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Quaboag Current
Newspaper

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Friday, October 27, 2023

Temporary diesel tank in use at Highway Department

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Board of Selectmen moved to amend a license held by the town for gas tanks with flammable materials, at the Highway

Department, 1 New Boston Road Extension.

At the Oct. 16 meeting, Department of Public Works Director Heather Blakeley said the diesel tank has failed, despite multiple tests and improvements over the year. It is a double-walled tank, and the

inner tank has failed, and diesel has leaked into the interspatial space.

The diesel tank is about 25 years old.

“That tank has now been emptied and we are proceeding with the cleanup requirements...in the meantime we’ve

had to find provisions to keep diesel on site so that we can keep the large trucks and the buses and the ambulance running so we have rented an aboveground 7,000 gallon storage tank that is sitting right next to the pump,” Blakeley said.

She said they can connect

it to their dispensing unit via a new pump. She said the monthly rental of the temporary tank is about \$2,000-2,500 a month.

Blakeley said they are required to hold a public hearing regarding this change. She said the 7,000 gallon tank is a

See **DEISEL** | PAGE 13



Chris O'Connor of Restco Corporation used his aerial lift to restore and paint the steeple and clock faces of the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Steeple restoration completed at historic church

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – As you pass through the historic common district, you’ll

notice the renewed luster of the white steeple on the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC, thanks to the work of Restco Corporation of Oxford.

Over the course of eight

working days, during one of the rainiest seasons in recent history, Chris O'Connor of Restco used his 125-foot aerial lift to restore and paint the steeple of the church, which has been an

See **STEEPLE** | PAGE 12

Crowns and tiaras reign supreme at button show

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – The Massachusetts State Button Society held their annual meeting and final show for the year this past Saturday at the AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers.

Celebrating over 80 years, the Massachusetts State Button Society hosts three shows a year, with two in Three Rivers and one in Shirley.

See **BUTTON** | PAGE 11



Massachusetts State Button Society Vice-President Donna Major of West Brookfield, browses Betty Korostynski's collection. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Fundraiser helps support New Braintree church

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – The Town Hall hosted a fundraiser this past Saturday to benefit the New Braintree Congregational Church.

The New Braintree Congregational Church Council agreed to host a different fundraiser to help benefit the church and its building needs. Orga-

nizing this fundraiser is Joanne Harder, who had suggested this type of event back in July.

The event consists of live bidding for items that were generously donated by businesses, residents, artists and community members. The proceeds will help benefit the church's building upkeep such as repairs and electrical needs.

For the town of New Braintree, the congregational church

See **AUCTION** | PAGE 8

JHPL hosts 'Teeny Tiny' art contest



Artists participating in the "Teeny Tiny Art Show" used a variety of mediums for their 3 x 3 inch creations. TURLEY PHOTO BY ROWAN BERNSTEIN

By Rowan Bernstein
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – If you visit the Joshua Hyde Public Library this week, you might notice something interesting on your way out the door – 24

miniature works of art created by library patrons on display next to the main entrance.

The library is currently hosting its second annual "Teeny Tiny Art Show" competition.

Last month, teens and
See **ART** | PAGE 7



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- community -

Hairdresser spreads awareness

Hair extension fundraiser benefits local charities

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

BROOKFIELD – October is a month to celebrate and commemorate more than just fall and Halloween but is also a month to bring awareness to those who have dealt with breast cancer, and those who have experienced infant and pregnancy loss.

Victoria Austin, a hairstylist from Salon 484 in Fiskdale, wanted to provide her talents in celebration and remembrance of all who have dealt with these hardships at Oakholm Brewing Company this past weekend.

Hair extensions in pink for breast cancer, and blue for infant and pregnancy loss, were options for people to choose from, where all proceeds from the extensions were donated to local charities.

The money for the extensions will be donated to the Festival of Giving Trees is Southbridge, and the Cooper Project.

“I feel like when people see the pink or blue, they can see it as a way of support for all struggling. They are all fighters,” Austin said, wanting to demonstrate her support.

“There is nothing you can say to make it better but be there and support them through it. Hugs are the best way,” she said.

Austin wants her actions and her desire to help to shine through and provide encouragement to all who have had these experiences. She is offering these extensions through the rest of the month of October, and you can find her on Facebook and Instagram at VSX Hair Design to schedule an appointment for a worthy cause.



Hairdresser Victoria Austin stands with her table of hair extensions. The pink and blue hair extensions are offered to support those with breast cancer, or who have dealt with the loss of an infant or pregnancy. TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



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Halloween Happenings

Friday, Oct. 27 EAST BROOKFIELD

Trunk or Treat will be held from 5-7 p.m. at East Brookfield Elementary School, sponsored by the East Brookfield Police Association. Admission is one bag of candy and free trick or treat bags will be given by the East Brookfield Police Association. All are welcome to come meet the Police Department's comfort dog, Finn. Those entering their vehicle in the Trunk or Treat should arrive by 4:30 p.m. Awards will be given to the best decorated trunk.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Freak N Fright Trail of Terror will be presented by the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield at Common Ground Ciderworks, 31 East Brookfield Road, today and tomorrow from dusk-9:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. This event may not be suitable for small children.

Spook Walk on School Street will be held today and tomorrow from 7-9 p.m. at 127 School St. Donations are welcome, but not required.

Saturday, Oct. 28 BROOKFIELD

Trick or Treat will be held from 5:30-7 p.m., followed by a parade from the Fire Station to the Common. A costume contest will be held for anyone who wants to join, with judging at Lewis Field. A bonfire will be going there until 9 p.m. Trunk or Treat will also be held in front of the Town Hall.

Light up the Night will be held at Quaboag Church, 175 Fiskdale Road from 5-8 p.m. Family-friendly costumes are encouraged at this free event. There will be bounce houses, hayrides, s'mores pit, music, trunk or treat, games, crafts, hotdogs, and drinks. Additional parking will be available at Tantasqua Regional High School in the upper parking lot on Route 148.

NEW BRAINTREE

The New Braintree Revitalization Committee and Farmer Matt are hosting Trunk or Treat at the Town Hall from 3-4 p.m. After, head down to Farmer Matt's, 860 West Brookfield Road, for the Halloween Spooktacular, featuring live music, local beer and great food. This event is sponsored by North Brookfield Savings Bank.

Sunday, Oct. 29 NORTH BROOKFIELD

Family Fun SpookFest will be hosted by the Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield at North Brookfield Public Schools from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be a food truck festival, makers market

and trunk or treat. There will also be community resources, music by DJ Brian, vendors and more. Wristbands are available for \$7 per person for the ticketed fun zone which includes bounce house, pettings zoo, pumpkin painting, exclusive games, hay pile prizes and more.

Tuesday, Oct. 31 EAST BROOKFIELD

Trick or Treat will be held townwide from 5-7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Trick or Treat will be held townwide from 5:30-7:30 p.m., rain or shine. Trunk or Treat will be held at the same time on the Common.

WEST BROOKFIELD

Trick or Treat will be held town wide from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

STURBRIDGE

Trick or Treat will be held town wide from 5-7 p.m. Sturbridge Fire Department will hold their annual Horrible's Parade starting behind the Town Hall at 7 p.m. That will be followed by a costume contest with prizes, hot chocolate and cookies. The Lions Club is co-sponsoring the event with the Sturbridge Firefighters Association. The Town of Sturbridge will also be inviting trick or treaters into the Town Hall, Center Office Building, the Senior Center and the Public Safety Complex from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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- community -

Guitar virtuoso Gladius to perform in Great Hall



Gladius, an award-winner composer and accomplished guitarist will perform in the Great Hall of the West Brookfield Town Hall on Monday, Nov. 6 at 4 p.m.

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merrim-Gilbert Public Library in West Brookfield is pleased to announce a “Must-see and hear” performance.

Gladius, award-winning composer and “accomplished classical/flamenco style guitarist” who soulfully “shreds on the electric” (Phil Keagy), will perform on Monday, Nov. 6 at 4 p.m. in the Great Hall of West Brookfield Town Hall.

Raised in Atlanta, Georgia, pupiled by Andres Segovia’s protege, and driven to obsession by Eddie Van Halen,

Gladius has shared the bill with Grammy winners and mesmerized audiences nationwide with his electrifying live act since 2016. He is relentlessly composing, recording, touring and inspiring audiences of all ages.

Please call 508-867-1410 or stop by the Library to reserve your seat. This program is sponsored by a grant from the

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West Brookfield Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Lions Club hosts 17th annual 5-Mile Apple Run/Walk

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The 17th annual 5-mile Apple Run/Walk for Diabetes will be held Saturday morning, Oct. 28 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 \$34,000 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.

The entry fee is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children ages 17 and younger.

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

For more information and link to online registration (as well as a downloadable registration form) visit brookfieldlionsclub.org.

BOH offers COVID and flu clinic Nov. 8

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Board of Health in partnership with the North Brookfield Schools and Hannaford Pharmacy offers a COVID-19 and influenza vaccine clinic on Wednesday, Nov. 8 from 2:45-

6 p.m. at the North Brookfield Elementary School, 10 New School Drive.

Flu vaccines are available for ages 5 and up and COVID for ages 12 and up. People may register by visiting <https://bit.ly/45vej4w>.

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- opinion -



The questions keep coming

Continue to receive a number of questions each week.

It's encouraging that there is so much interest in gardening even as this season is coming to an end. Here are the quandaries we have for this week:

Myrtle still has an abundance of green tomatoes left on the plants in her small gardening plot. "Are my tomatoes still OK to be outside? When I've picked them green in the past I remember putting them in a paper bag to ripen. Is that better than just leaving them on the counter? Mine are mostly cherries and I have quite a few! I looked online and it says to put them in a bag with an apple, but I don't recall using an apple the last time I did this. I sometimes find that advice from the internet gets confusing - too many options! Also, I was wondering what you thought of trying to root the tomato branches that have flowers. Maybe I could grow them inside for the winter."

Lucky you to still have tomato branches with flowers, let alone those with tomatoes on them! I am impressed.

With frost imminent, I typically allow green tomatoes to ripen single layer in trays or cardboard boxes - something that can "breathe," unlike plastic bags or containers. A paper bag sounds like a fine option too.

The reason for the apple is so that it will emit ethylene gas and hasten the ripening process. Bananas can be used in place of the apple.

There is some controversy about what temperature tomatoes should be kept at to ripen, but it would make sense that ripening would occur at warmer temperatures versus cooler - tomatoes are tropical plants. Typical household temps around 70 degrees are just right.

As far as rooting flowering branches, it would be a fun experiment and tomato stems do root readily. Usually when we take cuttings, we prefer them not to be in flower, though, as it hinders rooting to some degree.

Try it; I'd love to hear how it works out.

If they root, keep in mind that winter light is not as bright as summer light. It might be hard to keep the plants growing well inside.

Sylvia, who gardens in Ware, wrote in with this question:

"My beautiful lush morning glory vine doesn't have any buds, let alone blossoms! I fear we will have frost soon. Do you have any idea why this failed? I started four little plants in June, lots of rain, no fertilizer, soil so-so with some compost added during growth and that's it for care."

My first thought is that your soil is too rich. You said no fertilizer, but maybe the compost was enough to increase fertility, and nitrogen especially, in such a way that you ended up with all that lush foliage but no flowers.

Morning glories are related to bind weed - that pesky weed that tangles around my garden fence and just about anything else it can get its tendrils on. Try to pull it up and the thick white roots break and new plants pop up.

How does this relate? Well, it sort of proves that morning glories prefer soil that isn't so rich.

Another thought is that you have a late flowering variety! Honest!

Some varieties take a long time to flower. One variety that I know grows well and flowers on the early side is an heirloom by the name of Grandpa Ott's.

Give it a try and you'll be pleasantly sur-



LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR

Second Chance grateful for 'pawsitively' wonderful Cruise for Critters

I am writing to extend our heartfelt thanks to the entire community for their overwhelming support for the 11th Annual Cruise for Critters held at Westview Farms Creamery in Monson on the Sept. 30 rain date.

Despite the weather forecast, our community rallied together, and what transpired was nothing short of spectacular. The day turned out to be a success for our furry friends, filled with joy, laughter, and a strong sense of community.

While the car show had to be canceled due to field conditions, the spirit of the event remained unbroken.

The vendor fair, kids Barktacluar games, and the delightful music from John and Christina Cantalini were highlights that kept the atmosphere buzzing with positive energy. It was heartwarming to witness so many individuals, families, and pet enthusiasts come together to make the day memorable.

A special note of gratitude goes out to the event organizer, Al Widlan of Service Connection, and his dedicated Critter Crew.

Their tireless efforts and passion for the cause shone through.

Our sincere appreciation also extends to Don and Kathy Foster of Westview Farms Creamery for generously opening up their beautiful venue to host this fantastic gathering.

The success of the event would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors, including Herlihy Insurance Group and Joe Campisi, a longtime friend of Second Chance. Their commitment to our cause has made a significant impact, allowing us to raise over \$7,000 for our beloved pets.

Once again, thank you to each and every vendor, supporter, volunteer, and participant who contributed to the success of the 11th Annual Cruise for Critters. Your compassion and dedication to our four-legged friends have not gone unnoticed, and together, we've made a positive difference in the lives of many.

With gratitude,
Lindsay Doray
Second Chance Animal Services

How do disability programs affect Social Security's budget?

Dear Rusty

I read with interest an analysis of the history, reasons, and financial costs of the Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance programs.

My question is, specifically, what portion of the Social Security budget goes toward SSI and SSDI vs. for regular SS retirement income for those who paid into the fund during their working lives? How are the costs of SSI and SSDI covered by the federal government?

When did these two sections of the budget enter the law and what was the impetus behind them?

Signed: An Inquiring Mind

Dear Inquiring Mind

No part of Social Security's "budget" is used to pay Supplemental Security Income. SSI is a means-tested general assistance program for disadvantaged children and needy disabled adults and aged seniors who have very little income and very few assets.

Federal SSI benefits are paid from the government's General Treasury, not from Social Security Trust Funds.

SSI is jointly administered by the person's state of residence and the Social Security Administration, and the state usually provides additional benefits to supplement the financial assistance provided by the federal government under the SSI program. The Social Security Administration only administers the SSI program, it does not fund it.

By contrast, Social Security Disability Insurance Disability Insurance benefits are for employed Americans, who become disabled and unable to work full time. SSDI benefits are meant to provide limited income replacement for the disabled worker and those benefits are paid from a separate Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

The DI fund receives a portion (0.9%) of the FICA SS payroll taxes every American worker pays on their earnings and is used to pay disability benefits to eligible American workers, who are unable to perform "substantial gainful activity" for a year or more. The eligibility criteria to collect SSDI are very strict, but those approved receive their



OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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- opinion -

DISABILITY | FROM PAGE 4

benefits from this separate DI trust fund, not from Social Security's Old Age and Survivors Trust Fund.

Payroll taxes collected for disability purposes are deposited in the DI Trust Fund as interest-bearing government bonds, and those DI assets are redeemed as needed to pay SSDI benefits. FYI, SSDI (disability) benefits stop when the person reaches full retirement age, at which point the beneficiary is automatically switched to regular SS retirement and after which their benefits are paid from the regular Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund.

"Regular" Social Security retirement benefits, spousal benefits, dependent benefits and survivor benefits are paid from Social Security's OASI Trust Fund, which receives most 5.3% of the 6.2% FICA Social Security tax withheld from the paychecks of American workers. As of the end of 2022, the OASI Trust Fund held about \$2.7 trillion in interest bearing government bonds.

Neither SSI or SSDI affect this "regular" OASI Trust Fund - only true SS retirement benefits and benefits for dependents of the retiree are paid from the OASI Trust Fund. As an aside, Social Security reform is needed to prevent the OASI Trust Fund from being fully depleted in 2033.

To answer your last questions, the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund was established in 1956, after which SSDI benefit payments to eligible disabled American workers began. Federal "Supplemental Security Income" assistance was codified into law in 1974.

As you likely know, Social Security retirement, spousal and dependent benefits were enacted in the 1930s, before the first monthly Social Security check was mailed in January 1940.

The impetus behind these programs? Avoiding poverty for the neediest among us.

Without these programs, at least 22 million more Americans would be living below the poverty line.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

prised by the dark purple flowers with reddish centers.

One thing you didn't mention in your note was exposure; morning glories do need to be planted in full sun in order to flower. I do hope this helps!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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Public's help sought on anniversary of Holly Piirainen death

SPRINGFIELD – On Oct. 23, 1993, the remains of Holly Piirainen were found by hunters in a wooded area off Five Bridge Road in Brimfield.

Piirainen disappeared on Aug. 5, 1993, she was 10 years old at the time and would have turned 40 years old earlier this year.

Piirainen's family is asking members of the public who may have any information regarding her disappearance or subsequent murder to please come forward with any details you may have.

Piirainen had been vacationing with her father and other family members at a cottage in Sturbridge. She had last been seen by her father at 11:45 a.m., heading toward a residence in the area of Allen and South Shore roads in Sturbridge to play with puppies.

Piirainen was reported missing by her father, Richard Piirainen, when she did not return.

Her father began searching immediately for her, finding her sneaker on South Shore Road. Police were notified and a massive search was conducted by local and state police as well as sheriff's departments and units from Connecticut and Rhode Island, with no results.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni said, "The

Piirainen family has been coping with this tragedy for 30 years.

Along with Holly's family, I, members of my office, and the Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to the case have never stopped investigating to bring justice to Holly and her family. We continue to ask members of the public who may have any information please contact us."

Earlier in 2023, Gulluni released information on the ongoing investigative efforts. This included further forensic testing on cases items documented in 1993.

This resulted in the D.A. asking the public for assistance in regard to one particular item; a white tank top-style shirt, with a blue, purple, and pink colored "Boston" motif noted on the exterior front. The shirt has no tags or size information.

Investigators continue to ask the public for assistance and for any information about this shirt. They



Holly Piirainen disappeared on Aug. 5, 1993, her remains were found Oct. 23, 1993.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Police ask for any information the public may have about this shirt.

are interested in determining who owned the shirt, its origin or places where it was known to be sold, anything about its manufacture, and any information regarding its association with the area of where Piirainen was found in the Five Bridge Road area of Brimfield.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office by calling 413-505-5993. You can also utilize text-a-tip by texting the word CRIMES (2-7-4-6-3-7) and type the word SOLVE into the body of the message followed by your tip.

New Braintree Library holds story times

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library offers its next Story Time programs on Monday, Nov. 6 and Monday, Nov. 20, both at 9 a.m.

This reading and crafts program for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays at the library, 45 Memorial Drive.

On Monday, Nov. 6, the stories will be "Barnyard

Dance" by Sandra Boynton and "Big Red Barn" by Margaret Wise Brown. Monday, Nov. 20 will feature "10 Fat Turkeys" by Tony Johnston and "The Night Before Thanksgiving" by Natasha Wing.

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

Rhythm and comedy combine at The Center

HARDWICK – Don't miss a family-friendly celebration of rhythm with a hilarious twist on Friday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at The Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road with Buckets N Boards.

Buckets N Boards Comedy Percussion Show is a spectacularly imaginative work brought to life by two prolific performers. Matt Levingston and Gareth Sever bring a joyous charm to this show, born of their shared passion for music and rhythm and brought to life through their nonstop hilarious interplay.

From their imaginative songs, beautiful harmonies, dazzling tap dancing, crisp beatboxing, body percussion and bucket drumming, to a fresh and unique brand of clean comedy, Buckets N Boards

brings an original theatrical experience for the entire family.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and seniors, with children under 12 receiving free admission. The Center also offers discounted \$10 tickets to EBT cardholders through Massachusetts' Card to Culture Program.

For tickets and information, visit www.thecenterateaglehill.org or call the Box Office at 413-477-6746.

About The Center
 The Center at Eagle Hill is a performance venue in central Massachusetts presenting world class music, dance, theatre, and comedy. For more information about this, and other events please visit the website at www.thecenterateaglehill.org.

The Center at Eagle Hill is located at 242 Old Petersham Road.

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Tunes at TipTop

Country store prepares for transition to co-op

By Paula Ouimette
Editor

pouimette@turley.com

BROOKFIELD – Rudy and Sarah Heller have owned and operated TipTop Country Store, located at 8 Central St., offering natural food and more since 2004.

TipTop Country Store offers food, gifts, bulk spices and grains, hard-to-find items and more. The store offers sustainable fair trade from around the world as well as locally made products.

Since the pandemic, TipTop has also offered an online store at tiptoponline.us, which Sarah Heller created in just two weeks times when the store was unable to welcome customers inside to shop.

“It’s been lots of fun and it’s brought a lot of satisfaction to us and our customers,” Rudy Heller said. “It’s very rewarding.”

Now, after at least 20 years of oper-

ating TipTop, the Hellers are looking forward to retirement and the store will be transitioning to a community owned co-op, bringing it back to its roots when it started in the Brookfield Congregational Church decades ago.

“This started as a co-op 30 years ago,” Heller said of the store.

Heller said the co-op members would have to setup and breakdown for each distribution, and longed for a storefront to simplify the shopping process. From that, TipTop was born.

A steering committee with various subcommittees has been working to transition TipTop to a co-op, which is expected to be complete in a year.

Barbara Marderosian, steering committee member and longtime TipTop customer said a lot of people in the community and at large want to make sure the store remains, with items staying reasonably priced.

“They don’t want to see it go. Having local control can ensure we stay true to



TipTop Country Store has maintained this storefront at 8 Central St. since 2004. The store will be transitioning to a community owned co-op. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

the mission,” Marderosian said.

On Oct. 15, TipTop hosted “Tunes at TipTop,” a free community event featuring music by local musicians Rob Marona and Spooner Well. In addition to music, there was complimentary food (including ice cream, apples and cider), along with games and crafts.

Visitors to the event were given the chance to enter a free basket raffle and offered a one-day discount at the store.

Marona used to perform at TipTop’s open mic nights, Heller said, and he has been a longtime supporter of the store.

“It’s nice to see so many friends return,” Heller said.

Many people came together to make “Tunes at TipTop” fun for the whole family, including the Police and Fire departments, the Board of Health, and the organizers of the Apple Country Fair, who donated apples to the event.

The musicians also donated their time and talents.

“There’s a lot of community support for today’s event,” Marderosian said. “At the end of the day, it really should be about community involvement.”

Marderosian said the Heller’s daughter will be working with the steering committee to spearhead the transition.

How to get involved

For more information or to help TipTop transition to a co-op, sign up for a mailing list by emailing co-op@tiptop-countrystore.com, calling 617-610-2763 or stopping by the store at 8 Central St. (next to the Town Hall) during open hours.

TipTop Country Store is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The store is closed on Mondays.



Patricia O'Connor, left, and Regina Edmonds offered plenty of crafts and activities for people to enjoy.

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Barbara Marderosian, a member of the steering committee for TipTop Country Store, thanked everyone who supported this past Sunday’s “Tunes at TipTop” free community event.



Children painted fall and Halloween themed crafts.

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Entries in the "Teeny Tiny Art Show" covered a variety of subjects.

ART | FROM PAGE 1

adults looking to participate in the art show could pick up a supply kit from the library, consisting of a 3 x 3 inch canvas or a paper board of the same size. Using one of these two options as the base, contestants were welcome to create any kind of artwork they could imagine.

This resulted in a "nice variety of different techniques," program coordinator Tasha Mayen said. Some artists used acrylic paints on canvas, some used watercolor or pen on a paper board, and others used their mini canvas as a mount for things like photography, embroidery, or collage.

The Teeny Tiny Art Show is specifically designed for artists aged 13 and up, which Mayen said is part of a larger effort by the library and the Friends of the JHPL to offer "more programs specifically for teens and adults." She noted that while there are lots of creative programs available to young children, older patrons are also looking for "fun" programming tailored to their age groups.

The art show isn't just an exhibit – it's also a competition, voted on by visitors to the library. The artworks are separated into teen and adult categories, and the winners and runners-up in each category will receive prizes: a \$20 gift card to Michael's for the winners, and a \$10 gift card for second place.

The artists are anonymous, and the pieces are identified only by number.

Voting is open now, and will run until Nov. 5. The library will be briefly closed during this time, on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

While it's possible to view the art and vote online, Mayen encouraged anyone interested in the art show to stop by and vote in person if they are able to. For some of the pieces, she said, "you just don't get the concept without actually seeing them."



There were 24 entries in this year's "Teeny Tiny Art Show." Turley Photos by Rowan Bernstein

- sturbridge -

Honor Revolutionary War patriots on Nov. 9

STURBRIDGE – Just before Memorial Day in 1939, teachers from the Sturbridge Center School brought their children outside where a group of small potted geraniums had been placed near the gates to the Old Burying Ground.

The children were told to place a flower next to the American flags as these were the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers.

People today recall the Civil War, World War I and World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. But, no one discusses the Revolutionary War that gave America its freedom and the writing of the Constitution of the United States.

However, in 2017 a former student from 1939 remembered the short ceremony and decided it was time

to start a new tradition placing geraniums once again just before Memorial Day.

Today, residents celebrate Veterans Day also, placing new American flags next to the patriot's graves. American flags will be provided by the Sturbridge Lions Club and students from Burgess Elementary School place the flowers and flags.

The Chapters of the Mass Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the Regimental Color Guard of the Mass Sons of the American Revolution will also be taking part in the ceremony.

Members of the public are invited to join them on Thursday, Nov. 9, at 10 a.m. by the gates of the Old Burying Ground on Sturbridge Common.

Live auction on Nov. 4 benefits Wings of Song

STURBRIDGE – The Wings of Song Community Chorus is offering its fifth, live fundraising auction to help support the financial needs of the chorus (formerly the Quinebaug Valley Singers) at the Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale, 8 Maple St., on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.

This is their first auction since 2019 and they are excited to be "live". Expect to arrive at 6:30 p.m. to look over items of the live auction and place your bids on the many items offered in the silent auction.

There will be musical entertainment, as well as light refreshments.

Donations keep arriving daily. Among present and past items are gift certificates, gift cards, donated home,

repair and lawn care, specialized food services, mountain bike, cross country skis and boots, ice skates, fly fishing gear, chest waders, saltwater rod and reel, fiberglass canoe with paddles and much more.

The chorus ended last season with a tribute to the planet titled "Blue Boat Home". This season, under the continuing expertise of Director, Nym Cooke, it is performing a collection of traditional and contemporary vocal music for the holidays titled Celtic Noëls, from the rich, cultural heritage of the Celts in Brittany.

If you are interested in donating an auction item or receiving updates on the event, follow Wings of Song at www.facebook.com/wingsofsong.org, or email Linda (lamfam151@gmail.com) or Carol (carolcurtin77@gmail.com).

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- community -

AUCTION | FROM PAGE 1

is a landmark in town that celebrates numerous life events and provides great opportunities of fellowship. Over the course of 15 years, the church has put on many fundraisers for youth activities, a steeple fund and meals.

Hosting a live bidding as a fundraiser was something different for them to do.

“We are hoping it works out,” said Harder.

A lot of the donations were handmade crafts, and residents and businesses also provided goods in the form of gift certificates, and photographs with a unique story and history tied to them. Over 30 businesses in the neighboring area provided the gift certificates.

Local artists provided unique items as part of over 100 total items available.

A handcrafted Adirondack chair

was made by Dave Thompson. Marty Goulet designed a wood bowl that came from the oldest tree in Massachusetts.

The businesses providing the gift certificates include grocery stores, gas stations, local meats and produce, restaurants, and entertainment venues. In addition, the Glidden Hall inside the Town Hall provided hotdogs, snacks, and beverages in the kitchen area.

Dozens of locals appeared at Glidden Hall to donate and participate in the live bidding. Harder ran the live bidding and was supported by several volunteers keeping the items organized.

The New Braintree Congregational Church will be hosting a turkey dinner at Town Hall on Saturday, Nov. 11. The church will also be hosting Christmas in New Braintree on Dec. 9 and will be providing a café.



Joanne Harder ran the live bidding during the fundraiser on stage with several volunteers keeping the items in order. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Bidders filled the Town Hall for their chance to go home with an item.



These stunning photographs were just some of the items people could bid on to support the New Braintree Congregational Church.



A poster displaying all the businesses donating gift certificates to the church fundraiser.



Dave Thompson designed this Adirondack chair and later donated to help support the New Braintree Congregational Church.



Tables of items were waiting for the highest bidder.



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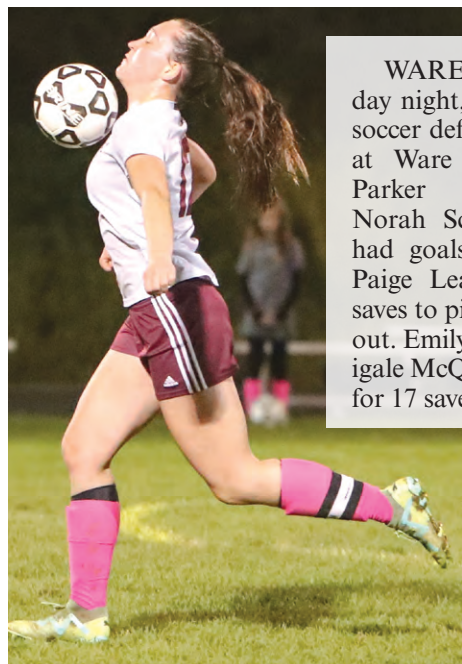
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SPORTS

Cougars shut out Indians



Madelyn Bagg displays concentration with some fancy footwork.



Parker Tunley's defensive prowess was on full display as she blocks the ball in full stride.

WARE – Last Thursday night, Quaboag girls soccer defeated Ware 2-0 at Ware High School. Parker Tunley and Norah Schwenker both had goals in the game. Paige Leach made two saves to pick up the shut-out. Emily Jones and Abigale McQuaid combined for 17 saves in the match.



Asher Sargent is in perfect balance with this pass. TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP:SMUGMUG.COM



Olive Moulton makes solid contact as she heads this ball.

Pioneers ready for playoffs

CHICOPEE – Last Friday afternoon, Pathfinder boys soccer got a hat trick from Basem Yaseen and defeated Hampden Charter 7-0. It was the 11th win of the sea-

son for Pathfinder, which has a lot of tournament play coming up this week and next. The Pioneers will qualify for the Western Mass. and state tournaments. They also

could be a part of the vocational school tournament as well.



Isaac Somers plays the ball off his knee.



Justin Davis swings toward the goal.



Kenneth Brouillette looks to shoot.



Seth Mitchell sends a pass into the box.



Ethan DeBettencourt stutter-steps for the Pioneers. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Christian Ribeiro gets around a shot.

Tantasqua falls to Belchertown

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE — During the past couple of years, the Tantasqua field hockey team had made a couple of long bus rides to play non-league games.

Prior to the start of the 2023 regular season, seventh year Tantasqua varsity field hockey coach Shelby Green asked Athletic Director Marcus Backlin if he could schedule a non-league opponent that was a little bit closer to Fiskdale.

The first ever meeting between the Lady Warriors and the Belchertown Lady Orioles field hockey teams took place on October 16. It was an exciting contest from start to finish.

After the Lady Warriors took a 1-0 lead in the first quarter, the Lady Orioles scored the tying goal in the middle of the second quarter and the go-ahead goal in the third stanza leading to 2-1 victory on Tantasqua's turf field.

"We had never played Belchertown before and they are very good competition for us," Green said. "During the past couple of years, we've played a couple of teams who were over an hour away. I asked Mr. Backlin if he could try to schedule an opponent who was a little bit closer."

Green, who's maiden name is Farland, graduated from Tantasqua in 2009. She's one

See TANTASQUA | PAGE 12

- sports -

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Turleysports
Athlete of the Month

NAME: Parker Tunley
SCHOOL: Quaboag

Tunley was one of the goal scorers for Quaboag girls soccer in their win over Ware last Thursday night.



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.

Panthers prevail over Fitchburg



Seth Twarog works the ball away from the goal. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY

BARRE – Last Thursday night, Quabbin boys soccer defeated Fitchburg 2-1. Michael Tobin and Owen Twarog both scored goals and Jacoby Dilling added a pair of assists. The Panthers improved to 3-10-1 this season.



Colin Harmon settles the ball.



Alijah Flint makes a diving save.



Anthony Quartarone fights for the ball.

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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
 Staff Writer
 rdragot@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The top three teams of Tuesday night are only within a few points from each other to secure the first round of the season.

As of Oct. 10, Compression is in first place with a 17-7 record. Acres are in second place with a 16-8 record, and The Champs R Here stand in third place at 14-10.

The first round of the league ends in early November and the team to secure first place will win the round.

The close match of the night was between the #2 seed Acres and the #3 seed Champs R Here. In game one, The Champs were victorious in game one by a score of 403-384.

John Colkos of the Champs lead the team with an opening game of 112.

In game two, Acres won by a score of 422-377. Matt Bertelli lead Acres by scoring 113 in game two.

In game three, The Champs defeated Acres by a score of 390-372. Steve Manolakis and Dino Tessicini of the Champs both broke the century mark in game three by score 104 and 103.

Dave Cobleigh of Acres finished strong in the third game by scoring a 114.

For total pinfall, Acres edged out the Champs by a final score of 1178-1170. Therefore, each team received two

points.

In another match, Team BK played against Last in Line. In game one, BK was victorious over Last in Line by a score of 356-324.

In game two, BK won by a score of 353-340. In game three, Last in Line won by a score of 351-316.

BK won total pinfall by a final score of 1025-1015.

The #1 seed Compression played against Life is Good. In game one, Life is Good was victorious by a score of 351-313.

In game two, Compression won by a score of 366-333. In game three, Compression finished up the night by winning the final game by a score of 337-323.

For total pinfall, Compression was victorious by a final score of 1016-1007.

Thursday Night Mixed League

PALMER – The Thursday Night Mixed League rolls on through the month of October.

In one match, Team Five went up against team six. In game one, Team Six one in a close game by a score of 390-383. In game two, Team Five won by a score of 416-382.

In game three, Team Five won by a score of 400-374.

Team Five won total pinfall by a score of 1199-1146.

The #1 seeded Team One went up against Team Two for the night. In game one, Team Two won by a score of

See CANDLEPIN | PAGE 12

- community -

BUTTON | FROM PAGE 1

The Crescent Button Club hosted a presentation about the show's theme of crowns, given by button expert and dealer Betty Korostynski of West Springfield, a member of the Massachusetts State Button Society and the Crescent Button Club in Holyoke.

Korostynski displayed several boards adorned with buttons bearing crowns from countries all over the world.

"We see different images when we hear the world 'crown,'" she said. "We [in the U.S.] don't have a high opinion of the crown," she added with a laugh.

Korostynski gave several examples of crown imagery in the U.S. on product logos, ranging from soda to liquor.

For many, the crown is a symbol of power, but it can also be a symbol of mockery, such as crown of thorns in the Bible.

Crowns are a familiar image on buttons, especially on military buttons. The crowns found on military uniform buttons usually represent the reigning monarch at the time.

Korostynski gave examples of specific crowns on buttons, including the St. Edward and Imperial State. The St. Edward is the crown Queen Elizabeth wore for her coronation and the Imperial State crown is worn by King Charles.

Button makers need to get permission from the king or queen to use their crowns in their designs, something they need to apply for each year.

Some designer buttons, such as those from Lauren Conrad, feature a crown and shield.

Korostynski questioned whether or not King Charles would have a crown remade now that he ruled the throne.

She left audience members with a quote from Beyonce, reminding them that "you can't wear a crown with your head down," and to "hold your heads high and look royal."

Throughout the day, button dealers had thousands of their buttons available to purchase, ranging in price, rarity, and interest.

Tim Kennedy of Pelham, New Hampshire has been selling buttons for about a year and a half, following his wife's death.

Kennedy said button collecting was his wife's favorite hobby, and she also loved paper quilling. She taught quilling classes at their local library, and the group continues to meet today with its membership growing.

Kennedy's buttons are carefully cataloged by different types of animals, animation and much more, spanning the entire alphabet. Even the youngest shopper found a button (or a dozen) to match their interests.

About the Massachusetts State Button Society

Founded in 1942, the Massachusetts State Button Society consists of four local clubs that gather together several times a year as a state organization to promote the knowledge and enjoyment of button collecting.

These clubs include the Crescent Button Club, Monson Button Club, Shirley Button Club and Metropolitan Button Club.

Next year's shows will be held April 13 and Oct. 19 in Three Rivers and July 20 in Shirley.

Dues are \$10 per year and can be mailed to Massachusetts State Button Society Treasurer Darlene Gildert, 50 Prouty Road, New Braintree, MA 01531. Junior dues are \$3 per year.

For more information, visit mystatebuttonssociety.org or find Massachusetts State Button Society on Facebook.



Tim Kennedy of Pelham, New Hampshire sells his late wife's buttons at the Massachusetts State Button Society's show on Oct. 21 in Three Rivers. Turley Photos by Paula Quimette



Train and railroad themed buttons were also popular among button collectors.



Crown-shaped cookies with glittery sugar were given to Massachusetts State Button Society members, along with a crown button.



Button expert and dealer Betty Korostynski shared many examples of crowns and buttons.



These colorful buttons were arranged in the shape of St. Edward's crown.



These buttons show the crowns of various rulers.



Some dealers had numerous books available about buttons and collecting.



Crowns and tiaras were the theme for last Saturday's button show.

S	O	N	S					H	A	R	T			
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Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm
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- community -

STEEPLE | FROM PAGE 1

integral part of the town for centuries. About where the Church is located now, a building was constructed in 1757; followed by a larger building in 1795; and another in 1881, when the previous one was destroyed by fire. The 1881 building was partially destroyed during the 1938 hurricane, but a portion was preserved.

O'Connor said the work included restoration and painting of the steeple and clock faces, as well as some fabrication and replacement of custom moldings.

Church members started a campaign this summer to raise the approximately \$15,000 needed to complete the work, and preserve an integral piece of the common's architecture. It had been about 20 years since the steeple had been painted last.

Restco has been providing restoration work for 40 years, starting with O'Connor's father, Tim. O'Connor has been working with his father for the past 22 years.

His favorite part of the job is seeing the finished result when it's done.

O'Connor is preparing to work on two other churches in the area, including the Brookfield Congregational Church and the First Congregational Church in North Brookfield.

O'Connor said restoration work has already been completed by another contractor at the North Brookfield church, and he is just helping remove the weathervane through use of his aerial lift.

Restco owns the lift, which allows them more flexibility to complete jobs across New England.

O'Connor said Restco doesn't just work on churches, they've also recently

restored a tower in downtown Arlington on Mass Avenue (a daunting task in the busy city), as well as a smokestack at Bradley Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island.

Heights don't bother O'Connor, who said steeples can reach anywhere from 60-200 feet, with the average steeple ranging from 95-120 feet tall.

About First Congregational Church

For more information about the First Congregation Church of West Brookfield, its faith offerings and its missions, visit westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.com.



The steeple of the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield stands on a high, the all corners of the common.



The clock hands and numerals are now a bold black against the bright white background of the clock face. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE

call 508-867-7078.

People can also mail donations to help with the Church's restoration and preservation, to First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, P.O. Box 371, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

About Restco

Established in 1983, Restco Corporation is a full service building restoration contractor, specializing in building res-

toration, commercial building washing, tuck pointing, caulking and waterproofing services.

As over half of their projects are registered landmarks, all care is taken to adhere to historic preservation guidelines.

For more information about Restco and its services, visit www.restco.com or call 508-987-3357.

TANTASQUA | FROM PAGE 9

of the best field hockey players in the history of the program.

Backlin and Belchertown A.D. Jennifer Gouvin should try to schedule more games against each other in the future. The two athletic programs are very similar.

The girls' soccer teams were scheduled to face each other at Belchertown High School on Monday night. The two high schools are located about 30 miles apart.

The road victory improved the Lady Orioles overall record to 9-3-1, while the Lady Warriors dropped to 3-8-1.

Belchertown first-year head coach Dina Brunetti was very impressed with Tantasqua junior goalie Alyssa Drajpuch, who made a total of 10 saves.

"I didn't know very much about Tantasqua, but they're a phenomenal defensive team. Their goalie is very good," Brunetti said. "I wasn't very worried when they scored a goal in the first quarter because I have a lot of confidence in my players."

The Warriors defense is led by senior Abby Radebaugh, senior Star Cottone, junior Libby Dodson, and sophomore Paige Rosen.

With 8:25 remaining in the first quarter, senior Sofia Fazzuoli passed the ball to junior Zoe Little, who fired a shot into the back of the cage giving the home team a 1-0 advantage.

"Zoe is one of our goal scorers," Green said. "It was a great feeling to take an early lead. We're a very young team this year, but our future does look bright."

Belchertown senior goalie Brooke Stelmokas (0 saves) didn't see very much action for the rest of the game.

The Lady Orioles, who finished in first place in the County League standings, tied the score at 1-1 with 4:54 left in the second quarter following a goal by senior Isabella Cebula. Sophomore Rachel Baltazar was credited with the assist.

Belchertown had a couple of penalty corners late in the first half, but the score was still tied at halftime.

Drajpuch made four saves during the first eight minutes of the third quarter keeping the contest deadlocked a little bit longer.

With 6:45 left in the third quarter, a tip in goal by freshman Lila Roy gave the visiting team the lead for the first time. Senior Laura Cote assisted on the go-ahead goal.

Belchertown had four more penalty corners, but they were unable to extend the lead.

"We did have a lot of corners, but we couldn't put any of them in," Brunetti said. "We're not used to playing on a turf field. Almost all our shots were going left or right, but it's going to be a nice ride home."

CANDLEPIN | FROM PAGE 10

414-390.

In game two, Team One bounced back by winning 421-406. In game three, Team Two won the final game by a score of 396-386.

Danny Fennyery of Team Two broke the century mark by scoring a 105 game.

Team Two won total pinfall by a final score of 1216-1197.

Team Three faced off against Team Four for the night. In game one, Team Four won over Team Three by a score of 427-415.

In game two, Team Three won over Team Four by a score of 384-380. In game three, Team Three won the final

game by a score of 421-397.

Tyler Moore of Team Three finished strong with a 108 game; 21 pins over his league average. Total pinfall went to Team Three by a final score of 1220-1204.

As of Oct. 12, Team One is the #1 seed with a record 16.5 wins and 7.5 losses. In second place, Team Three has a record of 14.5 wins and 9.5 losses.

Tied for third place is Team Two and Team Six with a record of 12-12. Team Five is in fifth place at 11-13, and Team Four is in sixth place at 6-18.

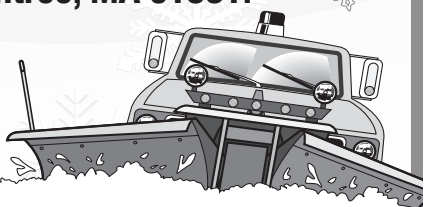
The first round of the Thursday Night Mixed League will conclude sometime in December.

POSITION OPENING: Winter Plow Drivers-Laborer

Town of New Braintree (pop. 998) is seeking winter Plow Drivers both non-CDL and CDL to plow and treat roadways with our trucks. Salary dependent upon experience.

Further position details and job applications are available at the Board of Selectmen's Office, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531.

You can also contact the New Braintree Highway Superintendent by calling 508-847-2628.



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- community -

DEISEL | FROM PAGE 1

temporary measure, but the DPW will explore above ground storage tanks to install in the future for both diesel and gasoline.

"It's a lot easier to monitor," Blakeley said, and they wouldn't have to worry about subsurface contamination.

Replacing the tanks would be expensive, she said. Space is also a concern for the above ground storage tanks.

"Right now, we're just trying to get through winter," Blakeley said.

Town Administrator's report

Town Administrator Robin Grimm gave an update on the Route 20 construction situation.

"We do see an end in sight, we have asked them specifically to limit the closure down to one-lane," she said. "They said they would make every effort to try to comply with limited closures as best as possible."

Grimm said she suggested the one-lane hours do not occur during major commuting times in the morning and late afternoon.

Grimm also provided an update about the town's opioid settlement team, noting that a logo and pamphlets have been worked on.

"We're taking an educational and prevention track, and a recovery resource track," she said, giving people information about available resources.

Grimm said they met with Dish Antenna about the adding an antenna to the Fiske Hill water tower. She has seen preliminary designs, which will be presented to the Board of Selectmen on Nov. 20 prior to going before the Planning Board.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jamie Goodwin said the Board should look into having a policy for this type of lease going forward. Grimm agreed that it should have a process and protocol to ensure fairness of projects.

Grimm notified the Board that the Recreation Committee appointed Elizabeth Adams as farmers market manager for next year, a stipend position. She credited the Recreation Committee and volunteers for running a great farmers market.

Gateway sign

Grimm updated the Board on the creation of a gateway sign for the town. Funds for the project have come from the American Rescue Plan Act and betterment money.

She said there are two prices for the sign, one for a temporary sign and one for a permanent sign.

The gateway sign would be located at Route 131 and Route 20, which is marked for redesign by the state in 2026.

"We were originally looking at a permanent stone base, which is expensive," she said, and would have to be pulled out for the redesign.

Grimm said the temporary option is movable, and could be broken down during the redesign.

"When we have to take it down for construction, we can remove it and we can put that same one back," she said. Grimm said the sign has breakaways and complies with Massachusetts Department of Transportation requirements.

The sign is designed to last for 50 years, and features a stone base, topped with "Welcome" above the words "Sturbridge, Mass" on a burnt orange background. The sign is topped with a weathervane.

Grimm said the sign would primarily be visible for westbound motorists on Route 20.

The back of the sign will be flat black, and funds will be used to add decorative plantings behind the sign.

Grimm said it's possible the sign could be installed before the start of the holiday season.

Board members voiced their support of the sign's design, and voted to move forward with the gateway sign project.

Water and sewer reports

Veolia's Project Manager for Sturbridge, Shane Moody, gave the water and wastewater operation reports for August and September.

He said in July and August, the plant had violations for carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand issues, but they didn't have any violations in September.

"I think when we take that must septage, we're going to have to run three tanks during the summer. I think once we do that, we won't have these issues anymore," Moody said, but he hasn't seen the final reports yet.

Moody said the flushing and winterizing of hydrants is nearly complete.

He said he joined Blakeley for a conference call with state agencies regarding well four stream monitoring.

He said they weren't able to remove the stream limit entirely, but the plant gets to run more often in drought conditions, but in some drought stages, they cannot run the well at all.

Moody said it's not exactly what they wanted, but it's a win for them

"Both Heather and I were pretty happy with the way it turned out," he said.

Moody said well levels are high.

Blakeley said there may be issues with some water meters either not measuring or measuring low, and letters have been sent to residents who may be affected.

Blakeley said there is a contract to have Tighe & Bond complete engineering for lining to be added to sewer on Route 20, spanning about eight-nine man-holes.

She said she is hoping to go out to bid to complete work in early spring.

"It's a much bigger project," she said, than one completed last year.

Blakeley said another project out to bid is the painting and repair of a clarifier, which is offline. It has a failed baffle wall that needs to be repaired before winter, with painting in the spring.

This work would allow the wastewater treatment plant to use this clarifier if necessary.

"If we need to turn it on, we have the ability, even if we need to clean it," she said.

Blakeley encouraged residents to compost leaves after cleaning up their yards, or bring them to the compost at the landfill. She said dumping leaves in the stormwater drains not only clogs the drains creating a higher risk of flooding, but it also increases the pollution of waterways by raising phosphorus levels.

She also asked residents living on private roads to trim back bushes and limbs to accommodate plow trucks.

"If you trim them back, we'll be able to service you quicker...and not damage our equipment," she said.

Blakely said fiscal year 2024 paving bids have come in lower than estimated, by about \$400,000. This savings will allow the town to address more roadways.

She said the town is also accepting applications for jobs at the DPW, as well as snow plow drivers.

Appointment

The Board appointed Jayne Bowler to serve on the Disabilities Commission with a term to expire Oct. 16, 2026. Grimm recommended Bowler's appointment, saying she has family members with disabilities, and she works in the industry.

License approvals

The Board renewed Trinity Solar's hawk and pedler license to solicit door-to-door during the hours of dawn-7 p.m.

The Board also approved one-day liquor licenses for Greater Good Imperial Brewing Co. and Altruist Brewing Company for the town bonfire on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 4-9 p.m. and 5-9 p.m., respectively.

Donation

The Board accepted a donation in the amount of \$719.12 for benches near Veterans Honor Roll monument.

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YARD SALE: OCT. 28TH, 9am-2pm. 65 Beaver Lake Rd., Ware. Furniture, tools, housewares, books. No early birds. Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 29th.

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NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a house-keeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today (413)267-4297.

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THE TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD is looking for part-time plow drivers. This is an on-call position. Must have a valid, clean MA Driver's License and a DOT physical car. Pay rate \$20.41/hour or \$23.38/hour with a Class B License with air brakes. Snow plowing experience is preferred but not required. Please contact: **Jim Daley, 508-867-1417 or via email jdaley@wbrookfield.com.** The Town of West Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity at all levels of the workforce. EOE

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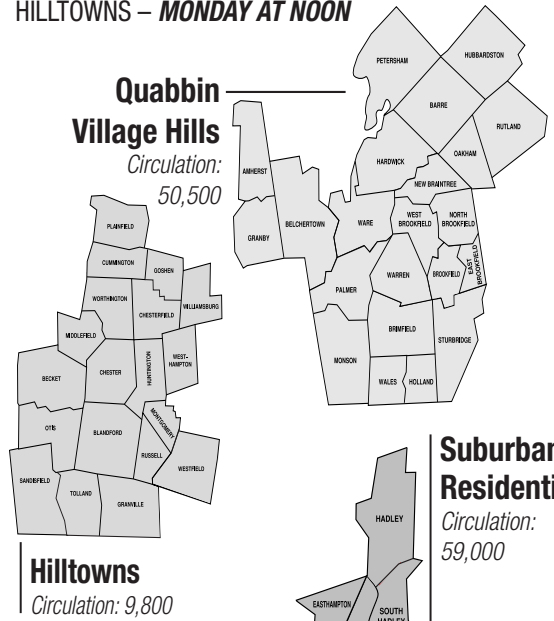
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CATEGORY:			
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5	6	7	8
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21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
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27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
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33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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Scarecrows featured at Publick House for contest

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – On the front lawn of the Publick House, decorated scarecrows were featured for a contest.

Provided by the Sturbridge Recreation Committee, the scarecrow decorating contest is split into several categories. There are categories for youth, adults, groups, and business.

The groups include Scout troops, classrooms, neighbors and friends. The business category for scarecrows were allowed to incorporate subtle use of company name.

The scarecrows have been displayed since the start of October. Online voting occurred from Oct. 14 -18 to determine the winners of each category.

Overall, a grand total of 18 scarecrows were entered in the contest.

For every scarecrow designed, the decoration is given a unique name and is listed on a sign next to each scarecrow. In the adult category, the choices are “Scare D Cat Crow” by Melissa Anto-

nio, “Owl” by Simone Germain, “The Garden of Good and Evil” by the Collette and Skowrya Families, and “Alien Abduction” by Sarah and Paul Quarles.

In the business category, there is the “Headless Barista” by Saw Dust Coffee House and Dessert Bar. Thibert Decorating decorated a scarecrow called “Nancy’s Heart”. Michael’s of Sturbridge decorated a scarecrow named “Worked to Death”. Mass Motion Dancers created “Waltz of the Witches”. GLOWcycle came up with “Sweat Now, GLOW later”.

For the groups category, “Ghoul Scouts” was designed by Girl Scout Troop 64510. “Barbie” was designed by Girl Scout Troop 65342. Girl Scout Troop 64837 designed the “Zombie Ghoul Scout”.

The Recreation Committee submitted a scarecrow named the “Spooky Lifesaver”. The Moms of Sturbridge Area created the “Zombie Mom”.

For the youth category, Arya Dateo created “Wooded Girl”. Elizabeth and Katherine Beaupre created the scarecrow “Miserable Minnie”. The third



“Owl” by Simone Germain. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

youth entry was the scarecrow “Bad Haircut” by Evelyn Quarles.

All 18 scarecrows in youth, adult, business, and groups were all entered into an overall best category to determine the best scarecrow of the 2023

scarecrow decorating contest. Many visitors experienced the creativity of all participants by viewing and taking pictures of the scarecrows at the Publick House.



“The Garden of Good and Evil” by the Collette and Skowrya families



“It’s Show Time” by Venture Day Services



“The Headless Barista” by Saw Dust Coffee House & Dessert Bar



“Zombie Mom” by Moms of Sturbridge Area



“Worked to Death” by Michaels of Sturbridge.



“Waltz of the Witches” by Mass Motion Dancers



Scarecrows cover the front lawn of the Publick House.

- public notices -

LEGAL NOTICE: TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 28B, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West

Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY, November 1, 2023 at 6:00 pm** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.

6:10 p.m. – Public Hearings:

1. Notice of Intent (NOI)

filed by Matt Shannon for an addition and repair located at 68C Cottage Street.

2. Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) filed by MA DOT to resurface Route 32.

10/27/2023

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Male children
5. Robert Wagner series “Hart to _____”
9. Unfolded
11. Digestive disease
13. Wednesday
15. Malignant tumor
16. Conscientious investment strategy (abbr.)
17. Slowed
19. Letter of the Semitic abjads
21. Weights of cars without fuel
22. Former CIA
23. Asian country
25. Instead
26. Ancient Egyptian King
27. Privies
29. Shopping trips
31. Paradoxical anecdote
33. It’s on the table
34. Ancient Persia ruler
36. Small American rail
38. File extension
39. Days (Spanish)
41. Everyone has one
43. South American plant
44. About ilium
46. Vanished American hoopster
48. A type of breakfast
52. Uncooked
53. Examined
54. Christian recluse
56. Strong posts
57. Some are for pasta
58. Skinny
59. School-based organizations

CLUES DOWN

1. Ringlet
2. Type of complex
3. Midway between north and northwest
4. It becomes something bigger
5. German courtesy title
6. Genus of birds
7. Marked by public disorder
8. Least aggressive
9. Russian city
10. Insect repellent
11. Interruptions
12. Scoundrels
14. 1,000 calories
15. What one does overnight
18. Dwarf planet
20. Pipe
24. Black powdery substance
26. Set of four
28. Canned fishes
30. North Carolina college
32. Secured
34. A disgraceful event
35. Physical suffering
37. The home of the free
38. Some are boys
40. Satisfy
42. Makes very happy
43. South American plants
45. Modes of transportation
47. Female sheep
49. Type of torch
50. Piece of merchandise
51. Jump over
55. Wife of Amun

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Volume 16, Number 48

Friday, October 27, 2023

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