

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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Friday, August 9, 2024

North Brookfield hosts third annual National Night Out

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The third annual National Night Out took place this past weekend on the campus of North Brookfield Public Schools.

This event was hosted by the Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield as guests got to get in touch with community members and learn more about local resources and meet the



The Fire Department brought two trucks and an ambulance to the National Night Out and were parked behind the North Brookfield High School building. TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO



Rutland Police Officer Lawlor and his K-9 Storm hung out during the National Night Out in North Brookfield.

amazing local law enforcement of the community. This event is a community building event as donations are made to support Second Chance Animal Services and the North Brookfield Food Collaborative.

The Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and its goal is to cultivate a healthy community by bringing much needed resources connected

with fun events to the community.

President Jillian Phillips was running a booth and collecting donations for the collaborative and running a “pie in the face” contest. Residents got to donate money and pick to see which community member gets a pie in the face. This contest was also supporting next year’s National Night Out.

See NIGHT OUT | PAGE 8

Business of the Year winners

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Sandra Gibson-Quigley of the Sturbridge Tourism Association came before the Board of Selectmen to present the winners of the Business of the Year awards.

“These awards have been an annual enjoyment since 2019. They promote and recognize locally owned businesses and we also give people a chance to vote for the businesses they like,” she said. “This year there were over 1,000 votes cast.”

At the July 15 meeting, Gibson-Quigley said the Sturbridge Tourist Association is working on “many positive efforts” to promote and encourage tourism in the town. She encouraged people to visit experientcesturbridge.org to see what Sturbridge has to offer.

“You can find what you need to come to Sturbridge and find anything you want...and all of these businesses,” she said.

The association is also preparing to release a new tourism guidebook in the next few months.

Joining Gibson-Quigley was Brian Amedy, longtime member

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Selectmen hear water department survey results

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Water Superintendent Jamie Flamand updated the Board of Selectmen about the recent sanitary survey conducted of the town’s Water Department.

At the board’s July 30 meeting, Flamand said the sanitary

survey is completed by the Department of Environmental Protection every three years. The plant and Water Department properties are inspected, and a list of deficiencies and/or violations are reported.

“We take corrective measures,” Flamand said, once the DEP notifies the department of its findings.

Flamand said this year the

department received a violation due to two chemical pumps running for three minutes after the plant shutdowns. He said this is a programming issue, and there is already money set aside to make the adjustment.

Flamand said the department also received three deficiencies, which includes needing to record the average of all

See RESULTS | PAGE 13

‘Willy Wonka, Jr.’ opens Aug. 9 at Quaboag

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The world of Willy Wonka comes to life on the stage of Quaboag Regional Middle High School this coming weekend.

Shows are Friday, Aug. 9 and Saturday, Aug. 10 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by visiting quaboagperformingarts.ludus.com/200459939.

Tickets are \$10 for adults
See WONKA | PAGE 12



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- community -

Grant will help West Brookfield address PFAS, manganese in water

BOSTON – Two communities in the Worcester-Hampshire Senate district will benefit from grants designed to help water suppliers address and mitigate contaminants in drinking water, State Sen. Peter Durant, R-Spencer, announced recently.

Proposals from Phillipston and West Brookfield were among the 21 projects selected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to receive a portion of the \$17.4 million in grants.

“These projects focus on mitigating PFAS and manganese from drinking water,” Durant said in a press release. “As we learn about the dangers of PFAS, it becomes more and more evident that we need to address the fact that it is showing up in our drinking water and is a threat to our health.”

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are still being studied but are believed to cause serious health issues includ-

ing an increased risk of cancers for people who experience exposure to the chemicals at elevated levels.

Naturally occurring manganese can also be a threat to public health when it is present in high levels in drinking water. Prolonged exposure may have negative impacts to the nervous system, though small amounts are needed to maintain good health.

“These grants will help smaller water systems, which might not otherwise have the resources, begin to manage potentially unhealthy situations with their water,” Durant said.

The grants were awarded to small and disadvantaged public water systems using funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program which was launched in 2023.

“This funding from the EPA provides sig-

nificant support for these critical water projects as we work with public water suppliers to ensure safe and healthy drinking water for all residents across Massachusetts,” said MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple said.

Grants awarded include \$90,290 for the Phillipston Memorial Building which was formerly used as a school but is now a multipurpose facility that includes town offices and meeting rooms for local groups. The town will use the funds to install PFAS treatment and to reopen the building as a school in the future.

And \$113,900 was awarded to the West Brookfield Water Department which will use this grant to design a treatment facility to treat manganese. The town plans to eventually construct a new water treatment facility on Leeland Road.

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Fax: 413.967.6009
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EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com

Tim Mara
tmara@turley.com

Editor
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WEB
www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

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LWPA's Annual Meeting to be held Aug. 15 at Salem Cross Inn

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 -

Summer Sizzler

WB&CA and Beyond hosts backyard cookout for summer event

THREE RIVERS – The Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond held its annual summer event at AMVETS Post 74 last Wednesday evening.

The Summer Sizzler featured a backyard cookout complete with hamburgers, salads and lawn games of horseshoes and cornhole.

The Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond membership consists of businesses and organizations from

Ware, Palmer, Belchertown, Hardwick, Warren and West Brookfield. Its monthly meetings are open to any business or organization within those towns interested in joining the association.

For information about joining the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond, visit warebca.com, email warebca@gmail.com or call Dan Flynn, president, at 413-297-5886.



Pennington Painting's team competed in games of cornhole. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE



A Pennington Painting team member sends a beanbag flying.



Gabe DeRosa of the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation threw a horseshoe during the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond's Summer Sizzler event held at AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers last Wednesday.



Members of the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond enjoyed a traditional summer cookout with hamburgers, salads and more.



Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond President Dan Flynn prepared hamburgers on the grill for the Summer Sizzler.

NOTICE

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- opinion -



Maintenance tips for flowering annuals

Recently, we've had a lot of heat and humidity, and a fair share of downpours, too.

There are many times that I don't feel like going out into the flower garden. But then, sometimes around 7 or 8 o'clock at night, after it has cooled down a bit, I'll get out there like a woman on a mission.

Read on for a reminder of important tasks you should consider tackling this month to keep your annuals blooming through to the first frost!

I deadhead. A lot. Deadheading is a fun term used to describe the removal of spent flowers.

A plant produces flowers for one purpose: to survive. You see, once a flower has been pollinated it will produce seed, seed that will grow future plants. If a plant has produced enough flowers that have gone to seed it will consider its job to be done, flower production will cease, and it will begin to decline.

By deadheading, we keep the plant in reproductive mode, in other words, in flower! When you remove dying blossoms, make sure to pinch off the entire flower, not just the petals, or it will do no good. Include the stem as well to keep the plant tidy.

Petunias, marigolds, zinnias and salvia, among others, are examples of plants that require regular deadheading to look their best throughout the growing season.

Some annuals start to get a leggy appearance about now. Others may have brown tips.

These plants require more drastic measures to bring back youthful good looks. Consider shearing them back.

Usually you can look within the plant and find healthy, green growth. Cut calendulas, pansies and snapdragon back to that point. Plants like alyssum or lobelia can often be sheared to within inches of the ground.

Don't worry; they won't look bad for long! You can jump start regrowth with a bit of liquid fertilizer.

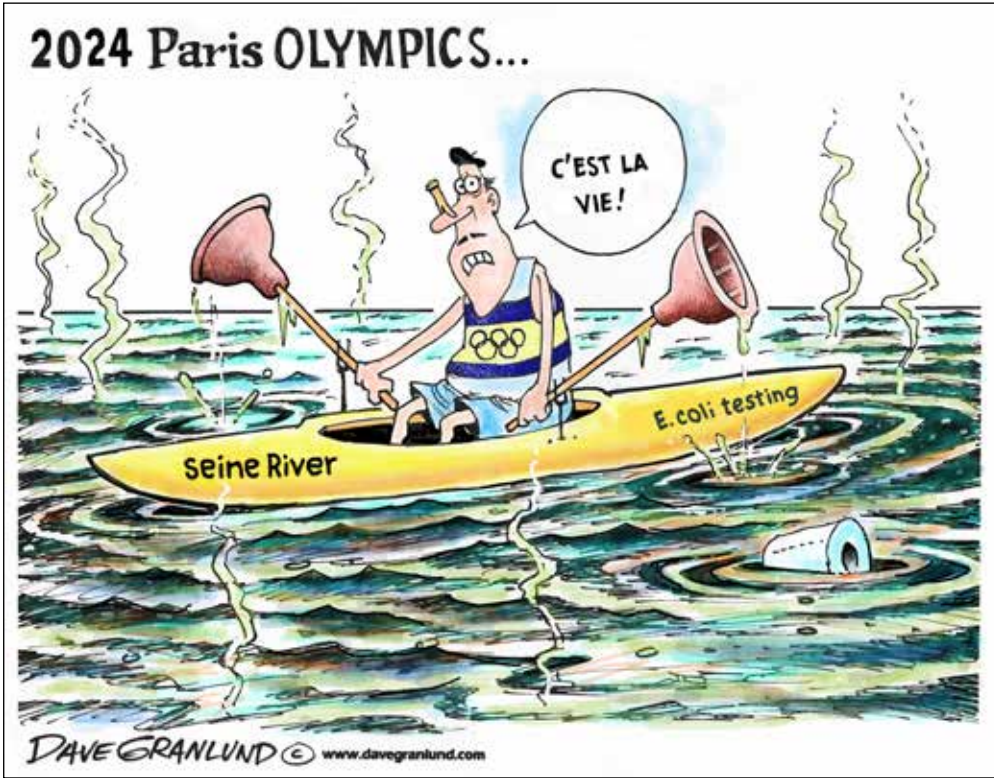
I feed, feed, feed them, especially if lower leaves start to yellow. It means flowering plants are hungry for nitrogen.

If flowering has slowed, phosphorus may be in low supply. Annuals planted in soilless mix of containers or "reused" soil in raised beds will especially need a boost.

You can use a balanced, water soluble, liquid feed every couple of weeks. If going natural is your cup of tea, make some!

Compost or manure tea has long been used to keep growth lush. Steep a burlap bag of either compost or aged manure in a large trash bucket filled with water and use as needed.

Smaller batches can be made right in a watering can. Likewise, there are numerous blends of seaweed and fish emulsions on



in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

My daughter, Paula and family along with their dog JoJo experienced an unusual bird sighting.

Last week my daughter, Paula and family were running on the rail trail from the covered bridge to the Gilbertville mill. She said, "A hawk dropped a dead pigeon into the woods about 10 feet away from us. JoJo thought it was a food delivery for him. I couldn't tell what kind of hawk it was, but it didn't seem big enough for a red-tailed."

It was rusty/brown color on wings and back and barred feathers on underside. They didn't see it come back for the poor pigeon.

Since it was smaller than a red-tailed hawk, I think it might be a sharp-shinned hawk.

The sharp-shinned hawk is 11 inches long and has rounded wings with a long narrow tail. It has heaving streaking on the breast and belly. It has reddish brown barring. The adult is blue gray above. The immature is dark brown above, lighter brown below and keeps that plumage for one year.

Sharp-shinned hawks feed by catching small birds in midair and carrying them off to eat. They also may hunt around bird feeders. A plump pigeon would be quite heavy for this smaller hawk and probably that is why it dropped it.



Sharp-shinned hawk

The female lays three to eight whitish eggs with dark marks in a platform nest of sticks lined with bark, placed in a tree. They inhabit mixed deciduous and coniferous woods in summer and winters in woods and near bird feeders.

They make a rapid series of high "kek kek kek kek" notes given during alarm. The largest number of sharp-shinned hawks are seen on spring and fall migrations as it flies alone the coasts or mountain ridges.

Hummingbirds

I saw at least two ruby throated hummingbirds feeding on the flowers on my hostas and on the tall phlox in my yard. I knew it was two different birds because I saw them at the same time and the flowers are located about 15 feet away from each other. Usually, hummingbird moths come for nectar at the tall phlox, but I have not seen one yet.

Wild turkeys

Wild turkeys are a common site and I often see them when driving. Usually, there are several turkeys and sometimes I see poults with the adults.

Foxes

Tuesday night I saw two foxes in different towns. The first fox was smaller than the second one. I saw its eyes reflect in my headlights near Deacon Allen Drive on Barre Road. The second fox was a bit larger and I saw it on Depot Road in Barre near the Oakham line. Both looked healthy and had good coats of fur.

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

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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.

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
Tim Mara

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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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 -

Summer Concert series features swing and rock band

SPENCER – The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission 2024 Summer Concert Series continues from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 11 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer with the Blind Tiger Swing Posse.

Blind Tiger Swing Posse is seven pieces of hard-driving swing and rock made up of some of New England's most seasoned professionals.

Band members include Doug Moore on vocals and lead guitar, Pete Levesque on saxophone, William Fanning on trumpet, Jeff Galindo on trombone, Jim Hefernan on piano, Joe D'Angelo on bass guitar and Billy MacGilvray on drums. Each musician

brings their unique skill set that delivers a timeless mix of jazz, blues, swing, pop, soul and rock.

The series continues on Aug. 18 with Fender Road and award winning country artist Kylie Harris.

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Serving Worcester County, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts.



Blind Tiger Swing Posse will perform at Powder Mill Park on Sunday, Aug. 11 from 2-5 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

the market that can be watered in or sprayed on the surface of the leaves as a foliar feed.

If Mother Nature decides to delay the deluges, don't forget to water your plants. I know this task is not nearly as much fun as it was when they were first installed, but don't stop now!

Sometimes plants show signs of a nutrient deficiency, especially a nitrogen deficiency simply because they haven't had a drink. When you water the garden, remember to do so longer but less often to encourage deep, penetrating

roots.

Watering at the soil line either early in the day or after the sun has set are your best options.

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.

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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- community -

Happy and healthy communities

A record year for Worcester County Sheriff's Farm Program

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is experiencing a record year of harvests on its inmate-run organic farm.

The unprecedented amount of produce is all thanks to the consistently high humidity, stimulating sunshine, and rapturous rainstorms.

For over a dozen years, inmates at the Worcester County House of Correction have grown fresh produce on the Sheriff's Office's Organic Farm as part of the inmate work-release program. The produce harvested by the inmate work crews has benefitted not only dozens of Worcester County food banks, senior centers, soup kitchens, veteran groups, and charitable organizations but also the inmate population serving time in the facility.

Recently, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office made a significant donation of produce to the East Brookfield and West Brookfield Senior Centers.

The Sheriff's Office's fields currently produce an abundance of zucchini, summer squash, and cucumbers. Eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, cabbage, corn, watermelon, cantaloupe, and pumpkins will soon be bountiful as the longer days of summer fade into cooler fall weather.

With multiple expansions in recent years, it is estimated that the Worcester County Sheriff's Office farms approxi-



Worcester County Sheriff's Office staff delivered fresh organic produce from the Sheriff's Office's Organic Farm to the East Brookfield Senior Center. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Worcester County Sheriff's Office staff delivered fresh organic produce from the Sheriff's Office's Organic Farm to the West Brookfield Senior Center.

mately 18 acres of land. During an average year, 500 pounds of fresh produce is harvested each day, totaling approximately 40,000 pounds of produce a year.

However, with the conditions that Mother Nature has provided, the 2024 growing season is off to an electric start.

The Sheriff's Office noted that work release crews yield 750-1000 pounds of produce with each harvest. Further, the Sheriff's Office has added a second delivery crew to distribute the produce to community partners throughout Worcester County.

Inmates who can participate in the work-release program are low-risk and non-violent. The inmates who qualify for the program, and choose to be in it, receive "good time" credits each month for their positive behavior and active participation in programming.

The time commitment varies based on the workload and time of the year.

Typically, inmates work 10-25 hours a week.

Since taking office in 2011, Sheriff Lew Evangelidis has remained committed to developing the Organic Farm and being dedicated to the communities he represents. After multiple expansions of the farm under Evangelidis' leadership, the Worcester County Jail boasts the largest organic farm on a correctional facility in Massachusetts.

"We are blessed with the opportunity to run the organic farm program right at our facility," said Evangelidis in a press release. "Besides providing thousands of pounds of fresh produce to those in need, the program has many other benefits. Inmates who qualify for the program have the dignity of doing a full day's work. This work ultimately benefits the communities in which many of these individuals were born and raised. The rehabilitative power of the farm is tremendous."

Vendors needed for Oktoberfest at Common Ground Ciderworks

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House will be hosting Oktoberfest 2024 on Sunday, Sept. 29 from noon-4 p.m. at Common Ground Ciderworks, 31 East Brookfield Road.

Crafters, wood workers and artisans of all kinds are welcome. No food vendors, please.

Spaces are available for \$50 for a 10 x 10 space. Vendors must provide their own table and if desired a tent with weighted legs.

Raffles, games for young and old and music will be provided by the Friends of the Town House. Common Ground will be selling food and drink. For more information, email Friends@NBTownHouse.com or M_Caramiello@yahoo.com.



Chairman of the Board was one of the local vendors at last year's Oktoberfest event. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Medicare 101 Educational Event is Aug. 28

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Senior Center will be hosting an educational presentation on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 1 p.m. at the senior center located at 110 Pleasant St., for current beneficiaries and for those who will soon be eligible for Medicare.

The information is specific to Massachusetts. The session will run from 1 to 1.5 hours, including time for questions.

The presentation will be conducted by Ed Spater, a licensed insurance agent, who will explain the basics of Medicare including:

- Why it's important to evaluate your current Medicare coverage each year
- The pros and cons of each of your Medicare coverage options
- What to consider when deciding which Medicare coverage option is right for you
- Ways to save money and get better Medicare coverage in 2024

For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call 774-271-5199 or 711 for TTY callers

QCB wraps up 51st season with 'Dixieland Night'

BARRE – Sunday, Aug. 11 marks the close of the Quabbin Community Band's 2024 summer concert series.

The band has enjoyed the growing crowds throughout the season beginning in South Barre with the "Welcome Back" and "Children's Concert" all the way through last week's "Celebrating Barre's 250th". How wonderful to see so many people coming out to enjoy live music together in our beautiful community.

This Sunday the band will kick things off with "Big Band Dixie" and will drive that toe-tapping beat all the way through thirteen selections in the Dixieland style. Favorites will include, "Mr. Dixieland Fronts the Band", "Alexander's Ragtime Band", "Dixieland

Jamboree" and so many more.

With many thanks throughout the season, the band would once again like to share appreciation for the individuals and businesses who have financially supported the Quabbin Community Band in 2024. The band does not exist without your support.

Band members hope everyone will make the effort to meet up with family and friends on the Barre Common for this final show and collectively recognize what a special tradition the summer concerts in Barre truly are.

Sunday's program begins at 6 p.m. on the Harding Allen Bandstand. In the event of rain, the concert will be moved to the Barre Town Hall.



Quabbin Community Band member Jamie Mailloux and his "Boompa" at band rehearsal in the Barre Town Hall. SUBMITTED PHOTO

- public safety - New Braintree Police Log

During the week of July 22-Aug. 5, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 22 building/property checks, 49 directed/area patrols, four radar assignments, five traffic controls, nine emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, two complaints, 11 safety hazards, one scam, two motor vehicle investigations, one property damage, one vandalism, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, July 22

1:25 p.m. Property Damage, Barre Road, Report Taken

Tuesday, July 23

11:14 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Memorial Drive, No Action Required
12:38 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, July 24

2:15 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
5:34 p.m. 911 Scam, Barr Road, Officer Handled
5:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barr Road, Investigated

Thursday, July 25

5:56 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

Friday, July 26

6:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued
3:36 p.m. 911 Lockout, Sibley Road, Services Rendered
5:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Services Rendered
8:12 p.m. Complaint, Ravine Road, Investigated

Saturday, July 27

3:07 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Cut Off Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Sunday, July 28

1:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, No Action Required

Monday, July 29

12:07 a.m. Vandalism, Ravine Road, Officer Handled
6:46 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
9:42 a.m. Safety Hazard, Tucker Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
11:13 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Cut Off Road, Removed Hazard
3:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Utley Road, Spoken To

Tuesday, July 30

10 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, July 31

8:44 p.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

Thursday, Aug. 1

8:17 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled
8:21 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled
1:11 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Utley Road, Services Rendered

Friday, Aug. 2

2:11 a.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Officer Handled
11:17 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered

Saturday, Aug. 3

9:27 p.m. Gunshots, Padre Road, Unfounded
9:44 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, North Brookfield Road, Removed Hazard

Sunday, Aug. 4

3:41 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, West Road, Officer Handled
7:25 p.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled

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NIGHT OUT | FROM PAGE 1

Many community members and organizations were keeping busy and meeting residents of North Brookfield. The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield had a booth set up and taking sign ups of future guild members. This was the first time the Theatre Guild attended the annual National Night Out.

The Guild displayed binders of some of their productions in years past and played a video of their latest production of "Mamma Mia". Members of the Theater Guild announced that their 2025 season will be listed on their website, theatreguildofnorthbrookfield.com.

Residents also got to meet the local law enforcement of the community and members of the Fire Department. The Fire Department was hosting a Touch a Truck event and sharing information about their job with kids and their families.

One firefighter described what a Boston hook was. This tool helps firefighters pull down ceilings during a fire.

Students of the North Brookfield High School Class of 2025 was keeping busy by providing cool drinks to the guests. Funds will help benefit the class of 2025.

Another guest was Rutland Police Officer Lawlor and his K-9 Storm. Storm is 2 1/2 years old and had named picked by a contest that took place at Naquag Ele-

mentary School in Rutland.

This was Storm and Lawlor's second year attending the National Night Out. The officer shared information about the training Storm goes through to become a well-trained K-9 unit for the police department.

Storm was also retrieving toys out on the field that were thrown by Lawlor.

Another organization that attended the National Night Out was Best Buddies International. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, inclusive living and family support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This organization has been running since 1989 and provides programs that empower people with IDD to form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure jobs, improve communication and advocacy skills and live independently, while offering support for their families.

To learn more about the Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield, visit coalitionforahealthynb.org. The group has a Facebook page, Volunteer Group - Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield to keep in touch with volunteers and is the place to go if people want to volunteer and help plan their events.



Left to right: David Hubert, Audrey Bushey and Lucas Gorham represented Best Buddies International. PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



President of the Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield Jillian Phillips was running the "pie in the face" contest that will benefit the 2025 National Night Out.



North Brookfield's Third Annual National Night Out Night took place this past weekend at North Brookfield Elementary School.



A booth for the North Brookfield Food Collaborative was accepting donations throughout the entire National Night Out.



North Brookfield High School Class of 2025 had drinks available for guests at the National Night Out. Funds help support the Class of 2025.



A bouncy house and waterslide were a fun activity for kids to enjoy during the National Night Out.



Second Chance Animal Services brought a truck with some dogs during the National Night Out.



North Brookfield Fire Department had several vehicles stop by for several events including a Touch a Truck event.



SPORTS

Clark powers Quabbin Cagers to playoff win in Auburn League

AUBURN – The ‘Big Dawg’ needs to be fed and Kyle Clark’s teammates are serving up a good meal for their strong and demanding center.

The Quabbin cagers, sponsored by E.P. Wine Propane, pulled away in the second half to advance to the second round of Auburn Summer League playoffs with a 38-26 win over Blackstone Valley Tech.

Senior center Kyle Clark led the scoring with 19 points and controlled the boards by ripping seven caroms. But the biggest contribution made by the powerful inside post play of Clark may have been drawing fouls on several BVT players guarding him which eventually changed the momentum of the game.

Clark was 6 for 10 from the ‘free offense’ charity stripe, as the coaches like to call it, and sent at least one player to the bench with foul trouble and another out of the game entirely.

Point guard Jacoby Dilling

returned to action to score 8 points and his driving layups in the final minutes sealed the win.

The Quabbinians seem to be taking more pride in their individual and team defense as they held BVT to only 8 second half points.

“Our defense so far has been the backbone of the success this off-season. The defense has forced turnovers or tough shots resulting in great transition opportunities and leading to open layups”, stated Coach Steve Carrington.

Teammates are apparently taking their cue from senior defensive specialist guard Jaxon Warburton. The 6’ 0 guard relishes the role of a shut-down defender and that role is very meaningful to his court mates as they trust the physical Warburton to get the job done.

A perfect complement to that defensive emphasis and commitment is his backcourt mate Bryce Venne. The speedy

Venne had five deflections and four loose ball recoveries.

The emergence defensively of Zeke Santoro has raised more than a few eyebrows as the 6’3 power forward led the team with 8 deflections and gathered in five loose ball recoveries of his own. Santoro also added 4 points to the offensive effort and continues to impress on-lookers by snaring seven strong rebounds. Santoro has been attending several high-level collegiate basketball camps this summer, along with several clinics, and the results have been outstanding in advancing his skill set.

Brady Patchen has been getting minutes handling the ball and the 5’11 freshman is responding successfully. Patchen was able to ring the register for five points on two power drives that got him to the free throw line.

In fact, Quabbin was 9 for 18 from the line, an area they

See **PLAYOFF** | PAGE 11



Quabbin center Kyle Clark seals his defensive opponent as teammate Brady Patchen feeds a post pass to the leading scorer in a win against South HS. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Here for Beer scores upset



Mackenzie Shean, of Agawam, fights to keep the ball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

MONSON – Facing the higher-seeded Monson Mustangs last Monday in the PVSSL Women’s Division quarterfinals, Here for Beer scored a 4-3 upset at Rogers Field. They would make it all the way to the finals before falling to the Lusitano Women last Friday night. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week’s edition.



Gwen Duggan, of Palmer, looks to get around a Monson player.



Paige Marjanski, of South Hadley goes for the header.



Joanna Mull, of Belchertown, makes her way up the field.



Kelly Callahan, of Monson, punts the ball away.

St. Joe’s survives Teddy Bear Pools in quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE — The best of three Tri-County League first round series between the fifth-seeded St. Joe’s Saints and fourth-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spa was originally scheduled to take place on July 24, 25, and 26. Because of a couple of rain outs and a suspended game, it took them eight days to complete the series.

Teddy Bear won the first game of the series 1-0, which was held at Westfield State University.

St. Joe’s kept their season alive the following night by squeaking out a 10-9 victory in an old fashion slugfest held at St. Joe’s Park.

“I thought it would take us only three days to complete this series,” said first-year St. Joe’s manager Brian Hayes. “We dealt with some weather and a few other things that were out of our control.”

At that point everything went wacky.

Game three was postponed

See **ST. JOE’S** | PAGE 10

- sports -

Heat falls in semifinals



Emily Ottomaniello, of Agawam, makes her way up the field for the Heat. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

CHICOPEE – Last Wednesday evening, the Heat, which features players from throughout the region, fell in the semifinals to Luistano Women in the Women's Division playoffs of the PVSSL 3-1.



Kassandra Liquori sends a pass away.



Samara Robles looks to make a save in goal.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Wednesday Night Summer Mixed League at Bogey Lanes has two regular weeks left.

As of July 31, Rolling Stones are hanging on to a three-point lead in first place at 63-33. Close behind in second place is Team Seven at 60-36. Team Nine is in third place at 58-38. Team Swish is in fourth place at 56-40. Split Smashers are in fifth place at 54-42.

The remaining five teams, Clock Barn, Straight Shooters, Gutter Dolls, Gutter Snipes and Gutter Fingers are under a 50% winning percentage and are mathematically out of reach to catch the #1 seed.

During league night on July 31, Team Swish bowled against Team Nine. In game one, Team Nine won by a score of 503-421. Emily Black of Team Nine bowled 119 and her teammates Jesse Mondor and Trevor Kenneson bowled great with scores of 126 and 114.

In game two, Team Nine stayed strong and won game two by one point, 470-469. Black bowled 112 to follow up her first game of 119. Mondor continued to stay well over his average with a 116 in game two.

In game three, Team Nine won for a three-game sweep over Team Swish, 462-442. Black finished with an 86 and a series of 317. Mondor finished with a 102 and series of 344. The final scores were Team Nine at 1435 and Team Swish at 1332.

Team Seven bowled against the Rolling Stones. In game one Team Seven defeated Rolling Stones by a score of 470-425. Ethan Levy led his team in game one with a 116 to start the night.

In game two, Team Seven were victorious again by a score of 460-435. Tim Brayton had the high game of 105 in

game two.

In game three, Team Seven had a one point victory over Rolling Stones, 441-440. High Series of 315 was bowled by Levy. Team Seven won total pinfall by a final score of 1371-1300.

Gutter Fingers bowled against Gutter Dolls. In game one, Gutter Dolls defeated Gutter Fingers 478-452. In game two, Gutter Dolls defeated Gutter Fingers 483-397. In game three, Gutter Dolls won again for a three-game sweep over Gutter Fingers, 454-451.

The final score was Gutter Dolls 1415 and Gutter Fingers 1300.

Gutter Snipes bowled against Split Smashers on lanes seven and eight. In game one, Gutter Snipes won the first game by a score of 482-454. Marc Vinciulla of Gutter Snipes started off with a 116.

In game two, Split Smashers won 478-459. Ryan Drago of Split Smashers was high bowler on his team with a 117 and Vinciulla was high bowler on his team with 112. Sophia Hearnlaye of Split Smashers had a good game, scoring 114.

In game three, Gutter Snipes defeated Split Smashers by a score of 481-445. Vinciulla ended with a 116 and a series of 344. Drago finished with a 129 and a series of 360. Gutter Snipes took six points as they won total pinfall, 1422-1377.

The Straight Shooters bowled against Clock Barn. In game one, Clock Barn defeated Straight Shooters, 434-406. In game two, Clock Barn won again by a score of 438-413. In game three, Straight Shooters won the last game 436-431. Phil Clough of Straight Shooters finished with a 106.

The final score was Clock Barn 1303 and Straight Shooters 1255.

The final regular week of league bowling for the Wednesday Mixed Summer League will be Aug. 14 and the banquet will be on Aug. 14.

ST. JOE'S | FROM PAGE 9

due to an umpire shortage. The series was set to resume back at Westfield State on July 29, but that game was postponed due to rain. The score was tied 6-6 at the end of seven innings the following night and the game was halted at that point due to darkness.

Unlike in Major League baseball where suspended games are picked up where they left off, suspended games in the Tri-County League are wiped out. They played a whole new game.

Hayes gave his thoughts about the TCL suspended game rule.

"It's nice not to show up at the field and only play one inning," he said. "Starting the game over is fine with me. The field at Westfield State doesn't have any lights, so that's why we decided to move the series here. They were still the home team."

The series was delayed another day because of rain before it was finally completed last Thursday night. St. Joe's wound up winning the wild contest by the final score of 18-10. The game took more than three hours to be completed.

"The guys were ready to go, and we played a great game," said first-year St. Joe's manager Brian Hayes. "We had to come-from-behind twice in tonight's game. We didn't have a rivalry with Teddy Bear in the past, but I think it'll turn into a rivalry game now, especially after this series."

St. Joe's, who was the visiting team in game three, jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the top of the first inning.

Centerfielder Aaron Little and right fielder Dillon Slattery had RBI singles. Two more runs crossed on the plate on bases loaded walks by second baseman Greg Vouros and shortstop Devin Slattery. Another run scored on a throwing error by the catcher.

St. Joe's, who drew a total of 19 walks in the game, wound up sending eleven batters to the plate during that frame. They added another run in the second.

Teddy Bear, who scored their first

run in the bottom of the first inning, also sent eleven men to the plate in the second inning. They took the lead for the first time at 7-6 when first baseman Andrew Florek hit a two-run single into center field.

A sacrifice fly by designated hitter Dan Burnett in the third inning extended Teddy Bear's lead to 8-6.

Hayes decided to make a pitching change at that point.

He replaced Brandon Magni with righty Jacob Petrin, who started the game at third base.

Petrin, who is Hayes stepson, wound up being the difference maker in game three. He allowed only two runs on five hits during the final five innings. He had seven strikeouts and issued four walks.

"Jacob is my stepson, and he did a great job for us tonight," Hayes said. "He was also the winning pitcher in game two. This is the first year that I've been his baseball coach, and it has been a lot of fun. He was our MVP in this series."

Petrin, along with Little and Dillon Slattery led the offensive attack with two hits each.

St. Joe's retook the lead at 10-8 after scoring four runs in the fourth inning. The go-ahead runs scored on a two-run double to right field by catcher AJ Dillard.

Teddy Bear tied the score for the final time at 10-10 with one-out in the bottom of the fourth on a run scoring double by pinch-hitter Paul Shibley, who remained in the game in rightfield.

St. Joe's pulled away after that by scoring two runs in the fifth and one in the sixth before scoring five more runs with the help of five walks in their final at-bats.

St. Joe's season came to an end after they were swept in the semifinals by top-seeded Peoplesbank. That series took less than twenty four hours to be completed.

- sports -

PLAYOFF | FROM PAGE 9

will need to improve on to go further in the playoffs.

However, it is a performance indicator that Dilling, Patchen, Venne and Clark are aggressive getting to the iron and that generates good offense.

The improvements being made by guard Bryce Venne at the free throw line has been noticed by the coaching staff. Venne has been getting to the foul line more often but realized he had to work on his shooting percentage. So he put in the extra work and time on his own with markedly improved results.

With a bench that knows the importance of their role in holding the score and getting valuable rest time for the starters, Coach Steve Carrington has a number of matchups he can employ.

That responsibility has been not only accepted but fulfilled by Evan Sherblom, Jacoby Venne, Collin Leclair and Aiden Crane.

The next next matchup for the Cagers in the second round of the playoffs will be Monty Tech.

In Fitchburg GameOn action, the Quabbinians, sponsored by GroundUp Properties, upped their records to 5-0 with a hard fought 41-36 win over Nashoba Tech.

Bryce Venne sealed the win with two key free throws in the closing minute.

Kyle Clark led the scoring with 14 points followed by sophomore forward Anthony Quarterone with 9 more. The 6'3 Quarterone can run the court and enjoys playing in the paint as he can rebound. Quarterone had four key offensive rebounds and was 3 for 4 from the 'free offense' charity stripe.

Collin Leclare had 9 rebounds and added 4 points with another strong inside the lane game. Leclare and Quarterone have taken some of the scoring and rebounding load off of Kyle Clark and Zeke Santoro and everyone knows, that in order to run transition basketball, you've got to rebound. Fortunately both like to rebound.

Carrington was excited about the win but was clear in pointing out, "the coaches all provided their input along with the seniors and it was evident that everyone was not satisfied with just winning the game. Many made comments that we need to play better and give more energy from start to finish. This says alot about how dedicated and how much these guys care about getting better and playing to the best of their abilities"



The Quabbin starters, Zeke Santoro, Brady Patchen, Jaxon Warburton and Jacoby Dilling get a rest on the bench as they enthusiastically cheer on teammates during a convincing 54-34 win over South HS at the Assumption Univ. Tournament. *SUBMITTED PHOTOS*



Quabbin summer coach Steve Carrington offers important instruction to junior forward Anthony Quarterone.



Zeke Santoro and Kyle Clark muscle in for perfect rebounding position as the ball fortunately found its way through net from a Bryce Venne trifecta.



Quabbin's Kyle Clark elevates above two opponents to score two points from an offensive rebound.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. A solution
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. Blood group
17. A way to compare
19. Gov't lawyer
20. Actor Ciaran
22. Calendar month
23. Very willing
25. ___ex Machina
26. Satisfies
28. Type of berry
29. Distinctive practice
30. Popular pickup truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. German founder of psychology
41. Endured
43. A female domestic

44. A situation you can be in
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Fiber optic network (abbr.)
48. Belgian composer Walter
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Belonging to the bottom layer
55. Musical or vocal sound
56. Yankees' great Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. South Dakota
61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
64. Atomic #79
65. Former Braves pitcher Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Arts and crafts supplies
4. Containers
5. Investment vehicle
6. A way to greet in a friendly way
7. Bulged downward
8. "A Day Without" singer
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Negative
12. Caused to be loved
13. Prominent in Islamic eschatology
15. Sincere
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Bill Murray chased one
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start over

32. Wild white or yellow flower
35. Fourteen
37. Visual way of interacting with a computer (abbr.)
38. Up-to-date
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. Central Japanese city
59. Garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. The man
68. Top government lawyer

Kids' Corner workshop features 'Fun at the Fair!'

WARE – The next Kids' Corner at Ware Grange will be "Fun at the Fair!" and will take place on Saturday, Aug. 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

Kids' Corner workshops are led by local preschool teacher, Jen McNally. The Grange Fair is coming up soon

and at this fun and educational workshop children can participate in a variety of activities to help them prepare entries for the Fair. Families will learn about the upcoming fair and how they can participate.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

WONKA | FROM PAGE 1

and \$5 for students/seniors. All three shows will be held in the QRMHS auditorium at 284 Old West Brookfield Road.

The Quaboag Regional Theater Department in conjunction with 21st Century Community Learning Centers brings Roald Dahl's classic story to life. Director James Joinville has seen a cast of 12 students from grades seven-12 put in a lot of hard work that last four weeks to perform this play in front of family, friends and the community.

"They've all worked really hard these last four weeks," Joinville said. "Kids playing multiple parts, having a good experience."

Alongside Joinville is choreographer Bethany Bressette. This is Bressette's first time choreographing a show and her first time working on a play at Quaboag Regional Middle High School.

Bressette brings a lot of experience with a dance background in college and has a degree in dance and theater.

Many of the students are new to the dance scene and Bressette made sure the kids put out their best efforts. The cast had a dance class every rehearsal day prior to rehearsing for "Willy Wonka, Jr."

"I want the kids to have a sense of accomplishment and better understand the whole process of the play," Bressette said. "Everyone is at a different place and should always put in their full effort."

In charge of costumes is Assistant Director Christine Taylor. With the show being "Willy Wonka, Jr." the play is designed for a younger group of cast members and designed to be done quicker. Some cast members will quickly switch from one costume to the other.

For this summer show, Taylor brings "costume flavoring" to the production. Taylor also works in theatre programs for schools in Auburn and also worked on the Quaboag Theater production of "The Addams Family".

The cast and crew have worked hard behind the scenes as well with the choreography, painting, prop making and as Joinville describes it, "taking a lot of ownership" in the production of "Willy Wonka Jr."

Joinville is also proud to announce that the school will be putting on a production of "Beauty and the Beast" in December. The show dates for "Beauty and the Beast" will be Dec. 13, 14 and 15.



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BUSINESS | FROM PAGE 1

and former chair of the association who launched the Business of the Year awards.

"It was great to see the number of votes that occurred this year," he said. "It's really starting to take off."

Winning under the "Stay" category, is previous winner Comfort Inn & Suites, having previously earned the award in 2019.

For the "Shop," category, last year's winner Tutti Quanti reclaimed the title, winning each year it has been open for business.

Winning under the "Eat" category, is Deep Roots Distillery, which has been open for a year and a half. Winning under the "Play" category was Into the Grain Axe Throwing, the sister company of Deeps Roots Distillery.

Town Administrator update

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said a portion of Church Street has been paved and grindings have been placed as well. Some of the drainage has also been adjusted and repaired.

Grimm said on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m., historian Robert Briere will be honored for his service to the town during a celebration at the Publick House.

Grimm thanked local and state police agencies for their response to a shooting on July 10 and read a letter from Police Chief Earl Dessert.

"Everybody was kept safe," she said. She said Dessert gave special thanks to Trooper Gina Pedro for "exemplary bravery" after she singlehandedly took the suspect down after a chase. Grimm said the town is "very grateful" for its surrounding police departments.

On July 9, town employees attended a seminar about managing multi-generational employees offered by Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association. She said it was very helpful in assisting both older and younger generations on how to communicate with each other in the workforce.

Grimm said discussion about tree removal on Podunk Road is ongoing, and representatives from the Planning Board and Conservation Commission, along with residents met during a recent site visit.

"Every tree that's slated for removal is going to be tagged, categorized," she said, on public property.

On July 8, town officials participated in a walk-through of the Senior Center

construction project. Grimm said she posted photos of the progress on the Town Administrator Facebook page.

"It really looks very good," she said. "The renovations are coming along very well."

A recent road study completed by a private traffic engineering company hired by the town did not show a need for a traffic signal at the end of Arnold Road, despite concerns from residents about making left turns. Grimm said she will continue to monitor concerns and work with the state about possible mitigation.

New HCA for Local Roots

Grimm presented a new host community agreement for Local Roots, which would bring it in compliance with new Cannabis Control Commission regulations. She said the HCA was drafted by KP Law and no longer has an automatic impact fee.

"Impact fees can be collected, but with very specific issues," she said.

Board members authorized Grimm to sign the HCA before sending it to the owner of Local Roots.

Memorials and Markers Committee

Walter Hersee said there has been an expressed need for the formation of a Memorials and Markers Committee. He said there are people who are interested in joining the committee.

Hersee spoke about the importance of recognizing people who have made significant and historical contributions to the town throughout its history, while also keeping memorials and markers accurate as well as designed and placed consistently.

Grimm said the Finance Committee also voiced a need for such a committee in order to review information about memorials and markers before approving funding. She said the committee would be an advisory committee only.

The board voted to approve the formation of the committee.

Landscaping at library

Grimm said there was leftover funding from the Joshua Hyde Public Library's HVAC project, of which \$5,000 would be used to complete a landscaping master plan design. Grimm said the American Rescue Plan Act Committee recommended the use of these funds.

"This really takes a broad look at the outside of that facility," she said.

The board approved the request; not to exceed \$5,000.

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Description

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- community -

RESULTS | FROM PAGE 1

pH measurements collected during the day on monthly reporting forms. He said he is drafting a letter to the DEP to get clarification about the other two deficiencies.

None of the DEP's findings pose any risk to the health of water users, Flaman said.

Highway fuel

Town Administrator Michael Szlosek looked at alternatives to the diesel fuel bid the town received. He said there weren't many options on the state bid list.

"There's not as many outlets as there used to be," he said.

Szlosek said the town of Hardwick recently selected a bid from RJ McDonald for diesel fuel at a reasonable fixed price.

He said RJ McDonald agreed to honor the same price for North Brookfield. The fixed price offered through RJ McDonald is \$3.19 per gallon.

Szlosek said the bid from RJ McDonald did not include gasoline, but the Highway Department primarily uses diesel fuel. He said the town could get a different supplier for gasoline, or follow the same procedure as the Police Department at the local station.

The board voted to procure a contract from RJ McDonald and discuss it at the next meeting.

Cable contract

Szlosek said the town does not have a current cable contract, with the last one expiring in May 2021. He has tried con-

tacting Charter's contract specialist, but has not received a response.

"We really should have a cable contract in place," Szlosek said.

In his research, Szlosek said that Charter does not offer discounts to senior citizens. He said there is not a lot of room for negotiating, aside from the franchise fee and some aspects of the service.

Streetlights

Vice-Chair Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada said Pillsbury Funeral Home does not want to pay for the costs to operate the streetlights on poles 10 and 11. She said they want to continue paying for the streetlight on pole 12, which provides lighting for the business.

Canada said she and her husband would be willing to pay for the streetlight on pole 10, which is in front of her house.

The board approved turning off the streetlight on pole 11, and allowing Pillsbury Funeral Home to continue paying for pole 12 while the Canadas will assume payment for pole 10.

American flags

Canada suggested removing the American flags during the summer and early fall to protect them from the elements and weather. Right now, the flags remain in place from Memorial Day through Veterans Day.

Canada proposed placing the American flags throughout downtown one to two weeks before Memorial Day, and taking them down one to two weeks after Independence Day, then placing them back up one to two weeks before

Veterans Day, and down one to two weeks after Veterans Day.

The board members approved the flag schedule.

Canada will look into the cost of purchasing different flags that could withstand the elements better. She said the town could also look into placing tribute banners for veterans in the downtown area.

Pole hearing

A pole hearing was held to install a pole on Ayers Street. The utility customer wants to extend the existing secondary pole in order to relocate overhead service to underground.

The board approved the petition.

Police policies

The board approved the new Police Department policies forwarded to them by Chief Mark Smith. The policies address use of force, vehicle pursuits, responding to persons affected by mental health issues or in crisis and domestic violence.

Senior center project

Chair Jason Petraitis said the Building Inspector has completed the inspection of the new Senior Center roof, as well as the roofing manufacturer. The board approved the project completion.

Spending freeze

Petraitis said the spending freeze limit has been increased from \$100 to \$250. For any purchases over \$250, departments will be required to submit a spending request form, which the board approved at the meeting.

Spending request

The Highway Department requested

approval to spend \$487 to purchase a commercial-grade Stihl weedwhacker. The board approved the request.

Annual appointments

The board made its annual appointments. The positions of Caretaker of Town Clock, two Fence Viewers, Assistant Fire Chief, Town Hall Agent, three Agricultural Commission members, three NB Helps members, one Parks and Recreation member and Assistant Sewer Superintendent are vacant.

Doane Pond dam

Flamand said he is making repairs to the concrete on the spillway at the Doane Pond dam as well as the gatehouse. The level of the pond has been lowered in order to make these repairs.

Flamand said he can grout and re-point stonework without needing to consult with an engineer.

Bates Observatory repairs

John Tripp said the carpenter planning to make repairs to the Bates Observatory roof will need to increase the project cost, due to inflation. He said the cost is expected to increase from \$1,500 to around \$1,700.

Fences near roadways

Tripp said people are planting trees and building fences and stone walls near the roadway on town property. He said letters have been sent to residents about placing structures on town property, but they have been ignored.

Job description

The board approved the job description for a Council on Aging janitor.

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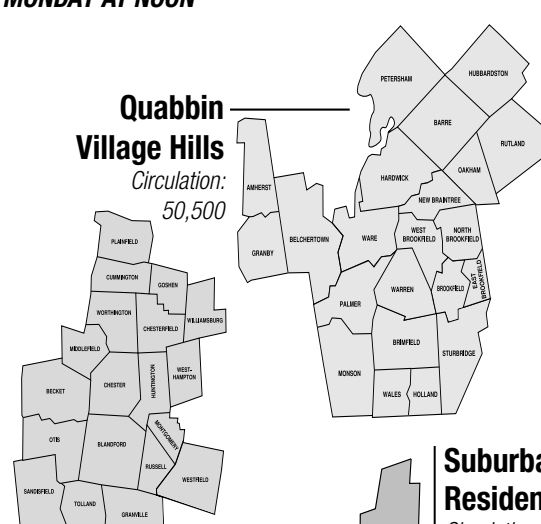
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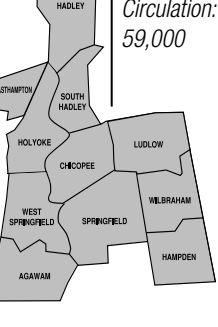
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LWPA to host its 7th Annual Poker Run on Aug. 24

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.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

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

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

Tenant Intake/Outreach, Maintenance of waiting lists, Assist program participants to secure appropriate housing and complete all associated paperwork. Negotiate with landlords for comparable rents. Attend training sessions. Administer the Section Program, Ch. 667 and Ch. 705. Including but not limited to all other tasks as assigned.

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

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

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

Maintenance Supervisor

The Ware Housing Authority is seeking a qualified full-time Maintenance Supervisor. The incumbent is expected to oversee and perform routine and preventative maintenance of the Ware Housing Authority's entire housing portfolio includes 86 units of Ch. 667 Elderly/Handicapped, 23 units of Ch. 705 family and 61 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers.

The position has management responsibility covering a wide range of duties, including but not limited to, overseeing maintenance staff, contractors, and any additional help to assist with maintenance and repair work and the operation of equipment and vehicles. Oversight of Capital Improvements, Modernization Projects and Massachusetts CAPHUB.

Responsible for scheduling and record keeping of all property mechanical systems such as fire alarms and fire extinguisher inspections. The work requires basic skills such as plumbing, carpentry, electrical, masonry, painting, janitorial and landscaping. The job requires the ability to operate motor vehicles, move heavy objects and lift and carry items up to 75 pounds working in a variety of conditions.

Must have a valid drivers license and be insurable under Housing Authority insurance. The selected applicant must be able to pass a criminal background check (CORI).

The maximum salary is \$ 73,632 and is dependent upon experience, education and certifications in accordance with EOHLC Maintenance Supervisor Schedule. (MMA) Massachusetts Maintenance Supervisor certification will be required in a timely manner if applicant is hired. The required work hours are 40 hours per week and the position includes excellent benefits.

To apply, in confidence please submit a cover letter and resume to Linda Hanssen, Executive Director at warehousing@comcast.net. Resumes are due no later than August 13, 2024.

Diverse applicants are encouraged to apply. The Ware Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Venture Community Services announces merger with Life-Skills, Inc.

STURBRIDGE – Venture Community Services, one of the Commonwealth's leading providers of innovative human services, has announced a merger with fellow provider Life-Skills, Inc. of Webster.

The merger, effective July 1, marks a strategic union with Venture continuing as the sole entity led by Mike Hyland as president and CEO of the combined organization. Life-Skills CEO Tom Amick will be retiring after 38 years of dedicated leadership.

Venture and Life-Skills have a long-standing relationship built on shared goals, values, and mission to provide high-quality support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The combined organization will employ over 1,000 people, support close to 600 people with disabilities statewide, and have an annual operating budget of \$66 million.

"This merger represents an exciting time for Venture and Life-Skills," said Hyland in a press release. "It allows us to grow together in forming an elite human services agency that is innovative, impactful, and successful."

The decision to merge allows Venture to intentionally shape the future and adapt to trends of agency consolidation within the state. Joining forces also enables the combined organization to

have a stronger voice with funders and ensure sustainability. Venture's strategic agenda post-merger prioritizes the enhancement of existing programs, development of new initiatives and the cultivation of a robust workforce prepared to meet evolving client needs.

"Our board is so excited about the opportunity to create a single organization that is even stronger than its individual parts and will continue to provide consistently high levels of service to individuals in need," said Donna Peters, President of Venture's Board of Directors.

About Venture Community Services
Venture Community Services is committed to providing compassionate, person-centered services to nearly 600 people with developmental disabilities and autism across Massachusetts. From its beginnings with two small group homes, Venture has evolved into one of the states' premier human service providers with over 1,000 employees.

Venture encourages independence through a continuum of support, which includes community residential services, day programs, supported employment, transportation, autism supports and shared living. Next year, the agency will celebrate its 50th anniversary of providing support to those in need.

QUABOAG

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