

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
www.turley.com

Volume 17, Number 7

Friday, January 12, 2024

## Vice-Chair Tripp resigns from Board of Selectmen

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair John Tripp announced his resignation from the board in a letter addressed to Chair Jason Petraitis on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Tripp's letter states: "Effective immediately at the reading of this letter, I John Tripp do hereby respectfully resign from the Board of Selectmen, this day, Jan. 9, 2024.

I hope my time on the board was beneficial to the town. I feel that a lot of projects got accomplished while I was on the board.

Due to some health issues, I can no longer give up my time as I have in the past few years. I thank my wife, family, friends and all the volunteers for their support."

Tripp has served five and half years on the Board of Selectmen, starting when he was a

See **SELECTMEN** | **PAGE 3**

## Snow storm blankets region over weekend



Snow covers the area in front of the First Congregational Church in North Brookfield, as the late afternoon sun casts shadows. TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

## Second Chance receives \$1.1 million PetSmart Charities grant

EAST BROOKFIELD – Fifty million pets in the U.S. experience a lack of access to even basic veterinary care.

Rising costs and other barriers mean these pets struggle to access services such as spay/neuter procedures, vaccinations and critical medical and preventative care. With as many as 70% of households now including pets, this issue affects families in nearly every community.

PetSmart Charities has committed \$100 million over the next five years toward improv-

See **PETSMART** | **PAGE 8**



Onyx's family turned to Second Chance when he needed emergency surgery after getting into Christmas decorations. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## QHSUA starts 10th year preventing and reducing substance use

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance held its first meeting of the new year this past Monday, as it prepares to reach its 10-year anniversary this July.

"Not every coalition sustains itself 10 years," QHSUA's Prevention Director Gail Gramarossa said at the Jan. 8 meeting. "We have been fortunate."

QHSUA members looked back over the group's efforts over the past decade, and shared their hopes and goals

for the future during a brainstorming session led by Rebecca Edwards.

Edwards directs the Drug Free Communities grant for Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

Members shared what they like about the alliance, what they wish the alliance could do differently in order to improve and the "what if;" goals the alliance could reach if it had unlimited resources and staffing.

Those present at meeting said they liked the alliance's cross-sector sharing with a wide range of people and organizations, ranging from health care to police and community

volunteers. Members also liked that the alliance presented a safe space for all to share their ideas.

Members agreed that in its 10 years, the QHSUA has continued to move forward and build momentum in its mission "to prevent and reduce substance misuse, especially among youth; to break down stigma associated with substance use disorder; to reduce health problems resulting from substance use disorder; to contribute to community efforts to expand access to treatment services, and to value all pathways to recovery."

See **QHSUA** | **PAGE 8**



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# - community -

## Quabbin Regional Middle School list honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional Middle School announces the first quarter honor roll for the 2023-2024 school year.

### Grade Seven, High Honors

Olivia Abbas-Peck, Kalina J. Bassett, Hazel R. Carter, Lauren E. Colleton, Adalyn B. Cranston, Olivia T. Gregory, Carson R. McConnaughey, Gemma A. Mullins, Whitney P. Reeves, Zoey M. Salvatore, Annabelle G. Silver, Launa E. Tran and John T. Tyler.

### Grade Seven, Honors

Adeelya L. Andrade, Alison C. Baptiste, Joshua D. Caranci, Joseph H. Cook, Alexandra C. Cullen, Madison S. Cyr, Kalypso P. DeCologero, Fiona M. Derr, Landon R. Devine, Brynn E. Dunphy, Ryder R. Eagan, Tyler P. Ellis, Maya E. Faucher, Finian G. Fauteux, Silas L. Flint, Lindsay A. Fors, Nathan W. Gingras, Juliana C. Guilderson, Madison G. Haley, Sawyer D. Harmon, Hayston J. Hay, Madisyn E. Hill, Reese O. Jamieson, Aubrey M. Lawson, Brooklyn P. Lewis, Allie T. Lipiec, Sage M. McQueston, Lunabelle A. Moore, Ryan A. Morin, Ame-

lia E. Morrill, Greyson A. Mullins, Olivia M. O'Connor, William P. O'Neill, Joseph E. Perrone, Lukas J. Potter, Chloe A. Richardson, Kimberly A. Riendeau, Jillian M. Rigney, Ava M. Rogowski, Jacob J. Rosario, Madisson E. Scanlon, Madisyn L. Shotwell, Deven J. Skinner, Brianna S. Souza, Rosalie M. Stark, Addison C. Surprenant, Tucker Talbot, Robert Q. Tobin, Mackenzie A. Toupin and Maxwell W. Wade.

### Grade Eight, High Honors

Nicolas G. Antonio, Brent J. Benoit, Abraham A. Brown, Vivien D. Burch, Alianna M. Casey, Kaylee M. Correia, Maya B. Edouard, Andrew P. Erickson, Ava H. Kinney, Matthew C. Labrousse, Kingston R. McKenzie, Angelina N. Orr, John A. Orsini, Stella M. Pears, Ellie L. Poulin, Moira M. Powers, Kristen A. Schur, Benjamin D. Thompson, Erin J. Trotter and Catherine E. Tucker.

### Grade Eight, Honors

Haleigh E. Agurkis, Sophia I. Bellerose, Mackenzie J. Black, Laine M. Bousquet, Jo-

sephine M. Buck, Carlmorisia K. Campbell, Eleanor L. Carroll, Wyatt E. Clark, Brian R. Colleton, Aiden A. Crane, Claudia W. DeLaRoche, Zoe M. Doherty, Lilliana R. Doyle, Olivia L. Drake, Aliyah B. Edouard, Arianna R. Fargnoli, Audrey J. Faucher, Samuel S. Feldman, Julian O. Forsyth, Sydney C. Freeman, Larrah B. Gagne, Daniella N. Gaudreault, Callahan C. Hardy, Chloe L. Howarth, Samuel E. Jamieson, Amir M. Kamboh, Spencer T. Kokoski, Dylan C. Lantiegne, Ahryana M. Laroche, Alison A. LaRoche, Emma R. Lindsey, Kayla A. Mc-Nee, Max B. Melad, Lynn Diarra S. Michel, Gianna E. Montalvo, Zion R. Parks, Aubrie L. Phelps, Juliet K. Priestley, Lucas D. Proctor, Gwendolyn B. Ruis, Ava G. Sobol, Carter J. Stevenson, Hailey A. Stoll, Ryleigh I. Sullivan, Noah D. Toupense, Matthew J. VanScoy, Caleb P. Wnek and Shane T. Woodruff.



**PHONE**  
413.967.3505  
Fax: 413.967.6009  
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

**EMAIL**  
*Advertising Sales*  
Dan Flynn  
dfflynn@turley.com

Tim Mara  
tmara@turley.com

*Editor*  
Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

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www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

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## Historical Society presents program on 19th century clothing

STURBRIDGE – On Thursday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Publick House, Sturbridge Historical Society will welcome Old Sturbridge Village staff as they talk about their recent publication “Needle & Thread: The Art and Skill of Clothing an Early 19th Century Family”.

Drawing on Old Sturbridge Village’s extensive collection, Needle & Thread showcases early 19th-century garments as well as essential sewing tools and household equipment that supported the work of New England housewives.

Derek Heidemann has been employed at OSV since 2005 functioning as one of the museum’s primary blacksmiths.

In 2014 he was named Coordinator of Historic Trades overseeing the day to day operations and production in the museum’s historic trades, as well as its military programs. He became the Director of Collections and Research in 2021.

Rebecca Beall has been at the museum for over 20 years, starting as a costumed interpreter working in a variety of capacities from hearth cooking to textile arts like dyeing, spinning, weaving, sewing, and knitting.

In 2006 she moved to the Curatorial Department working first hand with the museum’s extensive collections. She is currently the Director of Collections and Curator of Textiles.

Together, they will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the process of creating the book and the stories that lie within it.

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

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- community -

# Senate passes 'Blue Envelope' bill for people with autism

BOSTON – The Senate recently voted unanimously to pass “An Act facilitating better interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder” (S.2542), also known as the “Blue Envelope” bill, filed by Senator Jo Comerford (D-Northampton).

The bill creates a voluntary program to make available special blue envelopes to people with autism spectrum disorder that hold the driver’s license, registration, and insurance cards, and which can be handed to a police officer in the event of a traffic stop. On the outside of the envelope are specific instructions for law enforcement officers on the driver’s diagnosis, impairments, triggers, emergency contact information, as well as best practices for communicating.

“I am deeply grateful to Senate President Karen Spilka, Ways and Means Chair Michael Rodrigues, Transportation Chair Brendan Crighton and my colleagues for passing this important legislation,” said Comerford in a press release. “The Blue Envelope bill will make our Commonwealth a safer place for people who are neuro-diverse. It moves us closer to equal opportunity and access for people of all abilities.”

“The Arc of Massachusetts and Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts are grateful to Senator Comerford, Senate President Spilka and Chairman Rodrigues for passing the Blue Envelope, a priority bill for our advocacy organizations. This bill will ease interactions between police and autistic drivers. We know these situations can escalate and become traumatic or even



Shown from left are UMass Police Chief Tyrone Parham, Max Callahan and Senator Jo Comerford. SUBMITTED PHOTO

dangerous,” said Maura Sullivan, Director of Government Affairs, The Arc of Massachusetts/Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts. “The Arc and AFAM applaud the Senate for taking action to be inclusive of the needs of the drivers with autism, in Massachusetts.”

“The Blue Envelope Bill would be a game changer for our family and for so many Massachusetts residents,” said Ilyse Levine-Kanji, an Executive Committee member of Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts. “Like many people with autism, my 25-year-old son Sam does not have any physical characteristics that indicate he has autism. In a stressful situation, where split second decisions must be made, I’m relieved that a police officer could see a blue envelope in Sam’s car and immediately understand that any unusual behavior or speech pattern is a result of autism. Thus, this bill could dramatically decrease the possibility of a tragic misunderstanding. Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts is extremely grateful for Senator Comerford’s leadership in introducing and championing this common sense initiative and to the Senate for moving so quickly to pass the bill.”

“Massachusetts police officers conduct thousands

of traffic stops each year. While most of these interactions are relatively ‘routine,’ officers do not know who they are interacting with before the traffic stop so they proceed with caution. Each driver reacts differently when they are pulled over by the police,” said Tyrone Parham, UMass Amherst Chief of Police. “The introduction of the blue envelope under stressful interactions will provide immediate information and context to the officer as they begin to communicate. This will be instrumental to help bridge the communication gap for both motorists and police officers.”

For drivers with autism spectrum disorder, being stopped by a police officer can be particularly challenging. At times, law enforcement officers or other first responders have had little or no training about how to communicate appropriately with people with ASD.

The bill facilitates understanding and better communication between law enforcement and drivers with ASD. In other states, like Connecticut, a similar voluntary program has been shown to reduce stress, facilitate better communication, and improve safety.

This bill will now move to the Massachusetts House of Representatives for consideration.

**SELECTMEN | FROM PAGE 1**

write-in candidate in 2018. Tripp was then elected to serve on the board, with his term set to end in May of this year.

Tripp also serves on the Planning Board.

The town’s 2021 annual report was dedicated to Tripp, citing the various community projects he has led and helped with, including clean up and painting of the Town House, converting the old railroad bed into a rail trail, manufacturing gate posts for rail trail crossings, clean up and renovation of the town park at the corner of School and North streets, work at Bates Observatory and efforts to remodel the Highway Department and Fire Station.

Following his resignation, Tripp said he had decided to serve the town as a Selectmen because he wanted to see it fair better, and that he will continue to help out when he can.

“I’m not going anywhere,” Tripp said, adding that he has been a resident of town for almost 65 years.

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# - opinion -

## in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

### New questions for the New Year!

Jim, who gardens in Bridgewater, sent this question in to the Garden Lady.

“I liked your article on experimenting with holly seeds. I do some of my own propagating with trees and perennials, so the holly seeds thing was good. My question concerns being dioecious and at what point can one determine male or female? Is there some way to determine sex at an early stage or must I grow a dozen plants for years before I can wean out the males and keep the females? I have read that a single male will successfully pollinate all the females within a half mile radius so finding the females is my goal at the earliest possible stage of growth.”

Sadly, the only way to figure out whether you have a male or female holly is by examining the flowers, so yes, that will require growing them on for some time; my research indicates about four to seven years.

The male flowers will have four petals and four stamens where you will see the pollen at the end. Female flowers look very similar except there is a green “bump” in the center of the petals – the ovary, where the berries will form from.

Garden centers usually propagate vegetatively from either male or female plants, so they are not playing the waiting game. Starting hollies from seed is still a fun experiment, time consuming nonetheless.

Dawn was worried that her amaryllis plant was dead. “My amaryllis was originally a Christmas gift. I’ve enjoyed it for a few years now, but its leaves yellowed, then they withered and died. I’m worried that I killed it!”

As soon as I heard from Dawn, my thoughts went to my own amaryllis, still in my bedroom window despite the fact that its leaves are brown and have fallen around the outside of its pot. I haven’t watered it since it started to “decline.”

It has sat there in this sorry state for a few weeks now. Never fear, it’s likely our bulbs have gone dormant.

This timing is a little off if you think about all of those boxed sets of amaryllis bulbs sitting on store shelves just in time for Christmas giving and planting. Bulb companies can “time” growth stages a little more reliably than we can.

After a month or two of dormancy watering can resume and with good fortune, blooms should reappear in 6-8 weeks. Some experts recommend putting the dormant bulbs in a cool, dark room to rest.

I often move dormant pots of bulbs to my mudroom where temperatures are in the 50s this time of year and when I see green tips on the bulb I bring it back into the living area of my house. Usually regrowth comes, but a flower sometimes doesn’t.

In this case, the bulb is likely depleted of nutrients and without enough reserves left for re-bloom. I would recommend watering with an all-purpose plant fertilizer during active growth.

Seed production also diminishes the plant’s reserves, so be sure to deadhead the individual flowers as they go by, leaving the stem intact until it yellows. Hopefully these tips will give your amaryllis a few more good years of flowering.

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



## in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who along with his wife, participated in the Allen Bird Club’s Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 16.

One unexpected species they saw were three female buffleheads at the Springfield Reservoir.

The bufflehead is a small duck about 14 inches long. It has a distinct, large rounded head.

The male has a white wedge behind its black head. The male also has white flanks and breast. The female is gray brown with a small patch of white behind the eye.

They are diving ducks and feed on mollusks, fish, snails and crustaceans. They summer on wooded lakes, rivers and winter on lakes and coastal waters.

The female lays eight to ten ivory to buff eggs in a tree cavity or nest box. There courtship begins in January and these ducks show a high level of aggression during that time.

Buffleheads are generally silent. However, the female makes guttural sounds during courtship.



Female Bufflehead

### Bird count

In his email, the Brimfield resident said he did his first Allen Bird Club count in the late 1970s. He said, “We have been covering the town of Ludlow, excluding the Westover Conservation Area covered by others, since 1989. The club’s count circle center is in Springfield and includes adjacent towns.

He also said, “We had an excellent day weather wise, but the songbirds were hard to come by. With all the water ice free, we had high number of Canada geese (93), common mergansers (170, mostly males) and mallard (115). The common mergan-

sers and many of the mallards were at the Springfield Reservoir.”

He reported 20 ring-necked ducks at a pond near the Ludlow Country Club was another unexpected species in the count. In all, they had 32 species on their list, slightly more than the average of 29 species. Following the time in the field, the participants held a zoom meeting to discuss the results.

No one mentioned seeing any winter finches i.e. redpoll, siskin or evening grosbeak.

### Large flock of Canada geese

Recently, I saw a large flock of Canada geese in a cornfield in Spencer. There must have been at least 100. I did not stop to take an accurate count, but it was the largest flock I’ve seen.

### Christmas card count

Years ago, Thelma Crawford told me she kept a Christmas card bird count every year. While she was alive,

we would share our card counts.

Often the bird fell into the unspecified species category. I even received a Christmas card one year with a loon with an evergreen wreath around its neck. This was the first year I did not receive any Christmas cards with birds even one perched off in a distant tree in the background.

### Suet feeder

I now have my suet feeder out all the time as I have not seen any sign of wandering black bears in awhile. I also feed a combination of mixed bird seed, black oil sunflowers and shelled peanuts, which I mix together to put out daily.

I have the usual juncos, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, blue jays, mourning doves and of course, squirrels. I have not seen the cardinal pair yet, but then I don’t have a lot of time to spend watching my feeders.

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

## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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### Send opinions to:

Letters to the Editor, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 OR e-mail to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com). Deadline for submission is Monday at noon for the following week’s edition.

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**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President

**EDITOR**  
Paula Quimette  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Dan Flynn  
Tim Mara

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

# - community -

## News from the Quabbin Regional School District

From the desk of Colleen Mucha,  
Interim Superintendent of QRSD

Science learning has students at Quabbin Regional Middle School fired up.

Students in grades six-eight have been engaged in a new and exciting curriculum, Open Science Education. This curriculum is different from what students may have been exposed to in the past.

The phenomenon based approach allows students the opportunity to figure out what is happening in the scientific world with the teachers guiding them throughout the processes.

Students generate questions, explanations, and ideas for investigation so that they can test, explore and problem solve their own theories and hypotheses. Teachers have seen increased student engagement and excitement in our science classes and our students are clamoring for more.

Recently, I observed our sixth graders as they explored humidity. Students had previously read an article and they were excited to share their thoughts and they were tasked with creating an environment where they believed they could make the humidity rise over time.

They had access to a variety of materials and were encouraged to think about different environments such as a beach, desert, or grassy lawn.

As a team, students selected to recreate the environment that they thought would result in having an increased humidity in comparison to their classroom. They quickly gathered sand, water, grass, ice, whatever they needed.

Students went right to work. After gathering materials, they created mini environments and started recording their humidity levels at each one minute interval.

In between their data collection, I asked students how their learning in science was going this year.

Khaiden Deschenes said, "I'm more involved. It's more fun to do experiments and build." Emily DeMalia shared, "I also am more involved. We create our own ideas to work together to come up with our own conclusions."

Quabbin Regional Middle School Science Technology Engineering and Math Coach, Drew Giese, reported, "I'm seeing students work with more challenging scientific concepts at an earlier age. For example, I've seen our middle schoolers work with concepts that I used to teach as a high school physics teacher. I know this is going to help them have greater understanding and to feel more prepared."

We are thrilled that our students at the middle school level are responding so well to the newly implemented science curriculum. We anticipate strong outcomes for our students.

In 2021, it was anticipated that the need for workers in the STEM field was going to increase at two times the rate of all other occupations by 2031. It is our plan to ensure that all Quabbin students, who seek a career in the STEM field, are ready and excited to take that on.



Students in grades six through eight have been engaging in a new curriculum, Open Science Education. Sixth graders work on creating an environment where humanity would rise over time. SUBMITTED PHOTO

### Nominations papers available for annual town election

WARREN/WEST BROOKFIELD – Town Clerks Laura Stockley of Warren and Heather Gough of West Brookfield announced that nomination papers are available on Monday, Feb. 5 for the annual town election, which will be held on Tuesday, May 7.

Nomination papers are available from each respective town clerk during office hours:

- Town of Warren – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Thursday from 1-6 p.m.
- Town of West Brookfield – Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Quaboag Regional School Committee nomination papers will be available for pick up on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at the Quaboag Regional Middle High School front office between the hours of 8 a.m.-3 p.m. School Committee positions open include two members from Warren for three-year terms and two members from West Brookfield for three-year terms.

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# Governor announces \$50 million for Climate Solutions Initiative

BOSTON – As part of its “Forests as Climate Solutions” Initiative, the Healey-Driscoll Administration recently released the Climate Forestry Committee’s report containing recommendations to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs regarding enhanced climate-oriented forest management practices for Massachusetts based on the latest climate science.

The 12-member Committee of scientific experts emphasized the importance of keeping forests intact by enlarging forest reserves, increasing permanent conservation efforts, and reducing the conversion of forests to other uses. Noting the critical role forests play in mitigating dangerous climate change, the Committee urged the state to sharpen its land management focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

EEA is allocating \$50 million to help communities conserve forested land and support forest-based businesses and local economies. EEA will invest this funding in forest conservation, including new forest reserves and incentives that encourage municipal and private landowners to adopt climate-oriented management approaches.

This funding will help the state reach its climate goals, as set forth in the Clean Energy and Climate Plan, conserving 40% of Massachusetts’ natural and working lands by 2050.

EEA is now seeking public input on the Committee’s recommendations to inform the state’s implementation of management guidelines for forest lands held by the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Divisions of State Parks and Recreation and Water Supply Protection, and the Department of Fish and Game’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

As planned, the six-month temporary pause on timber harvesting projects is over. During the public comment period, the State will review the paused projects and apply the Committee’s recommendations.

In June, the Healey-Driscoll Administration launched “Forests as Climate Solutions” to increase the focus on for-

ests and climate by investing in forest conservation, enhancing a network of forest reserves, and developing forest management guidelines based on the latest climate science.

EEA convened the Climate Forestry Committee, a group of scientific experts, to bring their expertise and recommend a climate-centered approach for state lands. The Climate Forestry Committee’s report offers guidelines to optimize carbon storage and resilience of state forests in alignment with the 2050 Clean Energy and Climate Plan.

“We’ve done the review - now we’re following the science. It is encouraging to see that Massachusetts has been proactive in many ways when managing our forests, but our work is not done yet,” said EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper in a press release. “With these funds, we will empower communities to invest in this critical resource while boosting local economies that rely on our forests. These investments will pay dividends in the long term as we confront extreme weather and make progress on our climate goals.”

“Healthy forests and wetlands are our best defense against the increasingly dangerous impacts of climate change. Nature-our forests, wetlands, grasslands-sequester huge amounts of carbon; you can look out your window today and see the best direct air capture technology currently available-trees. And they provide this service for free. But our forests are in danger-each year we lose more and more as forests are cut for other land uses and the forests themselves are experiencing the effects of more extreme climate impacts, including droughts, fires, heat waves, invasive species, and more intense storms. The Healey-Driscoll Administration made it a top priority to ensure our forest management practices and state policies guiding our forestry programs integrate the best and most current science,” said Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer. “The policy choices and actions we take now will impact future generations. We look forward to incorporating these recommendations into our land management

plans and strategies, and we are very grateful to the Committee members who collectively bring deep expertise on a broad range of forestry and climate science.”

## Climate Forestry Committee recommendations

Over six months, the Committee deliberated on recent science about how forests can affect climate change and how they are best managed for carbon storage and sequestration. The Committee centered its recommendations around the idea that forest management ranges along a spectrum from the most passive, hands-off approach, where nature takes its course, to active management, where interventions are targeted to advance specific forest conditions.

Its recommendations covered several areas, including carbon stocks and sequestration, soils, natural disturbances, and habitat management, offering climate-centered approaches for each.

In addition, the Committee discussed strategies for maximizing carbon storage. The Committee agreed that carbon storage is greatest in older forests, and the state should allow forests to grow old while balancing goals for active management.

The Committee also recommended strategies for pursuing active forest management in a climate-focused manner, including updating Best Management Practices and encouraging EEA to implement its Healthy Soils Action Plan to preserve soil carbon.

The Committee also recommended a reduction in habitat goals for species dependent on young forests, shrublands, and grasslands on MassWildlife lands to increase carbon storage and sequestration. Separately, as part of the Biodiversity Conservation in Massachusetts Executive Order, the Department of Fish and Game will evaluate and update habitat goals for 2030, 2040, and 2050 for Massachusetts.

Additionally, the Committee underscored the importance of natural disturbances for forests, and recommended, wherever possible, that dead trees be left on the ground for their biodiversity ben-

efits - rather than removed.

Recognizing the impact pests, pathogens, and invasive plant species can have on natural and working lands, the Committee recommended that EEA evaluate each circumstance individually including the nature of the invasive pest or pathogen, the tree species impacted, the stage of the invasion, and the likelihood of successful intervention.

Overall, the Committee encouraged state agencies to be more specific about the rationale behind forest management projects and their carbon and climate implications, including for water supply protection and habitat management goals. It also called for more investment in data, science, and staffing resources for state forest lands.

## Forest and carbon data

Understanding the essential role of forests and carbon, the administration has also developed an outline and framework for a publicly available dashboard that will launch in 2024, highlighting forest carbon metrics and trends.

Projects planned for 2024 include engaging an external contractor to investigate where and how wood from Massachusetts forests is being utilized and the impact on carbon storage of use in long-lived wood products.

## Landowner and business incentives

Working directly with private forest landowners representing 60% of Massachusetts’ forests and forestry business owners representing the state’s \$5.4 billion market sectors, EEA will expand its successful Working Forest Initiative program.

In 2024, the administration will take actions to increase technical assistance, incentivize practices that protect or enhance forest soils and carbon stocks, and promote forest resilience across private and municipal lands in Massachusetts via technical assistance from licensed foresters to advance climate-oriented forestry practices. In addition, an annual climate forestry event will be launched for all forest landowners and related businesses to exchange ideas, best practices, and innovations.

# Smola supports comprehensive \$1.02 billion tax relief package

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Ways & Means Committee) has joined with his colleagues to approve a comprehensive tax package that will provide significant financial relief to Massachusetts residents and businesses.

House Bill 4104, “An Act to improve the Commonwealth’s competitiveness, affordability, and equity,” offers a phased-in approach to a series of tax reforms that is expected to produce \$561 million in savings for taxpayers this fiscal year and an estimated \$1.02 billion in savings once the changes are fully implemented in 2026.

The bill, which represents a compromise negotiated over the last three months by a six-member conference committee, received preliminary approval by the House of Representatives on a vote of 155-1 on Sept. 27.

“House Bill 4104 reflects our responsibility to strengthen Massachusetts’ economic landscape while increasing the financial stability of our hardworking residents. I am thankful for the cohesive effort from the House of Representatives and believe that this tax relief package will improve the well-being of our constituents and businesses,” Smola said in a press release.

Smola noted that the final tax package provides for increases in the child and dependent tax credit, the rental deduction cap, and the Earned Income

Tax Credit. It also doubles the Senior Circuit Breaker tax credit while raising the estate tax threshold from \$1 million to \$2 million and increasing the amount seniors can deduct from their property taxes when participating in the Senior Property Tax Volunteer Program.

House Bill 4104 also authorizes a reduction in the short-term capital gains tax rate and implements a single sales factor for companies beginning Jan. 1, 2025, to encourage economic growth and help maintain Massachusetts-based businesses. In addition, the bill triples the maximum allowable Title V tax credit for homeowners repairing or replacing their septic tanks, while also expanding the lead paint abatement and taking steps to promote more housing development across the state.

According to Smola, House Bill 4104:

- Combines the child and dependent tax credits into one while eliminating the existing cap and increasing the credit from \$180 to \$310 in FY23 and to \$440 in FY24, which will benefit over 565,000 families;
- Increases the rental deduction cap from \$3,000 to \$4,000, which will assist approximately 800,000 renters;
- Raises the Earned Income Tax Credit from 30% to 40% of the federal credit, which will benefit approximately 400,000 taxpayers earning less than \$60,000;

- Doubles the maximum Senior Circuit Breaker tax credit from \$1,200 to \$2,400, indexed to inflation, to assist nearly 100,000 seniors with their housing costs;
- Eliminates the estate tax for all estates valued under \$2 million and allows for a uniform credit of \$99,600, effective Jan. 1, 2023;
- Allows municipalities to provide up to \$2,000 in property tax reductions for older residents participating in the senior work-off program, which is currently capped at \$1,500;
- Reduces the tax on short-term capital gains from 12% to 8.5%;
- Replaces the current three-prong sales tax apportionment for Massachusetts-headquartered businesses that incorporates property, payroll and sales with a new system that only factors in sales;
- Increases the maximum tax credit for septic tank repairs or replacement under Title V from \$6,000 to \$18,000 and also increases the amount that can be claimed to \$4,000 per year;
- Doubles the lead paint abatement to \$1,000 for partial abatement and \$3,000 for full abatement;
- Raises the statewide cap on the Housing Development Incentive Program from \$10 million to \$57 million for one year before setting the annual cap at \$30 million moving forward;
- Raises the annual authorization for

- the Low Income Housing Tax Credit from \$40 million to \$60 million;
- Allows cities and town to adopt a local property tax exemption for renters whose income falls below a certain level set by the community;
- Increases the statewide cap on the Dairy Tax Credit from \$6 million to \$8 million to assist local farmers impacted by reductions in milk prices;
- Makes public transit fares and certain other expenses eligible for the commuter expenses tax deduction;
- Expands the number of occupations eligible for the workforce development tax credit;
- Exempts employer student loan payments from being counted as taxable income by the state; and
- Increases the maximum amount of alcohol that hard ciders and still wines may contain from 6% of alcohol by weight to 8.5%, which will allow more of these locally produced products to be taxed at a lower rate.

House Bill 4104 must still be approved by the Senate and enacted in both branches before reaching Governor Maura Healey’s desk for her review and signature.

For additional information, contact Smola by email at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or call 617-722-2100.

# - community -

## JHPL presents 'Stewing Over Mysteries' Jan. 25

STURBRIDGE – The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library will present the annual Stewing Over Mysteries event on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Since 2011, Stewing Over Mysteries has been held at the Public House in Sturbridge. A dinner of beef stew is offered along with a New England mystery writer to entertain and enlighten, all in the cozy atmosphere of one of the oldest taverns in the commonwealth.

This event is limited to 75 people and has sold out in the past.

“Edwin Hill’s new book, ‘Who to Believe’, will be released on Jan. 23 and we are thrilled to be his first celebratory public appearance,” said Becky Plimpton, library director in a press release. “This event is not a fundraiser, but a community event subsidized by the Friends of the JHPL and supported by the Public House. Our goal is to make this an affordable and entertaining evening with a first class author.”

Tickets are still available for \$16 per

person and include beef stew, rolls, coffee and dessert. Tickets and can be purchased at the Joshua Hyde Library’s temporary location at the second floor of the Sturbridge Town Hall, or online at [www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org](http://www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org).

Hill’s books can be purchased at the event. There is a snow date of Jan. 31, 2024.

Hill is the Edgar- and Agatha-award nominated author of three novels in the Hester Thursby series: “Little Comfort”, “The Missing Ones”, and “Watch Her”. “The Secrets We Share” and his latest novel to be released in 2024, “Who to Believe”, are standalone thrillers.

After attending Wesleyan University and graduating with a bachelor’s degree in American studies, he headed west to San Francisco for the dotcom boom. Later, he returned to Boston, earned a master’s degree from Emerson College, and switched gears to work in educational publishing.

His first novel was published in 2018.

## JHPL lists January events

STURBRIDGE – The Joshua Hyde Public Library is hosting multiple events in January.

The library building remains closed as they continue to work on the HVAC system. There is a temporary mini-library set up in the Town Hall on the second floor for anyone getting books from other libraries. Y

You may also call the library at 508-347-2512 to request materials or for any questions you may have.

**JANUARY FILM SERIES** - Join the Library, at the temporary Senior Center, Thursdays at 1 p.m. for movies based on the theme “The Things We Do for Love”. Screenings will be held in the

basement of the Federated Church.

The movies are Jan. 18, “Moonstruck”; and Jan. 25, “When Harry Met Sally”.

**STEWING OVER MYSTERIES** – Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m. at the Public House. Join the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library for dinner and a discussion with author Edwin Hill. Dinner will be served starting at 6:30 p.m. and will include beef stew, rolls, coffee, and dessert.

Discussion with author Edwin Hill will begin at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$16 each and are available at the Library or online at <https://www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org/stewing-over-mysteries-1>

## St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold open house

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School is hosting an open house at the school located at 52 Church St., in Gilbertville, on Monday, Jan. 29 from 3-5:30 p.m.

Prospective parents are cordially invited to visit the classrooms and meet the faculty of this growing school. The 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 website, [www.staloyuscs.com](http://www.staloyuscs.com), under the “Join our Family” tab.

## SNHU announces fall 2023 President’s list

MANCHESTER, N.H. – Southern New Hampshire University announces the fall 2023 President’s list. Local students making the President’s list are Valeria Contreras of North Brookfield and Chelsea Sanders of North Brookfield.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s list. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring and summer.

## Anthony Sheard makes fall 2023 Dean’s list

MANCHESTER, N.H. – Southern New Hampshire University announces the fall 2023 Dean’s list. Anthony Sheard of North Brookfield is on the fall Dean’s list.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s list. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

## Quabbin Visitor Center lists free indoor/virtual events

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free indoor/virtual programs in January and February.

Space is limited and registration is required. In-person seating will be limited to 45 people.

All ages are welcome.

To register for any of these events, visit [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events).

Presentations will be offered in-person and via Zoom. To register, follow the link in each program description and chose to attend in-person or to receive the Zoom link.

### Construction of the Winsor Dam

On Sunday, Jan. 21 from 2-3 p.m. join staff from the DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center to learn more about how the Winsor Dam and the Goodnough Dike were constructed and how they formed the Reservoir.

Quabbin Reservoir is so noted for its natural beauty and pure water that we often forget that it is a constructed landscape created by the Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike.

### Secrets Beneath the Trees

On Sunday, Jan. 28 from 2-3 p.m. join Dr. Becky Seifried, Geospatial Information Librarian at UMass Amherst to learn how we can use Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) to map the traces of historical settlements, like

stone walls and road cuts - and you’ll discover just how much built heritage is hidden beneath the forests of Quabbin in Secrets Beneath the Trees: Exploring the Quabbin’s Hidden Historical Landscape with Lidar.

Lidar is a technology that lets researchers peek beneath the tree canopy to model the surface of the earth.

### Project Mishoon: Underwater Treasures of the Nipmuc

On Sunday, Feb. 4 from 2-3 p.m. join Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band member and Project Mishoon Director, Cheryl Stedtler, as she shares the history of Project Mishoon.

A recreational diver exploring the dark waters of Lake Quinsigamond happened upon a dugout canoe. For nearly 400 years, this canoe and others found nearby have rested quietly in the lake’s silty bottom awaiting the return of their Indigenous paddlers.

Not until 2001 would Nipmuc descendants return to them and become the first Indigenous community in Massachusetts history to secure an archaeological reconnaissance permit from the Commonwealth’s Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources.

### Understanding Watershed Forestry Management

Join a DCR-DWSP forester to learn about the benefits of a managed forest and the objectives and conditions that dictate when, where, and how trees are harvested on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 2-3 p.m.



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# - community -

**PETSMART | FROM PAGE 1**

ing access to veterinary care. The “Accelerator” low-cost veterinary care grant program is a key part of this effort. These grants support the expansion of low-cost veterinary care by funding growth and operations for up to four years for nonprofit clinics looking to expand their services, serve their communities better and inspire other veterinary providers by sharing their experiences.

The grant made to Second Chance Animal Services in the amount of \$1,100,000 will support the expansion over the next three years at the nonprofit’s surgical center that provides lifesaving surgeries for animals. The anticipated impact on local pets and families includes saving the lives of more pets in need of urgent or emergency care who have nowhere else to turn.

“We are so grateful to PetSmart Charities for their continued support of our work to keep pets in their homes with the people they love,” said Sheryl Blancato, Second Chance CEO and founder in a press release. “Second Chance is a place that many turn to for lifesaving surgeries to save their pets, and to keep them together with the families that love them.”

Second Chance offers a two-tiered system of subsidized rates for pet owners at their four Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester. Pet owners who are 150% of the poverty level received a subsidized rate lower than Second Chance’s standard rates.

Those that do not fit in this category pay the standard low-cost rate.

This helps to ensure access to care for all pets.

Overwhelmingly, people consider their pets important members of the family. Pets make a significant impact on the health and wellness of the people they love. This grant will enable more families to get the preventative and standard care that ensures their pets thrive at home and stay out of shelters.

“Our veterinary system is in crisis,” said Kate Atema, director of community grants and initiatives at PetSmart Charities. “Rising costs are putting standard veterinary care out of reach for as much as 50% of pet-owning families. We need innovative solutions that make veterinary care affordable for the families in every community who want the best for their four-legged companions but struggle to meet the cost of vet care. We’re inspired by the incredible work Second Chance is doing to create solutions that will build strong families and a healthy community.”

Last year, Second Chance helped over 48,000 pets including a beautiful black long-haired cat named Onyx who got into Christmas decorations.

Her owner had seen Onyx chewing on tinsel and noticed that Onyx had not felt well for many days and was showing signs of being in much pain. She was seen at an emergency veterinary hospital, but her owner couldn’t afford the price they quoted for surgery.

Her family was grateful to learn that

Second Chance veterinarians could perform the surgery at a reduced rate, allowing them to save their beloved pet. Onyx showed signs of feeling better as soon as the surgery was completed and went home to celebrate the holidays with her loving family.

For more information Second Chance Animal Service’s Community Veterinary Hospitals, visit [www.secondchanceanimals.org/vetcare](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/vetcare).

## Liam Flynn named to Clarkson University’s Dean’s List

POTSDAM, NY – Liam Daniel Flynn of West Brookfield, a junior majoring in engineering and management, was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2023 semester at Clarkson University.

Dean’s List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

**QHSUA | FROM PAGE 1**

The QHSUA has also provided many training opportunities to its members which benefit the 18 towns of the Quaboag Hills region. All of these towns are rural, and the QHSUA has continued to advocate for the health needs of this overlooked and underserved area.

The QHSUA has also served to connect organizations to each other, and allow members to network.

Looking toward the future, QHSUA would like more opportunities for in-person gatherings, in addition to virtual meetings.

Members would also like to grow the QHSUA’s membership into other sectors, and hear from parents as well as members of the faith community. Drafting a chart to show how each group within the alliance collaborates and interacts with each other would also be helpful to members and the community.

Under the “what if” category, QHSUA members would like to see more involvement from local businesses and community members to help reduce the stigma of substance use. The members would also like to offer individual grants and grant making opportunities.

“What if” also included the need for extended training and public health development, and advocacy for a community health center, as well as more access to harm reduction.

Members would also like to remove barriers for treating substance use and look at broader health issues related to substance use that aren’t addressed due to stigma. A need for policy and legislation was also discussed.

**Upcoming trainings and events**

Community Engagement Coordinator for QHSUA Abigail Duda presented several upcoming trainings and events, including a Palmer-focused meeting in the library of Palmer High School on Tuesday, Jan. 23 from 2:30-4 p.m.

Attendees at the group’s previous meeting held in November will continue discussion about substance use and related public health issues and how they apply to Palmer.

This meeting will be held in-person with virtual access as well. Register by visiting <https://forms.gle/7A588d-1Mh1r2u4w79>.

Duda said the second part of the Positive Community Norms free training offered by the Montana Institute will be held Thursday, Jan. 25 from 2-4 p.m. via Zoom. This two-hour training will be part message development and part brainstorming session.

Registration is required by Tuesday, Jan. 23 by visiting <https://s.alchemer.com/s3/MIP2> or emailing [aduda@townofware.com](mailto:aduda@townofware.com). The first part of the training can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/853697015/6b5f65c88c?share=copy>.

Youth Mental Health First Aid training will be offered in two sessions. The first on Tuesday, Jan. 30 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and the second over two days, Mondays, Feb. 5 and 12 from 6-8:30 p.m. Register at <http://s.alchemer.com/s3/TTMHFA>.

Healthy Quaboag and The Ru-

ral Vaccine Equity Initiative will offer COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics on Sunday, Jan. 21 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Town House, 32 Common St., Hardwick and Monday, Jan. 22 from 3-6 p.m. at Education to Employment, 79 Main St., Ware. Bring your ID, insurance card and vaccination card (you can still get vaccinated if you don’t have an insurance card).

All vaccinations are available at no cost. Walk-ins and families welcome.

The Quabbin Health District, QHSUA and Healthy Quaboag will host an opioids and opioids rescue training led by Kirsten Krieger, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse on Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 4:30 p.m. at E2E, 79 Main St. Register by Friday, Jan. 12 by emailing [kkrieger@townofware.com](mailto:kkrieger@townofware.com).

**Community Strong Wellness**

The Palmer Public Library, the Palmer Police Department’s Drug Addiction Recovery Team and a mental health CHD clinician will be available at the library on Wednesdays, Jan. 17, 31 and Feb. 14 from 1-4 p.m.

They will be assisting people with problematic substance use, mental health concerns, housing stability, financial assistance, health insurance questions and more.

Palmer Police Sergeant David Burns said the team will be using these events to assess the needs of the community, and find ways to offer support.

**Recovery Center of HOPE**

Peer Recovery Coach Julie Lutz gave an update on the Recovery Center of HOPE’s Guiding Rides program.

Lutz said a van provides rides Monday through Friday morning to Springfield methadone clinics; rides to treatment, providers and other recovery supports; and more.

Rides can be provided for “anything that’s going to support somebody’s recovery,” she said.

Lutz said the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month will be for basic needs rides, including trips to Walmart, Big Y and pharmacies. A sign-up sheet is available at the center for community members to request rides.

Peer Community Resource Navigator Susan Daley said attendance at All Recovery meetings is growing, with a total of 121 participants in November and 163 in December.

The Recovery Center of HOPE is now open five days a week, with hours Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. All Recovery meetings are held daily at 11:30 a.m.

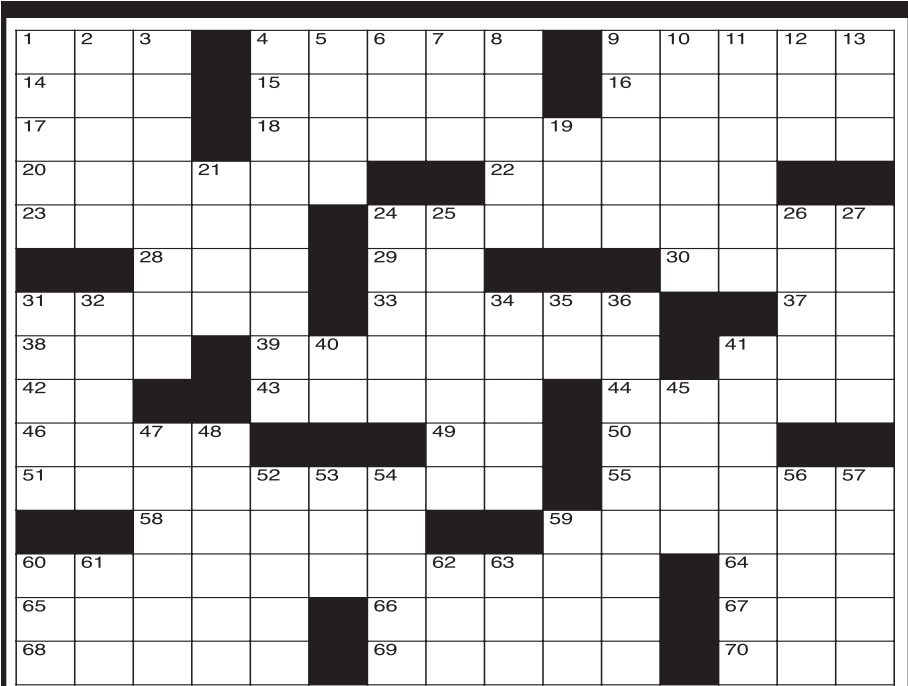
**HEALing Communities Study**

Maegan Boutot shared a link to get medication for opioid use disorder and Narcan ([qhsua.org/resource-map/](http://qhsua.org/resource-map/)) at locations in Belchertown in Ware.

“We put together a map of all NaloxBoxes...there are movements to make that statewide, hopefully soon,” Boutot said.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting of the QHSUA will be held on Monday, Feb. 12.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 4. Moved back and forth
- 9. One-time coach of the Cowboys
- 14. Last letter
- 15. Cause to become less intense
- 16. Genus of tree bugs
- 17. Body art
- 18. Romance novelist
- 20. Be filled with love for
- 22. City
- 23. Make vivid
- 24. Horses
- 28. Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
- 29. Atomic #18
- 30. Shortly
- 31. A type of prejudice
- 33. Whirls
- 37. Six
- 38. Old world, new
- 39. \_\_ Hess, oil company

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Indigenous people of Mexico
- 2. Dietary supplement
- 3. Having a particular sheen or luster
- 4. Views
- 5. Academic Bill of Rights
- 6. Automobile
- 7. When you anticipate arriving
- 8. Beef or chicken intestine
- 9. Conspiracy
- 10. Blood disorder
- 11. Long-time NBAer Shawn
- 12. Time zone
- 13. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
- 19. Upton Sinclair novel
- 21. What a cow does
- 24. Cavalry-sword
- 25. Ancient Greek war galley
- 26. Stars
- 27. Rebukes
- 31. Billion year periods
- 32. Some are in a bottle
- 34. Tears down
- 35. Lethal dose
- 36. Humorists
- 40. Midwestern US state (abbr.)
- 41. Frameworks
- 45. Rocker Billy
- 47. More thin
- 48. Dog
- 52. Habitual repetitions
- 53. State of fuss
- 54. Uneasy
- 56. Chemical compounds
- 57. More cognizant of reality
- 59. A place to build
- 60. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 61. Supplement with difficulty
- 62. Very slick
- 63. Hill or rocky peak



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# SPORTS

## Fernandez scores 20 in Quaboag win



Owen Stevens drives towards the rim.



Jacoby LaBillois dribbles to the paint.



Matthew Tiberii goes in for two.



Ryan Fernandez goes in for a lay-up.

WARREN – Last Wednesday night, Quaboag boys basketball opened up 2024 with a 52-34 win over Bartlett High School. Ryan Fernandez led all scorers with 20 points and Matt Tiberii added 16

points. Quaboag would trail by a point at halftime despite a fast start, but the Cougars owned the second half, outscoring Bartlett 33-14 to run away with the game. Quaboag is 3-1 for the season.



Ryan Fernandez draws two defenders away from play as he passes to an open Evan Long. PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP.SMUGMUG.COM

## Bassett breaks out in Quabbin victory



Meg Doyle wins the opening tip off. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY



Brooke Austin drives past the defender.

BARRE – Last Thursday night, Riley Bassett had a big game for Quabbin girls basketball with 22 points to lead all scorers in a 48-37 win over Lunenburg. Mia Ducos added 11 points in the win and Quabbin improved to an impressive 7-1 on the season. They are just a couple of wins away from qualifying for the state tournament once again.



Riley Bassett gets fouled while trying to take a shot.



Hannah Baxter takes it to the hoop.

- sports -

# North Brookfield falls to Monson, 66-51

MONSON – Last Friday night, North Brookfield boys basketball suffered a loss at Monson 66-51. The Indians were visiting a Western Mass. school for the first time this season. Anthony Sheard would lead the Indians with 18 points. Jose Rivera added 15 points and Colin Sukharev added 11 points. North Brookfield is 1-3 on the season.



Anthony Sheard runs for a layup. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Kaden Corvese makes a jump shot.



Anthony Polanco looks to pass under pressure.



Jose Rivera looks to go for the layup.

# Early lead paces Pioneers to win



Megan Clark makes a pass on the run.



Taylor Allen passes inside the arc.



Desiree Croteau makes a run inside the paint.



Greenly Lagimoniere makes her way down the court.

PALMER – Last Friday evening, Pathfinder girls basketball jumped out to a 9-2 lead, then more than doubled that while holding Westfield Tech to just four points in the first half. The Pioneers would go on to get the win 34-24 and improve to 4-3 on the season. Greenly Lagimoniere would lead Pathfinder with 11 points.



Addison Doktor lunges for a shot. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

# - sports -

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League returned to Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes for their first night of league in 2024.

The standings as of Dec. 12 have Acres in first place with a record of 12-4. In second place, Life is Good has a record of 11-5; just one point behind Acres. In third place, The Champs R Here stand at 10-6. Tied for third place is Team BK at 10-6.

What breaks the tie is Champs R Here having a higher team high single of 439 to BK's 422. The team who won the first round Compression stands in fifth place at 7.5 wins and 8.5 losses. In sixth place, the Blue B's are at 7-9 and seventh

place is Last in Line at 5.5 wins and 10.5 losses.

In one match, Blue B's bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Last in Line won the first game by a score of 317-307. In game two, Last in Line was victorious again by a score of 357-322. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line carried the team by bowling a 106.

In the last game, Blue B's won by a score of 357-344. Mike Zwirecki of the Blue B's finished the night breaking the century mark with a 102. Last in Line won total pinfall by a final score of 1018-986.

The #1 seed Acres bowled against the #4 seed Team BK. In game one, Team BK managed to stay ahead of the #1 seeded team by scoring 425 to Acres' 381.

Filling in for Team BK was Bryan Surprise and Ryan Drago. Surprise started off with a 106 and Drago started

off the night with a 136. Paul Tereso of Acres had a good start by bowling well over his league average with a 107.

In game two, Acres won by a score of 370-355. Drago stayed strong in game two by bowling a 122. In game three, BK won the last game of the evening by a score of 402-388. Three out of the four bowlers on Team BK were over 100 in game three.

Jeff Whyte finished with a 102, Surprise finished with a 104 and Drago finished with a 109. Tereso of Acres finished the night strong with a 116 and three-game series of 310. Surprise of Team BK finished with a series of 305 and Drago had a three-game series of 367.

Team BK won total pinfall with a final score of 1182-1139.

#2 seed Life is Good bowled against #3 seed Champs R Here. In game one, The Champs started off strong with a

397-357 victory over Life is Good. The father and son duo of John and Taylor Colkos had a good start to their evening with Taylor starting with a 109 and John with a 112.

In game two, The Champs were victorious again by a score of 385-342. In game three, The Champs R Here won for a three game sweep over Life is Good by a score of 396-360. John Colkos finished with a 118 and three game series of 324. Steve Manolakis finished with a 110 and a three game series of 310.

The Champs R Here won total pinfall by a final score of 1178-1059.

Compression bowled against their average and won two out of three games. The team fell just one pin short against their averages in game three by a score of 346-345.

### NOTICE

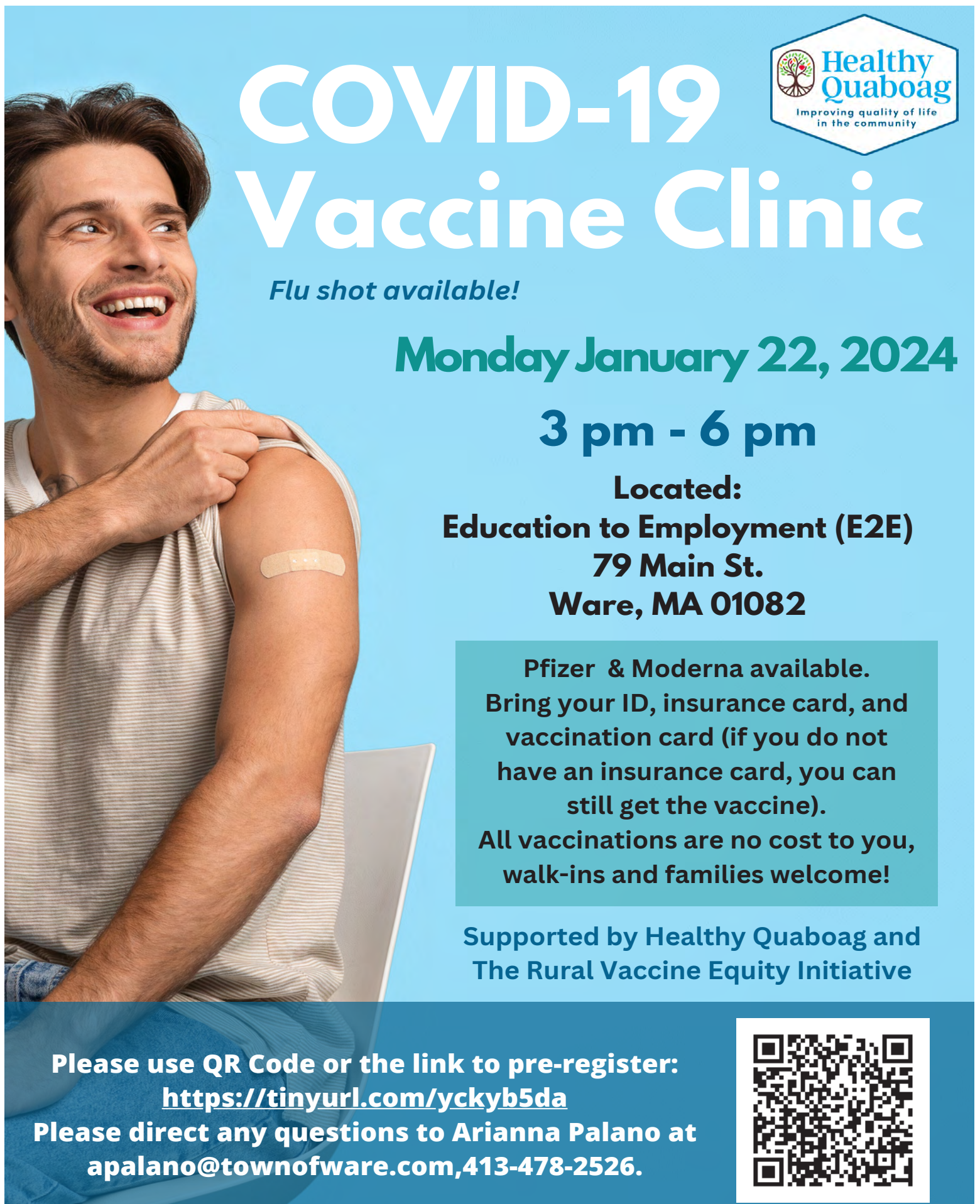
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# COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

*Flu shot available!*

## Monday January 22, 2024

### 3 pm - 6 pm

**Located:**

**Education to Employment (E2E)  
79 Main St.  
Ware, MA 01082**

**Pfizer & Moderna available.**  
Bring your ID, insurance card, and vaccination card (if you do not have an insurance card, you can still get the vaccine).  
**All vaccinations are no cost to you, walk-ins and families welcome!**

**Supported by Healthy Quaboag and The Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative**

**Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ycky5da>**

**Please direct any questions to Arianna Palano at  
[apalano@townofware.com](mailto:apalano@townofware.com), 413-478-2526.**

# Author Paula Grandpre Wood presents 'Letters to Ancestors'

HARDWICK – Author Paula Grandpre Wood presents "Letters to Ancestors" on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 1:30 p.m. at Paige Memorial Library 87 Petersham Road.

Space is limited and registration is recommended by emailing director. paigelibrary@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6704.

Grandpre Wood's book "The Long Walk Home with the Ceinture Fléchée: The Arrow Sash", invites readers to walk in the steps of real people with real joys and terrible heartache as they make the fateful decision to leave behind every-

thing they knew in La Rochelle, France and begin life anew in New France.

After serving indentureships, they began families, and some of her ancestors were caught up in the Acadian Dispersal. In the more recent past her ancestors immigrated once again, this time to the U.S.

Through genealogical research of Grandpre Wood's ancestors that was gifted to her by a family member, she learned the bare facts of the many generations of her forbears' lives.

One day these ancestors began speaking to her heart. She responded

by delving into the broader story of the times they lived through. She began writing a series of letters to specific grandparents, asking them unanswerable questions and telling them how she longed to know them better.

Her family's Ceinture Fléchée (Arrow Sash) has been passed down through six generations. The Sash binds the various parts of Grandpre Wood's story into a coherent whole.

Undertaking a quest to bring the family's heirloom to each ancestor's grave, she discovered one ancestor after the next. With each discovery, she

wrapped the tombstones with the family's Sash.

While learning and then writing about her nine-times grandparents she walked the Long Trail in Vermont, discovering parts of herself she had never known existed. Along with her growing sense of closeness with these ancestors, she found her way back to the Catholic Church. Every step of her journey, she knew her ancestors were praying for her.

For more information about Grandpre Wood, visit paulagrandprewood-sash.com.

# COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic



*Flu shot available!*

**Sunday January 21, 2024**

**11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Hardwick Town House  
40 Common St.  
Hardwick, MA 01037**



**Pfizer & Moderna available.  
Bring your ID, insurance card, and vaccination card (if you do not have an insurance card, you can still get the vaccine).  
All vaccinations are no cost to you, walk-ins and families welcome!**

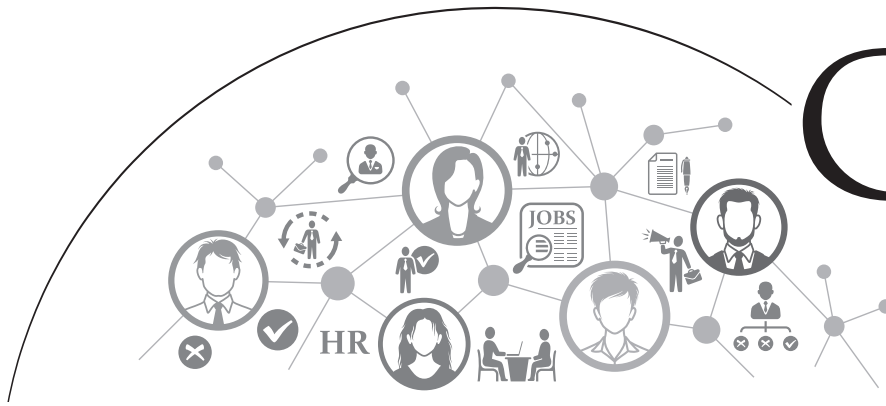
**Supported by Healthy Quaboag and The Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative**

**Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:**

**<http://tinyurl.com/ms2zhh7p>**

**Please direct any questions to Arianna Palano at  
apalano@townofware.com, 413-478-2526.**





# CAREER Education

## HCC announces healthy cooking series for new year

If you've made a New Year's resolution to eat healthier in 2024, Holyoke Community College might have just what you need.

The college is running a series of noncredit cooking classes this spring focused on diabetes but geared toward anyone interested in learning how to prepare healthier, more nutritious meals.

Classes in the "Nutrition for Diabetes" series run either on Tuesday or Wednesday nights beginning Feb. 7. All classes are held at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St., and taught by Marissa Chiapperino, a registered dietician and instructor in HCC's Culinary Arts program.

"Certain foods can lower your risk of heart disease and diabetes or help to manage it," Chiapperino said. "Making healthy adjustments to your daily meal plan does not have to be hard or boring. Oftentimes, adding in sources of healthy fats, whole grains, and high fiber fruits and vegetables can boost flavor and decrease the risk of chronic disease."

Each three-hour, stand-alone class will focus on a different theme. The first

hour will be an education session with Chiapperino, followed by a two-hour hands-on cooking activity after which participants can take home leftovers and recipes that align with the nutritional topic of the evening.

Wed., Feb. 7, 6-9 p.m.: "What is a carbohydrate?" (white bean egg shakshuka, breakfast casserole, overnight oats, vanilla bean pancakes, salmon toast)

Tues., March 5, 6-9 p.m.: "What is a protein?" (grilled skirt steak with chickpea salad, fideo, raspberry chicken, tahini-baked cod)

Wed., March 20, 6-9 p.m.: "What is a fat?" (smoothie bar, zucchini fritters, roasted chickpeas, cheesy egg souffles, Vietnamese spring rolls with peanut sauce)

Wed., April 17, 6-9 pm.: "How to read a food label" (grilled swordfish and pepper salad; chicken, lemon and olive bake; sweet potato berry muffins; easy breakfast salad; cheddar and herb savory overnight oats)

Tues., April 30, 6-9 p.m.: "What is a carbohydrate?" (desserts for diabetes:

chocolate date spread, oatmeal cookies, orange chamomile blondies, homemade popcorn four ways, caramelized spiced pears)

In addition, on Tues., April 2, from 6-9 p.m., Chiapperino will lead a similarly structured class on meal planning, "Building a balanced meal," featuring chilled avocado and cucumber mint soup, eggplant and lentil meatballs, chili-stuffed spaghetti squash, kale and fava bean salad, and grain-free granola.

"Making dietary changes can feel overwhelming," she said. "In this class, we will talk about how meal planning can make or break your ability to lead a more nourishing life with food. The concepts discussed will be suitable for those with many different health concerns and also those who just want to get more comfortable in the kitchen."

Chiapperino holds a bachelor of science degree in dietetics from the State University of New York at Oneonta and a masters of public health from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She specialized in medical nutrition therapy for critical care and oncology at West-



chester Medical Center in New York and was the first bariatric dietician at Holyoke Medical Center, where she helped build their nutrition program.

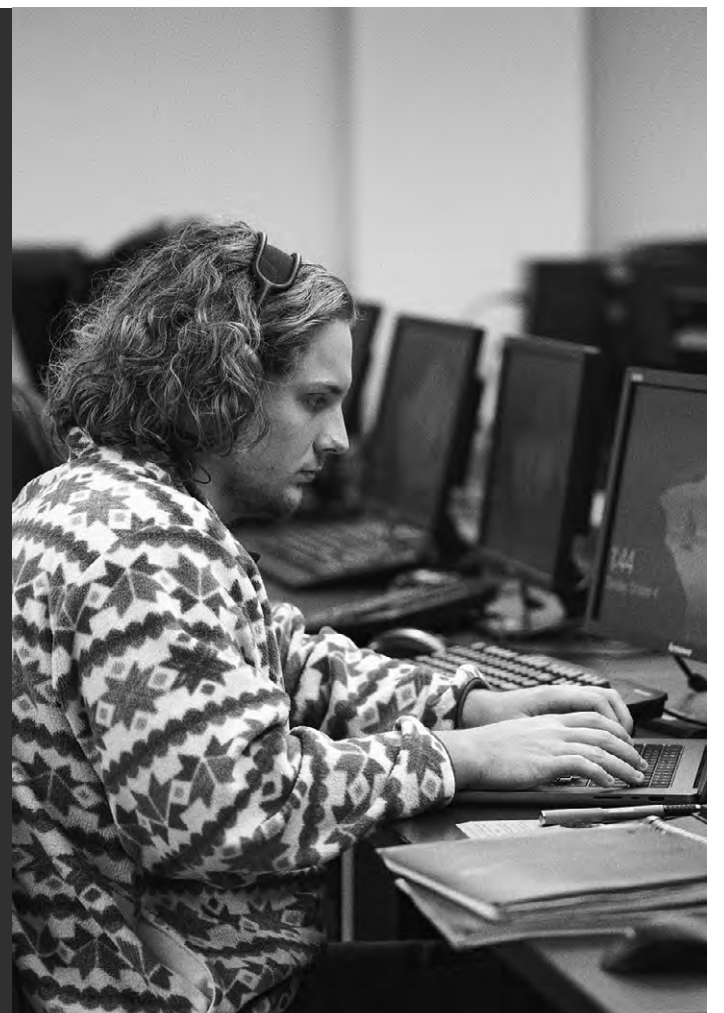
She is a past president of the Western Massachusetts Dietetic Association and currently serves as executive secretary.

Each session is \$84. For more information, or to register for classes, please go to [hcc.edu/healthy-cooking](http://hcc.edu/healthy-cooking)

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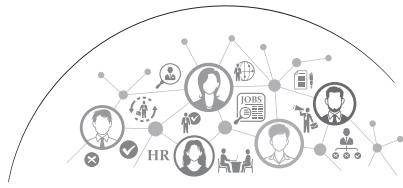
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**COMMUNITY**  
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# CAREER Education

## Hampden Charter School of Science marks 14 years of educational excellence

Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS) is a top-ranking free college-preparatory public school founded in 2009 and serving families with students in grades 6th-12th at two campuses in Western Massachusetts: HCSS-East (Chicopee Campus) and HCSS-West (West Springfield Campus).

HCSS proudly provides seven years of unparalleled college preparatory education for grades 6-12 students, paving the way for college admissions and a wealth of scholarship opportunities. College and Career Readiness at HCSS is a tailored process forging the best possible alignment between each distinctively talented student and the most suitable college or university for them. Students collaborate closely with their counselors to delve into their manifold talents and interests, set aspirations based on these insights, and identify colleges that align with their ambitions.

- **College Board AP Capstone Diploma Program:** A prestigious program that enhances research, analysis, and presentation skills.

- **Focused Attention in Small Classes:** With an average class size of fewer than 20 students, each individual receives the attention they deserve.

- **University Partnerships and Dual Enrollment:** Engage in university outreach programs that offer dual enrollment opportunities, bridging the gap between high school and college.



- **Enhanced College-Prep Curriculum:** HCSS's amplified curriculum prepares students comprehensively for higher education.

- **Early SAT and PSAT Preparation:** To build a strong foundation, Rigorous SAT and PSAT training starting in 8th grade.

- **Comprehensive College and Career Guidance:** A thorough guidance program that starts as early as 6th grade, equipping students for future academic and career choices.

- **Experiential College Campus Visits:** Hands-on learning through college campus tours and informative sessions, providing real-world college experience.

- **Community-Driven Guest Speakers and Career Workshops:** Gain insights from guest speakers and partake in career workshops led by community professionals.

- **Consistently High College Acceptance Rates:** An impressive average college acceptance rate of 95% since 2014.

- **Substantial Scholarship Achievements:** More than \$51M in scholarships raised since 2014.

- **HCSS Curriculum Highlights:** Project-Based Instruction and Con-

textual Learning: Engage in real-world problems and hands-on projects that bring learning to life.

- **Developmentally Appropriate and Data-Driven Instruction:** Personalized teaching strategies delivered by dedicated and highly qualified educators.

- **High-Level Academic Discussions:** Opportunities to improve critical listening, thinking, and analysis skills across all subjects.

- **Advanced Placement (AP) Opportunities:** Access 14 AP courses starting in 9th grade to challenge and elevate academic capabilities.

- **Early Honors Courses:** Availability of honors courses beginning in 7th grade for an academically accelerated path.

- **Inquiry-Driven Curriculum:** A focus on fostering inquiry, discovery, innovation, and collaboration in learning.

- **Comprehensive Support Services:** SPED and ELL services ensure that 100% of at-risk students meet high school MCAS graduation requirements.

- **Extensive Tutoring Programs:** Free in-school, after-school, and Saturday Academy tutoring, in addition to 24/7 online support in all subjects.

- **Project Lead The Way (PLTW):** A new addition fostering STEM skills through hands-on projects and real-world challenges, preparing students for future innovation and leadership.

Apply by March 3, 2024, for grades 6th-10th at [www.hampdencharter.org](http://www.hampdencharter.org).



# HAMPDEN CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRADE 6-10

### Why Hampden Charter School of Science?

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- 100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

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11:00 AM - 1:00PM

January 20th  
February 3rd  
February 10th  
March 2nd

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[WWW.HAMPDENCHARTER.ORG](http://WWW.HAMPDENCHARTER.ORG)

APPLY NOW / DEADLINE

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MARCH 3, 2024





# CAREER Education

## St. Michael's Academy to hold Open House

Are you looking for a school that educates each of its students as an individual? Are you looking for dedicated teachers who want their students to succeed? Are you looking for a school that combines faith with education in order to teach strong moral values, respect and kindness? Are you looking for a school with a structured environment that promotes learning?

Then we have a school for you!

St. Michael's Academy, located at 153 Eddywood Street in the East Forest Park section of Springfield, invites you to an Open House and Curriculum Fair on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024. There will be a special presentation for prospective students and their families that will begin at noon. The event will include an information session, followed by a panel of students, teachers

and parents for questions and finish with a full school tour. The full school will be open to visitors with teachers in each of the classrooms to accommodate questions.

Attend the Open House and learn what St. Michael's Academy can offer your child. St. Michael's Academy is not just books and papers. The educational process strives to form the entire child academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally. The dedicated teaching faculty truly care about their students and want them to learn, grow and succeed. The final result is a graduate who is well prepared for high school, college and beyond. Each student takes with them a solid foundation for continued growth and achievement, having learned the value of respect, kindness and community service.

Unable to attend the Open House on January 28th? Simply call the Admissions Office at (413) 782-5246, ext. 1208 and schedule an informational session and tour.

St. Michael's Academy is located off of Plumtree Road in Springfield, directly behind Holy Cross Church. The Academy educates students from preschool 3 years old, through grade 8. It is the largest Catholic elementary school in Western Mass and the only Catholic elementary school in Springfield.



## Apex Homecare of Western MA expands programs and staffing to meet growing needs in the elder care arena

Direct Support Professionals at Apex Homecare of Springfield provides home care aides to increase independence for the people with disabilities and seniors, every day.

Caregivers and students pursuing a degree in the healthcare field are encouraged to contact the agency to take advantage of Apex's Direct Support Professional (DSP's) training program. To attract top quality Aide's, the agency provides attractive benefits and a career path.

The direct care worker shortage is a global issue, stretching well beyond Massachusetts. In the U.S., 3 out of every 4 agency providers has a wait list for caregiving services. According to the Global Coalition on Aging Report, 70% of Americans who reach age 65 will need long-term services and support. If nothing changes, the report predicts there will be a national shortage of 151,000 care workers by 2030, and a 355,000-caregiver shortfall by 2040.

Pew Research states that one in four Americans live with a disability that interferes with activities of daily living and a recent national survey reports 90% of Americans age 50 and over want to 'age in place'.

To compound the situation, demand in the family caregiving market is increasing as well. Currently, 53 million Americans serve as family caregivers and the number is growing.

An Executive Order from the White House signed in April 2023 offers new



Direct care workers and students pursuing a degree in healthcare are encouraged to contact Apex.

resources to remedy the caregiver shortage crisis to meet increased need. It is the most sweeping set of executive actions to improve care in the nation's history and takes immediate action to enhance job quality for the direct care workforce. Like many of Apex's services, the Executive Order also provides resources for family caregivers that foster emotional well-being and stems the financial and health strain that caregiving has on a family.

### About Apex Homecare

Apex provides a safe, compassionate and friendly atmosphere to enable the client to enjoy and maximize the excellence of life in the comfort of his or her home. If you or a loved one needs services, contact Cheryl Rumley RN at Apexhealth01@verizon.net. If you are seeking a career in the caregiving, disability or healthcare field, visit the Apex career page.



## St. Michael's Academy

### Attention Elementary School Teachers!

Looking for a rewarding teaching experience?

St. Michael's Academy will be hiring teachers for the 2024-2025 academic year. Interested? Send your resume to [a.dougal@smaspringfield.org](mailto:a.dougal@smaspringfield.org).



Looking for a new school for your child? Join us on Sunday, January 28th

at noon for an

### Open House

Learn what St. Michael's Academy can offer YOUR child!

St. Michael's Academy, 153 Eddywood St., Springfield, MA  
Check us out at [smaspringfield.org](http://smaspringfield.org)



## Apex Homecare

Turning your family's challenges into solutions

Deliver Excellent Care in a Safe & Supportive Environment

### Apex Homecare has immediate Openings

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Amherst	North Brookfield
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# CAREER Education

## Come and see what great things are happening at St. Stanislaus

St. Stanislaus School in Chicopee is under the new leadership of Principal Katherine Rorrio, who fully appreciates the Franciscan values and long-standing traditions of the school. Mrs. Rorrio is a graduate of the school, was a teacher at the school for 20 years, and is now Principal.

This year the school's theme is "For it is in giving that we receive", an inspirational quote from St. Francis about the value of giving back. Students are focusing on a different Corporal Work of Mercy each month. Some of the Corporal Works of

Mercy that have been covered are – Feeding the Hungry and Working for Peace. The most recent Work of Mercy was Shelter the Homeless. Students and families collected 100 blankets, 50 hats, coats, and many undergarments that were donated to a local homeless shelter to help those in the community. Service projects are done throughout the year to help teach students the value of giving back.

The school will be holding an Open House on Sunday, Jan. 21 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (no appointment needed).

If you would like to schedule a private tour for another time, please call the school to schedule an appointment at (413) 592-5135.

St. Stanislaus School is a Roman Catholic, Franciscan, co-educational Pre-K through 8th grade school. Students are assisted in developing their potential spiritually, physically, and socially within a safe and diverse community. A foundation of academic excellence is created to prepare students to become contributing members of a global society. The school

has a welcoming Franciscan environment, modern air-conditioned facility, strong core curriculum, enrichment classes, certified faculty, full-day preschool (PreK3 and 4) and Kindergarten, free breakfast and hot lunch, before & after school program, and one to one use and integration of iPads and Chromebooks into curriculum. Financial Aid is available. Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us". To learn more please visit [www.saintstansschool.org](http://www.saintstansschool.org).

We can't wait to meet you!

### ST. STANISLAUS SCHOOL

SERVANT LEADERS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

**OPEN HOUSE**  
SUNDAY, JAN. 21, 2024  
11AM-1PM

- Welcoming Franciscan environment
- Strong core curriculum
- Enrichment classes
- Certified faculty
- Full day Preschool & Kindergarten
- Free breakfast and hot lunch
- Before & After school program
- One to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum

PREK - 8TH GRADE SCHOOL  
PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Call us for more information and to schedule a tour. We welcome the opportunity for you to experience St. Stanislaus School! Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us."

To learn more →

[www.saintstansschool.org](http://www.saintstansschool.org)  
534 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013  
413-592-5135

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### THE MACDUFFIE SCHOOL

# OPEN HOUSES

Saturday, February 3, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Saturday, April 6, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The MacDuffie School is a special place, and it all begins with our mission:  
*To foster in all students the intellectual habits of mind, high ethical standards, and respect for diversity required for becoming effective individuals in their personal and work lives, and moral and responsible participants in the world beyond.*

*There's no better way to get a feel for The MacDuffie School than spending time with us!*

Please register for our Open House at [www.macduffie.org](http://www.macduffie.org) or contact the Admissions Office at (413) 255-0000 to reserve your spot.

**Come Be A Part Of Our Community!**

66 School Street  
Granby, Massachusetts

[www.MacDuffie.org](http://www.MacDuffie.org)

For Students  
in Grades 6 through 12

## A NEW YEAR! A NEW CAREER! A NEW ADVENTURE!

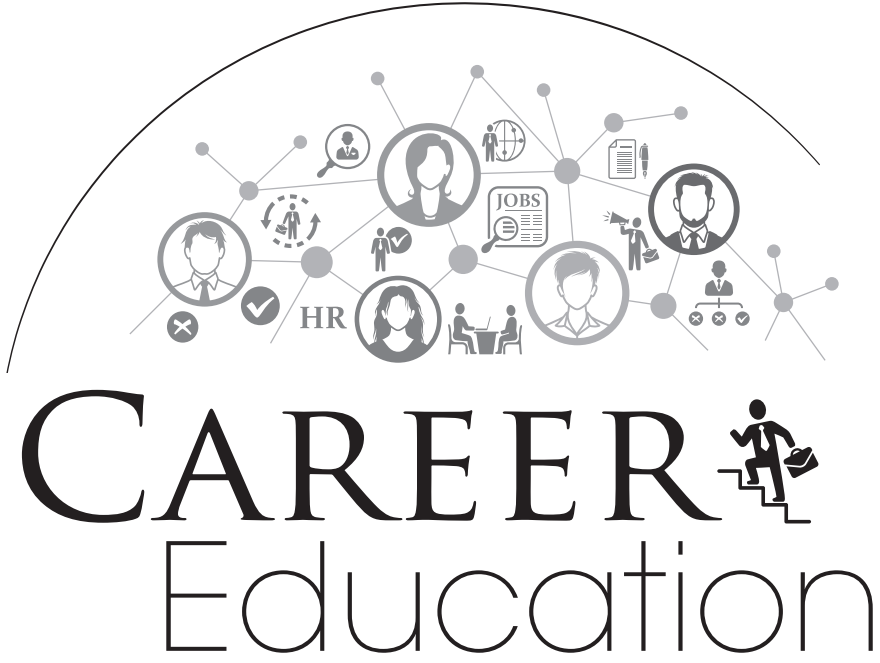
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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES AT GÁNDARA, CONTACT THE RECRUITERS DIRECTLY!

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**KIRSY SEGARRA -**  
[KSEGARRA@GANDARACENTER.ORG](mailto:ksegarra@gandaracenter.org)

⇩ ⇩ ⇩  
**LUIS COLON -**  
[LCOLON@GANDARACENTER.ORG](mailto:lcolon@gandaracenter.org)





# CAREER Education

## Explore the difference at St. Joan of Arc School

Explore the difference at St. Joan of Arc School in Chicopee! Lively Letters and OSMO Tangible Play programs have been added to our PreK and Kindergarten programs. Lexia, a phonics instruction that gives students independent practice in basic reading skills, is now offered to Kindergarten through Grade 8 students. And a Robotics Curriculum is coming soon for our 8th graders.

The school will be holding an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. (no appointment needed). Appointment only tours for families will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 30 and Thursday, Feb. 1 from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Please call Chris or Janine in the Business Office at 536-6038 for registration information or to make

an appointment.

St. Joan of Arc is a welcoming, safe and secure school community providing social, physical, spiritual & intellectual wellness for students in Pre-K 3 to Grade 8. SJA has innovative offerings that include affordable tuition and extended care, free breakfast and lunch, extracurricular programs to include Chess, Book and Lego Clubs, as well as a Performing Arts Club. Computer fundamentals with intro to computer science, music, library, and Duolingo language classes are also offered. Located at 587 Grattan St., Chicopee offers easy access to I391 & I90. Financial aid and tuition assistance is available. To learn more visit [www.sjachicopee.org](http://www.sjachicopee.org).

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**January 30th & February 1st 3pm-7pm**  
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The Town of Huntington is seeking an **INTERIM TOWN CLERK**. This is a salaried position for approximately 18 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us). Applications are due by January 26, 2024. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer

### TOWN OF WILBRAHAM P/T ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK - ASSESSORS

Looking for a reliable P/T Administrative Clerk for our Assessor's Office. For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). Open until filled. EOE

### TOWN OF PALMER

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The Town of Palmer is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time position of Inspector of Buildings/ Building Commissioner. Must have certification as a local inspector by the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards and obtain Certification as an Inspector of Buildings/ Building Commissioner within the time limit allotted in Massachusetts State Building Code 780 CMP Section 110.R7. For a full job description please visit [www.townofpalmer.com/jobs](http://www.townofpalmer.com/jobs). Qualified and interested applicants should submit their cover letter and resume to Robert Reed [reed@townofpalmer.com](mailto:reed@townofpalmer.com).

### TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

#### POLICE OFFICER

For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). Review of applications begins immediately. Open until filled. EOE

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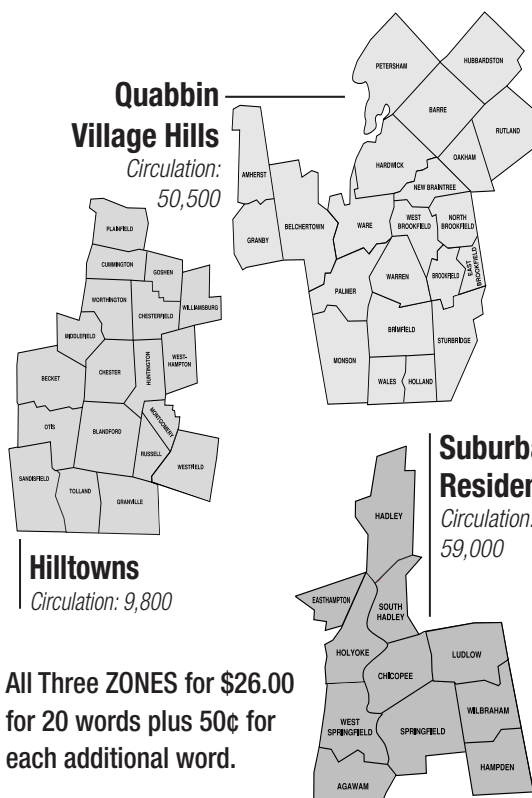


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27	Base Price \$38.00	Base Price \$39.00	Base Price \$39.50
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30	Base Price \$44.00	Base Price \$45.00	Base Price \$45.50
31	Base Price \$46.00	Base Price \$47.00	Base Price \$47.50
32	Base Price \$48.00	Base Price \$49.00	Base Price \$49.50
33	Base Price \$50.00	Base Price \$51.00	Base Price \$51.50
34	Base Price \$52.00	Base Price \$53.00	Base Price \$53.50
35	Base Price \$54.00	Base Price \$55.00	Base Price \$55.50
36	Base Price \$56.00	Base Price \$57.00	Base Price \$57.50
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# East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Jan. 1-7, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 178 building/property checks, 86 directed area patrols, one traffic control, 16 radar assignments, 13 emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, one assist other agency, one complaint, five safety hazards, one stolen motor vehicle, three animal calls, two motor vehicle accidents and 32 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

**Monday, Jan. 1**

10:38 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Pond View Road, Transported to Hospital

**Tuesday, Jan. 2**

7:32 p.m. Building/Property Check, East Main Street, Arrest(s) Made

**Wednesday, Jan. 3**

4:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning  
6:26 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Route 49, Vehicle Towed

**Thursday, Jan. 4**

7:23 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Podunk Road, Vehicle Towed  
8:12 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, East Main Street, Dispatch Handled  
1:53 p.m. Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Services Rendered  
5:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
7:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued  
7:18 p.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, Route 49, Vehicle Towed  
8:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
8:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation Issued  
9:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

**Friday, Jan. 5**

5:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued  
6:21 p.m. 911 Fire Alarm, Podunk Road, Unfounded

7:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 40, Citation Issued  
8 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued  
8:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued  
8:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued  
8:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued  
8:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
11:12 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Services Rendered

**Saturday, Jan. 6**

2:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
12:28 p.m. 911 Misdial, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered  
2:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, East Main Street, Report Taken  
4:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Sturbridge Road, Citation Issued  
4:49 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered  
5 p.m. 911 Stolen Motor Vehicle, Blaine Avenue, Services Rendered  
7:36 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital  
11:31 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Draper Road, Services Rendered

**Sunday, Jan. 7**

7:20 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, North Brookfield Road, Officer Handled  
12:21 p.m. Fire Alarm, Stone Road, Investigated  
12:28 p.m. Safety Hazard, Podunk Road, Removed Hazard  
2:08 p.m. Safety Hazard, Harrington Street, Services Rendered  
2:09 p.m. Medical Alarm, East Main Street, Services Rendered  
4:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Spoken To  
4:46 p.m. Safety Hazard, Harrington Street, Dispatch Handled  
9:04 p.m. Safety Hazard, East Main Street, Removed Hazard  
10:12 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Howe Street, Transported to Hospital

# New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of Dec. 25-Jan. 8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 34 building/property checks, 67 directed/area patrols, 12 traffic controls, five radar assignments, three safety hazards, two citizen assists, one harassment, two motor vehicle investigations, five emergency 911 calls, four animal calls and nine motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

**Tuesday, Dec. 26**

7:09 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled  
8:03 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
8:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued

**Wednesday, Dec. 27**

3:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

**Thursday, Dec. 28**

8:31 a.m. 911 Animal Call, West Road, Officer Handled

**Saturday, Dec. 30**

1:12 p.m. 911 Misdial, West Road, Officer Handled  
2:15 p.m. Harassment, Pierce Road, Report Taken

**Sunday, Dec. 31**

12:40 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled  
1:31 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

**Monday, Jan. 1**

10:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Wine Road, Investigated

**Tuesday, Jan. 2**

10:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning  
11:33 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
5:05 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Oakham Road, Negative Contact

**Thursday, Jan. 4**

10:04 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Dispatch Handled

**Saturday, Jan. 6**

5:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Worcester Road, Officer Handled

**Sunday, Jan. 7**

1:48 a.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

# NFPA warns against Christmas tree home fires

More than one-third (34%) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January according to data collected by the National Fire Protection Association.

With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the NFPA strongly encourages everyone to keep the festive memories and remove the hazards by disposing of Christmas trees promptly after the holiday season.

“As much as we all enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in our homes, they’re large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “The longer Christmas trees remain in homes, the longer they present a risk.”

Carli notes that fresh Christmas trees, which continue to dry out and become more flammable over time, are involved in a much larger share of reported Christmas tree fires than artificial trees.

According to the latest statistics from NFPA, there was an estimated annual average of 150 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees, resulting in one civilian death, 10 civilian injuries, and \$14 million in direct property damage between 2017 and 2021. Overall, fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a very small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem, considering that they are generally in use for a short time each year.

To safely dispose of a Christmas tree, NFPA recommends using the local community’s recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. NFPA also offers

these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations to ensure that they remain in good condition:

Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.

As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.

Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

For more information on home fire safety all winter long, visit “Put a Freeze on Winter Fires,” a winter safety campaign NFPA promotes annually with the U.S. Fire Administration at www.nfpa.org.

About the NFPA

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

## - legal notice -

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING**  
Notice is hereby given by Green Gold Group that a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for **January 29, 2024 at 5:00 PM at 55 School Street, North**

**Brookfield, MA 01535 (NB Police Station).** The proposed Medical Marijuana Cultivation and Manufacturing Establishment is anticipated to be located at 60 Prospect Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535. This meeting is being held in order to open a Medical Marijuana

retail establishment in Palmer, MA. There will be no change, increase, or other effect on GGG’s existing North Brookfield operations. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions 01/12/2024

# Job Connection

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TOWN OF WARREN - JOB POSTING

## POLICE OFFICER Full/Part Time Openings

The Warren Police Department is accepting applications for the position of full time and part time Police Officer. Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights, and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen’s contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior experience may also be considered to start at a higher step rate of pay.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than Friday, January 26th, 2024, to the attention of Lt. James Early, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or early@warren-ma.gov.

The Town of Warren is an EOE

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

# QUABOAG CURRENT

<b>BARRE</b> Quabbin Middle School honor roll p2	<b>STURBRIDGE</b> Historical Society meeting is Jan. 18 p2	<b>WEST BROOKFIELD</b> Nomination papers available p5	Editorial/Opinion Sports Classifieds Police Logs	<b>4</b> <b>9</b> <b>18</b> <b>19</b>
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Volume 17, Number 7

Friday, January 12, 2024

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