

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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Volume 17, Number 39

Friday, August 23, 2024

Grandfather versus grandson

## Two generations compete in candlepin exhibition match

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

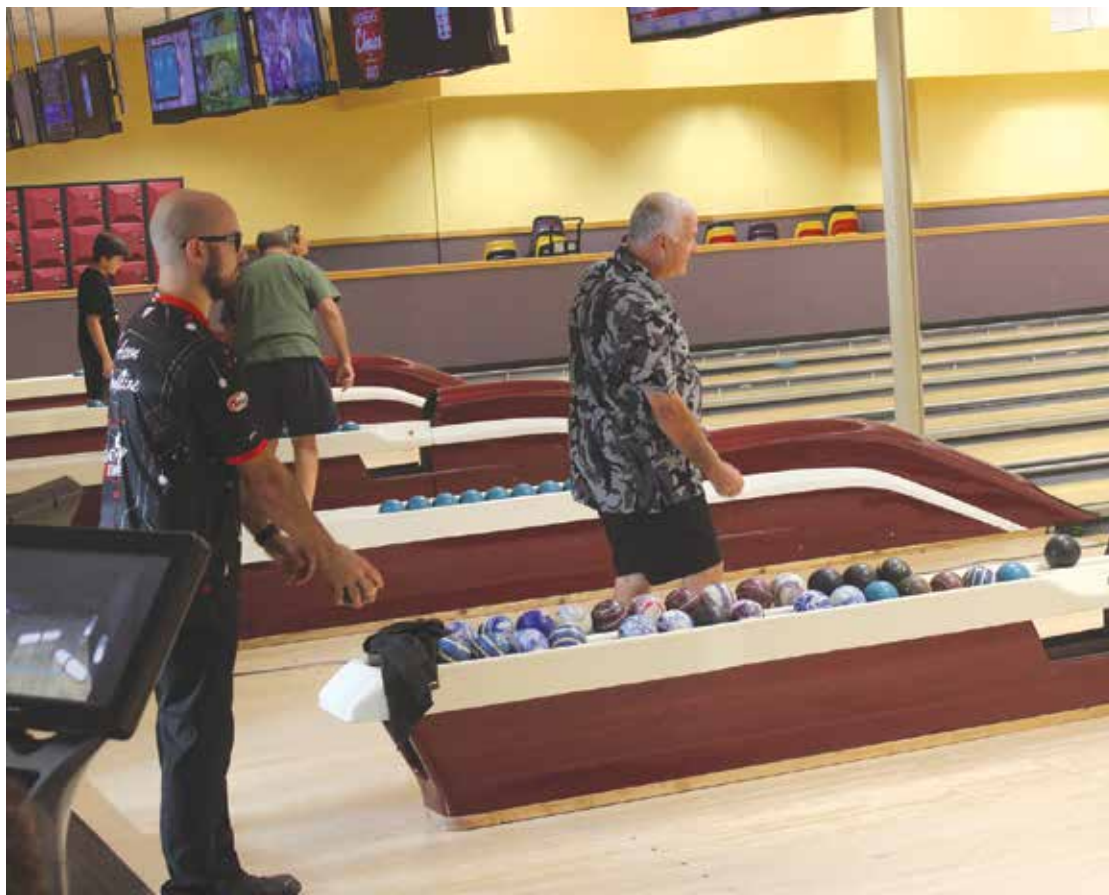
PORTSMOUTH, N.H. – Two generations of bowlers competed in a three-game exhibition match to help benefit Candlepins for Cancer.

Aaron Fontaine of East Brookfield bowled head-to-head against his grandfather, Tom Olszta, one of the greatest candlepin bowlers of all time. Olszta is a Candlepin Hall of Fame bowler inducted back in 2014. What made this induction so special was that

Olszta's two grandsons, Aaron and Nathan Fontaine inducted him into the Candlepin Hall of Fame.

On Aug. 18, the oldest grandson Aaron Fontaine bowled against his grandfather for the first time in a televised

See **CANDLEPIN** | PAGE 8



Tom Olszta and Aaron Fontaine on the approach during the exhibition match at Bowl-O-Rama Family Fun Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

## 200th anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour is Sept. 3

STURBRIDGE – This year marks the bicentennial celebration of the Marquis de Lafayette's Farewell Tour of the United States in 1824.

Throughout that year-long tour of all 24 states, Americans honored Lafayette with a parade

and great fanfare at almost every stop he made. Local craftspeople also produced many types of commemorative memorabilia, such as the pictured drum, baby shoes, and ribbons, now in the Old Sturbridge Village Museum Collection.

When Lafayette toured the state of Massachusetts in 1824 his final stop was in the Town of Sturbridge, where he was greeted by a martial band, the Town's artillery company, and thousands of civilians.

See **FAREWELL** | PAGE 8

## Board recognizes and honors oldest male resident

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen recently recognized one of the town's oldest residents at a recent meeting.

At the beginning of the Aug. 13 meeting, Vice-Chair Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada introduced Edmund Decoteau, the oldest male resident in North Brookfield, who recently turned 100 years old on June 11.

Decoteau had a long career as a truck driver and was

married to his wife Jean for 75 years. In addition to being the oldest male resident, he is also the oldest living veteran in town, having served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Joining him at the meeting to celebrate this honor, were a group of family and friends.

"We are pleased to honor you," Canada said to Decoteau.

Also present were state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, who presented Decoteau with citations from the Senate and House. Decoteau received similar hon-

See **HONORS** | PAGE 6

## Singer Songwriter contest returns to Deep Roots

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Deep Roots Distillery welcomed back the annual Singer Songwriter Contest.

The contest consists of a total of three regular music sessions and a finale that will take place in September. This event is the 2nd annual Singer Songwriter Contest hosted by Amanda Meli of Meli Entertainment.

See **CONTEST** | PAGE 12



Deep Roots Distillery is hosting the annual Singer Songwriter Contest over the course of the summer. Behind the mic is Tobey Sol LaRoche, one of the contestants. TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO



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## Brookfields Town Takeover baseball game Aug. 27

WORCESTER – During the “Brookfields Town Takeover,” WooSox baseball game on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 6:45 p.m. at Polar Park, \$5 from each ticket purchased will benefit the North Brookfield Town House and East Brookfield Fireworks Display.

Each ticket includes \$2 of ballpark credit that can be used on concessions or merchandise.

A bus has been secured and will be leaving from the North Brookfield Senior Center, 29 Forest St. promptly at 5:15 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person, to be paid in cash when getting on the bus.

Attendees will be dropped off



and picked up at the stadium entrance. Email SYLtownhouse@gmail.com with the number of attendees to reserve your seat –

first come first serve. All towns welcome.

Use the QR code to purchase tickets for the baseball game. For

more information, visit <https://nbcare2help.org/>.



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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](http://lakewickaboag.com).

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Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

- community -

## Weir River Concert Band to begin its 20th season

The Weir River Concert Band will begin its 20th season on Sept. 11 and the band is always looking for new members on any instrument, any ability level and any age.

The band rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Stone Church Cultural Center, Route 32 in Gilbertville. The band has a Christmas

performance scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Stone Church Cultural Center and a performance on June 8, also at the Stone Church at 2 p.m.

If you'd like to share your musical talent with the band, please contact Joanne Meegan by email at jomeegan@comcast.net.

## 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.

## 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 base-

ments 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 fccofwbfleamarket@gmail.com for an application.

## Saint Joseph's hosts 42nd BBQ and parish picnic

NORTH BROOKFIELD – All are welcome to attend the 42nd annual Chicken BBQ and parish picnic at Saint Joseph's Church, 296 North Main St., on Saturday, Sept. 7 and Sunday, Sept. 8.

There will be plenty of fair food on Saturday evening and a delicious BBQ chicken dinner served on Sunday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. The cost of the chicken dinner is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children ages 12 and under.

Music will be provided by DJ Richard "Tabby" LeBlanc on Saturday and Sunday. The parish will also have assorted raffles including a scratch ticket raffle which features the grand prize of a book (50) \$30 lottery scratch tickets, and lastly a delicious bake sale.

Events begin on Saturday with a parish picnic at 5 p.m. on the church lawn after a special 4 p.m. Mass at the church. From 5-7 p.m. music will be provided by DJ Richard "Tabby" LeBlanc and there will also be assorted fair-style food and raffles.

On Sunday from noon-3 p.m. DJ Richard "Tabby" LeBlanc returns to provide music. There will also be a bake sale and assorted raffles.

The chicken BBQ dinner will be served (eat in and take out) from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

For chicken dinner tickets and more information, please call the parish office Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 508-867-6469.

## 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

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# - opinion -



## Friends with questions for the Garden Lady

I love it when I get texts from friends with a random gardening questions. I never know when they will come but I am glad when they do!

The first question came from my friend Jacquie. She has only a small spot near her condo for gardening, but apparently her tomato harvest has been quite impressive.

She was concerned with small holes in her cherry tomatoes, and was curious if slugs could be the culprit. Then she confirmed it by seeing one on the fruit, and wanted to know what to do about them.

Apparently, the beer basin I advised worked well. She sent me a follow-up text saying she found 21 drunken slugs the morning after setting the trap.

Read on for a full how-to!

Probably the most famous slug trap around is made from stale beer. To be effective it must be set up correctly, otherwise slugs will be lured but not trapped.

Bury a container level with the soil surface and fill it with beer to one inch from the top. Ideally, slugs stretch out their bodies to reach the liquid, fall in and drown.

Dump the container often, especially after it rains, since water will dilute the beer as well as raise the level of the liquid. Commercial slug "motels" come with a yeasty powder you mix with water – these work on the same principle as our homemade version.

Some folks also have good luck trapping slugs in watermelon or cantaloupe rinds placed about the garden. Dispose of the slug filled fruit into the trash each morning without an ounce of slime on your fingers!

Slugs feed during the night and hide during the day, for that reason we should rid the garden of popular daytime hiding spots, or at least conduct a search and destroy mission on these spots regularly. In my garden, stepping stones or old boards used for garden pathways, come to mind.

Another friend, Debi, sent me a text about the hardiness of Gladiolus. She specifically wanted to know if the corms had to be lifted in the fall and stored indoors over the winter.

While my short answer is yes, they do need to be dug up, there are certain micro climates that allow these plants to overwinter. Sometimes planting them right up against the foundation of the house is all the buffer you need.

Or drive east two hours and chances are they may squeak in hardiness-wise. Just that little bit of temperature modulation from the ocean puts some easterly locales in a zone or half-zone warmer than we are.

Anyway, read on to learn about proper overwintering practices.

Around the time of our first frost corms should be lifted from the ground with a spading fork or shovel. Cut the stem from the corm as closely as possible. Rinse under running water and allow to dry in a frost free airy location for two-three weeks.

Check the corms regularly, and when a corky area develops between the mother corm and the new corm break off and discard the mother. After drying is complete, store on trays or in mesh bags in a well-ventilated area at temperatures between 38 and 58 degrees.



I received an email from a Brimfield resident who said, "On Aug. 1 at the no named pond in Warren on New Reed Street there were three great egrets near the far shore. The birds would sometimes be out of sight in the vegetation near the shore."

He also saw two great blue herons and a belted kingfisher.

The great egret is a large, 39 inches, white heron with a yellow bill and black legs. In breeding season, both males and females have long white plumes on their backs.

Like other herons, the great egret feeds by slowly walking, head erect and then striking its prey. It forages in shallow water for small fish and amphibians. It also feeds on land for insects, reptiles and small mammals.

Great egrets nest in colonies with other herons, ibises and cormorants or they nest singly. The female lays one to six pale bluish eggs in a flimsy platform nest of sticks, twigs and reeds placed in a tree from eight to 40 feet above ground or in cattails.

They inhabit marshes, swamps, seashores and lake margins.

In the past, they were hunted for the plumes used in the feather trade. Since the ban on hunting and on the use of DDT, which caused fragile eggshells, their population increased.

### Eagle sighting and more

My daughter, Paula, saw a belted kingfisher at Tully Lake in Royalston on Aug. 3. She saw two cormorants, two female mallards and a juvenile bald eagle at Hardwick Pond on Aug. 10. The bald eagle was diving, unsuccessfully, for fish not too far from her canoe. She said, "[It] was really cool to see."

### Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident, who saw the great egrets, said, "I have a bird bath with a drip. On a recent hot afternoon the birdbath got

a workout; catbird, blue jay, titmouse, house finch, Baltimore oriole, rose-breasted grosbeak, song sparrow and chipping sparrow all took a bath and goldfinch were getting a drink from the drip."

He also said, "In the yard yesterday (Aug. 2) I saw two Carolina wrens. I've seen two Carolina

wrens in the yard infrequently since spring but I don't think they have nested nearby because I've never heard them singing. And at the very top of a dead tree (where else) I saw a male scarlet tanager." He said the male ruby-throated hummingbirds are still around and there is more activity at the feeders now that the recently fledged young are out and about.

He also reported at the pond on South Street the four great blue herons nests are all empty, the twelve chicks have all fledged and the three osprey chicks are out of the nest and flying around the pond.

### Bird bath

I wish I had the activity at my bird-bath this Brimfield resident has. I have yet to see a bird use it. My daughter's dog drinks from it whenever he visits.

### Hovering hummingbird

Recently, I let my daughter Jenny's dogs out. While I watched them from the window in the door a ruby-throated female hummingbird came name the door and hovered as if looking in the window at me. Ironically, I was wearing a tee shirt with hummingbirds and bee balm. Maybe it was attracted to the red bee balm.

### Hummingbirds and more

The Brimfield resident said in response to my email telling him about my hummingbird experience, "I've had hummingbirds hover in front of me a couple of times, pretty cool. Also yesterday I saw some motion out of a window and when I looked it was a hummingbird and a female common yellowthroat having a 'discussion.' The hummingbird was upset I believe because the warbler was near where it perches between visits to a nearby feeder."

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.



Great egret

## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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### Send opinions to:

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

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

# - community -

## Scammers impersonate toll collection services in text message scam

If you have been on a road trip, then you're probably familiar with modern tolling systems allowing you to pay your toll fees online.

If you anticipate paying for any outstanding tolls, watch out for this text message phishing scam where fraudsters impersonate toll collection services, trying to trick consumers into paying for fake outstanding tolls.

### How this scam works

You receive a text message from what appears to be a state tollway collection service, like the Illinois Tollway or the Florida Turnpike. The text message says you owe a road toll fee of around \$12, but you need to pay it immediately to avoid a late fee of \$50.

The message includes a link to settle your balance, which appears to be from the state's toll service, making the message look legitimate. However, if you click the link and provide your personal and payment information on the website, scammers could now have access to that information, and you may have lost some money.

The Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker has received reports of text messages that appear to be from toll collection services. One consumer recently shared, "I received a text message that stated I owed funds from using a tollway. It was not specific and since I do not use a tollway I knew it was a fraud. I deleted the message right away and blocked the number, but I believe it had included a web link."

Another consumer shared, "I was sent a text message that I owe the Florida Turnpike fee of \$12.51 or face a late fee of \$50. I nor my husband have been anywhere near the Florida Turnpike."

### How to avoid similar scams

Verify your outstanding toll balance with the legitimate agency. Instead of clicking on the link in the text message, go to your web browser, find the toll service's actual website, and log in to your account to verify if you have any outstanding toll payments.

Another way to verify this is by calling the toll service's customer service line.

Do not call the phone number that texted you or any phone numbers included in the text message. Instead, find the toll service's legitimate phone number on their website.

Know the warning signs of a fake text. If you receive an unusual text message, there are several things to look for to help you identify if it's fake.

Read BBB's tips on spotting the red flags of fake text messages.

Don't click on links or download files that are unexpectedly texted to you. It may be hard to identify if a link sent in a text message is safe. Scammers can disguise a URL to appear legitimate when it isn't.

Block the number and delete the message. Do not engage with the scammer if you think you received a fake text message. Instead, block the phone number and delete the text message.

Refusing to engage and blocking the phone number can help prevent scammers from contacting you again.

If you receive a text message impersonating a road toll collection service, report it. You can file a report with BBB Scam Tracker at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) to help warn others about this new scam.

In addition, file a report with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at [ic3.gov](http://ic3.gov).

## Town Clerk lists 2024 State Primary information

WEST BROOKFIELD – The State Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 3 at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St. with polling hours from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

The last day to register to vote is Saturday, Aug. 24 at the Town Clerk's office 2 East Main St., from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The vote by mail application deadline is Monday, Aug. 26 at 5 p.m. The last day to vote in person absentee is Thursday, Aug. 29 at 5 p.m.

Early voting hours are available in the first floor conference room of the Town Hall, 2 East Main St., on the following days and times:

- Saturday, Aug. 24 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 26 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 27 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 28 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 29 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

All registered voters will have received by mail an application which will allow them to vote from home if they wish. If you have not received an application, notify the Town Clerk's office by calling 508-867-1421 extension 2.

Ballots are being mailed as applications are received.

## Scammers pretend to be government agencies

The Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker continues to receive reports of scammers impersonating government or law enforcement agencies, tricking consumers into giving up personal information and money with threatening messages.

### Missed jury duty scam

In this long-running scam, someone contacts you via phone call or text, claiming to be from your local law enforcement or judicial agency, and tells you you've missed a jury duty summons and could be arrested.

The scammer may even send a fake jury summons to your email to convince you. They say you can avoid arrest by paying a very hefty fine, sometimes up to thousands of dollars. Of course, the fine and the jury summons were never real.

### Process server phishing scam

This scam also starts with an intimidating phone call or text message from a "debt collector" who needs you to pay immediately. If not, the scammer states that a police officer has a warrant for your arrest.

Recent reports of this scam involve a phony "process server" and a non-existent court case against you.

### How to avoid similar scams

Be wary of scare tactics and unsolicited phone calls. Scammers love to threaten people with legal action or hefty fines, scaring them into giving up

their personal information and money. They hope fear will make you act without thinking.

Always remember that representatives of a reputable business or legal office will be polite and civil, even in a serious situation. They won't pressure you to act immediately "or else."

Do your research. If you ever question whether you need to appear in court, call the appropriate judicial agency and ask.

If you receive an email with a fake jury summons, don't call the number in the email, as that will likely lead you to the scammer who sent the email. If you receive a call, remember that scammers may be able to spoof a legitimate agency's phone number.

To be safe, look for official websites in your jurisdiction and find their phone number on their website to call. Always be on the lookout for fake websites, too.

Beware of requests to pay via wire transfer, prepaid debit or gift cards, digital wallet apps, or cryptocurrency. These payment methods are almost always a sign of fraud because you won't be able to get your money back.

### For more information

Reading up on phishing and impostor scams can help you spot a con before it's too late. If a scammer contacts you, report your experience to [BBB.org](http://BBB.org)/ScamTracker.

### GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

The lower the temp, the better.

Inspect throughout the winter months and throw away any corms that begin to rot.

It's a lot of fun to answer questions – keep them coming!

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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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# Vector Solutions and NFPA partner to provide firefighter training

Vector Solutions, the leading provider of technology solutions to help train, prepare, and retain public safety professionals, announced that it is working with the National Fire Protection Association® to host NFPA's groundbreaking virtual training program for first responders.

NFPA received a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to build this training, which will enhance firefighter competency in responding to emerging distributed energy technologies and lithium-ion battery fires.

The NFPA Fire Incident Response Simulated Training Application offers a game-like simulated training experience designed to address renewable technol-

ogy emerging hazards. This immersive program allows firefighters to train in realistic virtual scenarios, such as fighting electric vehicle and energy storage fires in residential garages.

The application is based on real-world test data, enabling firefighters to engage in interactive, multi-user simulations that mirror actual incidents. This training is engineered to help improve their response times and effectiveness, ultimately enhancing public safety.

"Since the inception of NFPA's electric vehicle and hybrid fire safety training courses 14 years ago, we've seen about 350,000 firefighters benefit from these in-depth lessons," said Andrew Klock, NFPA Senior Manager of Ed-

ucation and Development, in a press release. "Our hope in working with Vector Solutions is to meet the needs of today's digital learners by using Vector's responder platforms to reach the millions of first responders who may battle these types of fires in their own communities."

Vector Solutions has a long-standing history of serving state, county, and municipal governmental entities since its founding in 1999. With a focus on the Fire and EMS market, Vector worked with NFPA to distribute essential training through the TargetSolutions Training Management System.

This collaboration aims to address the evolving needs of today's firefighters through innovative training solutions.

"We are honored to support NFPA in providing their cutting-edge training to firefighters across the country," said Josh Grossman, General Manager of the Public Sector at Vector Solutions. "Our work together exemplifies our united commitment to ensuring first responders feel prepared and protected as they battle today's emergencies."

Vector Solutions is also supporting this initiative with a pre-built TargetSolutions custom Activity in its versatile training management system that allows fire departments to track and report on their personnel's training progress, ensuring they receive the credit deserved for their participation in this innovative simulation.

## HONORS | FROM PAGE 1

ors last year after his 99th birthday.

Canada and Clerk Vaughn Schlegel presented a plaque to Decoteau, on behalf of the town. Decoteau's name will also be added to the list of Boston Post Cane recipients at the Town Offices.

### Spending requests

Police Chief Mark Smith requested approval to spend approximately \$300 to cover the cost of repairs to the Sally door.

Smith said one of the two doors stopped working, and wouldn't open. He said there was a mechanical issue with the door.

Smith also requested approval to spend \$800 for a training conference and \$990 for hotel lodging for a combined total of \$1,790. This conference is the annual in-service training for the state's police chiefs and their second-in-command

The board approved both requests.

The board also approved a request from the North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency to spend \$654.74 to purchase replacement parts for the Senior Center's AED and two requests from the Town Collector for \$460 for 10,000 window envelopes and \$3,000 for postage.

### Appointments

The board made the following appointments: Caretaker of the Town Clock, Jeff Samuelson; Assistant Caretaker of the Town Clock, Jim Caldwell; and Parks and Recreation Committee, Nancy Waldron.

Parks and Recreation Committee Chair Brandon Avery said Waldron fits well with the committee and has experience organizing events through her work on Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield.

"Everybody on the committee is very pleased to have her on board," he said.

Waldron said she is "really excited" to join the committee.

### Downtown signage quote

The board received a quote in the amount of \$47.95 for a "no unloading" sign to be placed outside of downtown businesses. Board members will continue discussion at a later meeting, to determine if fines should be added to the sign, and if more than one sign is needed.

Resident John Tripp recommended posting information about the location of the unloading zone on the corner of Maple and North Main streets. He said despite creating this zone through the work of the Safety Committee, Highway Department and Board of Selectmen, trucks continue to use North Main Street to unload goods to downtown businesses.

Canada said this information will be communicated again to ensure that unloading is done properly.

"The front is for parking only," she said.

### Resignation

The board accepted the resignation of Police Officer Mike Sawyer, who accepted a full-time position in the town of Barre.

"Thank you for the time, opportunity and camaraderie that North Brookfield Police Department has provided for me over the past three years," Sawyer stated in his resignation letter. "I've learned an abundant amount of skills while serving here that will carry me through the rest of my career."

### Public comments

Tripp said the rail trail from Brickyard Road to Route 9 is in danger of being underwater due to beaver activity at the nearby pond.

"We're about three inches from losing the rail trail down by the pipes that



North Brookfield's oldest male resident, 100-year-old Edmund Decoteau, far left, was honored at a recent Board of Selectmen's meeting. Shown from left are state Sen. Peter Durant, state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada and Clerk Vaughn Schlegel. SUBMITTED PHOTO

go underneath there," he said.

Tripp said the water will impact North Street, and is already approaching the road. He said a beaver deceiver needs to be installed.

"If that beaver dam breaks, it's going to wash that road out right there," he said.

### American flags

Residents questioned the board's decision to remove the American flags from the downtown area for the summer. Tripp requested that the American flags remain in place from Memorial Day through Veterans Day.

Joanne Carey said she drove through area towns, and all of them had American flags flying.

"The removal of the flags under the guise that they will need to be replaced is wrong," she said. "These flags are not fragile, they are made for the outside... if one rips or tears, replace it."

Schlegel said he would like to keep the American flags up, but they need to come up with a plan to replace them as needed. Canada said a group or organization will need to manage the care of the flags in order to keep them up longer.

Canada encouraged citizens to join NB Helps, which currently only has one member.

Another resident said the existing American flags (and poles) are not withstanding the elements, which is why their decision to take them down between patriotic holidays was made.

### Monthly reports

Canada said the board has asked departments and committees to provide regular monthly reports to provide updates on projects. The reports will be available on the town's website, northbrookfield.net.

**NORTH BROOKFIELD POLICE ASSOCIATION**

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# - community -

## Rep. Berthiaume and Sen. Durant list office hours

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's, District Liaison, Jared Grigg and Kim Mongeau, communications director, invite constituents and town officials to meet with them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with.

People may call Donna if they would like a private meeting at 774-402-4742. Scheduled office hours include on Tuesday, Sept. 10 from 9-10 a.m. at the Senior Center in Leicester and from 10:15-11:15 a.m. at Howe Village in Spencer. Rep. Marsi's staff Tammy will be joining them that day.

Office hours include on Wednesday, Sept. 11 from 9-10 a.m. at the Town Hall in New Braintree, from 10:15-11:15 a.m.

at the Senior Center in North Brookfield and from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in East Brookfield.

Office hours include on Monday, Sept. 16 from 9-10 a.m. in the Senior Center and Town Office in Hubbardston, from 10:15-11:15 a.m. in the Senior Center in Barre and from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the upstairs level of Town Hall in Oakham.

Office hours on Thursday, Sept. 19 include from 9-10 a.m. in the Senior Center in Ware, from 10:15-11:15 a.m. in the Town Hall in Hardwick and from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Senior Center in West Brookfield. Office hours on Monday, Sept. 19 are from 12:45-1:45 p.m. in the Town Hall in Brookfield.

## Local musician celebrates release of new album

WEST BROOKFIELD – Singer songwriter Gary Blanchard released his latest album, "Morning Child", recently, on most streaming and download sites.

"I always think my latest work is my best," said Blanchard in a press release. "This time I feel it is certainly true."

"This past year has been especially challenging, with health issues that I wasn't sure I could overcome. I have come through them with a renewed sense of hope and appreciation for life. The songs on this album reflect those feelings," he said.

The title track, "Morning Child", offers an airy feeling, blending guitar and

harmonica with synthesizers to combine Blanchard's folk roots with an expansive sound.

"I feel this is one of the best recordings that I have made," Blanchard said. "The song itself has beauty, but the instrumentation and mixing brought it to a whole new level."

The album is available on iTunes, Amazon Music, Bandcamp, Spotify, Pandora, and other streaming services. It will be available soon on CD at Just a Little Craft Store, 1368 Main St., in Palmer.

For more information go to [www.garyblanchard.net](http://www.garyblanchard.net).

## Tips offered for safe electrical vehicle charging at home

As electric vehicles enter our roadways, the National Fire Protection Association® has introduced a series of free resources, guidelines, and information to help raise awareness about EV fires and safe EV charging practices at home.

According to the International Energy Agency, global sales of electric vehicles exceeded 10 million in 2022 and are expected to grow in the coming years. At the same time, consumer concerns about the fire safety risk of EVs are increasing. Lithium-ion batteries, the most widely used and reliable source of energy for electric vehicles, are central to questions about safety.

"It is widely known that electric vehicles provide environmental and cost-effective benefits," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA in a press release. "However, as fires involving EVs are reported in the news, concerns about the risks they pose persist. Through advocacy efforts that highlight our new online resources and information, NFPA is working to better educate the public about the risks associated with EVs and other devices that use lithium-ion batteries, along with ways to use them safely."

The new online resources from NFPA feature more detailed information about lithium-ion batteries, EV maintenance, and what tips consumers can follow to stay safe when charging their electric vehicle at home.

Resources for safety educators and consumers, including a safety tip sheet and social media cards, are all free and downloadable. A free training course is also available to the public that helps address some of the common concerns and myths about owning an electrical vehicle, including safety features, charge types, and battery life.

NFPA recommends these tips when

charging electric vehicles at home to help prevent fires:

Before charging an electric vehicle at home, have a qualified electrician check your electrical system to see if it can handle charging.

Install charging equipment in safe locations. Keep away from busy areas and things that could catch fire.

Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

Read and follow all manufacturer directions.

Check chargers and cords for damage before using. Never use if damaged.

Do not use more than one plug or extension cords with the charger.

Keep charging items out of reach of children and animals when not in use.

Cover charging station outlet to keep water out.

Learn more about electric vehicle fire safety, find training information, and download the free safety tip sheet at [nfpa.org/evsafetyinfo](http://nfpa.org/evsafetyinfo).

Information on the safe use of smaller devices that use lithium-ion batteries such as computers, smart phones, e-bikes and e-scooters, can be found at [nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety](http://nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety) and [nfpa.org/ebikes](http://nfpa.org/ebikes).

About the NFPA

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).

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See **CANDLEPIN** | PAGE 1

bowling match. The event took place at Bowl-O-Rama Family Fun Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

The two have bowled each other numerous times over the years, but in the last few years, Fontaine, who is in his mid-20s, has been the superior bowler.

“Aaron has been getting better,” Olszta said. “One of the top bowlers today.”

However, Fontaine believes his grandfather, who is now 67, still bowls great for someone who bowls occasionally. Olszta said he stopped bowling full-time about 20 years ago prior to moving from Sturbridge to Naples, Florida.

“He can retire from bowling once he’s 100,” Fontaine said.

The exhibition match was called “Out with the Old, in with the New”, referring to the team of candlepin legends and hall of famers and the team of candlepin bowlers of the modern era. Olszta was part of the four legends bowling alongside Craig Holbrook, Peter Flynn and Gary Carrington.

Fontaine was bowling with Aaron St. Cyr, Charlie Collins and Josh Daley. The lineup of the match had Fontaine and Olszta bowling each other in the anchor spot. In other words, bowling each other last in the lineup.

This three-game exhibition match was an exciting event to help benefit Candlepins for Cancer.

This organization is a 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to help support members of the candlepin bowling community and their family members who are suffering from cancer. The charity sends donations to help with the expenses that are incurred after chemo and radiation treatments, time missed at work, food and pharmaceutical costs, and many other issues.

Since its establishment several years ago, Candlepins for Cancer has raised over \$57,000 for those in need and going through cancer treatments. During the “Out with the Old, in with the New” exhibition, over \$1,400 was raised for Candlepins for Cancer.

After the match was complete, the young team of pros were victorious over the four candlepin legends. However, Olszta was victorious over his grandson by about 20 points. In game three, Olszta outscored his grandson 134-116.

Olszta made two clutch spares in the final two frames to conclude the match.

“He may be 67, but he can still bowl,” Fontaine said.

When asked if both men had any nerves going into this exhibition match, both grandson and grandfather had no nerves at all and focused on having fun. Fontaine said, “how else do you prepare bowling against four of the greats.”

Olszta can only describe this memory

with his grandson as a roundabout way as he sees his grandson carry on with the family tradition of bowling candlepins. This memory reminds Olszta of his mentor, his grandfather Ben Hamilton.

Olszta’s grandfather taught him how to bowl at a very young age and he now gets to witness his own grandson bowl and achieve many great accomplishments in the game. Fontaine was a successful youth bowler and Bowl-O-Rama in Portsmouth was one of the places where he won a youth international championship.

Olszta says he has many achievements playing the game of candlepin, but one that really stands out reminds him of his grandfather. Back in 1980, Olszta won the Yellow Pages Championship on Channel 5’s Candlepin Bowling Show. The championship also included a \$10,000 first place prize, the biggest prize in candlepin bowling at the time.

His grandfather (Ben Hamilton) was living in a shared house with Olszta at the time and was unable to see Olszta win in person. However, he did watch the show on television, and he was incredibly proud of him.

“The teacher saw the student take over,” Olszta said when telling the story about winning one of many tournaments.

Olszta appeared on television well over 100 times bowling candlepin and is one of the greatest to ever play the game. He also recounts winning the 1995 World Candlepin Team Championship. Gary Carrington, who was competing in the exhibition, was one of Olszta’s teammates that year. The team only lost one game the entire week of that tournament, with a team record of 86-2.

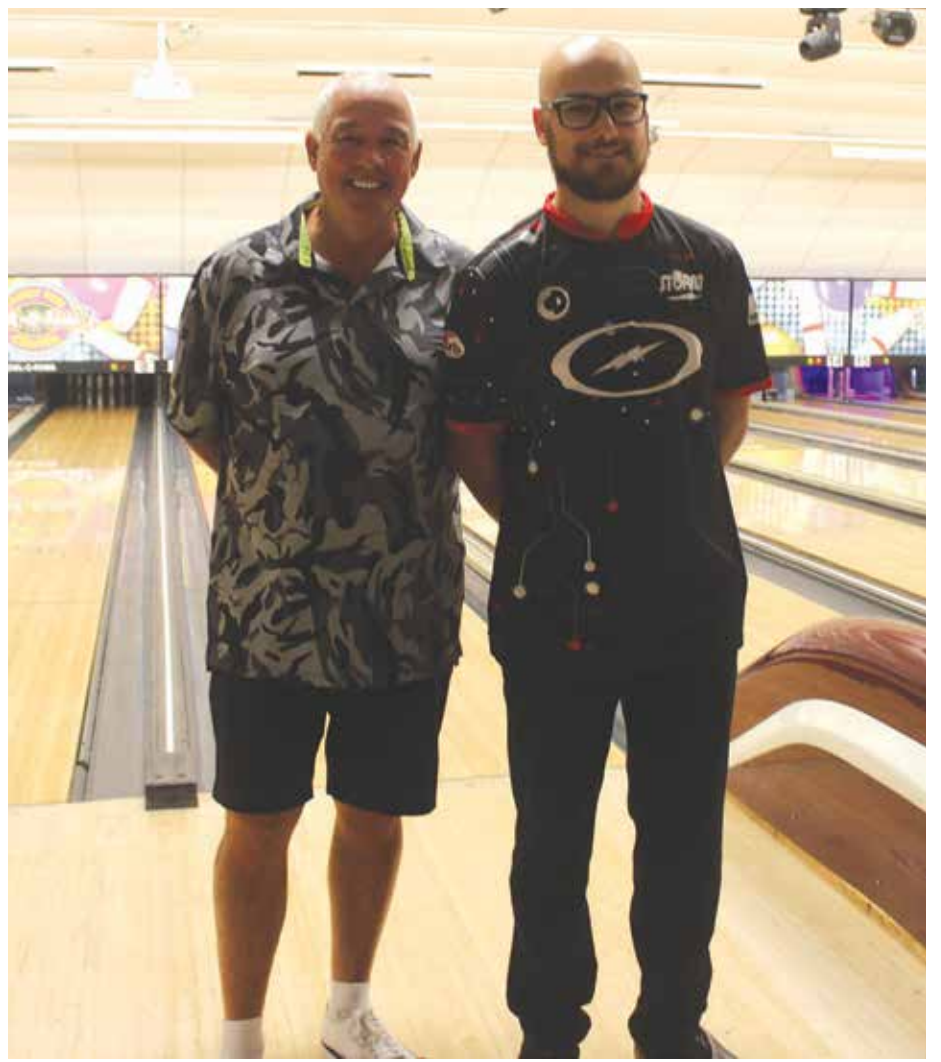
Fontaine has accomplished a lot in the game in recent years and is now hoping to seek his first world candlepin championship title. To him, the world championship is the Stanley Cup of Candlepin Bowling. Fontaine currently bowls out of Bogey Lanes in East Brookfield.

For Olszta, it was great bowling again supporting a great cause and reuniting with many friends he bowled with for years when he was still living in Massachusetts. He bowls only part-time when he visits family and now resides in Florida where there is no candlepin bowling.

“It’s time to pass the torch to the next generation,” Olszta says.

Olszta said he will bowl again in exhibition matches if he is asked.

To learn more about Candlepins for Cancer or donate, visit [www.candlepins4cancer.com](http://www.candlepins4cancer.com).



Tom Olszta, alongside his grandson Aaron Fontaine who competed in a candlepin exhibition match to help support Candlepins for Cancer. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



The match was called “Out with the Old, in with the New” as hall of famers and today’s professional bowlers competed in a 4 on 4 match.

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FAREWELL | FROM PAGE 1

**Commemorative ceremony**

Join the Sturbridge Historical Society and Old Sturbridge Village on Sept. 3 at 6 p.m. for a commemorative event on the Sturbridge Town Common, the exact ground where Lafayette stopped. An actor portraying Lafayette will be greeted by costumed interpreters portraying veterans of the Revolution, members of the Sturbridge Artillery, who will stand by with their cannon, and the musicians from the Uxbridge Grenadiers.

There will be a triumphal arch, toasts by costumed interpreters from Old Sturbridge Village, fife and drum music, as well as performances by the OSV Singers and Dancers. Experience the closest thing to the actual events that took place in 1824 here in Sturbridge.

This ceremony is free and open to the public.

This commemorative event is

part of The American Friends of Lafayette’s 2024-2025 Bicentennial Tour, which will take place across the 24 states that Lafayette visited on his Farewell Tour. For more details about The American Friends of Lafayette and other Bicentennial Tour programming, please visit [lafayette200.org](http://lafayette200.org).

**Banquet at the Publick House**

At 7:30 p.m., there will be a banquet commemorating Lafayette’s visit to Massachusetts and New Hampshire at the Publick House, which is one of the buildings that Lafayette actually visited in 1824. The dinner is the Publick House’s distinctive “Yankee Dinner Buffet.”

Alan Hoffman, President of American Friends of Lafayette and translator of the account written by Lafayette’s secretary, will reflect on the contrast between the original tour and its just completed recreation. There will be an additional discussion of Lafayette’s human

rights record.

Members of the Colonel Timothy Bigelow chapter of the DAR will do a presentation on “Lafayette and the Ladies.”

Tickets are \$75 per person and pre-registration is required. Limited spaces are available.

To purchase tickets, go to the website for The American Friends of Lafayette, search under Events for Sturbridge Publick House Banquet.

For more information, visit the American Friends of Lafayette at [www.friendsoflafayette.org](http://www.friendsoflafayette.org) or learn more about the planned 24-state bicentennial events at [www.Lafayette200.org](http://www.Lafayette200.org).

For a detailed summary of each city and town Lafayette visited in 1824, and speeches given, visit Peter Reilly’s blog at [www.lafayetteMA1824.org](http://www.lafayetteMA1824.org). Reilly is the Chairman of the Massachusetts committee organizing Lafayette’s tour across the Commonwealth.



# SPORTS

## Cagers take Fitchburg league title

FITCHBURG – It was definitely ‘game on’ at the Game On Sports Facility in Fitchburg for the Quabbin Cagers as the team captured the league championship with a perfect 8-0 league record by defeating both Murdock and Sizer in the playoffs.

For the Quabbin hoopsters, which saw their Auburn League title aspirations end with an overtime loss to Monty Tech in the second round, it was an enduring and exciting finish to the summer season. The summer program was committed to playing in two leagues, allowing the opportunity for both older and younger players to compete. To have earned a championship in Fitchburg was a well-earned and deserved experience for the players and coaches who split time traveling both north and south to play.

A decisive win over Mur-

See CAGERS | PAGE 11



The Quabbin team captured the summer league championship in Fitchburg with a perfect 8-0 record. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## Legion team has tough end to season

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD—With a bunch of returning players, the expectations were high for the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team entering the 2024 campaign. Things just didn’t turn out as planned for the Post 241 players and coaching staff this summer.

After finishing the regular season with a 6-10 record, tenth-seeded Monson bowed out of the District 3 Senior Division playoffs following a 10-0 first round loss to seventh-seeded East Springfield Post 420, which was played at Springfield Central’s new turf baseball field late last month.

“It was kind of a disappointing season,” said Monson Post 241 manager Steve Tripp following the playoff loss. “We felt like we had a lot of talented players returning this season. We just didn’t jell for some unknown reason.”

Monson’s six victories were against North Adams Post 125, Aldenville Post 337, Easthampton Post 224, West Springfield Post 207, and twice against Sheffield Post 340.

“We did lose a couple of close games against very good teams,” Tripp added. “We just struggled a little bit offensively.”

Monson lost twice to East Springfield during the regular season on the same field.

Both teams only had nine players show up for the playoff game.

See LEGION | PAGE 11

## Pioneers, Mutiny wrap up great seasons

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The soccer aficionados from Ludlow and the surrounding communities had a lot of fun watching the New England Mutiny and the Western Mass. Pioneers play their home matches at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow this summer.

“You really never know how things are going to go prior to the start of the regular season,” said Joe Ferrara during a recent interview. “Both teams had a great season.”

Ferrara has several different titles, and he doesn’t have very much free time during the soccer season.

He’s the commissioner of the United Women’s Soccer League and is the owner and Managing Director of the Mutiny, who have been playing their home matches at the 106 year old soccer stadium in Ludlow since 2019. He’s also the General Manager of the Pioneers, who were founded in 1998.

Another person who didn’t have very much free time this summer is Federico Molinari, who has been the Pioneers head coach for more than ten years. He was also the head coach of the Mutiny for the first time.

“I’ve watched Federico coach the Pioneers for the past several years, and he has a passion for the game of soccer,” Ferrara said. “He’s one of the best soccer coaches that I’ve



Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, performs during the Mutiny’s conference final. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

seen particularly on gamedays. He always makes the right tactical adjustments. He also runs a very good training session. I’ve received tremendous feedback from the players on both sides about him. I’m hoping that Federico can coach both teams again next year.”

The Mutiny finished the 2024 regular season with a perfect 8-0 record, while the Pioneers posted an 11-2-1 record.

The Mutiny began the U.W.S. playoffs with a 2-1 home win over Steel City FC on July

12. Two days later, they celebrated an exciting 1-0 victory against Sporting CT in the East Conference championship match. It was their final home match of the season.

The following weekend, the Mutiny played in the U.W.S. National semifinals and championship match, which were held at All-High Stadium in Buffalo, New York.

The Mutiny didn’t have very much trouble dispatching the Michigan Jaguars, who captured the U.W.S. Nationals title

a year ago, in the semifinals. The final score of that match was 5-0.

“We performed very well in the semifinals,” Ferrara said. “We were able to score a couple of early goals, which took the pressure off of us.”

On that same night, Molinari and the Pioneers players were in Virginia playing Lionsbridge FC in a USL-Two playoff match. Unfortunately, the Pioneers season came to an end following a 2-1 loss.

Alec Hughes, who’s a post-grad student listed on the UMass men’s soccer team, led the Pioneers this summer with 17 goals. He’s the USL-Two Golden Boot winner and was also named as the Player of the Year. He’ll most likely be drafted by an MLS team next year.

“Alec has really improved a lot in the two years that he’s been playing for the Mutiny,” Ferrara said. “He was a key player for us this year. I’m hoping he signs with a Pro team next year.”

Scott Testori, who plays college soccer at UConn, chipped in with 12 goals. Jared Smith led the way with nine assists.

One of the Pioneers local players was Mamadi Jiani, who graduated from Chicopee High School. He scored four goals this season.

The Pioneers assistant coaches are Dennis Gomes, Jay Willis, and Thomas Duben.

See SOCCER | PAGE 10



Kyle Kaczuwka picks up a bounding grounder to third. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

# - sports -

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## Turleysports

### Athlete of the Month

**NAME:** Evaline Santos  
**SCHOOL:** Quaboag

Santos is one of many players looking for a varsity spot for Quaboag field hockey this fall. She participated in this year's summer league at South Hadley.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to [gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com).





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## Locals help lead Western Mass. to bronze

WALTHAM – The Western Mass. representative in the Bay State Games for girls soccer captured the bronze last month. Here is a look at a couple of their matchups during the games.

In the bronze medal game, West won 3-0 over Coastal. West had an early lead on Coastal and was able to hold it throughout the game. The three goals that solidified the bronze medal for West were made by Katie Gilhooly (Chicopee, Chicopee Comp HS), Fallon Clancy (Belchertown, Belchertown HS), and Maya Tellier (Belchertown, Belchertown HS).

During the tourney, West scored a win over Central 4-0. In the matchup, Despite Central taking some beautiful

shots, the goalkeeper for West, Chloe Laizer (West Springfield, West Springfield HS) wouldn't let any past her. Kylie Marino (East Longmeadow, East Longmeadow HS), Allison Fleury (South Hadley, South Hadley HS), Gilhooly, and Clancy all made goals that ultimately led to their win.

In an early round game, West beat Coastal 5-1. Fleury had a great game with two assists and one goal. Both Brianna Ribeiro (Belchertown, Belchertown HS) and Megan McGrath (North Adams, Dury HS) had two goals. For Coastal, Savannah Parker (Lunenburg, Lunenburg HS) made the goal in their fight against West.

## Liberty Meisl named to spring semester Dean's List

BOSTON – Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is pleased to announce that Sturbridge resident Liberty Meisl has been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2024 semester.

Meisl is pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing and will graduate from the Boston campus in 2024.



Alexis Legowski, of South Hadley, was a regular in the Mutiny's lineup this season. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

### SOCCER | FROM PAGE 9

Molinari, along with Duben, coached the Mutiny in the championship match the following night.

The Mutiny, who played in the U.W.S. finals for the first time, faced the Santa Clarita Blue Heat, who lost to the Jaguar in the 2023 championship match.

The score was tied 1-1 at the end of the first 45 minutes.

Mila Dillard, who lives in Chicopee and is a sophomore on the Pope Francis girls' soccer team, netted the Mutiny's goal during the 43rd minute. It was assisted by South Hadley's Alexis Legowski.

The Mutiny took a 2-1 lead 25 minutes into the second following a goal by Chioma Okafor, which was also assisted by Legowski, who played college soccer at Northeastern University.

Okafor was one of the UConn women's soccer players listed on the Mutiny roster.

The Blue Heat scored the equalizer late in the second half and they wound up winning the title, 6-5, in a penalty shootout.

Following the championship match, Legowski, who signed with a professional team in Poland, was selected as the MVP of the U.W.S. National Tournament finals. The M.V.P. award was the trophy of a Buffalo.

"Alexis is now playing for a pro team in Poland, which is awesome," Ferrara said. "She played very well in the tournament and was selected as the M.V.P. of the championship game."

Legowski and Dillard were two of the players from Western Mass. listed on the Mutiny roster. The other local players were Maddie Theriault (Palmer), Hope Santaniello (Agawam), Sam Breton (Chicopee) Avery Klingensmith (Belchertown), Chandler Pedolzky (Westfield), and Emma Pedolzky (Westfield).

"I always want the best local high

school soccer players to play for the Mutiny," Ferrara said. "It builds excitement and fanfare within the local community. The local players have been the core of our team during the past several years."

Santaniello, who plays college soccer at UMass-Lowell, is the only remaining Mutiny player from the 2019 squad.

Okafor, who's from Blantyre, Malawi, is listed as a junior on the UConn women's soccer roster. Several of her college teammates also played for the Mutiny this summer.

The UConn women's soccer coach is Margaret Rodriguez, who's a former Mutiny player.

Carey (Dorn) O'Brien, who's currently the associate head coach at UConn, played for the team when they were known as the Springfield Sirens.

"Margaret and Carey played soccer for me, and we've built a very good relationship over the years," Ferrara said. "We're allowed to have five players from a Division 1 school on our soccer roster. We are going to try our best to get the best players from UConn to play for us again next year. I'm looking forward to going to watch the UConn women's soccer team play this fall."

Okafor is only a junior, but she'll most likely be playing for a professional soccer team next year.

Cat Berry, who plays soccer at the University of South Carolina, only played in a couple of matches for the Mutiny at the beginning of the regular season, but she was also a fan favorite.

Before heading back to Ludlow from Buffalo, the Mutiny players and coaches visited Niagara Falls.

"The long bus ride home gave us the chance to reflect on the outstanding season," Ferrara said. "When we got back to the stadium, nobody wanted to say goodbye because they knew it would be their last time together as a team. It was a fantastic season."



Mamadi Jiana, a Chicopee High graduate, played with the Pioneers this summer.



The Pioneers made it to the second round of the playoffs this season.

# - sports -

## LEGION | FROM PAGE 9

Tripp has been the manager of the Monson Legion team for the past eight seasons. He's planning on returning next year.

"Our baseball program has grown a lot during the past eight years," Tripp said. "We have a lot more sponsors now. Hopefully, we can continue to add sponsors next year, especially in Ware."

The Monson Legion baseball players are from either Monson High School, Palmer High School, Ware High School and Pathfinder Tech.

"Even though the players are from different high schools, they did get along with each other very well," Tripp said. "We do have a pretty good recruiting base."

Seven of the 17 players listed on this year's Monson Legion roster will be too old to play for the legion baseball team next summer.

The four Monson players, who graduated from high school a year ago, are Austin Lagimoniere, Jesse Cygan, Dominic Allen, and James Delaney. The four-

some have been members of the Monson Legion baseball team since 2021.

Delaney, who lives in Palmer, graduated from Belchertown High School as a school choice student in 2023. The righthander was Monson's starting pitcher in the playoff game against East Springfield (10-6-2).

Allen, who graduated from Palmer High School, was Delaney's batterymate. This past spring, he was a freshman catcher on the Westfield State University baseball team.

Lagimoniere, who started in centerfielder, and Cygan, who was the first baseman in the playoff game against East Springfield, attended Pathfinder Tech. The duo were members of the Pioneers varsity baseball team.

The other three Monson legion players who won't be returning next year are Hunter Griswold (Pathfinder Tech), John Mumper (Ware), and Dylan Sutkaitis (Ware). The trio didn't play in the playoff game.

Mumper's younger brother, Jason, will be one of the ten returning Legion players.

The other two returning players from Ware High School will be Nathan and Kyle Kaczuwka.

The baseball players from Monson High listed on the Legion roster are Niko Matthieu, Austin Meachum, and Shane Szado. They'll be eligible age wise to return next summer.

The returning players from Pathfinder Tech will be Jarrett Skowyra, and Brayden Mega.

The other current players from Palmer High School are Dylan Holbrook, and Brendan Hess,

Monson's only base hit in the playoff loss against East Springfield was an infield single by Hess with no outs in the fifth inning. They also had four walks and another batter reached first base following a fielding error.

The Post 241 assistant coaches are Bill Barry and Phil Gallo.



Jarrett Skowyra slings a throw across the diamond. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Brendan Hess picks up the ground ball.



Niko Matthieu grabs a backhand.

## CAGERS | FROM PAGE 9

dock by a score of 60-29 in the opening playoff round enabled the cagers to face Sizer in the title game. Sizer had defeated Mascenic HS from New Hampshire in the semi-final.

Leading the cagers win over Murdock was Bryce Venne as the swift transition guard scored 15 points, most coming on slashing drive to the basket which is definitely his strength. Point guard Jacoby Dilling added 8 points and produced seven deflections and four loose ball recoveries. Backcourt partner senior Jaxon Warburton led the defensive pressure with 12 deflections and five loose ball recoveries which all converted to baskets. Combo guard Brady Patchen scored 4 points along with Warburton but it was the defensive ball pressure that Murdock seemingly had difficulty with all game.

Five more Quabbinians would enter the scoring column with emerging sophomore Calvin Hurd contributing 6 points, Collin Leclare notching 5 points along with Kyle Clark and freshman Aiden Crane earning a bucket as well. Leclare has been a tremendous compliment to senior Kyle Clark in allowing the 6'4 power center to gain some valuable rest.

Making his way into the lineup for the first time was freshman Sadiki Francis and the athletic forward impressed with 3 points and four loose ball recoveries and deflections.

The team welcomes his aggressive play and positive attitude and Coach Steve Carrington rewarded him with increased playing time in this game.

In the championship game Quabbin would face-off against Sizer Charter. Center Kyle Clark began the offense with a three-pointer followed by a Brady Patchen trifecta and the Quabbin Cagers mounted a scoring run that saw the amped up team take an 18-5 lead with just over five minutes left to play in the first half. They never looked back.

Strong defensive pressure forced numerous turn-

overs which the Quabbinians converted into transition baskets. Kyle Clark took advantage of the rest offered in the first game by tallying a game high 24 points and ripping down 9 rebounds. Brady Patchen is learning the transition game better each game and followed up with 15 points and two assists. Early foul trouble may have sent point guard Jacoby Dilling to the bench in the first half but the 6'0 handle adjusted well in scoring 8 points and stayed out of foul trouble the rest of the game with his savvy and smart play.

The key matchup in this game was Jaxon Warburton on Sizer's leading scorer and top offensive threat. Warburton may have been at a size disadvantage but the heralded defensive specialist took advantage of his assets and technical tactics with sideline closeouts and ball denial to limit his opponent offensively and thus disrupt the entire Sizer offense. This is what the senior guard does and it is fun to watch him play and frustrate his opponent and their team. No doubt his teammates and coaches are happy to have him on the court.

The final score in this game saw Quabbin, sponsored by Ground Up Properties, claim victory by a score of 65-35. Coaches Steve Carrington and Alan Crane worked on a match up tandem sprint zone defense in the second half that stymied the Sizer team and this secondary defensive tactic seems to now compliment the pressure man defense usually employed by the cagers.

The players and coaches will now turn attention to the fall clinician schedule and AAU programs that are operating. Everyone is aware that more work needs to be done in all areas of the game and all-around betterment is the goal.

Planning ahead now begins with OTA's and the mission now is to focus on higher individual skill acquisition knowing 'preparation leads to separation' and the Quabbinians certainly want to build on their summer successes.



Brady Patchen executes a crossover dribble on his defender in Quabbin's semifinal playoff win. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Quabbin guard Jacoby Dilling prepares to set up teammate Brady Patchen for an open jump shot during recent playoff action.

CONTEST | FROM PAGE 1

tainment.

The contest is also supported by Franco O'Malley, Mark Thayer, RyGuy Digital, WECS 90.1, Scene Mom Says and Chef Poppa.

The first two sessions took place at Deep Roots Distillery on June 1 and July 20. The final session took place this past Saturday, and featured many musicians from the local area and out of state.

The line up featured Ryan McKenzie, Tobey Sol LaRoche, Serena May, Lindy Loops, Kendra Freeflow, Sean Ryder, Andy Kuchta, David Powers and Dave Herrera. Each contestant performed for a total of 15 minutes and played several original songs.

Most of the contestants played on acoustic guitar, while one played on the ukulele.

May participated in the inaugural singer songwriter contest last year at Deep Roots Distillery and returned for a second time to share some original songs. May's songs consisted of "I'm Sorry" and "Up your Standards".

First time performing at Deep Roots Distillery is singer and songwriter Kuchta of Keene, New Hampshire. Kuchta has been performing and writing his own songs for eight years and is part of the band Kilroy.

Prior to performing at Deep Roots Distillery, Kuchta expressed his appreciation for having singer songwriter contests for many musicians who love to share what they originally created.

"Song contests are a wonderful thing," Kuchta said. "This is a great competition to be a part of."

Kuchta performed three original songs and are called, "hope its not", "storm chasing", and "DJ". The last song, "DJ", was about coping with addiction and really stood out as the audi-

ence gave Kuchta a round of applause.

Ryder's performance featured two original songs, including a brand-new song that will soon be available on multiple streaming platforms. The song is called "Stars".

Assisting Meli Entertainment during the singer songwriter contest is O'Malley. O'Malley will be hosting his songwriting contest soon.

O'Malley mentioned the three prizes that will be awarded to the winners of the contest in September. One is \$500 prize from Meli Entertainment. The other is a recording package deal from Mark Thayer. RyGuy Digital will be awarding a video package deal.

Another performer was LaRoche. His original songs include "Heart Don't Work Like That", "No More Found", and "So What". "No More Found" had a cool whistling chorus to it.



Guitarist and songwriter Andy Kuchta warmed up before taking the stage.



This was Andy Kuchta's first time performing at Deep Roots Distillery. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

LaRoche was really excited about performing and meeting other musicians during the singer songwriter contest.

"Its great to be a part of this with other musicians," LaRoche said.

The winners will be determined during the Singer Songwriter Contest Finale on Sept. 7 at Deep Roots Distillery. The distillery is located at 559 Main St.



Every participant performed their own original songs.

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67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mongolian city \_\_ Bator
- 5. Coconut palms
- 10. Rounded knob
- 14. Japanese city
- 15. Type of sandwiches
- 16. A type of shape
- 17. Son of Shem
- 18. French modernist painter
- 19. Grandmother
- 20. Mammary gland of female cattle
- 22. Hill or rocky peak
- 23. Secret political clique
- 24. Songs to one's beloved
- 27. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 30. Father
- 31. Chinese philosophical principle
- 32. Restrict the number or amount of
- 35. Combined into a single entity
- 37. Brother or sister
- 38. Evil spirit

- 39. Materials in the earth's crust
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Of the sun
- 42. Baseball great Ty
- 43. After B
- 44. Place to relax on the beach
- 45. Folk singer DiFranco
- 46. Partly digested food
- 47. Small dog breed
- 48. Japanese honorific
- 49. Salts
- 52. Beard moss genus
- 55. Mountain pass
- 56. Type of sword
- 60. Albanian language
- 61. Metric weight unit
- 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Longtime late night host
- 65. Extremely angry
- 66. Wading bird
- 67. Days in mid-month
- 68. Omitted from printed matter
- 69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Two-toed sloth
- 2. Cooking ingredient
- 3. Iranian city
- 4. Accuses
- 5. Corrie
- 6. Delivered a speech
- 7. Collection of sacred books
- 8. Theatrical
- 9. Very fast airplane
- 10. Arm bones
- 11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 12. \_\_ fide; legit
- 13. Gemstone
- 21. Counsels
- 23. Corporate bigwig
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Touch lightly
- 27. Small Milky Way constellation
- 28. Satirical website
- 29. Border lines
- 32. Soft drinks
- 33. Capital of Guam
- 34. Six-membered ring (chemistry)
- 36. Bar bill
- 37. Car mechanics group
- 38. Notable Bill Murray character
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Gurus
- 43. A passage with access only at one end
- 44. Reduce
- 46. Spy organization
- 47. The upper surface of the mouth
- 49. Plants of the lily family
- 50. Type of reef
- 51. Oral polio vaccine developer
- 52. Mottled citrus fruit
- 53. Lose
- 54. Former Brazilian NBAer
- 57. Baseball great Ruth
- 58. \_\_ Clapton, musician
- 59. Chance
- 61. Spanish soldier
- 62. CNN's founder

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- community -

## Senior Center hosts Medicare presentation on Sept. 4

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center will be hosting an educational presentation on Thursday, Sept. 4 at 12:30 p.m. at the senior center located at 29 Forest St. for current beneficiaries and for those who will soon be eligible for Medicare.

West Brookfield seniors are also invited. The information is specific to Massachusetts and 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

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WEST BROOKFIELD – On Saturday, Aug. 31, the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association in conjunction with The Lake Wickaboag Boat Club will be hosting a water ski show.

The Aqua Riders of Holland will be performing on the south end of Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield from 11 a.m.-noon. Admission is free, lake merchan-

dise and raffle tickets will be available.

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The Trustees of the Otis Library seek applicants for a **Library Director Position**. The position pays \$21-\$25 per hour commensurate with experience. The Director can expect to work between 25-30 hours per week. An application packet is available by emailing **otislibrary@cwmar.org** or at the **Otis Library at 48 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253. (413) 269-0109.**  
The application deadline is September 13, 2024. *The Otis Library Board of Trustees is an equal opportunity employer.*

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The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov**. EOE

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# - public safety -

## East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Aug. 5-11, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 101 building/property checks, 74 directed area patrols, five traffic controls, seven radar assignments, eight emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one assist other agency, two complaints, one scam, one investigation, one motor vehicle accident, four animal calls and 27 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

### Monday, Aug. 5

10:19 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Sturbridge Road, Transported to Hospital  
 3:18 p.m. Scam, South Pond Road, Report Taken  
 3:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Podunk Road, Report Taken

### Tuesday, Aug. 6

5:35 a.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, Blueberry Lane, Vehicle Towed  
 9:06 a.m. Investigation, Connie Mack Drive, Investigated

### Wednesday, Aug. 7

4:26 a.m. 911 Utility Issues, Podunk Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
 8:38 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, West Main Street, Officer Handled  
 9:12 a.m. Utility Issues, Maple Street, Services Rendered  
 10:03 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Harrington Street, Transported to Hospital  
 5:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 5:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

### Thursday, Aug. 8

12:17 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Report Taken  
 9:34 a.m. Assist Citizen, Podunk Road, Officer Handled  
 10:25 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled

### Friday, Aug. 9

8:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 11:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation issued  
 4:43 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Howe Street, Transported to Hospital

### Saturday, Aug. 10

4:42 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Howe Street, Transported to Hospital  
 2:29 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Faith Drive, Transported to Hospital  
 3:09 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Drake Street, Investigated  
 3:27 p.m. Animal Call, Young Road, Investigated  
 8:01 p.m. Radar, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 8:34 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Lake Lashaway, Officer Handled

### Sunday, Aug. 11

5:18 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Howe Street, Transported to Hospital  
 5:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning  
 5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Written Warning  
 5:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Aug. 12-19, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 12 building/property checks, 28 directed area patrols, six radar assignments, four traffic controls, one emergency 911 call, four citizen assists, one assist other agency, two safety hazards, two complaints, four animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

### Monday, Aug. 12

10:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unitas Road, Officer Handled  
 12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Pierce Road, Spoken To  
 1:37 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 5:21 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

7:52 p.m. Safety Hazard, Unitas Road, Removed Hazard

### Tuesday, Aug. 13

5:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued  
 2:39 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled  
 3:58 p.m. Complaint, Pierce Road, Officer Handled  
 7:50 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Barre Road, Officer Handled

### Saturday, Aug. 17

8:37 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Spoken To  
 6:31 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, West Brookfield Road, Negative Contact

# 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 lindashanssen@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. Oversights 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.

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

# - legal notices -

### **TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 40A, Section 9, and Section 11 Back Lot Permit, of the West Brookfield Zoning Bylaws, the Planning Board will open a public hearing on **Monday, September 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm** in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 2 East Main Street, for the following application:  
 Dominic Paolucci seeks Special Permit approval to create a Backlot, approxi-

mately 11 acres, at 85 Tucker Road, West Brookfield.

Interested parties may review the plan at the office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall, 2 East Main Street, West Brookfield. A copy is posted on the display board outside of the Town Hall and on the Town website at www.wbrookfield.com, under the Events Calendar.

The Board invites all interested parties to attend the public hearing.

Timothy Morrell  
 Planning Board Chair  
 08/23, 08/30/2024

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

# EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Labor Day,  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
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 Place your public notice  
 no later than 12 noon

**Friday, August 30**

- Thank you!

# QUABOAG

## CURRENT

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
Town Takeover at  
WooSox p2

**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
State Primary information  
p5

**EAST BROOKFIELD**  
Medicare info event  
Aug. 28 p3

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Sports  
Classifieds  
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15

Volume 17, Number 39

Friday, August 23, 2024

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