

# QUABOAG CURRENT

## BROOKFIELD

Lions Club scholarship

Page 2

## WEST BROOKFIELD

Ham radio meeting

Page 2

## REGION

Career and Education pages

Page 9

Volume 19, Number 7

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Friday, January 16, 2026

## Select Board denied license for Curboy Auto, Inc.

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Select Board held a public hearing on an application for a Class II and Class III used vehicle license submitted by representatives of Curboy Auto Inc., located at 71 Mashapaug Road.

The representatives had failed to attend a previous hearing held by the board regarding the license.

At the Jan. 5 hearing,

Select Board Chair Jamie Goodwin asked the representatives of Curboy Auto Inc. if vehicles were currently being stored on the property, and if vehicles were being moved on and off.

“Since the license has been revoked, has there been a static number of vehicles stored on the property?” Goodwin asked.

Gary Magnuson, principal engineer of CMG Environmental said the number of vehicles located in the storage area has remained

static. He said there isn’t equipment on the site that could move vehicles around.

Owner of the business, Sergey Privedenyuk said vehicles have not been moved or brought to the property since his license was revoked in April 2025.

Privedenyuk said there are about 500 vehicles currently on the property.

Goodwin asked Privedenyuk if he had communicated with the Registry of Motor Vehicles regarding his license application prior to

the hearing and he said no.

Goodwin also asked if Privedenyuk if he had constructed any buildings on the property without the town’s knowledge, or if any were not properly inspected.

Privedenyuk said he made improvements to one of the garages on the property. He said the building was raised up to accommodate a lift inside the garage.

Privedenyuk said the electrical and building inspectors did not examine the improvements to the garage.

Goodwin asked Privedenyuk if he was aware he was being fined on a daily basis by the town’s building inspector, since this past summer, for the illegal operation of a business. Privedenyuk said he wasn’t initially aware, but he is now, and he will be attending a court proceeding the next day to represent himself.

Goodwin questioned Privedenyuk if he had received notice of the previous hearing, and asked why he did not appear. Privedenyuk

said he did not receive notice until after the hearing date had passed.

Goodwin said since Privedenyuk’s license lapsed, the town is not able to renew it and it must be treated as a new application.

“My understanding is that the town isn’t even permitted to reissue this license without approval by the Registry of Motor Vehicle and to be frank...even

See STURBRIDGE  
PAGE 5

## Community garden task force continued planning

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Members of the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council’s Community Garden Task Force met for the first time in 2026.

At the Jan. 6 meeting, Coordinator of the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council, Sawyer Blake, shared information about the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resource’s 2026 grant round.

Blake said this year’s grant funding objective is to support food policy councils that are focusing on Environmental Justice populations.

An Environmental Justice population is defined as having an annual median household income that is 65% less than the state-

wide median household income; having minorities make up 40% or more of the population; having 25% or more of households identify as speaking English less than “very well;” and having minorities make up 25% or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150% of the statewide median household income.

Blake said the Town of Ware has three identifiable Environmental Justice populations, with one being where the community garden will be located on 80 Pleasant St.

Blake said if the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council receives a grant

See COMMUNITY  
GARDEN PAGE 5

## Carol Hawkins selected as January Artist of the Month

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The January 2026 Artist of the Month has been selected by the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House.

The honor goes to local artist Carol Hawkins, who wanted to thank the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House for reaching out to put a spotlight on the arts.

Hawkins is originally from Rhode Island, where she attended Rhode Island College to study Fine Art. She left school early thinking she could always go back and finish her degree. As life went on, Hawkins never went back, but kept the desire to work on her art.

At a young age, Hawkins always enjoyed drawing and painting and vividly remembers getting her first box of watercolors in first grade.



Submitted Photo

A portrait of a girl and her cat made by the Artist of the Month, Carol Hawkins. Growing up in a household with 12 siblings, Carol was thrilled have her own set

waiting for her in her school desk. Hawkins remembers her

first art teacher, Audrey Blake, who she described as being so animated in teaching art to her students.

“What a treasure she was,” Hawkins said.

Blake was the kind of teacher who made art fun. Hawkins had Blake as a teacher for over 12 years.

“She would dance around the room sparking inspiration from everything that was around us,” Hawkins shared.

Right now, Hawkins is dedicated to teaching and making art fun for her students. She tries to inspire the seniors at North Brookfield Senior Center where she gives drawing lessons and teaches arts and crafts.

Over the last two and half years of teaching at the Senior Center, Hawkins and the seniors have done decoupage, floral arrangements, painting and everything in between. The class-

See HAWKINS PAGE 6



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Echo was named the “top dog” in North Brookfield’s Top Dog Contest, earning dog tag number one.



Echo received a gift certificate for a “spaw” treatment at The Fluffy Butt Grooming Hut in West Brookfield.

## North Brookfield’s ‘Top Dog’ winner

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Carol and Dennis Kelley’s 7-year-old German Shepherd, Echo, was named the town’s inaugural “top dog,” and will wear the number one dog tag for 2026.

Echo earned this honor

after the Kelley’s made a donation during the town’s Top Dog Contest to gather necessary supplies and materials to improve the town pound.

This contest was a collaboration between the Town Clerk, Animal Control Offi-

cer and Police Department. This was the first year the contest was held.

Town Clerk Tara Hayes said many people made donations during the Top Dog Contest, including people who do not own dogs.

## Book Review

‘The Vampires of York, Maine: A Modern Crime Story’, by Jonathan Cook

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

Do Vampires actually exist? Well, yes and no.

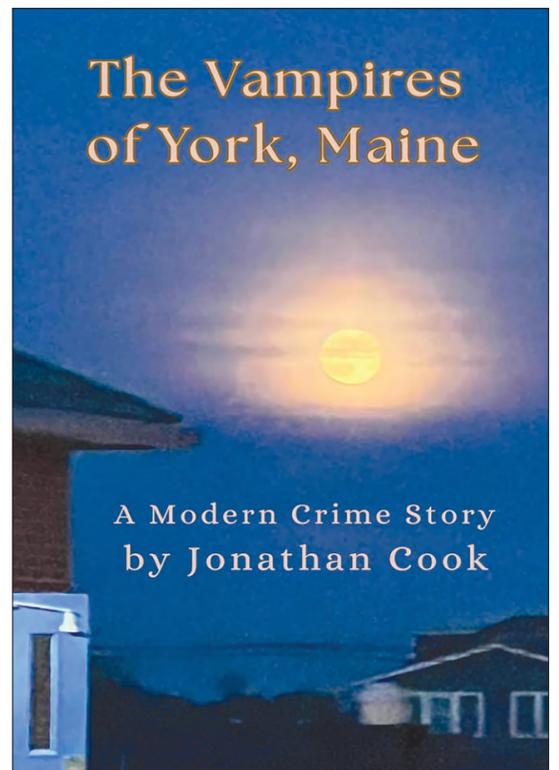
As to a species in nature, there is no proof. How about co-workers or acquaintances who one might opine, suck the life out of others.

There is a lot of daylight between the fictional Debby Downer and Vlad the Impaler.

Thus, we have “The Vampires of York, Maine: A Modern Crime Story”, By Jonathan Cook.

Cook was for many years resident in our region, who, with his wife, Suzanne LePage, ran the popular and much missed Homefield Kitchen and Brewery in Sturbridge. COVID-19 did it no favors. When that ran its course, there would be a new adventure up to the Maine Coast.

They opened The Sundrop Cafe and Brewery in York, Maine. The town is



SUBMITTED PHOTO

a lovely summer spot, and it is understandable that it would be a place to restart and so they did.

A few years later, the world is presented with a book set in a town with a venue that one might not be going off the rails in supposing that Cook drew on it to fill his pages. The author makes clear, however,

“Vampires” is not a roman à clef, but fiction.

Yet, he has woven a tale that feels it and might convince a reader.

Many of us, born and bred Bay Staters, have memories of the trips up the coast of our daughter state.

See BOOK REVIEW  
PAGE 8

## - community -

### Safety Committee discussed Downey Road condition

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The North Brookfield Safety Committee held an emergency meeting last Tuesday, regarding a citizen concern.

According to the committee, they received an email from a resident of Downey Road, alleging that it is impassable during the winter.

Members of the committee said that the road is partially dirt road, and can pose

hazards during the winter, and suggested placing signs along both ends of the road stating “November through April pass at own risk.”

Police Chief Ryan Daley also suggested placing more sand in front of the resident’s property.

The board also discussed concerns about the width of the road, saying that it makes emergency response difficult, as there is only room for one vehicle at a time to pass. Interim Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Bes-

sette said they would have to prioritize the vehicles, and make sure that ambulances can be the first ones out of the road in an emergency. There will be a pipe replacement on the road in the spring, according to the committee.

The committee also said the town has applied for grants from the state which could help fund paving some of the dirt roads, and that they would prioritize paving roads that have the heaviest traffic flow.

### Combined water/sewer bill to be issued in February

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Beginning with the next billing cycle, the Water Department and Sewer Department will transition from issuing two separate bills twice per year to issuing a single combined bill on a quarterly basis.

This update is being made to streamline billing, improve accuracy, and provide residents with more manageable, predictable payments. By moving to quarterly billing, charges will be spread evenly throughout the year, reducing the size of each bill and making household budgeting easier.

Combining both services into one statement also simplifies the process for resi-

dents.

**What to expect**

The first bill you receive will be a combined water and sewer bill for six months of usage. You will have 45 days rather than 30 days before payment will be due.

This first combined bill will be issued in February. Other quarterly bills in 2026 will be issued in May, August and November.

Following the first combined bill, instead of receiving separate water and sewer bills two times per year, you will now receive one combined bill every three months.

The new quarterly bills will clearly show water usage, sewer charges, and any related fees in a single, easy-

to-read format.

Due dates and payment options will be included on each bill, just as before. Payments can be made online.

Under the town’s water regulations, water service may be discontinued for accounts that remain unpaid. Scheduled shutoff periods will occur twice annually.

Please refer to the billing schedule for additional information.

No action is needed from you, this change will happen automatically.

If you have questions related to the new billing schedule, please feel free to contact the Sewer Department at 508-867-0211, or the Water Department at 508-867-0207.

### New storytelling group, The Story Exchange, forming in Brookfield

**BROOKFIELD** – A new community storytelling group, The Story Exchange, is forming in Brookfield and will hold its organizational meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at the Merrick Public Library Annex, 18 Common St.

The Story Exchange is designed for individuals interested in telling and developing true, personal stories, shared aloud in a supportive, structured environment. The group emphasizes storytelling craft, focused listening, and constructive feedback, and welcomes participants of all experience levels.

Stories shared during meetings are expected to be true, personal narratives, typically 5-7 minutes in length, focused on a single moment or experience rather than a full life his-

tory.

The group will be facilitated by Joe Klimavich, an accredited public relations consultant and adjunct professor of communication at Worcester State University, who has taught effective speaking and communication courses for many years. While facilitated, The Story Exchange is intended to be largely member-driven, with participants shaping discussions, stories, and feedback through shared experience.

If you’ve lived a little, noticed a lot, and you’re curious about shaping real moments into meaningful, well-told stories, you’ll feel at home with this group.

“As a public relations professional and educator, telling stories – my own and those of my clients – has always been central to

my work,” said Klimavich. “Inspired by programs like “The Moth” and “Stories from the Stage”, The Story Exchange grew out of a belief in the power of true stories, told well, and the value of listening as much as sharing.”

Participation will be limited to six to eight storytellers per session. There is no cost to participate, but advance registration is required.

Interested individuals should send a brief introductory email to joe.klimavich@gmail.com and indicate whether you are interested in sharing a story during the first meeting.

Following the organizational meeting, The Story Exchange will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the Merrick Public Library Annex.

### Brookfields Lions Club accepting scholarship applications

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The Brookfields Lions Club is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship program, according to club president Bill Cass.

Each year, the club awards a scholarship of up to \$1,000 to a graduating senior in each of the club’s member communities, Cass said. Recipients of the 2026 Brookfields Lions Club scholarship awards will be announced in June.

To qualify for consideration, applicants must live in one of the member communities – Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, and New Braintree – and sub-

mit an application before their school’s spring break. The application must include the student’s class rank and be signed by the school’s guidance director.

The application form is now available for download on the club’s website at [brookfieldslionsclub.org/scholarships](http://brookfieldslionsclub.org/scholarships). The completed form should be mailed to the scholarship selection committee care of Brookfields Lions Club, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 128, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

For additional information, please contact the Brookfields Lions Club at [brookfieldslionsclub@gmail.com](mailto:brookfieldslionsclub@gmail.com), or visit the

Club’s Facebook page at [facebook.com/BrookfieldsLionsClub](https://facebook.com/BrookfieldsLionsClub).

#### About the Lions Club

As the world’s largest, youngest and most active service organization, the mission of Lions Clubs International is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding. Members of the Brookfields Lions Club are dedicated to service and support in the communities of Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, and New Braintree.

### Ham radio club meeting to be held Jan. 27

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

This month’s presentation features Bill Simpson

of Smokestack Lightning, who will explain the basics of lightning protection and share a short demonstration with his “lightning machine.” All licensed amateurs and anyone curious about Amateur Radio are invited to attend, and the

public is welcome to stop in – especially homeowners interested in practical lightning safety.

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

### St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold open house Jan. 26

**HARDWICK** – St. Aloysius Catholic School is hosting an Open House in celebration of Catholic Schools Week on Monday, Jan. 26 from 3-5:30 p.m.

Prospective families are encouraged to visit the school, located at 52 Church St. in Gilbert-

ville, where they can tour the classrooms, meet the teachers and learn more about the great educational and faith filled experiences that await.

For more information, please call the school and speak to Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, at 413-477-1268.

### Poetry reading/reception to be held Jan. 29

**SOUTHBRIDGE** – The Jacob Edwards Library will host a poetry reading and celebration of the winners of the first annual Bill Tremblay Poetry Prize on Thursday, Jan. 29 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Earning first place was Stephen Campiglio of Sturbridge; second place, James Spaulding of Brookfield; and third place, Terrance Lanier of Warren.

The reading is free and open to the public to celebrate this inaugural event.

*Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?*

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

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

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

[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

**Our advertisers make this publication possible.**  
Let them know you saw their ad in the  
**Quaboag Current**

**2026**

**East Quabbin**

**Farm Micro-grant**

Funding to inspire our local farmers to continue doing their great work in sustaining our communities and improving the quality of life in the East Quabbin region - including Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham, Ware and West Brookfield.



Caring for the Land that Sustains Us

**Prioritizing requests for:**

- Farm succession planning and farmland conservation; and
- Organic and/or Regenerative farming practices focused on fruits, vegetables and meats directly consumed by residents of our region.

**Apply Now!**

Due Monday  
February 23rd

**More information:**

<https://eqlt.org/east-quabbin-farm-micro-grants/>



**Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured**

Tree Trimming and Removal  
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding  
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted  
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010  
508-641-5249 • [office@robinsontreeservice.net](mailto:office@robinsontreeservice.net)  
[www.robinsontreeservice.net](http://www.robinsontreeservice.net)

## - community -

### St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold annual fund drive

**HARDWICK** – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville has launched its Annual Fund Drive with a pledge of \$40,000 in matching funds from an anonymous benefactor.

The fund drive runs through March 15, 2026.

Last year the fund drive raised just over \$95,000 including the match funds.

The School Board implemented the Annual Fund Drive in place of the Scholarship Drive in 2025 to be able to diversify the use of the money earned, and thereby keep tuition affordable for families.

Tuition assistance is also available through the

Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester and from scholarships gifted by private foundations.

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

An Open House is planned for Monday, Jan. 26, 2026 from 3-5:30 p.m. Prospective families are encouraged to visit the school.

### Town Clerk announces annual election information

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The North Brookfield Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, May 4.

The last day to submit nomination papers is Monday, March 16, 2026, at 5 p.m.

The following offices are up for election: Board of Selectmen – one seat, three-year term; Board of Assessors – one seat, three-year term; Board of Assessors – one seat, two-year term (to fill a vacancy); Board of Assessors – one seat, one-year term (to fill a vacancy); School Committee – two seats, three-year terms; School Committee – one seat, one-year term (to fill a vacancy); Water Commissioner – one seat, three-year term; Water Commissioner – one seat,

two-year term (to fill a vacancy); Board of Health – one seat, three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner – one seat, three-year term; Library Trustees – two seats, three-year terms; Planning Board – one seat, five-year term; Planning Board – one seat, four-year term (to fill a vacancy); Housing Authority – one seat, five-year term; and Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District (Bay Path) – one seat, three-year term.

It is strongly encouraged that anyone interested in serving to become familiar with the work and responsibilities of these boards, committees, and commissions.

Nomination papers are available from the Town Clerk's Office.

### Circle of Song starts its winter-spring session Jan. 22

**BARRE** – The first rehearsal for Circle of Song's winter-spring season will be held on Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Town Hall, 2 Exchange St. from 7-8:30 pm.

Rehearsal will be every Thursday between then and Thursday, May 14 with the concert on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The concert's program includes the following songs: "Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day", WS Gilbert/arranged Arthur Sullivan from The Mikado; "Down by the Riverside", traditional/arranged David Eddleman; "Les Miserables Medley", Schonberg and Kretzmer/arranged Lojeski; "Make Our Garden Grow", Bernstein/arranged Page from Candide; "No One is Alone", Sondheim/arranged Brymer from Into

the Woods; "The Promise of Living", Copland/Everett from The Tender Land; "Solitude", Duke Ellington/arranged Althouse; "Total Praise", Richard Smallwood/arranged Rao; "Waltzing Matilda", traditional/arranged Sand; "Till There Was You", Lerner and Loewe from The Music Man with a quartet of Jack, Joan, Anne, Julie for the 25th anniversary of COS.

Circle of song is particularly in need of altos this session.

Singers of all ages and experience are welcome. The chorus sings in four-part harmony and there is a modest sliding scale membership fee with deep discounts for students

For more information, contact director, Julie Rawson at [julie@mhof.net](mailto:julie@mhof.net); 978-257-1192.

### Celebrate winter at ArtWorks Gallery

*Deadline for exhibition entries is Feb. 12*

**WARE** – ArtWorks Gallery invites artists of all mediums from throughout the northeastern U.S. to explore the theme of "Winter."

The deadline for entry is Feb. 12 by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on [workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org).

ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. "Winter" will be on display from March 7 through April 4, opening with a reception on Saturday, March 7, from 3-5 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

The juror for "Winter" is Susan Tilton Pecora. She has been painting the



*Submitted Photos*  
This photo shows a landscape scene painted by "Winter" juror Susan Tilton Pecora. "Winter" will be on display at ArtWorks Gallery March 7-April 4.

streets, harbors, factories and farms of New England throughout her life.

Tilton Pecora works in

watercolor, egg tempera and oil. She is a signature member of The New England Watercolor Society, host of the WGBY, PBS affiliate television show "Reflections Through Watercolor" and The Copley Society in Boston.

Her paintings have been exhibited throughout the country, winning awards at the National Art League in New York, San Diego Art Asso. and Rocky Mountain Art Association among others. Her work has been featured in American Artist Magazine, "Splash, the Best in Watercolor" North Light Books.

In 2007 she was asked to create a painted ornament for the White House Holiday tree by Congressman Richard Neal.

Tilton Pecora is represented by West Brookfield Art & Frame in West

"Winter" juror Susan Tilton Pecora is shown painting. Entries for "Winter" will be accepted until Feb. 12.

Brookfield, Ingram Fine Art, Wiscasset and Rockland, Maine, Arnould Gallery, Marblehead and Michelson Gallery in Northampton. Prints of her works are available at The Deerfield Museum Store, Cape Art Tiles, Randall's Farm in Ludlow and The Lobster Pot in Provincetown.

**About ArtWorks Gallery**  
ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13's gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows.

Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge – expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in the rural region.

For more information visit [workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org), or call 413-277-6072.



### FOSC to host annual Valentine Celebration

*Deadline to order tickets is Friday, Jan. 16*

**HARDWICK** – The Friends of the Stone Church will host its annual Valentine Celebration on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 4 p.m. at Hardwick Crossing Country Club, Route 32, Gilbertville.

All are welcome to join the Friends for a rollicking party to celebrate and support the Stone Church Cultural Center. Tickets are \$65 per person.

Hardwick Crossing provides an elegant private dining room surrounded by beautiful country views. Dinner will be served buffet style: appetizer, steak tips, haddock, vegetarian lasagna, salad, vegetables, and



*Submitted Photo*

cookies, with a cash bar.

The Mason Tyler Duo, Lou Falcone on saxophone and Mark Fontaine on keyboard and guitar, will entertain you, whether you sit and listen or dance the night away. Their music ranges from swing to blues, from classic rock to jazz, and they love harmonizing favorite 1950s and 1960s songs.

Proceeds of dinner tickets and auction purchases

benefit Friends of the Stone Church, a non-profit corporation whose mission is to preserve the historic Gilbertville landmark known as the Stone Church Cultural Center, and to operate it as a thriving center for our regional Massachusetts communities. Support for the Center helps produce concerts, events for youth and children, and community music events and rehearsal space.

The last day to purchase tickets is Jan. 16. No tickets will be sold at the event, so reservations in the form of purchased tickets are required.

Purchase tickets online at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofthestonechurch/> or mail payment by check to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031. If mailing, please specify the number of tickets with your name and the names of all attendees and your email or cell phone where you would like to receive acknowledgment.

To donate something to the auction, to promote this event or to ask a question, please contact the FOSC by email: [Events@FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org](mailto:Events@FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org). No donations accepted after Jan. 24.

**FOR RENT**  
**Quabbin Estates**  
41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094  
Accepting applications for wait list.  
The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and "Barrier Free" accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower.  
RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.  
**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT**  
413-477-6496  
TDD (800)439-2379

**Glenda's**  
Saturday, January 16th ~ 7pm-10pm  
**Moonlight Saints**  
Saturday, January 17th  
**Karaoke**  
948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

**Upcoming Events**  
Saturday, January 31st - 7pm-11pm  
**Country Rock**  
EVERY SUNDAY  
**DARTS**  
LUCK OF THE DRAW  
5:30pm • All Welcome

- opinion -



**Baking bread with herbs**

There has been a resurgence lately in doing things the “old fashioned way!” I am definitely all for that, since I have often felt I was born a century too late.

People are making their own soap and laundry detergent, growing gardens, and canning and preserving the harvest. Many have also gotten the sourdough itch, and are baking all sorts of breads, rolls and treats using sourdough starter. My niece shared some of her starter with my husband and I! It traveled several states to make it to us and boy was our first loaf delicious.

I don't feel as if I will give up making yeasted bread entirely, though, especially since my favorite bread of all time is a braided bread that incorporates herbs. (You knew that eventually I would weave in a gardening topic!) I'm excited to share the recipe with you.

Maybe you will even become inspired to grow your own herbs to use in this or any number of recipes down the road.

This time of year it is likely you won't have fresh herbs on hand, so before we begin, I'd like to give you some tips for using dried herbs.

First, remember to break them up finely just before you incorporate them into any recipe. Honestly, there is nothing worse than coming across a full-size piece of Rosemary foliage, for example. It's like you are chomping on a pine needle!

Besides making the herbs more palatable, the flavor will be released ever so nicely once they are finely ground. Small amounts of herbs can be crushed between your fingertips – larger amounts can be ground up using a mortar and pestle.

Pulverize whole spices in a coffee grinder. Some folks gently roast them first to intensify their flavor. If you want to substitute fresh herbs for dried in any recipe, use at least twice as much; likewise in this recipe you would use only have the amount if using dried.

Store dried herbs and spices away from heat and light; even so, they will start to lose their flavor after about a year. When I buy a new jar of dried herbs, I find it helpful to mark the date right on the bottle.

Without any further ado, here is the recipe for that wonderful bread – as pretty as it is flavorful. Certainly a nice addition to a bowl of soup on a winter's night! And it makes the best croutons, too!

**COUNTRY HERB BREAD TWIST**

- 1 envelope active dry yeast
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- ¼ cup water (110 degrees)
- ¼ stick unsalted butter, melted (2 tablespoons)
- 2 ½- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh oregano
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary

Sprinkle yeast and sugar over ¼ cup warm water in a large bowl; stir to dissolve. Let stand until foamy (approximately 15 minutes).

Blend 1 cup water and 1 tablespoon of the melted butter into the yeast mixture. Combine 2 ½ cups flour and salt.

Stir into yeast mixture ½ cup at a time to form a slightly sticky dough, adding up to ½ cup additional flour if necessary.

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes. Place dough in a large bowl that has been lightly buttered.

Turn dough to coat entire surface. Cover with a clean cloth and let rise in a warm, draft-free area until the dough has doubled in volume, about 1 ½ hours.

Punch dough down. Divide into thirds.

One by one, take each third and knead in the individual herbs. Roll each dough ball between the palms of your hands into a rope about 20 inches long. Taper the ends.

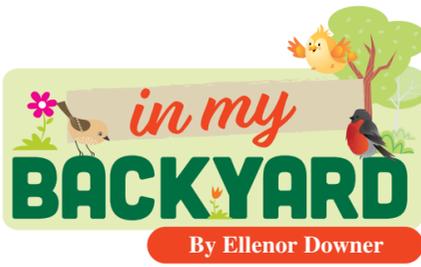
When complete, lay the three side by side and working from the middle, braid each end. Transfer the bread to a buttered baking sheet and cover loosely with a clean cloth.

Allow to rise in a warm place for 45- 50 minutes, until doubled in size.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Brush loaf with remaining 1 tablespoon of melted butter and bake for 20-30 minutes or until golden and loaf sounds hollow when tapped.

Cool for 30 minutes before serving. Serve it warm with a pat of butter or have some olive oil handy for dipping!

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



**Male evening grosbeak**

A resident of Lake Lashaway saw her first ever evening grosbeak in the morning at her feeder on Sunday, Jan. 4.

The evening grosbeak is an eight inch long, chunky, thick billed finch, which wanders widely in winter.

The males are yellow and brown with black and white wings. The females are gray with white and black wings. Both sexes have a thick bill. They have notched, square tipped tails and pointed wings.

Often evening grosbeaks visit feeders in large flocks. They inhabit conifer forests and in winter are seen in box elders, maples and fruiting shrubs. They breed in the coniferous and mixed forests. They are seen in spruce and fir trees in the northern forests and pines in the western mountains. They are seen in winter in deciduous woodlands and semi-open country. Their song is a series of short, musical whistles. Their call note is similar to the chirp of a house sparrow, but louder.

The female lays three to four pale blue to blue green, blotched with brown, gray or purple eggs. The female does all the incubating, but the male may feed the female during this time. Both parents feed the nestlings.

Their diet is mostly seeds and some berries and insects. They prefer seeds of box elder, ash, maple, locust and other trees. At feeders, they prefer sunflower seeds. They also will feed on oozing maple sap. They extended their breeding range eastward in the 19th century and early 20th century. The population declined in the east in recent years.

**Other birds at Lake Lashaway**

The Lake Lashaway resident also had red cardinals, blue jays galore, gold finches and a red bellied woodpecker. She said bald eagles are very common visitors on the lake.

**Brimfield birds**

I received an email from a Brimfield resident on Jan. 5. He said, “Not much happening in the yard. We've seen one white-throated sparrow after recent snow storms and a group of about a dozen house finches show up often. Yesterday there was a group of American goldfinch in a birch tree eating seeds but they didn't come to the feeder.”

**Christmas bird count**

He said, “My wife and I did the Christmas Bird

Count with the Allen Bird Club again this year. We cover the town of Ludlow. The weather was fine but the birds were not cooperating. We managed 26 species which is a few below our average. Woodpeckers (only 1 downy) and sparrows (3 junco) were hard to find.”

He also said, “At the Ludlow Reservoir there was a good amount of open water but few birds, eight hooded mergansers and four mallards. Curiously last year there was a lot less open water at the reservoir but a lot more birds. Go figure.”

People may visit <https://netapp.audubon.org/CB-COBServation/CurrentYear/ResultsByCount.aspx> to obtain Christmas Bird count results. Enter the county and state to get Massachusetts counts. He said he did not know the Springfield count results, but the Worcester count had 78 species.

**Snowy owls**

He also heard there have been two snowy owls in Northampton for a few weeks now. Initially they were seen in fields north of Route 9, but lately have been seen in the fields near the airport.

**Barred owl and pileated woodpecker**

I saw a barred owl and a pileated woodpecker in the same day, Jan. 6. The barred owl was perched in a tree and stayed awhile before flying off. When I went to pick up my grandson at the bus stop, I saw a pileated woodpecker on Lincoln Road.

*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.*

**QUABOAG CURRENT TEAM**



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



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Dan Flynn  
[dflynn@turley.com](mailto:dflynn@turley.com)



**STAFF WRITER**  
Ryan Drago  
[rdrago@turley.com](mailto:rdrago@turley.com)



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

THE QUABOAG CURRENT (USPS# 10860) is published weekly (every Friday) by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 413-283-8393 or fax at 413-289-1977. Periodical Postage Prices are Paid at Palmer, MA. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: Quaboag Current, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

[www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com](https://www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com)

**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President



[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)  
Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

**OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY**

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500 and 800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character. **Send opinions to:** Letters to the Editor, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 OR e-mail to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com). Deadline for submission is Monday at noon for the following week's edition.

**My wife believes she can get a spouse benefit while I'm still alive; can she?**

Dear Rusty:  
A friend of my wife told her and she believes, she could receive a Social Security benefit based on my SS benefit that I'm currently receiving while I'm still alive. I told her she could only receive spouse survivor benefits. Is there any truth to what she now believes? Would you settle this issue for us please? Thank you.



Signed: Uncertain Husband

Dear Uncertain Husband:  
Well, surely I don't want to get in the middle of your marital discussion, but I'll be happy to explain Social Security's rules about your wife's eligibility for spousal benefits while you are both still living. And just for awareness for both of you, the rules about

spousal benefits are one of the most confusing areas of Social Security.

Per Social Security's rules, a spouse (e.g., your wife) can receive a “spousal boost” from you – while you are still living – if the SS retirement benefit she is personally entitled to at her Full Retirement Age is less than 50% of the SS retirement benefit you are (were) entitled to at your FRA; full retirement age amounts are used to calculate living spouse benefits, regardless of when each of you actually claimed your Social Security.

So, if your FRA entitlement benefit amount is more than twice your wife's FRA

entitlement benefit amount, she can, indeed, get a “spousal boost” from your record while you are both still living.

The spousal boost is added to her own SS retirement amount and will be based on the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement. Thus, in this discussion, your wife may be correct - she may be able to get a spousal boost from you while both of you are living, depending on how your personal FRA retirement amounts compare. The best way for your wife to find out is to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to inquire and if she's eligible, also make an appointment to apply for her spousal benefit.

See **SOCIAL SECURITY** PAGE 8

**ANNUAL REACTION OF COMMUTERS ...**



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

**PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS**

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a “people news” form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Quaboag Current, please email [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com).

**Our advertisers make this publication possible.**

*Let them know you saw their ad in the*

**Quaboag Current**

- community -

# The Clock Barn nears two decades in business

Turning back the hands of time

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Clock Barn was first established in 2007

and was founded by Carolyn and Bob Davenport.

The business started off as an antique shop and went by the name, the Noisy Beagle Antique Shoppe. By the end of 2007, the Davenports began repairing clocks and the business just took off from there.

The Davenports and their

business were mentioned in an article featured in an antiques journal and were recognized as specializing in clockwork and clock repair. Soon Carolyn and Bob would have their business focus more on clocks, and The Clock Barn was born.

The Clock Barn works on antique and modern clocks of many types from grandfather clocks, mantel clocks and wall clocks. Bob mentioned the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York were the home states of the many mass producers of clocks.

On average, before the digital age, a single household could have anywhere from three to four clocks. Carolyn said these clocks become part of a family's memories.

"They love them for their nostalgia," she said. "They remember seeing them in their grandparents' home."

The Clock Barn not only offers clock repair but also features a store in North Brookfield where they sell antique clocks and modern clocks of various styles. There is a lot of ticking going on in The Clock Barn store coming from cuckoo clocks, whimsical clocks,

mantel clocks, grandfather clocks, and mantel clocks.

Early in business Carolyn bought Bob a mechanical wind-up clock and soon the couple began buying some clocks. The pair started getting some clocks fixed and one day Bob decided he wanted to learn how to repair clocks.

One helpful source Davenport found while learning about the clock business is the National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors, Inc. The National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors, Inc. is a nonprofit association of people who share a passion for collecting watches and clocks and studying horology.

Though he had collected suggestions and support from other clock workers, Bob was self-taught. Though clockwork can be described as complicated work, all the learning paid off, and The Clock Barn has gained a lot of dedicated customers over the years and has received excellent reviews.

"We built a business out of nothing," both Carolyn and Bob said.

In addition to the shop,



Retro Infinity wall clocks are for sale at The Clock Barn store.



A beautiful wood crafted cuckoo clock is shown inside The Clock Barn workshop.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

A Scottish Tall Case Clock from the 1880s can be spotted inside The Clock Barn in North Brookfield; owned and operated by Carolyn and Bob Davenport.

**STURBRIDGE FROM PAGE 1**

if that were not the case, I don't know why we would," Goodwin said.

Select Board members Mary Dowling and Mary-Lou Volpe agreed that it would not be appropriate for the board to issue a license to Privedenyuk.

The board unanimously voted against approval of the license.

**Tourism report**

Terry Masterson of the Sturbridge Tourist Association gave the board an overview of the past year, including consumer spending trends, retail activity, new business, positive events and more.

Masterson said meal spending for 2025 was about 6% higher than the previous year, reaching about \$85 million total. He said this is partly due to the cost of food increasing.

He noted that there was no increase in meal spending over the summer and fall quarters, but that winter had a 16% increase and spring 10%.

For hotel spending, the yearly total is estimated to reach \$22 million, which is about 6% more than the previous year.

"Hotel revenues have averaged a consistent \$20-21 million since 2023," Masterson said.

Masterson said two surveys were conducted by the Sturbridge Tourist Association, with one asking businesses to provide feedback about 2025. He said this survey was sent to about 75 businesses and he received 22 responses.

He said the association also conducted exit interview surveys with businesses that left the town.

Masterson said the town has 125 businesses along

Route 20, including bakeries and dessert makers, coffee and tea shops, restaurants/eateries, markets, orchards, wineries, brew pubs, wedding venues, hotels/motels, RV parks, specialty shops, health/wellness/spas and fitness.

Food and beverage establishments account for 42% of the businesses in town, followed by retail at 25%, health/wellness at 20%, hotels/RV parks at 11% and event venues at 2%.

Over the past two years, 12 businesses have opened and 12 businesses have closed. He said there are three new businesses planning to open in the near future.

Masterson said most businesses in town are locally owned, driving hundreds of jobs and spending.

**Police Department report**

The Police Department responded to 2,336 calls for service in October and 2,251 in November.

On Oct. 28, there were seven motor vehicle accidents between the Walmart plaza and the XtraMart, with three resulting in injuries. On Nov. 29, there also seven motor vehicle accidents in the same area, again with three accidents causing injuries.

Members of the department attended the AAA awards ceremony on Nov. 5 and Officer Marc Widing received AAA's Hero Traffic Safety award and the department also received an award.

**Fire Department report**

Fire Chief John A. Grasso Jr. said the department provided mutual aid to the towns of Charlton and Amherst for large structure fires.

Grasso said the department responded to 2,508 calls for service in 2025, over a 4% increase in calls over the prior year.

"We are maintaining a busy service," he said.

Grasso said the Fire Department has been answering ambulance transport calls to the new Convenient MD Urgent Care on Route 20 about three times a week since it opened, and he expects that number to increase. Most of the patients transported have been non-residents.

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said a policy about ambulance billing for residents versus nonresidents is something the board will likely need to review in the future.

**Donations**

The board accepted a \$250 donation from the Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale on behalf of the Fire Department; and \$626 from Deep Roots Distillery for the Police K-9 account.

The board also accepted a \$200 donation from My Guys Heating & Cooling to benefit the Home of the Brave 5K.

**Recognition**

Select Board Vice-Chair Chase Kaitbenski was recognized for being named the Massachusetts Youth Lacrosse League Boys' Coach of the Year.

**Appointment**

The board reappointed Maura O'Connor to the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust with a term to expire Jan. 5, 2028.

Keith DeVarenne was appointed to the Sturbridge Tourist Association with a term to expire June 30, 2027.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN FROM PAGE 1**

award from MDAR, the funding would be available from February to June.

Blake said there are two main objectives for the grant, with the first being to establish an accessible community garden in the Environmental Justice zone and to have at least 75% of gardeners being residents of the Environmental Justice population. The second goal is to collaborate with community partners, such as the Ware Grange and Workshop13, to co-host five community garden workshops.

Blake said the council would also work with local businesses, including the Hardwick Farmers Co-Op, which had previously committed to donating gardening supplies.

Blake sent the community garden's rules and regulations to residents who expressed interest in having a plot, and two people have already signed and committed to gardening.

Blake said this now leaves six available plots, with a seventh being reserved to grow produce that will be donated.

The task force will hold an outreach event around the beginning of March, offering activities and a chance for residents to apply for a plot. A groundbreaking for the community garden will be held in June.

"It's been a lot of planning, now it's time to start implementing," Blake said.

**Upcoming events**

Blake, who is also the Project Coordinator for Community Health with the Town of Ware, announced there would be a Drinking Water Listening Session on Thursday, Feb. 5 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road. This event is open to all residents who will speak with various drinking water professionals.

Blake said the East Quabbin Land Trust is offering Farm Micro-Grant opportunities for farmers of the Quabbin region, including Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham, Ware and West Brookfield.

The deadline application is Monday, Feb. 23. For more information, visit [www.eqlt.org/east-quabbin-farm-micro-grants/](http://www.eqlt.org/east-quabbin-farm-micro-grants/).

Blake said the Quaboag Hills Community Health Improvement Plan working groups are looking for

community members to be involved. Community members will receive a \$25 per hour stipend for their participation.

The working groups are focusing on areas of high need for the region, including transportation, mental health, housing and access to healthcare providers.

"Having community members involved is a key aspect," Blake said.

For more information, people may email Arianna Palano at [apalano@town-ofware.com](mailto:apalano@town-ofware.com)

**About QVFPC**

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council is overseen by Healthy Quaboag, and is funded through a grant received by the Town of Ware in partnership with Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, covering the towns of Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Warren, Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield.

The council is open to all, and everyone is welcome to join in the discussion.

**NOTICE**

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

<b>LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!</b>	<b>INFLATION</b>	<b>PRICE BUSTERS</b>	<b>PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!</b>
USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS.....	<b>\$1.88</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN	<b>\$4.75</b> lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.....	<b>\$2.11</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG .....	<b>\$1.66</b> lb
USDA INSP. GRADE A DOZEN JUMBO BROWN EGGS.....	<b>\$2.49</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS TRAY PAK..	<b>59¢</b> lb
<b>SLICED IN OUR DELI</b>		USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED BREADED CUT UP CHICKEN.....	<b>\$1.99</b> lb
USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST .....	<b>\$4.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN CAPTAIN AL'S SEAFOOD ENTREES LINGUINE & CLAMS MARINARA LINGUINE & CLAMS WHITE SAUCE.....	<b>\$1.49</b> ea
USDA INSP. MUEENSTER CHEESE.....	<b>\$4.99</b> lb		
<b>TAILGATE SPECIALS</b>			
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS .....	<b>\$3.35</b> lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG	<b>\$4.99</b> lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN PICANHA STEAKS .....	<b>\$7.99</b> lb		

SALE DATES: 1/15/26-1/21/26

**90 Meat Outlet**  
90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com  
We reserve the right to limit quantities.

**HOURS:** Mon. - Wed. 8-4  
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

Find it in the Classifieds

**413.283.8393 • classifieds@turley.com**  
24 Water St., Palmer • 80 Main St., Ware

# - community -

## Historical Society presents 'Notables & Notorious' of the Revolution

STURBRIDGE – On Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. at The Publick House, the Sturbridge Historical Society will present Regan Miner, the Development Director for TLGV, speaking about “The Notables & Notorious of the American Revolution: Curious and Infamous Characters from the Last Green Valley”.

Not every hero held a musket. The people living in the area now known as The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor (TLGV) shaped and helped win the American Revolution. They fueled the passion for declaring independence, bravely signed the Declaration, supported the war effort, and were integral in the earliest days of our democracy.

TLGV Heritage Corridor, which encompasses 35 towns in south central and eastern Connecticut from Brimfield to Norwich, is a region that spurred the revolutionary leadership of Samuel Huntington and Jonathan Trumbull but also spawned the traitorous Benedict Arnold.

As we acknowledge the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, this talk will explore the notable and notorious figures that helped shape the region and the nation in our fight for independence.

With over 10 years of experience in the history and nonprofit sector, Miner is a public historian and a historic preservation advocate. Currently, Miner serves as the Development Director

of The Last Green Valley and enjoys building partnerships to strengthen our cultural, historical, and natural resources within the National Heritage Corridor.

Her previous roles included serving as the Executive Director of the Norwich Historical Society and the Executive Director of the Fort Adams Trust in Newport, Rhode Island. In

addition to her position at TLGV, Miner volunteers as Chairman of the Norwich Historic District Commission, the Commission of the City Plan, America 250 Norwich Commission, and is a Corporator at the Norwich Free Academy.

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

## Music & Movement program offered every Wednesday

BROOKFIELD – Music & Movement with Julie Stepanek Murray will be held at the Merrick Public Library, 2 Lincoln St., every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



*SUBMITTED PHOTO*  
Julie Stepanek Murray will offer Music & Movement for children every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Merrick Public Library in Brookfield.

Join Julie for songs kids know and love. Stretch, move, sing, and dance, all while developing early literacy skills through music and rhythm.

Recommended for ages 0-5, but all ages are welcome. Drop in – no registration necessary.

This program is sponsored by the Jeppson Memorial Grant and the Friends of the Merrick Public Library.

## Colleges announce fall Dean's and President's lists

### SNHU announces fall 2025 Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH – It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University congratulates the following students on being named to the fall 2025 Dean's List.

Local students include Christine Seaver and Crystal Gagnon, both of North Brookfield; and Ocean Thistle of New Braintree.

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 eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

### Nazareth University fall Dean's List

ROCHESTER, NY – Nazareth University students named to the fall 2025 Dean's List include Dakota Schantz of Sturbridge and Matthew Schirm of Fiskdale.

A student's grade point average must be at least 3.5 or above, and they must

complete 12 credit hours of graded work that semester in order to be included on the dean's list at Nazareth.

### SNHU announces fall 2025 President's List

MANCHESTER, NH – It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University congratulates the following students on being named to the fall 2025 President's List.

Local students include Chanlyn Basham and Rosanna Lopez, both of West Brookfield; Noa Jones and Nikolas Coppinger,

both of Sturbridge; Steven Killmer and

Logan Peterson, both of North Brookfield; Justina Hicks and Krysta Tarves, both of East Brookfield; and Tianna Laraia and Katelynn McCrohan, both of 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.

### HAWKINS FROM PAGE 1

es are free to seniors in the area.

Hawkins offers classes at the Senior Center on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to noon in the afternoon. The seniors have been really loyal and come every week for art classes taught by Hawkins.

Depending on what is being offered for art class, Hawkins says she has some classes featuring 10 or more participants. Flower arranging is one of the popular activities.

Over the years, Hawkins has worked in many art mediums including watercolor, pastels, and acrylics. Though it's been years since she has entered her art in exhibits, Hawkins recently had her art featured on New Year's Eve.

During the First Night celebration in North Brookfield, Hawkins had her work featured at the First Congregational Church. After sharing her work recently, Hawkins would love to share her work more in the future and enter in more



An adorable portrait of a collie painted by Carol Hawkins.

exhibits.

Though she has worked in many mediums, Hawkins shared that one of her favorites is pencil. In recent years, Hawkins has done many pet portraits. There

are various portraits by Hawkins that feature cats, dogs, ferrets, rabbits, and horses.

For more information on the artist of the month, visit nbtownhouse.com.

### CLOCKS FROM PAGE 6

The Clock Barn also includes the workshop, where all the repairs are done. Bob shared that the oldest clock he ever worked on was from the 1750s. According to Bob, any vintage clock can still work; it just needs attention, care, and maintenance.

Throughout the store, there were various clocks made by notable manufacturers. Infinity clocks were displayed on the wall of The Clock Barn store. These wall clocks were retro and brought a mid-century look.

There were also Allen design clocks, which were a style of clocks where the framework could be designed as faces or various items. The store at The Clock Barn had Allen design clocks that looked like ladybugs, bears, teapots, parachutes and other various items.

The store has around 100 various clocks for sale. At one point, The Clock Barn housed 18 grandfather clocks at one time.

Cuckoo clocks are also a

popular clock at The Clock Barn. A lot of these clocks were bought during and after World War II and like many clocks are kept in the family for many years.

Unfortunately, these clocks will break down over time and family members want to get them fixed because they are a family heirloom or hold a special memory. One expensive clock Bob worked on was a rocking ship clock where the dial would have the ships rock.

The Davenport's also have their own collection of clocks in their home. One of the clocks in their collection is a tall case clock.

The workshop is an important space used by Bob, who now works around 25-30 hours per week on clock work. Early in business, he used to put in well over 40 hours per week and would consist of going on the road for clock repairs. He would collect the movements from clocks and bring them back to his shop for repair.

One clock in his workshop is a 1800s period clock where the power comes from the weights. A pendulum

regulates timekeeping and at every tick, the pendulum gets a push from the movement. Bob described this clock as a time and strike clock.

There are lots of moving parts in clocks, including the “wheels” as they're called rather than gears. The saying, “tick, tap,” rather than “tick, tock,” is what makes the pendulum go in opposite direction.

“It has to be in beat to work efficiently,” Bob said.

Bob shared a brief history of grandfather clocks. Originally, these clocks were known as long-case clocks or tall-case clocks. The name “grandfather” came along sometime in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Most of the repair work Bob does is finding parts out of movements for clocks, which can be easy to track because they were mass produced. He also does a lot of teeth replacement or repair on the wheels or gears for the movements.

Bob's favorite clocks are the antique grandfather clocks because he enjoys their history.

While exploring antique clocks, Bob enjoys finding old repair notes, names, and dates on when the clocks were last worked on. In addition to all the disassembling, Bob said clockwork involves a lot of polishing, installing, and inspecting.

“It takes a lot to learn this job,” he said. “I'm pretty determined when I learn to do something.”

Bob admitted that he is mostly self-taught and has learned a lot by doing the job of clock repair.

As of now, The Clock Barn operation is going semi-retired and will be taking a limited amount of work of going forward. The store is still open, but by appointment.

Whether they're in the store, the workshop, or in their own home, the Davenport's are greeted by the ticking of the clocks that are a part of The Clock Barn.

“The ticking is the heartbeat of the house,” Carolyn said.

To make an appointment or contact The Clock Barn, call 508-867-7475 or email theclockbarn@verizon.net. To learn more, visit www.theclockbarn.com.

## NEW YEAR SALE! 2026

HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES

### MATTRESS SALE!

TWIN: \$199 (REGULARLY \$299)

FULL: \$269 (REGULARLY \$499)

QUEEN: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599)

<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">GE DELUXE DISHWASHER Reg. \$499.99</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$399.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE Reg. \$899.99</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$699.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER Reg. \$399.99</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$299.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER &amp; DRYER Pair - Reg. \$1199.99</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$999.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">AFTER REBATE!</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1999.99</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$1399.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER Reg. \$599.99</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$189.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">AMANA WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$599.99</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$489.99</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$699.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$899.99</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$599.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$699.99</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$229.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE Reg. \$249.99</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$1399.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">LG #3400 WASHER &amp; DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$549.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$699.99</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$1199.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE Reg. \$1499.99</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$799.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">21 CU. FT. FREEZER Reg. \$999.99</p>

## SLEDS, SKATES AND TOBOGGANS!

# TOY CLEARANCE!

SAVE UP TO 70% Off!

# WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA

508.885.9343

SEE WHITCOSALES.COM

FOR 100's OF DEALS!

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri: 10am-8:30pm • Sat: 9am-7pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm

# SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

## Warriors able to get by Orioles

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE—Because of the MIAA's power ranking system, athletic directors are always looking to schedule the best non-league opponents for their teams.

Belchertown High School Athletic Director Kevin McNeill and Tantasqua Regional Athletic Director Marcus Backlin were able to schedule a non-league girls basketball game.

The first ever meeting on the hardwood between the two squads was a very entertaining affair from start to finish.

The four freshmen players listed on the Tantasqua varsity roster combined to score 43 points which helped the Lady Warriors secure a 58-53 home victory over the Belchertown Lady Orioles, last Tuesday night.

"Belchertown is a very good basketball team and they're well coached," said Tantasqua head coach Andy Haley. "Marcus always does a very good job of finding different opponents for us to play against. It was also nice playing a solid non-league opponent before beginning our league schedule."

Belchertown is the only Western Mass. opponent listed on Tantasqua's regular season schedule.

The Lady Orioles posted a 56-24 victory at Quaboag Regional in their final game of 2025.

Belchertown and Tantasqua are both young teams this year with only two seniors. They're trying to qualify for the Division 3 state tournament.

Freshman Myah Lew-

is and Teagan Baker led Tantasqua with 12 points apiece. The Lady Warriors' other two freshmen are Ellie Barnes (10 points), and Milayna Bousquet (9 points).

"I thought our four freshmen took a step forward in tonight's game," Haley said. "The older players are doing a very good job of being leaders. It's a close knit team."

Sophia Ezzo, who's one of the Tantasqua seniors, netted six of her 10 points after halftime.

Junior Tessa Sheldon also scored five points in the second half.

The five-point victory improved the Lady Warriors overall record to 5-2, while the Lady Orioles had a 3-3 record.

"Both teams played well and it was a fun game tonight," said Belchertown head coach Jason Woodcock. "I would rather lose a game against a very good team than beat a weaker opponent by 30 points."

The Lady Orioles were outbounded by the Lady Warriors.

"My players played very hard, but we were outbounded which was the difference maker," Woodcock said. "They're not much taller than us, but they were a little more physical and wanted the ball a little bit more. We just kept giving them four or five chances to score."

One of the three Belchertown sophomore starters is Gabriella Slovack, who led the way offensively with a career-high 17 points. She scored two field goals in each of the four quarters. She also made a free throw

See **WARRIORS**  
PAGE 8

## Indians fall at home to Monson

NORTH BROOKFIELD – In a matchup between independent opponents, Monson High School boys basketball defeated North Brookfield 72-50. Monson led throughout the matchup, taking advantage of good ball movement and some good shooting early. The Mustangs were led by Austin Meacham with 33 points, while Jake Beaupre had 17 points. Brady Ronaldson added 10 points.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Ryan Roy looks to pass out of trouble.



Quinn Reilly gets ready to shoot.



Kris Ortiz works around a pair of Monson guards.



Evan Roy spins a pass around the perimeter.



Brody Traska inbound a pass.



Taylor Allen heads down the court.



Megan Clark crosses midcourt with the ball.

## Pioneers fall to Putnam Voke

SPRINGFIELD – Last Friday evening, Pathfinder girls basketball suffered a power outage late in the game, falling to host Putnam 52-39. The Pioneers managed just four points in the final quarter, making a

big difference in the result. Putnam was led by Addison Doktor, who scored 25 points to lead the Pioneers in the matchup. Megan Clark added eight points. Pathfinder would fall to 2-3 on the season.



Cassandra Hykiel tries to cut to the hoop.



Addison Doktor goes for the short jump shot.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Jinx Ripley catches a high pass.



Ciara Green tries to power through Putnam's defense.

# - community -

## New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of Dec. 22-Jan. 12, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 35 building/property checks, 62 directed/area patrols, 27 radar assignments, six traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, seven citizen assists, one assist other agency, six safety hazards, one scam, one chimney fire, one harassment, three motor vehicle investigations, one investigation, two trespasses, one threat, one complaint, one fire/other, two motor vehicle accidents, six animal calls and 10 motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

### Tuesday, Dec. 23

4:27 a.m. Harassment, North Brookfield Road, Report Taken  
4:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning  
8:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, McEvoy Road, Officer Handled

### Wednesday, Dec. 24

11:39 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

### Thursday, Dec. 25

12:42 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal  
2:03 p.m. Scam, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
2:32 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
7 p.m. 911 Fire/Chimney, Utley Road, Extinguished

### Friday, Dec. 26

12:50 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
1:32 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

### Monday, Dec. 29

11:04 a.m. 911 Assist Citizen, West Road, Spoken To  
8:50 p.m. Safety Hazard, Old Turnpike Road, Referred to Other Agency

### Tuesday, Dec. 30

4:21 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal  
11:56 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Referred to Other Agency  
12:29 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
2:10 p.m. Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered  
2:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated

### Wednesday, Dec. 31

9:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued

### Thursday, Jan. 1

5 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

### Friday, Jan. 2

8:37 a.m. Safety Hazard, Thompson Road, Referred to Other Agency  
11:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
5:42 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Moore Road, Officer Handled

### Saturday, Jan. 3

10:59 a.m. Fire/Other, McEvoy Road, No Action Required

### Sunday, Jan. 4

9:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

### Monday, Jan. 5

11:30 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

cer Handled

12:10 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

12:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued

1:06 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Referred to Other Agency

6:12 p.m. Investigation, Utley Road, Services Rendered

### Tuesday, Jan. 6

8:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Hardwick Road, Spoken To

12:14 p.m. Trespass, Memorial Drive, Spoken To

1:26 p.m. Trespass, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

### Wednesday, Jan. 7

12:55 a.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Dispatch Handled

### Thursday, Jan. 8

7:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled

8:20 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Dennis Whitney Road, Officer Handled

### Friday, Jan. 9

10:27 a.m. Threat, North Brookfield Road, No Action Required

### Saturday, Jan. 10

7:07 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Referred to Other Agency

3:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

### Sunday, Jan. 11

11:09 p.m. Fire/Other, Barre Road, Services Rendered

### Monday, Jan. 12

6:32 a.m. Complaint, Pierce Road, Officer Handled

## Local agencies responded to swatting incident in Hardwick

**HARDWICK** – On Jan. 9 around 11:13 a.m., Petersham Police Department received a call into their station's business phone line for a male subject reporting that he had a bomb and was in the cafeteria at Eagle Hill School in Hardwick.

The party provided more information matching the Hardwick area.

Petersham Police notified the Hardwick-New Braintree Police Department immediately. Hardwick-New Braintree Police were dispatched along with Hardwick and New Braintree Fire Departments, Barre Fire/EMS, Barre Police, West Brookfield Police, MA State Police - Belchertown, MA State Police - EOD, MA Environ-

mental Police K-9, Worcester Police K-9, UMass-Amherst K-9 and MA State Police - EOD K-9.

The Hardwick-New Braintree Police called Eagle Hill School and notified them about the threat. They placed the school into a shelter in place and evacuated the area mentioned.

No threat was made to other schools in town, but following the school safety protocols a shelter in place was issued for Hardwick Elementary School and St. Aloysius Catholic School with police resources responding to them also.

Eagle Hill School staff and responding agencies checked the entire campus including the use of K-9 teams

with no findings. During this time all students in all Hardwick schools listed were safe.

This incident was deemed to be a swatting call (fake call called in to receive a police response).

This incident is currently under investigation by the Hardwick-New Braintree Police Department along with the State Police and the FBI. Anyone with information should contact Detective Almstrom at the Hardwick-New Braintree Police Department.

"We thank our mutual aid partners for their response today, along with the students and staff at all the schools," Chief Kevin Landine said in a press release.

### BOOK REVIEW FROM PAGE 1

My family never got much past Portland, but two spots remain in memory. Old Orchard with it garish (aren't they all), if small amusement park, and York.

Cook's account of a no-reaster in the early part of the book may not be of a certain storm, but he had to be paying attention to more than the weather station as to the course of events he relates:

"Somewhere in the neighborhood of fifty thousand feet above sea level at no less than 65 degrees below zero, the storm breaks like a sudden anguish and falls screaming to the earth with inconsolable grief."

There are five paragraphs of the storm, and it's vivid.

The book itself is not about weather. Jerry O'Shaughnessy, with his wife Sherry, run the "Galley." He describes it as a place for "Great food, great music, great vibes, It's a goddam lovefest every night, that's all.

With a bay breeze."

In the second chapter, a hardboiled, well as hard-boiled as they get in Maine, ex gumshoe walks into the Galley, and while consuming beer, starts asking questions.

Arnie is a retired Maine Statie, now working for a non-profit agency that searches for missing people. Many years before a girl from Jamaica disappeared one night and the ex-cop is going to find her no matter what it does to Jerry who becomes part of the quest.

"Vampires" does not lack for characters, some pleasant, others not. The York chief of police incurs Jerry's dislike, and pays for it:

"I slammed my laptop closed. Oftentimes the law seemed to help the guilty.

"I still had one task to brighten my day. On plain paper, I printed several identifiable pictures of Chief Bradford at the health club, folded them into an envelope with no return address and dropped them in the box outside the York Harbor Post Office. I'd addressed them to

the Town Manager.

Fun, I remember thinking."

Who woulda thunk it in quiet old Maine?

There are allusions to a regional sports mogul who had been caught in another state with his pants down, so to speak.

In the end, justice will be served, somewhat. The bad guys are done in, but Jerry is brutalized in the process. He will get a journalistic payday for injuries received, but life answers?

"Vampires" is fast paced and has interesting characters. The evil are evil, and the good, not without flaws.

Also, as someone who remembers as a boy the signs on shops and restaurants that read "On Parle Français ici", I got a chuckle out of "York, Maine, the Miami of Canada."

So, that's it for Maine. Cook, back living in Central Massachusetts with Suzanne, has a couple of more offerings in the works. We can expect one in this year and the next.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

### WARRIORS FROM PAGE 7

in the third quarter.

"Gabby played very well in tonight's game," Woodcock said. "We decided to spread the floor, and she scored most of her points by cutting to the basket."

Belchertown's other two starting sophomores are Aubrey Klingensmith, who scored eight of her 10 points in the first quarter before getting into foul trouble, and Kina Roy, who scored six of her eight points during the final minute of regulation.

"I took a chance leaving

Aubrey in the game with two fouls in the first quarter," Woodcock added. "She's a smart basketball player, but she picked up a third foul and had to sit on the bench for rest of the first half. She scored eight quick points and had a hard time getting into a rhythm offensively again in

the second half."

Junior Morghan Litz also reached double digits for the Lady Orioles with 10 points. Junior Aubrey McCain added five points.

Ezzo and Sheldon also picked up two personal fouls during the opening quarter.

"We always seem to be in foul trouble," Haley said. "We just need to fine tune a few things."

The score was tied four times and there were several lead changes during the first 16 minutes of the contest.

The game was tied for the first time at 11-11 before a Slovack lay-up and a Litz 3-pointer from the left corner gave the Lady Orioles a 16-11 advantage entering the second quarter.

With 3:55 remaining in the first half, Bousquet made a 3-pointer from the left corner giving the home team a slim 21-19 lead.

The Lady Warriors also held a two point lead with

less than two minutes left before Roy hit a jumper in the lane and Slovack made another lay-up.

Belchertown also scored the first five points of the second half and held a 30-23 lead.

Tantasqua would then put together a 15-2 run during the final five minutes of the third quarter.

The duo of Barnes and Sheldon scored seven of those points. A put-back hoop from Ezzo increased the Lady Warriors lead to 38-32 at the end of the third quarter.

A Litz 3-pointer and an inside hoop by sophomore Cassidy MacLean (3 points) sliced the Lady Orioles deficit to 38-37 less than a minute into the final quarter.

A Sheldon fast-break lay-up and a Lewis inside hoop began the Lady Warriors 14-4 run.

Tantasqua built a 52-41 lead following an Ezzo lay-

up with 2:30 left in regulation.

The Lady Warriors also led 56-45 with 42 seconds left before the Lady Orioles made one final comeback attempt.

While Roy was making a 3-pointer from the top of the key, Klingensmith was fouled. She made both foul shots, making the score 56-50 with 33.5 seconds left.

Another foul shot by Bousquet pushed the lead to seven points before Roy was fouled while attempting to make a three-point shot with 23.8 seconds remaining on the scoreboard clock. She sank all three free throws, but the Lady Orioles couldn't get any closer than four points.

Unless the two teams face each other again in the Division 3 state tournament, Tantasqua will most likely be making a trip to the Belchertown High School gymnasium during the 2026-27 regular season.

### SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PAGE 4

And to clarify your wife's options as your possible widow, a surviving spouse can also get a survivor benefit if their marital partner passes away, but only if the deceased spouse's current benefit at death was more than the surviving spouse is already receiving. The surviving spouse receives the higher amount, instead of their own smaller Social Security retirement benefit.

But here is an important thing to know: Whenever any Social Security bene-

fit (including a spousal or surviving spouse benefit) is claimed before the recipient's Full Retirement Age, the payment amount is permanently reduced, both spousal and survivor benefits do not reach maximum until the recipient's Full Retirement Age. And just to complete the picture for survivor benefits, a surviving spouse is also entitled to a one-time, lump-sum death benefit of \$255 if their marital partner dies, in addition to any other benefit they are entitled to.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with

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

# health & wellness NETWORK

**AN ANNUAL SOURCE OF Local Health Professionals**

TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN 12 TURLEY NEWSPAPERS

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS • BARRE GAZETTE • THE CHICOPEE REGISTER  
COUNTRY JOURNAL • THE HOLYOKE SUN • THE JOURNAL REGISTER  
THE REGISTER • QUABOAG CURRENT • SENTINEL • TOWN REMINDER  
WARE RIVER NEWS • THE WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES



**CONTACT: DAN FLYNN**  
413-297-5886  
DFLYNN@TURLEY.COM

**DEADLINE**  
January 28, 2026

**PUBLICATION DATE**  
February 18, 2026

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO  
**Turley Publications, Inc.**  
WWW.TURLEY.COM





# CAREER Education

## HCSS: Empowering students for a brighter future

Are you searching for a school where academic excellence meets a supportive community? Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS) is a top-ranked, tuition-free public charter school serving grades 6-12 in Western Massachusetts. Since its founding in 2009, HCSS has been dedicated to preparing students for college, careers, and a lifetime of success.

### Why Choose HCSS?

HCSS stands out as a premier choice for families because of its unique combination of academic rigor, personalized attention, and community spirit. Our two campuses—the Middle School in West Springfield (Grades 6-8) and the High School in Chicopee (Grades 9-12)—offer students a seamless transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Here's what makes HCSS truly exceptional:

**Academic Excellence:** Our rigorous curriculum is guided by the College Board's AP standards and the Common Core. With honors courses beginning in 7th grade, 15 AP offerings in high school, and innovative programs like Project Lead The Way (PLTW), students are challenged to reach their full potential.

**Comprehensive College and Career Preparation:**



HCSS begins college and career readiness as early as 6th grade, including SAT/PSAT prep, dual enrollment opportunities, and experiential college campus visits. With a 100% college acceptance rate and over \$49M in scholarships awarded in 2025, our graduates are set for success.

**State-of-the-Art Technology:** Students benefit from one-to-one Chromebook access, SMART Inter-

active Displays, and hands-on science labs, preparing them for a tech-driven world.

**Award-Winning Extracurriculars:** From robotics, drone, and science olympiad clubs to competitive athletics and social activities, students thrive outside the classroom as well.

**Join Us for an Open House**

Explore what HCSS has to offer during our upcoming Welcome Saturday Open

House events. Meet our dedicated staff, tour our campuses, and learn how HCSS can help your child achieve their dreams. Interested families can also join a Virtual Information Session for an in-depth look at our programs from the comfort of home.

**What Parents and Students Love About HCSS**

Parents and students consistently praise HCSS for

its nurturing environment, where every student feels valued and supported. The school's commitment to diversity and inclusion fosters a vibrant community that celebrates different perspectives and cultures. Families also appreciate the convenience of free transportation and extensive tutoring services, ensuring all students have the tools they need to succeed.

### Student Success Stories

HCSS alumni have gone on to attend prestigious universities, including Ivy League institutions like Harvard, Columbia, and Dartmouth. Our students' achievements are a testament to the school's dedication to academic and personal growth. With a consistent college matriculation rate of over 95%, HCSS prepares students not just to attend college but to excel once they get there.

### How to Apply

Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are now open. Rising 6th-10th graders should apply no later than March 1, 2026, to secure a spot in our admission lottery. Visit [www.hampdencharter.org](http://www.hampdencharter.org) to apply and take the first step toward a brighter future.

At Hampden Charter School of Science, we believe every student deserves a world-class education. Join our community of learners, achievers, and leaders today—because your child's future begins here.

**HCSS High School**  
20 Johnson Rd.  
Chicopee, MA 01022  
Tel. 413-593-9090  
**HCSS Middle School**  
511 Main Street  
West Springfield, MA 01089  
Tel. 413-278-5450  
[hampdencharter.org](http://hampdencharter.org)



## HAMPDEN CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRADE 6-10



### Why Hampden Charter School of Science?

- NO COST
- FREE TRANSPORTATION
- COLLEGE-PREP EDUCATION
- TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOM
- EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS
- ATHLETICS
- ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES and CLUBS
- 100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

### WELCOME SATURDAYS

11:00 AM - 1:00PM

January 10th  
January 24th  
February 7th  
February 28th

VISIT:

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

APPLY NOW / DEADLINE

MARCH 1, 2026





# CAREER Education

## St. Joan of Arc School offers comprehensive education

Located in Chicopee, MA, St. Joan of Arc (SJA) School is a private Catholic institution serving students from Pre-K through Grade 8.

St. Joan of Arc School provides a comprehensive educational environment focused on physical, intellectual,

and spiritual wellness.

In the fall the school community welcomed Mrs. Ashley Mahan as the new principal. A lifelong Chicopee resident and former educator in the local public school system, Mrs. Mahan brings extensive experience and a personal connection to the community.

Students can engage in several new and returning enrichment opportunities this year, including:

- Creative Arts: Liturgical Dance Troupe and Choir.
- STEM & Literacy: Robotics, 3D Printing, LEGO,

Book and Newspaper Clubs.

• Curriculum: Academic programs are integrated with technology, music, library, and physical education.

• Student Services: The school offers free breakfast and lunch programs and has hot meal options available for students.

• Extended Care: Affordable extended care and extracurricular programs are available to support families.

• Language Learning:

Innovative offerings include foreign language instruction through tools like Duolingo.

• Our Preschool program for ages 3 and 4 offers full and part-time care, geared toward preparing your child for Kindergarten. Children learn Kindergarten readiness and pre-reading skills through a developmentally appropriate teacher-created curriculum designed to hold your child's interest and spark their curiosity. The school will be holding an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (no appointment needed). Appointment only tours for families will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3 and Thursday, Feb. 5 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please call Janine or Chris in the Business Office at 413-276-4608 for registration information, or to make an appointment. To learn more visit [www.sjachicopee.org](http://www.sjachicopee.org).

We look forward to meeting you.

### ST. JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL

Pre-K to Grade 8

587 Grattan Street, Chicopee ~ 533-1475

[sjachicopee.org](http://sjachicopee.org)

*Learning Rooted in Christian Values*



### OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, January 31st, 9am-12 noon

*No Appointment Needed*

Tuesday, February 3rd & Thursday, Feb 5th, 3pm-7pm

*By Appointment Only*



Affordable Tuition & Extended Care ~ Free Breakfast & Lunch

Extracurricular Programs~ Technology ~ Physical Education

Music ~ Library ~ Duolingo

Welcoming, Safe & Secure School Community

Social, Physical, Spiritual & Intellectual Wellness Tuition Assistance

*Easy Access to I391 & I90*



## St. Stanislaus School students shine as servant leaders

St. Stanislaus School proudly announces the success of its recent community service initiatives, exemplifying its motto: "Servant Leaders for Today and Tomorrow."

In a spirited effort to support those in need, Student Council organized a can drive that collected an impressive 3,500 items, surpassing their original goal by 1,000 donations. The drive demonstrated the school community's commitment to service, teamwork, and making a tangible difference in the lives of local families.

Building on this momentum, St. Stanislaus students also gathered toiletries, diapers, and other personal items to fulfill the wish lists of The Gray House and Christina's House in Springfield. These organizations provide critical support and safe spaces for individuals and families facing challenging circumstances.

"This can drive is run by our Student Council in grades 4-8," said Mrs. Katherine Rorrio, Principal of St. Stanislaus School. "This drive aligns with the state-

ment that we believe our students are servant leaders for today and tomorrow. It assists our school community in understanding the global community, where we are all neighbors and members of God's family. Our school theme this year is 'Go Make Disciples of All Nations.' Our students are wonderful examples of disciples going out and making a difference in the community. We are so proud of all of our students and families for being so generous to those in need."

St. Stanislaus School remains committed to fostering a culture of compassion, responsibility, and service, preparing students not only for academic success but also for meaningful engagement in their communities.

Founded over 125 years ago, St. Stanislaus School has a rich history of serving families in Chicopee and surrounding communities. Although the original building was lost to fire, the school will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its current building on Saturday, Jan. 31, beginning with Mass at 4 p.m., followed by an Open House and

Celebration. Families interested in scheduling a private tour at another time may call the school 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 (PreK 3 & 4) and Kindergarten, free breakfast and hot lunch, before and 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



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

CALL TO SCHEDULE A PRIVATE TOUR!



- 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
- Modern facility - full gym, full cafeteria, air conditioned, carpeted classrooms.

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."

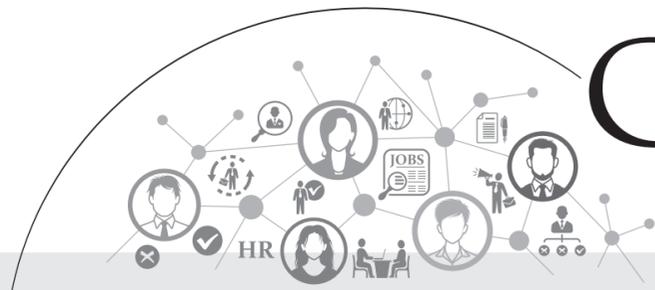


To learn more



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





# CAREER Education

## HCC opens registration for Spring 2026 noncredit classes

Holyoke Community College has opened registration for its Spring 2026 catalog of noncredit personal enrichment and professional development classes.

The spring calendar begins Jan. 12, with individual classes running on different schedules throughout the semester.

New next semester is a series of classes for seniors focused on basic technology. Each one-hour class is available for just \$20 and cover a wide range of subjects, including Windows 11, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Canva (for graphic design), Artificial Intelligence, Zoom, smartphone use (Android or iPhone), managing and editing photos, document storage, web browsers, and computer scams.

Other classes for spring include cooking (Caribbean, charcuterie, Puerto Rican, Southern), wine tasting (winter reds, Tuscany, New Zealand, Rose, summer wines), sewing (for beginners), sewing (machine), watercolor painting, acrylic painting, drawing, piano, conversational French, conversational Spanish, music technology, voiceover coaching, financial literacy, retirement planning, K-12 education (professional development), writing and publishing (fiction, nonfiction,



tion, screenwriting, short stories, query letters, mysteries, travel, blogs), ChatGPT, how to launch a pet-sitting and dog-walking business, and Quickbooks.

Most classes meet in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave. Cooking and wine-tasting classes meet at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St. Some classes meet over Zoom.

To see complete spring course listings and schedules, or to register, please visit [hcc.edu/bcs](http://hcc.edu/bcs).

More classes will be added as spring approaches.

The Commonwealth's oldest community college, Holyoke Community College opened its doors in 1946 as the first two-year college in Massachusetts. In the decades since, the college has paved the way for generations of learners from western Massachusetts and beyond, a beacon of hope and opportunity for people

seeking better lives. Please visit us at [hcc.edu](http://hcc.edu).

HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development is the Pioneer Valley's premiere resource for workforce training, professional development, and personal growth. It provides innovative and affordable programming that helps businesses, organizations, and individuals achieve their goals.



# HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A premier healthcare educator in our region.

- + Nursing
- + Radiologic Technology
- + Medical Assisting
- + Veterinary and Animal Science

[hcc.edu/healthcare](http://hcc.edu/healthcare)



# CAREER Education

## Jump Start Preschool invites families to learn, play, and grow together

Two Locations in Feeding Hills and West Springfield

Jump Start Preschool is proud to welcome families to a nurturing, play-based learning environment where children are encouraged to explore, grow, and develop essential life skills. Serving children ages 2.9 to 5 years old, Jump Start Preschool focuses on learning through play while fostering independence, creativity, and confidence.

At Jump Start Preschool, social-emotional learning and communication are key components of each age group's curriculum. Children learn how to problem-solve with peers, practice self-regulation strategies, and build the foundational skills that help them succeed academically and socially. By supporting emotional growth alongside academics, Jump Start helps children thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Family and community partnerships are at the heart

of the Jump Start Preschool mission. In support of this commitment, Jump Start Preschool will host a 5K Run/Walk on May 30, bringing the community together to raise funds for Autism Allies and the children of Jump Start Preschool. Sixty percent of all donations will benefit Autism Allies. The event will feature live music, local businesses, exercise, and great company. Community members are encouraged to participate and support children and families.

Event information and registration: <https://Milesof-hopeforautism.eventbrite.com>

Jump Start Preschool offers a wide range of perks designed to support both children and working families, including:

- Open year-round
- Reasonable tuition
- Family-friendly hours  
Feeding Hills: 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
West Springfield: 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Free healthy morning and afternoon snacks
- Community and in-

house field trips

- Family engagement activities throughout the year
- EEC-certified staff trained in CPR, First Aid, and medication administration
- State-of-the-art playground
- Preschool graduation with a professional photographer
- School photos twice per year
- Free occupational therapy and speech screenings twice annually

"Timeless moments come from learning through movement, creativity, and connection," said Jump Start Preschool. "We invite families to come dance with us and experience the joy of early learning."

Families interested in enrolling are encouraged to visit [www.jumpstartpreschoolma.com](http://www.jumpstartpreschoolma.com) and complete an interest form. Jump Start Preschool is currently enrolling preschoolers ages 2.9 to 5 at both the Feeding Hills and West Springfield locations.

Watch out — learning is happening.

## Various ways newspapers are good for kids

Newspapers have long been part of the fabric of the communities they cover and serve. Whether it's a big-city daily tabloid or a small town weekly, newspapers keep readers and residents up-to-date on the latest goings-on in their communities and across the globe.

Newspapers have been linked to a range of benefits for adults that include greater civic engagement and stronger voter turnout. Such benefits are indispensable, and it's equally important to recognize ways in which newspapers benefit children.

**• Reading and discussing newspaper stories can foster stronger language development.** A 2022 study published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* noted that parents who provide newspapers at home for their children to read and then discuss stories with young readers can help kids develop strong language skills, which could ultimately benefit them in the classroom and in their personal interactions. The study also noted that discussing newspaper stories with youngsters creates opportunities for children to explore their thoughts.

**• Newspapers can help children develop their critical thinking skills.** A meta-analysis examining ways to teach students critical thinking skills published in the *Review of Educational Research* noted that critical thinking skills are vital because they bolster students' ability to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and make inferences. Newspapers are an invaluable resource for educators aiming to bolster kids' critical thinking skills, as they can be used to teach students to recognize why stories were written, how information in a given story was learned and gathered and how to verify information in a news story. Each of those lessons requires interpretation, analysis and evaluation, ultimately instilling in students vital critical thinking skills that can serve them in the classroom and beyond.



**• Newspapers help students develop vital communication skills.** A 2024 study published in the *Elementaria Journal of Educational Research* found that reading newspapers helped student participants in the study improve their vocabulary, enhance their writing skills and more effectively articulate their ideas. Authors behind the study ultimately characterized newspapers as valuable educational tools, a conclusion that has been reached by researchers across a range of academic disciplines.

Newspapers are part of the fabric of the communities they cover, and children have much to gain from being granted access to their local papers in the classroom and at home.

# Jump Start Preschool

Enrolling Now for the **2026-2027** School Year!



**Jump Start Preschool** provides a safe, loving, nurturing and high-quality childcare and education that promotes and enhances each child's development with the assurance of our parents' peace of mind.

**Full Day & Half Day Programs**

**Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten**  
Research-based curriculum that builds confidence & excitement about learning

- Social & Emotional Skills
- Language & Literacy Skills
- Cognitive Skills
- Physical Skills

**Ages 2.9 to 5 years old**

**Two Beautiful Locations!**

For more information, call or visit our website:  
[www.JumpStartPreschoolMA.com](http://www.JumpStartPreschoolMA.com)

- Feeding Hills: 413.789.4987
- West Springfield: 413.301.5694



**Interested in a Career with Jump Start Preschool?**  
Please Contact Us



## WELDING

- Real hands-on experience
- Includes on site and off site internship
- State-of-the-art facilities renovated in 2022 including a robotic arm

Gateway's Welding program is a Chapter 74 vocational education program that prepares students for a career in Metal Fabrication and Welding!



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

**JOIN US! Apply today!**



## EARLY EDUCATION & CARE

At Gateway you can join our Early Education and Care program (EEC) in 9th grade!

By the time you graduate, you will be ready, certified, and prepared to work with young learners!

You will also be on track to:

- Know how to plan engaging activities and lessons
- Have CPR & First Aid certification
- Experience awesome internship opportunities



Visit: [www.grsd.org](http://www.grsd.org) for more information!



# CAREER Education

## Well-rounded education benefits students

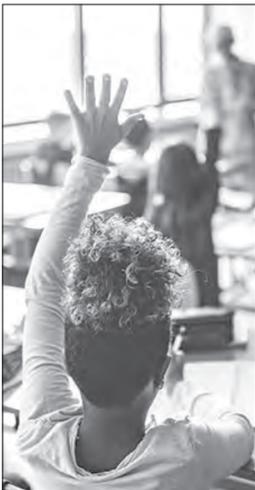
Academic environments have undergone quite a change over the last several decades. Technological advancements have changed the way educators teach and how students learn, but there's also been a notable shift in what students are learning.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) has become a point of emphasis in twenty-first century classrooms, and for good reason. The U.S. National Science Foundation notes that a workforce educated in STEM is vital to a country's prosperity and security. Opportunities in STEM fields are on the rise as well, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates STEM occupations will grow by roughly 11 percent between 2022 and 2032.

The value of STEM is undeniable. However, students and parents also should recognize the many ways a well-rounded education that includes math and science but also the humanities and social sciences facilitates strong academic performance.

### Critical thinking skills

A well-rounded education can instill important and useful critical thinking skills in students. When students direct the bulk of their attention to a single subject or



category of subjects, they're less likely to understand how interconnected coursework, and indeed the world, can be. A well-rounded education can instill in students a more nuanced way of looking at problems and potential solutions. That ability can positively affect students' personal lives and ultimately their professional lives when their formal schooling ends, as they will be in position to better assess situations.

### Comprehension

Tests are designed to gauge students' grasp of material. Students' ability to comprehend lessons taught in the classroom is a big part of that, and a well-round-

ed education fosters strong comprehension skills. A 2018 report from the New York State Education Department noted that research has found that students are better readers after they have been exposed to the language and vocabulary of the natural world, the sciences and social studies.

### Crossover benefits

A well-rounded education can help students perform better in all of their subjects. In 2021, a University of Buffalo academic and researcher studying children and dyslexia made a startling discovery regarding the value of reading and how it affects performance in subjects like math. The research found that reading proficiency crosses academic domains and actually guides how students approach various tasks and solve problems. That means a well-rounded education that includes reading-heavy subjects, like those in the humanities and social sciences, could actually improve how students perform in STEM classes.

A well-rounded education pays a number of dividends for students. Recognition of those benefits might compel parents to support a curriculum that includes a wide array of subjects and academic disciplines.

## Gateway announces expansion of career pathways, Chapter 74 vocational opportunities

Gateway Regional School (GRS) is proud to announce the expansion of its personalized learning model, featuring anticipated openings in its premier Chapter 74 Vocational Programs for the fall of 2026. Designed as a "launchpad" for student success, GRS continues to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world career readiness for students in grades 6-12.

### Innovative Middle School Exploration

The journey begins in the middle grades (6-8), where students engage in an expansive exploratory program. With 26 unique course options—ranging from Intro to Tourism and Woodshop to Data and Statistics in Sports and Sociology—students are encouraged to uncover their passions early.

By the eighth grade, students can gain a head start by accessing Gateway's Chapter 74 vocational programs, providing hands-on introduction to high-demand fields before they even enter high school.

### Challenging Chapter 74 Vocational Programs

Gateway's commitment

to excellence is anchored by two flagship programs that prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce:

- **Welding & Metal Fabrication:** This program offers real hands-on experience in state-of-the-art facilities renovated in 2022. Students learn on modern equipment, including a robotic arm, and participate in both on-site and off-site internships.

- **Early Education and Care (EEC):** Starting in 9th grade, students in the EEC program are put on a track to become certified professionals. The curriculum includes lesson planning for young learners, CPR and First Aid certification, and immersive internship opportunities.

### A Personalized Path to the Future

As students reach the 10th grade, they participate in a "demonstration of learning" to chart their specific goals for their final two years. This tailored approach allows for meaningful experiences, including:

- **Internships and Co-ops:** Real-world placements in students' fields of interest.
- **College Credits:** Through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment

partnerships with universities across the country.

- **Work-Study Placements:** Providing a practical balance between education and professional experience.

"At Gateway Regional School, education is more than coursework—it's a launchpad," Dr. Will Sullivan, GRS Principal, states. "We empower our students to excel in life after graduation through intentionally personalized learning pathways crafted to foster achievement and community impact."

### Join the

### Gateway Community

Gateway Regional School welcomes students from its six member towns and surrounding communities. Families interested in exploring these opportunities for the Fall 2026 semester are encouraged to apply today.

For more information on programs and how to apply, please visit [www.grsd.org](http://www.grsd.org).

Media Contact: Gateway Regional School District Website: [www.grsd.org](http://www.grsd.org)

Gateway Regional School District is located at 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050.

# WELCOME TO GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL



**"AT GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL, EDUCATION IS MORE THAN COURSEWORK – IT'S A LAUNCHPAD."**

Gateway Regional School (GRS) is proud to educate and welcome students from the six member towns and surrounding communities in a vibrant, forward-thinking learning environment designed to prepare students for life beyond the classroom.

Serving students in grades 6-12, Gateway Regional School is built around one central goal: helping every student discover their interests, develop their strengths, and chart a clear path toward future success. That journey begins in the middle grades, where students in grades 6-8, participate in an expansive exploratory program offering 26 unique course options. From *Intro to Tourism and Woodshop* to *Data and Statistics in Sports, Financial Literacy, Engineering, and Sociology*, students are encouraged to explore new ideas, uncover passions, and start thinking about possible career pathways early on. Eighth-grade students can take that exploration even further by accessing Gateway's Chapter 74 vocational programs in *Early Education and Care* and *Welding*, giving them a hands-on introduction to high-demand fields before they enter high school.

Once students reach high school, Gateway shifts into a highly personalized learning model. In grade 10, students complete a demonstration of learning, sharing their goals and aspirations for their final two years at GRS. These plans guide meaningful experiences such as internships, co-ops, and work-study placements, allowing students to gain real-world experience in fields they are excited to pursue.

Gateway's strong partnerships with colleges and universities across the country further expand student opportunities through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment programs, helping students earn college credit while still in high school. Looking ahead, Gateway Regional School is excited to announce anticipated openings in its Chapter 74 Vocational Programs for fall 2026, creating new opportunities for students interested in *Early Education and Care* and *Welding*.

## GATEWAY REGIONAL'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE AND TO EXCELLENCE:

**AT GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL, STUDENTS ARE EMPOWERED TO EXCEL IN LIFE AFTER GRADUATION THROUGH INTENTIONALLY PERSONALIZED LEARNING PATHWAYS AND OPPORTUNITIES, CRAFTED TO FOSTER A FUTURE OF ACHIEVEMENT, CONTRIBUTION, UNDERSTANDING, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT.**



# CAREER Education

## PVPA continues to invest in Arts-focused education



At a time when many public schools are trying to manage difficult budgets by cutting Art programs, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Public Charter School continues to invest in Arts-focused education for students in Grades 7 - 12.

With an extensive Course Catalog of challenging Academic and Arts courses, PVPA employs 15

full-time Arts teachers, and now has five Arts Departments: Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts and new this year, Technical Design and Production.

Students are encouraged to find their artistic voice through a range of introductory courses and audition level course options, with multiple performance opportunities, all integrated with

their core academics.

PVPA students consistently show that incorporating the arts into education creates, not just better artists, but better students who are equipped to be active participants in their future.

Visit for an Open House on Thursday, Jan. 22, and see why PVPA is consistently voted one of the Best Charter Schools in the Valley.

As a public charter school, admission to PVPA is free and open to all Massachusetts students by lottery; no tuition or audition required.

Now accepting applications for the 2026/2027 school year for Grades 7-12 at [pvpa.org/admissions](http://pvpa.org/admissions).

For more information, please email [admissions@pvpa.org](mailto:admissions@pvpa.org).



**Pioneer Valley Performing Arts**  
Charter Public School  
15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley  
413-552-1580

### Apply Now!

### Grades 7-11

### 2026/27 school year



### PVPA

### Open House

Thursday, Jan 22  
4:00-6:00pm

*\*registration encouraged\**

### Free, Arts-focused College-prep Education

Dance, Music, Theater  
Visual Arts  
Technical Design/  
Production

Free Bus Transportation within PVPA region

[www.pvpa.org/admissions](http://www.pvpa.org/admissions)

**APPLY NOW!**

**Deadline Feb 11, 2026**

**REGISTER FOR OPEN HOUSE**






## Join Our Team!

# WE'RE HIRING!

Be part of a school system that is thriving in  
*A Culture of Equity and Proficiency* serving over 26,000 students.

[springfieldpublicschools.com](http://springfieldpublicschools.com)

### Teaching the Next Generation

Are you passionate about making a positive impact on young minds within a dynamic public school environment? Springfield Public Schools is seeking knowledgeable, highly effective, diverse educators, to join our K-12 district!

**TO APPLY**  
Visit our website or scan the QR Code!








springfieldk12

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

## FOR SALE

### FIREWOOD

#### FIREWOOD

Fresh cut & split \$225.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available

\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

## WANTED

### WANTED TO BUY

#### ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

#### ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688.

## JUNK REMOVAL

### A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.  
We load it & take it.  
**413-531-1936**  
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

## SERVICES

**DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS,** plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

## SERVICES

### ELECTRICIAN

#### PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN

• Licensed & Insured •  
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.

**NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.**  
Call today to schedule your appointment.  
**(413) 366-1703**  
(Lic. #24046-A)

#### LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured. Master Elec. #20773A.  
Text/call Luis **413-218-3301.**

#### ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC

Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.

Call John at (413)206-6509  
Every customer gets a free gem stone.

### INSTRUCTION

**NRA Certified Basic Pistol Course** with Live Fire for License to Carry permit \$140. Matt Marcinkiewicz **muscione@hotmail.com 413-537-0620**

### LANDSCAPING

#### A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
**Josh Rozell 413-636-5957**

## SERVICES

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

#### CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR  
**Remodeling & Deck Specialists**  
Residential/Commercial  
Fully Insured • Free Estimates  
**413-351-1147**

### MASONRY

#### STOP WET BASEMENTS

**ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING**  
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

### PAINTING

**KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES.** Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call **413-896-8264.**

#### PRO PAINTING

Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. **413-310-5099.**

## CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

FRIDAY AT NOON

## SERVICES

### PLUMBING

**GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

### RUBBISH REMOVAL

**BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL** Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

### TREE WORK

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.** Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374.**

**DL & G TREE SERVICE.** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

### STUMP GRINDING

**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**

### PETS

**GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS.** Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F. Ready, w/shots. Now \$1,200. **413-218-2321**

### AUTO

## CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

FREE TOWING  
FAST SERVICE  
CASH PAID AS IS  
CALL OR TEXT  
413-219-6839

### Buying? Selling?

Our Classifieds Get Results!

## HELP WANTED

Wilbraham United Church is hiring a part-time, experienced

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER

Apply to **Wilbraham United Church, Attention: Alesia; 500 Main Street; Wilbraham, MA 01095.** More information at **www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/**

### LUDLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT PARA-EDUCATOR

Submit resume and letter of intent to: **www.schoolspring.com**

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT

**PALMER:** 1 BR Apt. No Pets/No Smoking. **Breton Estates 413-283-6940**

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

# ADVERTISING SALES HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:

Jamie Joslyn  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Email:jamie@turley.com



## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

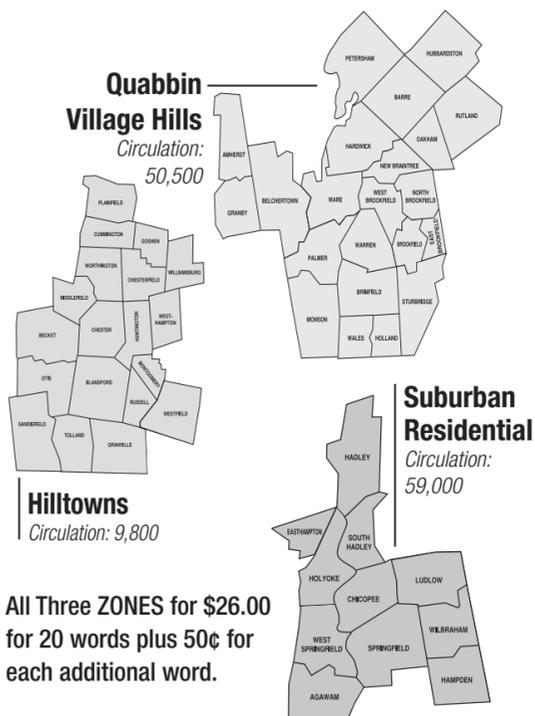
MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON  
or call: 413-283-8393

### CATEGORY:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

**GREAT VALUE!**  
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to Turley Publications



Post your job openings in our classifieds.  
**We get results!**  
**Call 413-283-8393**

**Turley Publications, Inc.**  
www.newspapers.turley.com

- AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS  
BARRE GAZETTE  
COUNTRY JOURNAL  
CHICOPEE REGISTER  
THE JOURNAL REGISTER  
THE LUDLOW REGISTER  
QUABOAG CURRENT  
THE SENTINEL  
THE SUN  
WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES  
TOWN REMINDER  
WARE RIVER NEWS



# Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

**WINTER SALE!!!!  
TOY CLEARANCE!  
SAVE UP TO 70%!!!**

**GIANT APPLIANCE REBATES!!!  
MATTRESS SALE!!!  
SLEDS, SKATES, TOBOGGANS, TUBES!!!  
SEE AD INSIDE!!!**

**12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING**  
**WHITCO**  
 140 Main St., Spencer  
 www.whitcosales.com  
**508-885-9343**  
 Open: Mon.-Fri. 10am-8:30pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 12pm-7pm

**POST ROAD REALTY**  
 BUYING OR SELLING...  
 WE HAVE THE PERFECT FIT FOR YOU!  
 www.PostRoadRealty.com  
**RESIDENTIAL RENTAL - \$3,000 PER MONTH**  
 270 NEW BRAINTREE RD., WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

Beautiful 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home with a 2-car garage situated on 3 acres of land, available now. This well-maintained property offers a spacious primary bedroom with private full bath, jacuzzi tub, and walk-in closet. Two additional generously sized bedrooms share a full bath. The fully appointed kitchen opens to a dining area with a slider leading to a deck overlooking a private backyard. Additional features include a spacious living room and a dedicated office/den, ideal for working from home. Enjoy privacy and outdoor space while remaining conveniently located. First, last, and security deposit required. Credit and reference check required.

**Cassie Paolucci**  
**774-200-3523**

*Your Destination for*  
**WINTER SUPPLIES**  
*From Carhartt Clothing to Wood Pellets*

Spring will be here before you know it!  
 Visit us to get ready for your early spring garden, house and farm needs.

ESTABLISHED 1914  
**HARDWICK FARMERS CO-OP**  
 MORE THAN YOUR AVERAGE FARM & GARDEN STORE!  
 Rt. 32, 444 Lower Road  
**413-477-6913**  
 Gilbertville, MA 01031  
 www.hardwickfarmers.net

**Get the Facts.**  
*Subscribe Today!*

**413.283.8393 • newspapers.turley.com**

12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS  
 24 Water St., Palmer  
 80 Main St., Ware

**Turley Publications, Inc.**

**Country Canine KENNELS**

**Boarding, Grooming, Daycare**

🐾 Boarding starting at \$40 a night  
 🐾 Daycare starting at \$26 a day

84 Greenwich Plains Road  
 Ware, MA 01082  
 (413) 277-0334 Office Phone  
 countrycaninekennels@gmail.com

**STIHL® Husqvarna**

**PARK SAW SHOP**  
**LOGGING • ARBORIST • SAFETY**

**1292 PARK ST. 1-800-232-6132**  
**PALMER, MA 01069 (413) 544-9022**

Mon-Fri 6:30am-4pm • Sat 7am-Noon

Shipping Can Be Arranged  
 RENTALS AVAILABLE

**WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!**  
**LANDSCAPE STONE**  
 White • Blue • Purple • Red  
 Lt Gray • Dark Gray • Beige • Rip Rap

**SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING**

Construction Stone • Title V & Presby Septic Sand  
 Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand  
 Pool Liner Sand • Stone Dust • Silt • Crushed Gravel  
 Crushed Asphalt • Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch  
**Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums!**  
**PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!**

**Bond**  
 Sand, Gravel & Asphalt

98 North Spencer Rd., Spencer  
 bondsandandgravel.com  
**508-885-6100**  
**508-885-2480**

**JARS Café & Bakery**

23 Summer Street  
 North Brookfield  
 MA 01535

508-637-1577  
 Tues.-Sat. 8am-2pm  
 Sun. 9am-2pm

- ❖ COFFEE
- ❖ GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS
- ❖ BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
- ❖ SOUPS
- ❖ COOKIES
- ❖ MUFFINS
- ❖ PASTRIES

In-House Fresh Bakery  
 All Occasion Cake  
 Cupcakes and Cookies

Every Month Special Treat Box  
 Available For Sale at the Cafe

❖ **Future Events**  
 Contact us to plan your next private event.  
**508-637-1577**

**Bring in entire ad for one FREE Beverage with purchase of a baked good. Tues.-Thurs. 8am-10am**

*Adventure tours of Warren*  
 Share the Adventure with us!

**4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation**  
 June 9-12  
**\$899**

May 24.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699  
 June 27.....Lake George Cruise & Lunch .....\$185  
 July 11.....Provincetown by Fast Ferry.....\$220  
 July 19.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699  
 Aug 30.....8-Day Nova Scotia Cruise .....from \$1699

**Share the Adventure with us soon!**  
 For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357  
 or email [adventuretours@att.net](mailto:adventuretours@att.net)  
 or go to [www.adventuretoursofwarren.com](http://www.adventuretoursofwarren.com)

**NO ENTRANCE FEE**  
 Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. **Asking \$288,000.** See listing on MLS # 73433198

**NO ENTRANCE FEE**  
 Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 21 Varney Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and Better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a large attached bathroom. Two full bathrooms, large back deck, and two large wood sheds. **Asking 245,000.** See MLS#73457117.

**Call Today!**  
**978-355-4438**  
**978-355-3454**  
 paulraymondvarney@gmail.com

**WATERWHEEL REALTY Paul Varney Sr.**  
 Real Estate Broker and Owner

**WE KEEP IT SIMPLE.**  
 Great Food, Great Drinks,  
 Great Service & Great People!

**Ladd's RESTAURANT & LOUNGE**

64 Barre-Paxton Road, Route 122, Rutland

**Daily \$14.99 Home Cooked Specials!**

**6 Big Screen TVs To Watch!**  
**508-886-4771** **KENO**

**RESTAURANT & LOUNGE HOURS:**  
 WED & THURS 4:00-9:00 PM; FRI 2:00-9:00 PM; SAT 11:30 AM-9:30 PM; SUN 11:30 AM-9:00 PM

**Prime Rib & Fresh Seafood Best Pizza In Town!**

**CATERING & EVENT AVAILABLE BOOK YOUR PARTY NOW!!!**  
 Check Out Our Specials at [www.laddsrestaurant.net](http://www.laddsrestaurant.net)