

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Friday, July 24, 2026



The 6th Annual Band Together for Mental Health took place at Spencer Fairgrounds this past weekend. Standing together representing the nonprofit, Tyler's Heart, is Elissa Boos (left), Paul Haynes, James Boos, Alysia Kubert, Jamie Dodge, Jennifer Spangenberg and Jessica Huertas.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Band Together for Mental Health

6th annual music festival held at Spencer Fairgrounds

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer

rdrago@turley.com

SPENCER – The 6th Annual Band Together for Mental Health took place this past weekend at the Spencer Fairgrounds.

This annual summer event featured live mu-

sic, food trucks and family-friendly activities designed to support suicide awareness and raise mental health funds. The event is put together by nonprofit organization, Tyler's Heart, which focuses on raising awareness for mental health and continuing acts of kindness.

Tyler's Heart is driven by community strength and includes a total of 60 volunteers. Since its establishment, Tyler's Heart has en-

dured continuous growth, and the annual Band Together for Mental Health is their largest fundraising event of the year.

Alysia Kubert of Tyler's Heart says this year's event features many regulars who come back every year to support their mission. Regulars consist of bands, vendors, volunteers and sponsors who all come together to support Tyler's Heart.

In need of a larger space, the annual Band Together

for Mental Health arrived at Spencer Fairgrounds, which filled up fast as Tyler's Heart continues to grow year after year.

"There's more for the community," Kubert said.

The annual festival had a lot of family fun activities. Kids got to make their own tie-dye shirts, enjoyed bounce houses, obstacle courses, pony rides, and a

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Art exhibition opens at RapsCALLion Pub

By Paula Ouimette
Editor

pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Last week, Ware artist John Collins was honored at a reception for the opening of his art exhibition at RapsCALLion Pub, 3 Arnold Road.

The exhibition primarily features prints and originals of his oil paintings of cars, but also a couple that highlight his talent for capturing special moments, including a large portrait of his dog, Dasher, coming out of a lake after a swim.

Collins is still "new" to the world of art, having started his creative career a

few years ago following his retirement as an architect. Already, he has been recognized for his talent in both oil painting and sculpting.

Growing up, Collins developed his love of art through his mother, who was a talented painter and sculptor as well. He said she started with watercolors, and then explored oil painting and working with a palette knife.

"I learned by being around her," he said.

Collins said his mother enjoyed painting on location plein air style, and that she created a vast collection

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TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Artist John Collins is shown next to one of his oil paintings featuring a famous movie car. Collins will have his artwork displayed at RapsCALLion Pub in Sturbridge until the end of this month.

Planning Board hears solar project proposition

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer

zachf@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The planning board held a public hearing July 8 where representatives from Bohler Engineering and ECA Power presented a plan to install a solar facility and battery energy storage systems on the property of the Valley View School, located at 91 Oakham Road.

Rick May, the executive director of Valley View School, said the school is excited for the project so they can be environmental stewards. He said they already have a recycling program and there is a greenhouse coming.

The representative from ECA Power, Martha Diezemann, said the company is based in Waltham and has 40 completed projects, mostly in Massachusetts, and about 100 more in the works.

The representative from Bohler Engineering said this project is a five megawatt AC, 100 megawatt DC solar program including two BESS systems. He said they have applied with National Grid, and the project is expected to come online in 2028, where the power generated will be sent to existing lines, new poles and sent

to National Grid for community use.

He said certain qualified residents would be able to apply with National Grid to get 10-15% off their bill.

The representative said they have complied with zoning setback laws and are 100 feet from the vegetation buffer. He said less than 20% of the property will be covered with panels.

He also said there was a glare study done, and the electricity will be underground until National Grid connects, when there will need to be new poles installed. He also said there have been meetings with the Fire Department, Water Department and emergency response team training.

According to the Bohler representative, the project consists of fixed tilt solar rays, equipment yards for BESS systems, and access paths and takes up a total of 22 acres of the 100+ acre lot. He said there are plans to put planters and gates near the project to reduce visibility of it, but there will be 40 acres of tree clearing so there are no shadows cast on the panels.

The representative said certain trees won't be stump pulled to allow them to

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Gilbert and friends arrive at the library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Public Library welcomed Gilbert the Party Pig and some of his piggy friends this past week.

The library had an excellent turnout with over 120 guests arriving to see the biggest piggy party of the summer. Kids and adults got to pet Gilbert and his friends, Dot and Meadow, as well as feed them and help them during some tricks.

Sharing information and stories about these pigs is Michelle Burns, the proud owner of Gilbert and five other pigs. Burns has owned Gilbert since he was 2-years-old and is



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gilbert the original party pig arrived at the East Brookfield Public Library this past week and was joined by some of his piggy friends.

based out of Glastonbury, Connecticut.

Gilbert, who is now 6,

is the original party pig and was making his third appearance at the East

Brookfield Public Library.

Gilbert has been featured on the news on many occasions. He has also starred in "Best Medicine", "Only Murders in the Building", and other notable shows.

Joining Gilbert at the library was Meadow and Dot. Meadow was wearing the party hats and got to meet dozens of new friends during her visit.

Burns has had Meadow since she was a piglet and is a pig with many talents.

Dot is 2-years-old and is also a talented pig who loved meeting the guests at the library. One of Dot's tricks was a cup trick where someone can stack cups together and Dot used her

See **GILBERT**
PAGE 8

James Caldwell named Artist of the Month

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer

rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House have chosen James "Jim" Caldwell as their Artist of the Month for July.

Caldwell, who has called North Brookfield his home for 37 years, is described as a man of many talents. Though he has never considered himself an artist, Caldwell had taken up a hobby at a young age that

has brought out memorable work that has touched many lives.

Caldwell started with woodworking, which he learned from his grandfather, Wayne Earl, who was a machinist for the railroad and did a lot of building as a farmer. While woodworking, his grandfather loved using old hand tools and did everything by hand.

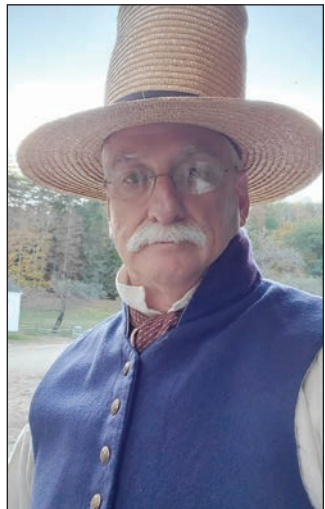
The skilled work of using wood was something Caldwell picked up and learned at an early age.

Later in life, Jim began to enjoy woodworking

more from a historical value. Thanks to the knowledge of his grandfather, Caldwell has stuck with the traditional hand tools of woodworking, using hand tools used by the trades for hundreds of years. A time before the invention of power tools.

When it comes to deciding on a project, Caldwell starts with an idea or a mental image that will pop into his mind. Once deciding on a project, Caldwell sticks to it and applies his

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

James Caldwell is the North Brookfield Town House's Artist of the Month for July.

- community -



Shown from left are Superintendent of the Quaboag Regional School District Steven Duff, District Representative Tim Josti, Committee Chair of Troop 118 Gerry Gorham, Eagle Scout Jacob Plante, West Brookfield Troop 118 Scoutmaster Chuck Atkins and Worcester Troop 22 Scoutmaster Rick Howarth.

Jacob Plante earns rank of Eagle Scout

WEST BROOKFIELD – Jacob Plante of Boy Scout Troop 118 passed his Board of Review on July 16 to become an Eagle Scout.

Plante has enjoyed many years of Scouting. He began in 2014 as a Cub Scout and made it up the ranks to cross over to Boy Scouts as an Arrow of Light, Webelo.

He officially became a Boy Scout in May 2019.

Plante served as an exemplary leader for the troop and most recently served as the Senior Patrol Leader as well as the Chaplains Aide. In May 2026 he completed his Eagle project, which was the installation of pollinator (bee) houses for the Norcross Wildlife Foundation in Wales.

Plante will be attending Worcester State University in the fall studying Computer Science.



Boy Scout Troop 118's newest Eagle Scout, Jacob Plante (center), is shown with his family from left, Noah (brother), Stephanie (mother), Chris (father) and Emma (sister).

Summer concerts continue on Thursdays

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Bandstand Committee is once again bringing live music to Connie Mack Field this summer with free Thursday evening concerts celebrating local talent, classic rock, and community traditions. Organized entirely by volunteers, the committee relies on sponsorships, food sales and donations to make the annual series possible.

This year's lineup features a variety of musical styles, including classic rock tribute band Brookfield Rhythm (July 30), Beatles tribute 4Ever Fab (Aug. 6), the rotating ensemble 'Dentity Crisis' (Aug. 13) and the Brookfield-based rock trio Moonlight Saints closing the season on Aug. 20. Highlights include 'Dentity Crisis's special performance celebrating the 45th

anniversary of The Rolling Stones' rehearsals at Long View Farm in neighboring North Brookfield, as well as the farm's connections to The J. Geils Band and Aerosmith.. The East Brookfield Summer Concert Series continues to provide an opportunity for neighbors and visitors alike to gather, enjoy live music and celebrate the community. All are welcome to attend.

Vendors wanted for Flea Market

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC, 36 North Main St., has been hosting their Flea Market on the town common for more than 50 years.

This year the Flea Market will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (vendor check-in 6:30-8:30 a.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 x 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 flea-market@gmail.com for an application or call Karen at 508-801-7692.

Town Clerk lists Special Election information

WEST BROOKFIELD – Town Clerk, Klarissa Rose, announced that nomination papers are now available for the upcoming Special Town Election to be held on Sept. 1.

These papers must be filed with the Board of Registrars, in the Town Clerk's office, for certification on or before July 28 at

5 p.m. Final day to withdraw as a candidate is July 30 at 5 p.m.

Appearing on the ballot will be the following: Select Board member, two-year term.

Last day to register to vote before the Special Town Election is Friday, Aug. 21 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office at 2 East Main St.

East Brookfield library lists upcoming events

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Drive, will host Celebrating America from the Beginning: Part 2 "World Turned Upside Down" on Monday, Aug. 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Come learn about how the National Parks played key roles in the Revolutionary War. Enter for your chance to win a book, view a musket and pick up the National Commemorative Stamp and coin that tells the history of the National Parks. Refreshments from the Revolutionary War will be served.

All ages are welcomed; however, the program should hold the interest of

people from 12 and up.

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

Magic show Ed Popielarczyk will perform a magic show on Thursday, Aug. 13 at 10:30 a.m.

All ages are welcome to attend, come see Ed do magic tricks and create his balloon art.

Ed also has a flea circus to show you. Ed has been doing magic shows for nearly 35 years. Come to the library and enjoy the show.

Concerts on the Common continues on Saturdays

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

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

Dates and bands include July 25 from 6-8 p.m. – Sue Lyons, an acoustical guitar player and vocalist; Aug. 15 from 6-8 p.m. – Stan Matthews, country music with some excep-

tional Johnny Cash tunes; and Aug. 29 from 3-5 p.m. – the Superchargers, a fun rock and roll band.

All concerts are free. Food will be available for purchase but folks are welcome to bring their own.

Feel free to bring chairs, blankets, bug spray and sunscreen – whatever makes you comfortable.

The playground is right on the common, located on Grove Street in town. There will also be games for families to enjoy and some surprise craft tables during some concerts.

Sons of A.L. host scholarship golf tournament Aug. 8

WEST BROOKFIELD – Sons of the American Legion, Post 244, West Brookfield is hosting its 21st Annual "Scholarship Scramble" Golf Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 8 at Quail Hollow Country Club in Oakham.

The 18-hole tournament will have a 8 a.m.

shotgun start. Chicken dinner, raffles and prizes to follow at the Legion Post 244 in West Brookfield.

The registration fee is \$120 per person and must be received by Aug. 1.

To register, contact Kevin at 774-230-3262 or Gary at 508-450-8643.

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.

Correction

The July 17 edition of the Quaboag Current incorrectly reported in a front-page headline and article that former Brookfield Board of Health member Maureen Lepak had been "recalled" and "officially recalled" from office. Lepak resigned from the Board of Health effective June 29, 2026. The Brookfield Board of Registrars subsequently met on July 8 and certified signatures submitted on a recall petition. No recall election was held and Lepak was not removed from office through a recall election. The Quaboag Current regrets the error.

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- community -

Brookfields Lions Club elects new officers

Registration open for Alex Cordy memorial golf tournament

St. Carlo Acutis Parish, Brookfield/West Brookfield/Warren, is having its 9th Annual Alex Cordy Memorial Charity Golf Tournament at Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club, 1822 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham, on Saturday, Sept. 12.

Registration begins at 7:15 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8 a.m.

Alex Cordy 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 golf tournament organizers 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.

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 wallyconnor122@gmail.com.

Family fun at St. Aloysius Parish BBQ on Aug. 2

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Parish invites families from across the area to its Summer BBQ on Sunday, Aug. 2 with dinner served noon-1 p.m. at the South Barre Rod and Gun Club, 2626 Barre Road.

The afternoon is planned with every age in mind, from grandparents to grandchildren.

The meal is a half chicken dinner served with baked potato, corn on the cob, salad and watermelon. Children and adults alike can join in the games, and raffles and prizes will run throughout the afternoon.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available by calling the rectory at 413-477-

6493. This is a fundraiser to benefit the Parish Renovation Funds.

All are welcome to join in the fun.

About St. Aloysius Parish

St. Aloysius Parish serves the villages of Gilbertville and Wheelwright, from two worship sites, St. Aloysius Church (64 Church St., Gilbertville) and St. Augustine Mission (98 Church Lane, Wheelwright).

A parish of the Diocese of Worcester, it is home to St. Aloysius Catholic School and is served in collaboration with St. Francis of Assisi Parish in South Barre. Learn more at staloyusiusstaugustine.com.

Registration open for Lions Club golf tournament

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Registration is now open for the 2026 Brookfields Lions Club golf tournament, according to event chair, Marc Kokansky.

The annual event is taking place on Saturday, Aug. 22 at the Quail Hollow Country Club, 1822 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham. The four-person scramble tournament begins with registration at noon, followed by a 1 p.m. shotgun start.

The entry fee is \$100 per golfer, which includes 18 holes of golf, cart, skins competition, closest-to-the-pin contests and a meal following the tournament at Quail Hollow Country Club.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Brookfields Lions Club's charitable programs and community service projects throughout the area. Through fundraising

events such as this tournament, the club supports local organizations and individuals while carrying out the Lions' mission of serving those in need.

To register a team or obtain additional information, contact Kokansky at 508-847-9843. Registration is open now through Aug. 15.

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.

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Brookfields Lions Club elected new officers at its final meeting of the 2025-2026 club year on June 18, according to immediate past president Bill Cass.

New officers for the 2026-2027 club year include Andy Caron, president; Bill Fullam, first vice-president; Paul Thompson, second vice-president; Glenn Waugh, treasurer; Jim Buzzell, secretary; Doug Morrison, membership chair; Marc Kokansy, director; Bill Cass, Lions Club International Foundation coordinator; John Thompson, tail twister, and Philip Bricault, lion tamer.

As the new Lions Club President, Caron will lead the club, preside over meetings, oversee committees, and ensure that club activities align with Lions International goals. He serves as the chief representative of the club in the community and helps guide service projects, membership growth, and club operations.

First Vice-President Bill Fullam will serve as a catalyst to annually assess club activities and then implement new goals in the next fiscal year as club president.

Second Vice-President Paul Thompson will serve as requested by the club president to lead specific committees or projects.

Club Treasurer Glenn Waugh will continue to serve as the main bookkeeper for the club's financial accounts; this includes the administration of membership dues invoicing and collection, making deposits and recording expense receipts.

Club Secretary Jim Buzzell keeps the history of the club's official proceedings, an accurate accounting of the club membership roster and assists in every communication effort to members. He also serves as the communications liaison between the club, the district and the association.

As the new club Membership Chair, Doug Morrison will lead the charge in recruiting new members, orienting them into involvement opportunities with the club and nurturing relationships between established members and new members. Reach out to Doug if you would like additional information about how to become a Lion.

Marc Kokansky will serve on the club's board of directors, helping guide the club's mission, policies, and long-term planning. He works with the club's officers to provide oversight, support service projects, and ensure the club remains a strong and effective force in the community.

In his new role as LCIF Coordinator, Bill Cass will promote awareness and support for the Lions Clubs International Foundation, encouraging member participation and contributions that help fund humanitarian service projects and disaster relief efforts around the world.

John Thompson's job as the "Tail Twister" is to help create a fun, welcoming atmosphere at club meetings by encouraging fellowship, recognizing achievements, and promoting good humor. This role helps strengthen friendships and build club spirit.

As the "Lion Tamer," Philip Bricault will be responsible for the care and presentation of the club's property, including flags, banners, the gavel, and other meeting equipment. This role helps ensure meetings are organized, professional, and conducted with pride.

The mission of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest, youngest and most active service organization, 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.

For more information about the Brookfields Lions Club, to download a membership application, or to send an email to the club, visit their website at brookfieldslionsclub.org.



Andy Caron



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CAMREN ROBERTSON

The Quabbin Community Band performed on the Barre common this past Sunday for "Movie Night."

Summer concert tradition continues

BARRE – The Quabbin Community Band has continued its longtime tradition of performing Sunday concerts on the common, both in Barre and at Nornay Park in South Barre.

This is the 53rd season for the band, which is led by Music Director Margaret Reidy.

All summer concerts begin at 6 p.m. In case of rain on any Sunday evening, the concerts are moved indoors to the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street.

The next concert will be held on Sunday, July 26 on the Barre common with "Band Stand Favorites."

Other concerts include: Sunday, Aug. 2, Barre common, "Hats Off to Broadway;" Sunday, Aug. 9, Barre common, "Barre 'On Parade'" alumni event (this concert starts at 5 p.m.); and Sunday, Aug. 16, Barre common, "Dixieland Night."



Margaret Reidy directed the Quabbin Community Band. This is her fifth season as music director.

The audience enjoyed listening to music featured in movies.

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Washing the elephant

The name Paul Rogers may ring a bell with some of my readers. Paul was a dear friend of mine, a mentor and acclaimed horticulturist who had amazing influence at Old Sturbridge Village, especially early on in my tenure.

He operated Stonehedge Gardens with his wife Barb in Charlton and for many decades wrote a regular column for the Worcester Telegram and Gazette. Paul also had a radio show, a weekly gardening Q&A on WTAG.

It was with his coaxing that I applied for and got this gig as the Garden Lady for Turley Publications over 20 years ago. He was very well known throughout Central Massachusetts, the Boston area and beyond.

Once I was in Bath, Maine, and to my disbelief someone mentioned that they knew Paul Rogers when I was shopping in a kitchen store of all places. But alas, I digress.

Paul and I would meet every other week at the Village unless he was traveling on some horticultural odyssey. Many times he and I would chat before we took our walks around campus to assess my beds.

I learned all about his trips in great detail and he got to know me pretty well, too. He always knew when I was “down in the dumps.”

During those periods, Paul would say, “you’ve got to wash the elephant.”

At first this made little sense to me, but after a bit I understood. When you are not feeling like yourself, you have to tackle a project, a big, elephant-like project, and afterwards you will feel better.

Of course, his projects were, and mine are, typically garden related.

So this weekend I tackled the iris and rose bed. Or shall I say the iris, rose and violet bed?

The violets were un-welcomed guests in the garden, as were the borers, but we will get to that in a minute.

You see, I inherited this beautiful patch of blue-purple bearded irises when we moved to this house. For years it bloomed effortlessly. I divided it once a few years back and it was nice for awhile.

But this year blooms were sparse and rose suckers began to show up everywhere within the garden. Violet foliage crowded out the vertical spear-shaped iris leaves.

How was I to tame this mess and do it in the most

efficient way possible? My approach may seem unconventional, but if I didn’t do it this way I might still be outside squatting in that very garden.

I took out the lawn mower and adjusted the height to the tallest I could, six inches. Then I mowed down the garden.

After that I got into the bed with a hand trowel and one scoop at a time, dug up the bed. It was easier than I thought, because the irises were in worse shape than I thought. They came up so easily because they were weakened by a bad iris borer infestation.

I had never seen anything like it. As I unearthed the rhizomes I smelled the rot before I found my first borer. To say it was gross was an understatement.

Each rhizome was lifted, inspected and cut back to healthy tissue. Two inch long borers were collected in a yogurt container for the chickens. They ranged in color from light pink to deep mahogany.

To think that I’ve been gardening for so long and had never seen one before! The violet rhizomes were also dug up and discarded, as were the unwanted rose runners and suckers.

Thinning out the apothecary rose will certainly help to dissuade powdery mildew from taking hold next year. This year it’s pretty bad.

Meanwhile, the irises were moved to a holding bed, also known as the vegetable garden, while I solarize the area they came from to kill off any violet seeds. I hope. They are notorious at self seeding.

I realize I took this project on a bit later in the season than I should have; my irises may not bloom next year, but it was then or never.

So now you have my “washing the elephant” story. And you know a little more about an amazing man who I miss so much and think of often, especially when I am in the garden.

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

- opinion -

I’m being released from incarceration. What are my Social Security options?

Dear Rusty:

In a previous column, you wrote about people who filed for Social Security late in life.

I am currently incarcerated and will be filing for Social Security in the fall of 2029. I will be 74 years old in the first week of January 2029. Unless I read it wrong, could I be eligible to collect the previous six months?

If this is so, how would that work? Would I get that all at once or incrementally? According to the chart we once got in the mail, I should be collecting the maximum amount. I’ve worked all of my life and never collected Social Security before. Also, my ex-wife remarried and has since passed away. Do I qualify for part of her Social Security?

Signed, “D” in Danbury

Dear “D” in Danbury:

I’m afraid you cannot receive Social Security benefits while you are incarcerated, even if you are eligible for them prior to your release.

Thus, you cannot get retroactive Social Security benefits for any period you were still incarcerated. For clarity, although most who apply at a later age (e.g., in their 70s) do have the option to claim retroactive benefits, you cannot get any SS benefits for any month you were still incarcerated. Further, you will not get credit for delaying your application for SS benefits while you are incarcerated (you won’t earn Delayed Retirement Credits during your incarceration).

Assuming (from what you shared) that you expect to be released from incarceration in the fall of 2029, you can apply for your SS benefits to start upon your



release. Be aware, however, that it usually takes several months for your application for SS benefits to be processed and you can specify the month you wish your benefits start.

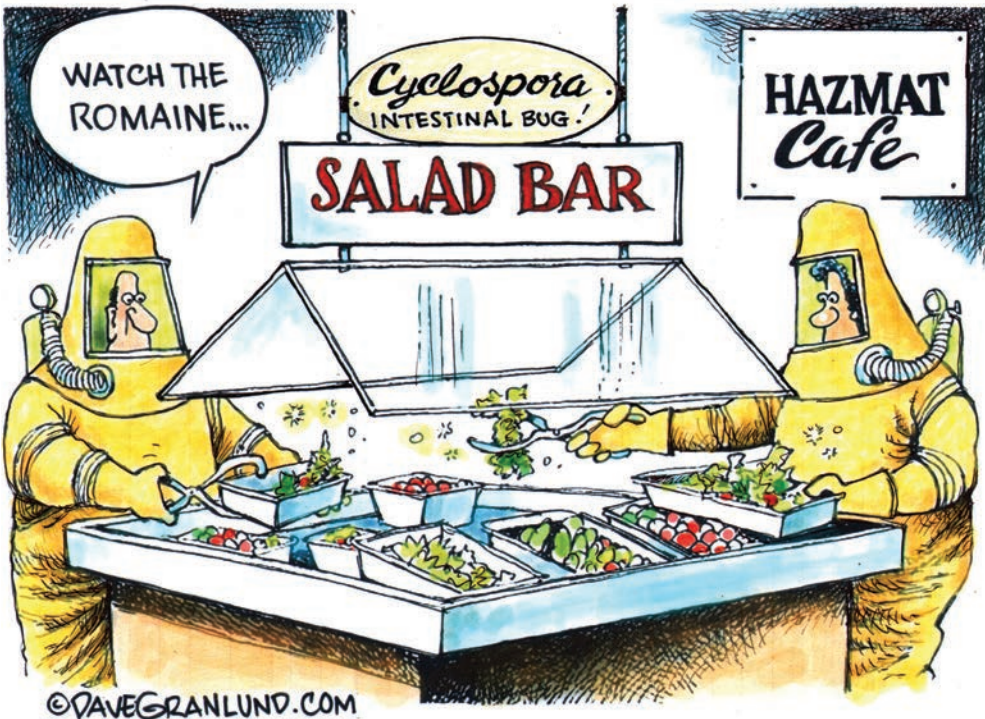
Your benefit amount will be based upon your average monthly earnings for the 35 highest earning years over your lifetime. But you cannot get retroactive SS benefits for time prior to your release from incarceration. Since Social Security does not pay benefits for partial months, you can file for your SS benefits to start effective with the month following the month in which your incarceration ends. Be sure you have your official prison release documentation (parole or discharge papers) in hand when you apply for your Social Security benefits.

FYI, some correctional facilities have a “Prerelease Agreement” with Social Security, which may enable you to file for your SS benefits three to four months prior to your release from incarceration. Be sure to check with your facility to see if they have such an agreement with Social Security and, if so, use it to apply for your benefits in advance of your release. This will facilitate your SS benefits starting more quickly upon your release.

You did not ask about healthcare coverage, but since you will be eligible for Social Security, you will also be eligible for Medicare upon your release. When you apply for your Social Security benefits, you can also apply for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services), the premium for which will be deducted from your Social Security payment. FYI, Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services) is free and automatic because you are also eligible for Social Security.

Finally, regarding survivor benefits from your ex-wife, you can only get a surviving ex-spouse benefit if you were married for more than 10 years and your own SS retirement amount is less than your ex-wife was receiving at her death. In other words, you can only get one SS benefit either your own or your deceased ex-wife’s amount, whichever is higher.

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EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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WEB
quaboagcurrent.turley.com



PHONE
(413) 283-8393



ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

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- community -



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Your Mother was one of many entertaining bands who performed during the annual Band Together for Mental Health event.

BAND TOGETHER FROM PAGE 1

visit from Gilbert the Party Pig.

Band Together for Mental Health welcomed back its car show with over 20 cars entered at Spencer Fairgrounds. The car show helped contribute funds to support Tyler's Heart.

Tyler's Heart and its annual fundraising event is done in tribute to Tyler Kubert and his sister Grace Boos. Throughout the year, Tyler's Heart sends out guided big life journals to a few schools in the region and recently partnered up with the Hospital for Behav-

ioral Medicine in Worcester.

The hospital had an information booth set up during this year's Band Together for Mental Health event. Tyler's Heart supply the hospital with journals as well.

Every year, Tyler's Heart funds a \$2,000 scholarship, which is awarded to a high school graduate in the local area. The organization reaches out to local schools in towns including Ware, Sturbridge, Spencer and the Brookfields. Students apply by responding to an essay question.

This year's essay question was, "If you had the power

to change one mental health policy at the local level, what would it be and why."

This year's scholarship was awarded to Lillian Spahn, a graduate of David Prouty High School who will be attending the University of Saint Joseph to study both psychology and business management.

Other ways Tyler's Heart help support mental health and spread kindness are making research guides listing help services, help with memorial gifts, peer-to-peer grief support and monthly online grief support.

Tyler's Heart has done an amazing job building relationships and helping other nonprofit organizations. This year's Band Together for Mental Health featured over 30 vendors, six food trucks, and over half a dozen bands who are part of the entertainment during the fundraiser.

Secret Sage is one of the bands that have been performing for Band Together for Mental Health every year. Other repeated performers include Molly-Jane

Gain, Headsmack, Strange Alliance, Your Mother and Crossing Kelley.

Lukas Dodge alongside his grandmother Jamie Dodge sang the National Anthem together.

Kubert said the sponsors for the event have been amazing and the organization had many donors for the raffles; around 50 raffle prizes in total. Tyler's Heart also hosted a 50/50 raffle in addition to merchandise.

A new addition to Tyler's Heart was the Hearts of Hope, a heart-shaped sign with little spaces to store notes of hope. The notes were donated to the Hospital for Behavioral Medicine.

Notes are also put in journals that Tyler's Heart donates.

Tyler's Heart is looking to expand its team of volunteers. If you're interested in joining and helping out, or want to learn more about Tyler's Heart, reach out at hello@tylersheart.org or visit tylersheart.org. Tyler's Heart can be followed on Facebook and on Instagram: KubesHeart.



Hearts of Hope is a new addition to Tyler's Heart where people can leave notes of hope for those who need them.



Snow Globe Tumblers could be purchased at the Spencer Fairgrounds during the 6th Annual Band Together for Mental Health.



Tyler's Heart is a nonprofit organization that brings awareness to mental health and continuing acts of kindness. The organization was formed in dedication to Tyler Kubert and Grace Boos.

COLLINS FROM PAGE 1

of artwork over the decades. "They tell a story about her life," he said of her paintings.

Collins has honed his craft with the guidance of his mentor, Roc Goudreau, one of the founding members of Workshop13 in Ware and he has also taken virtual classes with painter Victor Wang. Both of these teachers have taught him different techniques with oil painting, which Collins has put to use to create stunning portraits of the things that inspire him.

These subjects are primarily people, pets and prized possessions.

For many people, their prized possession is their car, which is the primary focus of Collins' exhibition at Rapsallion Pub this month. A car enthusiast and Porsche owner, Collins is frequently commissioned to capture someone's favorite set of wheels and preserve its memory.

One of his paintings features both his and his brother's cars, and he has been asked to create a similar one of a father and son. For many car enthusiasts, the love of horsepower started with their father.

"My dad got me into cars," Collins said.

Keeping with the car theme, Collins has produced five oil paintings of famous movie cars, which he will give away through a free drawing at the end of the exhibition for anyone who can correctly identify all of the movies.

If you can name all five movies, your name will be entered into the drawing, and the winner will get to take home one of the paintings – giving them a chance to own a piece of custom

artwork, and celebrate our love of cars shown through cinematic history. Entry forms are available at Rapsallion Pub throughout July.

Following this exhibition, Rapsallion Pub will feature the artwork of Collins' mother starting in August.

Collins is also collaborating with other artists to create a larger than life "Lady Liberty" puppet that will be featured by Workshop13 in the town of Ware's U.S. 250th celebration parade on Saturday, Aug. 1 starting at 11 a.m. from Greenville Park, 73 Church St., Ware. The parade route will continue down Church Street to Main Street, then travel left onto West Street.

Collins is working on sculpting the intricate details of the puppet's head using foam.

Supporting Collins at last week's reception was metal artist Brian McQuillan who has worked with Collins on collaborative pieces, including the sculpture of an elf girl that was part of the Art in the Orchard event at Park Hill Orchard in Easthampton last year. The two are also working with five other sculptors to create a memorial piece for the late Dave Rothstein, who passed away late last year.

"We're just finishing it," Collins said of the sculpture.

The sculpture features Rothstein in a hollowed-out pumpkin, which he is paddling using a snow shovel. He is accompanied by his beloved cat, Boomer.

Collins and McQuillan said Rothstein briefly held the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest pumpkin paddle, which he completed on the Connecticut River. Rothstein was well-known for his



Many of John Collins' paintings are commissioned by car owners.

ice sculptures, which is why they made his paddle a snow shovel.

Just three days prior to his death, Rothstein was preparing to create a room at the famous Ice Hotel in Sweden. His fellow artist friends created the room dedicated to his memory, called "A Parliament of

Owls", which Rothstein had designed.

The sculpture will be displayed at this year's Art in the Orchard event, which will open on Saturday, Aug. 15 and run through Thanksgiving weekend.

About the show

People are welcome to



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE

John Collins creates portraits of cars, as well as people and animals.

view Collins' artwork at Rapsallion Pub during open hours, Tuesday through Thursday from 4-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon-10 p.m. and Sunday from noon-8 p.m.

Rapsallion Pub is set inside a refurbished 1800s barn and offers craft beers,

original cocktails, a full wine menu and home-cooked comfort food. There is indoor and outdoor seating available.

For more information about Collins and his artwork, visit www.collinsartstudios.com.

Glenda's

Saturday, July 25th 7pm-11pm

Caboodle

EVERY FRIDAY
Karaoke

EVERY WEDNESDAY
**Wise Guys
MUSICAL BINGO**
7:30-9pm

EVERY SUNDAY
DARTS
LUCK OF THE DRAW
5:30pm • All Welcome

Upcoming
**Saturday, September 12th
7pm-11pm**
Pure Country

948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

- community -

Sturbridge Rotary Club honors youth at annual dinner



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Sturbridge Rotary Club President Tim Gresenz (left) with 2026 scholarship recipients. Front row: Willow Andersen, Evelyn Spencer, and Julie Anne Peterson. Back row: Emmett Deatte, Logan Oko, Ethan Zhu and Alex Wilson. Missing from photo: Payton Thompson.

STURBRIDGE – The Sturbridge Rotary Club hosted its annual Student Recognition Dinner on July 15, at the Public House Historic Inn, bringing together students, educators, Rotarians and local leaders for an evening recognizing exceptional youth achievement and service.

The event took place in Paige Hall during the Club’s regular meeting, combining tradition with celebration.

Club President Tim Gresenz opened the meeting and invited Past President Klaus Hachfeld to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Rotary’s Four-Way Test. Special guests included Rotary District 7910 Governor Penny Hamel, and English Teacher and Interact Advisor Amy Willard.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation by Past-President Klaus Hachfeld of Rotary Youth Leadership Awards to Stephen Giaquinto, Norah Hanrahan, Vivian Jaeger, Tamas Jiang, Kaitlyn Kenney, Avery Lanier, Hannah Whittier and Matilda St. Clair.

RYLA is a signature program of Rotary International that brings together young people for a multi-

day leadership development experience that helps participants build confidence, develop communication and problem-solving skills, and discover the power of Service Above Self.

This year, the Sturbridge Rotary Club awarded RYLA scholarships to eight local students selected to join over 200 Massachusetts high school sophomores at the RYLA Conference, held at Fitchburg State University in June. Recipients were selected based on demonstrated leadership potential, strong citizenship, and a compelling desire to benefit from the experience, all qualities confirmed through a competitive interview process.

The Club also celebrated the transition of leadership in the Interact Club at Tantasqua, Rotary’s youth service organization. Outgoing officers - Emmett Deatte, president; Ethan Zhu, vice president; Evie Spencer, treasurer; Mairaed Fairbrother, secretary and Julie Anne Petersen, publicist - were on hand to formally pass the torch to the incoming board.

The new slate of officers, all rising seniors, includes Madeline Guertin,

president; Sophia Bocchicchio, vice-president; Lily Duga, treasurer; Eliza Jaeger, secretary and Bralynn Fenneuff, publicist. District 7910 Governor Penny Hamel officiated the swearing-in ceremony, followed by the presentation of officer pins and gavel.

The Rotary Club of Sturbridge sponsors the Interact Club at Tantasqua, where students collaborate with Rotarians on fundraisers, community events and hands-on service projects.

Interact is Rotary International’s service club for young people ages 12-18 who want to take action, develop leadership skills, and make a difference in their school and community. Interact members plan and carry out at least two service projects each year – one that serves their local community and one that promotes international understanding.

The centerpiece of the evening was the awarding of eight scholarships totaling \$8,000 presented by Club President Tim Gresenz. Seven scholarships were given through Sturbridge Rotary Club Fundraising efforts, and an additional scholarship was awarded in memory of late Rotarian Dr. Otto



Immediate Past President Klaus Hachfeld with 2026 Rotary Youth Leadership Award recipients Avery Lanier, Matilda St. Clair and Tamas Jiang. Missing from photo: Stephen Giaquinto, Noah Hanrahan, Vivian Jaeger and Hannah Whittier.

Prohaska, from his family. This year’s scholarship recipients are:

Willow Anderson of East Brookfield, is the daughter of Eric and Ellen Anderson. Willow will be attending The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, where she will be studying language in the hopes of someday working as a government interpreter.

Emmett Deatte of Warren, is the son of William and Jennifer Deatte. Emmett served as president of the 2025-2026 Interact Club of Tantasqua, and vice-president of his class. He was also a member of the National Honor Society and the TRHS tennis team. He will be attending Northeastern University, Boston, where he will be studying politics, philosophy and economics.

Logan Oko of Fiskdale, is the son of Jennifer and Matt Oko. He attended RYLA in his sophomore year and was a founding member of Tantasqua Interact. Logan will be attending the University of Massachusetts, Amherst

where he will be studying biomedical engineering.

Julie Anne Petersen of Brimfield, is the daughter of Laurie Krusas and Bill Petersen. Julie Anne attended RYLA in her sophomore year, was a founding member of Tantasqua Interact, and served as publicist in her senior year. She will be attending the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she will be studying Political Science.

Evelyn Spencer of Sturbridge, is the daughter of David and Jessica Spencer. Evelyn served as treasurer of the 2025-2026 Interact Club of Tantasqua, and was valedictorian of her class. She attended RYLA in her sophomore year, was a member of SAVE Promise, and was varsity captain of the TRHS volleyball team. She will be attending Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley, where she will be studying biochemistry.

Payton Thompson of Sturbridge, is the son of Meghan Looney and Daniel Thompson. Payton will be attending Western New England University, Springfield, where he will be studying electrical engineering.

Alex Wilson of Sturbridge, is the son of Danielle and Mark Wilson. He attended RYLA in his sophomore year and was a founding member of Tantasqua Interact. Alex will be attending the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he will be studying biomedical engineering.

Ethan Zhu of Fiskdale, is the son of Alice Kao and Weining Zhu. Ethan served as vice-president of the 2025-2026 Interact Club of Tantasqua, and president of the National Honor Society. He was a finalist in the Massachusetts State swimming competition, a Central Mass. Boys Swimming

MVP, and nine-times school record holder in swimming. He will be attending Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, where he will be studying Molecular Biology and Biochemistry.

A Community Appreciation Award was also presented to Tantasqua Regional High School English Teacher Amy Willard. Amy was recognized for her consistent administrative guidance and support of the Interact Club of Tantasqua.

Newly elected Rotary District 7910 Governor Penny Hamel offered her reflections on the values of Rotary and the importance of fostering youth leadership. The meeting concluded with the traditional Rotary toast by President Gresenz: “To Sturbridge USA, Stourbridge UK, and Rotary International. Hear-hear!”

About the Sturbridge Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Sturbridge, chartered in 1972, is a vibrant service organization serving the communities of Sturbridge, Charlton, Brimfield, Holland and Wales. Members gather in person of the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. at the Public House Historic Inn, in Sturbridge.

The club invests in local youth by sponsoring the Interact Club at Tantasqua, funding student attendance at the Rotary Youth Leadership conference, and awarding annual scholarships to Tantasqua Regional High School students.

Beyond youth leadership development, the club addresses local needs such as hunger relief, organizes popular community events, like the Charity Golf Classic and TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, and contributes to global efforts including polio eradication.



District 7910 Governor Penny Hamel (left) and Tantasqua Interact advisor Amy Willard (right) with 2026-2027 Tantasqua Regional High School Interact officers (front row) Maddie Guertin, president; Eliza Jaeger, secretary, and Bralynn Fenneuff, public relations, and 2025-2026 TRHS Interact officers (back row) Emmett Deates, president; Ethan Zhu, vice-president, Mairaed Fairbrother; Evelyn Spencer, treasurer, and Julie Anne Petersen, public relations.

CALDWELL FROM PAGE 1

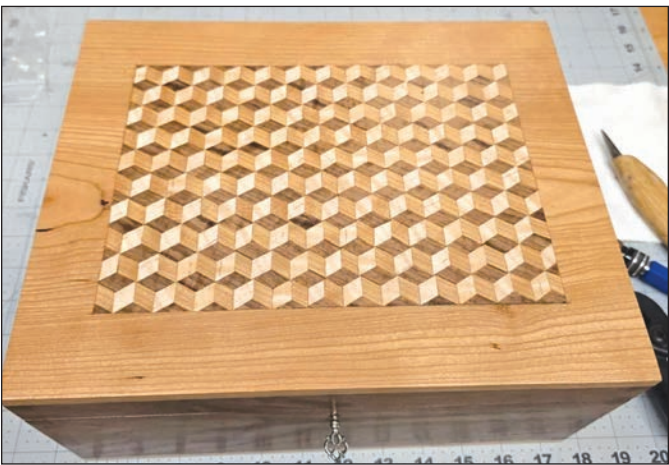
skilled craftsmanship.

“If I could figure it out, I would make it,” Caldwell said.

His common wood projects consist of crafting cases, boxes, toolboxes, jewelry boxes, wood bowls, small tables with drawers, chests, shelves and keepsake boxes. Many woodcraft items Caldwell makes are with a lathe and many are made and are kept as heirlooms.

Many of Caldwell’s pieces have been given away to people who have a need. For example, he has made items given to people who have lost a loved one.

This hobby of Caldwell’s gave him the opportunity to give away items that could be useful for people who want to store their cherished belongings.



This box made by James Caldwell featured an intricate inlay.

Caldwell was involved in contracting for many years and began designing cabinets and working on interior woodwork. As time passed, Caldwell began to explore other woodworking processes, including inlay work. This form of woodworking is a decorative and detailed process where pieces of con-

trasting material are set into shallow, recessed pockets carved into wood.

Caldwell is also interested in trying marquetry, a woodworking technique in which images are made by cutting and assembling different pieces of veneer. Caldwell says there are woodworkers in Italy that



UBMITTED PHOTOS

Shown is one of James Caldwell’s wood turned bowls.

specialize in marquetry.

Caldwell is also a volunteer at Old Sturbridge Village, where he works as a tinsmith and as a bookbinder. During his time at the historic village, Caldwell applied his woodworking skills by designing a wooden guitar case for one of the

Village musicians.

Since high school, Caldwell has also been involved in restoring vintage automobiles. He works on vintage vehicles at Parker’s Packards.

The most unique vehicle he ever worked on was a Derham Body car from 1934

that was owned by the Vanderbilt Family. The car was a high school graduation gift to the grandson of Cornelius Vanderbilt. Caldwell got to work on restoring the body work of the car, which had a rare body style.

Out of all his skilled work, Caldwell finds woodworking to be his most comforting.

“I’m comfortable doing it,” Caldwell said.

Caldwell recently finished an 1830s period bookcase, which is all held together by dovetail joints. Without the use of glue or nails, which were expensive back in the 1830s, woodworkers would craft these wooden joints to hold the entire case together.

Examples of Caldwell’s work can be found at nbtownhouse.com/featured-artists.

SPORTS

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Sturbridge advances in 12U Little League playoffs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

NORTH OXFORD— Had a few key moments swung their way, the Sturbridge 12U Little League All-Star baseball team might have rolled through the round robin portion of the District 5 Major Division round robin with an undefeated record.

However, Sturbridge advanced into the single-elimination bracket as the No. 8 seed with a 1-2 mark.

Their only win in round robin play was a 4-3 walk off victory against Westbor-

ough at Town Barn Field, which is hosting the annual Connie Mack Baseball Tournament this week.

Sturbridge lost a pair of 3-1 games to Auburn and Shrewsbury, who wound up winning the District 5 championship game.

“There were a couple of very good teams in our pool,” said Sturbridge 12U All-Star manager Sarah Ryan. “We lost both of our pool games in the sixth inning.”

The players listed on the 2026 Sturbridge 12U All-Star roster are Davin Ken-

ton, Carter Bucenec, Hunter Ryan, Jayce Ryan, Chris Davidson, Aiden Peterson, Andrew Choquet, Cam Thomas, Kade Scheffler, Rory Muenzberg, and Ryan Schwerin.

The two assistant coaches are Marissa Brunell, and Cole Scheffler.

Sturbridge, who gave up the third fewest runs of the twelve teams in pool play, upset top-seeded Algonquin, 4-2, in a quarterfinal game held at Casey Field in Northborough on July 13.

“The quarterfinal game was a very exciting win for us,” said Sarah Ryan, who has been a little league

baseball coach for the past five years. “We had our ace pitcher on the mound, and I think they underestimated us a little bit.”

Hunter Ryan, who’s a right-hander, allowed two runs on just three hits against Algonquin. He racked up 11 strikeouts and issued only one walk.

Keaton, who was Sturbridge’s leadoff hitter, went 2-for-2 against Algonquin. Davidson went 1-for-2 and drove home two runs.

Two days after their upset victory against Algonquin, the Sturbridge players made a shorter trip to Stan-

ley Johnson Field in North Oxford where they battled fourth-seeded Millbury in the semifinals.

It was another very close game from start to finish, but Sturbridge’s dreams of playing in the Little League World Series in Williamsport Pennsylvania came to an end following a 4-3 loss.

“We had the bases loaded several times and we failed to take the lead,” Sarah Ryan said. “It’s another frustrating loss, but these boys have had a lot of success on the baseball diamond. We didn’t make any errors and I’m very proud

of them.”

Sturbridge won the pre-game coin toss and were the home team in the semifinal game.

Millbury, who went 2-1 in pool play, took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning.

Cam Curran, who was Millbury’s starting pitcher against Sturbridge, contributed with an RBI single up the middle into center field. Biaggio Cesaitis followed with a sacrifice fly.

Sturbridge put together a rally in the bottom half of

See STURBRIDGE LL
PAGE 8

St. Joe’s suffers late-season loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE— In what might’ve been a preview of a Tri-Country League playoff matchup, Teddy Bear Pools and Spas broke open the final meeting of the regular season against St. Joseph’s by scoring nine runs across the fifth and sixth innings, rolling to an 11-1 victory at St. Joe’s Field in Thorndike, last Friday night.

“We split with St. Joe’s during the regular season, and we’ll probably be seeing them again in the playoffs,” said Teddy Bear Pools player/manager Ryan Magni. “The first three innings of tonight’s game was almost like a playoff game. Then we were able to break it open against their relief pitchers.

Even though Friday’s make-up game was played at St. Joe’s Field, Teddy Bear Pools served as the home team because their own field was unavailable. The game ended with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning due to the ten-run mercy rule.

Teddy Bear Pools entered the final week of the regular season sitting in third place in the league standings with a 13-5-1 record one point behind second place St. Joseph’s. The Saints had a 14-4 overall record.

Peoples Bank (15-3-1), who are looking to capture the league championship title for the 13th consecutive season, was sitting in first place.

Teddy Bear Pools could move into second place with a win against Bank-ESB on Thursday night and if St. Joe’s losses their final two regular season games.

The Saints had the opportunity to move into first place if they defeated the DOC Spartans on Monday and Peoples Bank on Wednesday.

The top two finishers in the league standings earn a first round bye and the first place team will get home field advantage throughout the playoffs, which are all best of three series.

Teddy Bear Pools righthander Matt Drobiak, who graduated from South Hadley High School, was the winning pitcher in last Friday’s game. He went the distance, allowing one run on just one base hit with three walks and two strikeouts.

“My defense made the plays behind me in tonight’s game,” said Drobiak. “This is a big win for us, and it feels great. We’re hoping to play them again in the playoffs.”

Teddy Bear Pools took a 1-0 lead against St. Joe’s with two outs in the bot-

See ST JOE’S
PAGE 8



Sadie Mathis winds up for a long shot.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Laci Lewis fights to keep possession.

Mutiny finishes up first dual league season

LUDLOW – Earlier this month, the New England Mutiny, which features soccer players from all over the region as well as some players from out of state, finished up their season, unfortunately failing to reach any postseason play despite

playing in two leagues this season. The Mutiny participated in both the USL as well as the UWS, nearly doubling its number of games this season. The Mutiny hope to have better luck next season with the added schedule.



Trinity Clark dribbles toward the goal.



Addyson Earl hustles after the loose ball.

PeoplesBank defeats Teddy Bear Pools



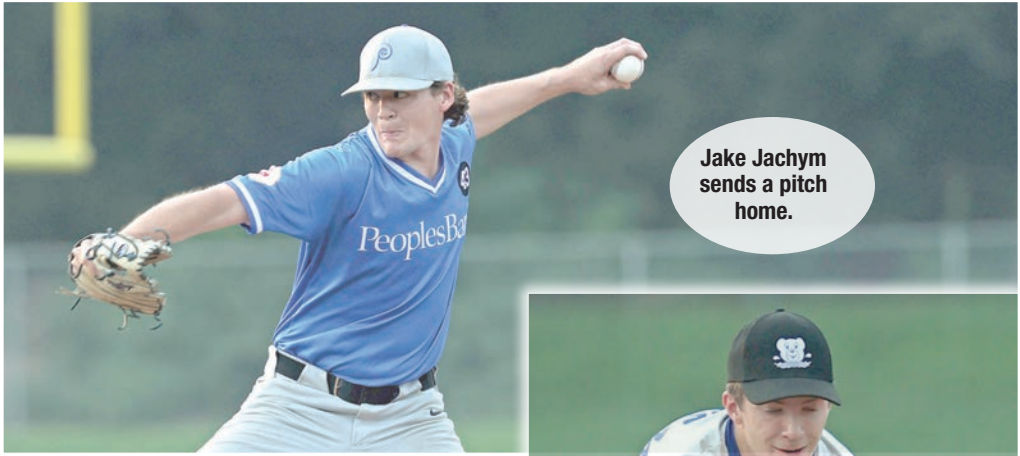
Robert Ninotti fires a throw across the diamond.

WILBRAHAM – Last Thursday night at Spec Pond in Wilbraham, Jake Jachym pitched PeoplesBank to a 7-5 win over Teddy Bear Pools. The Bankers got a save from Johnny

Gegetsas to secure the win. The Bankers lead the Tri-County League with a 15-3-1 record and 31 points. The regular season is about to wrap up with the playoffs beginning shortly after.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Darien Rosado is safe as he slides home.



Jake Jachym sends a pitch home.



Mason Barcomb pitches for Teddy Bear Pools.



Alex Gochinski cleanly fields a grounder.

- community -

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of July 13-20, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 16 building/property checks, 19 directed/area patrols, two radar assignments, three traffic controls, four emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one safety hazard, two animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, July 13
5:16 p.m. Welfare Check, Tucker Road, Services Rendered

Tuesday, July 14
1:12 p.m. Safety Hazard,

Worcester Road, Officer Handled
3:40 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Wine Road, Arrest(s) Made

Wednesday, July 15
7:30 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, July 16
2:33 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled

Friday, July 17
4:46 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Cut Off Road, Spoken To
5:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning

Saturday, July 18
6:26 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, No Action Required

Sunday, July 19
7:16 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal
3:04 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Patient Refusal

Monday, July 20
6:46 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

Department of Conservation and Recreation presents ‘Discovering The Other Lost Valley’

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

BARRE – The Barre Historical Society in partnership with Maria Beiter-Tucker, the interpretive services director at the Department of Conservation and Recreation gave a presentation titled “Discovering the Other Lost Valley,” which revolved around the Ware River Watershed, and the towns impacted by its creation.

The event was held at the Barre Town Hall.

Tucker started the presentation by talking about the Ware River Watershed, saying there are eight towns in it, and 41% of it is managed by the DCR. She said a lot of the acquired areas for the watershed were in Barre, Oakham, Rutland and Hubbardston. Tucker talked about the history of some of the particular parts of town taken for the creation of the watershed, including West Rutland, Coldbrook Springs in Oakham and White Valley in Barre.

West Rutland
During the West Rutland, Tucker said it was a place with a lot of textile factories owned by William Stearns. She said they would burn on occasion, and be rebuilt and sometimes renamed.

She said the village also featured housing for factory workers, stores and a school. She said there was

a dairy farm in the village also owned by Stearns, and it was later operated by his wife and son.

Tucker said the Mass Central Railway went right through West Rutland, and there were depots around town for the transport of goods and people. She said the Mass Central Rail Trail runs the same path as the old railway, and some of the directional markers are still visible.

Tucker also talked about the Rutland Prison Camps, which were opened in 1903, and had an area of over 900 acres.

She said the camps were controversial in town, but they were only used for low risk offenders, and they would work their sentences at the camps. She said it was very minimally guarded, and there was only one documented escape.

She said there were a lot of buildings on the site, including places for eggs and dairy to be farmed. She said one of the only remaining structures, the root cellar, was used for growing potatoes.

Tucker said one of the buildings on site was a tuberculosis hospital that had about a 50% survival rate, which was typical for the time. She said 59 prisoners died at the hospital and were buried on the grounds.

Coldbrook Springs
Moving on to Coldbrook Springs, Tucker said that area was known for its nat-

ural springs, and it drew a lot of visitors for their perceived medicinal purposes. She said one of the buildings was the Coldbrook Hotel, which was fairly popular for the time, but the overall village was small with only 35 houses.

She said the town gained notoriety for a tragedy in 1901, when Lizzie Naramore killed her six children and attempted to kill herself, as she was in an abusive relationship with her husband.

She said that Naramore was given the choice to send her five kids to foster care, and have herself and her baby sent to a home.

She said the funeral was held at the Coldbrook Baptist Church where the local pastor Charles Talmage gave a sermon putting much of the blame for this strategy on the community and Naramore’s husband.

Tucker said there was no headstone for Naramore until 100 years later when the Barre Historical Society put one up.

Tucker said the church was sold and moved to Greenfield, and used by many different denominations while it was there, but the city sold it back to Barre, where it is now in possession of the Stone Cow Brewery.

Another notable person from the area, Tucker said, was Jacob Riis, a photojournalist who photographed poverty, who bought a farm

See LOST PAGE 12

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of July 5-12, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 137 building/property checks, 96 directed area patrols, 14 radar assignments, seven traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, three assist other agencies, three missing person calls, two complaints, one harassment, two safety hazards, one investigation, one motor vehicle investigation, one property damage, one vandalism, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and 22 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Sunday, July 5
1:48 p.m. Harassment, Harrington Street, Report Taken

Monday, July 6
9:17 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Route 49, Services Rendered

11:54 a.m. Missing Person, Pleasant Street, Report Taken

1:31 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
4:52 p.m. Safety Hazard, Podunk Road, Services Rendered

Tuesday, July 7
9:14 a.m. Missing Person, Connie Mack Drive, Report Taken

11:25 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Report Taken
11:55 a.m. Safety Hazard, Podunk Road, Referred to Other Agency
2:05 p.m. 911 Utility Issues, Prospect Street, Re-

ferred to Other Agency

Wednesday, July 8
8:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, East Main Street, Vehicle Towed

1:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

2:31 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered

4:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

4:12 p.m. Disturbance, East Main Street, Spoken To

10:14 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Spencer, Officer Handled

11:17 p.m. 911 Vandalism, East Main Street, Officer Handled

11:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

11:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Thursday, July 9
12:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

12:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

12:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

4:28 p.m. 911 Fire/Alarm, Adams Road, False Alarm

6:20 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Drake Lane, Transported to Hospital
9:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Friday, July 10
12:23 a.m. Investigation, East Main Street,

Negative Contact

5:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

1:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled

2:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled

3:19 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, East Main Street, Spoken To

Saturday, July 11
11:58 a.m. Complaint, Harrington Lane, Services Rendered

12:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled

8:22 p.m. Missing Person, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered

8:32 p.m. Property Damage, East Main Street, Services Rendered

8:57 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, South Pond Road, Transported to Hospital

11:23 p.m. Complaint, East Main Street, Officer Handled

Sunday, July 12
9:32 a.m. Traffic Control, East Main Street, Citation Issued

9:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

1:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

4:30 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Gleason Avenue, Services Rendered

5:53 p.m. Disturbance, Connie Mack Drive, Peace Restored

Kid’s Corner workshop to be held July 25

WARE – The next Kids’ Corner workshop at Ware Grange will be called “Birds” and will take place on Saturday, July 25 at 10 a.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

Kids’ Corner work-

shops are led by preschool teacher, Jen McNally, and teach children about nature and the environment through stories, songs and fun activities. This workshop will explore the world of birds and their

life cycles.

Children will learn about many different birds, their songs, and their habitats. Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

SEPTEMBER 2026

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- CLUES ACROSS

1. Listen to

5. Presents

10. A type of guitar

14. Actor Idris

15. A citizen of Iran

16. Pretentiously artistic

17. Harness

18. Diamond weight measurement

19. "Better Call _"

20. Fervent support

22. Male cat

23. Jewish spiritual leader

24. Disposed to venture or take risks

27. A way to nail

30. Cool!

31. Women's _ movement

32. "Losing My Religion" rockers

35. Step-shaped recess

37. A princess can detect it

38. Tractor-trailer

39. Leslie and Leon are two

40. Color at the end of the spectrum

41. Lines where fabrics are sewn

42. Dodgers great Hershisier

43. Floor covering

44. Traveled aimlessly

45. Rocker Stewart

46. Body art

47. Congressman (abbr.)

48. No seats available

49. Breaks apart

52. Hand gesture

55. Ballplayer's tool

56. Sword

60. Baseball team

61. Upper bract of floret of grass

63. Italian Seaport

64. Mars crater

65. Tube on a shoelace

66. U. of Miami mascot

67. South American nation

68. Video game series "Max _"
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title

2. Ancient Greek personification of mercy

3. Jewish calendar month

4. Family of long-legged frogs

5. Photo

6. Delivered a speech

7. Lute used in Indian music

8. Decorated

9. Cease to stand

10. The bottom layer

11. Member of a Semitic people

12. Part of a ticket

13. Defunct monetary unit

21. Challenges

23. Body part

25. Tell on

26. By way of

27. Shady green alcove

28. Egyptian city

29. _ and flowed

32. Widens a hole

33. Eurasian wheat

34. Act incorrectly

36. "Be back later"

37. Al Bundy's wife

38. Ocean

40. Large root eaten as a vegetable

41. Units of subjective loudness

43. Music genre

44. A way to drench

46. Popular hot beverage

47. Silk-like cotton fabric

49. Rumanian city

50. Come back

51. Vaccine developer

52. Canadian law enforcers

53. Wings

54. Observational comedian Bill

57. Small fry

58. _ Clapton, musician

59. Take a chance

61. Semi-liquid food for babies

62. Consumed food

- public notices -

Legal Advertisement
TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
ADA Sidewalk Ramp
Improvement Project

The Town of Brookfield invites sealed Bids for the ADA Sidewalk Ramp Improvement Project. The project includes removal of 30 bituminous concrete sidewalk ramps, installation of 30 cement concrete sidewalk ramps and granite curb, traffic control, and associated work. This project is being administered by the town of Brookfield and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) and funded by the MA Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, FY22/23 Community Development Block Grant Program. The Engineer's opinion of probable construction costs for the Base Bid plus Alternate is \$195,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available July 23, 2026 at www.biddocs.com (may be viewed electronically and downloaded at no cost) or hard copies may be purchased online at www.biddocs.com or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount,

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §26 to 27H, inclusive, or by the federal Davis-Bacon wage rates, whichever hourly rate is higher. The project is subject to HUD's Section 3 policy, under which, to the greatest extent possible, affirmative steps shall be taken to ensure training and employment for lower income workers and project area residents and award of subcontracts to HUD-defined Section 3 businesses. Bidders on the work shall also make a good

faith effort to achieve the goals of the Federal Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) policy regarding utilization of MBEs and WBEs in order to be deemed a responsible bidder. This project is subject to Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act requirements.

Bids may be changed or withdrawn prior to the bid opening, but not within the sixty (60) days subsequent to the bid opening, by submission of such a change in writing in a sealed envelope, identifying the submitting party and indicating that it contains a correction of the bid for the ADA Sidewalk Ramp Improvement Project, Brookfield, MA.

The lowest qualified responsible bidder shall be awarded the contract subject to availability of funds under the Massachusetts FY22/23 Community Development Block Grant program. The Town of Brookfield, the Awarding and Contracting Authority, may cancel this Invitation for Bid (IFB), in whole or in part, at any time that such an act is deemed in its best interest, reserves the right to waive any informality in the bidding or to reject any and all bids in total or in part as may be deemed to serve the best interest of the Town, and will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a bidder in preparing and submitting a bid in response to this IFB.

Questions regarding the bid specifications should be directed in writing to Bill Storti at Weston & Sampson, at storti@wseinc.com. Contract documents may be viewed at the CMRPC, 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520, Worcester, MA 01608, or Weston & Sampson, 712 Brook Street, Suite 103, Rocky Hill, CT, 06067.

Bids must be received at the office of the Town Administrator, 6 Central Street, Brookfield, MA 01506 no later than 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 13, 2026. Bids will be

opened and read aloud at that time.

07/24/2026

CHILD FIND
QUABOAG REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, require districts to annually attempt to identify and locate every qualified (individual with a disability) attending the Quaboag Regional School District. If you suspect your child or a child in your care may have a disability or physical or mental impairment and is in need of an evaluation, please contact the Director of Student Support Services at 413-420-1994.

07/24/2026

INVITATION TO SUBMIT
PROPOSAL

The Town of West Brookfield, Massachusetts, will receive sealed proposals for: Route 9 Reconstruction, Phase III: From Pierce Road to The State Highway at Cutler Road Contract #612779-2

The Town of West Brookfield, acting through its Department of Public Works, is requesting proposals from MassDOT pre-qualified individuals and firms for the design, and engineering consulting services for Route 9 Reconstruction, Phase III: From Pierce Road to The State Highway at Cutler Road. The consultant will work with the Town and the community to develop a project design that is advanced into construction ready documents. The consultant will design, prepare construction plans, specifications, construction cost estimates, prepare and obtain all required permits and approvals as necessary, and provide bidding and construction phase services for the project in accordance with all MassDOT and

FHWA requirements. The goal is to have the project constructed with funding through the Central Massachusetts MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) may be obtained from West Brookfield Highway Department (agarwood-hampp@westbrookfield.com), 15 Front St., West Brookfield, Massachusetts, during normal working hours from Tuesday, July 15, 2026 until the expiration of the time for the filing of the proposals.

Sealed, Responses to the RFQ will be received by the office of the Highway Department, 15 Front St., West Brookfield, MA 01585, until 10:00 A.M. Local Time on Monday, August 24, 2026. Proposals delivered after the appointed time and date will not be considered.

The proposer agrees that this proposal shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the proposal deadline. The Contractor must comply with all applicable federal, state and local law and regulations. Five (5) hard copies of the RFQ proposal and one (1) electronic copy of said proposal on a USB flash drive shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "RFQ - Contract # 612779-2 Route 9, Phase III Reconstruction".

The Town reserves the right to cancel any request for qualifications, and to reject in whole or in part any and all proposals, when it is deemed in the best interests of the Town to do so.

Theresa A. Cofske, MCPPO
Town of West Brookfield,
Town Administrator
07/17, 07/24/2026

INVITATION TO BID
SCHOOL STREET
SIDEWALK
IMPROVEMENTS
NORTH BROOKFIELD,
MASSACHUSETTS

The Town of North Brookfield, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the School Street Sidewalk Improvements, North Brookfield, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Berkshire Design Group.

The Project consists of: Removal and replacement of approximately 185 linear feet of concrete sidewalk, construction of a modular block wall, concrete stairs, precast pavers, pavement milling and paving, and associated seeding and planting.

The bidding and award of this Contract will be under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 39M. Bidders ARE required to be pre-qualified by MassDOT.

Each Bid shall be submitted in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders and be accompanied by a Bid Deposit in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Total Bid Price.

The Successful Bidder must furnish a fifty percent (50%) Payment Bond with a surety company acceptable to the Owner, the Town of North Brookfield.

The successful bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Payment Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the Contract Amount.

This project is subject to the prevailing wage requirements of M.G.L. c. 149, § 26-27. The Contractor and all subcontractors shall comply with prevailing wage requirements. Payroll records must be kept by the successful bidder for all persons employed on the project. A separate Statement of Compliance must be submitted to the Division of Occupational Safety by every employer, including all prime contractors and subcontractors, when its portion of the work is completed.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocs.com.

An OPTIONAL pre-bid site visit is scheduled at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at School Street located near 17 School Street, North Brookfield, MA.

07/24/2026

TOWN OF
WEST BROOKFIELD
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Notice of Public Hearing
Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on WEDNESDAY August 5, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.

6:00 – Public Hearing:
RDA – 50 Ware Point Road – Benson – Septic system replacement

NOI – 207 Shoreline Drive-Dold- Demo and new construction

NOI – 225 Long Hill Road – Ranellone - Driveway

NOI – 153 Wickaboag Valley Road – East Quabbin Land Trust – Repair Farm Road and culverts with bridge

NOI – 380 West Main Street – Continued - Raymakers Construction – Staging area

NOI – Wickaboag Pond – Board of Health – Weed Treatment

07/24/2026



N BROOKFIELD
FROM PAGE 1

grow back, and the wildlife to continue utilizing nature. He also said there will be considerations in the gates to allow smaller animals through.

The Bohler representative said this is a passive

project, so there are no water or lighting needs, since there will not be employees there. He said any runoff water will be caught in swales that are 30 feet by 100 feet.

He said the project lies on the watershed, and the water north of it will flow toward the ponds, and the rest will

flow toward Oakham Road.

The representative said the infrastructure is going to be outside of the drinking water area, but one section of rays will be in the watershed area, but they are made of metal, wood and glass, and he said studies show it is safe to be used in the wa-

tershed. He said they have been working with the water department, and there is the possibility of having third party inspectors for erosion control. He said the project is still awaiting conservation commission approval.

There was also a battery expert present at the meeting who said the BESS systems are made from lithium ion, and there are three separate containers for them. He said they have undergone fire testing, where they are set on fire to see if it can be contained.

He said the containers are equipped with a management system that detects

temperatures and gases, and sends notifications to authorities such as the fire or water departments.

The battery expert said the BESS containers are designed so the batteries are isolated from each other, and one fire cannot spark a separate battery, and if there is a fire, it will put itself out.

According to Peter Orsi, who is a Selectman and has worked with the Fire Department, there is a halon type chemical that suppresses fire and is non-toxic to humans in the batteries.

There were also some discussions on conditions, such as Water Superintendent Ja-

mie Flamand requesting the Water Department be put on the list of authorities to notify if there is a problem so they can do testing. Another condition mentioned was to ensure yearly updates from whomever owns the property in the future, as Diezemann said they sell about 80% of their projects.

Flamand also said this area is the town's only water supply, and if the worst case scenario were to happen, the town would be without water.

The board continued the public hearing to Aug. 19, where they plan to present orders of conditions.

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Deadline to apply is 8/6/2026 .
Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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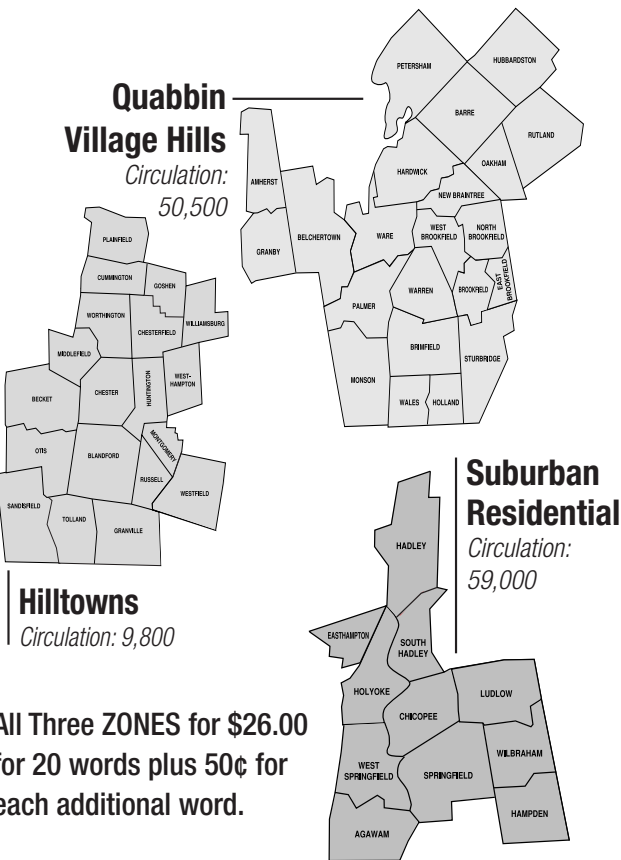
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LOST
FROM PAGE 9

and died in Barre. She said he has a headstone outside of the Riverside Cemetery.

There is also a gravesite for Quock Walker, who is well known as someone who helped the state outlaw slavery.

White Valley

Tucker said the area of Barre known as White Valley was originally called Smithville Mills, named after the founder of mills in the area, John Smith. She said Smith ran the mills until he committed suicide,

then his sons took over until one of them also committed suicide.

One of the buildings in the village was a weave mill, Tucker said, which is now used as a water resource facility.

Why the watershed exists Tucker said the project to make reservoirs and get water into Boston and its metro area started in 1872, when there was a fire that took 65 acres of the city, mostly because they did not have enough water to put it out.

She said the projects to get water into the city start-

ed at the Sudbury River before they created the Wachusett Reservoir around Clinton and West Boylston, which at the time was the largest reservoir in the world.

Tucker said the Massachusetts Board of Health said the Wachusett Reservoir wasn't enough, so the state settled on the Swift River. She said the state decided that the factories and populations were small enough to move forward.

In 1922, the official proposal to build the Quabbin aqueduct was written, and the Ware River Act passed

in 1926, allowing for a tunnel connecting the Wachusett Reservoir to the Ware River.

She said 21,000 acres were purchased in the Ware River Watershed, 100 structures were removed and 350 people were displaced. She said there were 13 deaths in the construction of the aqueduct, many stemming from one explosion.

The DCR regulates activities in the Ware River Watershed, and their public access plans can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/locations/ware-river-watershed>.

Quaboag Current

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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