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Newspaper

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Friday, January 10, 2025

North Brookfield wraps up 2024 with First Night Out

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – With the new year just hours away, the town’s residents celebrated with the first ever First Night Out celebration.

The event was organized by the Parks and Recreation Department in collaboration with the Cultural Council and promised a festive atmosphere with various activities and local business participation to wrap up 2024.

The center of North Brookfield was busy with music, shopping, art, touring, scavenging and celebrating. The Haston Free Public Library had a lot to celebrate as they were also celebrating the 130th anniversary for the local library. The theme was all about life back in the 1890s, a period in history where it all started for North Brookfield’s public



Friends of the Library and trustees joined together during first night out for the Haston Free Public Library’s 130th anniversary. The theme of the celebration is 1890s, fitting the time period when the library first opened. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

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Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally does just that

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Jan. 4 at Father Dugan Hall in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church the greater world came to the quiet town of West Brookfield.

Two men would speak of places far away from the Quaboag region where peace does not reign.

First up would be Wally Connor. Wally and his wife Michele founded S.O.N.G. which stands for Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally. It

is not an easy job as recent world history means there is no dearth of children in our world who are without parents.

Wally, with Michele founded Socks for Siberia in the late 1990s when on a visit they observed the plight of youngsters without parents and did something about it. Siberia is not the only place in the world where not all children have moms and dads, so the work grew into S.O.N.G.

Wally would be speaking about a situation that has been

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A child is shown with Razai (winter blanket) and candy distributed at Christmas time by volunteers from Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Forum held to update Open Space & Rec. plan

By Abby McCoy
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – A growing movement is underway to enhance the town’s open spaces, meeting the recreational needs of its residents while preserving its rural character.

On Dec. 10, the Open Space Committee gathered for an essential public meeting aimed at addressing the future of the town’s parks, trails, and recreational areas. The meeting brought together key community stakeholders, including town planners, conservationists, and

sports enthusiasts, focused on crafting an updated Open Space and Recreation Plan.

This initiative is not just about improving facilities, but about fostering a sense of community and preserving the natural environment for generations to come.

The session began with Carol Goodwin, the chair of the Open Space Committee, welcoming attendees and acknowledging the contributions of various town officials, including the Town Planner, Conservation

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Selectmen hear updates about Fire/Highway project

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the board is trying to provide updates to residents about ongoing projects in town, including the Fire and Highway buildings project, by inviting those tasked with the project to present updates.

At the Dec. 30 meeting, he said the town is getting low on its contingency funds for the Fire and Highway project, due to extra needs at the former Huck’s building on Donovan Road.

“There were some things that came up that seemed to be emergent,” Petraitis said. “We had some issues with an oil

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Memorial bench dedicated during New Year’s Day hike

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NEW BRAintree/HARDWICK – East Quabbin Land Trust continued its long-standing tradition of hosting a New Year’s Day hike along the Mass Central Rail Trail, from New Braintree to Wheelwright and back.

This year’s hike included the dedication of a granite bench in memory of the land trust’s



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- community -

Circle of Song rehearsals resume Jan. 16

Community singing group celebrates 24 years together

BARRE – It is amazing how fast time flies when you are having fun singing together, but the spring session of Circle of Song will close out the 24th year with the beginning of the season on Thursday, Jan. 16, culminating with a concert on Saturday, May 17.

Rehearsals take place each Thursday night, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St. Annual dues range from \$25 a year for students and includes a sliding scale of \$40-70 for adults.

Circle of Song sings in four-part harmony. Many members, recently interviewed usually said one of two things about why they

keep coming back. “I like the way you challenge us musically,” and, “I enjoy the community of fun people.”

The spring session with a program that is not totally firmed up, will include spirituals, madrigals, show tunes, and some newer music, with not only Julie Rawson directing, but also featuring Cailan McClure, Nancy Afonso, and perhaps others.

Circle of Song is particularly looking for baritones and sopranos at the moment, but always is happy to welcome new tenors and altos too. The chorus, generally numbering in the teens, has swelled to numbers in the 20s of late. Plans to build a few risers to accommodate the members are in the offing.

Come to the first rehearsal on Jan. 16, or be in touch with Julie

in advance as desired. All singers of all ages are welcome. For more information, email julie@mhof.net; call 978-257-1192; or visit <https://circleofsong.net/>.

Knights host spaghetti dinner on Jan. 18

WEST BROOKFIELD – Knights of Columbus Council 11080 is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Jan. 18 in Dugan Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 10 Milk St.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally (S.O.N.G.).

Dinner includes pasta fagioli, garden salad, meatballs and sausage, spaghetti and sauce, Italian bread, dessert, water, soda and coffee. The cost is a \$15 donation for adults and \$10 for children under 12 years old.

Take-out is available at 6 p.m. and sit-down dinner is served at 6:30 p.m.

Admission tickets are also good for entry for a special door prize. Raffle tickets for a 50/50 raffle and more will be available.

Advance ticket purchase is encouraged and appreciated. Tickets are available from any Knight or by calling 413-813-8100 or by emailing wallyconnor122@gmail.com. Tickets will only be available at the door while they last.

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tank being approved...I would like the people that are in charge of the project...to give us an update on where they think the project is and where they think it's going from here.”

Petratis said there is also a building renovation committee that is helping to oversee the project, and help work through problems as they arise.

Joining members of the North Brookfield Fire/DPW Renovation Committee were Project Leader Anthony DiLuzio of Colliers and Jeff McElravy and John Vitti of Tecton Architects.

DiLuzio said they are still in the beginning phase of the project, and that one of the biggest changes to impact spending on the project, was the loss of electrical installation services by students of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School.

He said this change was the majority of the roughly \$160,000 change order.

DiLuzio said phase one of this project has also “uncovered all the skeletons,” at the Huck’s building, including the need to change the oil tank.

McElravy said there are always surprises with renovation projects, and he believes it will take careful management to

complete and stay within range of the budget.

Petratis said the “budget is what it is” as the town is at its borrowing limit for the project.

“We’re going to have to find places to cut if that’s necessary,” he said. “We can find some places to save money.”

Petratis suggested the building renovation committee post a monthly Zoom meeting in conjunction with the contractor and architect’s weekly meeting.

The building renovation committee will also look at meeting more frequently, and both the board and committee will work together to improve communication about decision making. At this time, the project is about five weeks behind schedule.

Aquatic invasive study

Through the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, the town will join East Brookfield, Spencer and West Brookfield in an aquatic invasives study of the Quaboag River Valley. CMRPC has applied for a grant in the amount of \$28,000 to study the presence and impact of aquatic invasives in these towns.

The town of North Brookfield has committed 12 hours of local planning assistance, which is equivalent to its \$900 local

match. The other towns are requesting \$3,400 in District Local Technical Assistance Program funds to cover the remainder of the local match.

Phase one of the study aims to investigate invasive species that impair water quality within the Quaboag River Valley; assess the area’s vulnerability to further aquatic habitat degradation and develop a roadmap toward implementing priority mitigation strategies.

ARPA spending

Petratis said all of the American Rescue Plan Act money (around \$1.4 million) has to be allocated by the end of 2024. He said the board has done that, including projects for the Highway and Sewer departments and Senior Center.

The board members signed a number of memorandums of understanding for ongoing ARPA-funded projects.

Complete Streets project

The board received an additional \$100,000 from the Complete Streets grant program to complete part of the downtown sidewalk project.

The town received \$400,000 for sidewalk improvements in 2022, the project went out to bid in May of 2024 and construction began in the fall. The maximum

grant award for the Complete Streets program is \$500,000.

Resignation

Nicole Eccleston submitted a letter of resignation to the Board of Selectmen from her position as the Program and Outreach Coordinator at the Senior Center, effective Dec. 19. The board accepted her resignation.

Pole hearing

A representative from National Grid requested permission to install four joint-owned poles along Smith Hanson Road to supply utilities to two new houses being constructed. The board approved the request.

Sustainable materials grant

The town was awarded a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection’s Sustainable Materials Recovery program in the amount of \$5,250.

School negotiations

Petratis was appointed to represent the Board of Selectmen during the teachers’ union negotiations.

Public comment

John Tripp recognized the Algoo family of North Brookfield Farms for their donation which allowed the Fire Department to buy four section of attack line hoses for the firetrucks.

“It would be good to have more people donate,” he said.



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Berthiaume and Durant hold office hours across region

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

Upcoming dates include Monday, Jan. 13, Hubbardston Senior Center from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Barre Senior Center from 10:45-11:45 a.m. and Oakham Town Hall from noon-1 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 14, Spencer Town Hall (Tammy Ruda from State Rep. John Marsi’s office will also attend) from 10-11 a.m. and Leicester Senior Center from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

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



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Candlelight vigil held for Brittany Tee on Jan. 10

BROOKFIELD – There will be a candlelight vigil for missing resident Brittany Tee on Friday, Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. at Brookfield Congregational Church, 8 Common St.

Please join Brittany’s family as they work to keep the search for Brittany alive and to support them as they grieve the passage of a second year without her.

Brittany Tee went missing on Jan. 10,

2023, from the town of Brookfield. Despite extensive investigation and searching (and exhaustive efforts on the part of Brittany’s family and friends), Brittany’s whereabouts remain unknown.

Brittany has brown hair, blue eyes and a distinctive voice and laugh. If you have any information regarding her disappearance, please call the tip lines at 508-453-7589 (State Police) or 866-331-6660 (Private Investigator).

St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold open house

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville is hosting an Open House at the school on Tuesday, Jan. 28 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

Prospective parents are cordially invited to visit the classrooms and meet the faculty of our growing school. Administration is also happy to tour families during the school day and provide

shadow days for students presently in kindergarten through grade seven.

Please feel free to call the school 413-477-1268 or reach out to Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, to set up an appointment to visit. Enrollment information and all the necessary paperwork is available on the school’s website (www.staloyuscs.com) under the “Join our Family” tab.

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Agent, and Recreation Director. These individuals had played a crucial role in advancing the current Open Space and Recreation Plan, which focuses on protecting Sturbridge’s natural resources, preserving its habitats, and maintaining the town’s unique character.

Goodwin emphasized that the purpose of this meeting was to engage the public in a collaborative process to update the plan and reflect the town’s evolving needs.

One of the key objectives of the Open Space and Recreation Plan is to ensure that Sturbridge’s open spaces support the town’s long-term economic, environmental, and social well-being. In particular, the plan focuses on planning for green infrastructure, including the conservation of water supplies, wildlife habitats, and recreational facilities such as parks and trails.

Originally approved in 2018, the plan must be updated every seven years to remain eligible for essential funding sources, including Urban Self-Help and Mass Trails grants, which support conservation and recreational projects.

The meeting’s discussions highlighted several important components of the plan. These include identifying critical habitats, maintaining water and air quality, and ensuring that parks, playgrounds, and trails are accessible to all residents, regardless of age or ability.

A significant part of the Open Space and Recreation Plan’s development process has been gathering input from the public. This includes a survey sent to every household in Sturbridge, which received 471 responses.

The results have been instrumental in shaping the priorities for the future. The survey data revealed a strong demand for amenities such as dog parks, off-leash trails, and swimming facilities, both indoor and outdoor.

Additionally, the survey asked for input on community preferences regarding accessibility and the preservation of Sturbridge’s rural and historical character.

Beyond the survey, the plan also incorporates feedback from public forums, stakeholder meetings, and demographic analysis, which helps guide decisions about which recreational amenities to

prioritize. For example, Sturbridge’s aging population, particularly the growing number of residents aged 50 and over, has prompted discussions about the need for more senior-friendly recreational options, such as walking trails, senior centers, and active recreation facilities.

As Sturbridge grows, so does the demand for recreational spaces. Many residents voiced concerns about the lack of dedicated athletic fields in the town, particularly for football and soccer.

Sturbridge’s sports programs, while thriving, often face challenges when it comes to field access and quality. Local fields, such as those at the Town Barn and Burgess, are in heavy use but struggle with maintenance issues.

“We need safe, well-maintained fields,” said Rory Fitzgerald, a parent whose children play football in Sturbridge. “It’s not about luxury; it’s about safety.”

A notable point of discussion was the Town Barn area, which has long served as a central hub for youth sports. However, the facility faces several issues, including parking shortages, uneven playing fields, and limited amenities. Stakeholders suggested that a comprehensive revitalization plan could remedy these problems, making the site more functional and inclusive for families and sports enthusiasts.

As demand for recreational spaces grows, so does the need to explore new sites for development. The Shepherd parcel, located on a nearby road, has emerged as a potential location for a dog park and kayak launch. Although some issues, such as parking and land setbacks, need to be addressed, this area could offer a valuable new resource for the community.

Additionally, proposals to develop ballparks on the Tom Barnes parcel have garnered support, though previous attempts to move forward with the project were thwarted by opposition at town meetings. Nonetheless, advocates are hopeful that a renewed effort will garner the votes needed for approval.

Another piece of land that is being considered for recreational use is the Plimpton property. This 15-acre parcel is currently restricted by conservation easements, making it unsuitable for sports fields but potentially ideal for pas-

sive recreation such as walking trails, nature education, or community gardens.

Water access is another critical component of Sturbridge’s recreational needs. Sturbridge Beach, a popular local spot, has long been a point of contention due to limited public access and issues with water quality. A commercial property owner’s hold on adjacent land has impeded full public access, but recent discussions have raised hopes for resolving this issue and transforming the area into a more accessible community space.

Participants suggested that the town could host an “open house” at Sturbridge Beach to raise awareness and share updates on efforts to improve access and water quality.

In addition to outdoor water access, indoor swimming facilities also emerged as a topic of interest.

The Tantasqua Regional High School, which has an indoor pool, is considering expanding access to the public, especially for families with young children. This initiative could help alleviate the growing demand for swimming facilities in Sturbridge, providing residents with more options for recreation.

A key concern voiced during the meeting was the need for accessibility in all future recreational developments. Several participants, including Becky Gendro, emphasized the importance of designing spaces that go beyond basic Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

“It’s not just about meeting the minimum standards,” Gendro remarked. “We need spaces that everyone, no matter their age or ability, can enjoy.”

The current state of accessibility in Sturbridge’s public spaces is a mixed bag. Many existing areas, including the Town Barn, lack the necessary modifications to accommodate individuals with disabilities. However, there is hope that future improvements will prioritize universal design principles, creating spaces that are welcoming to people of all abilities.

The process of updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan is deeply collaborative, with the community encouraged to engage in planning sessions, attend public meetings, and participate in decision-making. One of the goals of

these sessions is to identify areas in need of improvement and potential new spaces for development.

During a group mapping activity, attendees brainstormed ideas for new parks, dog parks, and sports fields. Some of the creative suggestions included themed playgrounds with dinosaur slides, ropes courses, and musical ships for children to enjoy.

One particularly innovative idea came from a participant who described a visit to Chicago, where a bridge with monkey bars and a zip line led to a destination. This concept inspired others to consider how Sturbridge could create unique recreational spaces that engage the imagination and provide fun for residents of all ages.

Looking ahead, the Open Space Committee will continue to refine the updated plan, incorporating input from the community, town boards, and state agencies. The final draft of the plan will be submitted for review and approval in spring 2025.

In the meantime, community feedback will remain a vital component of the planning process, ensuring that the final plan reflects the desires and needs of Sturbridge’s diverse population.

While the road ahead is not without challenges, particularly in securing funding for these ambitious projects, there is a clear sense of optimism and determination among Sturbridge’s residents.

As one participant noted, “It’s not about having everything right now, but building something that will last and serve future generations.”

The future of Sturbridge’s open spaces is bright, shaped by a community-driven vision that prioritizes recreation, preservation, and inclusivity. With continued engagement, thoughtful planning, and the collaboration of all stakeholders, Sturbridge is poised to create a sustainable and vibrant network of parks, trails, and recreational spaces that will benefit residents for years to come.

Whether revitalizing existing sites like Town Barn or developing new spaces for sports, nature, and leisure, the ultimate goal remains clear: to ensure that Sturbridge’s open spaces contribute to the well-being and quality of life for all its residents.

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- opinion -



Prepping for this year's big garden

Last week I wrote about the desire to go back to my roots, so to speak, and embrace my homesteading self this New Year.

It's funny how when you are young and inexperienced you just "have at it" without much thought or planning. Sure, I had a general idea when it was best to sow my seeds indoors so that my transplants would be a good size come Memorial Day, but beyond that I sort of gardened when and how I felt like it.

These days I find it's good to have a plan of action. Here is where I will start in the coming weeks.

The first thing on the agenda is to go through my seed stash and decide what to keep and what to chuck. I usually throw out any seed that is older than three years, except for maybe tomatoes. I have had 5 or even 7-year-old tomato seeds germinate.

The three year rule does not apply to hybrid onions, carrots or parsnips. Those I get rid of at the two year mark.

If you are into growing herbs, I rarely have luck with lovage, dill or valerian after the first year. After I've whittled down my stash based on age, I will then look at what I have left in the envelopes and if I like that particular variety enough to buy more, or if I'd better start off with a new type altogether.

If it didn't work last year, why grow it again? I feel this way especially as I get older.

I used to have a friend who was a bit morbid as he aged, and he'd say, "if I'm lucky I'll get another 10 gardens." While that used to depress me to hear that, I guess it's a good point to make.

Once I've got the seed package pile figured out, the fun begins. I'll get my seed orders in early, to beat the rush, especially if I want to grow transplants that take a lot of time to size up.

Onions are best started indoors around Valentine's Day. For flower lovers among us the fun starts earlier.

Wax begonias can be sown now! Yes, now! Coleus and petunia are not long after.

While many decades of growing have approximate dates burned into my brain on some things, others I will have to look up, especially since I am trying to grow more of our food with vegetables coming in as soon as possible and without gaps.

There are some fantastic resources out there for custom tailoring your growing/sowing schedule. Seed catalogs are just one. I love Johnny's Selected Seed (www.johnnyseeds.com) for this reason. Because they cater market growers as well as home gardeners, this catalog is packed with useful tips.

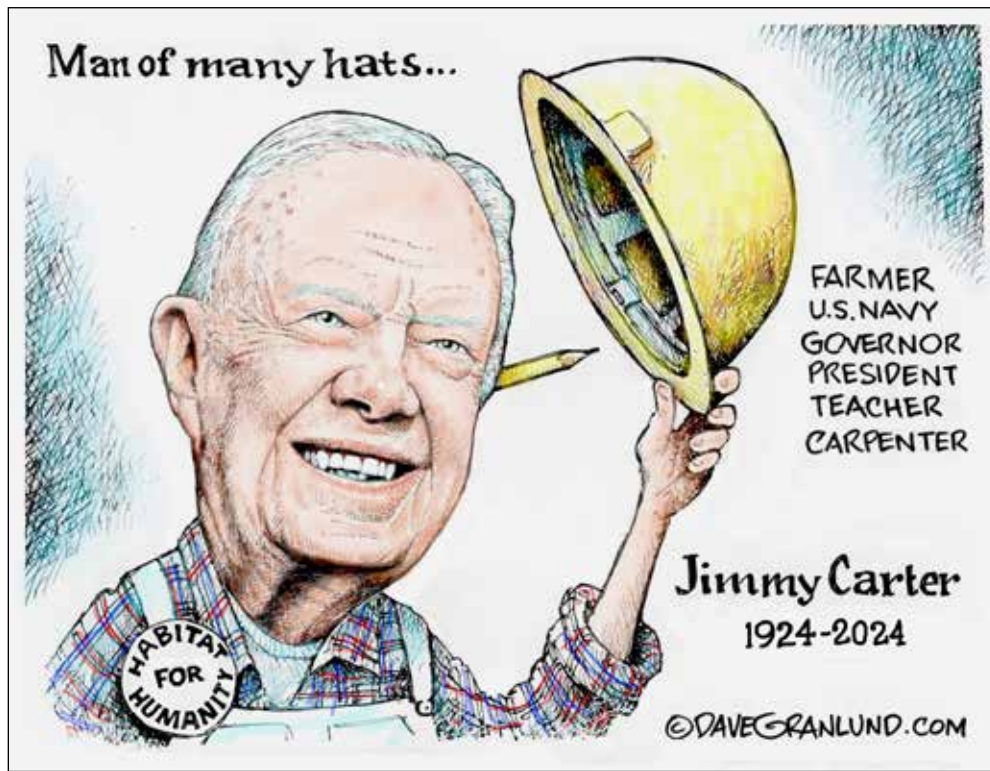
Online you will find a treasure trove of topics that will get you excited and well-equipped.

Speaking of equipped, it's also a great time to take inventory of your supplies. Do I have enough seed starting mix on hand, and did I like it enough to use again?

One year I bought germinating medium that had such little fertility. My plants were on the yellow side and stunted.

I try to grow organically as much as possible, and this soil nearly made me run for the blue water. I ended up mixing that lousy soil with some good soil, and added some fertilizer to the whole batch before using it in bigger

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SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Have I saved Social Security money by claiming at 62?

Dear Rusty:

I had to start collecting Social Security at 62 and I am 75 now.

I believe that in the last 13 years I have saved Social Security money, so I do not know why I cannot draw my full benefits now.

If I had started drawing at 65 at \$1,200 per month, then I would have drawn \$16,400 per year. Instead, I got \$680 per month from 62 to 75 or \$8,160 per year or about \$106,000 over 13 years. Compare that to the age 65 amount of \$14,400 per year for 10 years, which is \$144,000. So, by claiming at 62, at age 75 I have saved the government over \$38,000. It would make seniors lives so much easier if they could draw full Social Security at 75 years old, after getting only part of their SS.

Signed: Second-guessing

Dear Second-guessing:

The difference between benefits claimed at various ages causes many to reflect, as you have done, about what might have been had you waited longer to claim. But there is an error in your calculations. If your age 62 monthly benefit is \$680, your age 65 monthly benefit would have been about \$845, not \$1,200. Thus, at 75 you would have collected about \$101,400 by claiming at 65, vs. the \$106,000 you have received by claiming at age 62. In other words, you still would not have broken even had you claimed at age 65.

Social Security says that it doesn't matter when you claim they say that if you claim early your payments will be less, but you'll get more of them. Where SSA's argument falls apart is when life expectancy is longer. Our experience is that if you wait until your Full Retirement Age to claim, which is age 66 in your case vs. claiming at age 62, you will collect the same amount of total money at about age 78.

In other words, the "breakeven age" for waiting until FRA to claim is about 78. So, you will reach your personal "breakeven age" in about 2 1/2 years, at age 78). And this is precisely why we encourage everyone to understand their life expectancy when deciding when to claim Social Security those who expect to live longer will, indeed, get

more SS money if they delay claiming.

Your benefit is determined by your age when you claim and if you claim before your FRA your monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you claimed at age 62 and your monthly amount was \$680, then in the four years until you reached age 66, your FRA, you would have received about \$32,640. If you had, instead, waited until your FRA to claim, your benefit at age 66 would have been about \$906/month. Collecting \$906/month (at 66) vs. \$680/month (at 62) would make your breakeven age about 78. If you claimed at age 65 instead of 62, your breakeven age would have been about a year earlier (77).

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

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

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for 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.

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Send opinions to:

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

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

ORPHANS | FROM PAGE 1

in the news since 2022. The Ukraine War, like almost all armed conflicts, has seen the destruction of families, and thus, many orphaned children.

The orphans can further be victimized by being trafficked. The practice is rampant.

Wally related how at the border children can be gathered up by those wearing genuine seeming uniforms and presenting themselves as officials.

S.O.N.G. is doing vital work in getting the orphans to Poland and safe havens.

Wally related how S.O.N.G. teamed up with Aerial Recovery Group volunteers traveling to the border Ukraine shares with Poland and working to carry out orphan rescue missions inside Ukraine and bring the orphans and unaccompanied children to safe havens.

S.O.N.G.'s recent collection drive for medicine filled suitcases provided much in the way of medical supplies including insulin to treat children with diabetes.

The supplies were transported to hospitals in Lviv and Kharkiv by the Ukrainian contact. The supplies were received with heartwarming gratitude.

Wally was fulsome in his praise of a couple of wonderful ladies involved in the effort, Helena and Olya.

He also shared pictures of the playground that S.O.N.G. put together for the children as there is not too much recreation available otherwise.

There were also pictures of the beautiful church architecture of Poland and Ukraine.

We should all be hoping that peace will happen in the new year, but it is wonderful that Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally is there.

Part two of the afternoon concerned what is happening in South Asia, specifically the nation of Pakistan.

There is not an overt war in Pakistan, though there are a number of conflicts that the nation must deal with, as the country continues to face multiple sources of internal and external conflict.

The afternoon program concerned



This young boy is enjoying the gym bars.



Another child is shown with items he received through S.O.N.G. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

mainly the plight of Christian orphans in Pakistan.

A tiny fragment of the population, Christians themselves face grave hardships. Many families live in slums, making do with low paying work. The children have little opportunity for a good education.

There is much religious discrimination, and Christians are often accused of blasphemy in the majority Muslim nation.

It was pointed out that not all Muslims are extreme and some are supportive of fellow citizens, but the accusations do exist.

S.O.S. Pakistan, which is S.O.N.G.'s Orphan Support Program in Pakistan has a mission to provide orphaned children needed food, shelter, water, clothing, and educational opportunities to give them a chance of a better life in their future.

S.O.S. Pakistan supports educational programs, serves food and there is material aid that we, in this country would find hard to comprehend the need.

In the extreme heat of summer in Pakistan, water coolers provide a way to keep orphans hydrated. Water coolers are distributed to the orphans and the foster families. Not all of us have the luxury of just turning on the tap.

Earning a living can be a problem for the orphans and foster families. Providing them with sewing machines and training allows them to earn income.

The many programs that S.O.S. Pakistan operates are of wonderful value to the community served, as is the work in Ukraine.

One can learn more about the programs, there is a website, <https://www.supportingorphans.org> that is well worth visiting.

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

container plantings.

Many soil bags will actually state that supplemental fertilizer is necessary after three-four weeks. And I should say that I do find it worth the investment to buy potting soil that is geared specifically to seed sowing, ie the germinating medium or seed-starting mix I speak of. It is milled finer for tiny seeds and will not stay too damp, or too dry, leading to a higher success rate.

In addition to assessing your soil, take a look at your stash of containers and labels. If you are re-using, make sure to wash both well, so that any diseases or pathogens won't infect this year's efforts.

You really don't need fancy, purchased containers.

The plastic boxes that mushrooms come in work great as sowing packs; just drill holes in the bottom. Cut up yogurt tubs make wonderful labels, and clear lidded salad boxes are perfect to place the seed packs in until germination occurs.

Low budget and earth friendly! Next week we'll look at the role heat and light play in indoor seed starting.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Historical Society presents program about 1927 road trip

STURBRIDGE – On Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Publick House, the Sturbridge Historical Society is presenting a program by Sturbridge photographer Bob Arnold called "Road Trip 1927 - 18,000 miles in a Model T Ford."

Almost a century ago, in 1927, Carey and Maud Melville, Arnold's grandparents, made an epic, eight-month-long, 18,000-mile road trip with their three children.

Packing everyone into a Ford Model T Touring Car named Hubbub with attached trailer, the Melvilles left their Worcester home in January, with the objective of traveling the entire periphery of the United States and, as Mrs. Melville noted in one of her many journals, "...finding out-of-the-way places and experiencing the natural wonders the country had to offer."

The issues these travelers encountered stand in sharp contrast to what we find when we set out on a road trip today. Many roads were unpaved and unnamed, often little more than trails that were muddy in the rain and dusty the rest of the time.

The business of providing travel and roadside amenities from gas to food was in its infancy, often with options few

and far between.

Carey Melville had taken a sabbatical from his teaching position at Clark University, which provided the time for the road trip. He was an accomplished amateur photographer and more than a hundred of his photographs from the trip will be featured in the program, illustrating both the joys and the trials of cross country travel in 1927.

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

His work over the past 50 plus years has yielded a unique perspective on the commercial, cultural, and environmental changes in the community and his ongoing program of digital preservation of documents and photographic images assures that future generations will have access to the visual record of our past.

Arnold lives in town with his wife, Susan, their dog, Jesse and thousands of images.

The program begins at 7 p.m. and is generously hosted by the Publick House.



Bob Arnold will present a program about his grandparent's 18,000-mile road trip taken in 1927 during the Sturbridge Historical Society's meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23 at the Publick House starting at 7 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

St. Aloysius Catholic School starts Annual Fund Drive

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville is the recipient of a pledge of \$40,000 in matching funds toward the school's 2025/2026 Annual Fund Drive.

The benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has supported the school with matching gifts since its inception in 2016. The Annual Fund Drive runs now through March 30.

Last year, the school's Scholarship Drive raised just over \$48,000 including matching funds. The scholarship monies reduced the tuition for each of the school's students by about \$450 and created a crisis fund for families finding themselves in financial difficulty.

Likewise, donations from foundations also assist families with tuition payments. The School Board implemented the Annual Fund in place of the Scholarship Drive to be able to diversify the use of the money, and thereby keep tuition affordable for families.

"The cost of nearly everything it takes to run a school has increased, from utilities to insurance, to books and salaries.

It is no small feat to make ends meet. We are so entirely grateful for those who support our mission," said Roberta McQuaid, finance manager and enrollment coordinator for the school. "Catholic Schools provide a foundation of faith for the students we serve, and their families benefit too. As well, our students work hard academically and contribute to the local community. When they leave St. Aloysius for high school they are prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead. It's a worthwhile goal to try and keep our tuitions prices stable so that families can continue to afford a private, Catholic education."

For more information about St. Aloysius Catholic School or to make a tax deductible donation that will be matched dollar for dollar to the Annual Fund please visit www.staloyuscs.com/support/. Donations can also be mailed to St. Aloysius Catholic School, P.O. Box 522, Gilbertville, MA 01031, noting "Annual Fund" on the memo line.

FIRST NIGHT | FROM PAGE 1



Glowing wands were being handed out for those who participated in the scavenger hunt during North Brookfield's First Night Out. *TURLEY*
PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



The library was ready to toast in the new year during North Brookfield's First Night Out on Dec. 31.



Jim Caldwell served as the tour guide during tours of the Town House. Many residents gathered in front of the Town House to get a tour and learn about the historic building.



A photo display could be seen inside the Town Office for a scavenger hunt and featured people, buildings and other items of historical significance around the downtown area of North Brookfield.



The First Night Band performing outside the First Congregational Church to celebrate First Night Out during New Year's Eve.

library.

Friends of the library along with library staff and trustees got into the spirit by wearing 1890s themed attire to celebrate this special anniversary to go along with the celebration of the town's First Night Out.

"It is a perfect thing to add to our celebration," says one of the library trustees Diane Buzzell.

Many residents came in to say hello to the library team and check out the exhibits and help toast in the new year. There was a photo stand where kids got to take pictures. Best friends Dallas Berard and Violet Walsh took pictures and were excited to celebrate the new year during the First Night Out in North Brookfield.

Down the street the Town House was open for tours during First Night Out. Many residents were divided into groups to get a tour of some of the rooms inside the historic town house of North Brookfield. Giving the tours was Jim Caldwell who shared historical facts about the Town House and some of its historical rooms, including the great hall.

Inside the Town Offices a photo scavenger hunt was taking place with multiple poster boards featuring notable people and buildings. There were maps of 16 locations in town and players had to follow the map and had to name at least 12 of the 16 locations to win a prize. The offices had these glow in the dark wands that many players got to take home with them.

Shaman's Closet Vintage Gift Shop, 22 Summer St., was one of the small businesses in town that was open during First Night Out, and had guests pick out a special ornament during the event.

Operating this vintage gift shop is Carolyn Romano, whose store offers many beautiful items year-round.

"We have beautiful thing for people to bring into their own homes," Romano said.

From gifts that honor ancestors and home décor, Shaman's Closet Vintage Gift Shop has carefully curated items seek new homes where their presence uplifts your spirits.

Across the street, Jars Café was opened and had a lot of goodies for sale during the First Night Out. In addition to treats, the café had a guessing game going on where guests try to guess the number of beans in a jar. The closest guest would receive a \$50 gift certificate. The café was also handing out candy canes during the First Night Out.

For live music, the newly named First Night Band consisting of several local musicians were performing in front of the First Congregational Church. The church also provided snacks while guests got to tour an art show featuring work from many creative and local artists.

With many anniversaries being celebrated simultaneously with First Night Out, the church has reached an incredible milestone. The building hosting the art show is 202 years old. Sharing information about this historical milestone was Nancy Waldron and Pastor Joe Shea.

North Brookfield's First Night Out was a fun finale for the town and its residents as 2025 arrived.



Trivia was taking place inside the Town Offices.



Best friends Dallas Berard and Violet Walsh posed for photos to celebrate the new year at the Hoston Free Public Library.



Grace Goyette participated in the scavenger hunt and received a magical wand inside the Town Offices.



Russell Buzzell's art piece titled "Harry and Larry" was displayed during the church's art show.



Art was displayed at the First Congregational Church. This horse art piece was created by Russell Buzzell.



A poster of photos highlighted the history of the Hoston Free Public Library in North Brookfield, which is now 130 years old.

SPORTS

Tantasqua boys score OT win



James Sciaraffa goes for the jumper.



Sam Pieczynski holds the ball back from an opponent. TURLEY PHOTOS BY SOFIA DIGRANDE



Thomas Eldred takes the three-point shot.

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School boys basketball team suffered a loss against Tantasqua Regional High School last Monday afternoon 58-54. The Falcons would lead early in the match-up, but Tantasqua made a strong comeback, then outscored Minnechaug 9-5 in overtime.



Adam Howe looks to get around the Minnechaug defense.



Noah Wotton makes his way down the court.

North Brookfield falls in OT

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Despite holding a 36-30 lead early in the fourth quarter, North Brookfield girls baseball was not able to hold on and would end up in a 39-39 tie. The

Indians were then outscored in overtime and fell 46-39 to Bethany Christian School last Friday night. North Brookfield is 1-2 on the young season.



Sophia Dufresne dribbles past the Bethany defense.



Olivia Holmes goes for the layup.



Abby Lindberg dribbles toward the sideline pursued by the defense.



Milcalia Ayala looks for an opening to drive to the hoop.



Kayleigh McPortland reaches out to try and keep possession of the ball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

- sports -

Lunenburg upends Panthers



Brady Patchen goes through the Lunenburg defense looking to score.



Kyle Clark powers his way to the hoop.



Jaxon Warburton sends a pass into the arc. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

BARRE – Last Friday night, Lunenburg’s defense did a good job keeping the Panthers under pressure, and their early lead expanded as they left Barre with a 61-43 win. Quabbin Regional boys basketball suffered only its second

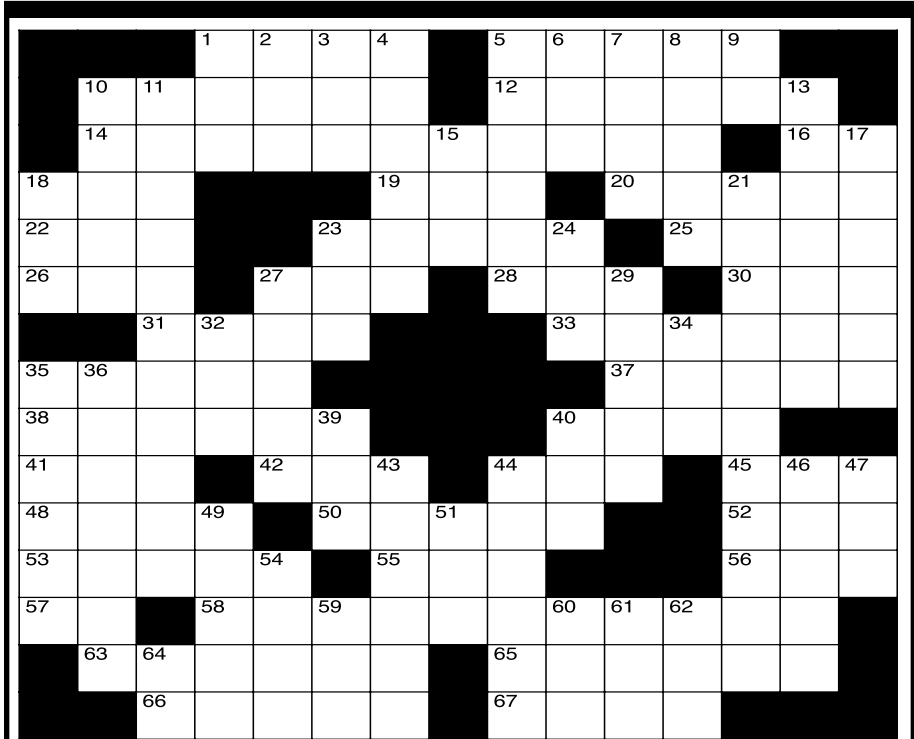
loss of the season. The Panthers did score a win over South Lancaster last Monday night and are next in action on Friday night against Gardner High School at 6:30 p.m.



Quinn Geary passes the ball away.



Anthony Quarterone takes a three-point attempt.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Hand (Spanish)
- 5. Siskel and __, critics
- 10. Seaman
- 12. Chemical weapon
- 14. One who eliminates
- 16. They precede C
- 18. Baseball stat
- 19. Americans’ “uncle”
- 20. Cassia tree
- 22. Surround
- 23. Crisp and Pebbles are two
- 25. A sudden very loud sound
- 26. Affirmative
- 27. Disadvantage
- 28. Corpuscule count (abbr.)
- 30. OJ trial judge
- 31. New York art district
- 33. Become more bleak
- 35. Upstate NY city
- 37. Clarified butters
- 38. One who witnesses

- 40. Condemn
- 41. ___ juris
- 42. Natural
- 44. Prohibit
- 45. Swiss river
- 48. Greek war god
- 50. 5 iron
- 52. New Zealand mountain parrot
- 53. Scandinavian surname
- 55. Follows sigma
- 56. Doctor of Education
- 57. Spanish be
- 58. One that feeds on bugs
- 63. Tooth issue
- 65. Get into
- 66. Lumps of clay
- 67. Overly studious student

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Variety of Chinese
- 2. Boxing’s GOAT

- 3. Japanese classical theater
- 4. Prayer
- 5. Inspire with love
- 6. Ballplayers’ accessory
- 7. Retailer payment system
- 8. More raw
- 9. Atomic #81
- 10. Fencing sword
- 11. Hostilities
- 13. Sea dweller
- 15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- 17. Businessmen
- 18. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 21. Loud devices
- 23. Make a soft murmuring sound
- 24. One point west of due south
- 27. Trout
- 29. Type of grass

- 32. South American plant
- 34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 35. Not secure
- 36. Traveler
- 39. Sweet potato
- 40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
- 43. Some are choppy
- 44. Asian country
- 46. Genus of mosquitoes
- 47. Cool!
- 49. Shrill, wailing sound
- 51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 54. Within
- 59. Unhappy
- 60. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 61. Videocassette recorder
- 62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 64. It cools a home

T-Birds suffer loss against Rochester

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-15-2-1) felt the brunt of the top team in the North Division as the Rochester Americans (20-9-3-0) skated away 5-2 winners on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center.

The opening minutes would not go auspiciously for the T-Birds, as the North Division’s top team flexed their offensive muscle early. Just 3:02 into the action, rookie Riley Fiddler-Schultz used a defender as a screen and ripped a wrister through Vadim Zherenko’s blocker arm to give Rochester a 1-0 advantage.

Things got no better for Springfield at 6:13 as Graham Slaggert threw a shot on goal from the right circle, generating a Zherenko rebound and a second-chance finish from Brendan Warren to extend the lead to 2-0.

Unlike Tuesday night, though, the T-Birds offense had a rebuttal, and just 2:45 after Warren’s tally, Drew Callin took a feed at the offensive line from Simon Robertsson and bull-rushed the net from the right wing before deking to the backhand and beating Devon Levi to cut the lead in half, 2-1.

Both teams were liberal with their shooting opportunities in the opening 20 minutes, as each club launched 16 attempts at the opposition net.

Rochester’s potent offense did not let off the throttle in the middle stanza. On their second power play in the frame, Brett Murray deflected home his league-leading ninth man-advantage tally to make it a 3-1 score at 6:28. Fiddler-Schultz piggybacked that goal with his second of the game at 7:36, which spelled the end of the night for Zherenko. Colten Ellis came on in relief and stopped the next seven Amerks’ shots to close the period.

The 4-1 score held into the dying minutes of the third before a Tanner Dickenson power play marker got Springfield back within two, 4-2, with 5:01 remaining. That’s as close as the T-Birds would get, though, as Lukas Rousek ended the goal-scoring with an empty-netter just over a minute later.

The T-Birds conclude their five-game homestand next Saturday when they host the Providence Bruins at 7:05 p.m. on Jan. 11 for the annual Throwback Night contest.

HIKE | FROM PAGE 1

longtime board member, Terry Briggs, who passed away in the fall of 2023. Briggs, a successful lawyer, lived in Hardwick with his wife and two children.

“We wanted to acknowledge Terry Briggs, who was a board member...he was just a good guy,” East Quabbin Land Trust Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw said.

Henshaw said she hopes the bench, which overlooks the Ware River near the Wheelwright pond dam along a recently completed section of the Mass Central Rail Trail, will provide people with a place to sit and enjoy the beauty of the area.

“Where people could come relax and just enjoy the rail trail,” Henshaw said.

Stephen Brewer of Barre, who is also a board member of the land trust, said Briggs was a Renaissance man, and he remembered his last visit with him before his passing. He said Briggs always regretted not being able to ride around on the area’s backroads in Brewer’s Jeep.

After the bench was dedicated, Brewer said he would take to those backroads, carrying his memories of Briggs with him.

Henshaw gave an update about the Wheelwright pond dam removal, which has been in the works for years and will take more years to complete. She said all approvals for the removal have been received, and now the project is in its funding stages.

She said the Mass Central Rail Trail continues to grow with the help of the land trust and the towns it serves, including the recent approval by Ware voters to purchase a parcel of land adjacent to Grenville Park to add another 1,700 feet to the rail trail, connecting it to Church Street trail.

For more information about the East Quabbin Land Trust and its preserves, visit www.eqlt.org.



About 40 participants joined the East Quabbin Land Trust for its annual New Year’s Day hike along the Mass Central Rail Trail. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE



This granite bench was dedicated to the memory of Terry Briggs, a longtime board member of the East Quabbin Land Trust. The bench is located at the river lookout on the Wheelwright end of the Mass Central Rail Trail.



Families and friends enjoyed the start of the new year.



Hike participants enjoyed the views of the Ware River along the Mass Central Rail Trail.



Stephen Brewer shared his memories of late Hardwick resident Terry Briggs during a bench dedication held during the hike.

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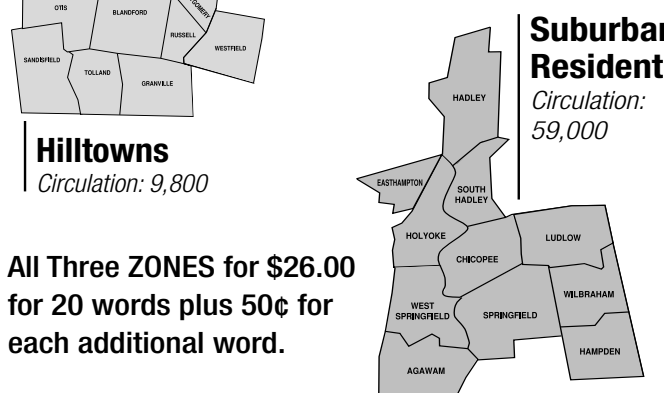
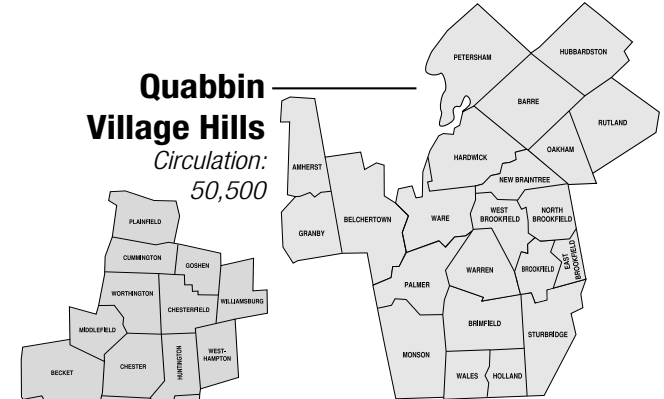
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29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



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East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Dec. 16-22, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 127 building/property checks, 66 directed area patrols, six traffic controls, seven radar assignments, 14 emergency 911 calls, four citizen assists, six assist other agencies, four complaints, one larceny/theft, three motor vehicle accidents, one animal call and 48 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, Dec. 16

11:16 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Dispatch Handled
 11:17 a.m. Assist Citizen, Depot Square, Spoken To
 1:09 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
 3:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 5 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Howe Street, Citation Issued
 5:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 6:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:13 p.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Dec. 17

3:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 6:32 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lashaway Drive, Served in Hand
 6:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Dec. 18

11:26 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Harrington Street, Negative Contact
 12:07 p.m. Assist Citizen, Podunk Road, Spoken To
 3:13 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, East Main Street, Services Rendered
 3:25 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Route 49, Services Rendered
 3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk

Road, Citation Issued
 4:02 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Route 49, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 6:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 8:16 p.m. 911 Utility Issues, North Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

Thursday, Dec. 19

5:42 a.m. Assist Citizen, Route 49, Verbal Only
 8:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Howe Street, Services Rendered
 9:36 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Draper Road, Dispatch Handled
 5:02 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Adams Road, Services Rendered
 5:32 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 6:31 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Wildwood Road, Services Rendered

Friday, Dec. 20

8:49 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, North Brookfield Road, Services Rendered
 10:28 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Podunk Road, Arrest(s) Made

Saturday, Dec. 21

1:27 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Howe Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Shore Road, Vehicle Towed
 5:36 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Podunk Road, Services Rendered
 11:41 a.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Route 49, Unfounded
 2:54 p.m. Complaint, Depot Square, Officer Handled
 11:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

Sunday, Dec. 22

5:28 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Route 49, Services Rendered
 9:28 a.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Route 49, Negative Contact
 7:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
 8:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
 8:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
 9:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued
 10:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of Dec. 23-Jan. 6, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 22 building/property checks, 34 directed/area patrols, 12 radar assignments, eight traffic control, seven emergency 911 call, one safety hazard, one complaint, three assist other agencies, three citizen assists, two trespasses, one investigation, two motor vehicle investigations, one motor vehicle accident and nine motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Dec. 23

2:26 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Dispatch Handled
 8:42 p.m. Investigation, Memorial Drive, Investigated

Tuesday, Dec. 24

9:54 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Post Officer, Officer Handled
 12:32 p.m. Medical Alarm, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Dec. 25

12:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Hardwick Road, Checked/Secured
 4:10 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Negative Contact
 4:25 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Peace Restored
 4:38 p.m. Trespass, Padre Road, Merge

Thursday, Dec. 26

10:40 a.m. Trespass, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled
 2:29 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Ravine Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Dec. 27

1:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Out of Town, Officer Handled
 6:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Sunday, Dec. 29

3:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 11:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
 11:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
 10:19 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Removed Hazard

Monday, Dec. 30

11:45 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Unitas Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:03 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 9:34 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Jan. 1

9:29 a.m. 911 Misdial, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
 2:48 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Padre Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Jan. 3

9:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
 11:33 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, McEvoy Road, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, Jan. 5

2:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Arrest(s) Made

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The Town of West Brookfield Highway Department is seeking FULL TIME OPERATOR/ DRIVER/LABORERS

This position performs manual labor, operates, and maintains equipment for the construction, operation and maintenance of town roads and maintains town owned facilities. Must possess current and valid Massachusetts Class B CDL license with an airbrake endorsement as well as current motor carrier medical examiners certificate (DOT card). In accordance with AFSCME Local 1364 Wage Scale this position is a Grade 10 -Step 2 at \$24.80 per hour for 40 hours per week plus overtime for snow/ice or emergencies.

Applications and a more detailed job description are available on the Town website: www.wbrookfield.com

Please contact: Jim Daley at (508) 867-1417 or email jdaley@wbrookfield.com

The Town of West Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity at all levels of the workforce. EOE

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The Town of West Brookfield Highway Department is seeking PART-TIME PLOW DRIVERS

This is an on-call position. Duties require a background in light and heavy equipment operation. High School Diploma or G.E.D. is required or experience may be substituted. Snow plowing experience is preferred but not required. Must have a valid, clean MA Driver's License and a DOT physical card. Starting pay is \$20.82/hour or \$23.85/hour with a Class B License with air brakes. This position is not eligible for benefits. Alcohol, controlled substance and criminal background testing is mandatory.

Applications are available on the Town Website: www.wbrookfield.com

Application deadline: Friday, January 10, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Please contact: Jim Daley
 (508) 867-1417 or via email jdaley@wbrookfield.com

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QUABOAG

CURRENT

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Volume 18, Number 7

Friday, January 10, 2025

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