

QUABOAG CURRENT

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Volume 17, Number 33

Friday, July 12, 2024

East Brookfield sparkles for the 4th of July

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

EAST BROOKFIELD – The town hosted its annual Independence Day celebration over the weekend, and they didn't skimp on the fun events, food, music, and of course, the parade.

"The East Brookfield parade and fireworks are a well-known Independence Day celebration dating as far back as the 1950s (over 70 years)," Holly Spahn, one of the directors of the event, said.

"Folks travel from all over to participate and enjoy the day's events," Spahn said.

The day featured many events, beginning with a pancake breakfast served by the East Brookfield Baptist Church, followed by crafters and vendor fairs, food trucks, and more.

There were plenty of activities for kids, as well as a Kids Wheel Parade before the big main parade, which featured jeeps, floats, tractors, and animals.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Lilly Noonan and her mom, Brittany Noonan, dressed in their patriotic best and ready for the fireworks to begin.

Please see **FIREWORKS**, page 7



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO
First Leaves Family Farm LLC is based out of Whitinsville and offers microgreens, herbs and other gardening products.

Farmer's Market returns to Town Common

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Sturbridge Town Common is the home of the town's annual Farmer's Market.

Every year residents can enjoy the company of local farms and artists who have local agricultural and artisan products to offer. The vision of the Sturbridge Farmer's Market is to strive to enrich the quality of life in the local area by providing a healthy community activity that promotes wellness in a whole-

some, social gathering place. The Farmer's Market is dedicated to promoting the success of local food growers and artisans, strengthening the food economy with high quality, safe food, and serve as a community gathering place for farmers and entrepreneurs to connect with local shoppers.

Over 40 vendors take up the grounds of Sturbridge Town Common to provide the best locally produced and crafted products in the New England Region. Every Sun-

Please see **MARKET**, page 8

Board commits to aquatic invasives study

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen endorsed a letter of commitment from the town to participate in phase one of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission's Quaboag River Valley aquatic invasives study at its July 2 meeting.

The study will investigate

invasive species that will impair water quality in the Quaboag River Valley and assess the area's vulnerability to further aquatic habitat degradation and develop a roadmap toward implementing priority mitigation strategies.

Through this study, CMRPC will also evaluate potential partnership opportunities for a future invasives mitigation collaborative that will serve to

Please see **BOARD**, page 5

Old Sturbridge Village celebrates independence



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Raising their right hands, they take the oath with Clerk Tracy McLaughlin.

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

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village hosted its Independence Day celebration last week, including a very special ceremony on July 4.

Since 2013, the Village has hosted a citizenship ceremony for those wishing to achieve naturalization within the United States.

"My favorite parts of being able to host the ceremony are that, for one, it reminds me of

Please see **OSV**, page 12



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- community -

Charity golf tournament helps pets get needed care

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services is excitedly preparing for the 12th Annual Golf Tournament, happening in just two weeks.

Registration is still open for this highly anticipated event, which will take place at the world-class Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown on Monday, July 15. The tournament promises a day of exceptional golf, supporting the mission to provide essential care to pets in need.

This year, the tournament is thrilled to welcome Tito's Handmade Vodka as a new addition, offering tastings on the course. Proceeds from the event will directly support Second Chance's Community Veterinary Hospitals in Springfield, Worcester, Southbridge, and North Brookfield, which provide vital veterinary services to pets in underserved communities.

Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer at Second Chance, encourages golfers to register soon to secure their spot. "This is a fantastic day of golf for an even greater cause," said Doray in a press release. "In today's climate, offering accessible veterinary care is crucial in keeping beloved pets where they belong with their families. Our Community Veterinary Hospitals



Golfers participated in last year's Second Chance Animal Golf Tournament. This year's event will be held on Monday, July 15 at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown. SUBMITTED PHOTO

serve as a critical resource in furthering this mission, ensuring that pets receive the care they need while alleviating strain on shelters. We urge golfers to stand with us in this mission."

Participants can look forward to a day filled with excitement, including a box lunch, banquet dinner, a bucket of range balls, and a commemorative gift. The tournament will feature various challenges, including prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, closest to the line, a yellow ball contest, and more.

Attendees will also have the chance to win \$4,000 toward a pool or spa from Teddy Bear Pools in the hole-in-one contest. There will also be raffles and a si-

lent auction that will launch online on July 5, adding to the festivities.

Second Chance is still welcoming sponsors and accepting donations for the tournament's silent auction and raffle. Information regarding sponsorships and item donations can be found at secondchanceanimals.org/events/golf/.

The 18-hole tournament will be in a scramble format with foursomes. Check-in will start at 9 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 10 a.m.

Complete information, registration and a link to the auction can be found at secondchanceanimals.org/events/golf/.

Vendors needed for Flea Market on the Common

WEST BROOKFIELD –The First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St. has been hosting its Flea Market on the town Common for more than 50 years and this year it will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sellers of all kinds are welcome - flea folk, antique dealers, crafters, product vendors, and those emptying out basements and attics. No food vendors, please.

Spaces are available for \$40 for a 20 by 20 grassy spot. Vendors must bring their own tables and tents.

The church will sponsor a food tent with grilled food, cold drinks and sweet treats. Email to fccofwb-fleamarket@gmail.com for an application.

Pig yoga this Saturday at Oakholm Brewery

BROOKFIELD – Pig yoga class for all ages and abilities will be held at Oakholm Brewery this Saturday, July 13 from 8:15-9:15 a.m.

Class entails an all-levels, 50-minute Vinyasa Flow Yoga class with young pigs, bunnies, and goats bouncing off Yogis during class and then 10 extra minutes at the end of class for extra snuggles and pictures.

The cost is \$32 per person and a drink token towards the brewery is included. Reserve tickets ahead of time by calling 413-221-8664 or emailing Ashley@BeyondYogaAndWellness.com.

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church hosts clothing drive

BROOKFIELD – The Committee for Ecology and Social Action of the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is sponsoring our second clothing and textile drive through Helpsy, the largest clothing collector in the Northeast.

Textile waste is a fast-growing problem and occupies nearly 5% of all landfill space, but 95% of unwanted clothing can be reused, repurposed, or recycled. Only 15% currently is.

On July 16-20, the church will be open between 3-7 p.m. so you can bring your old clothing (including slips, bras, underwear, socks) and certain other acceptable items, such as shoes, accessories (including hats, bags, belts, scarves and jewelry), luggage, stuffed animals and linens (including sheets, blankets, curtains, table linens and quilts). All items in any condition are acceptable if they are clean, dry, and odorless.

Last year the church was able to keep over 5,000 pounds of textiles out of the landfills. They hope to exceed that this year.

The Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 9 Upper River St. on the Brookfield Common, near the junction of Route 9 and Route 148.

For more information, contact Barbara Hale at blh.buuc@gmail.com.

Registration/sponsorship open for golf tournament

OAKHAM – Knights of Columbus Council # 11080, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Brookfield/West Brookfield/Warren Massachusetts, is having its 7th Annual Alex Cordy Memorial Charity Golf Tournament at Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club, 1822 Old Turnpike Road, on Sunday, Aug. 25.

Registration begins at 7:15 am, with a Shotgun Start at 8 a.m.

As many of you are aware, Alex was an integral part of the West Brookfield community for many years. In memory of his outstanding service to his community, his parish, and being a founding member of our Knights of Columbus Council 11080, this tournament will once again benefit the Youth Activities Fund to support the youth in the local community, a cause that was very important to Alex.

The Knights were able to award two \$1,000 scholarships this past year from the proceeds of this event to two local high school seniors, as well as fund many other youth activities.

They ask that you please consider supporting this event by sponsoring or participating in the tournament individually or with a foursome. Tournament Raffle Items and General Donations to this event are always welcomed and appreciated!

Registration and sponsorships are now available for this tournament. To register, and for more information, please call 413-813-8100 or email wallycon-nor122@gmail.com.

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- community -

Smola supports passage of economic development bond bill

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Ways & Means Committee) recently supported a comprehensive economic development bond bill that calls for just over \$4 billion in investments to promote business and job growth across a wide range of industries in Massachusetts.

Smola stated in a press release, “This legislation is a strategic investment in our future and addresses emerging technologies as well as environmental and public infrastructure needs. By supporting innovative sectors, we are not only combating today’s challenges but also working towards sustainable economic growth.”

During floor debate, Smola successfully advocated for \$100,000 in funding to the Tantasqua Regional School District for a district wide electric vehicle charger installation project. He noted that this proposed bond funding is preliminary, as it still requires approval by the Senate and Governor Maura Healey, and must be worked under the state’s annual borrowing cap, a process which could take several years.

House Bill 4789, An Act relative to strengthening Massachusetts’ economic leadership, provides for a multi-year commitment to the life sciences, climate technology, manufacturing, workforce development, public infrastructure improvements, and other critical areas, including funding to support the adoption and application of artificial intelligence capabilities to public policy problems. Also known as the Mass Leads Act, House Bill 4789 was engrossed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 155-2 on June 27.

Smola noted the House bill provides for approximately \$3.3 billion in bond authorizations and another \$700 million in tax credits, including a new five-year tax credit pilot program for live theater productions, which will be capped at \$7 million a year. The bill also expands the existing life sciences tax credit by lifting the annual cap from

\$30 million to \$50 million, and provides \$580 million for the Massachusetts Life Sciences Breakthrough Fund, formerly known as the Massachusetts Life Sciences Investment Fund, to help reinforce Massachusetts’ position as a leader in developing health-related innovations.

House Bill 4789 also focuses on climate technology, or “climatetech,” to help Massachusetts compete in a growing national and global clean energy marketplace. The bill defines “climatetech” as “clean energy, other advanced, and applied technologies that contribute to the decarbonization of the economy, reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, or mitigate the impacts of climate change through adaptation, resiliency and environmental sustainability.”

Currently, 28 of the top 100 companies in the United States that meet the definition of a climatetech company are located in Massachusetts, and the UMASS Donahue Institute has indicated the Commonwealth could realize a \$16 billion return on its investment in climatetech.

According to Smola, the House bill commits \$400 million over 10 years for a network of climatetech pilot programs and directs \$300 million toward other climatetech initiatives, including a \$35 million annual offshore wind tax credit and a new climatetech tax incentive program worth up to \$30 million annually.

In addition, House Bill 4789 provides \$100 million for a capital grant program to leverage emerging AI technologies in a variety of sectors, including life sciences, health-care and hospitals, financial services, advanced manufacturing, robotics and education. The program will be administered by the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation and will also be used “to support the incubation of

artificial intelligence firms, advance the adoption of artificial intelligence technologies and support artificial intelligence software and hardware technology development and commercialization activities.”

Smola said House Bill 4789 also expands and modernizes portions of the Massachusetts General Laws pertaining to the State Athletic Commission, particularly as it relates to combat sports. In addition to establishing a State Athletic Commission Fund to cover the commission’s expenses, the bill requires that license holders for combat sports events take out at least a \$10,000 insurance policy and adds provisions to ensure that contests are conducted safely and fairly.

The House bill also addresses the issue of event ticketing by requiring ticket sellers to provide customers with the option of buying a physical ticket, and limiting the ability to sell tickets on the secondary market to only those entities that have been approved by the commissioner of occupational licensure. The bill also prohibits consumers from using “ticket purchasing software,” which is defined as any device, machine, or computer software designed to bypass or subvert an online ticket seller’s security apparatus or identification authentication process.

Smola said House Bill 4789 also includes:

\$150 million in municipal grants for approved public library projects;

\$8 million for a grant program for the preservation of historic properties, landscapes and sites;

\$50 million for the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund for constructing, repairing, renovating, or addressing deferred maintenance needs at a cultural facility;

\$100 million in grants for coastal communities, to be administered by the Seaport Economic Council, to create jobs in the maritime economy sector, and to construct, improve, repair, maintain and protect coastal assets;

\$200 million for the Massachusetts Offshore Wind Industry Investment Trust Fund to support the offshore wind industry and facilitate economic development activity;

\$200 million for the Clean Energy Investment Fund to promote jobs, economic and workforce development for research and the development, innovation, manufacturing, commercialization and deployment of climatetech technologies in Massachusetts;

\$400 million for the MassWorks infrastructure program;

\$100 million for the rural development program;

\$30 million for the Brownfields Development Fund;

\$99 million for the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation for grant programs that support collaboration among Massachusetts-based manufacturers and institutions of higher education, non-profits, or other public or quasi-public entities;

\$25 million for a capital grant program to provide grants or other financial assistance to private businesses that are constructing or expanding commercial, industrial or manufacturing facilities in the com-

monwealth, including projects that minimize or eliminate the use of fossil-fuel heating and cooling equipment; and

a proposal to rename the Boston Convention Center as the Thomas Michael Menino Convention and Exhibition Center in honor of the late Boston mayor;

During floor debate, several amendments were adopted, including proposals to:

create an Educator Diversity Fund, direct the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to create alternative pathways to educator certification, and require every school district in the Commonwealth to hire a full time (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) officer; remove the testing requirement for certified social workers and create a field placement grant program in the form of financial assistance to those in education and training for social work; and

provide civil service communities with a hybrid option that would allow them to fill up to 50% of job openings with exam exemptions and would expand the residency requirements for initial applicants to include individuals who reside within a 10-mile radius of the community, with the option to expand the 10-mile radius even further through a collective bargaining agreement.

House Bill 4789, as amended, now moves to the Senate for its consideration. For additional information please contact Smola by email at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or call 617-722-2100.

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- opinion -

editorial



Whip-poor-will

I received an email from a Belchertown resident, she said, "I have had a whip-poor-will in my yard for about a month."

She also said, "I hear the call every morning around 4 a.m. and in the evening around 9 p.m. I have not had one for the past 10 years and am quite lucky to have again."

She said she lives in a quiet neighborhood and she was wondering if any other folks have them. She is fortunate. It has been many years since I heard the call of the whip-poor-will.

The whip-poor-will is 10 inches long and are mostly heard calling in the evening. It is a brownish to dusk colored bird, which blends in well with its surroundings. In flight, the rounded wings and long tail are visible. They eat aerial insects and feed mostly at night on moths. They are nocturnal and rest during the day. They also eat beetles and grasshoppers.

The whip-poor-will nest on the woodland floor and lays two white eggs with gray or brown spots. Their call is "whip-poor will," with emphasis on the last syllable. They inhabit open woods, canyons and dry, brushy areas.

Green heron and more

My daughter saw a green heron fly across Route 32 in Ware, near the power supply at the town line on Thursday, June 27. It landed in a small, swampy area.

Green herons, unlike the great blue and blue heron has a short neck and legs. They have a blue-green back, reddish brown neck and chest and a long, pointed bill.

The week before she saw a family of raccoons near the pond across from Church Street. The little ones frolicked in the grass; it was the cutest thing.

She also saw a pileated woodpecker at the Lucy Stone Park in Warren on a new section of trail. She said, "It flew ahead and landed on a tree. I've never seen one so close before." On June 29, she saw a pair of cedar waxwings at Hardwick Pond.

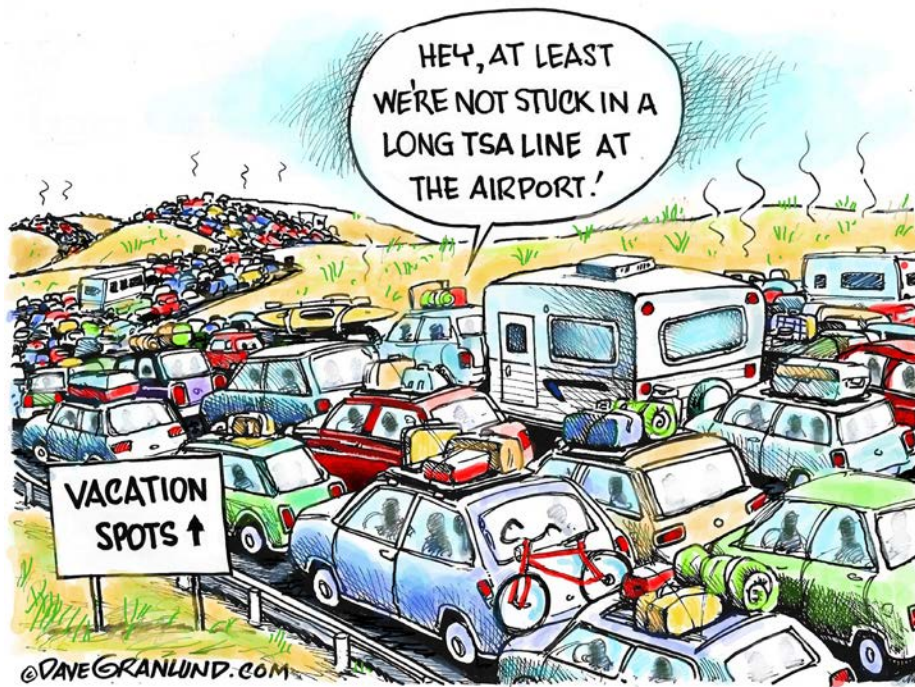
Loon facts

The Loon Preservation Committee provided this interesting information in one of their newsletters.

"Loons diving to deeper depths tend to spend more time underwater than those diving in more shallow areas. In a study of loons using Lake Michigan as a stopover site during fall migration, Kenow et al. (2018) found that loons diving to depths of 131 feet were spending, on average, 139 seconds, over two minutes, underwater per dive. In contrast, loons diving to depths of 65 feet in that study were spending less time under water per dive, 87 seconds, on average."

The article also said, "It can be difficult to quantify the absolute maximum amount of time that a loon can spend underwater, as loons likely have no need to test their limits during

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 7



The Garden Lady tackles the Rose of Sharon

Paul, who gardens in Palmer, wrote in with this timely question for the Garden Lady: "My question deals with the Rose of Sharon and the many seedlings that it dis-burses. I have a large bush/tree in my front yard, and it dis-burses many seedlings. I have weeded the seedlings going on three times this spring and summer. When is the best time to cut the dead blossoms off the tree so that I don't repeat this task? Please share any other hints/ideas about the Rose of Sharon shrub."

This is a perfect question, since bloom time for the Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) is right around the corner.

Like you, I am familiar with the shrub's tendency to self-sow, a lot. The best way to halt all of the seedlings coming is to "dead-head" the flowers as they begin to fade, before they are given the opportunity to make and drop seed.

Some would argue that this is, in fact, as much or more work as weeding the seedlings away. I guess it all depends whether you prefer to work standing up or on your hands and knees.

One suggestion I have would be to weed by use of a scuffle hoe. It's a tool you use standing up whereby you drag the scuffle across the soil.

It cuts the weed away from its roots, stopping it dead in its tracks. If you do this every week, the weeds will be so small that they will just wither in the sun- you don't even have to pick them up.

That may be the easiest way out of your overabundance of seedlings.

You also asked for some information about the shrub. Here are some excerpts from a column I wrote a few years ago

that you might find interesting, especially in regard to the appropriate time of year to prune.

The Rose of Sharon is also known as Shrub Althea. It is a member of the mallow family, a diverse bunch of plants that include hollyhocks, marsh mallows, cotton, okra and even tropical hibiscus as kin.

Although native to Asia, it had already found a home in North America by 1600. In the 19th century it was among the most popular shrubs in the nursery trade. It grows well in zones 5-8.

The Rose of Sharon has an upright growth habit that lends itself well to all types of combination plantings, as stand alone hedges, and as the backdrop for perennial borders. Likewise, a single shrub can be trained to be an outstanding specimen.

Because its flowers are borne on new growth rather than old, pruning can be accomplished in late winter or early spring without the risk of sacrificing blooms. As with most shrubs, concentrate first on removing any dead branches, then remove those that are crossing or rubbing on one another.

If growth needs to be checked, cut well into the shrub to decrease its height and girth.

Cutting back to a bud that points outward and in the direction of least competition will result in a bushy, less lanky shrub- one suitable for use as a specimen. Frequent pruning results in fewer but larger flowers, whereas no or little pruning gives way to many small flowers.

Plant the Rose of Sharon in full sun or

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5



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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.



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Send opinions to:

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

Turley Publications Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo.

We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

- opinion -

Legislators approve amendment to Affordable Housing Act

HISTORICAL from page 1

alleviate the local burden and promote the exchange of knowledge and resources to deal with aquatic invasives.

This study will be funded through a planning assistance grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Appointment

Roger H. Brooks Jr. was appointed to serve on the town's Finance Committee. Board of Selectmen Clerk Vaughn Schlegel said Brooks has experience in municipal government and a "very good wealth of knowledge."

"I think he'll be a great benefit to the Finance Committee and the town in general," Schlegel said.

Dissolved committee

The board dissolved the Town Administrator Search Committed following the hiring of Town Administrator Michael Szlosek.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis and Schlegel thanked the committee members for their work to post the position and find the ideal candidate.

"Every interaction I had with them was extremely professional," Szlosek said of the committee.

Holden Hospital funds request

Police Chief Mark Smith submitted a request to the Board of Selectmen to use \$6,647 from the Holden Hospital fund to cover the cost of the several service contracts. This includes oil, filter, antifreeze check, starter check, backup battery testing and emergency generator testing, \$620; fire detection and monitoring system, \$1,227; HVAC service and maintenance, and \$3,200; and camera system, \$1,600.

The board approved the request.

Reserve fund requests and transfers

The board approved the following Reserve Fund requests: Council on Aging, \$3,400; Collector's salary, \$1,471.21; streetlighting, \$1,975; and Fire salary, \$4,000.

The board also approved the following transfers to the COA's purchase of services account: \$1,000 from the Town Clerk's election and registrars salary; \$2,000 from the Town Clerk's election/census salary; and \$1,100 from the Town Clerk's election/census other expenses.

Money requested and transferred to the COA will be used to make repairs to the kitchen sink and grease trap.

Other transfers helped to cover negative balances, including \$4,186 from Board of Selectmen general insurance to streetlighting; \$170 from general insurance to town office expense; \$711.12 from technology to town office expense; \$145 from Town House electric account to town office; and \$2,455 from the Aztec DEP account to Town Counsel account. The board also approved the transfer of \$79.49 from the Selectmen's postage account to cover other various negative balances.

"We are expecting additional invoices as well," Petraitis said.

Other departmental transfers include \$6,000 from Highway Department salary to gas and diesel; \$5,000 from Sewer operator II to Sewer chemicals; \$8,095 from Sewer clerk's salary to Sewer electricity; \$11,300 from Sewer superintendent's salary to Sewer general supplies; \$1,000 from Parks & Recreation purchase of services to Parks & Recreation supplies; and \$900 from Town Clerk's election/census supplies to Town Clerk's supplies (to purchase a custom-made town flag and folding machine).

Senior Center roof

Petraitis said the board will wait to sign off on the certificate of completion of the Senior Center roof until they receive a signed-off building permit.

Fire report

Fire Chief Darin Anderson submitted his monthly Fire Department report for the month of May. The department responded to 24 calls which included one outside/equipment fire, 15 medical assists, one motor vehicle accident, one watercraft rescue, one animal rescue, two false alarms, two smoke detector activations due to malfunctions and one unintentional smoke detector activation (no fire).

The department also issued and conducted 26 permits and inspections.

BOSTON – The State Senate has taken a step forward in helping homeowners whose foundations are crumbling beneath them due to the presence of pyrrhotite in the concrete.

Recently, legislators approved an amendment to the Affordable Housing Act that will create a special fund that will be used to assist Bay State homeowners who are facing expenses as high as \$250,000 to replace their failed foundations.

State Sen. Peter Durant, R-Spencer, said creating the fund is the first step in getting relief for the homeowners who have found themselves with nowhere to turn.

"The next step is finding the best methods for funding this effort," Durant said in a press release. "This is a long-term problem that will require us to be creative so as not to place a large burden on taxpayers while also helping residents to repair their homes which, in turn, helps their local economy."

"As homes age, the problem is expected to encompass more than the 40 impacted cities and towns that have been identified as having crumbling foundations. Every day, the list of affected homeowners grows," Durant said, adding that

concrete testing has only just been implemented and it's possible recently constructed homes may see similar problems years from now.

"This is essentially a natural disaster," Durant said. "It is caused by the failing of a natural element and it was unforeseen by the concrete industry, builders and homeowners."

State Sen. Ryan Fattman, R-Sutton, who co-authored the amendment said he's hopeful the dozens of affected residents who visited the State House to lobby for the amendment will have some relief soon.

"The Massachusetts Senate debated an extensive housing bill with over 300 amendments. I co-authored one of these amendments with a bipartisan group of legislators that creates the Crumbling Concrete Assistance Fund and helps homeowners whose foundations are destroyed by the mineral pyrrhotite," Fattman said. "This slow-moving mineral has created a financial hardship for thousands of families in my district and across our state, is not covered by homeowners' insurance and costs hundreds of thousands of dollars out of pocket to fix. I am proud of the efforts the advocates who are personally af-

ected by this issue have made and I have worked hard along with my colleagues to pass our amendment unanimously, bringing hope and a solution to those facing this home crisis."

The measure is now before a conference committee, though proponents are confident that it will be reported out favorably.

"Faulty foundations are putting the homes and life savings of thousands of Massachusetts families across the Commonwealth at risk, through no fault of their own," said Sen. Michael Moore D-Millbury. "I'm proud to have partnered with Senators Fattman and Durant to pass an amendment that creates the Crumbling Concrete Assistance Fund, a first step to making homeowners whole for foundation repairs and replacements due to the presence of pyrrhotite. I am hopeful that this fund will remain in the final Affordable Homes Act bill, and that we can do more to keep Bay Staters safe and secure in their homes."

The Senate and House versions of the Housing Bond Bill will now go to a Conference Committee. The legislators will have until July 31 to work out their differences.

GARDEN from page 1

part shade situations. Although it is tolerant of many types of soil, from seashore sandy to wet, this shrub prefers deep, well-drained soil to perform its best.

Fertilization is rarely necessary. Although Japanese beetles are said to favor the flowers, I haven't had much of a problem with them at home or at work.

To intentionally propagate this plant, simply take a softwood cutting four or five inches long in early summer. Remove lower foliage and insert into the ground in a shady location.

Water as needed.

By the season end roots will have likely formed, but wait until spring to move your cutting to a nursery bed.

As mentioned, seeds of the Rose of Sharon have also been known to sprout under the mother plant, sometimes to the degree of being a nuisance. Grow these seedlings on and

see what color flower you get; there is no guarantee it will be the same as mother.

Single or double hibiscus shaped flowers come in shades of red, pink, purple and white, depending on the cultivar. Like those of their tropical cousin, individual Rose of Sharon flowers bloom for a single day, close at night, then eventually drop from the plant.

Even at that rate, flowering occurs for many weeks throughout late July, August and sometimes into September.

In my opinion, single flowered cultivars are more desirable; they put on a better show and are more tolerant of rainy weather. Double types turn to mush after a rainstorm – much like petunia flowers do. Not very attractive and oh so

squishy!

"Diana" is my all time favorite cultivar. Four- six inch pure white single flowers bloom in abundance, even through the night, making it a perfect candidate for use in a moonlit garden.

"Woodbridge" is another popular variety. It is deep pink and darker at the base. "Blue Bird" is unique, sky blue with a red center.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.

ATTENTION ALL LOCAL FARMERS & GARDENERS:

If you have surplus produce this summer season, please consider donating it to the North Brookfield Senior Center for our Tuesday morning food distribution. The produce will go North Brookfield and Brookfield seniors.

If you would like to donate, please drop off at the North Brookfield Senior Center, 29 Forest St., by 1:45 pm on Monday and/or 9:00 am on Tuesday. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
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Program and Outreach Assistant
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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

- community -



Fireworks were lighting up the sky in orange and yellow.



The band, Heartland Radio, performed classic rock hits for all to enjoy.



Food trucks ready with delicious food and sweet fried dough.

People gathered on Connie Mack Field, enjoying some yummy food, as they waited for the fireworks to begin.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



Sophia Giangrande (left) and Shannon Larson (right) with Common Ground, announced the new café is open at the brewery Thursday to Sunday for breakfast.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PRESENTS

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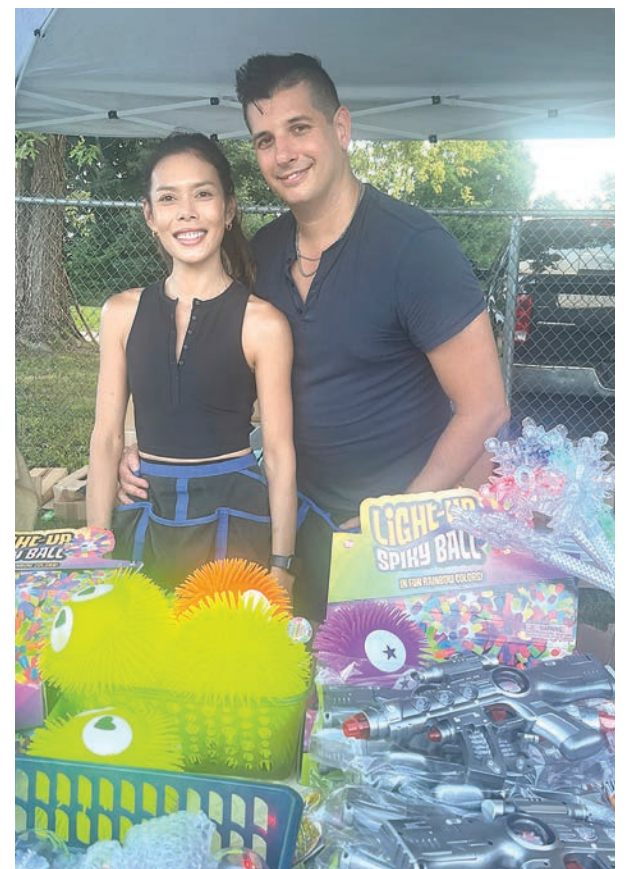


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Dieu Nguyen (left) and Matthew Hillios (right) of Hillios Novelties, selling fun light-up toys and more for the upcoming fireworks.

- community -

Grant advances anti-hunger network and nutrition programs

Project Bread, the leading statewide food security organization in Massachusetts, announce that it has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Food Research & Action Center, the nation's leading anti-hunger advocacy organization.

This grant will bolster Project Bread's pivotal role in advancing the Northeast Regional Anti-Hunger Network, a coalition dedicated to eradicating hunger in the seven-state Northeast region. States include Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The grant is made possible by the Walmart Foundation.

"We are grateful to FRAC for their support, which will enable us to strengthen NERAHN and drive meaningful progress in the fight against hunger across the Northeast," said Leran Minc, Assistant Director of Policy at Project Bread, leading convener of NERAHN, in a press release. "In our regional coalition, we are leading on national hunger policy - we have three of the eight states nationwide providing free school meals to all students (Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont). Together with our coalition partners, we aim to ensure everyone across the region has access to the nutrition they need to thrive through the continued expansion of resources and system change for families and individuals."

Using funding from this grant, Project Bread will re-convene NERAHN following a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The efforts began with a gathering of member organizations during the FRAC Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in June.

This fall, Project Bread will host a convening with all 14 mem-

ber organizations to align regional efforts, to bolster policymaking decisions on a federal and state by state scale, and to amplify the role of federal nutrition programs as a solution to food insecurity, targeting USDA's Northeast Regional Office and our respective Congressional delegations.

Federal nutrition programs are among our nation's most important, proven, and cost-effective solutions for reducing hunger, poverty, and health. These programs include:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program serves as the nation's first line of defense against hunger by providing financial resources to help millions of people afford to put food on the table.

The School Nutrition Programs fuel children's health and learning and combat childhood hunger.

The Afterschool Nutrition Programs provide nutritious meals and snacks to children at educational and enrichment programming after the school day ends.

Summer Nutrition Programs offer nutritious meals to low-income children, replacing school breakfasts and lunches served during the school year.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children provides healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding counseling and support, and health care and social service referrals to more than 6.6 million women and young children, including nearly half of all infants born in the U.S.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program provides nutritious meals and snacks for eligible children and elderly or disabled adults who are enrolled at partic-

ipating child care centers, family child care homes, afterschool programs, Head Start programs, adult care centers, and homeless shelters.

"Hunger continues to affect the health and well-being of far too many individuals and families in New York and the New England states," said Kelly Horton, interim president of FRAC. "We are proud to be a part of this collective effort to expand equitable access to federal nutrition programs so no one faces the unimaginable and inexcusable stress of hunger."

People experiencing food insecurity in Massachusetts should call or text Project Bread's toll-free FoodSource Hotline (1-800-645-8333), which provides confidential assistance to connect with food resources, including SNAP benefits and Summer Eats meal sites, in 180 languages and for the hearing impaired.

For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org/get-help.

About Project Bread

Project Bread, the leading statewide anti-hunger nonprofit, connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible-so that no one goes hungry. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

About Food Research & Action Center

The Food Research & Action Center improves the nutrition, health, and well-being of people struggling against poverty-related hunger in the United States through advocacy, partnerships, and by advancing bold and equitable policy solutions. To learn more, visit FRAC.org and follow them on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and Instagram.



Spectators enjoyed a clear view of the fireworks.



From left are Samantha and Nicholas Nimitz and Michelle Perron, of Mill Eleven, selling adorable home décor.



As the night fell, the fireworks show began.

FIREWORKS from page 1

There was a battle of the bands in the afternoon, and to end it all, the fireworks lit up the sky for all to enjoy.

"East Brookfield is known for putting on quite the show! Families and friends gather at Connie Mack Field amongst the light of glowsticks and watch proudly as patriotic music is played in the background," Spahn said.

The Friends for the Community committee, with the help of generous donations from local businesses and other members of the community, were able to put together the events of the day for all to enjoy.

BACKYARD from page 4

normal bouts of foraging. While there have been anecdotal reports of loons spending up to five minutes at a time underwater, the maximum documented dive duration that we were able to find in the published literature for loons was 219 seconds or 3.65 minutes. However, given that the loon that was documented making this dive was doing so in

the process of normal foraging, it is possible (and likely) that under duress, loons may be able to stay under even longer, perhaps up to the fabled five minutes, or even more."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by call-

ing me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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- community -



Sturbridge Town Common is the location of the town's Farmers Market.



B Organic was one vendor at the Farmers Market selling produce bags and handmade lotions and soaps.



Microgreens were available at the Farmers Market.



Herbs and garden décor were available at First Leaves Family Farm LLC.



Round Table Farm had a farmstand at the Sturbridge Farmers Market.



This past Sunday's musical entertainment at the Farmer's Market was Cameron Sutphin.



Sutphin performed country/folk music as a solo act under the gazebo of Sturbridge Town Common.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Cool off at the farmer's market with some homemade ice cream.



Raw honey was available at the farmer's market.



Over 30 vendors were setup at the Town Common to provide local agricultural and artisan products, striving to enrich the quality of life in the area.



Sturbridge Coffee Roasters were at the farmer's market.

MARKET from page 1

day throughout the summer the farmers market can be enjoyed at the beautiful Sturbridge Town Common.

For entertainment, the market will feature a musical guest under the common's gazebo. This past Sunday, the farmer's market welcomed singer and songwriter Cameron Sutphin performing county and folk music.

Sutphin is well known as a solo act and a duo who performs all over New England.

In 2017 as a solo act, Sutphin released his debut Nashville recorded album "Heartbreak Town". Since its release, the album has been in rotation on the jukebox at J.R.'s Café in East Windsor Connecticut, as well as several local folk radio stations

in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Sutphin has also performed in duos with fellow music artists such as Drew Kelly, Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards, and Emily Ann Roberts.

Sutphin performs original material and classic country and folk cover songs such as, "The Times They Are A-Changin'" (Bob Dylan), "Take Me Home, Country Roads" (John Denver), "Jackson" (Johnny Cash), "Hallelujah" (Leonard Cohen) and "Wake-Up Little Susie" (Everly Brothers) as an acoustic act.

For the children, the common featured many fun games and activities such as cornhole, hula hoops and bubble machines.

One of the vendors that kept busy during the Sturbridge Farmer's Market this past Sun-

day was Center Bakery. This family owned bakery out of Douglas offers many services to our customers - pastry baskets, seasonal specialties, as well as breads and pastries.

At the start of the market, they had made over 70 croissants that were displayed at their booth. Within an hour, they were all sold out.

"The pastries went fast," one guest commented while checking to see what was left at the Center Bakery booth.

Another vendor who had a huge line of customers this past Sunday was Free Living Farm of Petersham. This family-owned farm offers many enriching produce from greens, fruits, roots and eggs. They sell anything they grow.

The farm was greeted by many guests who lined up be-

fore the farmers market even started.

The farm is run by Michael Zueger and Cara (Germain) Zueger who started it in 2018. Free Living Farm offers goods in the form of arugula, Asian greens, basil, beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, celeriac, chard, cilantro, collards, cucumber, dill, eggplant, fennel, garlic, husk cherries, kale, leeks, lettuce, peppers, potatoes, radish, scallions, shallots, spinach, summer squash, sweet potatoes, tomatillos, tomatoes, turnips, watermelons, winter squash and zucchini.

For herbal wellness, The Domesticated Wild Child was set up at the farmer's market. Corinn Alger is an entrepreneur and artisan based out of Spencer and creates herbal infusions, utilizing the herb in its

whole form and extracting the therapeutic properties.

Alger said her most popular product is magnesium body cream that is beneficial for the human body.

"Everybody can use it," Alger said.

Alger enjoys herbal wellness products that help the entire family. Every item she creates are made utilizing organic, sustainable and/or ethically wild-harvested ingredients.

The Sturbridge Farmers Market will go on every Sunday until Oct. 13 at Sturbridge Town Common. The Farmer's Market is a social gathering that highlights local businesses from not only Sturbridge but from all over New England.

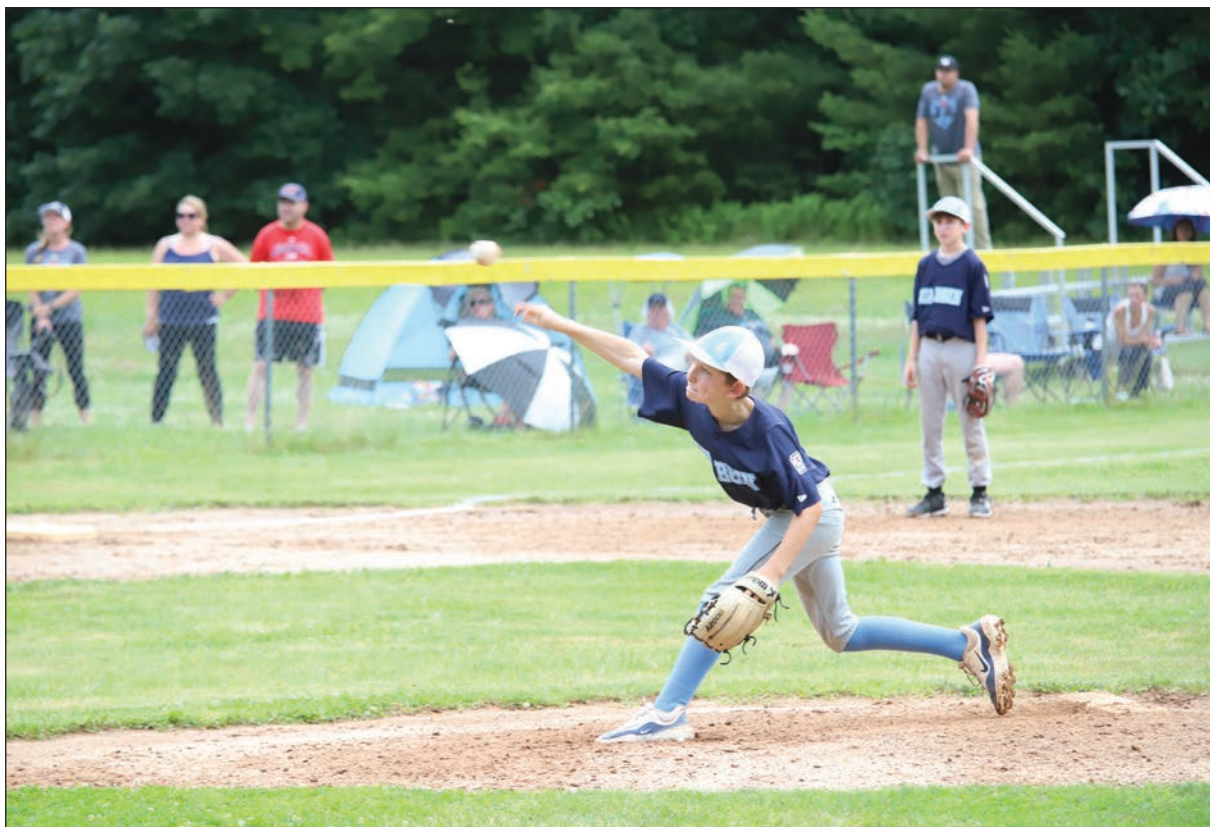
For more information, visit www.sturbridgefarmersmarket.com.

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SPORTS



Oliver Poulin delivers a pitch.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Little League All-Stars edge Leominster

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—The Quabbin 10-12-years old All-Star baseball team lost a pair of one-sided games against the Leominster All-Stars during the 2023 District 3 tournament.

When the two teams faced each other in the opening round game of this year's All-Star tournament, the outcome wasn't decided until the sixth inning.

Leominster, who are the defending District 3 champions, took an early 2-0 lead, but Quabbin tied the score in the bottom of

the third inning before taking the lead two innings later.

With the tying run standing on third base with two outs in the sixth inning, Quabbin righthander Oliver Poulin recorded a pair of strikeouts, as the home team held on for an exciting 3-2 victory on a hot and humid day at Felton Field in Barre, last Saturday.

"It feels great to win our first tournament game," said Quabbin All-Star manager Jason Poulin. "This is a very talented group of baseball players. Half of them are related, and I really enjoy coaching them a lot."

Quabbin was scheduled to play

Athol/Orange at Muzzy Field in Orange last Sunday. The winner of that contest will play in the District 3 championship game back at Felton Field at 5:30 pm on Friday. The loser faced Leominster in an elimination game on Tuesday night with the winner advancing into the finals.

After getting off to a rocky start in the first inning, Oliver Poulin kept Leominster at bay over the final five innings. Overall, Poulin allowed two runs on seven base hits with 11 K's and no walks. He threw a total of 79 pitches.

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 10

Monson Post 241 suffers tough lost to East Springfield

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Jarrett Skowrya, of Palmer, makes a catch in right.

SPRINGFIELD—The members of the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team are probably very glad that they won't be making another visit to the new Springfield Central baseball field during the regular season.

Please see **MONSON**, page 11



Evie Iwaniec guides the ball up the field.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Lyndie Miller goes after a loose ball.



Evaline Santos takes a shot.



Mia Letendre receives a pass.



Katelynn Swistak tries to take the ball away from an opponent.

Field hockey summer campaign opens

SOUTH HADLEY – On Wednesday, June 26, South Hadley High School hosted more than a dozen field hockey squads made up of players from several area high schools. Among the participants are Agawam, Belchertown, South Hadley, Holyoke, Quaboag, and Minnechaug. Teams participating in the league are playing short games every Wednesday for several weeks in an effort to get more repetitions prior to the fall season. There is also hope more high school players will come try out the game.

- sports -

PeoplesBank takes down Tigers in Tri-County action

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE—Since losing back-to-back games to Hilltown Tents at the beginning of the Tri-County League regular season, PeoplesBank has been on a roll.

PeoplesBank, who have won a total of 18 TCL championship titles since 1995, won their sixth consecutive game following a 6-2 victory over the Chicopee Falls Tigers at Cougar Field, which is located on the Holyoke Community College campus, last Tuesday night.

“We were able to score a couple of runs with some timely two out base hits in tonight’s game. Our pitchers also pitched well, said PeoplesBank player/coach Joe Ferry. “We now have a week off and we’ll finish the regular season with a bunch of home games.”

PeoplesBank, who posted an 11-1 win over the Tigers down the street at Mackenzie Stadium on June 18, entered their week off with a 7-2 overall record.

Lefthander James Flahive was scheduled to be the PeoplesBank starting pitcher in the second meeting of the regular season against the Tigers (6-4). He arrived to the field late and righty Mikey Rivera was the opener for the visiting team.

“Jimmy had a prior engagement, and he didn’t have his normal pregame routine,” said

Ferry, who’s the PeoplesBank starting left fielder. “In my opinion, not only is he the best pitcher on our team during the past three years, but he’s probably the best pitcher in this league this year.

Rivera allowed a leadoff single to centerfielder Travis Kagan in the bottom of the first inning before retiring the next three Tigers batters.

“Mikey is a new player on our team, and he had the honor of pitching the first inning,” Ferry said. “He’s fitting in very well with us.”

Flahive, who was the winning pitcher, took over on the mound at the start of the second inning. He pitched the next five innings allowing two runs (one earned) on six hits with 10 strikeouts and no walks. Veteran righty Danny Gaines allowed only a double in the seventh inning.

The Tigers also used three pitchers in the game.

Righty Brendan Fournier made his first start of the season for the Tigers.

“This was the first time that Brendan pitched in a game for us this season,” said Tigers player/coach Ryan Magni, who’s also the baseball coach at Holyoke Community College. “I thought he pitched well in the first three innings.”

After not allowing any runs in the first two innings, Fournier, who also pitched at Chicopee High School, got himself



Sam Allen slides into third base safely for PeoplesBank.



Dustin Brisson, of Wilbraham, catches the ball at first.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

into a jam with two-outs in the top of the third inning.

Centerfielder Seth Allen began the two-out rally by blasting a double to deep centerfield. Then catcher Pete Hogan

was hit-by-a pitch and right fielder Johny Gegetskas drew a walk which loaded the bases. First baseman Dustin Brisson drove home two runs with a hard groundball single into

right field.

Brisson, who played college baseball at Central Florida, was selected in the 15th round of the 2000 MLB draft by the Boston Red Sox. He played in 345 career minor league games without being called up by a major league team.

With two-outs in the following frame, PeoplesBank pinch-hitter Kyle Platner delivered a two-run single to right field off righty relief pitcher Evan Dougherty increasing the lead to 4-0.

The Tigers broke the ice when first baseman Austin Leclerc, who played high school baseball at Pathfinder Tech, blasted a home run over the left field fence.

After Allen hit a double that bounced off the left field fence leading off the fifth inning, Gegetskas smashed a two-run homer over the right field fence, which increased the PeoplesBank lead to 6-1.

It was the first home run of the season for Gegetskas, who played college baseball at Westfield State University.

The Tigers scored an unearned run with two outs in the bottom of the sixth.

Righthander Race Drobiak pitched the final two final innings for the home team without allowing a run.

The third meeting of the regular season between the two squads is slated to take place at Mackenzie Stadium on July 16.

QUABBIN from page 9



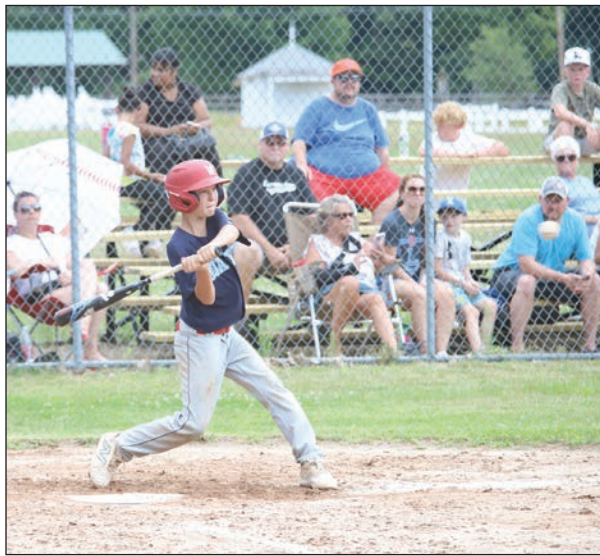
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Nolan O'Connor takes his lead off second.

“Oliver pitched another great game for us,” said the Quabbin manager and his father. “He’s been pitching very well all season long.”

Oliver’s older brother, Henry, was Quabbin’s starting shortstop. Henry Poulin was scheduled to be Quabbin’s starting pitcher against Athol/Orange.

The other members of the Quabbin 10-12-years old All-Star team are Brady Aiesi, Colin Kania, Davis Burch, Deegan Pope, Gabriel Houle, Jacob Cavanaugh, Jonathan Doherty, Logan Smith, Noah Kelter, and Nolan O’Connor. The Quabbin players are from either Barre, Hardwick, or Oakham.

Leominster, who also captured the District 3 title in



Henry Poulin takes a swing.

2022, began the game with a fly ball double to center field by Matt Cirrone. He scored on another double to right field by Lukas Hjelm. After the next batter struck out, James Wyman delivered an RBI single to center field giving Leominster a 2-0 advantage.

Leominster righty Ryan Kelly struck out four of the first six Quabbin batters that he faced.

The Quabbin hitters were a little bit more patient when they came to the plate in the third inning.

“We faced the Leominster starting pitcher a couple of times during the regular season, so we were familiar with him,” Jason Poulin said. “We told the boys to be a little bit more patient at the plate and we were able to tie the score in the third inning.”

The trio of Cavanaugh, Kelter, and Pope drew walks on 3-and-2 pitches which loaded the bases. Another walk by Kania brought home Quabbin’s first run. The tying run also crossed the plate on a walk by Doherty.

At that point, Leominster’s manager Steve Hjelm decided to make a pitching change. He replaced Kelly with righty Armando Velazquez.

Quabbin did have a couple of runners tagged out at the plate who were trying to score on wild pitches in the third inning.



Gabriel Houle makes a throw back to the infield.

Between the second and fifth innings, Oliver Poulin retired 12 of the 15 batters that he faced, including seven in a row.

Despite tying the score on five walks in the third, Quabbin was held hitless until the fourth inning when Oliver Poulin hit a leadoff single into right field. It was their only base hit of the game.

The contest remained tied until the following inning.

Aiesi and Cavanaugh drew back-to-back walks leading off the bottom of the fifth inning.

After stealing third base, Aiesi scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch that skipped to the backstop.

“Stealing third base in the fifth inning worked out very well for us,” the Quabbin manager said. “We then scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch.”

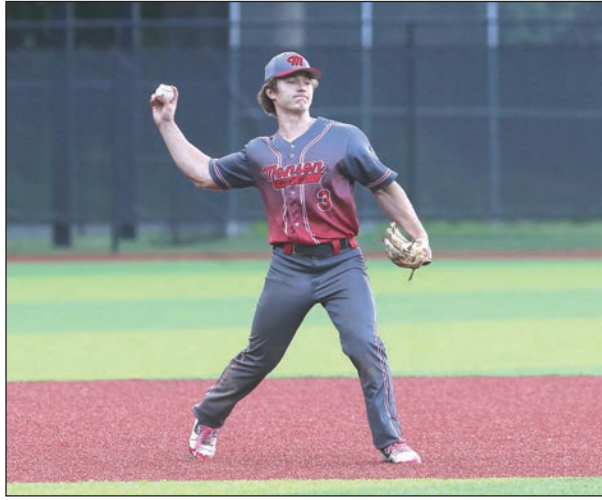
Leominster didn’t go down quietly in their final at-bats.

Brandon Myer put down a bunt hit that rolled fair across the third base foul line for a hit. He stole second base and advanced to third base on a wild pitch with one-out. Oliver Poulin struck out the next two batters which ended the game leaving the tying run at third base.

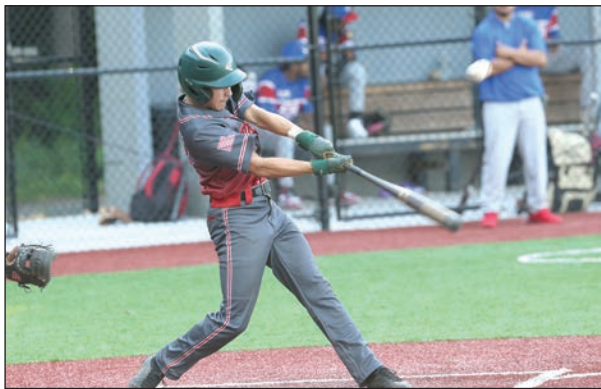
- sports -



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Brendan Hess makes a pitch for Post 241.



Hunter Griswold throws across the diamond to first.



John Mumper makes contact for Monson Post 241.



Dominic Allen gets ready to receive a pitch.

MONSON from page 9

Monson suffered a 9-3 loss to East Springfield Post 420 on the turf baseball field in the first meeting, which took place on June 19. The second game between the two legion teams was a close affair until the fifth inning. That's when everything fell apart for Monson, as East Springfield scored eight runs enroute to a 10-0 shutout victory, last Wednesday night. The contest ended after five innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.

"Because East Springfield is only playing eight home games and we're playing ten home games this year, we had to play them twice on their field," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "Their starting pitcher was one of the best that we've faced so far this season."

The only base hit allowed by East Springfield righty Salvador Ortiz was a line-drive single to center by pinch hitter Kyle Kaczuwka with one-out in the top of the fifth inning.

This past spring, Kaczuwka was a sophomore member of the Ware varsity baseball team.

His older brother, Nathan, who'll be a senior in the fall, also plays for both baseball teams.

"It has been great playing on the same baseball teams with my younger brother," Nathan Kaczuwka said. "I've been teammates with Kyle on the Ware varsity baseball team for the past two years. I'm really looking forward to playing baseball with Kyle for one more season."

The Kaczuwka's aren't the only brothers from Ware who are playing for Monson Legion baseball team this summer. The other brother duo are Jason and John Mumper.

"It's bittersweet," said John Mumper, who was a senior co-captain of the Ware varsity baseball team. "The high school baseball season was very special for us. It's something that I'm always going to remember."

The Indians, who lost in extra innings to Ayer Shirley in the round of 16 in the Division 5 state tournament, finished their outstanding season with a 16-6 overall record.

The Mumpers have also been playing baseball together on the Ware varsity baseball team for the past couple of years.

"Jason has become a very good baseball player during the past couple of years," said John Mumper, who would like to continue playing baseball at Westfield State University. "It has been a lot of fun being teammates with him."

While Jack and Owen McKeever aren't listed on the Monson Legion roster, they also played together for the Indians.

Owen McKeever, who graduated in June, was named as the Ware male athlete of the year. Emily McGrail is the Ware female athlete of the year.

The three sets of brothers are very close on and off the field.

"All of our families are very close," Nathan Kaczuwka said. "We're going on a family trip together at the end of July."

The Mumper's Kaczuwka's and the McKeever's



Jason Mumper, of Ware, takes a swing.

didn't play on the same little league baseball team together.

"Jason and I played on a different Little League team," John Mumper said. "We would always beat the Kaczuwka's and the McKeever's. It was a lot of fun playing against them, but we've really enjoyed being teammates on the varsity baseball team."

Nathan Kaczuwka and John Mumper are starting pitchers for the Monson Legion team.

One of the catcher's is Dylan Sutkaitis, who was also a senior co-captain of the Indians varsity team this past spring. He's planning to play college baseball at Anna Maria College in Paxton

The Post 241 squad entered this week's action with a 3-6 record.

The players from Ware and their teammates on the legion team will be trying to win as many games as they can before they put their gloves and bats away.

Quabbin League seeking to start fall league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eight-game fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.

Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league is looking to have four teams with six "regular season" games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.

The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on or trying out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.



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- community -



One family celebrating citizenship, wearing matching dresses and smiling brightly.



The Old Sturbridge Village Singers preparing to sing the National Anthem.



People gathered, facing the meeting house, witnessing the new citizens take the oath.



The Militia Group, a part of the Discovery Adventures Summer Camp, posing with their muskets.



The kids part of the Westward Ho group, where they learn about the westward expansion, and other skills like cooking over a fire.



The Summer Camp group, Finer Things, where they learn practical skills like embroidery, woodworking, gardening, and trading.

OSV from page 1

all the freedoms I have as an American and to appreciate what the generations before have sacrificed so that I could have those freedoms," Sam Naring the assistant director of public programs, said.

"I've seen a number of naturalization ceremonies at the Village and each one is always so moving," Naring said. "It is great to see so many people from different walks of life at the Village with the same goal."

The ceremony featured 154 applicants for citizenship, and 55 for name changes, resulting in a large ceremony, filled with people eagerly awaiting their fresh starts.

Overseeing the ceremony were Town Clerk Tracy McLaughlin, Bichop Nawrot from the OSV Board of Trustees, Leigh Mapplebeck of the Associate Counsel, USCIS Office of Chief Counsel, and Honorable Robert B. Collings, Magistrate Judge.

From the Village, the OSV

Fife and Drum Corps and the OSV Singers were present to provide music, featuring the National Anthem and "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

"My favorite part is the daily procession of citizens," Naring said. "It makes the whole Village come alive, and our Discovery Adventures summer camp get to participate which is a unique experience for them."

The kids taking part in the Discovery Adventures summer camp get to wear clothing from the time periods, and get to

perform different tasks and activities depending on the group they are in.

The Militia Group gets to march, play drums, and hold toy rifles, and the Finer Things group practices skills like embroidery, woodworking, gardening, and trading.

In the Westward Ho group, kids get to learn about what it was like to live during the westward expansion and learn to cook over a fire. The Artists at Work group creates beautiful paintings, sketches, and more.

"I hope people learned about some of the many parallels between the 1830s and today," Naring said. "I hope they were reminded that America is a prosperous nation that people continue to want to live in and contribute towards the success of."

Old Sturbridge Village will continue to host these naturalization ceremonies and take part in the unique ability to learn about the history of our country and what it means to have freedom.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Waving the flag, another family celebrates their dad's new citizenship.



Artists at Work, a group of kids dedicated to the arts of painting, sketching, and more.

- community -

East Brookfield awarded loan for water storage improvements

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Board of Trustees approved \$75,748,203 in new low-interest loans and grants at its meeting on June 12.

The Trust, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, helps communities build or replace water infrastructure that enhances ground and surface water resources, ensures the safety of drinking water, protects public health and develops resilient communities.

It accomplishes these objectives by providing low-interest loans and grants to cities, towns and water utilities through the Massachusetts State Revolving Funds. The SRF programs are partnerships between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. SRFs function like an environmental infrastructure bank by financing water infrastructure projects in cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

Drinking Water Projects include East Brookfield in the amount of

\$8,177,108 for water storage improvements.

About the Clean Water Trust

Since its establishment in 1989, the Trust has loaned nearly \$8.6 billion to improve and maintain the

quality of water in the Commonwealth. An estimated 97 percent of Massachusetts' residents have benefited from the financial assistance of the Trust.

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The Ware Housing Authority (WHA) is seeking a qualified and experienced Program Administrator.

The Authority's portfolio includes Ch. 667 Elderly/Handicapped, Ch. 705 Family and Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. The candidate should be familiar with both the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) and U.S. Department and Urban Development (HUD) program requirements.

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Possess excellent written and verbal skills, ability to communicate effectively. Familiar with centralized public housing wait lists, (CHAMP) housing software, HUD and EOHLC databases.

The maximum salary is \$50,286 and is dependent upon experience. The required work hours are 37.5 hours per week and the position includes excellent benefits. The candidate will be subject to qualification verification prior to employment.

To apply in confidence please submit a cover letter and resume to Linda Hanssen, Executive Director, Ware Housing Authority at lindahanssen@gmail.com.

The deadline is no later than July 19, 2024.

Diverse applicants are encouraged to apply.

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- public safety -

New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of June 17-July 8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 56 building/property checks, 77 directed/area patrols, 13 radar assignments, 12 traffic controls, 12 emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, two assist other agencies, three complaints, one property damage, two harassments, 10 safety hazards, two motor vehicle investigations, two motor vehicle accidents, four animal call and 12 motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, June 17

8:34 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered
11:31 a.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, June 18

5:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Citation Issued
5:20 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Cut Off Road, Investigated

Wednesday, June 19

6:51 a.m. Safety Hazard, Oakham Road, Merge
6:56 a.m. Safety Hazard, Oakham Road, Officer Handled

Thursday, June 20

11:13 a.m. Property Damage, Hardwick Road, Report Taken

Friday, June 21

12:24 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
7:59 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Unitas Road, Officer Handled
8:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Citation Issued

Saturday, June 22

6:34 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Wine Road, Services Rendered
9:30 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barr Road, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, June 23

6:32 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

Monday, June 24

4:19 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, June 25

7:11 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, June 26

7:42 a.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, June 27

9 a.m. Harassment, Hardwick Road, No Action Required
9:40 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
8:30 p.m. Safety Hazard, Thompson Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, June 29

7:55 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
12:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Hardwick Road, Investigated

Sunday, June 30

9:21 a.m. Assist Citizen, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
10:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Tuesday, July 2

10:43 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, July 5

6:55 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Utley Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, July 6

1:50 p.m. Assist Citizen, Wine Road, Peace Restored
2:24 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Wine Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, July 7

2:33 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Wine Road, Officer Handled
2:50 p.m. 911 Misdial, Moore Road, Checked/Secured
3:59 p.m. 911 Utility Issues, Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of July 1-7, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 109 building/property checks, 74 directed area patrols, three traffic controls, three radar assignments, 15 emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one fraud, five complaints, three motor vehicle accidents, six animal calls and 26 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, July 1

11:10 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Wildwood Road, Transported to Hospital
11:28 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, East Main Street, Officer Handled
1:01 p.m. Fraud, Out of Town, Officer Handled
4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pondunk Road, Citation Issued
4:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, East Main Street, Citation Issued
5:13 p.m. 911 Misdial, Harrington Lane, False Alarm
7:21 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Dispatch Handled
10:38 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, West Sturbridge Road, Officer Handled

Tuesday, July 2

3:23 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
7:32 p.m. 911 Disturbance, West Main Street, Officer Handled
8:22 p.m. Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital
9:34 p.m. Assist Citizen, West Main Street, Services Rendered

Wednesday, July 3

8:56 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Services Rendered
11:45 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled
2:03 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, East Main Street, Spoken To
8:32 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered
11:40 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, West Main Street, Unfounded

Thursday, July 4

7:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Blaine Avenue, Citation Issued
7:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
8:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
8:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
9:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Sturbridge Road, Citation Issued
9:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Howe Street, Citation Issued
10:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Howe Street, Citation Issued
10:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Written Warning
10:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
2:39 p.m. Complaint, South Pond Road, Spoken To
4:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, West Main Street, Officer Handled
10:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
11:54 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Dunn Brook Road, Services Rendered

Friday, July 5

12:10 p.m. Medical Emergency, Harrington Street, Transported to Hospital
8:12 p.m. 911 Animal Call, East Main Street, Checked/Secured

Saturday, July 6

1:04 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, East Main Street, Report Taken
12:28 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Parade, Arrest(s) Made
5:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
6:39 p.m. Complaint, South Pond Road, Citation Issued
8:59 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Rail Road Area, Dispatch Handled
9:37 p.m. Officer Initiated, Bandstand, Arrest(s) Made
11:08 p.m. 911 Complaint, East Main Street, No Action Required

Sunday, July 7

11:28 a.m. Assist Citizen, South Pond Road, Officer Handled
6 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Report Taken

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- public notice -

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, brought before it by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. on **Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 6:15PM at the North Brookfield Police Department, 55 School Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535.**

The pole location that will

be considered is as follows:

Ayers St: National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Ayers St beginning at a point approximately 600 feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Brown Rd and continuing approximately 1600 feet in a north direction. Install a new Pole in front of 24 Ayers St for new underground service.

Said hearing will begin at 6:15PM and continue until completion, and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 166.

Jason M Petraitis,
Chairman
E. Brooke Canada
Vaughn Schlegel

07/12/2024

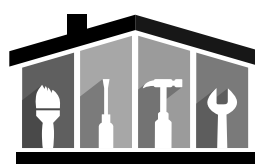
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Friday, July 12, 2024

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