

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

**NEW BRAINTREE**  
State election  
information p3

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
AppleRun/Walk is Oct. 26  
p7

**STURBRIDGE**  
Special events at  
Pumpkin Patch p5

Editorial/Opinion 4  
Sports 9  
Classifieds 14

Legal Notices 15  
Police Logs 15

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Volume 17, Number 47

Friday, October 18, 2024

## Apple Country Fair celebrates 45th year

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

BROOKFIELD – The annual Apple Country Fair returned to the common for another season of shopping, eating and celebrating.

The Apple Country Fair showcases the work of over 90 local crafters with food trucks, art, live music, lawn games, and an apple pie contest. This year marked the 45th anniversary of the town's Apple Country Fair.

The Apple Country Fair originally started as a school fundraiser for a sixth grade class and their camping trip. The parents would get together



The 45th Annual Apple Country Fair took place this past weekend on the common in Brookfield. Over 200 pies were made courtesy of the Brookfield Congregational Church and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Paislee is shown with her apple craft that she made at Willow Brook Academy.

See FAIR | PAGE 6

## Board honors town's oldest female resident

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis presented Eleanor Ryan with the Golden Cane award, recognizing her as the town's oldest female resident.

She was born on June 8, 1923, and she said, "growing up on a farm," was the secret to her reaching her 101st birthday.

Joining the board at the Oct. 8 meeting was state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, who each presented Ryan with a citation.

See BOARD | PAGE 12

## Board members discuss Podunk Road tree removal

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Town Administrator Robin Grimm said she has confirmed that trees located on private property cannot be removed by Na-

tional Grid without a signed permission slip from the owner.

"People can refuse to have National Grid cut their tree down," she said at the Board of Selectmen's Oct. 7 meeting.

Board of Selectmen Clerk Mary Dowling said she has had a lot of concerns with how

this project has been handled by National Grid. She said she did her own site visit to Podunk Road and met with residents to look at trees marked for removal by the utility company.

Dowling said the tree war-

See PODUNK | PAGE 12



Fishing Area 3 is the most popular fishing spot in the commonwealth. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

## Cornhole fundraiser helped support local family

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

EAST BROOKFIELD – Timberyard Brewing Company hosted a cornhole tournament and fundraiser this past weekend.

The Backwoods Baggers helped set up a great tournament to help support a family who lost someone in a car accident back in July. This inaugural tournament is known as the



The memorial tournament had a great turnout with 24 teams (48 players total). TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

See CORNHOLE | PAGE 7

## DCR completes rehabilitation of access road to fishing area

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

rehabilitation of an access road at Gate 43 to Fishing Area 3 at the Quabbin Reservoir.

HARDWICK/PETER-SHAM – State legislators and members of the Quabbin Fishermen's Association joined the Department of Conservation and Recreation at a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the

On Oct. 8, DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo was joined by Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi, state Senators Peter Durant and Jake Oliveira, state Representatives Todd

See DCR | PAGE 8



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New Braintree Town Hall 5:00-8:00 pm

# - community -

## Students and Rotary Club partner to collect footwear

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School's Honor Students partnered with the Rotary Club of the Brookfields and Planet Aid in doing an Environmental Sneaker/Shoe Drive Project from Sept. 23 through Oct. 7.

The students collected all types of new and used footwear in the four mobile Planet Aid boxes they placed in the middle/high school and elementary schools.

The goal of the project was to help the environment by keeping the unwanted sneakers (that would take 43 years to breakdown in a landfill) and other footwear out of the landfills.

Planet Aid, a nonprofit organization will then take all the footwear and refurbished those that can be and recycle the ones that cannot be into other usable products such as insulation. Planet Aid helps people locally and across the world such as the work of Rotary.

Thank you to the people in the community that helped these students by sending in their sneakers/footwear. The students collected 100 pairs in their effort to "help the world."



Honor Students from Quaboag Regional Middle High School partnered with the Rotary Club of the Brookfields and Planet Aid to hold an Environmental Sneaker/Shoe Drive project recently. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

**RideN2B on the MCRT**

Mass Central Rail Trail supporters and cyclists participated in the inaugural rideN2B from Northampton to Boston held over three days this past week.

**Commission reviews role in demo delay**

By Ryan Drago  
rdrago@turley.com

At its last meeting, the commission reviewed several options to the town council for clarification as to their responsibilities when handling a demolition delay.

**Wright's Mill Recovery Master Plan meeting held**

By Ryan Drago  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The opening meeting of the Wright's Mill Recovery Master Plan was held at the Senior Center last week.

**To be one, ask one**

Masonic organizations continue to serve community

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – As the town celebrates its 250th anniversary this year, it is important to recognize several organizations that have helped shape the town.

**Selectboard discusses ARPA uses and more**

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Selectboard members discussed ways they could use American Rescue Plan Act funds, a recent donation from Reformer Waste Services of Ware and the town's special settlement money at last week's meeting.

Please see WARE, page 12

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# - community -

## 'Scary Tales: Dark Walker' premieres in Holyoke

Indie horror made in western Massachusetts

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

The Knights of Columbus Hall in Holyoke was the gathering place for a celebration of indie filmmaking in Massachusetts on Saturday evening, Sept. 28.

The assembled, consisting of cast, crew, and fans began drifting in early for the scheduled showing of "Scary Tales: Dark Walker".

'Dark Walker' is the latest in the Xposse Productions' Scary Tales series of horror movies, and this one is a dark tale in more ways than one.

Your correspondent arrived at the venue early and was greeted by Rick Caride, who, like many in team Xposse Productions does double duty, being cast as a Man in Black, but is part of the crew as well.

His role as a "Man in Black" is that of an intimidating presence, yet he is anything but in person, having a friendly, engaging personality. He told me to watch out for a couple of tiny aspects of the movie that were mistakes.

I missed them, but when you watch it, you can look for them.

The movie begins with a quartet of paranormal hunters who become the hunted after some banter that has a hint of the story. Then the story.

Slate, a detective, is confronted by a good cop/bad cop duo. Well, it's a bad cop/bad cop duo if they are actually cops.

They subdue and apprehend him. The two will next go after a woman named Allison, and take her out of her kitchen where she had been enjoying a cup of coffee.

Finally, they come upon the writer Sara, deep in thought and apprehend her.

Slate is taken to a room where a fellow named Clawson tries to reassure a man who has been brought to him by force that it's all good. Slate is then brought to another room where Sara and Allison are being held.

Clawson again tries to be a comforting fellow, but no one is buying it, and he and an associate leave.

Locked in, other than all of them having experienced something, they don't make progress in figuring it out and notice they are being gassed.

Slate, Allison, and Sara wake up in

what appears to be a living room. More speculations, but no progress among the trio.

Going out doors, they meet the "Muffin Man" who is not at all like the one from the fairy tale.

So, back in the house where more is revealed about their circumstances. Allison and Slate had both lost spouses.

Out again, and now aliens appear. Jay, Allison's husband, arrives. Looks alive, but he is not a happy camper. Aliens show up, and one is captured.

Attempts at interrogation by the detective are less than successful. Jay sees a Sasquatch out the window. The gang's showing up.

The whole adventure seems real but, is it a dream or hallucination? Ideas come like trading the alien for a car. Well, it was worth a try, or not.

Slate and Allison attempt to go to Springfield and enter what seems Slate's house. His wife is there but in ghoulish form. Gotta go.

Sara attempts sleep to test if it is all a dream and wakes up in the room they had been gassed in. Progress...depending on how you define it.

Meanwhile, Slate, Allison and her husband go out to do battle with the array of enemies. Slate's first attempt is thwarted and Allison's husband is zombified by Slate's dead wife.

Allison fights the aliens and Slate goes up against monsters. The duo wins some breathing room, but any victory is pyrrhic at best. In their last battle, they succumb.

Back in the room, Sara wakes up and faces being injected with something that can't be healthy, but fights back and the would be injector becomes the injectee.

Sara hears Clawson and his colleague, Olivia, speak of the "greater good" and sees through the rationales. Dark Walker, a negotiator from another dimension, is to be weaponized. For Clawson, it will not be as he imagined.

Sara confronts Olivia and Clawson. She turns the tide and Clawson exits to a confrontation with the varied entities and it does not go well.

"Scary Tales: Dark Walker" is available on TUBI as are most of the previous Xposse productions, including Geno's departure from horror. He's made a western and a riff on a Hallmark movie as well as a courtroom drama without a courtroom when he went off the reservation.

What's next? Geno plans a comedy. We shall be watching out for it.



The cast of "Scary Tales: Dark Walker" pose for a photo at the movie's premiere. TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY

## Town Clerk announces election information

NEW BRAINTREE – The 2024 Presidential Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5 with polls open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive.

The last day and time to register to vote in the election is Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. in the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall. People may also register online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>

In person early voting will take place in the New Braintree Town Hall on the following dates: Sunday, Oct. 20 from 8 a.m.-noon; Monday, Oct. 21 from 7-9

p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9 a.m.11 p.m. and Monday, Oct. 28 from 7-9 p.m.

To vote by mail, New Braintree residents should apply with the Town Clerk in person, by returning the postcard that was mailed by the state or by downloading and mailing back an application. Applications may be downloaded by visiting the [mass.gov](https://mass.gov) website.

All applications must be received by Tuesday, Oct. 29 by 5 p.m. in order to receive a vote by mail ballot. People may call the Town Clerk's Office at 508-867-2071 or email [townclerk@newbraintree.org](mailto:townclerk@newbraintree.org) with any questions or concerns.



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# - opinion -



## A question for the Garden Lady – how to move privets and grapes

Joe wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: “Hello and thanks, as I am a fan of your column! I want to transplant both some privet hedges and grape vines from my childhood home. They are each at least 70+ years old. They have been mostly well maintained over the years and look fairly healthy; I think. Could you offer any advice on how to do this successfully?”

Thank you, Joe, for your compliments on the column! I am happy to try and help.

I don't know if you have any time constraints with the move. If you don't, I would wait until early spring to do the transplanting, that way it will cause the least amount of distress on the plants.

Both privet and grape are quite hardy, but it may be challenging to dig them up, especially because of their age and the size of the rootball that you can expect with the privet for sure. The picture you sent does show that both are quite healthy.

As soon as the ground can be worked in spring – maybe in late March or in very early April, I would dig around the drip line of the privet, pointing your shovel straight down. Try to go as deep as you can.

It may help to have a friend or two on the other sides of the bush and together you can lift out the rootball. You might have to use a pair of loppers or a saw to cut some of the larger, main roots.

Without being there, it is hard to say what you will encounter. But, as you know, it will be important to get as many of the roots as you can, leaving the soil attached as much as possible.

If you don't have a pot big enough to encompass the roots, then I'd recommend using a construction grade trash bag, a tarp or even double layers of a bed sheet to keep the root ball together during transport. Getting them a few towns over, as you mentioned, might be tricky in a car.

I'd probably recommend laying the privet down in a truck, braced so that it won't roll around.

Transplant it in a similar exposure in the new yard, cutting back the branches to make accommodations for a new and smaller root ball. Water it well, deeply, at least two times a week for the first couple of months.

Grape vines can be handled in a similar fashion. By the pictures you sent, they appear so lush and beautiful.

I certainly have to compliment whoever the tender is in your family. The first order of business would be to ease them off of the fence that they are growing on.

Prune back the tops to a manageable height and then dig them up. It will likely be a challenge to tell “what goes where.”

That's why cutting the tops back will be helpful. If you can put several of the stems in one large pot for transport, that would make sense. Individual pots would also work fine.

It would be important for both of these plants that you have the new areas prepped and ready to go, so digging up and replanting can happen in a quick turnaround time.

Speaking of timing, if you absolutely must dig this fall, then do so, and water as mentioned until the ground freezes. Be careful that the plants don't heave – remember the roots won't have much grow time to anchor your plants, so check on them often



## in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

The beginning of this week I heard Canada geese honking as they flew over my house. Often they land in nearby beaver ponds.

The Canada goose is 25 to 45 inches long and is the most widespread and commonly seen goose. It has a black head and neck with a white chinstrap. The body is brownish gray except for a whitish rump.

They vary widely in size, with the smallest forms living farthest north. These geese feed on the ground and in the water. They eat submerged vegetation, grasses, winter wheat, clovers and other grain especially corn.

Canada geese nest at edges of ponds, lakes or swamps on rocks or grass hummocks out in the water. The female lays four to seven white eggs in a nest made of sticks, moss and grasses.

Some Canada geese that used to migrate now overwinter because food is provided for them by people at local ponds. This creates problems in many parks, golf courses and public lands where the geese fowl lawns, overgraze and become aggressive during breeding season. The male gives “ahonk” and the female has a higher “hink” call.

### Northern harrier

I received an email on Oct. 5 from a Warren resident, who said, “My husband and I saw a hawk kill a squirrel in our yard last week. It was large and impressive. We had no idea what it was and no Google searches of hawks in Massachusetts mentioned the northern harrier. But now, after looking at many pictures, we believe that's what it was. Very exciting to identify another bird.”

She lives near the pond where a Brimfield resident saw a northern harrier. She said New Reed Street is now called Brook Road.

She plans to visit the pond in hopes of seeing the kingfisher the Brimfield resident mentioned

### Brimfield resident

The Brimfield resident reported seeing a dark eyed junco on Oct. 1 in his yard. He related a story of a trip to Alaska. “In 2003 my wife and I signed up for a Alaska tour with the American Birding Association. Since we were going to Alaska and might never get back we did a mini pre-tour visit to Nome on our own. The flight to Nome was via Kotzebue and about a third of the passengers were trying to return to Kotzebue. They had been trying to get there for three days, but the planes couldn't land because a river near town was creating ground fog and the planes had to abort their landings. Our flight began its decent and the pilot announced the situation and he would try to land. Suddenly the pilot applied full power and began to climb, no landing at Kotzebue that day. My wife and I heard a nearby native woman say ‘we are going to have to kill a raven to get home.’ We flew on to Nome, not sure when or if the folks ever go back to Kotzebue.”

After returning from his Alaska trip, he did some research about birding in and around Nome. One thing I came upon was a report of a Christmas Count for Nome. I don't recall the year of the report but the folks braved harsh condition

and their total for the day was two ravens.

### Other birds

The Brimfield resident reported great egrets, great blue herons and Eastern bluebirds at the Warren Ponds. He also saw two common ravens, nine mallards, 10 rock doves, six yellow-rumped warblers and a northern flicker.

He had white-throated sparrows show up in his yard; they are the most common migrating sparrow he sees there. The other day a male Eastern Towhee and four white-throated sparrows taking baths

together. He saw 52 Canada geese and 2 wood duck at Wheeler. There were also lots of turtles taking advantage of a warm sunny day. While sitting in his yard for about an hour he saw a male common yellowthroat, a black-throated blue warbler, two blackpoll warblers and a catbird.

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.



Canada geese in flight

## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

# - sturbridge -

## Rotary Club presents TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk

STURBRIDGE – The Rotary Club of Sturbridge is delighted to announce that its popular TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K, and Fun Walk will return on Sunday, Oct. 27, according to race director Klaus Hachfeld.

The family-friendly event offers two timed races, including a 5K Trail Run & Fun Walk, and a 1K Road Race.

The timed 1K Road Race (\$20 registration) for pre-teens (12 years old and under) starts at 9:15 a.m. It will be a road race along Old Sturbridge Village Road, making it accessible to persons with mobility challenges.

The timed 5K Trail Run (\$35 registration) & Fun Walk (\$30 registration) will start at 10 a.m. using Old Sturbridge Village Road and the Arbutus Park Trail in the Leadmine Mountain Wildlife Conservation Lands.

An awards ceremony will follow at 11:15 a.m. starting with a competition for best Halloween costume for all registered runners and walkers. Judging will be by popular choice.

The event also includes free children's game starting at 9 a.m. at the Education Center, organized by a volunteer team from Burgess Elementary School. No pre-registration is required for the children's activities.

All activities begin at the OSV Education Center on Old Sturbridge Village Road (not to be confused with Old Sturbridge Village Academy at the main entrance to the village). Parking will be available in the Education Center lot.

Pre-registration is now available on the RaceWire website at <https://www.racewire.com/register.php?id=14151>

All participants who pre-register by Oct. 21 will get a 2024 TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk tee-shirt. On-site registration will also be available starting at 8:30 a.m.

The Trek Sturbridge Halloween 5K and Fun Walk is a Sturbridge Rotary Club fundraiser, with all profits going to the organization's community needs projects.

For additional information, or to sign on as an event sponsor, email the race director at [laserklaus@gmail.com](mailto:laserklaus@gmail.com). Or visit the Sturbridge Rotary Club website at <https://sturbridgerotary.com>.

## Federated Church announces Pumpkin Patch special events



Rock Voices Auburn will perform in the Federated Church Pumpkin Patch on Sunday, Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

STURBRIDGE – The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale has announced two upcoming events as part of its 7th Annual Pumpkin Patch extravaganza, according to committee chair, Jason Chin.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m.-noon, Judy Queen of the Pumpkins will read fabulous stories in the picnic area near the Joshua Hyde Public Library. In the event of rain, the Pumpkin Patch Story Hour will be held in the church parlor.

On Sunday, Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. the Pumpkin Patch will be welcoming a return performance by the ever-popular Rock Voices Auburn, an adult choir with members from throughout central Massachusetts that performs only rock music with a mission of "healing ourselves and others through song." Rock Voices Auburn performs under the direction of Connie Galli.

The Pumpkin Patch is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (weather permitting) through the end of October.

The front lawn of the church has been transformed into a festive fall wonderland, brimming with pumpkins and gourds of all shapes and sizes. Whether you're looking to decorate your home for Halloween or create a cozy fall atmosphere, the Pumpkin Patch offers everything you need—from pumpkins and mums to hay bales, corn stalks, loose hay for your scarecrow, and even cookbooks to inspire your autumn cooking.

Convenient payment options include cash, credit cards, Venmo, and PayPal, making it easy for everyone to join in the fun.

For more information on the Pumpkin Patch or other upcoming events, visit the Church's website at [sturfed.org](http://sturfed.org) or contact the Church office by calling 774-304-1021 or emailing [churchoffice@sturfed.org](mailto:churchoffice@sturfed.org).

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale welcomes everyone to celebrate Christ's presence and God's grace in their lives. Members of the community are welcome and invited to join in worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

### GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

throughout the winter months and stomp on the rootball should they start protruding from the ground.

It may take a couple of years for the grapes to be as productive as they were, but never fear, because of the hardiness of these plants both should do fine once they adjust to their new surroundings. Good luck to you! I commend you for wanting to save a part of your history!

*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.*

## Historical Society presents 'Finding William Lewis'

STURBRIDGE – The Sturbridge Historical Society presents "Finding William Lewis [1819-1897], The Everyday Life of this Singular Man", on Thursday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Publick House

Based on an extraordinary archive of personal journals, life-long historians Christie Higginbottom and Bruce Craven bring their deep understanding of time and place to the story of William Lewis. This is the story of a man who lived in central Massachusetts and evolved from tanner to peddler to farmer, from youth to family man, from transient to rooted in community.

The program provides an intimate examination of one man's struggle to find his place in 19th century New England village life. As specialists in early New England social history and agriculture, the authors are

able to provide rich contextualization to the 59 years' worth of journals, account books, and business records.

These materials provide for a rich narrative of a life with details that are often completely lost to history.

Craven and Higginbottom have worked at Old Sturbridge Village for over 40 years. Craven coordinated the agriculture program and designed museum exhibits and Higginbottom coordinated the horticulture program and worked as research historian for horticulture and landscape.

They will have their book, "Finding William Lewis", available for sale.

The program, which starts at 7 p.m., is free and open to the public, and generously hosted by Publick House.

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**FAIR | FROM PAGE 1**

er and came up with the idea of a fall themed fundraiser to help with traveling expenses for the sixth grade trip.

What started out as a small class fundraiser would soon grow into a townwide fair.

The Brookfield Community Club has been organizing the Apple Country Fair since 1979. The money raised at the Apple Country Fair has generated grants for a number of community service projects.

These community service projects include supplies for the town's annual luminary display on Christmas Eve, printing of the Brookfield Citizen, the town's monthly newsletter, programs and speakers for Brookfield Council on Aging, sweatshirts for Brookfield Elementary's sixth grade students, equipment for Brookfield Fire Department and EMS, improvements to Brookfield Recreation's Lewis Field, equipment for Brookfield Scout Troops, programs at the Merrick Public Library and the Diane Martell Community Service Award for a graduating Brookfield Senior.

One organizer for the Brookfield Community Club is Lindsay Holm who shared that it took a whole group effort to make this year's Apple Country Fair a successful one.

"It's a community effort, for sure," Holm said.

In addition to over 90 local vendors, the Brookfield Community Club was hosting a raffle featuring many fun prizes. Fairgoers had a chance to win prizes including the community-stitched quilt, family passes to local museums and attractions, and gift certificates to local restaurants and stores. These prizes were donated by local businesses and by some of the crafters at the fair.

Holm enjoys organizing the Apple Country Fair along with several other members of the Brookfield Community Club.

"This is Christmas to me," Holm stated regarding the Apple Country Fair.

The Brookfield Community Club consists of eight dedicated members who have a strong bond with the town of Brookfield. The Fire Department helped by providing a lot of tables for

the vendors who were set up nicely on the common.

Several music groups were performing under the gazebo at the common and were predominantly local bands. Spooner Well took the stage first and are from Brookfield. One of their popular covers was "Take Me Home, Country Roads" by John Denver.

The Brookfield Congregational Church and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church put on a nice display of pies during the Apple Country Fair.

Every year the church participates in the fair and always astonishes the fairgoers with the variety of pies on display. This year the church set a new record with a total of 280 pies baked for the fair.

"This activity brings lots of fellowship," said Darlene Dean.

The Brookfield Congregational Church was busy with a row of vendors of their own. One of them was operated by their teen members who were raising money for their mission trip.

Pastor Brian Oxman said this is the church's biggest fundraiser of the year and its great to be out with the rest of the community.

"This fair is a great opportunity for the community to get out and be together," Oxman said.

The students of Willow Brook Academy (pre-K through sixth grade) had an art gallery displayed on the common during the Apple Country Fair. There were multiple apple-themed art projects from apple cutouts, bags, apple trees and decorations.

The kids were recently learning about apples and got creative with their apple-themed art gallery. One of the students, Paislee, got to tour around the art gallery and pointed out one of her apple-themed decorations.

For more about the Apple Country Fair, visit [applecountryfair.com](http://applecountryfair.com). The Brookfield Community Club can be followed on Facebook; their page is titled, "Brookfield Community Club & Apple Country Fair".

The Brookfield Community Club is a charitable organization that makes grants to enrich community life.



Teens from the Brookfield Congregational Church were busy raising money for their mission trip in 2025. Shown from left to right were Joseph Afton, Gina Mesick, Addison Oxman, Willa Safford and Jessica Safford. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



There were plenty of gnomes to go around at this booth during the Apple Country Fair.



The Brookfield Community Club hosted a raffle with over 30 prizes donated by local businesses and crafters.



Local band Spooner Well was playing by the gazebo of the common.



Hot kettle corn was being made during the Apple Country Fair.



Worcester Bravehearts mascot Jake the Lion made an appearance at the Apple Country Fair.



Students of Willow Brook Academy got into the spirit of the Apple Country Fair with their own apple-themed art.



Food trucks arrived during the Apple Country Fair. A customer was ready to place a pizza order from Pizza Diavolo.

# - community -

## CORNHOLE | FROM PAGE 1

Groccia & McLeish Memorial Cornhole Tournament.

A close friend of the family and cornhole player Nate Rondeau was excited to be a part of a great turnout with 24 teams and a total of 48 players. The fundraiser also consisted of raffles, 50/50 raffle and an air mail challenge to benefit the families.

Rondeau believes the cornhole community is nothing but supportive and is one big family that comes together when it needs to.

“The cornhole family, they stick together,” Rondeau said.

The tournament consisted of a round robin format that determines the placement of each team. The top three teams at the end will receive a cash prize. The winners will be determined by a single elimination playoff.

Timberyard Brewing Company was kind of enough to donate the pavilion space to host the tournament with snacks, drinks and screens to help keep track of scores. It was a chilly Sunday morning and the pavilion had a nice fire pit outside for players to keep warm as they were playing.

Many members of the Backwoods

Baggers were in attendance participating in the tournament and supporting the fundraiser. Timberyard Brewing Company is also the home of their cornhole leagues on Thursdays.

What makes cornhole so much fun is it’s a game for all ages. There were several teens putting on a show during the tournament.

Jason Chase of the Backwoods Baggers was in attendance and participating in the memorial tournament. The Backwoods Baggers has over 40 members and is available to help you host a cornhole fundraiser, charity, and/or benefit.

“We’re playing and supporting a great cause,” Chase said.

The first Groccia & McLeish Family Memorial Cornhole Tournament was a success and it could become an annual tournament. According to Rondeau, it would be fun to have this tournament as an annual event.

Backwoods Baggers congratulated the three winning teams of the tournament. First place went to the team of Jose & Jose, second place team was Jack & Robbie Barnes, and third place was Lucas and Moto.

## Apple Run/Walk returns for 18th year on Oct. 26

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The 18th annual 5 mile Apple Run/Walk for diabetes will be held Saturday morning, Oct. 26 at Brookfield Orchards, 12 Lincoln Road.

The event is hosted by the Lions Club of the Brookfields. All proceeds will benefit the Clara Barton Diabetes Camp in Oxford and the Diabetes Research Team at UMass.

The event in prior years has raised over \$37,000 in donations for these two organizations. The race is professionally timed, and cash prizes will be awarded to the men’s and women’s first and second place finishers.

Registration will be from 9:30-

10:30 a.m., with walkers beginning the course at 10:30 a.m. and runners at 11 a.m. Early registration entry fee is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children age 17 and younger (race day registration is \$5 extra).

Oakholm Brewery of Brookfield will return as a sponsor this year, and will be onsite at the event with a complimentary beer for each registered runner and walker at the completion of the course.

Further information and link to online registration (as well as a downloadable registration form) can be found at <http://brookfieldslionsclub.org>.



The cornhole community can be described as one big family as they gathered for a great cause. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



The pavilion had drinks available at their bar during the tournament and fundraiser.



There were many raffle prizes available during the cornhole tournament where the proceeds go to support the families.



Timberyard Brewing Company donated their pavilion space to host the Groccia & McLeish Memorial Cornhole Tournament.

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DCR | FROM PAGE 1

Smola and Aaron Saunders and QFA President Clayton Sydla to talk about the successful completion of the project, and its significance to the region.

Arrigo said the DCR's mission is "to protect, promote and enhance our commonwealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all."

"I know that this project is a great example of our mission," Arrigo said.

The project involved reclaiming and repaving approximately 1.75 miles from outside Gate 43 to just before the bridge. The total cost was \$652,000 and was made possible through funds from the American Rescue Plan Act filed by Smola, and DCR through the Massachusetts Water Resources Trust Fund.

The improved road makes it easier for visitors to access and enjoy this popular outdoor recreation destination that families and individuals use for fishing, walking, running and bike riding. It also connects visitors to opportunities for wildlife observation, while appreciating the natural scenery of the Quabbin Reservoir.

"At DCR, we are dedicated to making our properties welcoming and accessible for all users to enjoy and connect with our natural and recreational resources," Arrigo said. "We are pleased to see this important access road revitalized to provide access to the Quabbin Reservoir, a valuable natural and recreational resource for the community."

Arrigo credited the dedication of local officials for making sure this project was completed, with a special thanks given to Smola.

Arrigo welcomed Gobi to the podium, who said it was nice to look around and see all of the support from the community, especially the fishermen.

"Our fishermen are extremely important," Gobi said. "They are the eyes and ears of the Quabbin."

Gobi said she is grateful to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for its commitment in providing safe access to recreational activities for residents and visitors to the commonwealth.

"It takes a great team to complete an important project like this, and I appreciate the partners and supporters that worked with us to bring safer roadways to this community," she said.

Smola echoed Gobi's sentiments, and thanked Arrigo for his work to prioritize a significant project in the rural part of the state.

"We appreciate the work you do here and all over the commonwealth," Smola said. He added that it was "critically important" to protect the recreational use of the area.

Smola also thanked Sydla, saying that the completion of the Gate 43 Access Road project is a "testament to the power of community advocacy and collaboration."

"Clayton 'Syd' Sydla has been a tireless champion for the Quabbin Fishermen's Association, and it was his dedication that brought this project to our attention," said Smola. "Thanks to his persistence and the support of our legislative team, we were able to secure the necessary funding to make this improvement a reality. This new access road ensures that visitors can continue to enjoy everything the Quabbin has to offer safely and without the risk of damaging their vehicles or gear. We are proud to celebrate this milestone and grateful to everyone who made it possible."

Oliveira shared his family's history with the Quabbin Reservoir, dating back to when his grandfather worked to help build it. He said he remembered his first time visiting Fishing Area 3 with Sydla back in 2021, and how poor the condition of the road was.

"Preserving and enhancing access to the Quabbin Reservoir is crucial for



Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Brian Arrigo welcomes people to the ribbon cutting ceremony.

recreation and the environment," said Oliveira. "The rehabilitation of this access road ensures that everyone can continue to enjoy one of Massachusetts' most pristine natural resources. I commend the Department of Conservation and Recreation for their commitment to maintaining this vital connection to the beauty and biodiversity of the Quabbin."

Durant said that fishing with Sydla is a "rite of passage" for the legislators of the region. He stressed the importance of the Quabbin Reservoir as a resource, not only for drinking water, but also for recreation and enjoyment.

"The rehabilitation of the access road to Gate 43 and Area 3 is greatly welcomed by everyone who uses the area for fishing and hiking," said Durant. "I have fished Quabbin recently and heard from people who regularly use Gate 43 to bring boats to the reservoir that this will improve their access, and it will allow a better experience for everyone who visits."

Saunders said he first visited Area 3 when he went fishing with his father as a child. He said the completion of the project and the teamwork involved, demonstrates how government is supposed to work.

"Improvements to the Launch Area 3 access road conveys our shared commitment to public access to the Quabbin," said Saunders. "I appreciate the hard work of Representative Smola to secure this funding and Commissioner Arrigo for ensuring this project was undertaken and completed."

Sydla said Gate 43 is the number one fishing area in the entire state, and the condition of the access road was preventing many people from enjoying it.

"One year I counted 110 potholes," he said.

Sydla thanked each of the legislators, DCR staff, Fisheries and Wildlife affiliates and QFA members for their efforts to make the project possible. He also thanked DCR Director of Natural Resources Dan Clark.

"In the last two years we've been talking about this project, Dan has been supportive," Sydla said.

Sydla encouraged everyone present to take a drive down the access road and enjoy the beauty of the reservoir.

"Keep fishing at Quabbin...keep fishing at Gate 43," he said.

**About DCR**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways.

To learn more about DCR, its facilities and its programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr).



The Department Conservation and Recreation held a ribbon cutting ceremony at newly rehabilitated access road at Quabbin Reservoir's Gate 43. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE



State Rep. Todd Smola speaks during a ceremony held near Gate 43 in Hardwick last Tuesday.



State Sen. Jake Oliveira talks about fishing on the Quabbin Reservoir.



State Rep. Aaron Saunders shared memories of fishing on the Quabbin Reservoir.



State Sen. Peter Durant said the improved access road will be a benefit for the region.



Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi talks about the importance of safe access to recreational sites.



President of the Quabbin Fishermen's Association Clayton Sydla thanks the legislators who worked to support the access road project.



# SPORTS

## Cougars tip Ware boys

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WARE—After scoring a pair of first half goals by freshman Logan Spring, the Quaboag boys soccer team managed to hang on during the final 40 minutes of the non-league match for a 2-1 victory over host Ware on a cool night at Veterans Field in Ware, last Tuesday.

“It became a very close game at the end, but it does feel very good to win a match,” said Quaboag head coach Steve Pultorak. “Overall, I’m very happy with the players performance in tonight’s game.”

The two boys’ soccer teams faced each other for the first time since the Cougars posted a 3-0 shutout during the 2015 regular season.

“We do play Ware in a lot of other sports, but we haven’t played them in boys’ soccer in about ten years” Pultorak



Anthony Arujo advances up the field. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

See **COUGARS** | PAGE 11

## Warriors fall to Northbridge

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE—The Tantasqua girls’ soccer team was originally scheduled to play the other nine Southern Worcester County League teams once during the regular season. Because Bartlett couldn’t field a girls’ soccer team this year, Tantasqua Athletic Director Marcus Backlin needed to find another team to fill out the Lady Warriors schedule.

That opponent wound up being the Northbridge Lady Rams, who faced the Lady Warriors twice in a span of five days at the beginning of October.

The first meeting between the SWCL rivals, which was held on October 3 at Lasell

See **WARRIORS** | PAGE 10

## Panthers get by West Boylston



The Quabbin defense tries to guard against a goal. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

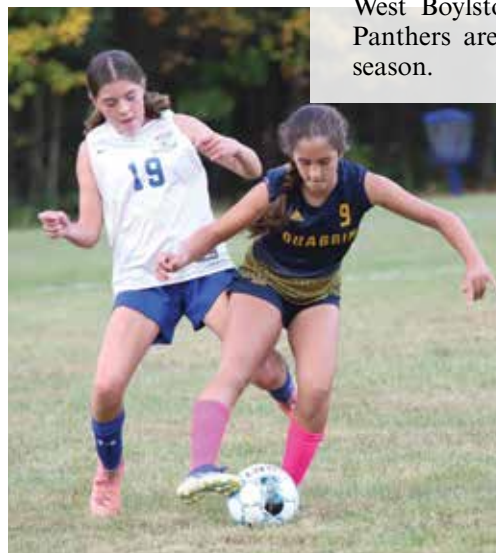


Adalyn Cranston tries to get around a pair of defenders.

BARRE – Last Monday afternoon, Quabbin girls middle school soccer scored one goal in the first half and it held up as the Panthers defeated West Boylston 1-0. The Panthers are 4-1 on the season.



Katherine Porter tries to hold on to the ball.



Eden Fortier is pressured from behind.



Emma Stauder sends the goal kick away.



Lauren Colleton makes her way down the field.

- sports -

# Pioneers fall to Athol

PALMER – Last Wednesday afternoon, Pathfinder girls soccer got to play on the quality grass of Legion Field in Palmer. But the Pioneers were defeated 3-1 to fall to a disappointing 0-10-1 on the season. The Pioneers will continue to search for their first win on Oct. 17 against Franklin Tech.



Jenna McKinney moves toward the sideline. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Taylor Allen goes after the ball near midfield.



Heydin Heyes is pressured from behind.



Samantha Lowe tries to steal the ball away.



Goalie Autumn Desrosiers kicks the ball away.



Brianna Valley and an opponent compete for the loose ball.

## Railers scored win over Mariners

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers HC (1-1-0-0) beat the Maine Mariners (1-1-0-0) on Saturday night by the final score of 4-0 in front of a crowd of 700 at the Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center. The Railers open the regular season next weekend when they take on the Reading Royals at the DCU center on Saturday, October 19th at 6:05 p.m.

Worcester jumped out to a 2-0 lead with goals from Jordan Kaplan (1-1-2) who struck at 3:43 and Justin Gill (1-0-1) scoring just a minute later in the first period. Worcester continued their scoring in the second. Connor Welsh (1-0-1) scored at 13:55 to make the score 3-0 Worcester. Worcester finished the scoring off by notching one more in the third. Joey Cipollone (1-0-1) scored the final goal of the night, which made it 4-0 when the final buzzer sounded.

Worcester wasted no time striking first tonight as Jordan Kaplan (1st) found the back of the net 3:43 into the first period. He was shortly followed up by Justin Gill (1st) who got one by Maine's Ryan Bischel just under a minute after Kaplan got a dish from Matt DeMelis. Worcester had an opportunity to score on the power play following a tripping penalty with just under 5 minutes in the period, but couldn't find the back of the net. Worcester went into the first intermission with the 2-0 lead. Shots favored the Railers 14-5.

Worcester's penalty kill got to work early killing off two penalties. The first on Anthony Repaci 30 seconds into the second followed by Jordan Kaplan at the 12-minute mark. The Railers got their own opportunity on the power play with 6:20 to go in the second and Connor Welsh (1st) cashed in on passes from Jordan Kaplan and Anthony Callin to make it 3-0 going into the third. Worcester out-shot Maine 14-7.

Worcester wasn't done yet as Joey Cipollone (1st) scored on a redirected shot 6:08 into the third. The penalty kill would continue their perfect weekend after shutting down two Maine power plays. The Railers went eight-for-eight on the penalty kill against Maine in the preseason. Cipollone's goal would be the final score of the night, cementing the Railers 4-0 shutout victory.

### WARRIORS | FROM PAGE 9

Field in Northbridge, ended in a 1-1 draw. Their second meeting was also tied, 2-2, in the second half. The Lady Rams managed to score the game winning goal with five minutes remaining in regulation giving them a 3-2 victory on Tantasqua's stadium field, last Monday afternoon (Oct. 7).

"It's very difficult playing the same team twice in a span of five days," said first-year Tantasqua head coach Tara Bruso. "The girls played very hard in today's game, and we were able to make a comeback after falling behind 2-0 in the first half, but we just made a couple of mistakes."

Bruso, who's a math teacher at Tantasqua Regional, replaced Matt Rickson as the girls' varsity soccer coach. She previously coached soccer at Bay Path. She's also a coach for the Lady Warriors indoor & outdoor track teams.

The Tantasqua girls' soccer team had an 8-3-1 overall record following their second meeting of the regular season against Northbridge (8-1-2). The Lady Warriors lost to league rival Grafton, 3-1, and they also lost a non-league home game versus Wachusett Regional by the same score.

A year ago, the Lady Warriors advanced to the elite eight of the Division 3 state tournament where they suffered a 1-0 loss at Medfield High School. They were ranked 19th in the Division 3 power rankings. The top 32 teams automatically qualify for the state tournament. All the other teams who finish the regular season with a .500 or better record will also earn a berth in the Division 3 state tournament.

Tantasqua had two corner kicks during the first five minutes in the home match against Northbridge, but they couldn't take an early lead.

Down at the other end of the field, the

Lady Rams built a 2-0 lead following back-to-back goals.

Junior Sienna Mastroianni gave her team a 1-0 advantage after firing a shot into the left corner of the net past Tantasqua junior goalie Sarah Parsons (9 saves).

Sophomore Lily Proto, who assisted on the Lady Rams first goal, put her name in the scoring column a minute later with a shot into the right corner. Mastroianni was credited with the assist.

A little more than ten minutes later, the Lady Warriors managed to cut their deficit in half when senior Lilina Shiers, who has committed to play college soccer at Assumption University next year, blasted a shot from the left side of the box into the upper right corner. Senior Kaydence O'Neil was credited with the assist.

Late in the opening half, Parsons, who's a first-year varsity starter, made an outstanding save on a breakaway opportunity, which kept the score 2-1 at halftime.

In the middle of the second half, the Lady Warriors were given an indirect kick by the referees after the Northbridge goalie picked up the ball which was passed back by one of her teammates.

After O'Neil touched the ball, Shiers fired a low shot past the wall into the right corner, tying the score for the first time.

"Lilina took that shot from a very difficult angle, but we practice those types of shots a lot" Bruso said. "She's also a member of the track team and she's an outstanding athlete. She's very humble. I'm very glad to have the opportunity to coach her."

With a little less than five minutes remaining in regulation, Mastroianni gave her team the lead back with a breakaway goal, which was unassisted.

The Lady Warriors were unable to score the tying goal before the referee blew his whistle for the final time.

# - sports -

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Bogey Doubles league had their first league night in the month of October.

The standings after a total of five weeks worth of bowling show the team of Tom Clauson and Gary Santora in first place with a total of 27 points. Just a point shy of first is the second place team of Jesse Mondor and Tim Brayton with 26.

There are three teams in a tie for third place with 22 wins, Murphy & Kenneson, Sandman & Marvin, and Gauthier & Clough.

The Team of Rando & MacDougall bowled against Sandman & Marvin. In game one, Sandman & Marvin took the first game 266-252. In game two, Rando & MacDougall won by a score of 268-246. In game three, Sandman & Marvin won by a score of 254-249.

However, Rando & MacDougall managed to win total pinfall, 769-766. Each team received four points.

Talamini & Gravel bowled against Halbedel & Fontaine. In game one, Talamini & Gravel won 254-246. In game two, Halbedel & Fontaine won 268-257. Aaron Halbedel scored 129 in game two.

In game three, Halbedel & Fontaine won the last game 248-238. Total pinfall was in favor of Halbedel & Fontaine, 762-749.

The Team of Pellett & Nester bowled against Murphy & Kenneson. In game one, Pellett & Nester defeated Murphy & Kenneson, 299-261. Jim Nester started off with a 134 to earn his team a victory. Trever Kenneson started off with

a 125.

In game two, Trever Kenneson bowled his personal best high game with a 163. Kenneson and his partner won game two, 303-273. In game three, Murphy & Kenneson won the last game 266-251. Kenneson finished with a 126 and a series of 414.

Total pinfall was won by Kenneson & Murphy, 830-823.

Renaud & Ward bowled against Clauson & Santora. In game one, Renaud & Ward tied with Clauson & Santora at 292; each team receives one point. Steve Renaud, Sr. started off with a 136 and Tom Clauson started off with a 132.

In game two, Clauson & Santora won by a score of 281-270. Gary Santora bowled a 122 and Tina Ward bowled a 123.

In game three, Renaud & Santora won 278-247. Ward repeated her second game, 123 in game three. Ward & Renaud won total pinfall 840-820.

Mondor & Brayton bowled against Gauthier & Clough. In game one, Mondor & Brayton 264-245. In game two, Gauthier & Clough won 261-247. Phil Clough bowled 124 to win the second game.

In game three, Mondor & Brayton won the last game by one point, 252-251. Clough finished with a 119 and a series of 346. Mondor & Brayton won total pinfall by a final score of 763-757.

In the second round of matches, Jim Nester had the high series of 371, which consisted of scored of 138, 100 and 133.

Clauson & Santora are still in first place after the second round. The team's winning total is now up to 32. Mondor & Brayton are still in second place with 30 points.

## Bonsignore scores win at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, Conn. – Justin Bonsignore was in Thompson Speedway victory lane again on Sunday afternoon. For the 14th time in his career, Bonsignore captured victory on the high-banks in Connecticut - leading the most laps and taking the lead back late after a pit road miscue to rocket to another win.

The victory was Bonsignore's 43rd career on the Whelen Modified Tour, giving him sole possession of third place all-time. His 14th career Thompson win also put him just one off Mike Stefanik's record of 15.

"We worked hard all summer, but haven't had the best car," Bonsignore said. "We brought back 'Old Faithful'. This car has been sitting bare bones since the last Martinsville race and we finally got it back together. It got us back into Victory Lane at Thompson and the guys did a great job today with the quick turnaround. It's humbling to be around Reggie and Teddy and to have your name mentioned with them is really special. Obviously we try not to think about that stuff while we're still racing, but it is really awesome to have that much success in this series over the 15 years that we've been here. Hopefully we've got another 14 or 15 years in us if we can stay competitive."

With the win, Bonsignore closed within five points of Ron Silk in the championship battle with two races remaining. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will return to the track at North Wilkesboro Speedway on Sunday, October 20. The series will then visit Martinsville Speedway on Saturday, October 26, for the season-finale.

### COUGARS | FROM PAGE 9

added. "We've scrimmaged Ware in the preseason during the couple of years. Our j.v. team has also played them before. I'm not sure why we haven't played them at the varsity level.

Before the start of the regular season, the Indians were looking to add a non-league opponent to their schedule. Ware Athletic Director Thomas Shamgochain contacted Quaboag Athletic Director Dave Bouchard about scheduling a game between the two boys' soccer teams.

Ware head coach Charlene Valle is a teacher at Quaboag Regional, so she was also looking forward to the match.

"I'm a teacher in the Aspire Program at Quaboag. I don't teach any of the Quaboag soccer players, but I do see them walking in the hallways," Valle said. "Both teams are evenly matched, and it was a very exciting game."

The Cougars won their first three games of the regular season against David Prouty, Southbridge, and Bartlett. They went 1-8-1 in their next ten matches and had a 5-8-1 overall record after dispatching the Indians (4-5-2).

The visitors from Warren had a couple of scoring chances during the first twenty minutes of the opening half, but they couldn't get the ball into the back of the net past Ware junior goalie Jack Gaudreau (9 saves).

After receiving a pass from junior Jacoby Labillois in the 22nd minute, Spring was able to put a shot into the net giving Quaboag a 1-0 lead.

About ten minutes later, the duo hooked up once again.

This time, Spring scored a breakaway goal and Labillois was credited with the assist.

"Logan has been a member of the varsity soccer team for a couple of years

now," Pultorak said. "He has scored 90 percent of our goals so far this year, but he hasn't scored a hat-trick yet. He was hoping to get one in tonight's game."

The Indians then had back-to-back scoring chances on shots taken by senior Owen McKeever.

His first shot on goal, which was low, was saved by sophomore Blake Lopato (6 saves).

A minute later, McKeever had another scoring chance on a free kick from just outside the box. It was another low shot that got past the wall, but Lopato, who's a first-year starter, made the save keeping his shutout bid intact a little bit longer.

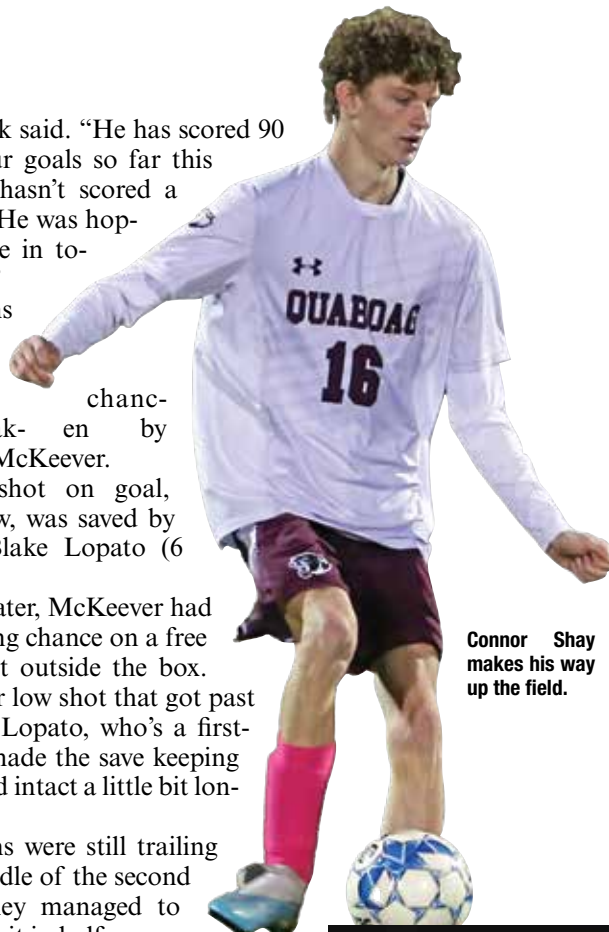
The Indians were still trailing 2-0 in the middle of the second half when they managed to slice their deficit in half.

The scoring play began with a long pass by junior defender Kyle Kaczuwka to McKeever, who chipped a shot over the goalie's head into the net.

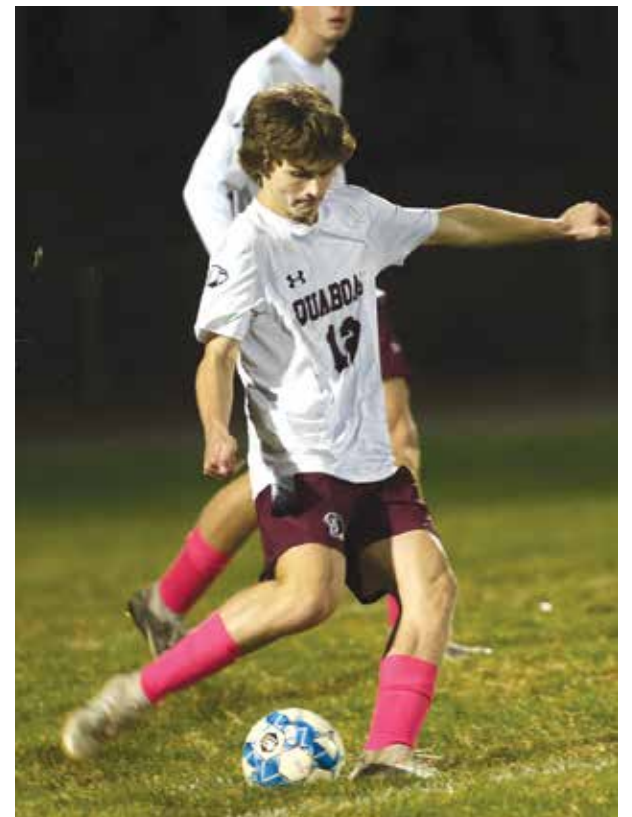
Our goal was started by the defense," Vallee said. "It was a nice pass and shot."

Gaudreau made several more saves during the final 20 minutes of the contest, but they couldn't score the tying goal down at the other end of the field.

The Cougars and Indians football teams will be facing each other for the 15th time on Thanksgiving morning at Veterans Field in Ware.



Connor Shay makes his way up the field.



Jacob Toomey sends a pass away. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Lincoln Brown watches his pass head up the field.

# - community -

## BOARD | FROM PAGE 1

### Recognition

The Board of Selectmen received a letter from Tim Nason of the Board of Water Commissioners regarding the discovery and removal of invasive water chestnut plants in Doane Pond.

The letter stated that David Maher from Valley View School notified the commissioners about the plant, and that he and students from the school were given permission to remove the plants from the pond.

"The Board of Water Commissioners thanked and commended Mr. Maher and the Valley View students for their hard work in identifying and removing this invasive species of plants, thus protecting our watershed and drinking water reservoir, Horse Pond," Nason's letter stated. "By these students and Mr. Maher volunteering their time has saved the town thousands of dollars in remediation of this invasive plant species."

Water Superintendent Jamie Flamand said Maher and the students were a "big help" in removing the invasive plant, which he said he had never seen before. Flamand said Maher and the students worked to remove the water chestnuts from the water by canoe every day for a month.

"Right now, it's only Doane Pond, and them ripping it out keeps it from getting actually in Horse Pond, which is our reservoir," Flamand said, adding that Maher and the students will continue to remove the plant as they see it. "I think it's a great thing."

### Highway Department report

Randy Morgan, interim Superintendent of the Highway Department, pro-

vided an update to the Board of Selectmen.

Morgan said since he's been in the position, he has been using American Rescue Plan Act funds to complete necessary tree work. He has also purchased pipe needed for drainage work on Oakham Road.

The department staff also cleaned out the Huck's building and completed normal roadside cleanup, weed whacking and trimming.

Morgan said swale work was completed on West Brookfield Road, and he is also working with National Grid to fix a trench that they dug on Main Street.

"They're going to fix that," he said.

Morgan said he will also be meeting with a representative from National Grid about the possibility of the utility company removing some problem trees.

Morgan was joined by Town Administrator Michael Szlosek to look at the town's four bridges.

He said he is also seeking estimates for catch basin work, adding that 10 of them need to be raised up to road level.

Morgan said salt and sand both need to be ordered for winter, and a one-, three- and five-year paving plan needs to be put in place.

Szlosek said the search committee to fill the Superintendent's position received eight resumes and narrowed the selection down to three candidates. He said they will be conducting interviews the following week to select the final candidates to present to the Board of Selectmen.

### Resignations and appointment

The board accepted the resignations of Town Collector Elizabeth Clemence

and Council on Aging Outreach Coordinator Darlene Foster.

Nicole Eccleston was appointed to serve as the interim Outreach Coordinator. She had previously worked at the Spencer Council on Aging.

"My heart and soul is working with seniors," she said. "I'm excited for the opportunity that I'm going to have with you guys."

### Spending requests

The Highway Department requested approval to spend \$657.85 to purchase 10-foot square signposts. The board approved the request.

The board also approved the use of Holden Hospital funds in the amount of \$430 to purchase two AED batteries for the Police Department.

### General Bylaw Committee

The board approved the formation of a General Bylaw Committee to go through all of the town's bylaws and identify which ones need to be amended or updated. There are three residents who have expressed interest in joining the committee so far.

### Decorate Our Town seeks members

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada said the town has had a committee that helps with decorating the town during holidays, called NBHelps. She said this committee was previously called Decorate Our Town, which is the name it will return to.

"We have switched it back to Decorate Our Town," Canada said. "We currently have one member on that committee...we are looking for folks who are interested in joining a Decorate Our Town Committee that would help beautify our town."

This committee will also be in charge

of hanging the American flags downtown in addition to decorating for the holiday season. Anyone interested in joining the committee, can contact the Board of Selectmen.

### Asbestos testing

Petratis said the board received a request from the Environmental Protection Agency to test the former Aztec Industries property, located at the corner of Grove and School streets, for asbestos. He said this testing has occurred in the past.

Szlosek said testing may continue in the future, depending on what is found at the site during testing.

"It's not intended to be a regular ongoing thing," he said. "They'll just monitor it occasionally over time."

### Water main update

Szlosek said the water main project is expected to be complete in about two weeks, with another week or two after that to complete the laterals and the hydrants. He said the sidewalk project will be starting soon, and phase one is expected to be completed by winter.

He said phase one includes a section along North Main Street and phase two will be along School Street, near the Vibram building.

Szlosek said Vibram is contributing funds to the phase two project, which is expected to start in the spring.

### Liquor license

The board approved a one-day liquor license for the Lions Club of the Brookfields for the 18th annual Apple Run Walk for Diabetes on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

"They do this every year," Petratis said. "It's a fantastic thing."

## PODUNK | FROM PAGE 1

den looked at the trees marked for removal and said they are healthy and not in the public way. She said one of the property owners she met with did not give permission to National Grid to enter their property.

"This is not legal," she said. "They entered her property and marked her trees."

Grimm said these concerns have been made clear to National Grid.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jamie Goodwin said the town needs more transparency from National Grid and there needs to be a paper trail of communication.

"We need to get this in writing, and we need an actual articulation of what they're doing, where they're doing it and from soup to nuts," he said.

Dowling said she would also like a written statement from town counsel KP Law about National Grid's rights to access private and public trees. She also had questions about National Grid's rights to enter residents' properties and mark trees.

Town Planner Jean Bubon said she asked National Grid to provide a detailed plan with colored-coded tree markings, as well as property lines and how these lines meet the road. She said National Grid had previously sent someone door-to-door to speak with property owners and a new employee was just reassigned to continue to try and contact property owners.

Bubon said private trees are marked red and public trees are marked blue. She said all public trees will be placarded.

She said trees identified as being hazards will also be marked.

Bubon offered to be on site with National Grid to meet with property owners.

### Town Administrator's report

Grimm said she went to Street-

er Beach with Department of Public Works Director Heather Blakeley. They will return to Streeter Beach with representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"We are a little concerned about access from [Route] 20 as far as DOT and second curb cuts...we're looking at other accesses. Everything is sort of on the table right now," Grimm said.

Grimm said a title search and road abandonment search can be paid for using \$30,000 that was previously allocated at a town meeting. She said the American Rescue Plan Act committee will be voting on whether or not to recommend funding for design work.

Grimm said she attended the 50th anniversary of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority at the end of September. Grimm is now on the WRTA's finance committee in addition to being the clerk to the executive board.

"They're getting me numbers on that increased service they're providing for us, that's open to all citizens not seniors," she said.

Grimm, along with Bubon and Planning Board Chair Charles Blanchard met with an electric vehicle charging station installer about possibly placing stations at the Senior Center and the municipal parking lot at 501 Main St.

Grimm said she attended a virtual meeting with the Fire Chief John A. Grasso Jr. and others to discuss the Department of Transportation's billing reimbursement for towns responding to emergency calls on MassDOT highways. She said the rate hasn't been changed since 1991 and needs to be reviewed.

Grimm said she has requested that MassDOT visit the town, but she received an email stating a representative will not attend a public meeting. She said MassDOT will discuss specific projects with her or Bubon, but will not meet with the board publicly or discuss

general or future goals and plans.

"They will provide me answers on specific projects, that I can then provide to you, but what we really wanted was them to come in here and talk about the whole Route 20 plan, and they're not going to do that," she said.

Grimm said money put aside by the state for the Route 20 corridor study needs to be reallocated after receiving no bids on the study.

Grimm said she attended an annual firefighter legislative breakfast with Grasso and Deputy Fire Chief David Martell to discuss pending legislation and the need to fund public safety buildings similar to how school buildings are funded.

### Annual Facilities report

Facilities Manager Robyn Chrabasz provided her annual update to the board, detailing some of the successes and challenges the town's facilities are facing.

Chrabasz said this includes emergency issues, such as a couple of elevator entrapments at the library, along with broken faucets, urinals and an increase in roof leaks.

She said in general; the library is in "really great shape" with the completion of the HVAC project. Next, the focus will be on the building's exterior including woodwork and attention to the bricks and windows.

"So hopefully by providing maintenance and some additional painting requirements now we can sustain that and keep that going for as long as we can," Chrabasz said.

Chrabasz said both the Town Hall and Center Office are also in good condition after having been renovated in 2010.

She said the Public Safety Complex is the "biggest challenge" and being a 24-hour facility it "really takes a beating." She said the town has a custodian who

spends 18-hours a week there and that it is not enough to clean and provide preventative maintenance.

Chrabasz said the Department of Public Works building needs more work than the Public Safety Complex.

Chrabasz said she has a full staff of four custodians, but it has been difficult to keep part-time positions filled.

She said applying for and managing Green Communities grants and keeping on top of capital projects keeps her busy.

### Police Department report

Police Chief Earl Dessert provided a quarterly report about the department to the board. He said the department responded to 2,807 calls for service during the month of May; 2,643 calls in June and 2,826 call in July.

"Brings us up to 17,366 calls for the year as of July," he said.

Highlights from the month of May include a car seat checkpoint held at the Public Safety Complex, a kid's safety day held at Old Navy and public safety day held at Tantasqua Regional Middle/High School. During the summer months, regular lake patrols and boat inspections occurred.

### Noble Energy update

Grimm said MassDOT has changed its stance on requiring a traffic signal near Noble Energy, after doing traffic counts following a soft opening for the business. She said MassDOT determined traffic counts did not warrant a need for the signal.

Grimm said Noble Energy will be conducting its own traffic counts.

"We are still hopeful we can get the light," Grimm said.

### Appointment

The board voted to appoint Andrew St. George to the position of Recreation Director effective Oct. 29. Grimm said St. George was selected from a pool of 15 candidates who applied for the posi-

# - community -

**PODUNK | FROM PAGE 1**

tion following the departure of Annie Roscioli.

She said St. George previously filled the same position for the town of Palmer.

**Historic property survey**

Bubon presented a contract for phase three of the historic property survey she has been working on with the Historical Commission. She said the commission voted to award the contract to Easton Architects LLP in the amount of \$58,295, pending approval by the Board of Selectmen.

Bubon said they expect to complete about 200 inventory cards through this

process.

"It's a significant amount," she said. The board approved the contract.

**Land acceptance**

Grimm said after a long-standing lawsuit, the court dismissed a case against the town for flooding on a private parcel of land.

She said the court ordered the landowner to pay all attorneys fees and he is willing to donate the land to the town for conservation. She said town counsel KP Law recommended the town waive the fees.

The board voted to waive the fees and accept the parcel from the landowner.

## 9th annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk is Oct. 20

WARE – The 9th annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk sponsored by the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force will be held on Sunday, Oct. 20 at 1 p.m. in Veterans Park.

Join the community for a short walk in downtown Ware to show support for survivors of domestic

and sexual violence. There will be speakers, a raffle, music, activities and exhibits for all ages.

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In case of rain, the event will be held across the street in the Town Hall.

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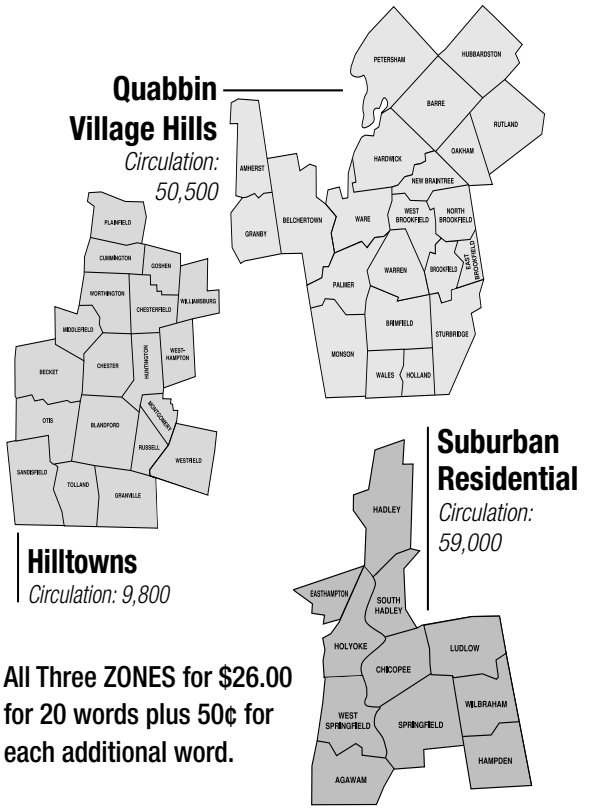
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Read your local newspaper online at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

# - legal notices -

## TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

National Grid seeks approval to undertake tree removal and trimming on Scenic Roads in West Brookfield, namely Beman Road, Coy Hill Road, Pierce Road, Ragged Hill Road and Lyon Road. The removal and

trimming of trees are in relation to a solar connection on Coy Hill Road.

All trees have been tagged for removal and a complete list of their locations is posted along with this notice at the Town Hall and online at [www.wbrookfield.com](http://www.wbrookfield.com).

The Planning Board and Tree Warden will hold a public hearing at the **Senior Center, 73 Central Street, West Brookfield at 6:30 PM on October 28th, 2024.** The purpose of the hearing is to provide West Brookfield residents with the opportunity to discuss the planned removal and trimming of trees.

Timothy Morrell  
Planning Board Chair  
10/11, 10/18/2024

## 13th annual Station Loop Ramble Run & Walk to benefit EQLT

*Multiple race options, including new shorter distances for younger kids*

**HARDWICK** – The East Quabbin Land Trust, a nonprofit land trust caring for the land that sustains us, will hold its 13th annual Station Loop Ramble run and walk fundraiser on Oct. 20.

This year's Station Loop Ramble includes a 5-mile classic and a 5K run and walk. New this year are a 200-foot "mini-run" for children up to age 5 and a ¼-mile run for children ages 6-12.

There will be post-race refreshments, games, entertainment, free raffles, and more.

"The Station Loop Ramble is an event that families look forward to every year," said Cynthia Henshaw, Executive Director of the East Quabbin Land Trust in a press release. "The two new kids-run distances mean that even the youngest among us can be part of the excitement and have the chance to take home a prize."

Registration on the day of the event runs from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Participants may pre-register online through Oct. 19 and receive a discount on their registration.

Registrations range from free for kids to \$35 for a family registration, with discounts available for first responders, seniors, and military. Girls on the Run members are also eligible to race for free.

Leaving from the site of the former New Braintree train station on the Mass Central Rail Trail located at the intersection of West Road and Hardwick Road, New Braintree, the 5-mile classic kicks off at 10 a.m. and takes runners past scenic farmland, through deep woods, and skirts the Ware River. Each mile is marked, and a mid-run water stop is provided.

The 5K run and walk begins at 10:05 a.m. and is on an entirely flat course. The kids runs will begin at 9:30 a.m., and children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information and to pre-register, visit [www.eqlt.org/station-loop-ramble/](http://www.eqlt.org/station-loop-ramble/). All proceeds will go to EQLT and support its mission to fostering the sustainable use and conservation of farmlands, woodlands, and waters of central Massachusetts.

About the East Quabbin Land Trust Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2024, the East Quabbin Land Trust was formed in 1994 out of concern for the loss of farmland and wildlife habitat to unplanned sprawl in and around Hardwick, Massachusetts. Since 1998, EQLT has expanded its protection efforts to Barre, Petersham, New Braintree, and other nearby towns.

By working cooperatively with property owners, government agencies, conservation groups, and other land trust organizations, EQLT has been able to protect over 6,200 acres in the region.

# - public safety - East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Sept. 23-29, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 147 building/property checks, 49 directed area patrols, four traffic controls, three radar assignments, nine emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, five assist other agencies, six investigations, one trespass, two complaints, one motor vehicle accident, one scam, one threat, one property damage, one safety hazard, eight animal calls and 24 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

### Monday, Sept. 23

6:57 a.m. Fire/Auto, West Main Street, Services Rendered  
7:19 a.m. Complaint, Draper Road, Officer Handled  
8:15 a.m. Complaint, Draper Road, Officer Handled  
11:35 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Connie Mack Drive, Unknown Outcome  
3:17 p.m. Fire Alarm, East Main Street, Merge  
4:36 p.m. Investigation, Draper Road, Officer Handled  
6:12 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Pleasant Street, Transported to Hospital  
7:58 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Harrington Street, Report Taken

### Tuesday, Sept. 24

7:20 a.m. 911 Animal Call, North Sturbridge Road, Services Rendered  
8:59 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Assist Officer, Dispatch Handled  
10:19 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
10:41 a.m. Scam, Faith Drive, Negative Contact  
1:31 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Podunk Road, Officer Handled  
4:19 p.m. Investigation, Dunn Brook Road, Officer Handled  
4:28 p.m. Threat, West Sturbridge Road, Services Rendered  
6:46 p.m. Investigation, Hodgkins Drive, Negative Contact

### Wednesday, Sept. 25

1:58 a.m. Safety Hazard, Podunk

Road, Checked/Secured  
3:18 a.m. Medical Emergency, Podunk Road, Transported to Hospital  
6:54 a.m. 911 Disturbance, East Main Street, Officer Handled  
8:31 a.m. Serve Warrant, Depot Square, Arrest(s) Made  
11:18 a.m. Investigation, East Main Street, Services Rendered  
11:55 a.m. Investigation, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled  
6:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Hodgkins Drive, Report Taken

### Thursday, Sept. 26

10:54 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Spoken To  
12:13 p.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Unknown Outcome  
3:12 p.m. Trespass, West Sturbridge Road, Call Canceled

### Friday, Sept. 27

10:28 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
4:15 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To  
5:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
5:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
5:37 p.m. Investigation, East Main Street, Services Rendered  
5:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued  
7 p.m. Officer Initiated, East Brookfield Station, Investigated

### Saturday, Sept. 28

9:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Vehicle Towed  
6:30 p.m. Building/Property Check, Blaine Avenue, Investigated  
7:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, School Street, Vehicle Towed  
11:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

### Sunday, Sept. 29

1:58 p.m. 911 Misdeal, West Main Street, Checked/Secured  
6:48 p.m. Property Damage, East Main Street, Officer Handled

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Oct. 7-14, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 10 building/property checks, 32 directed area patrols, two radar assignments, three traffic controls, three emergency 911 calls, one animal call and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

### Tuesday, Oct. 8

6:44 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

### Saturday, Oct. 12

10:01 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, New Braintree, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

4:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Merge  
4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
10:34 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

### Sunday, Oct. 13

12:09 a.m. Welfare Check, Moore Road, Report Taken  
2:43 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Scott Road, Spoken To

## St. Joseph' Christmas Fair is Nov. 2

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – A Christmas Fair will be held in St. Joseph's Parish Hall, 296 North Main St., on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be a bake sale, handmade crafts, jewelry and raffles. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., offering homemade soups, sandwiches and apple pie.

# QUABOAG CURRENT

<b>NEW BRAINTREE</b> State election information p3	<b>NORTH BROOKFIELD</b> AppleRun/Walk is Oct. 26 p7	<b>STURBRIDGE</b> Special events at Pumpkin Patch p5	Editorial/Opinion <b>4</b> Sports <b>9</b> Classifieds <b>14</b> Police Logs <b>15</b>
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Volume 17, Number 47

Friday, October 18, 2024

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**Cassie Paolucci**  
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