi also performed



Elizabeth Lambert sang “So Anyway” during the Quabbin Regional High School’s Senior Night Concert held on May 14.

on clarinet with Brown for “Op. 62/3 No. 18”.

Seniors Emma Harrington on trumpet, Annie Howe on saxophone and Lia Sherblom on clarinet performed “Beauty and the Beast”. Anthony Quartarone both sang and played the euphonium for a rendition of “My Way”.

Seniors were also recognized with awards for their



Garrett Erickson performed on the bass during a performance at the Senior Night Concert.

dedication to the music program at Quabbin, with Erickson receiving the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award; Lambert the National Choral Award; Virginia Morin the Director’s Award for Chorus; Harrington the Severino D’Annolfo Award; and Falconi the John Phillip Sousa Band Award.

Falconi was also awarded the Quabbin Pro Musica Scholarship in honor of the late Gretchen Nahkala.



Anthony Quartarone performed on the euphonium (and also sang) during “My Way”.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CAMREN ROBERTSON  
Virginia Morin hugged Symphonic Winds Director Toni Brown, while Quabbin Singers Director Julia Tuttle looked on.

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