

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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Friday, August 2, 2024

Sturbridge 'gets away from it all' with Dan Gabel and The Abletones

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – The afternoon of July 25 saw some rain in the region, but later, the sky brightened gloriously, and the temperature was nothing less than wonderfully comfortable.

Luck was with the people of Sturbridge and those from away who made the trek to the town common.

They were in for a treat.

Dan Gabel and his retinue, The Abletones, had come to make musical magic.

Why magic? Gabel and The Abletones were going to bring the 20th Century to the 21st.

The Abletones are a "Big Band" orchestra. From the 1920s into the 1950s it was the style of music that held sway in dance venues, on radio and in film.

True, as the last century progressed, it had to share the limelight with other genres.



Kimberly Hawkey and Dan Gabel of The Abletones dance during last Thursday's concert on the Sturbridge Common. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

See ABLETONES | PAGE 6



Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Janet Pierce recognized and thanked local officials and state legislators for taking part in the forum. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Panelists address food insecurity at CMRPC forum

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

RUTLAND – A group of panelists sat down with representatives from across central Massachusetts last week to discuss food insecurity, and the steps being taken to address this issue.

On July 23, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission hosted the

panelists at its Legislative Affairs Forum held in the Rutland Public Library.

CMRPC's Legislative Affairs Committee Chair Andrew Golas said recent years have seen natural disaster and a dramatic increase in grocery prices, as well the closure of many grocery stores; all of which have created a "food island" or desert in Central Massachusetts.

See FORUM | PAGE 12

Janine's Frostee Car Show benefits Trail Life USA

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Car enthusiasts across the region revved up for another classic adventure as

the 19th Annual Janine's Frostee Car Show made its way to town, featuring over 100 vintage cars and trucks.

Owner Roger Morrisette started the car show shortly after

See CAR SHOW | PAGE 8



This 1957 Chevy Corvette has a vintage style and is one of many Chevrolet vehicles that made an appearance at this year's Car Show. TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Plans for signalized intersection reach 90% completion

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Town Planner Jean Bubon told the Planning Board that the design for a signalized intersection near Noble Energy has reached 90% completion.

The construction of a sig-

See PLANS | PAGE 11

Library pollinator garden brings community together

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Community volunteers at the Haston Free Public Library planted vibrant native pollinator flowers on July 20 with the goal of creating a space in the front of the library that is both pollinator friendly – bringing beauty and wildlife to the space - and a place that library patrons can utilize and enjoy during the library's open hours as well as when the building is closed.

Shades of purple, pink, and yellow now decorate the front of the building, along with a brand-new wheelchair accessible picnic table.



Community members helped plant a pollinator garden at the Haston Free Public Library recently. SUBMITTED PHOTO

See POLLINATOR | PAGE 7

Upcoming events you won't want to miss

- Aug. 3: Lost Towns Brewing Beer Garden
- Aug. 22: BBQ, Beer, and a Band
- Sep. 19: BBQ, Beer, and a Band
- Sept. 28: Oktoberfest w/ Lost Towns Brewing

More info: FarmerMatt.com/events
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- community -

Quaboag Hills Chamber announces 2024 golf fundraiser

PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, the nonprofit organization that promotes business and development within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, has announced the return of its annual Golf Outing.

This year the event will take place at the renovated Hardwick Crossing Country Club in the village of Gilbertville on Thursday, Oct. 3 and is presented by J. Stolar Insurance Agency and Monson Savings.

“The annual golf event was a highlight of our calendar pre-COVID and a significant fundraiser for the Chamber”, stated James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer for the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, in a press release. “This year will mark the return of the golf outing for the first time

since 2019. We have tailored the event, so it is a fun and welcoming day for participants at every level, between a nine hole/half day scramble format, and a catered Awards Lunch at the region’s most outstanding and distinguished golf and event venues.”

Beginning in 2022, Hardwick Crossing Country Club has experienced a significant renaissance following the purchase of the former Dunroamin Country Club by Kenneth Uracius, who owns and operates Stone & Lime Inc, a prominent historic restoration company. Renovations and additions to the property include an overhaul of the former clubhouse, improvements to the course layout and greens, and the construction of a full-service restaurant and modern banquet room.

Proceeds from the golf fundraiser will benefit the Quaboag Hills Chamber of

Commerce and its on-going mission to assist its more than two-hundred member businesses succeed and grow with programs and initiatives throughout the year.

Interested participants and sponsors can visit QHMA.com for full details.

About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1978 and headquartered in Palmer, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce’s purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region, including the 15 towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.



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LWPA's Annual Meeting to be held Aug. 15

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association will hold its annual membership meeting downstairs in the Barn at the Salem Cross Inn on Thursday, Aug. 15.

Please park in front of the Inn and get to the downstairs Barn by walking through the lobby. A social gathering beginning at 7 p.m. will precede the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

During the social time, LWPA merchandise such as T-shirts, tote bags, glassware and more will be available for sale along with scorecards for the LWPA's 7th Annual Poker Run.

The meeting will kick off with a brief business meeting, followed by committee updates and a vote on amended by-laws. This year's meeting theme is a "Cultural and Environmental History of Lake Wickaboag," presented by Amy Dugas, Co-President, Quaboag Historical Society.

The evening will end with a raffle drawing for a Salem Cross gift certificate. Members and non-members are invited to attend.

For more information, please visit www.lakewickaboag.com or contact LWPA President, Mary Beth Czaja by emailing marybeth@northamericantool.com or calling 508-245-1895.

- community -

Quabbin Community Band celebrates Barre's 250th Anniversary

BARRE – This Sunday, Aug. 4, the Quabbin Community Band will celebrate and show appreciation to the wonderful town of Barre as it celebrates its 250th anniversary.

A town that has supported the band through 51 years of existence, the location of concerts on the beautiful Barre Common has been the jewel in the crown of New England community band traditions for more than half a century.

Known far and wide as a town that hosts a regional school system with strong support for music and the arts, the Quabbin Community Band concerts have always been unique in several ways; offering a very full summer's worth of programming (nine weekly concerts, June-August), playing com-

pletely different music each and every week, and playing music from a professional library that features classically difficult arrangements.

For this special anniversary program, the band will perform "American Civil War Fantasy" by Jerry Bilik, "Mannin Veen" by Haydn Wood, "A Lincoln Portrait" composed by Aaron Copland and narrated by former state senator Steve Brewer, "America The Beautiful" joined by Barre's own Circle of Song Chorale, and so many others.

Alumni from the band have been invited to return to the bandstand for this memorable occasion which begins at 6 p.m. on Sunday. In the event of rain, the concert will be moved to the Barre Town Hall.



The Quabbin Community "Alumni" Band from one year ago next to the Harding Allen Bandstand, celebrating the band's 50th anniversary. SUBMITTED PHOTO

West Brookfield couple stop at 90th library



Merry and Gary Pellegrino of West Brookfield made a surprise visit to the Porter Memorial Library in Blandford, sporting their Merriam-Gilbert summer reading t-shirts. This made number 90 of all their library stops so far. TURLEY PHOTO BY MARY KRONHOLM

Sons of Legion host scholarship golf tournament

OAKHAM – The Sons of the American Legion, Post 244, West Brookfield is hosting its 19th Annual "Scholarship Scramble" Golf Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 10, at Quail Hollow Country Club.

The tournament is 18 holes and has

an 8 a.m. shotgun start. A chicken dinner will follow at the Legion Post in West Brookfield.

The cost is \$120 per person and must be received by Aug. 3. For more information, call Kevin at 774-230-3262.



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- opinion -

Letter-To-The-Editor

Tournament helped raise money for subsidized pet care

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of everyone at Second Chance Animal Services to express our gratitude and appreciation for the tremendous support we received for the 12th Annual Second Chance Golf Tournament.

This event was a great success made possible by generous sponsors and supporters.

The tournament was held to raise funds for programs to benefit the underserved at Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospitals, a cause near and dear to my heart.

Our four hospitals in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester provide access to full-service veterinary care.

Each location offers subsidized rates to those that qualify so all pets can get the care they need.

This helps keep pets in their homes with the people they love.

Thank you to the golfers who joined us for a fun-filled day of golf at Cold Spring Country Club. We are particularly grateful to our sponsors including Ted and Barbara Hebert of Teddy Bear Pools and Spas, St. Germain Investment Management and Tito's Handmade Vodka, as well as all the prize and auction item donors, and volunteers who made this event possible.

Your contributions helped us reach our

fundraising goals and bring awareness to our mission. The generosity shown by our community is a testament to the importance of animal welfare and highlights the significant role that animals play in our lives.

We could not have achieved this success without the support of our community.

On behalf of Second Chance Animal Services, I extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the event. Your contributions are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Doray

Chief Development Officer
Second Chance Animal Services

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500 and 800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:

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

Tomato dreams and then there's reality



I always have such high hopes for my tomato plants.

They go into the ground so healthy and green and for the first few weeks manage to stay that way. Then the inevitable yellowing and dropping of some bottom leaves happens from early blight.

The plants are outgrowing their cages and this point, though, so I just accept this as a normal condition and get excited for the first harvest. Some tomatoes look OK, but others are exhibiting strange, less than perfect, symptoms.

Read on to learn which conditions are which and what that means for your harvest.

My paste tomatoes in particular seem to

always be susceptible to blossom end rot. It looks exactly as it sounds and is characterized by leathery brown or black spots on the bottom of the fruit.

Usually, it is seen on the first few developing tomatoes and occurs when there is trouble with calcium absorption.

The plan of action for this year would be to regulate your watering, since calcium assimilation can get botched up when plants suffer from drought. Applying a layer of mulch will help to encourage the deep rooting that is essential for nutrient transmission.

In the meantime, send a sample of your soil off to the UMass Extension Service Soil Testing Lab and adjust calcium levels per their recommendation if need be. If by chance you are growing a new variety of tomato and are experiencing blossom end rot for the first time, consider switching to another variety; some are more susceptible to it than others.

In my garden it is habitually only the paste tomatoes that suffer.

Regarding harvest and use: if you cut the end of the tomato off and then cut into the

seed cavity and there is no black area, feel free to use. Sometimes there will be sections of black within the cavity but not always.

This malady can also be seen on peppers and eggplants. Sometimes, though, sun scald can sort of look like blossom end rot in peppers. Planting peppers closer together so that foliage shields developing fruit can help with that issue.

Fruit cracking around the stem, either in rings or radiating downward is caused by overwatering; we or Mother Nature can be at fault. This year I will blame her for some of it.

A little over a week ago many gardeners in the area received an inch or more of rain in two separate deluges. Keep in mind that most veggies require about an inch per week. Adjust your irrigation to accommodate.

As mentioned above, mulches do well to moderate soil moisture; if you mulch, you can water less often! If cracking ends up being a big problem for you, consider scouring the seed catalogs for varieties that are resistant to it.

As long as the cracks are fresh, and haven't begun to show mold, I use the fruit anyway.

Another problem many gardeners experience is a condition called yellow shoulders, in which tomatoes never ripen fully on the top or stem end. This is usually a genetic problem, but it can be lessened by allowing the fruit to ripen slowly under the cover of surrounding foliage rather than out in the open.

High organic matter content and a pH of 6.4 or lower is said to help with this condition—another good reason to have your soil tested and see where it stands.

You can still use these tomatoes. Simply cut that portion off or use it regardless.

These conditions don't have to mean the end of your harvest. By working around the issues, making some minor adjustments and choosing appropriate resistant varieties, tomato sauce is still in your future!

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.



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.

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- community -

77th annual Ware Grange Fair held on Aug. 24

WARE – It's August and the Ware Grange Fair is right around the corner.

The 77th Annual Ware Grange Fair will feature fun new events and returning favorites, and will take place on Saturday, Aug. 24.

New this year is a fun dog show. The Fun Dog Show is a family-friendly event where any dog is welcome to enter.

It is not a professional dog show - the goal is to have fun and let members of the community show off their adorable dogs. Dogs will be judged in categories such as Waggiest Tail, Best Trick and Best Dressed.

Winning dogs will receive a ribbon and prize. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and the show begins at 2:30 p.m.

The Dog House K9 Rescue will be at the fair from 1-2:30 p.m. providing information on their organization and collecting donations for the dogs at their rescue. Donations of dog food, treats, beds and blankets would be greatly appreciated.

Another new event for 2024 is the Plushie Party and Parade. Kids can bring their favorite stuffed animal to join in the fun.

The party will include a story, parade, dancing and games. Plushies will be judged in categories such as Most Loved and Most Unique. Winners in the plushie judging and games will receive a prize. The fun begins at noon.

This year's fair will feature a new and improved barbecue dinner with an expanded menu and the return of our famous baked beans. The menu includes pulled pork, chicken, brisket, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, dessert and drink for \$25.

The barbecue can be enjoyed outside under the tent, and take-out is also available. Reservations are required by calling 413-284-1135 or emailing ware-grange@comcast.net.

Many favorites are returning for this year's fair, including the bake sale, raffles, games, burgers and hot dogs available in the afternoon, and the auction. Live music will be performed by Brianna Lamb starting at 3:30 p.m. for attendees to enjoy during dinner.

For 77 years, the Ware Grange Fair has provided Massachusetts residents with an opportunity to exhibit and earn ribbons and prizes for vegetables, flowers, arts and crafts, photography, and many other categories. Those interested in exhibiting in the fair for a chance to win ribbons and prizes should bring their exhibits to the Ware Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road on Thursday, Aug. 22 between 5-7 p.m. or Friday, Aug. 23 between 9-11 a.m.

Judging will take place on Friday afternoon and the hall will open to the public on Friday evening at 5 p.m. Most of the fun takes place on Saturday, Aug. 24 with the hall opening at 9 a.m. and most of the events occurring in the afternoon and concluding that evening with the auction at 6 p.m.



This youth wildflower arrangement won first place and a special ribbon at last year's Ware Grange Fair. This year's fair will be held on Saturday, Aug. 24 starting at 9 a.m. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

There are many things to do throughout the day. For the full schedule of events and contest information for exhibitors, visit Ware Grange's website at ware-grange.org. You can also call 413-284-1135 or email waregrange@comcast.net for more information.



Blue ribbon-winning quilted, knitted and crocheted items were displayed at last year's fair.

NBSB announces return of annual Back to School Supply Drive

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Savings Bank is excited to announce the return of their annual Back to School Supply Drive, an initiative dedicated to supporting local students and ensuring they have the essential tools for a successful academic year.

They believe that every child, regardless of their financial circumstances, should have the opportunity to start the school year feeling confident, excited, and ready to learn. That is why North Brookfield Savings Bank is kicking off the seventh year of their overwhelmingly popular Back-to-School Supply Drive.

This year's drive will run from Aug. 1 through Aug. 31, and North Brookfield Savings Bank is calling on the community to join in this important effort. NBSB will be collecting school supplies and monetary donations at all branch locations in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown and Three Rivers.

All collected supplies will be distributed to local schools.

"We believe that every child deserves the resources they need to thrive in school," said Audrey Moulton, Marketing Manager at North Brookfield Savings Bank in a press release. "Our Back to School Supply Drive is a way for us to give back and help equip students with the supplies they need to succeed. We look forward to this year's drive and look forward to making an impact on the lives of our local students."

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank's community giving efforts and all the convenient banking products and services offered, visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

Some suggested school supply donation items that can be dropped at any North Brookfield Savings Bank branch location are: new backpacks (unisex), construction paper, spiral notebooks, disinfecting wipes, 12" standard rulers, #2 pencils, pencil sharpeners, pencil case, colored pencils, washable markers, erasers, glue sticks, scissors and tissues.

Cultural Council seeks input from residents

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Cultural Council is looking for input from residents.

If you are a resident, please fill out our survey on the North Brookfield Cultural Council Facebook page by Aug. 15.

Are you interested in the arts, humanities and sciences? The cultural council is also looking for new members. If you'd like to join the Council, email nbculturalcouncil@gmail.com.

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

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

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ABLETONES | FROM PAGE 1

Though in a sense, it may have been obscured, it never died, and on the Sturbridge Common, Gabel and the band proved it never will.

The folks assembled were a range of ages and had brought their lawn chairs. Some did not even feel the necessity of a seat.

A dapper fellow, Arjuan, was dressed to the nines with a blue blazer and a straw hat of the style known as a boater. He had a blanket and was seated on the lawn. Had they been giving awards, Arjuan would have won best dressed.

We caught up with Sturbridge town historian, Bob Briere. The position may not be official, but he is acclaimed so. He was with Sylvia Buck who is the Town of Warren's unofficial historian.

Steve Sandberg was manning the Sturbridge Cable Access to record the concert.

Vendor Jeff Sauvageau brought his Savage Wraps to feed the inner man and woman and Altruist Brewing came to help wash it down.

At about 6 p.m., Sturbridge Parks and Recreation announced the program and the band began with the instrumental tune, "Boston Rocker," with Gabel coming on stage to play trombone.

Rousing as it was, Gabel spoke to what seemed the theme of the evening; "Let's Get Away From It All."

The song, from all the way back in 1941, was recorded by many, and why not, with the pleasant escapist lyrics:

"Let's take a boat to Bermuda
Let's take a plane to Saint Paul
Let's take a kayak to Quincy or Nyack
Let's get away from it all"



Altruist Brewing provided cold, refreshing beers. Turley Photos by Richard Murphy

The band leader introduced the vocalist, Kimberly Hawkey from Schenectady, New York. She was stunningly attired in a red gown that did not distract from her lovely voice.

Vaughan Monroe's "Seems Like Old Times" was next to be followed by the signature tune of the Duke Ellington Orchestra, "Take the 'A' Train".

On to "I've Heard That Sound Before", a Sinatra favorite.

There were some intros of band members, more than your correspondent can remember, including lead alto Jeff Fennel, bass Justin Myers and rhythm guitar Bill Doyle.

Then onto more music. George Gershwin and Artie Shaw were next up.

After that, Gabel spoke to your correspondent's past. From 1955 to 1971, Saturday nights saw a big band on TV. The Lawrence Welk Show featured his orchestra. Parents loved it. The kids, not so much.

The Welk show featured an accordion virtuoso, Myron Floren. The Abletones in Sturbridge referenced Welk and had an accordionist on the team by the name of Sonny Barbato. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!

At half time, Gabel would compliment the Lions and the Rotary, then more music with Gabel in good form singing "Mr. Sandman".

The night would continue with more "Boston Rocker" and "Let's Get Away From It All".

And, so it would go for the rest of the evening. A couple, not as well dressed as Arjuan maybe, would skillfully swing dance as the music played. It was obvious everyone was enjoying the show.

If you missed the Thursday performance, Dan Gabel and The Abletones will be releasing an album featuring the music of the evening this September.



Steve Sandberg recorded the event for Sturbridge Community Television.



Arjuan was the evening's "best dressed" guest.



Historians Sylvia Buck and Bob Briere enjoyed the concert.



Swing dancers move to the sounds of The Abletones.

JOB FAIR – August 7th Join the Green Gold Team!

**Green Gold Group
will be hosting a Job Fair on
Tuesday, August 7th from 5:00-8:00pm
at St. Stanislaus Polish Club,
2114 Main St, Three Rivers, MA 01080**

Cannabis Dispensary,
Green Gold Group is coming to Palmer!
We are looking for hardworking, dedicated team
members to staff our new retail store.
Available positions are General Manager,
Sales Floor Manager, Inventory Manager,
Check-in/Security, and Sales Team members.
Full-time and part-time work available.
All positions require availability for day, night,
weekend and holiday shifts.
All positions subject to background/CORI check.
Must be 21 years of age to apply.

**Don't miss out on this exciting
opportunity to enter the cannabis
industry by joining the Green Gold team!**

HELP WANTED

DRIVE FOR THE QUABOAG CONNECTOR

Description

Drivers wanted for the Quaboag Connector community transportation service! The Connector operates in ten towns in the Quaboag Region, connecting residents to their everyday needs. We are seeking friendly, responsible drivers to be the face that community members see while traveling to work, medical appointments, grocery stores, and beyond.

Hours and Salary:

We are looking for van and bus drivers for full and part time opportunities. 6AM-2PM shifts and 3PM-7PM shifts for van operators available starting at \$16.00/hour. We are also looking for full-time CDL Class B drivers starting at \$27/hour.

Application Process:

Interested applicants should visit the Ware Town Hall for an application or visit our website at www.rideconnector.com/driveforus. If you have any questions, please call (413) 667-7196.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and committed to excellence through diversity. Qualified applicants are considered for all positions regardless of race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or military status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

- community -

POLLINATOR | FROM PAGE 1

“We wanted to create a space that was welcoming for everyone, as well as educational,” said Interim Director Brianna Lamb. “Pollinators like bees and butterflies are very important to our ecosystem, and planting a pollinator garden was a wonderful way of bringing them into the community space and teaching people about them. Not to mention the flowers are beautiful!”

Lamb researched all the plants that would be going into the garden and carefully planned where they would be planted in the beds.

Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield graciously donated many of the native flowering plants such as black eyed susans, blazing star, and butterfly weed. Native seedlings were also purchased from That’s a Plenty Farm, a native plant nursery in Hadley.

Although many of these plants are past their flowering stage for this year, they will be well established and flourishing by this time next year. Native plants are specifically adapted to grow in our area and require less maintenance than other more exotic species.

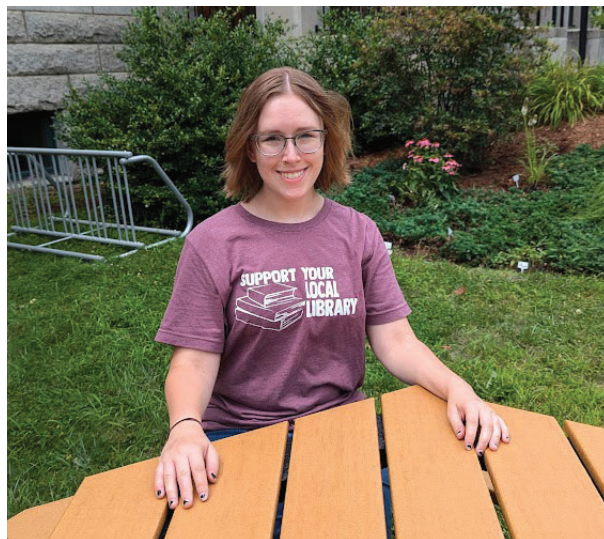
Volunteers of all ages from the community helped out at the library to clear the garden beds and plant the flowers. The children were especially excited to be involved in the project, helping to dig holes, weed, and water.

Going forward, the library will also be putting up educational signs about the pollinator garden, as well as individual plant labels, and a stepping stone pathway.

If you would like to create your own pollinator garden, the library also has a Pollinator Garden Card Deck available to check out from their collection. This deck goes in depth for each plant, giving specific requirements and statistics.

“My hope is that this garden brings a bit of color and warmth to the area, and is utilized both by our library patrons and community members, and our pollinator friends,” said Lamb.

The library would like to thank the Friends and Trustees of the library, Inishowen Farms, and the community members who offered their help.



Interim Library Director Brianna Lamb organized the planting of the pollinator garden. She is shown at the library’s new wheelchair accessible picnic table.



This young library patron helped plant native flowers in the pollinator garden. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY ELLEN SMITH

LWPA to host its 7th Annual Poker Run on Aug. 24

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association will host its 7th Annual Poker Run on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 2-5 p.m.; in case of a rain out, the rain date will be the following Saturday on Aug. 31, also from 2-5 p.m.

The event is always a good way to meet up with friends, enjoy the wonders of Lake Wickaboag and have a good time. The LWPA Poker Run has little to do with poker, beyond using the hand rankings to score the game.

To play, all players need is a scoresheet and a winning attitude.

On the day of the Poker Run, players can purchase a scoresheet at any of the five dealer pontoon boats marked with red flags for a \$20 donation to the LWPA (cash preferred). Scoresheet in hand, players can then take a leisurely cruise to each of the dealer boats in any order they choose to be dealt one card.

To improve their chances of a winning hand, players can also purchase an extra card at any one of the dealer boats for an additional \$10. Dealers will mark cards dealt on players’ scoresheets and for final hands to be counted and scored, players must turn in their scoresheets to any dealer boat no later than 5 p.m.

LWPA volunteers will tabulate and score all scoresheets, and the winner of the game will be the player who has the best five-card poker hand at the end of the event. Second and third place winners will also be determined by their hands.

Winners will be announced at 7 p.m. at the Boat Club, or reached by phone.

For more information, visit the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association Facebook page or lakewickaboag.com.

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

Part Time Library Assistant Position
 Tuesdays 2pm-6pm & Fridays 4pm-7pm. Also some fill in hours when needed. Computer skills necessary. Knowledge of Dewey Decimal System. Should be able to follow directions and be detail orientated. Full job description at the library. Send resume to Gilbertville Public Library, PO Box 535, Gilbertville, MA 01031 by August 2, 2024. Position begins Sept.10, 2024.

Ware High School Class of 1974
50th Reunion
 When: Saturday, November 16, 2024 5PM
 Where: Teresa’s, Ware
 Please RSVP (Yes or No) by September 1 to: 74warehsreunion@gmail.com
 More information to come. You can also see us on Facebook: WHS Class of ‘74

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.

Function Space Available

HARDWICK CROSSING
 EST. 2022
COUNTRY CLUB
hardwickcrossing.com
 262 Lower Road, Gilbertville
 774-757-8907
 Pro Shop 774-261-2634
BOOK YOUR EVENT WITH US!
OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH, DINNER & GOLF
 Specials Posted on Facebook & Instagram
Monday - 6:30 p.m. TRIVIA NIGHT
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. MUSIC BINGO
Large Wedding & Event Hall Available
Large Outdoor Dining Seating Area
 Visit Our Website For More Details
Prime Rib
 Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday
 Online Ordering & Curbside Pick-up Available
Golf Course Open To The Public

CAR SHOW | FROM PAGE 1

ter purchasing Janine's Frostee back in 2005. In honor of the ice cream parlor's 50th anniversary as a business, Morrisette wanted to offer an event that would highlight not only the business but offer something different in the community. In 2006, the annual Car Show at Janines was born.

"Folks like it because it is different," Morrisette said. "It's a perfect day for this year."

This year's Car Show is sponsored by St. Germain Insurance, Inc. and Monson Savings Bank. There were over 100 raffle prizes generously donated by many local businesses in the area. All proceeds from the Annual Car Show will benefit the local charity, Trail Life USA.

Trail Life USA is a faith-based Scout-like organization providing youth mentorship and character development to boys in the United States. Morrisette says the number of cars that are registered every year for the show is always different but anywhere from 120-150 cars.

From vintage cars to new models. Some vehicles that made their appearance are nearly 100 years old.

Ever year the Annual Car Show at Janine's Frostee supports a charity. In the past the car show has supported charities such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the Mary Lane Cancer Care Unit.

This year Trail Life USA is a local charity being supported. Attending the car show with information about Trailer Life USA is Troop Ministry Liaison Chris Forgues of Troop 2077. Forgues says Trailer Life USA provides outdoor adventures for young boys from ages 5-17.

"The support has been astounding," Forgues said in regards to the annual car show benefiting Trail Life USA. The organization provides outdoor life skills, fishing, camping, fire starting skills for young boys to learn.

There were T-shirts, raffles, a 50/50 raffle and a ticket wheel available that raised more money for Trail Life USA. For more information on Trail Life USA, visit www.traillifeusa.com.

More information can also be found

on the Quaboag Church Facebook Page. The Quaboag Church is based out of Brookfield.

Over 100 cars, some dating back to the 1920s, were displayed all over Janine's Frostee. Many owners were proud to be showcasing their cars on beautiful summer weekend. Jeannie Odiorne of Ware has been going to the Janine's Frostee Car Show ever since year one and got to showcase two vintage vehicles.

The first one she talked about was a mint green 1939 Chevrolet Coupe. The story behind this car is it was its first time out of the garage in 15 years.

In addition to the Chevrolet Coupe, Odiorne also had a 1944 Chevy Pickup Truck.

John Tebo is a proud car owner of only one vehicle that could be seen as you're driving by the front parking lot of Janine's Frostee. Tebo is the owner of a 1978 Chevrolet Malibu.

With a new paint job and spectacular interior, this Malibu has been under Tebo's ownership since 2006, but wasn't fully restored until 2011.

Tebo has been coming to the Car Show at Janine's for seven years and always brings the Malibu with him.

"One car is enough," Tebo said.

Another unique vehicle was a 1970 Jaguar XKE. Owners Vinnie and Marion of Westfield attended their first Car Show at Janine's Frostee with this unique car with a redyed original interior.

This took the owners seven years to be restored and has been owned by the couple since 1984.

The Car Show featured food, ice cream, live music by Belchertown-based band, The Willies and a road trip back in time with vintage cars and trucks. One of the oldest vehicles on display was a yellow 1923 Ford Model T. Some of the newer vehicles included a 2015 Nissan GTR and a 2019 Dodge Challenger.

Janine's Frostee is located at 149 East St. and offers food, ice cream and has live music throughout the year. Next year's Car Show at Janine's will be the 20th anniversary.



The 19th Annual Janine's Frostee Car Show took place this past Saturday with over 100 cars displayed. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



A 1969 Pontiac GTO nicknamed "The Judge".



The Willies were performing at the Car Show for the first time.



Car owner Jeannie Odiorne alongside her husband's 1939 Chevy Coupe that has been in a garage for nearly 15 years.



1970 Jaguar XKE owned by Vinnie and Marion took about seven years to restore.



This 1978 Chevy Malibu took owner John Tebo five years to restore.



A 1978 red Chevy Corvette in front of Janine's Frostee building. Guests could see the interior and engine of the vehicle.



A 1957 Chevy Bel Air owned by Al Loncto of Westhampton.



This 1978 Dodge Challenger is a rare vehicle and is owned by Perry Bechthold.

SPORTS

Quabbin Captures Seaver Hoop Tournament Title

MANSFIELD – The heat is on and so are the Quabbin boys basketball team as they posted a perfect 5-0 record at the Northeast Wally Seaver Tournament to claim the championship title. The action took place at Mass. Premier in Mansfield with teams from all over the northeast participating in divisional pool play. The Quabbin team, led by seniors Kyle Clark, Quinn Geary, Bryce Venne, Jaxon Warburton, Zeke Santoro along with a hard-working underclassmen squad went 5-0 to claim the title. Impressive wins over Hull, Scituate, David Prouty, Keefe Tech and Monty Tech in the finals gave coaches Steve Carington and Alan Crane, along with a good number of fans in attendance, much to celebrate. Quabbin was led in scoring by



With wins over Hull, Scituate, David Prouty, Keefe Tech and Monty Tech the Quabbin team took the championship at the Seaver Tournament at Mass. Premier. Shown are (l-r): Kyle Clark, Quinn Geary, Zeke Santoro, Jaxon Warburton, Aiden Crane, Bryce Venne, Brady Patchen, Evan Sherblom, Jacoby Venne and Collin Laclare. SUBMITTED PHOTO

See QUABBIN | PAGE 11

Pioneers defeated in second round of playoffs

LUDLOW – After a phenomenal season, the Western Mass. Pioneers were defeated for just the third time this season. The Pioneers lost 2-1 against Lionsbridge FC on the road. The Pioneers opened up the playoffs with a 3-1 win against FC Motown. The Pioneers season ends at 13-3-1.



Leonel Vergara makes a throw-in.



Aiden Kelly goes for a long pass.



Lawrence Goddard sends a shot on goal. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

St. Joe's ties up series

PALMER – In the second game of a three-game series last Thursday night between Teddy Bear Pools and St. Joe's in the Tri-County League playoffs, St. Joe's came from behind to defeat Teddy Bear Pools 10-9 in extra innings to tie their best-of-three series at 1-1. Due to umpire shortages, the third game has been delayed several days. The third matchup was scheduled take place Tuesday, July 30 with the winner going on to face perennial league champion PeopleBank.



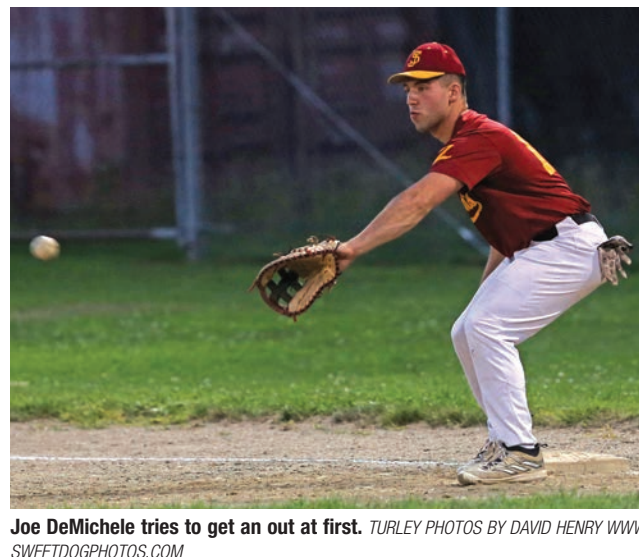
Nate Morse fires to the plate.



Devin Slattery, of Ware, slings a throw to first.



Brandon Magni extends for a throw to get a runner.



Joe DeMichele tries to get an out at first. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

- sports -

Quabbin League regular season nearing end

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League continues Sunday morning action into August with just three more games remaining in its regular season. So far, the Orioles are at the top of the league followed by the Tigers in second place.

The Quabbin League playoffs will follow, and this year, the league will be hosting a fall league for players 28 and over.



The Braves Jamie Ryan throws to first.



The Tigers' Brad Bullough delivers a pitch. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Adam Kinney, of Wilbraham, delivers a pitch for the Braves.



Justin Morin fields the bouncer to third.



Colin Fecteau makes a throw across the diamond.

Hopkins takes the checkered flag in Calef 125

WALPOLE, N.H. - A busy stretch of four races in four weeks for the Granite State Pro Stock Series wraps up this Friday night at one of the series' staple venues.

Lee USA Speedway, only a short drive from the New Hampshire seacoast, welcomes the GSPSS back for their first of two visits this year with this Friday's Clash on Calef 125.

Unique among the tracks on this year's GSPSS itinerary, Lee hosts its own regular Pro Stock division, welcoming the class back to its weekly program a few years ago. Lee's own big-ticket Pro Stock shows earlier this year boasted plenty of names familiar to GSPSS fans and followers. But Friday night's showdown, named for the state highway on which Lee has been situated since the 1960s, is the first opportunity for those Pro Stock wheelmen to score points toward the series crown.

That contest took an intriguing turn Saturday evening at Speedway 95, with hometown hero Mike Hopkins the fifth different driver to wave the GSPSS checkered flag this season. The two strongest title threats in attendance, Ca-

sey Call and Evan Beaulieu, each faced their own pitfalls in the race. But where Call exited early with chassis damage, Beaulieu recovered from a mid-race spin to finish fifth, chipping away at Call's healthy advantage.

Call's calamity ended a season-opening streak of finishing no worse than fourth, while Beaulieu has back-to-back top-fives after a slow start. Both drivers have a lot of work ahead to be ready for Friday, and with the season's deepest entry list in hand, winning promises to be a tall order.

A trio of Maine rookies have run the majority of the races this year, with Jamie Wright, Morgan Call and Miller Buzzell all set to carry on their season-long efforts at Lee. Joining them from the Pine Tree State is veteran Gary Smith and multi-track titlist Dave Farrington, Jr., who won his GSPSS debut back in 2016.

Wiscasset Speedway veteran and 2023 Speedway 95 winner Josh St. Clair is on the entry list, as well as Nick Jenkins and Matt Dow. Cole Robie, who hails from Maine, but has Granite State ties through his father Jarod and grand-

father Carleton, plans to make his series debut as he graduates from Legends and Bandoleros into full-size fendered cars this season.

Local racers Bobby Baillargeon, Bobby Frappier and Frankie Eldredge plan to put their Lee expertise to the test. Dan Winter has stepped up his GSPSS appearances this year and wants to replicate his top-five run at Star Speedway in May's season opener. Andy Shaw missed the season opener, but he and the Dale Drew Racing team have been at every event since.

Massachusetts teammates Alex Quarterley and Jeremy Sorel are back for more GSPSS action, with Sorel still smiling after his second-place finish at Claremont Motorsports Park earlier this month.

Cory Casagrande is back after a week off, with the Connecticut star anxious to avenge a hard crash at Lee a month ago. Fellow Nutmeg Stater Anthony Bello is back with the series as well, racing for Maine car owner Shawn Knight.

With big-league racing on a summer recess, Maine native and NASCAR spotter Derek Kneeland is dusting off

his race car for his first GSPSS start since 2022. Kneeland accompanied his driver, Kyle Busch, to June's Keen Parts 150 at Lee, where he and Busch both outlasted the carnage to post top-five finishes.

But the early favorites are sure to be those who have a record of past success at Lee. Ryan Green's redemption arc remains in play after a grinding crash at June sidelined his own race car. Green borrowed a car from friend Joey Doiron to race at Claremont this month, reintroduced his repaired mount at Hudson two weeks ago, and will be a threat in whichever car he brings to the track this week.

Brandon Barker, the first Pro Stock champion at Lee after the division's revival a couple years back, won the Keen Parts 150 in June and took home a \$10,000 prize. Barker has a pair of GSPSS wins at Lee in 2018 and 2019 and would love to add to the trophy case.

Reigning Lee track champion Wayne Helliwell, Jr. last won a GSPSS feature in 2014, a dry spell the New Hampshire

- community -

HOPKINS | FROM PAGE 10

all-star would love to erase. Helliwell's longtime rival, Joey Polewarczyk, won a GSPSS feature at Lee that season, one of two touring wins at the track. "Joey Pole" was victorious at Hudson Speedway two weeks ago, his eighth series victory.

And Corey Bubar won the GSPSS' last outing at Lee, taking home \$8,500 in last fall's Bosowski Properties 150.

The Beech Ridge Motor Speedway veteran is one of several racers who came to Lee after Beech Ridge was shuttered, and one of many to find success at his new home track.

In a showdown between the proven veterans and the optimistic hopefuls, the sure winners are the fans in the stands who can take in Friday night's on-track fireworks.

QUABBIN | FROM PAGE 9

senior center Kyle Clark and freshman Brady Patchen as they both averaged double figures in all five games to spark the offense. Clark was immense off the defensive and offensive boards posting double figures in rebounding each game. He simply dominated the low post and continues to elevate his overall game. Standout defensive guard Jaxon Warburton demonstrated why many consider him the premier lock-up shut down defender in Central Mass. by holding his assigned leading scorers to less than half their average. Warburton was also showed off his offensive skills in scoring 18 points against Scituate while getting in the scoring column in all five games which was needed.

Add contributions at both ends of the court by teammate Bryce Venne, who also is a definite factor pressuring the basketball all over the court and now has emerged as a leading rebounder as well. The slasher can get down the court in record transition time.

The team was bolstered in the David Prouty, Keefe Tech and Monty Tech games by the arrival of co-captain Quinn Geary. There is no substitute for experience and hard work and the 6'3 senior is all of both. His leadership on the court is absolutely vital and very noticeable. With Geary's ability to drive and drain the perimeter three the offense was firing on all cylinders. Carrington relies on his seniors and Geary completes the five point brotherhood of ballers.

Carrington was impressed by the versatility shown by 6'3 senior power forward Zeke Santoro. In the championship game against Monty Tech, eventually won by the Quabbinians by a score of 71-68, Santoro was able to effectively play in the low post, knock down perimeter shots and than handle the ball successfully in the back court against the press. UMass standout and now clinician Chris Kirkland has had a profound influence on both Santoro and Clark relating to their post skills and basketball knowledge.

Developing and sharpening his ball handling skills is 5'11 combination guard Brady Patchen. The incoming freshman is a tough matchup off the bounce and led the scoring parade along worth Clark. Patchen has been improving his defensive skills and the rise in defensive pressure by the Quabbin cagers is credited to Patchen, Warburton and Venne applying tremendous ball pressure on defense. Both Warburton and Venne have been a positive influence on Patchen in the defensive end and the results have spelled trouble for opponents.

Filling a necessary and vital role has been sophomore Evan Sherblom. The 6'1 athletic guard has been getting garnishing minutes behind seniors Warburton and Venne and allowing the starters to gain valuable rest. Sherblom can score and his defensive prowess has also impressed the coaching staff. He'll take the playing time whenever he can get it and certainly knows his role and how to fulfill it. No doubt he is needed,

Speaking of critical roles, the 6'2 incoming freshman Collin Leclare has

been backing up both Clark and Santoro in the post game and this cannot be underestimated. Getting rest at certain junctures of the game is vital for the big men and having Leclare come in to effectively hold the score and add to it has been a factor in the team's success.

Another incoming frosh that plays a necessary and important role has been 5'8 handle Aiden Crane. With the ball handling duties falling lately to Brady Patchen, the athletic Crane has been able to spell players at the ball-handling position and also at the shooting guard spot. Crane is developing a deep conner and consistent perimeter offense and it has made a difference for his team.

Arriving on the scene lately and getting minutes when he can is sophomore Jacoby Venne. The younger brother of speedster Bryce Venne has been a pleasant addition to the team and is ready to respond when needed and called upon.

These role players, cited by Coach Carrington, have defined their specific roles, understood it, accepted it and are now fulfilling it until their time will arrive. And that time will come.

That example was never more evident than in the 67-57 win over a good David Pouty team as the Quabbin cagers held the lead the entire game and held off a ferocious finish to capture the victory and pool play.

The younger cagers are playing in the GameOn Summer League in Fitchburg and are now 4-0. The coaching strategy has been to allow the upcoming underclassmen to gather as much playing time and experience in the varsity league being played at the GameOn facility and they have responded by leading their division.

In Auburn league play, the Quabbinians had a big win over rival Quaboag but lost a tight game to Whitinsville-Christian which they let slip away to even their record at 4-4.

Carrington had added to the staff former Quabbin hoopster standout Alan Crane. Offering positive advice and valuable experience to each player, Crane has made a difference on the bench and is well received and respected.

The playoffs will now begin in Auburn this week and Carrington and Crane will be preparing the team to make a run at another championship. And it will require more work, effort, skill and preparation.

The Assumption Shootout Tournament has finally arrived the first week in August and the Quabbin cagers are set to square off against a strong division one slate of teams which include Leominster, South High and Alvirne. It will certainly be challenge for the locals but this is a team and program that will strive to play anyone, anytime and anywhere. They know that improvement and betterment is always the mission so each baller has embraced the challenge individually and as a team.

The theme this summer season has been that 'preparation makes for separation' and rolling the big rock uphill is hard work but it does put fans in the stands.

Explore 'Living Fully and Dying Prepared' on Aug. 7

BARRE – Laura Dusha Nelson, Death Literacy Specialist and End-of-Life Doula of The Journey Before Us, LLC will explore "Living Fully and Dying Prepared" at Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St. on Wednesday, Aug. 7 from 6-7 p.m.

The session will include information on the role of an End-of-Life Doula; gentle discussion about death, mortality and living fully in the present; outline of

the "Living Fully and Dying Prepared" six-week workshop; questions and answers and your feedback about upcoming workshops.

There will be light refreshments including chocolates from Stewart's Chocolates of Jefferson.

Please RSVP to thejourneybeforeus@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.thejourneybeforeus.com.

Haston library announces temporary summer hours

NORTH BROOKFIELD – From July 22 through Aug. 13, the Haston Free Public Library will temporarily adjust its operating hours to reflect its reduced staff so please mark your calendars.

The library will be open on Mondays

and Thursdays from 4-7 p.m. and Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2-5 p.m. The Trustees look forward to adding more operating hours in mid-August.

Check the library's website, Facebook page, and signage outside the building for up-to-date information.

PLANS | FROM PAGE 1

nalized intersection would allow for the development of the electric vehicle discovery center at the site to move forward. She said at this point in the design process, left turns are still allowed from Route 20 onto Hall Road.

She said the signal was not required for the plaza alone, but it was necessary in order for the EV discovery center to move forward.

"This was to accommodate the EV discovery center with the conference space and the restaurant and all the educational components of that," Bubon said at the July 16 meeting.

Bubon said there is \$17,770 remaining in the \$250,000 MassWorks Grant and the property owner has also contributed an additional \$88,000 to meet Massachusetts Department of Transportation requirements for a study.

Bubon said the design has changed several times at MassDOT's request; from a signalized intersection to a roundabout, to a peanut roundabout, back to a roundabout, before ultimately returning to a signalized intersection. She said it's been three years since the grant was administered for this project.

Bubon said the cost for the signalized intersection was initially estimated at \$2.3 million and is at the project developer's expense.

Meeting schedule change

Bubon said the Board of Selectmen had previously changed the work day with extended evening hours to Monday nights. She said this has worked out well at Town Hall, but in the Center Office Building, this has caused a fluctuation in the hours of Bubon and her assistant.

Bubon sent the Planning Board a tentative schedule that will rotate with the Board of Selectmen's meetings, while also keeping the Planning Department's hours more regular.

"It would probably make our lives a little easier, and I think make this building a little safer in the evening," she said.

The board approved moving its regular meetings from Tuesdays to Mondays going forward.

Affordable housing consultant

Bubon said the Affordable Housing Trust has hired a consultant, Karen Sunnarborg. She said with Sunnarborg, the trust is working to design grant programs which will create affordable hous-

ing and help first time homebuyers get into homes.

"I'm really excited to work with her, she has a great deal of experience and education doing exactly this for a lot of other communities," she said, including Boston and New York City.

Bubon said she has also received applications for the part-time position of Housing Coordinator.

GIS map

Bubon said this year's budget included funding for an interactive Geographic Information System map, which provides clear, updated GIS imagery every six months. A link to the GIS map is found on the Planning Department's page on the town website, sturbridge.gov.

"It has a lot of applications...assessment purposes, planning purposes to see kind of what's near there, wetlands...you can see change over time," she said. "It's a really good tool."

She said many departments can benefit from the program, including Fire and Police.

Main Street parking lot

Bubon said the new parking lot at 501 Main St., has been completed and is now open to the public. Signage outlining parking rules will be installed soon.

90 Charlton Road

Bubon said all of the trees have been replaced along the driveway of the cold storage facility at 90 Charlton Rod, after they were knocked over by a trailer truck.

The applicant is now applying for a special permit to place a sign on the building, as well as a freestanding sign by the road.

Business parking

Bubon said signs will be posted designating employee parking spots for several Main Street businesses located at 413 and 419 Main St. Parking spots will be numbered and signs will be placed to warn people that they will be towed if they park in those designated spots.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Planning Board will be Monday, Aug. 19 and will include public hearings for a small parking lot for the Grand Trunk Trail on River Road and Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades at the Recreation Center at Cedar Lake.

FORUM | FROM PAGE 1

“We have some great local people working on policy,” Golas said, in response to this.

Congressman Jim McGovern opened the forum with prerecorded remarks.

“Our region has a huge food insecurity problem and it’s only getting worse,” McGovern said.

McGovern said it was important to take lessons learned from community food assessments, and use the information to better serve the community’s needs, especially on the local level.

“While there’s a lot Congress can do, it is important that we don’t wait for that to happen,” he said.

Golas then introduced the panelists, giving each one time to speak and answer questions from the audience.

First up was Ayn Yeagle of Growing Places, a lifelong central Massachusetts resident who has a passion for healthy eating. Yeagle has been in her role with Growing Places since 2018.

Yeagle represented 27 communities in north central Massachusetts, ranging from Athol to Pepperell. This area is what she calls the “forgotten land,” containing 11 food deserts and 11 environmental justice areas.

With about 275,000 residents, the north central Massachusetts area has one of the highest concentrations of food insecure people.

“When you look at north central Massachusetts as a region, it’s not great,” Yeagle said.

In order to provide food security for its residents, three things need to happen, Yeagle said. This includes emergency relief (such as food pantries), capacity building (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, farmers markets, community gardens and more) and system redesign strategies.

“The process starts with a community food assessment,” Yeagle said.

Community food assessments gather information about residents’ perceptions of the food environment and their food shopping behaviors. Its goal is to improve the community’s food system by increasing access to healthy food.

Yeagle said once this is completed, the next step is the food system feasibility study, then planning and design.

Yeagle referenced a recent study that found \$6.5 million in SNAP funding is unspent each month. She said some of the reasons for this are stigma, fear of government and pride.

An additional \$1.9 million in Healthy Incentives Program is also left on the table.

“How do you address food insecurity?” Yeagle asked. “You address poverty.”

In 2018-2019, there was no way for north central Massachusetts farmers to get their food into stores. This spurred Growing Places and the Montachusett Agricultural Alliance to work together and create a community food system; providing a mid-tier from production to consumption.

“We’re all working together to make our food system holistic and work together,” she said.

This model equally benefits the local farmers as well as the residents, helping to purchase \$600,000 from farmers through the use of HIP, state funding and grants, last year alone.

“This is a values-based food system. It’s a thoughtful process,” she said.

Yeagle said the community food system has been able to purchase produce from 33 out of 180 north central Massachusetts farmers.

“We have lots of people still to connect with,” Yeagle said. “But the bones are there and now it’s time to build.”

A grand opening for the community food system’s processing facility will be held soon, and will also feature commercial kitchen space, which local makers can utilize. This will increase the commonwealth’s processing facilities to



A panel of experts provided insight on food security in central Massachusetts during Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission’s Legislative Affairs Forum held at the Rutland Public Library on July 23. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

five – and be the first to exist in the central part of the state.

The processing facility will be located in an old school building in the city of Gardner.

Next to speak was Rebecca Miller of the MA Food System Collaborative, a strong advocate for policy.

Miller spoke about the history of the collaborative, which was founded in 2015. Its work includes campaigning for HIP funding, as well as a food literacy campaign, the Agricultural Equity Network, local food policy council networks, urban agriculture collaboratives and food waste networks.

“HIP is a very important program,” Miller said.

In the commonwealth, farmers earn 95 cents for every dollar of goods they provide, which puts them at a disadvantage.

“Farmers are losing money any time they invest in their business,” Miller said.

Miller said the farmers market decline is starting to reverse, thanks to the implementation of the HIP program which allows SNAP users to purchase locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables directly from the grower.

HIP not only puts money back into the local economy, but it also provides health benefits through fresh produce, introduces children to new fruits and vegetables and allows people to make culturally significant meals.

Increasing food literacy by implementing curriculum in schools is also really important, Miller said.

“Food security to me is a little more expansive than just buying food,” she said.

The educational component include field trips to local farms to help students learn about food systems and where food comes from. Miller said there has been discussion to establish an agricultural school in Worcester County, as there are only three statewide.

Established local food policy councils, such as Healthy Quaboag (which covers 15 towns across central and western Massachusetts), helps people to work together to fight food insecurity.

“You don’t have to do anything alone,” she said.

State Rep. Hannah Kane spoke about the importance of addressing poverty in order to alleviate food insecurity.

“I like to thank that poverty is a state, not a cause of food insecurity,” she said. “We need to look at the underlying reasons for poverty.”

In her work in the legislature, Kane found that all of her counterparts are equally invested in fighting food insecurity, especially through HIP.

“We quickly found it was something that resonated with all of our colleagues,” she said.

Through the Make Hunger History coalition, Kane and others are committed to making changes through a collective action approach, which emphasizes collaboration from diverse stakeholders,



Lyndon Nichols, Area Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture spoke about resources his agency offers.



Ayn Yeagle of Growing Places spoke about developing a community food system in north central Massachusetts.



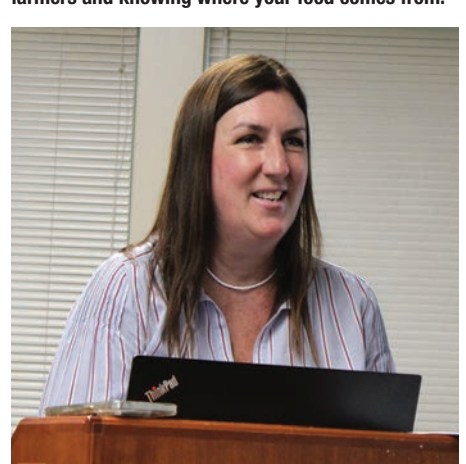
Maydee Morales of the Worcester Community Action Council talked about the barriers people face in achieving food security.



Rebecca Miller of the MA Food System Collaborative spoke about the importance of supporting local farmers and knowing where your food comes from.



Casey Burns of the Center on Food Equity shared information compiled from Worcester’s community food assessment.



State Rep. Hannah Kane spoke about the role of the legislature in addressing food insecurity.

including those with lived experience with food insecurity.

The coalition is currently working on a definition of ending hunger, Kane said, but it will include having dignified access to food and the economic resources needed to make choices about food.

The plan has five pillars, including ensuring that all residents can access and buy food, adjusting food support programs for target populations, integrating food security and healthcare, supporting nutritious and local eating and addressing root causes which contribute to hunger.

Access to healthy, nutritious food is key to addressing health issues, Kane said, pointing out that over 80% of disease is diet related.

“We’ve been really fortunate to approach all of this work together,” she said.

Casey Burns of the Center on Food Equity shared findings from the city of Worcester’s community health assessment.

“We saw three central pivot points: money, time, access,” Burns said.

Burns said that the assessment found that food insecurity was experienced differently based on where residents live,

- community -

FORUM | FROM PAGE 12

how they move around the city (transportation) and their ability to successfully navigate systems to access support, such as applying for SNAP benefits.

“People face these challenges differently and inequitably depending on their identity, including race and ethnicity,” she said.

Burns said of the 247 people polled in the assessment, the majority said they did not face challenges cooking at home, but for those who did, time was the primary barrier. 56% reported that they feel food insecure.

Transportation also poses an issue, especially for those who rely on public transit to access groceries and are limited in the number of bags they are allowed to travel with.

Burns said there is also a 40% gap for SNAP coverage in Worcester County. Only 6% of SNAP users are utilizing HIP and the Summer Eats program is also underutilized.

“We said real challenges with eligibility,” she said.

Maydee Morales of the Worcester Community Action Council said she has people in her office every day as a frontline worker who are suffering the effects of food insecurity.

“These are moms...these are kids,” she said.

Morales stressed the importance of providing access to food with dignity.

“People want to eat healthier. People want to be able to eat with dignity,” she said.

Morales said the emergency resource-



Andrew Golas, chair of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission's Legislative Affairs Committee gives the welcoming remarks.

es provided during the COVID-19 pandemic helped ease the burden of food insecurity, but that has now gone away.

“We went back to our old ways when you can only get food for the child that is with you,” she said, referencing the Summer Eats program.

Morales said a lot of people in the community are food insecure, even those that live in more affluent areas.

“Don't be fooled that there are not people in your communities, your towns, that are not food insecure,” she said.

- public safety -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of July 22-28, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 161 building/property checks, 59 directed area patrols, seven traffic controls, 17 radar assignments, six emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one fraud, two complaints, one property damage, one safety hazard, one motor vehicle investigation and 36 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, July 22
7:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation issued

Tuesday, July 23
12:24 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, South Pond Road, Transported to Hospital
3:15 p.m. Fraud, West Main Street, Report Taken
6:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
8:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued
8:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Flagg Road, Investigated

Wednesday, July 24
5:35 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Harrington Street, Transported to Hospital
7:11 a.m. Property Damage, Podunk Road, Report Taken
10:27 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital

11:28 a.m. Assist Citizen, Walk-in, Officer Handled
5:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Blaine Avenue, Citation Issued

Thursday, July 25
7:07 a.m. 911 Misdiagnosed, Cumberland Farms, Dispatch Handled
1:55 p.m. 911 Utility Issues, Podunk Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
5:33 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Connie Mack Drive, Negative Contact
11:19 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Paula Circle, Transported to Hospital
Friday, July 26
7:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
7:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
7:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
8:25 a.m. Safety Hazard, Route 49, Officer Handled
9:20 a.m. Traffic Control, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
9:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
11:32 a.m. Complaint, Lake Lashaway, Officer Handled
6:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, No Action Required
9:19 p.m. Traffic Control, East Main Street, Written Warning
9:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

See POLICE | PAGE 15

- public notices -

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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 7, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.
6:00 – Public Hearing:
NOI – 29 East Main Street – Housing Authority – Replace entry decking and railings
08/02/2024

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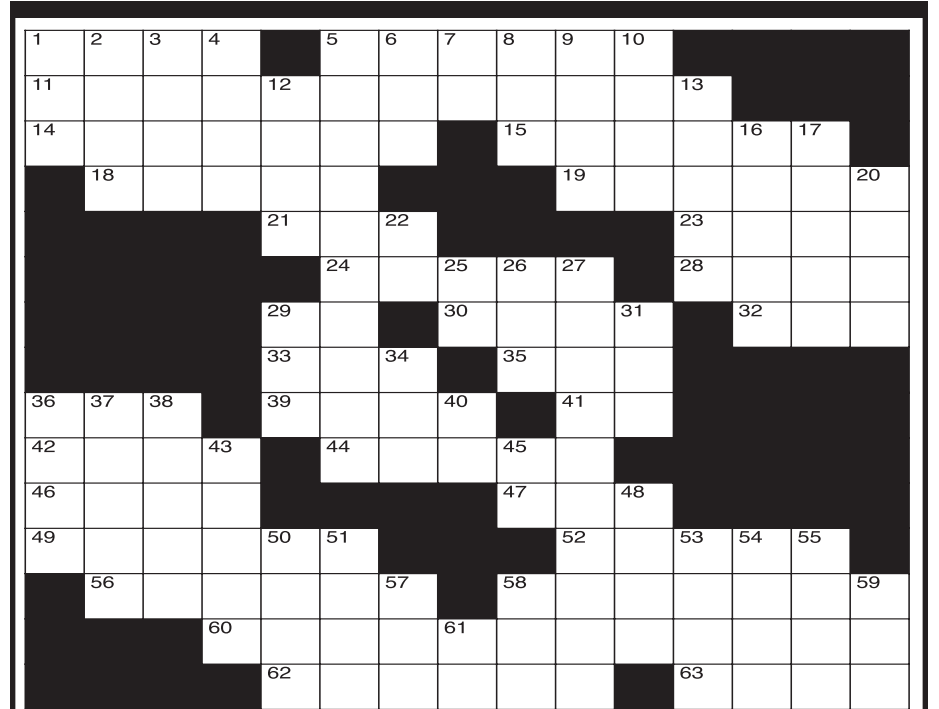
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CLUES ACROSS

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Nasal mucus | 35. Buzzing insect | 3. A European river (abbr.) |
| 5. Hairs on the back of a dog | 36. Monotheistic religion founder | 4. Phrase |
| 11. Ones who build anew | 39. Strong dark beer | 5. Idol |
| 14. Consume too much food | 41. Blood type | 6. Keyboard key |
| 15. Praised | 42. Square measures | 7. Prefix indicating mutual |
| 18. Provides weapons | 44. Honorific titles in NW Semitic languages | 8. Kilometers per hour |
| 19. Become less lively | 46. Present | 9. Set an example |
| 21. Engine additive | 47. Afflict in mind or body | 10. It's among the "Great" ones |
| 23. Thought or suggestion | 49. Duty | 12. VVV |
| 24. South Korean city | 52. Municipality in Stockholm | 13. Murdered |
| 28. Midday rests | 56. In a normal way | 16. Icelandic poems |
| 29. Expression of acidity or alkalinity | 58. Rode a bicycle | 17. Seas |
| 30. Group of rockers | 60. Charitable | 20. Famed cartoonist |
| 32. Very fast airplane | 62. Verandas | 22. Partner to "Ma" |
| 33. One who is paid to do something | 63. Uncredited | 25. Equal to one quintillion bytes |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. No seats available | 31. Upper-class young woman |
| 2. Russian river | |

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TurleyPublications

POLICE | FROM PAGE 1

10:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Written Warning

Saturday, July 27

2:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

5:51 a.m. Traffic Control, East Main Street, Written Warning

6:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Prospect Street, Citation Issued

8:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued

10:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Sunday, July 28

2:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

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.

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Warren Housing Authority Public Housing Manager

The Warren Housing Authority seeks a dedicated and energetic candidate for the 18 hour per week position of Public Housing Manager. The successful candidate serves as the onsite management representative for public housing will be responsible for, but not limited to, all lease enforcement duties including the performance of lease up functions and meetings with applicants, the timely completion of Annual and Interim Re-certifications, and "Move-in, Move-out" inspections with residents.

This position is commensurate with experience and pays up to \$20 per hour. Full Job Description is available by calling (978) 537-5300 ext. 113 or administration@leominsterha.com Please send a resume and cover letter to: Executive Director, Leominster Housing Authority, 100 Main Street, Leominster, MA 01453. The Authority will accept resumes until the position is filled.

QUABOAG CURRENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD
School supply drive
ongoing p5

WEST BROOKFIELD
LWPA annual meeting
Aug. 15 p2

REGION
Chamber hosts golf
outing p2

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Friday, August 2, 2024

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