

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Volume 16, Number 37

Friday, August 11, 2023

National Night Out continues success in second year



Holly, Mike and Ellen were enjoying themselves at National Night Out in North Brookfield. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

NORTH BROOKFIELD – National Night Out, or NNO, in North Brookfield on Aug. 3, was different from the 2022 version in that it was larger and even better attended than last

year's version.

That is not to say that the 2022 edition wasn't a success, it was, but there is always room for improvement.

Behind North Brookfield High School was a makeshift checkpoint entrance. Under a banner for The Coalition for a

Healthy North Brookfield, Katlin, Ren and Katelinde greeted people and provided a pamphlet for the scavenger hunt.

If you collected all the stamps, you received a prize. There were a lot of stamps to collect.

See NIGHT OUT | PAGE 12

National Night Out lands in Sturbridge

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – In a summer of weather extremes, Sturbridge could not have wished for a better early evening as it celebrated National Night Out, locally, on Aug. 1.

So, what is National Night Out?

According to the official

website, "National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie."

National Night Out has been around since 1984, growing yearly such that here in Massachusetts there are 87 cities and towns participating this year.

The event, starting at 4 p.m., saw great participation by civic entities as well as vendors, including purveyors of food and services.

Sturbridge Common, the event location, does not have one central entry point, thus you could enter the event just about anywhere.

At the northeast was the

See STURBRIDGE | PAGE 6

Civil War reenactment brings history to life

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BROOKFIELD – The smell of black powder filled the air, as soldiers set up camp and prepared for battle.

Members of the 15th Massachusetts Volunteers Infantry transported visitors to the Common back to 1863, letting them experience what life would be like both on the field

of battle and off during the Civil War.

This living history experience with the group of reenactors was part of the town's 350th anniversary celebration and supported by the Brookfield Cultural Council.

Visitors were able to step inside canvas tents, where soldiers would sleep, learn about the foods they ate, what they did in their spare time, and the

See CIVIL WAR | PAGE 8



The 15th Massachusetts Volunteers Infantry members demonstrated what life was like at an encampment during the Civil War. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

New CEO finds his sweet spot at QHCC

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – It's been just over one month since Palmer Town Council member Robert Lavoie stepped in as the Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, and it's certainly been a "treat" so far.

Two weeks ago, Lavoie received a call that 8,000 sur-

plus ice cream sandwiches needed to find a new home, and Lavoie decided he would drive throughout the 15 towns the Chamber covers and give them away.



Robert Lavoie has been named the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's newest CEO. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Lavoie started with the schools, including summer programs at Old Mill Pond School, Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School in Ware and the Quaboag Regional School District, branching out to senior centers,

See QHCC | PAGE 13



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- community -

Historic walk traces Brookfield's roots

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

BROOKFIELD – In celebration of Brookfield 350th anniversary, a historical walk was held this past Saturday to tour 40 of the town's oldest buildings.

Over 60 people were divided into three groups to take a step (or few) back in time.

The tour circled around Common Street, Central Street, Sherman Street, Lincoln and Howard streets, River Street, and Main Street to different buildings from the old fire station to churches to an old package store.

The Friends of the Merrick Public Library and the Brookfield Historical Commission hosted the event and spent time going through the town's oldest photos and records and created a booklet of what each of the buildings on the tour once looked like.

Some of the buildings included Brookfield Congregational Church (built in 1754), the firehouse on Central Street that opened in 1927, and the Burt Shoe Factory on Central Street that was built in 1859.

On 7 Sherman St. stands, what is believed to be the first house constructed on the street in the mid-1800s.

The former Brookfield High School, now only marked by a stone placard, rests in the front yard of a home at 15 River St. The high school was built in 1884, and later torn down in 1957.



Carol and Steven Stolts and the LeBrun family of Jeffrey, Christa, Lauren Nora and Henry enjoyed the walking tour.

Linda Lincoln, who led a group on the tour, talked about working on the walk since February, and how much joy it brought her to be able to put together this event.

"I enjoy the history of the town," Lincoln said. "People don't realize how much history is in Brookfield. I was amazed by how many people showed up [to the event]."

Lincoln is a retired clerk and selectman

for the town, and now is a part of the 350th Committee. She loves to serve in her town and loves the people in Brookfield just as much.

The walk was an amazing opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy learning about the history of Brookfield, and to think about how much it has grown since 1637 when the first of these buildings were built.



Linda Lincoln leads a tour of the Common. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

LWPA hosts 6th Annual Poker Run on Aug. 19

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association will host its 6th Annual Poker Run on Lake Wickaboag on Saturday, Aug. 19 from 2-5 p.m.

In case of heavy rain or storms, the event will be postponed to Saturday, Aug. 26. Follow the LWPA on Facebook or visit www.lakewickaboag.com for more information.

On the day of the Poker Run, for a \$20 donation to the LWPA, players can pick up a scoresheet at any of the five dealer boats anchored around the lake marked with a red flag. Alternatively, players can pick up a scoresheet at the LWPA's Annual Membership Meeting at Salem Cross Inn on Aug. 17 from 7-9 p.m.; cash is preferred.

With scoresheet in hand, players

take a leisurely cruise to each of the dealer boats in any order they choose and are dealt a single card by each dealer. During the game, players can also purchase one extra card at any of the dealer boats for an additional donation of \$10.

For final poker hands to be counted and scored, completed scoresheets must be turned in to any dealer boat no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the event. LWPA volunteers will tabulate, and score all submitted scoresheets; the winner will be the player with the best five-card poker hand at the end of the event. Second and third place winners will also be determined.

Winners will be announced at 7 p.m. that evening at the Lake Wickaboag Boat Club's Annual Chicken Bar-B-

Que Dinner, or reached by phone.

All are welcome to join the LWPA for a day of fun and socializing on Lake Wickaboag. All proceeds support the LWPA mission "To encourage, organize, and support programs and activities that promote, restore, and maintain the ecological health of Lake Wickaboag through involvement in issues of water quality and watershed protection and management."

For more information, including a complete list of Poker Run rules, visit www.lakewickaboag.com, like the LWPA on Facebook, or contact Jim Armstrong, LWPA Fund Raising Committee Chair by email at racerx914@aol.com or Mary Beth Czaja, LWPA President by email at marybeth@northamericantool.com.



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- community -

Historical presentation to honor Brookfield's first inhabitants

BROOKFIELD – The Brookfield Historical Commission will offer a special multimedia program, “A Robert Wilder Memorial Presentation: Honoring Brookfield’s First Inhabitants,” Sunday, Aug. 27 from 2-4 p.m. at the Brookfield Congregational Church, 8 Common St.

The program is free and open to the public.

Brookfield’s longtime historian, the late Robert Wilder (1933-2015) spent decades mapping early Brookfield and other towns of the original Quaboag Plantation. A collection of his maps and historical material is housed at Brookfield’s Merrick Public Library.

To coincide with celebrations of Brookfield’s 350th anniversary, Wilder’s friends and collaborators organized this program to remember his legacy and to continue the conversation of how to recognize Brookfield’s Native American story.

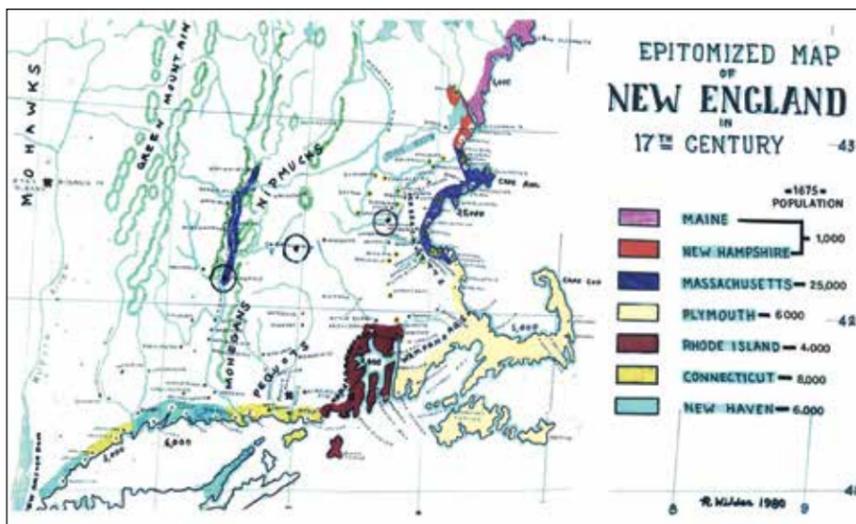
Through live presentations, film clips, maps, and a display of artifacts, the program will focus on Brookfield’s

past, present and future through the lens of its first inhabitants, including the Quaboag and Nipmuc peoples.

Speakers will include Donald Duffy, author of “The Quaboag and Nipmuck Indians” (2014) and “Around Pottequadic” (2011); tribal medicine man and spiritual leader Tom Silver Fox Morse, a Brookfield resident and member of the town’s Historical Commission; and Smithsonian and PBS documentary filmmaker Ted W. Timreck, Peabody Award Winner and director of the “Hidden Landscapes” series investigating the archaeological history and the modern legacy of the Northeastern Native civilization.

Dan Hamilton, actor and Emmy winning director who published Wilder’s maps online, directs the event.

“Bob Wilder’s dedication to studying and teaching history inspired many of us to continue his work. He worried history would be forgotten,” Hamilton said in a press release. “We are hoping this presentation will remind us of Brookfield’s place in early America as well as



Shown is an epitomized map of New England in 1675 made by Bob Wilder. SUBMITTED PHOTO

its significance as the home to Native people who have been living here for thousands of years.”

A reception with light refreshments will follow, and books and DVDs will be available for purchase.

For more information, visit <https://robertwildermaps.com/memorial> and email memorial@robertwildermaps.com.

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- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

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Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
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- opinion -



Zucchini and its many pests

The zucchini season started out with promise.

I sowed my seeds early and covered the hills with Reemay (a light, polyester row cover) to keep out the striped cucumber beetle. From past experience I knew that young seedlings could be decimated by this pest.

Within a few days the seeds had popped. I thinned them to three per hill and continued to water.

Soon they grew too big for their covering, and I figured that at this point in the game they could withstand a little damage. Sure enough, striped cucumber beetles found the plants.

It was harder to sneak up on them during the day, but at night I was able to position a cup of soapy water under a leaf and “tap,” sending them in for a swim. My plants endured a bit of leaf damage, but not much more than that.

Populations dropped off and I presumed that it would be smooth sailing from here to harvest. So I thought.

Along came the squash bug, a brownish gray insect about a half-inch long with a triangular top and an oval bottom. Many people confuse squash bugs with stink bugs because they do indeed stink!

Squash bugs have a taste for the foliage and fruit of the cucurbit family, whereas stink bugs don't. Entire plants can be killed if infestations are severe enough.

You'll notice yellow stippling on the leaves first, followed by wilting and browning; they head for the fruit last. Because I was on the look-out for the cucumber beetle I saw the adults before any damage ensued and sent them swimming as well, sometimes “two at a time.”

If you miss the grownups, chances are you will have to scout for eggs. Usually they are laid in a “V” pattern on the undersides of the leaves.

They are hard to scrape off, so I crushed them between my two thumbnails. I must have also passed by a few eggs, so next I had to look for young squash bugs called nymphs.

If a bug could ever qualify for cute status, this one would with its one quarter inch light gray body, black legs and head. “Tapping” comes in handy here too - this time I brought a shallow cardboard box out into the garden, gave the leaf a good tap, and the whole team was cornered then dumped in a bath of soapy water.

It's beginning to sound as if all I do is hang out in the garden all day catching bugs - not true. With only two hills of zucchini all this work took just a few seconds each morning and night.

At last, we harvested the first zucchini and summer squash, picked at about six inches. At that size the flesh is tender, and the seeds are barely evident. The cucumber beetle did not transmit a disease.

Nor did the squash bug kill the plant. But while I was busy looking under the leaves for obvious bugs, the squash vine borer was at work inside its stem.

One giveaway that you have it: a mushy, sawdust-like excrement appearing outside of small holes in the stems. Affected plants also have leaves that wilt despite being well watered.

I tried removing the white, wrinkled



LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR

Thank you from Wings of Song

On behalf of the Wings of Song choral group, we would like to thank all those who helped make our Blue Boat Home concerts such a success.

We would also like to thank Melissa Hoffer, Massachusetts Climate Chief for attending our concert at Shepherd Hill Regional High School and speaking about climate change.

With the generous support of all our attendees, friends and contributors, we were able to donate \$300 to the Environmental Defense Fund which was tripled by a special fundraising program they were involved in at the time our donation was made.

Wings of Song will resume rehearsals in the fall on Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at St. Anne's Church, Fiskdale with our next program, Celtic Noels. We are also resuming our annual auction on Nov. 4 at the Federated

Church of Sturbridge/Fiskdale.

Our concerts as always will be admission-free and we strive to keep our membership dues as low as possible. We continue to rely on audience contributions and WoS Friends donations to continue offering high-quality concerts to our community.

If you would like additional information on the chorus or our auction, please visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/wingsofsong.us or our website, www.wingsofsong.us. You may also email any questions or a request to be added to our new newsletter announcing anything “Wings of Song” at wingsofsongchorus@gmail.com.

With much thanks and appreciation for all our followers,

Carol Curtin
President, Wings of Song

Second Chance Animal golf tournament great success

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 11th 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, 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

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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Quaboag Current Newspaper

Resident commends town's emergency responders

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – A resident came to the Board of Selectmen to share her recent experiences with the town's emergency responders.

At the Aug. 1 meeting, the resident said a tree was hit by lightning and fell on her house during a storm the previous week.

"That was an extremely scary and upsetting thing to happen," she said.

She said her neighbors were "fantastic" and she thanked emergency responders for their quick response.

"The response was immediate...they came, and they got right to work," she said.

The resident said Fire Chief Joseph Holway was just "incredible," and even helped her contact her insurance company and spoke on her behalf.

"He was so kind and so calming," she said.

The resident said emergency responders cleaned up broken glass and plaster, water damage from the rain and cut the trees limbs.

Later that evening, Holway and an EMT returned to her house to make sure she was okay and that the house wasn't leaking with the continued rainfall. Holway also returned the next morning.

"I know this is their job, but it's also a volunteer department...I just would like to commend them beyond any reasonable doubt, that they were just incredible to me," she said.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis thanked the resident for sharing her story.

"Our response teams are very good...we do appreciate them and we're glad that they took care of you the way they did," he said.

Liquor license hearing

Ciarah Santos, owner of Connect North Brookfield, requested a restaurant, all-alcoholic beverages liquor license during a public hearing.

Connect Restaurant, located on Mechanic Street in Spencer, will be opening a second location at the former Statz Restaurant and Lounge, 341 North Main St.

The restaurant's hours will be Monday through Thursday from 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday from 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

An abutter in attendance at the hearing asked if the restaurant will be accessible in accordance with the

Americans with Disabilities Act, and meet conditions that had previously been set forth but not met.

Other residents complained about sewer backups, flooding from the restaurant's parking lot, as well as trash concerns. One resident said the dumpster hasn't been emptied since April, while another called it an "eyesore."

Petraitis said he appreciates the resident's concerns and said he will need to research the issues listed.

The Board approved the liquor license for Connect North Brookfield.

Financial items

Petraitis said the Board needs to decide whether or not they will have a hiring or spending freeze for the upcoming year. He said the town had to take money from stabilization to balance the budget this last year.

Board of Selectmen Clerk Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada said she was open to putting a hold on things until they meet with the Finance Committee, with Vice-Chair John Tripp agreeing. With the new fiscal year having just begun, the Board didn't feel a spending freeze was immediately necessary.

The Board voted to place a hiring freeze until further notice.

ARPA recommendation

The Board approved a recommendation from the American Rescue Plan Act Committee to spend \$21,665 to fund the education software and hardware expenses for North Brookfield Public Schools.

Canada said the school district had cut this amount from its budget in order to use ARPA funds to pay for it.

Chip sealing

The Board approved having the Highway Department use rubberized chip sealing to repair the surface of five roadways in town.

The roadways include King Road, Mill Road, Bullard Road, Slab City Road and Town Farm Road.

Petraitis said it would cost \$100,000 less to use a rubberized chip seal instead of a top course of conventional asphalt. He said the roads have been properly prepared for the rubberized chip sealing.

In the past, roads that were chip sealed in town weren't properly repaired and the chip seal wasn't rubberized.

Parks and Rec. policies

The Board and the Parks & Recreation Committee discussed a sign policy for town parks, which was proposed with a 30-day limit.

After discussion, Board members suggested limit-

ing the amount of time a sign could be displayed to 21 days, and adding language to limit the size of signs.

The Board approved the policy, with the understanding that a sign size addendum will be added later.

Appointment

Vaughn Schlegel was appointed to the alternate position on both the Finance Committee and Planning Board.

One-day liquor license

The Board approved a one-day outside liquor license for Stars & Stripes for a chicken barbecue on Sept. 3 from noon-9 p.m.

Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association's annual meeting Aug. 17

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. 17.

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, sweatshirts, tote bags, glassware and more will be available for sale along with scoresheets for the LWPA's 6th Annual Poker Run.

The meeting will kick off with a brief business meeting including elections of Officers and Executive Committee members, followed by committee updates. This year's meeting theme is "All Around the Lake – Land and Water," and presenters will be Cynthia Henshaw, Executive Director, East Quabbin Land Trust and Jim Emerson, Care 4 Rivers.

The evening will end with a 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 email at marybeth@northamericantool.com or by calling 508-245-1895.

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

worms from the hollow stems by making a slit with a needle and removing the insect. I must have missed a few - a strong possibility considering the female moth lays two hundred individual eggs at the plant's base!

The eggs hatch into larva that tunnel into the stems, eventually killing the plant.

As ridiculous as it sounds, wrapping a shiny barrier such as aluminum foil around the plant's base does seem to deter the red bodied, transparent-leaved moth from her egg-laying endeavors.

My dead plants were carried off to the trash, not the compost pile, and I will turn over the soil in both fall and spring to kill any pupae that may be overwintering. Rotating your crops can also help.

Some gardeners wash down their stems daily to dis-

lodge and kill the eggs. Others make a late sowing only; supposedly after July Fourth or so egg laying ceases.

I made a second sowing a couple weeks back. If the borers don't get these, the frost likely will, but I am crossing my fingers that an Indian Summer may mean more zucchini for our household, because what we had certainly wasn't enough!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

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STURBRIDGE | FROM PAGE 1

table of the Worcester County Sheriff. Representing that department and the Sheriff, Lew Evangelidis, were Donna Ostiguy, Director of Community Outreach and Community Outreach Coordinator Nydia J. Quiros. They were at National Night Out to answer any questions community members might have about what the sheriff's office does.

Moving past the bandstand where DJ Thompy Time was spinning music of various genres, we came upon Scouts playing gaga ball in a pit. Your correspondent had never heard of gaga ball before, so it was explained to him that it was a combination of four square and dodgeball.

Having never heard of four square before either, our understanding may not be complete. Still, if it catches on like pickleball has, it will be big.

Next, we came upon the Sturbridge Fire Department, promoting fire safety and answering questions as well as teaching kids how to perform CPR.

The Fire Department had a promotion for a low-cost smoke alarm and to warn of how smoke is the big killer in home fires. Many smoke alarms in homes are not working; make sure yours is.

The Sturbridge Police Department was there and enthusiastically interacting with citizens, as one would expect, as the department was a sponsor of the local National Night Out.

On the common was an Auburn Policeman with maybe the most interesting bit of hardware that night. It was a search and rescue robot and it looked impressive. The machine searches for live people.

Also, there was Massachusetts K-9 Rescue & Recovery with charming pooches and humans. Though the Auburn Police robot's remit is probably not completely analogous to the K-9's mission, it would be interesting to see them go head-to-head in a search and rescue competition.

CERT was on hand. For those who don't know, CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team.

The Community Emergency Response Team program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live. They are always looking for new members.

Representatives of UMass Medical Reserve Corps were present. The Medical Reserve Corps is a com-

munity-based, volunteer program that helps build the public health infrastructure of communities nationwide.

There were so many civic organizations, and one would wish that there was sufficient time to cover all of them. Then again, same with the food vendors.

Well, as to food, if only one could taste all the offerings.

The Publick House not only provided parking; they sent over their hot dogs. Minute Man Kettle Corn did a brisk business.

Hearthstone Market, known for their grab and go meals, provided ice cream.

Normally, one thinks of a night out as, maybe, dinner and/or a show or a sporting event. Ah, but in Sturbridge this year, they made learning something new about what is going on in your town a fun way to spend an evening.



Two Sturbridge Health Staff display a board with the ticks to watch out for. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Martial arts instruction may come in handy.



Three members of Massachusetts K-9 Rescue & Recovery.



The library staff were there for the young readers.



The Fire Department was on the Common.



The Red Cross Disaster Action Team attended National Night Out on Sturbridge Common.



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Swim, paddle or float at the Wild Bill Swim Aug. 20

BROOKFIELD — Two hundred local third graders will get swimming and water-safety lessons this fall, thanks to the funds being raised for the Aug. 20 “Wild Bill Swim & Paddle Challenge.”

The Wild Bill Swim is a something-for-everyone event on South Pond (Lake Quacumquasit) in Brookfield, with swims ranging from 3 miles, 2 miles and 1 mile to 400 yards, plus a 1-mile paddle, and the “community floatella” for those traveling on a variety of fun, colorful floaties.

Proceeds from the event will pay for swimsuits, goggles, and transportation and a series of “Just Get in the Water” swim and safety lessons at the Southbridge YMCA. The lessons will take place during the school year and through the school systems, but at no cost to parents or the schools.

The Wild Bill Swim honors South Pond’s own Olympic Gold Medalist, the late William Yorzyk, who invented the butterfly stroke as it is swum today and took the Gold Medal at the 200-meter butterfly at the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia — just seven years after learning to swim as a freshman at Springfield College. In 1982, at age 49, he swam his Olympic time.

Many of his other life’s accomplishments stemmed from his years as an Eagle Scout, Air Force captain, anesthesiologist and lake environmentalist. Yorzyk passed away three years ago.

The idea for the Wild Bill Swim came to Yorzyk’s daughter, Jenn Yorzyk Triger, when shortly after Yorzyk’s death, she started receiving swim-themed drawings from young children.

She learned that a doctor that Yorzyk had men-

tored had sponsored water-safety lessons in Yorzyk’s name at a lake in Charlton, and had spoken to the children about Yorzyk. Those children had sent Triger the drawings.

Triger, who is an avid open-water swimmer thanks to the love of swimming Yorzyk passed on to his family, was inspired, and the idea for the open-water Wild Bill Swim was born. The inaugural event last year far exceeded Triger’s goals, as this year’s event is poised to do.

The “fun, fitness and philanthropy” event offers many ways to donate: businesses can become advertised sponsors, while individuals, families and groups can sponsor a child for \$200, volunteer their time and talent or simply register for the event. Major sponsors, like “SnowMagic,” whose CEO was mentored by Yorzyk, are providing substantial funding, while “Challenge Island,” will be on-site at the event to provide science games on the beach for kids.

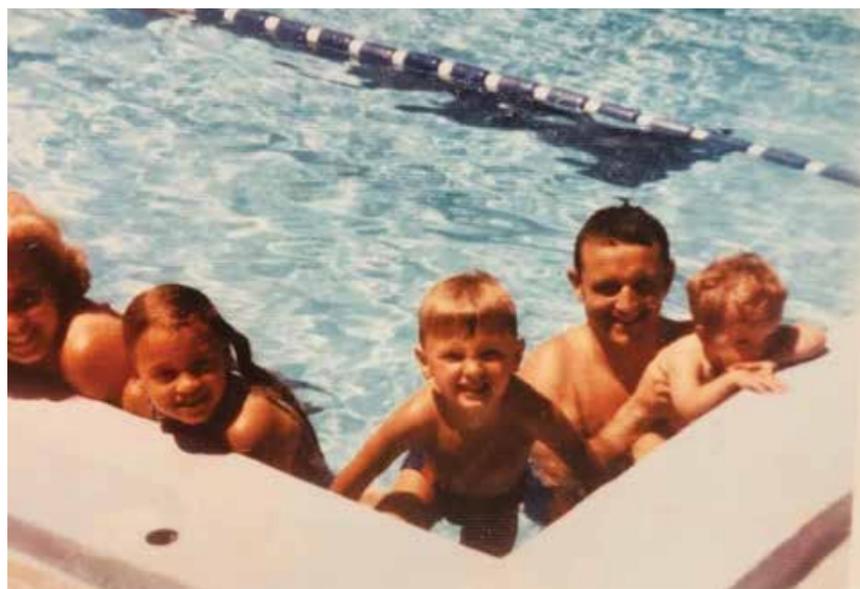
Brookfield’s Oakholm Brewery, which will be the final destination for the post-event celebration, is donating a percentage of proceeds from their “Wild Bill Beer,” “Wild Carrol Seltzer” and “Wild Bill Pizza (with everything on it)” throughout the summer.

Registration for the Wild Bill Swim is open at Wild-BillSwim.org. For information about swimming lessons, contact your school principal.

Information is also available through emailing Yorzyk-Triger at jenn@wildbillswim.org, through YouTube and Instagram @wildbillswim, and through the Facebook page, The Wild Bill Swim & Paddle Challenge. Donations can be made to gofundme.com/the-wild-bill-swim-and-paddle-challenge.



Olympic Gold-Medalist Bill Yorzyk sits with his daughter Jenn and his son David at Silvia's Pine Knoll Swim School. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Olympic Gold-Medalist Bill Yorzyk and his family -- Carrol, Jennifer, David, Bill and Jeffrey -- at Silvia's Pine Knoll Swim School.



Olympic Gold-Medalist Bill Yorzyk's son David takes lessons as a child.

JOB OPENING

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Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

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Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
ekennedy@turley.com



New Braintree Library holds story time

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, in preparation for the new school year is offering the next story time on Monday, Aug. 21 with a new start time of 9 a.m.

This reading and crafts program for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays at the library.

The story time will be featuring Natasha Wing’s “The Night Before Preschool” and “Over in the Meadow” illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats.

Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular hours for more information.

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CIVIL WAR | FROM PAGE 1



Eli Bissineri, age 8 of Brookfield, holds a model gun.

brutal nature of war. Some even sampled some hard-tack, a common staple to keep soldiers fueled.

Soldiers wearing blue wool uniforms, sat in wooden folding chairs while lunch was prepared over a fire, talking about their loved ones back home, and their favorite musical instruments to play.

Joining the 15th Massachusetts Volunteers Infantry was Be What Remains, a group of Civil War reenactors depicting non-military life in the 19th century, namely the Unity Ladies Aid Society.

Wearing dresses that would be authentic to the time period, reenactor Adrienne Ordnung explained that the only thing that changed with the season for clothing was the fabric.

“The fashion doesn’t change,” she said, including long sleeves and full skirts.

The lightweight weave of cotton and linen helped keep women cool in the 19th century, and having skin covered helped to shield it from the heat of the sun. Covered hoops and cages not only gave skirts some extra body and swing, but they also kept the layers of fabric off the wearer’s legs.

Cages came to the fashion scene in the 1850s, offering a lighter, cooler alternative to the covered hoop, as there was no layer of fabric covering it, just a steel cage.

Drawers (the underwear of yesteryear), were split down the crotch seam, making trips to the bathroom less of a hassle and alleviating the need to remove many layers of clothing.

less of a hassle and alleviating the need to remove many layers of clothing.

All of the costumes worn by the reenactors are either handmade or purchased, but they only use the materials women would have had available during the Civil War.

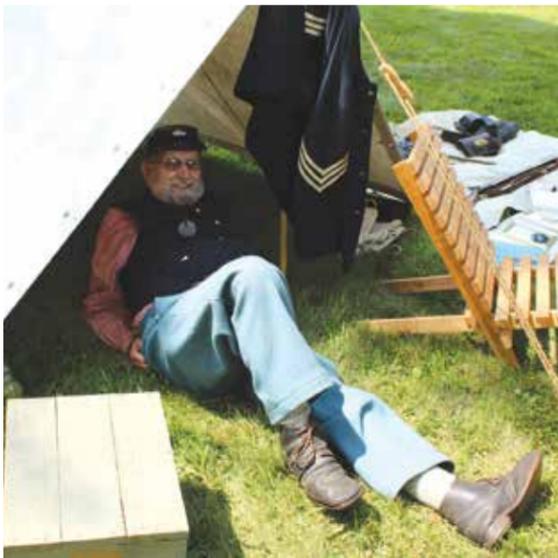
Not everything was sewn by hand either, as it was during this time that Wilcox & Gibbs created a hand-crank sewing machine for consumers.

Ordung explained the purpose of the Ladies Aid Society, and how they helped send relief to soldiers on the battlefield.

Quilt raffles were one way a Society could help, which each woman being sent home to piece a 10 inch quilt block, finishing



Soldiers load their guns with black powder. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE



A soldier keeps cool in the heat of the day.



Riley joins in to help the Unity Ladies Aid Society’s efforts.



Nora LeBrun, age 5 and Lauren LeBrun, age 8 of Brookfield explored a tent with one of their friends.



A young reenactor takes a drink to cool off.

its edges. The finished blocks would then be collected and whipstitched together to quickly form a whole quilt.

The quilt would then be raffled off to send money to troops. Oftentimes quilts were also sent, with many stitched with the names of the quilters, poems and prayers.

Soon attention shifted back to the soldiers as they armed themselves and marched toward the battlefield, where the sound of gunfire volleyed across the green.

For more information about the Brookfield Cultural Council and other upcoming events, make sure to find them on Facebook.



Shots rang out across the Common.



Be What Remains members talk about civilian life during the Civil War, and how ladies aid societies kept soldiers cared for when the government was unable to.



Soldiers had many games to play in order to keep busy between battles.



SPORTS

Falcons wrap up regular season



Drew Wright tries to avoid a two-hand tag from an opponent.



Adam Howe winds up to make a throw toward the end zone.



Jack Rapose tries to make a catch in traffic. TURLEY PHOTOS BY SOFIA DIGRANDE

WILBRAHAM – With fall football season just a couple short weeks ago, many members of Tantasqua High School football traveled to Minnechaug Regional for 7v7 two-hand touch football. The league host more than a dozen schools from around the region for action Tuesday nights for the past several weeks. The league's playoffs were scheduled for earlier this week.



Max Cohen lunges to get a tag on a ball carrier.



Isaac Colon tries to make a block.



Gabe Lopez runs toward the sideline.

PeoplesBank wrap up another title in TriCounty League

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—Just like they've done during the past decade, PeoplesBank didn't have very much trouble capturing the 2023 Tri-County League championship title.

After posting an 8-0 victory over the second-seeded Chicopee Falls Tigers in game one at Legion Field in Palmer, top-seeded PeoplesBank swept the best of three series following a 15-1 win at Szot Park in Chicopee, last Thursday night.

"All of the players get along
See TriCounty | PAGE 10



Johnny Gegetskas slides safely home. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

West showcased in girls soccer

BOSTON – In last month's Bay State Games, the Western part of the state featured a girls soccer team showcased. Here is a look at how they fared in some of their matchups held July 6-9:

The West started out with a drubbing of the Northeast team 9-1.

In a dominant display of attacking prowess, West's forwards Hannah Murphy (Monson, Monson HS), Gianna Sakowski (Springfield, Minnechaug Regional HS), and Lauren Marjanski (South Hadley, South Hadley HS)

each notched two goals, alongside contributions from midfielder Danica Dorozynski (Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive HS) and defender Makenna Kennedy (West Springfield, West Springfield HS), securing an emphatic 9-1 victory. Northeast's midfielder Siena Hesbach (Maynard, Maynard HS) scored the consolation goal, with an assist from midfielder Phoebe Whitcomb (Newburyport, Newburyport HS).

The West would lose one game in the showcase and

See WEST | PAGE 11

- sports -

Granite Series headed for Maine

WALPOLE, N.H. – Granite State Pro Stock Series officials announced today that Coastal Auto Parts will sponsor the upcoming Coastal Auto Parts 100 at Speedway 95 on Saturday, August 19. In what will be the second stop of the season for the series to the Maine oval, drivers will be chasing the championship as the season begins to wind down.

The Speedway 95 event will be one of the final three on the schedule for the season, with only events at Star Speedway and Lancaster Motorplex to follow to crown the 2023 champion.

Coastal Auto Parts, in business for many years, has built a great business by focusing on superior customer service, through deep inventory, quality people and building meaningful relationships with their customers. They are a family business, deeply rooted in the Ellsworth, Maine, community. From a single store in 1981, Coastal Auto Parts has 29 stores today and more than 270 employees. They have truly transitioned to the next generation.

The event at Speedway 95 on August 19 will also include the R&R Street



There will be another race at Speedway 95 in Maine this weekend SUBMITTED PHOTO

Stock Series and the Cage Runners. A full schedule for the day will be available soon.

“We support racing in the state of Maine for many reasons,” Michael Boles of Coastal Auto Parts said. “These people are customers for us, both on the track and in the stands. They work really hard to be able to do what they love and we want to help provide them

a place to play. We are always excited to go to the track. Hopefully this event will continue to help grow racing in the Bangor area and the state of Maine.”

“Partnering with Coastal Auto Parts for this event is great for our series,” Mike Parks, President of the Granite State Pro Stock Series, said. “We’re happy to have them working with us for what will be another great event.

Speedway 95 produces some fantastic Pro Stock racing and we’re excited to get back there for another race later this month.”

For more information on Coastal Auto Parts, visit capnapa.com. For more information on the Granite State Pro Stock Series, visit gspss.net and follow the series on social media for the latest news and updates.

TRICOUNTY | FROM PAGE 9

very well with each other on and off the field,” said PeoplesBank player/manager Joe Ferry. “The target on our backs gets bigger and bigger each year because everyone wants to beat us. Winning the championship title never gets old and the next one is always better than the last one.”

PeoplesBank has now won 18 Tri-County League championship titles, including the past ten, since 1995.

Ferry was the starting leftfielder and he’s been the PeoplesBank manager since 2019. He dedicated the 2023 season to Tom Bouvier, who’s from Ware. Bouvier retired a year ago.

“I would like to dedicate this season to Tom Bouvier,” Ferry said. “Tom was our captain and our leadoff hitter.”

Holyoke’s Danny Gaines, who made just two regular season starts, was the winning pitcher in game two. The lefty didn’t allow any runs on six base hits in 5 2/3 innings.

“I can’t believe this is our tenth championship title in a row and I’m looking forward to playing for this team again next year,” said Gaines, who issued two walks and didn’t record any strikeouts. “We were able to take an early lead in tonight’s game, which is always a very important thing. My teammates also made the plays behind me. We do have the best defense in the league.”

Ferry and Gaines, along with second baseman Dave Clark, catcher Pete Hogan, and pitcher Andy Gaines, are the only PeoplesBank players who have been members of the last ten championship teams.

“We do have a great group of baseball players and we own this league now,” Ferry said. “We just fill in the holes every year.”

While the PeoplesBank players were celebrating another championship title outside of the first base dugout, the mood was a little bit different on the other side of the field following the game.

“I’m glad that we made it to the finals, but we just didn’t play very well in the past two games,” said Tigers player/manager Sean Bourgeois. “I’ll be moving to New Jersey soon, so this was my final Tri-County League baseball game. I hope this team can win the championship title next year.”

Bourgeois, who started in left field,



Ryan Magni fields a grounder.



Jason Byers pitches for the Tigers. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

would like Mike Truff to replace him as the Tigers manager next year.

PeoplesBank scored an unearned run in the second inning.

Centerfielder Seth Allen (2-for-4) blasted a leadoff double down the left field line against righthander Ryan Magni. The next batter struck out before shortstop Sam Allen drew a walk. Then Hogan bounced into a fielder’s choice play. Seth Allen advanced to third on the play before scoring the game’s first run on a throwing error by the shortstop.

An RBI line-drive single to center by designated hitter Johnny Gegetsas gave PeoplesBank a 2-0 advantage with one-out in the third inning. Then Seth Allen blasted a triple to left field against Magni scoring two more runs.

Bourgeois thinks Magni is one of the top pitchers in the TCL, but he hasn’t had very much success against PeoplesBank.

“We’ve beaten Magni in a number of big games over the years,” Ferry said. “At least six of our nine batters have faced him at least 30 times. We know what he throws.”

The Tigers had just one base hit during the first three innings before they loaded the bases in the fourth.

With one-out, Right fielder Tom Burzynski hit a flyball just out of the reach of PeoplesBank right fielder Breon

Parker Jr., who attempted to make a diving catch. Catcher Nick Kreuzer followed with a single and shortstop Shane Denault walked. Gaines retired the next two batters on a pop-up and flyout ending the threat.

Magni kept PeoplesBank off the scoreboard for the next two innings before allowing four runs in the top of the sixth inning.

Hogan, who had a leadoff single, scored on Ferry’s triple to right field. Ferry also scored on a throwing error. Their other two runs crossed the plate on a double by Clark (3-for-5) and a single by first baseman Kyle Platner, who led the way offensively with four hits and a walk.

PeoplesBank scored seven more runs in their final at-bats against a couple of relief pitchers.

The Tigers finally got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the seventh inning against Gegetsas, who replaced Gaines on the mound. Burzynski reached first base on a fielder’s choice play which scored pinch hitter Josh DeSouza, who singled leading off the frame.

Had there been a game three of the series, righthander Zach Handzel, who graduated from Palmer High School, would’ve been the starting pitcher for PeoplesBank.

“It just feels awesome to win another

championship title,” said Handzel, who has been wearing a PeoplesBank uniform for the past six years. “Danny threw a gem tonight and Jimmy Flahive pitched very well in game one. We do have a very strong pitching staff. I’m hoping that we can win another title next year.”

Before taking a team picture at home plate, Ferry received the championship trophy from first year Tri-County League President Michael Kennedy, who’s a former PeoplesBank player.



Sam Allen slings a throw to first.

- community -

Local fire departments compete in a muster

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer



Speed and accuracy are key during a muster.

BROOKFIELD – During the town’s 350th anniversary celebration, area fire departments joined together and competed in Brookfield Fire Department’s muster.

The muster featured the three departments competing in several races to connect hoses and knock over a target. The event was filled with friendly competition and camaraderie between the Brookfield, Oakham, and Warren fire departments.

The competition had many close calls as the firefighters displayed their agility and sportsmanship.

Warren Fire Department placed first overall at the muster.

The chiefs of the three departments wish for this event to become a yearly muster to bring together more departments to compete in the future.



Warren Fire Department rushes to assemble the hoses.



Firefighters connect the hose as water begins to stream out.



Firefighters work to knock down the target during Brookfield Fire Department's muster. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Workshop13 hosts 5th annual Northeast Fine Arts Exhibition

WARE – Workshop13 invites artists from throughout the northeastern U.S. to participate in the 5th annual juried Northeast Fine Arts Exhibition.

Works of traditional realism are welcomed in the following categories: oil painting, watercolor, sculpture, drawing/graphics, acrylic (includes casein and egg tempera), pastel, and mixed media. Awards will be granted in multiple categories, with Best in Show receiving \$1,000.

The deadline for entry is Aug. 23 by midnight.

This annual exhibition of traditional realism is held in the unique Grand Hall gallery of Workshop13, a non-profit cultural arts and learning center located at 13 Church St.

The exhibition will be on display from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8 and can be visited on Fridays from 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. The show will open with a reception from 1-4 p.m. on Sept. 23, with awards announced at 3 p.m.

The juror for the 5th annual NEFAE is Julie Beck, the Assistant Director of the Academy of Realist Art, Boston, as well as an instructor.

Beck is currently working out of her personal studio at ARA Boston, where she is developing a body of work that explores the concepts of nostalgia, relationships, and identity. She has a wide range of painting subjects including still life paintings and animal/figurative works.

Her work can be found in private collections throughout the U.S. and internationally.

About Workshop13

Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural non-profit arts innovator located in Ware and devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of our community through instruction, collaborations, and arts-based initiatives.



Julie Beck is the juror for the 5th annual Northeast Fine Arts Exhibition. Deadline to submit entries is Aug. 23. SUBMITTED PHOTO

WEST | FROM PAGE 9

would play for the bronze medal, defeating Central Mass. 3-2.

In the bronze medal game, Central and West battled fiercely in a close match. Central’s forward Bianca Facchetti (Londmeadow, Minnechaug Regional HS) opened the scoring with an assist from forward Kalli White (Granby, Granby HS), holding the lead at half-time. However, West fought back in the second half, as forward Gianna Sakowski (Springfield, Minnechaug Regional HS) netted a goal off a corner kick. Central responded with a goal of their own from forward Sydney Reed (West Springfield, West Springfield HS), assisted by midfielder Sabina Mackechnie (East Longmeadow, East Longmeadow HS). With tensions high, West was awarded a penalty kick, which Marjanski converted confidently. In the final moments of the match, West midfielder Allison Fleury (South Hadley, South Hadley HS) sealed the victory with an assist from Marjanski, leading West to a thrilling comeback win.

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NIGHT OUT | FROM PAGE 1

Passing inside, there was Adam representing the Woo Sox ball club and after him, I came upon a small surprise.

A bakery had a table filled with a variety of bagels and breads. A young man was selling the goods and I thought he was an employee of “Mason’s Creations,” the name on the banner.

Nope, the fellow was Mason Pelletier, and the entrepreneur of the operation under his name. Impressive for someone so young.

The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance returned this year with more information in pursuit of the mission of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery. This year they were providing information on Narcan, the emergency nasal spray.

Representatives of CASA were at NNO. CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, advocate for the best interest of children in foster care in Worcester County.

In a bit of a departure from the service-oriented organizations, the owners of Worcester’s Tidepool Bookshop were on hand. True, as advocates of reading, they can be considered in service.

Owners Jo and Huck have great senses of humor which can be seen in the titles of the books they brought to the evening.

Two tables were active in encouraging folks not to lose MassHealth coverage. At one table were Melissa and Trinidad and at another, Alicia and Kyle. If you suspect you are nearing a deadline, you should contact MassHealth.

Worcester Community Action Council, Inc., or WCAC has many programs and they had much information to share, from fuel assistance, work readiness, financial fitness, to child care and more.

Then there was the table of Tracy and Emily of New Hope Counseling Center, Inc., located near Klem’s in Spencer. Their mission is to help in a safe space.

Behavioral Health Network, Inc., or as its more well-known logo has it, was present as Valley Human Services. Valley Human Services was represented by the domestic violence supervisor, Paula Kularski.

Debra and Priscilla were at the FosterMA table, an organization that, as the name implies, supports providing a safe and nurturing home for children in care. There is always a need for such foster homes.

We met Melissa last year representing Girl Scouts. She started in second grade and is still enthusiastic.

Her daughter became a Scout as well and now, at 17 years of age, has the rank of Ambassador.

At the far end of the field was 4-H. They had horses, and other livestock, and the staff was taking a break. They were out of Camp Marshall in Spencer where the equestrian program is happening. Camp Marshall has programs all year round.

Jeff Martin of the North Brookfield Police was there as community outreach. He was sharing the Molly Bish Life “Guard” Safety Kit with its basic safety rules.

Again, this year, Sue Lewandowski and North Brookfield Cares 2 Help were at NNO. North Brookfield Cares 2 Help is the towns community calendar with information on just about everything.

In a crowded spot, three organizations shared space. North Brookfield Hearts for Heat is dedicated to providing heat to qualified residents. North Brookfield Emergency Management is just that as the name implies. Veterans Services is available to those who served.

The three staffing the tight space, Holly, Mike and Ellen were doing it with good humor.

Having made the circuit and seen as much as one could, it was time to go. A lot was missed as there was no little food choices and food trucks as well as craft vendors in addition to all the civic organizations.

The team that ran National Night Out North Brookfield did a fine job. We wish them luck as it will be difficult to better the 2023 edition.



Katlin, Ren and Katelinde welcomed folks to National Night Out at the Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield’s booth. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Andrea, Jordan and Emma of 4-H Camp Marshall taking a break.



Shown from left are Gail Gramarossa of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance and Emily Coderre of Healthy Quaboag.



The ever-popular Brookfield Orchards was at the event.



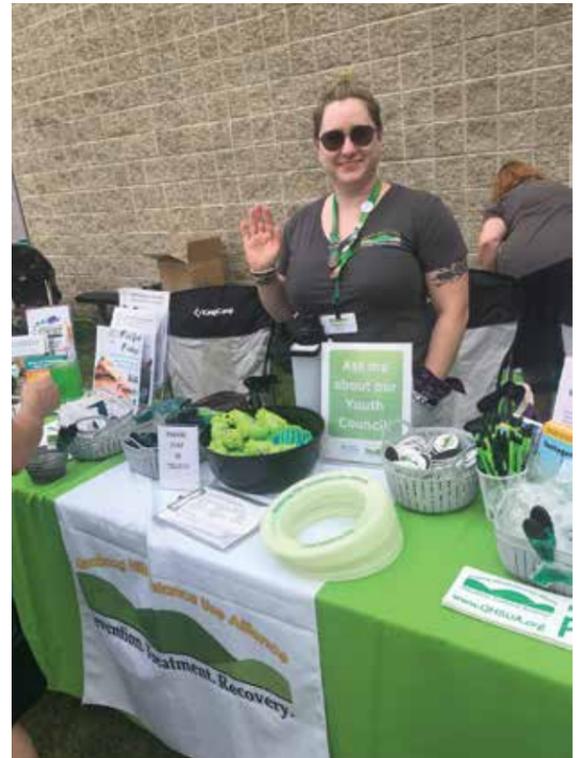
Melissa represented the Girl Scouts program again this year.



Huck and Jo Truesdell of Tidepool Bookshop.



Mason, the young impresario of Mason’s Creations.



Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance attended National Night Out.

QHCC | FROM PAGE 1

community centers, veterans offices and more. He even donated the ice cream sandwiches to local police departments to give away at National Night Out.

This was, “the coolest thing about becoming CEO,” Lavoie said.

But now it’s back to business for Lavoie, who is focused on building membership of the Chamber, as well as strengthening its role in developing the local workforce.

During his visit to the Quaboag Regional School District, Lavoie spoke with Assistant Superintendent of Development Madeline Smola about the need for outreach to local employers for the school’s co-op program.

“I’m going to partner with the schools to start,” Lavoie said. “They want to be used as a pool for regional employers... that is one of my goals.”

Lavoie said the school district has a grant that would not only cover wages for students in the co-op, but it would also cover transportation.

Lavoie plans to work with the school district and meet with students to talk about the merits of participating in the co-op.

“Students can try out a job and see if it’s for them or not. I’ll sit with them and try to connect the pieces,” he said.

Lavoie is well-versed in the importance of job opportunities and training for students, with his connection to a vocational technical school that represents nine of the Chamber’s 15 towns.

Lavoie serves on the School Committee for Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, a position he originally filled as a liaison to the Town Council starting five years ago.

After longtime School Committee member Michael Cavanaugh’s death, Lavoie filled the vacant seat until he was officially elected to the position. He is the second person to fill that seat, which

Cavanaugh had held for nearly 50 years since the school was founded in the early 1970s.

“Mike and Dr. [Gerald] Paist basically opened Pathfinder Tech...he had that seat from the beginning,” Lavoie said.

A native of Ludlow, Lavoie moved to Palmer in 2000, having spent most of this career up until now travelling all over New England.

Most recently he has been with Genden Auto Parts (Carquest) covering commercial accounts on the road, from South Deerfield up through Vermont and New Hampshire.

“I had a parsnip farmer, a potato farmer...I was all over the map,” Lavoie said. “With Carquest, I was straight up and down Route 91. Now I’m all over the 15 towns, spanning from east to west.”

His work experience has given him the opportunity to see the needs of all types of business, from family farmers to large corporations, firsthand.

When Lavoie first started on the Town Council, he reached out to state Rep. Todd Smola for advice on the best way to reach the people he represents.

“He said, ‘go to everything that’s free...whether its Little league, Scouting, just get your face out there and meet people,’” Lavoie said.

Lavoie took that advice and is now applying it to his role as Chamber CEO, taking time to meet with community and business members in the towns he now represents, including some towns he’s never been to before up until now.

“I had never set foot in New Braintree in my entire life,” Lavoie said.

In addition to handing out ice cream sandwiches, Lavoie has been distributing the Chamber’s newest recreation guide and business directory; a free resource that provides a detailed description of the services and products Chamber members offer.

Supporting its members is the real purpose of the Chamber, Lavoie said, and something he is dedicated to improving. He intends to do this by promoting members through social media, as well as helping them improve their own digital media skills through training.

Lavoie is eager to hear from Chamber members about the type of support each one needs, knowing that finding employees is a big concern.

“I’m trying to make everybody win. Everybody’s got to benefit, or it won’t work,” Lavoie said. “We exist to benefit the members.”

About QHCC

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1978 to assist businesses in the Quaboag Hills Region, serving the towns of Belcher-town, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield.

Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the region, to be an advocate for policies that achieve the development goals of the communities, and to advance the interests of its members.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. It helps the business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations; through trainings, seminars, and more.

Membership fees start at \$245 a year, with the average business paying about \$1 a day for the Chamber’s services. Membership fees are only \$100 for non-profit organizations.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is located at 4 Springfield St., Suite 525, Three Rivers. For more information, visit qhma.com, call 413-283-2418 or email info@qhma.com.

Adreanna Peterson joins EXIT Realty team

SPENCER – EXIT Real Estate Executives Michelle Terry Team in Spencer announced the addition of Adreanna Peterson to its team of real estate professionals.

“We’re excited to welcome Adreanna to EXIT Realty Michelle Terry Team,” said Michelle Terry, Broker and Owner of EXIT Real Estate Executives in a press release. “EXIT is growing and attracting quality business people like Adreanna each and every day.”

Peterson is a full-time licensed Realtor for EXIT Real Estate Executives with the Michelle Terry Team and Notary Public.

Peterson is part of the Central Massachusetts Association of Realtors. She was born and raised in Central Massachusetts.

For the past few years, Peterson has worked closely in assisting people with their daily and specific needs. Her passion for serving others compelled her to the real estate industry.

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North Brookfield Savings Bank employee proudly displays some of the school supplies donated in 2022 by generous community members, customers and NBSB employees. SUBMITTED PHOTO

North Brookfield Savings Bank hosts Back to School drive

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Savings Bank is a strong supporter of the local school systems and students who attend them.

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 sixth year of their Back-to-School Supply Drive.

Throughout the entire month of August, North Brookfield Savings Bank 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 donations collected will be delivered to local public schools to be distributed to school children who may not have the needed supplies to start their year.

To get things underway, the Bank kicked off the fundraiser by purchasing over \$500 in supplies. The branch employees, equipped with brightly patterned backpacks, lunchboxes, pencil cases, notebooks and various other fun supplies, are getting creative with their “Back-to-School” themed tables, in

hopes it will encourage those visiting the branch to donate as well.

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

“North Brookfield Savings Bank is incredibly proud to once again host the Back-to-School Supply Drive. We want all children to begin the school year with the essential supplies they need, in turn giving them the confidence and enthusiasm that allows them to continue to learn successfully,” said Nicole Syriac, digital marketing strategist. “It was so amazing to witness the generosity displayed during our annual Back to School Supply Drive. Customers, community members and our employees were so giving and really showed how much they care for the children of our schools. We look forward to seeing that same generosity this year.”

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank’s community giving efforts visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

Legislature passes \$375 million transportation bill

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Legislature recently passed a bill that includes \$375 million in bond authorizations for transportation needs across the state, including \$200 million for the state’s Chapter 90 program, which provides municipalities with a reliable funding source for transportation-related improvements, including road and bridge repairs.

“Ensuring that people in every region of Massachusetts have safe and dependable transportation options is fundamental to creating a competitive and equitable commonwealth,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “This funding invests in our infrastructure and transit systems everywhere, allocating much-needed funds to local roads and bridges, regional transit, EV infrastructure, and parts of the MBTA. I want to thank Senator Crighton for making this a priority, my Senate colleagues for their support, and Speaker Mariano and the House for agreeing on these critical investments in our infrastructure.”

This legislation also authorizes \$175 million in programs that will support various transportation-related projects.

This includes \$25 million for each of the following: the municipal small bridge program; the complete streets program; a bus transit infrastructure program;

grants to increase access to mass transit and commuter rail stations; grants for municipalities and regional transit authorities to purchase electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them; funding for pavement and surface improvements on state and municipal roadways; and new funding dedicated to additional transportation support based on road mileage, which is particularly helpful for rural communities.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) was glad to see the new funding dedicated to additional transportation support based on road mileage.

“Western Mass has considerably more rural communities than other areas of the state, so I’m glad to see the Legislature prioritize regional equity by taking more factors into account beyond just population and other socioeconomic factors. Addressing regional equity is about acknowledging and understanding that Western Mass has different challenges than other parts of the state. I’m grateful to Senate President Spilka, Speaker Mariano, and my colleagues in the Legislature for considering that,” said Oliveira.

The bill having passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives, it will now be sent to the Governor for her consideration.

Senior dogs fetch grant at Second Chance hospitals

EAST BROOKFIELD – Old dogs have something to wag about this summer, as The Grey Muzzle Organization announces the recipients of its annual grants, and dogs at Second Chance Animal Services Community Veterinary Hospitals are among the winners.

Second Chance, which has Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield and Worcester, is one of 90 animal welfare groups chosen from 370 applicants to receive a grant to help local senior dogs. Together the winning groups received a total of \$848,000 in grants to help save or improve the lives of at-risk old dogs in their communities.

“This grant will help us give senior dogs like 16-year-old Charlie Brown the veterinary care they need” said Lindsay Doray, Second Chance’s Chief Development Officer in a press release. “No one is more grateful or loving than an old dog, and we’re looking forward to helping more senior dogs get the second chance they all deserve.”

Over the past 15 years, the national nonprofit Grey Muzzle Organization has provided more than \$4.6 million in grants to support its vision of “a world where no old dog dies alone and afraid.”

“Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we’re delighted to help deserving organizations like Second Chance make a difference in the lives of dogs and people in their communities,” Grey Muzzle’s Executive Director Lisa Lunghofer said. “Many senior dogs in Massachusetts are enjoying their golden years in loving homes thanks to the wonderful work of Second Chance.”

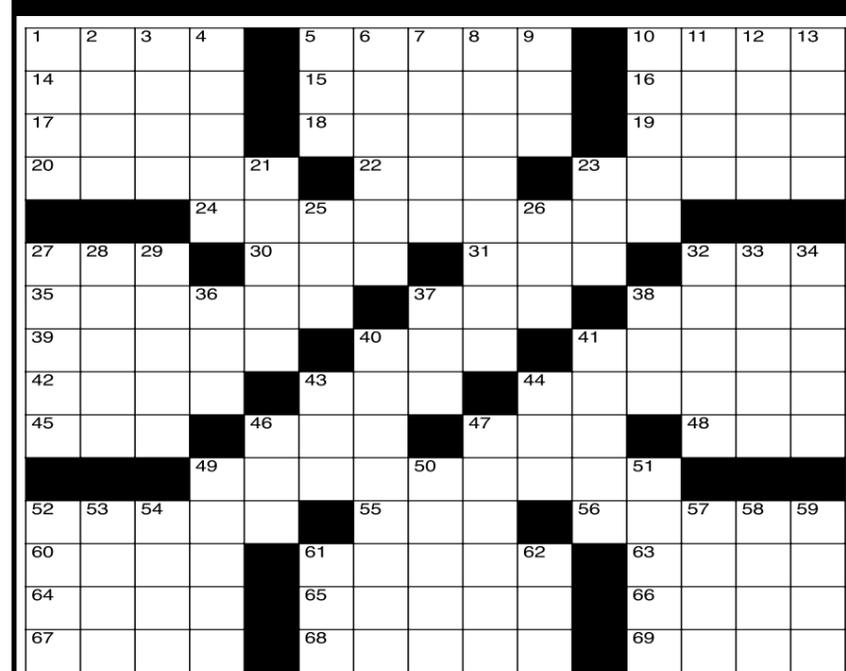
Second Chance helps over 44,000



pets a year and operates four veterinary hospitals in Central and Western Massachusetts communities. These hospitals offer full-service veterinary care at competitive rates with subsidized rates for those that qualify.

With this generous grant, senior pets with needs that strain their owner’s budget can now get the care they need. For more information, please call the closest Second Chance hospital, phone numbers can be found at www.secondchanceanimals.org/vetcare/.

The national nonprofit The Grey Muzzle Organization improves the lives of at-risk senior dogs by providing funding and resources to animal shelters, rescue organizations, sanctuaries, and other nonprofit groups nationwide. For details, please visit www.grey muzzle.org



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A way to pick up
- 5. Presents
- 10. Type of guitar
- 14. Actor Idris
- 15. A citizen of Iran
- 16. Creative
- 17. Harness
- 18. Weight unit
- 19. You better call him
- 20. Utterly devoted
- 22. Male cat
- 23. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 24. Risk-taker
- 27. A team’s best pitcher
- 30. Cool!
- 31. Women’s ___ movement
- 32. Georgia rockers
- 35. Step-shaped recess
- 37. The princess could detect its presence
- 38. Type of truck
- 39. Butterhead lettuces
- 40. Angry people see it
- 41. Lines where two fabrics are sewn together
- 42. Soviet city
- 43. Carpet
- 44. Traveled all over
- 45. Thin, straight bar
- 46. Body art (slang)
- 47. Congressman (abbr.)
- 48. No seats available
- 49. Breaks apart
- 52. Arabic name
- 55. Ballplayer’s tool
- 56. Type of sword
- 60. Baseball team
- 61. Upper bract of grass floret
- 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Ancient Syrian city
- 65. Shoelace tube
- 66. The Miami mascot is one
- 67. South American nation
- 68. Popular video game “Max ___”
- 69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

- 1. German courtesy title
- 2. Ancient Greek City
- 3. Ancient Hebrew calendar month
- 4. Long-legged frog family
- 5. Photo
- 6. Delivered a speech
- 7. Lute in classical Indian music
- 8. Decorated
- 9. Take a seat
- 10. Belonging to a bottom layer
- 11. Member of a Semitic people
- 12. Part of a ticket
- 13. Defunct Guinean money
- 21. Challenges
- 23. Popular BBQ food
- 25. Subway dweller
- 26. By way of
- 27. Shady garden alcove
- 28. Egyptian city
- 29. Partner to “flowed”
- 32. Widens
- 33. Old Eurasian wheat
- 34. Act incorrectly
- 36. European pipeline
- 37. Al Bundy’s wife
- 38. Ocean
- 40. Root eaten as a vegetable
- 41. Sound units
- 43. Style of music
- 44. A way to drench
- 46. Hot beverage
- 47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 49. Rumanian city
- 50. Urge to action
- 51. Vaccine developer
- 52. Canadian law enforcers
- 53. Wings
- 54. “Perry Mason” actor Raymond
- 57. Small fry
- 58. ___ Clapton, musician
- 59. Take a chance
- 61. Bland food
- 62. Consumed

QUABOAG CURRENT

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