

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Friday, October 31, 2025

## Select Board heard update on town projects

By Paula Ouimette  
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STURBRIDGE – Department of Public Works Director Heather Blakeley told the Select Board that the Cedar Street sidewalk project is out to bid and will be returned by the end of the month.

At the Oct. 20 meeting, she said she also submitted an application for the next phase of that project

through the Complete Streets program.

Blakeley said milling and repaving is occurring in small areas across town in preparation for the winter. She said water and sewer billing should be going out soon.

**Water/sewer report**

Shane Moody, Veolia's Project Manager for the Water and Sewer Department, said the department has started another hydrogen sulfide study, and placed

sensors on Hall Road.

"Hydrogen sulfide is what eats away at your pipes and structures," Moody said. "We know we have a problem over here on Hall Road."

Moody said hydrant flushing has started to prepare to winterize hydrants. He said due to the drought conditions and elevated status; they will cut back on flushing and target problem areas.

He said ongoing per-

and polyfluoroalkyl substances sampling is showing levels at the wastewater treatment plant. He said the town hasn't taken "a lot of big hits" but in one of the last samples, one of the wells did register levels of PFAS.

Moody said droughts could result in more containments being found in the water.

"Right now, the thing is to just keep sampling... you're going to need a new

water plant at some point anyways, so maybe you include PFAS removal when you upgrade your water plant," he said.

Moody said the department has conducted more sampling than is required to collect an ample amount of data.

Moody said he has a new student intern from the high school, working three hours each day.

"She's been great to work with," he said.

**Facilities report**

Facilities Manager Jeremy Jalbert updated the board about various projects around town. He said the library deck and ramp and the Public Safety Complex exterior door projects are both out to bid.

Jalbert said the library's floor project should start next week, along with the elevator project. He said an

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## 'An Infinite Variety of Fruit'

Residents sampled historic apples

By Ryan Drago  
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WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Historical Society Museum presented a unique program featuring historic New England apples this past weekend.

The presentation was held at the West Brookfield Senior Center and was given by Christie Higginbottom. At the start of the presentation, guests were handed a score sheet featuring the names of various New England apples that they would get to taste throughout the presentation.

Higginbottom shared various historical facts, notes, and quotes from notables who have studied apples that have been part of the New England region since the colonial period. One quote shared was from James Thacher's work, "The American Orchardist", back in 1825.

"The seeds of apples contain the germ of an infinite variety of fruit. New varieties and some of excellent quality are continually produced from seeds," Higginbottom read, quoting Thacher.

Many apples in New England had arrived with colonists back in the early 1600s. One of the earliest varieties of apples discussed was the Roxbury Russet apple. This apple is one of the oldest varieties of apples, which came from an apple farm in Roxbury around 1640.

This apple is similar to the English Russet apple and was the first type of apple for guests to taste.

Apples were cut into slices and passed around the Senior Center. After tasting, guests would score the apple on a scale from 1 to 5. One guest described the apple as having a crunch and had a crisp taste to it and graded the Roxbury Russet a 5 out of 5.

Higginbottom mentioned seedling apple trees being used in the 19th century and there were many



A presentation of historic New England apples took place at the West Brookfield Senior Center. Guests got to try some samples of these apples.

seedling cider orchards in New England. To get a visual observation of a seedling cider orchard, there is an orchard at Old Sturbridge Village at the Freeman Farm.

The next apple was the Baldwin, originating from

Wilmington back around 1750. This apple had a softer bite to it and was similar to a McIntosh, but a sweeter taste.

Higginbottom talked about the process known

See APPLES PAGE 7

## Mission trip to support children in Ukraine

By Ryan Drago  
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BROOKFIELD – A local shared some information regarding a mission trip to Ukraine to support orphaned children.

A local organization, S.O.N.G., Inc. (Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally, Inc.) is a 501 ©(3) nonprofit organization founded by Michele and Wally Connor of Brookfield. The couple started the charity back in 1998, and it went by the name Socks for Siberia.

Wally Connor shared the story of how the charity first started. The couple was visiting Russia in the late 1990s, and they came across a children's home where kids had poor clothing. The kids also had no toys to play with.

Wanting to do something for the kids, the couple was able to send a shipment of clothing. Socks for Siberia operated for 20 years and helped enrich the lives of orphaned children in south central Siberia. The orga-

nization's charitable efforts also consisted of sending Christmas gifts and toys to the children.

This organization went across various regions of Siberia to help kids in need. After reorganizing to S.O.N.G., Inc., members of the organization have worked in Ukraine, Pakistan, South Africa, and the Philippines. S.O.N.G., Inc. also provides support for foster children in Massachusetts.

The charity was reorganized as S.O.N.G., Inc. as the organizers wanted to expand and provide support in other countries. Since deciding to go global with its mission, S.O.N.G., Inc. has established partnerships with orphanages and shelters in Pakistan, South Africa, Ukraine and the Philippines.

Tim Kane of Brookfield is a Support Coordinator at S.O.N.G., Inc. and will be going on a mission trip in Ukraine for the month of

See MISSION TRIP PAGE 6

## Selectmen interviewed TA candidate

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – During a recent meeting, candidate Ron Aponte was interviewed by the Board of Selectmen for the role of Town Administrator.

Aponte has over 30 years experience in private sector and over 20 years in municipal management. He has been a Select Board member in Belchertown for more than two decades and he has also been the Town Administrator in Brookfield.

He said he enjoys municipal government, including its challenges. "I enjoy municipal management...frankly I think I'm good at it, too," Aponte said at the Board of Selectmen's Oct. 21 meeting. "I like the challenge, I think it fits my skillset and my experience I've built up over the years."

Aponte said he likes the small town charm of North Brookfield, which he said is

similar to Brookfield, and his hometown of Belchertown.

"I think I could work well with the board and with the town," he said.

Aponte said he believes the key issue the town is facing is financial. He said there seems to be an imbalance with revenue and expenses.

"That's something that we have to take a good hard look at during the budget process...but really throughout the year," he said.

Aponte said supporting the town's school district is another issue that will need looking at.

Aponte said he has had a lot of experience with municipal budgets, and he spoke about how in his first year as Town Administrator in Brookfield the town had a fair and balanced budget.

In his work in the private sector, he gained significant experience in long term planning, and in his role on the Select Board in Belchertown, he worked to repurpose the former Belchertown State School.

Aponte said Belchertown worked with a developer to secure grants and earmarks to remediate and cleanup the property. He said this has been a major project and its success is something that he is proud of.

"Slowly but surely, we were able to carve out little niches that we could start to develop," he said. "I'm proud to say at this point...that we have several businesses down there...it's drawing revenue and it's increasing the business tax base."

Aponte spoke about creating an economic target area to help boost revenue, and also secure grant funding and receive tax incentives.

Aponte said clear communication and collaboration are some of his strengths as a manager. He said he is a supportive leader and works to help his co-workers achieve high standards.

The board will vote to appoint Aponte as Town Administrator. See CANDIDATE PAGE 7

## Local artists featured at Jewelry Show

By Paula Ouimette  
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WEST BROOKFIELD – Jewelry makers Cassandra Goldwater and Cathie Palo are returning for their 3rd Annual Jewelry Show at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, 10 East Main St., with an opening reception on Friday, Nov. 7 from 5-7 p.m.

All are encouraged to attend the opening reception and meet with Goldwater and Palo, while also enjoying complimentary wine and cheese and a welcoming sense of community.

The Annual Jewelry Show has arrived just in time for the start of the holiday shopping season, giving people the opportunity to purchase a one-of-a-kind piece of wearable art to bestow upon a loved one, directly from the artists themselves.

Goldwater and Palo first met each other at a class they took at LexArt in Lexington, and since they've



This necklace made by Cassandra Goldwater features a Montana agate.

been friends, they have traveled across the U.S. to further develop their craft. They have also taught jewelry making classes at the West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery.

Goldwater said her favorite stone is the Montana agate, which is featured in one of her necklaces that will be displayed at the show. Montana agate is clear, with colorful inclusions in it.

"I'm motivated by 'stone' stones more than I am a gemstone," Goldwater said. "I think its magic the

patterns that show up in a rock."

This necklace's stone in particular, has a pattern that looks like a landscape, Goldwater said.

"I have a tendency to look for the unusual stone," she said.

Goldwater has also made a variety of rings out of sterling silver each with its own unique texture.

"They all look completely different from each other," she said.

See JEWELRY SHOW PAGE 7

## - community -

# Superintendent gave update on tuition agreement

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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WARREN – Superintendent Stephen Duff gave the Quaboag Regional School Committee an update about his efforts to enter into a tuition agreement between the school district and the town of North Brookfield.

“We’ve been working with North Brookfield, as have other districts, looking at the potential of tuitioning North Brookfield in,” Duff said at the Oct. 20 meeting.

With a tuition agreement, the school district would provide educational services to high school students in North Brookfield with an agreed upon price per student.

Duff said he and Finance Director Nicole Goncalves will be presenting about the Quaboag Regional School District to the North Brookfield School Committee in the next month or two.

Duff said he will continue to push for an agreement with the town.

“I think that it would certainly provide some level of sustainability for the dis-

trict,” he said.

Duff said preliminary budget meetings show at least a 20% increase in the cost for health insurance for the school district’s staff. He said a tuition agreement with North Brookfield would help offset that expense without having to ask voters in Warren and West Brookfield for a significant above minimum contribution for next year’s budget.

“North Brookfield is going to be very important to our district,” Duff said.

Duff said if North Brookfield selects the Quaboag Regional School District for a tuition agreement, it would still need to be approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Green Communities grant**  
Duff said the town of Warren is seeking a Green Communities grant for the building envelope project at Warren Community Elementary School. He said once this project is completed, they can apply for funding for heat pumps.

Duff said Director of Facilities Marc Astrella has worked with Warren Town

Administrator James Ferrera and West Brookfield Town Administrator Theresa Cofske to save over \$1 million to complete projects across the school district using Green Communities funding. He thanked both Ferrera and Cofske for working with the school district.

“Quaboag is far beyond any other districts with energy efficiencies,” he said.

**Stadium lighting**  
Duff said Goncalves met with Warren’s capital committee to discuss the creation of a capital improvement plan to replace the lighting at the stadium field. Duff said the current halogen lights are running at 60% efficiency.

“The lighting between the school and the field, and the lighting in the end zones at the field, just are not adequate,” Duff said. “It’s a safety issue.”

Duff said the projected cost for the town of Warren would be roughly \$60,000 and for West Brookfield, about \$40,000. He said this would be the estimated cost if the project was completed in its entirety.

Duff said they also dis-

cussed installing lighting at the tennis courts.

**Concession stand opens**  
Duff said the concession stand was able to open thanks to a \$100,000 earmark from state Rep. Todd Smola. This earmark was used to install a foundation, septic system, three bathrooms, a storage area, a mechanical room and the concession stand.

“It’s been a very welcome addition,” he said.

Duff thanked Fountain & Sons for completing the project, adding that they did a “remarkable job.”

**WCES principal position**  
Duff said Warren Community Elementary School Principal Eugene Rich has accepted a position in another school district and his projected last day is Oct. 30. He said 12 candidates have applied for the position and a search committee has been formed.

**Student Advisory Council update**

Student Advisory Council members Evie Iwaniec and Mia Letendre provided an update about school happenings to the School Committee.

Students enjoyed homecoming activities and senior nights were held for the various fall sports.

Iwaniec said the students in the Journey’s Transitions Program have been volunteering at Second Chance Animal Services’ location in Southbridge. She said they are supporting the pet food pantry by filling bags to be distributed to pet owners in need.

“This is an exciting opportunity for our students,” she said.

Letendre said a financial aid presentation will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium with Richard O’Connor, Director of Financial Aid at Elms College. This presentation is available to juniors and seniors.

The School Store will be open every Thursday after school from 2:15-3:30 p.m.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century after-school programs are also underway, including clubs such as Dungeons & Dragons, creative writing, middle school E-sports and cooking.

Iwaniec said 99 students from eighth and ninth grades

will be attending the Washington, D.C. trip March 17-20, 2026.

Letendre said the senior class will hold a Halloween walk-through on Friday, Oct. 31. She said they also have an ongoing raffle calendar fundraiser.

Iwaniec said the junior class has been manning the snack shack during home night games.

The sophomore class is planning a bake sale during the first week of November. The week of Thanksgiving, the class will host a coffee and muffin morning for teachers.

Letendre said the sophomores also won the annual Powder Puff game.

The freshmen class is organizing its annual breakfast to be held in December.

In the middle school, seventh and eighth grade students in Project Lead the Way’s Medical Detectives class dissected and labeled parts of a sheep’s brain.

Two eighth grade students have been selected as Project 351 Ambassadors, Farrah Piermarini of West Brookfield and Jariella Male of Warren.

## Halloween Happenings

Friday, Oct. 31

### BROOKFIELD

Trick or Treat will be held town wide from 5:30-7 p.m., followed by a parade from the Fire Station to Lewis Field where a costume contest will be held for anyone who wants to join. Please gather at the pavilion for judging. The costume contest will be followed by a bonfire, weather permitting. Trunk or Treat will also be held in front of the Town Hall.

### EAST BROOKFIELD

Trick or Treat will be

held townwide from 5-7 p.m.

### NEW BRAINTREE

Trick or Treat will be held town wide from 5-8 p.m. Trunk or Treat will be held at the same time in the Town Hall parking lot.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Trick or Treat will be held town wide 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 5-7 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.

## Historical Commission presents Jacob Knight exhibit

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Historical Commission is proud to present “A Jaunt with Jacob, New England Through an Artist’s Eyes,” a retrospective exhibition honoring the artistry and legacy of renowned local artist Jacob Knight.

This multifaceted exhibit offers a personal and powerful glimpse into Knight’s creative world.

The exhibition will feature prints of Knight’s depictions of local New England towns, some never before exhibited photographs capturing Knight’s world by lo-

cal photographers and members of his circle, a collection of curiosities and ephemera from his past, video interviews with some of Knight’s family and friends, and audio recordings of his poetry slams and music jams.

This celebration of Jacob Knight will offer a vibrant window into the soul of a beloved artist and community member.

The opening and reception will be held on Sunday, Nov. 9, from noon-4 p.m. at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St., Southbridge.

Show dates are Saturdays



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Jacob Knight is shown with his chicken DiRado. An exhibition featuring Knight’s prints and more will open on Sunday, Nov. 9 from noon-4 p.m. at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts in Southbridge.

## Revolutionary War program at Old Burial Ground

STURBRIDGE – On Thursday, Nov. 6, a program honoring the veterans interred in the Old Burial Ground will take place at 10 a.m. by placing new American Flags on their graves.

Honoring these men started in a 1939 program with first and second graders at the Center School placing geraniums on these graves.

In 2019 a new tradition was started with students

from the Burgess Elementary School doing the honors. On the Thursday before Memorial Day placing geraniums. The Thursday before Veterans Day (this year) these students will place the new American Flags on the same graves.

Our invited guests will include the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution will be the Hon-

or Guard playing taps and firing muskets to end the program.

The Public is invited and welcome to attend this program. It is a heart warming experience seeing these children honoring the veterans of the war that took place 250 years ago which gave America its freedom from British Rule and which we celebrate these 250 years this year across our country.

## Trunk or Treat will be held on Halloween

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Parks and Recreation and the North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency will be hosting a

Trunk or Treat event on Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Trunk or Treat event will be held on the town common. If you want to set

up a trunk, please arrive at the common by 4:45 p.m.

There will be hot dogs, candy and music. Snacks will be available at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St.

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# - community -

## Quaboag students named as Project 351 Ambassadors

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School announced that the two eighth grade students selected for Project 351 are Farrah Piermarini and Jariella Male. Farrah is the daughter of Phoebe Lehman and Garrett Piermarini of West Brookfield. Jariella is the daughter of Jessica Carrachino and Israel Male of Warren.

Farrah and Jariella were selected by their eighth grade teachers to be Quaboag's Project 351 Ambassadors for 2026 because they demonstrate the values of being helpful, friendly, and kind with a willingness to volunteer. Project 351 began in 2011 as an initiative of Governor Deval Patrick and founded by Carolyn Casey, to have an eighth grader from every Massachusetts town (hence the name Project 351) come to Boston for a day of leader-



**Eighth grade students Farrah Piermarini of West Brookfield and Jariella Male of Warren have been named Project 351 Ambassadors from the Quaboag Regional School District.**

ship training on community involvement and service. Students then bring these lessons back to their own communities as an ambassador of goodwill and service.

Farrah and Jariella will attend a day of service and leadership training in Boston in January with

other eighth grade ambassadors from around the state and then implement their own service learning projects back in their communities. They'll also have opportunities to attend several Project 351 events throughout the year at Gillette Stadium and in Boston.

## Home of the Brave 5K returns for 7th year

STURBRIDGE – The Sturbridge Special Events Committee will host the 7th annual Home of the Brave 5K fun walk/run to benefit local veterans on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 8-11 a.m. on the Town Common.

Race entry is \$25, with a special military price of \$10 for servicemembers. T-shirts are included for those who register by Oct. 27.

The event will be attended by DJ Ellis Cropper and Flutie Star Reagan Bush.

The committee is currently seeking veteran resource vendors, donations for raffles, swag, and event volunteers.

For more information or to register, visit [www.5KGP.com](http://www.5KGP.com).

## Grassroots Central MA hosts three-part film series

STURBRIDGE – A free community film series “Regenerating Life: How to Cool the Planet, Feed the World, and Live Happily Ever After,” a movie by John Feldman, will be presented in three parts by Grassroots Central MA at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, 306 Main St.

The first is on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 3-4:30 p.m. and introduces concepts of our ecological situation, providing a solid understanding of the social and environmen-

tal crises that confront us.

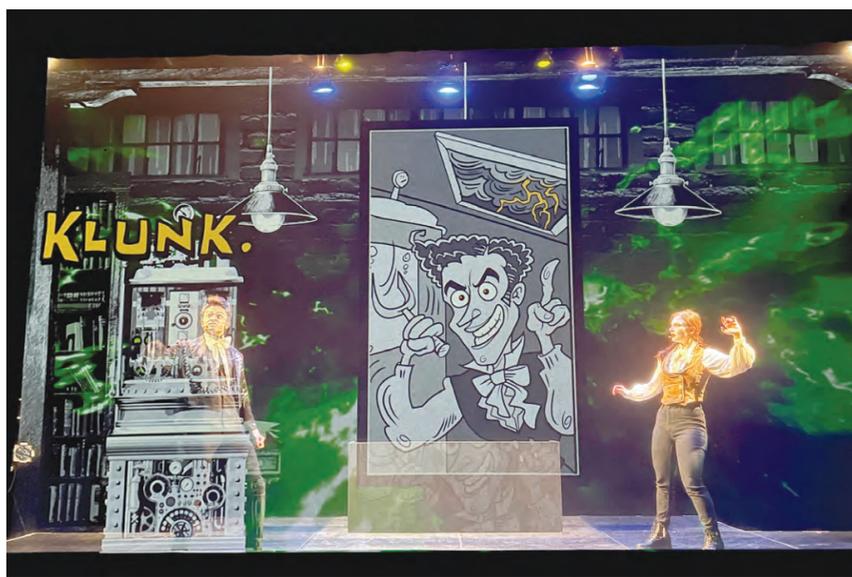
Parts two and three will be presented Dec. 6, and Jan. 10, 2026. These two parts continue the examination of the prevailing climate change story and offer new, attainable solutions.

The film covers our understanding of how life regulates the climate through photosynthesis, the carbon cycle, the water cycle, the dung cycle, and the interconnected soil network of fungi, microorganisms and plant roots. The pho-

tography is beautiful, the information is clear, and the information presented welcomes us to rethink everything we do.

A discussion will follow each presentation and light refreshments will be served. An on-line option is also available. If you would prefer to join virtually, please contact Sherry at [sherryzitter@icloud.com](mailto:sherryzitter@icloud.com) for details.

A preview of the movie can be found on link (<https://hummingbirdfilms.com/regeneratinglife/press-kit/>)



The Center at Eagle Hill will present “FRANKENSTEIN: A Living Comic Book”, on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 5 p.m

## ‘Frankenstein’ comes alive in Hardwick

HARDWICK – A sci-fi classic comes to life on stage in Hardwick on Saturday, Nov. 8.

The Center at Eagle Hill will present “FRANKENSTEIN: A Living Comic Book”, a modern adaptation of Mary Shelley’s 1818 novel Frankenstein.

“Frankenstein is the original science fiction novel, and we were amazed that it was created by a young woman of 18,” said Craig Francis, co-writer and co-director of the show. “It’s such an integral part of pop culture that it was irresistible to do our own take on it, through comics and cartoons, which were my own introduction to sci-fi and horror. The comic book effects bring it instantly up to date, stylize the horror, and make it a

ton of spooky fun! Besides, the idea of ‘bringing something to life’ is what theatre is best at.”

In this adaptation, a young artist named Mary discovers the journal of Dr. Victor Frankenstein in the Arctic. As she’s drawn into his uncanny tale of secret experiments, Mary discovers that we all need to face the monsters of our own making...before they face us!

This electrifying show blends immersive comic book design and playful theatrical techniques to reimagine the sci-fi classic for a new generation with a family-friendly spin (recommended for ages 7+).

The Center at Eagle Hill presents “FRANKENSTEIN: A Living Comic Book” on Saturday, Nov.

8 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$15 for students. The Center also offers discounted \$10 tickets to EBT cardholders through Massachusetts’ Card to Culture Program.

For tickets and information, visit [www.thecenterateaglehill.org](http://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 our website at [www.thecenterateaglehill.org](http://www.thecenterateaglehill.org). The Center at Eagle Hill is located at 242 Old Petersham Road.

## Senior Center lists upcoming November events

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center, located at 29 Forest St., will offer the following events and activities during the month of November.

Free art classes will be held on Thursdays with wood crate flower arrangements on Nov. 6 at 11 a.m.

and wreath ornaments on Nov. 20 at 11 a.m. A free drawing class will teach how to create landscapes on Nov. 13.

Music bingo will be held on Monday, Nov. 17 at 10 a.m.

A presentation by Home Health Agency will be held on Wednesday,

Nov. 12 at 11:30 a.m. and a fraud presentation by North Brookfield Savings Bank will be Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 11 a.m.

A Thanksgiving luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at noon. There is limited seating and the luncheon is first come, first served.

## Sturbridge planning parade /festivities to celebrate Amerca250

STURBRIDGE – A committee of Sturbridge citizens is working to plan events to celebrate Amerca250 in 2026.

The celebration of this anniversary of the country’s independence will culminate in a parade, and a festive gathering on the

Town Common on June 27, 2026.

The committee is calling on townsfolk, businesses, and nonprofits to help with the celebration. Needed are behind-the-scenes volunteers to help

plan the events and/or on the day of the event, marchers, sponsors, floats, etc.

Anyone who is interested in getting involved should contact the committee at: [Sturbridge250@gmail.com](mailto:Sturbridge250@gmail.com).

## Story time takes place on Nov. 3

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, is offering a story time for preschoolers on Monday, Nov. 3 at 11:30 a.m.

The readings will include “The Busy Little Squirrel” by Nancy Tafuri and “I Don’t Want to go to Sleep” by Dev Petty. Parental supervision is required.

Visit us at [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

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# - opinion -



## Pumpkins of lore and legend

I miss the days of carving pumpkins with the kids. Last year was the first year time got away from us and we just didn't get around to doing it.

I guess the rituals aren't quite as important as they used to be when the girls were younger. Alas, time marches on.

I still got a kick out of decorating the porch with pumpkins, big and small, orange and white. Not a Jack-o'-Lantern to be seen, just a pretty autumnal scene.

It is safe to say that we New Englanders have a fond affection for the pumpkin. And by the look of the neighborhood, we enjoy this fruit (yes, fruit) more on our doorsteps these days than we do in our kitchens.

This wasn't always the case; in fact, the pumpkin was a staple in the diets of Native Americans long before the pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock.

The pumpkin is thought to have originated in Mexico. Seeds found there of a distant Cucurbit relative were dated all the way back to 7000 to 5500 B.C.! In our more recent past, Native Americans taught colonists how to plant pumpkins; soon they became indispensable in their diets.

The hard outer skin of the pumpkin allowed it to be stored for a long period of time, sustaining the community throughout the winter months. It was also versatile, used in stews, bread baking, and even in desserts.

Historians speculate that the pumpkin pie may have evolved from the century's long practice of removing the top of a pumpkin, straining out the seeds and more stringy flesh, adding milk, honey and spices and baking it for hours in hot coals. Today, we continue to enjoy pumpkin pie, but mainly as a holiday treat.

When carving pumpkins became more and more trendy, breeders concentrated their efforts on large, elongated, hard-skinned and sturdy pumpkins, in other words, those that would lend themselves best to a spooky face. These, however, may not be the most satisfying to our taste

buds.

The smaller, "sugar-type" pumpkin is more appetizing in texture and taste.

Many of you already know that pumpkins are good for you too! The dark orange color of the flesh is a giveaway that, just like carrots, yams and winter squash, the pumpkin is packed with beta carotene, the precursor to vitamin A.

Researchers have long been touting the benefits of beta carotene to ward off infection and some types of cancer. It may also slow the aging process.

Besides that, pumpkins contain a healthy dose of potassium and fiber, are low in sodium and are fat free. Incidentally, pumpkin seeds when consumed regularly have shown to keep the prostate healthy.

They also contain a healthy dose of magnesium.

Did you ever wonder where the tradition of carving Jack-o'-Lanterns originated? It is thanks in part to an Irish folk tale of Stingy Jack, an unsavory figure who unwelcome in Heaven, outsmarted the devil and was left to roam the earth with only a burning coal to light his way. According to the legend, Jack put the coal in a carved out turnip (which he was fond of stealing!) and has been roaming ever since.

"Jack of the Lantern" has become simply "Jack-o'-Lantern." In Scotland and Ireland people made their own Jack-o'-Lanterns out of turnips or potatoes. In England, large beets were used. The tradition came with the immigrants to America; here they found the pumpkin perfect for carving. And so it has continued! Maybe I will have to carve one myself, just for old time's sake.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.*



## Should I take Social Security now or at age 70?

Dear Rusty:  
I was born in April 1958 and my plan has been to take my Social Security at age 70.

However, my sister-in-law says that it is smarter to take it now while I am still working. I will be 70 in 2.5 years. Her husband collects his SS and has kept working. She believes their strategy will net more money than mine due to the fact he has continued to pay into the system and she believes it has super boosted his monthly benefit. What say you? BTW, Lord willing and the creek don't rise I plan on living at least till 87.

Signed: Questioning My Plan

Dear Questioning:  
You have already reached your SS Full Retirement Age, so you can earn as much as possible without your SS benefit being negatively affected by Social Security's Annual Earnings Test. In fact, if your current earnings are among the highest over your lifetime, your SS benefit amount will continue to increase because of your higher current earnings. You are now also earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which will improve your monthly amount by 6.7% for each month (8% for each full year) you delay. That means that if you wait and claim at 70 you will get about 127% of what you would have gotten had you claimed at your FRA of 66 years and 8 months plus you'll also get all COLA increases which occur between now and then. So your life expectancy is key.

It usually takes about 12 years to break even money wise by claiming at age 70 vs. at FRA. In other words, if you claim at 70 instead of FRA, you'll have re-



ceived the same amount of SS money after you are 82. Thus, if your life expectancy is greater than age 82, you'll get more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting until 70 to claim. Of course, no one really knows how long they will live, so it is a judgment you need to make. "Average" life expectancy for a man your current age is about age 84, but if you'd like to get a more personalized longevity estimate you can use this tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/>

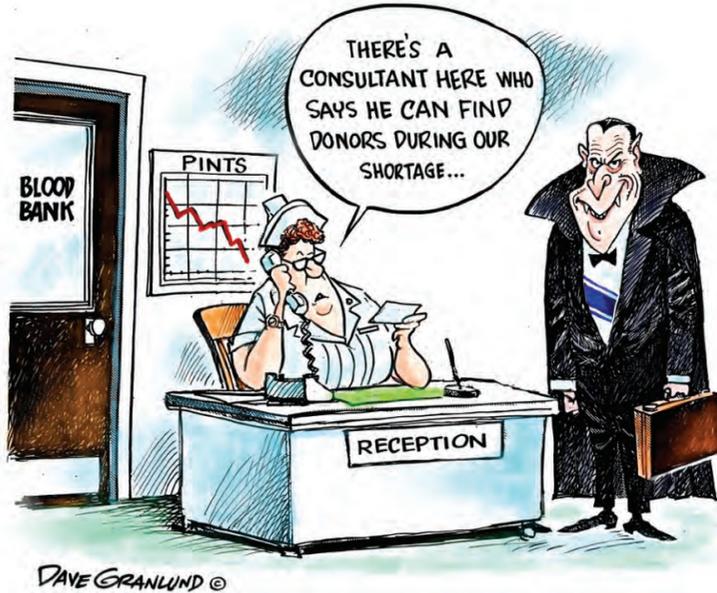
Another thing to keep in mind is whether your wife will get a widow's benefit if you die first. A widow will get the higher of either her own SS retirement benefit or the husband's benefit amount when he died. So, if you claim at age 70, your surviving spouse will benefit if her own SS is smaller because you waited until 70 for your higher SS amount. Just something else to keep in mind.

Yet another is whether your wife will be entitled to a higher benefit as your spouse while you are both living. FYI, a spouse will get a "spousal boost" if her own SS retirement benefit at FRA is less than 50% of her spouse's FRA entitlement. If so, your wife cannot claim her spousal benefit until you take your own SS retirement benefit. If your wife will be entitled to more as your spouse while you are both living, then delaying until age 70 means your wife cannot collect her higher spousal amount until you claim. Depending on your financial needs as a couple, that may affect your decision as well.

When to claim is always a judgment call which should consider your life expectancy, your financial needs and your marital status. If you don't need the SS money now while you are working and believe you will, indeed, live "at least till 87," then waiting would likely be your best long-term decision. If you have doubts about your life expectancy, and/or if your wife will substantially benefit from a "spousal boost" if you claim earlier, then claiming now would also be a wise choice.

Finally, it's also important to understand that your SS benefits may be taxable by the IRS and, if you are still working, your IRS tax rate will likely be higher now than it would be after you retire from working. Note: The so-called "one big, beautiful bill" provides only temporary tax relief (thru 2028) on SS benefits - the IRS will still tax SS benefits but also allow a separate tax deduction to offset those SS taxes you pay.

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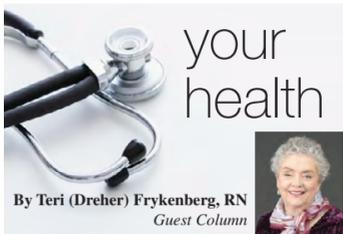


## "Falling back" to a season of change

It's not just the leaves that change in autumn. We do, too.

Our bodies naturally change with the seasons, as the hours of sunlight, temperatures and humidity fluctuate. In our fast-paced modern world, we are tempted to ignore these seasonal signals, enabled as we are by artificial lighting, indoor climate control and the year-round availability of many foods. (Strawberries in January? Really?)

Let's look at some of the ways our bodies adjust to fall, and a few ways you can perhaps enhance wellbeing by



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

paying attention to them.

Sleep disruptions

The hours of sunlight gradually become fewer after the summer equinox, and then there's the jarring change when we turn our clocks back in November. The politicians have haggled for years whether "falling back" is still necessary, as it requires students to get up while it's still dark, and sunset comes ever earlier.

The effects on our bodies are profound. With less exposure to natural light, we sleep more, which can affect mood, focus, memory and energy. Later sunrises might make it harder to get out of bed in the morning, and daytime drowsiness becomes more frequent.

Less physical activity

Chilly mornings and earlier darkness may make us less likely to get that morning or evening walk in. We sit and watch football, eating nachos and drinking beer, rather than get outside ourselves. All of this can lead to weight gain, which also affects mood.

More frequent illnesses

As we are indoors more, we are exposed to more viruses, bacteria and allergens, and that's why flu, COVID, colds and allergies come on more

frequently. Drier air also has an impact, as it dries up our nasal mucous, which is designed to trap viruses, and lets those viruses in more easily. Drier noses may also bring on more nosebleeds.

Other changes

Researchers have found that people lose more hair in the autumn than in spring or summer, probably having to do with hormonal fluctuations.

Those hormones may also go to work on the libido - more babies are conceived in November and December than at any other time of the year, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One theory is that sperm quality is better in winter, but of course we're also spending longer

nights in bed.

Anxiety can be heightened, associated with the rigors of schoolwork and planning for the upcoming holidays.

And, of course, dry skin becomes more of a problem in the fall, when indoor humidity drops.

A few tips:

Get more sunlight: More exposure to sunlight increases Vitamin D, serotonin and dopamine (the feel-good brain chemicals). In particular, morning sunlight helps our bodies sync our circadian rhythms with the season, which in turn helps us sleep better at night. It can also counteract the effects of the blue light emanating from our computers, tablets and

See HEALTH PAGE 5

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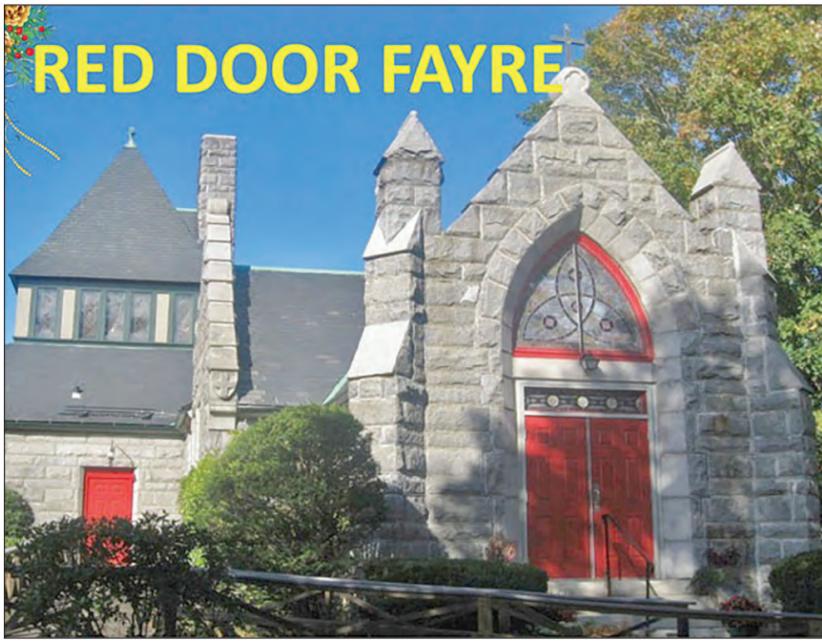
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# - community -



Christ Memorial Episcopal Church will host its Red Door Fayre on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

## Red Door Fayre will be held Nov. 8

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will host its Red Door Fayre on

Saturday, Nov. 8th, 9:30-2:00.

There will be raffles, an Exquisite Table, Christmas Table, craft table,

bake table, pies and interior plants. A homemade luncheon of soups, sandwiches and apple crisp will be available.

## New Braintree welcomes the holiday season

**NEW BRAINTREE** – New Braintree is kicking off the holiday season with its “Christmas in New Braintree” on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The event will include a craft fair hosted by the Tri Parish Community Church from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the New Braintree Grade School and Town Hall, both located

on Memorial Drive, photos with Santa from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and crafts for children.

The New Braintree Congregational Church will be holding its traditional cookie sale and cafe during the craft fair.

The New Braintree Historical Society will be hosting a Holiday Open House at the museum at 10 Utley

Road from 4:30-6:30 p.m., and there will be a town tree lighting ceremony at the town hall to bring an end to the festivities. All are welcome.

Anyone who would like to participate as a vendor or volunteer please contact Bonnie St. Cyr at 443-835-7530 or [bonniestcyr@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniestcyr@yahoo.com).

## First ever poetry contest open to Worcester County residents

**SOUTHBRIDGE** – The Jacob Edward Annual Poetry Contest: The Bill Tremblay Poetry Prize is open to all members, Worcester County current and former residents and students, and employees of Worcester County businesses.

Winning poems and poets are honored with a winners’ reading, including a brief reading by Bill Tremblay, to be held on Jan. 29, 2026.

To enter the Jacob Edward Library annual poetry contest, you must be either a resident of Worcester County, or a student or employee of institutions within Worcester County. First Place winners of previous JEL annual poetry contests are not eligible to enter.

Submissions will open on Oct. 1 and close on Nov. 28 for the inaugural Annual Contest. No poems will be

considered with a postmark later than Nov. 28.

### Contest guidelines

Poems must be the entrant’s original work in English and must not be previously published. Poems composed using AI will not be accepted.

Submit no more than three poems in any form.

Paper submissions must not be stapled or attached in any way and poems must be formatted for 8 1/2 inch x 11 inch paper.

Do not put your name on the individual poems; entrants will be judged anonymously. Include a cover sheet with your name, address, telephone number, email address, and the title of each poem.

Submissions should be mailed to: Bill Tremblay Poetry Prize, c/o Jacob Edwards Library, 236 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550

Submissions will not be returned.

Winners will be listed on the JEL website and announced via the library’s Instagram and Facebook pages.

### Entry fee

There is a modest entry fee of \$10 to submit. Checks or money orders only made out to the Jacob Edwards Library, please. Please note the submission or the contest fee on the check or money order.

### Judging and awards

First Place is a \$100 prize; Second Place, \$75; and Third Place, \$50. Winning poets will also receive a signed copy of Bill Tremblay’s book, “Southbridge: My Triggering Town”.

Contest winners will be announced in December 2025. The Winners’ Reading & Award Reception will be on Jan. 29, 2026 at the Jacob Edwards Library, at 6:30 p.m.

## Wings of Song hosts 6th Fall Auction

**STURBRIDGE** – Wings of Song, is sponsoring a fund-raising auction on Saturday Nov. 8 at the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale, 8 Maple St.

A preview of the items will be at 6:30 p.m. and the Auction will run from 7-9 p.m. Light refreshments and musical entertainment will be performed by Wings of Song and several other local ensembles.

Admission is free, and bidding paddles will be available

at the door. Proceeds will help Wings of Song continue making wonderful music for you.

Join Wings of Song in the entertainment, the excitement of a live auction and the opportunity to bid on high-quality items, gift certificates and services from popular retailers and venues. Donations range from sporting equipment, musical instruments, collectible, antiques, handmade crafts and baked goods.

You might leave with a new treasure, a laptop, mandolin, wine decanter or a holiday performance by a Barbershop Quartet.

Wings of Song is a community chorus that has been performing in the greater Sturbridge and Southbridge area for over 25 years. The band of 60 singers is comprised of mostly highly skilled amateurs with a few seasoned

**See FALL AUCTION PAGE 6**

### SELECT BOARD FROM PAGE 1

entrapment occurred in the elevator over the weekend, which is being addressed by the elevator manufacturer.

“That is getting fixed as we speak,” he said.

Jalbert said the Police Department is also getting a shower replacement.

Future projects include repairing the exterior trim of the Town Hall, Center Office Building and Library. Carpet will also be replaced at the Center Officer Building.

### Change of job title

Blakeley said the DPW was not getting a lot of interest in the role under its current title, Permit and Engineering Technician. She

asked the Select Board to change the title to Assistant DPW Director.

“We’re hoping that this can drum up a little more interest in the position,” she said.

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said the title change does not change the job description or grade.

The Select Board voted to change the job title to Assistant DPW Director.

### Appointments

The Select Board appointed Shelly Harris to serve as a full-time Dispatcher for the Police Department.

Harris has an extensive background in dispatch, recently serving the UMass Memorial Hospital Police

Department. She also had 16 years working for the Austin, Texas Police Department.

Harris has an associate’s degree in human resources and has experience working in customer service.

Full-time Dispatcher Leah Corriveau has decided to take a position in the private sector, but requested to remain with the department in a part-time role. The Select Board approved the appointment from full-time to part-time.

The Select Board reappointed Reed Hillman to the Personnel Classification & Policy Committee with a term to expire July 4, 2028.

### Contract approvals

The Select Board authorized Grimm to sign an agreement with Morse Engineering and Construction Industries, LLC for engineering, design and permitting for the next 700 feet into the Grand Trunk Trail from the Riverlands property in the amount of \$34,250.

The board members also authorized Conservation Agent Lauren Vivier to execute a contract with Conservation Works to develop a master plan for the Plimpton property in the amount of \$19,600. Vivier said the town had voted to allocate \$25,000 at a 2023 town meeting in order to complete the master plan.

She said Opacum Land

Trust holds a conservation restriction on the property.

### Dock permitting

The Select Board voted in favor of accepting an amended temporary dock policy to remove specific permitting requirements.

Grimm said nothing is changing with the dock regulations, but the amended policy no longer has the town actively seeking residents to come in and receive permits for temporary docks.

“If anybody does anything that is out of the regulations, we ask that they come in for a special variance for that,” she said.

Grimm said the town would still be responding to complaints reported about temporary docks.

ADA self-evaluation and transition plan

Grimm asked the Select Board to formally adopt the Americans with Disabilities Act’s self-evaluation and transition plan. She said it has been about 15 years since the town adopted one.

The Select Board voted to adopt the plan.

Grimm said she also needs residents with disabilities to join the ADA Commission.

### HEALTH FROM PAGE 4

phones.

Put your senses to work: Feel the colder air on your cheeks, listen to the leaves crunching under your feet and smell the changes in the air. Smell the crisp air, and perhaps experiment with some aromatherapy scents indoors – eucalyptus, cardamom, lavender – to elevate mood and tamp down anxiety.

Take care of your skin: Amp up your use of moisturizers, turn off the dehumidifier and avoid long, hot showers and baths. Treating your skin kindly now will help as we head into the even drier winter months.

Try some “fall foods”: Eating vitamin-rich vegetables now will help you fight off winter illnesses. Good choices include squashes (pumpkin, butternut, acorn and the like);

green leafy spinach and arugula; and cruciferous veggies like kale, broccoli and cauliflower.

Entertain yourself: Even in the Middle Ages, people enjoyed indoor games like chess, as well as outdoor activities and fall fetes.

As the saying goes, to everything there is a season. Making a few changes in your routines and habits can help you feel better this fall.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate and founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at [Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com)

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**Paula Ouimette**  
**Editor**  
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# - community -

## DESE lists MCAS results for 2025

BOSTON – The Department of Elementary and Secondary Schools listed the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test results for 2025.

A chart listed below showed local school districts scores. Brookfield scored above the state average in all three categories. They scored 502 in English Language Arts, 510 in math and science. They also had a high percentage of participation with 100% in ELA and 97% for math and 99% for science.

The Spencer – East Brookfield scored above the state average with 682 in ELA and 670 in math. However, their participation percentage was 22% and 20% respectively. Their science score was below the state average at 238 with 25% participation.

Quabbin, Quaboag, Sturbridge and Ware all scored below the state average in all three categories, which was 494 for English Language Arts, 494 math and 494 science. Of the five schools Quabbin scored the highest for ELA 491, then Ware at 489, Quaboag at 486, North Brookfield at 483 and Sturbridge at 472. In math, Quabbin scored the highest at 489, Quaboag and Ware both scored 488 North Brookfield at 486 and Sturbridge at 472.

In science Quabbin also placed the highest at 492, Quaboag 485, North Brookfield 482, Ware 167 and Sturbridge at 136. DESE listed the number and percentage of local students meeting or exceeding expectations. Brookfield had 72 or 45% students meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 83 or 52% in math and 27. North Brookfield

had 43 students or 19% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 48 or 22% in math and 16 or 21% in science. Quabbin had 353 students or 36% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 297 or 30% students meeting or exceeding expectations and in math 121 or 37% and science 27 or 73%.

Quaboag had 137 or 26% of students meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 165 students or 31% in math and 47 or 27% in science. Spencer – East Brookfield had 151 or 22% of students meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 134 or 20% in math and 68 or 29% in science. Sturbridge had 44 or 99% of students meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA. Ware had 143 or 29% of students meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 113 or 23% in math and 57 or 34% in science

North Brookfield, Ware 167 and Sturbridge at 136.

DESE listed the number and percentage of local students meeting or exceeding expectations. Brookfield had 72 or 45% students meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 83 or 52% in math and 27. North Brookfield

### Chart School Districts 2025 MCAS

| School                  | Subject | #Students | % Participation | Avg Scaled Score |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|
| Brookfield              | ELA     | 159       | 100%            | 502              |
|                         | Math    | 37        | 97%             | 510              |
|                         | Science | 2,920     | 99%             | 510              |
| North Brookfield        | ELA     | 221       | 99%             | 483              |
|                         | Math    | 218       | 98%             | 486              |
|                         | Science | 77        | 482             |                  |
| Quabbin                 | ELA     | 989       | 99%             | 491              |
|                         | Math    | 989       | 99%             | 489              |
|                         | Science | 327       | 99%             | 492              |
| Quaboag                 | ELA     | 537       | 99%             | 486              |
|                         | Math    | 536       | 99%             | 488              |
|                         | Science | 173       | 99%             | 485              |
| Spencer–East Brookfield | ELA     | 188       | 28%             | 682              |
|                         | Math    | 182       | 27%             | 670              |
|                         | Science | 60        | 25%             | 238              |
| Sturbridge              | ELA     | 44        | 9%              | 472              |
|                         | Math    | 48        | 10%             | 472              |
|                         | Science | 13        | 10%             | 136              |
| Ware                    | ELA     | 127       | 26%             | 489              |
|                         | Math    | 125       | 26%             | 488              |
|                         | Science | 36        | 22%             | 167              |
| State totals            | ELA     | 396,309   | 99%             | 494              |
|                         | Math    | 396,348   | 99%             | 494              |
|                         | Science | 132,011   | 98%             | 494              |

## Local students earn Dean's List at WSU

WORCESTER – Worcester State University recognized students who earned the rank of Dean's List for the spring semester.

To qualify for the Dean's List, full- and part-time students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or better for the semester. Courses taken on a pass/fail basis are excluded from the GPA calculation.

Full-time students must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 graded credits. Part-time day and evening students must have an academic load of a minimum of six graded credit hours.

Local student's named to the Dean's List include:

**Brookfield**  
Ileana Bernier, Theatre; Connor Dufault, Biology; Noah Genest, Business Administration; and Kelsie Lucas, Business Administration.

**East Brookfield**  
Emily Anderson, Computer Science; Erin Do-

nahue, Early Childhood Education; Francesca Giorgio, Psychology; Timothy Paine, Business Administration; Megan Shea, Occupational Studies; and Quinn Trumbull-Olsen, Mathematics.

**Fiskdale**  
Carina Holt, Biology; Liam O'Brien, Business Administration; Meaghan Stearns, English; and Caleb Thompson, Business Administration.

**New Braintree**  
Lauren Olson, Early Childhood Education.

**North Brookfield**  
John Ford, Computer Science; Jessica Frigo, Early Childhood Education; Lily Gianfriddo, Early Childhood Education; Christopher Halvorsen, English; Sophia Hearnlaye, Communication Disorders; Nason Omasta, Computer Science; and Roan Testa, English/Theatre.

**Sturbridge**  
Ian Anderson, Business

Administration/Art; Luke Boisvert, Public Health; Ashley Cooper, Education Studies/Psychology; Madison Dungey, Psychology; Ava Edwards, Business Administration; Isabel Mediavilla, Elementary Education; Katerina Pacheco Wolf, Biology/Theatre; Maxwell Passarelli, Environmental Science; Alexander Ramos, Spanish; Courtney Roy, Early Childhood Education; Savannah Russell, Early Childhood Education; and Sophie Werner, Mathematics.

**West Brookfield**  
Andrew Araujo, Computer Science; Elias Berthel, Biotechnology; Paige Dion, Elementary Education; Laine Hatstat, Political Science; Emilio Herrie, Psychology; Hannah Manzano, Occupational Studies; Sarah Niedzialkoski, Psychology; and Aimee Stolgitis, Communication Disorders.

### MISSION TRIP FROM PAGE 1

November. What got Kane involved came from him following the ongoing conflict that is happening Ukraine that started back in 2022.

Witnessing a lot of the suffering of innocent women and children gave Kane the feeling that he could do something to help. Kane began searching for organizations and found S.O.N.G., Inc., which is based in Brookfield.

His parents knew Wally Connor, and they soon connected and Kane was able to join the organization.

During the mission trip, Kane said he will be traveling all over western cities in Ukraine. Kane will be providing support and direct aid to orphanages and youth programs for kids in Ukraine. Working with Connor, Kane said he is well "connected with the mission and the cause."

Wanting to do as much as possible to help, Kane is dedicated to going on this mission trip and support the orphaned children during the Ukraine conflict.

"I can go over there, I can help," Kane said.

While he is there, Kane will be assessing what aid is required.

The trip will consist of delivering and distributing supportive aids throughout the region and helping with day-to-day activities. These daily activities will be held at orphanages and Kane will assist during programs to help boost happiness and quality of life.

The goal is to help provide these kids with a better

life and a chance to succeed in trying times.

This is Kane's first mission trip and has helped raise thousands of dollars over the last couple of weeks to further support S.O.N.G., Inc. and its mission. Kane will be in Ukraine throughout the month of November and hopes to help as many kids as possible.

After this trip, Kane knows there will be more work to do to help support the children of Ukraine. This is his first mission trip, but he said it will not be his last.

Kane finds this trip highly important and will actively help change the lives of these kids and give them opportunities to help ensure a more successful and productive future.

In the past, Kane has participated in soup kitchens, food drives and fundraisers. Kane recalled helping during a disaster clean up in 2011 when a tornado came through western and central Massachusetts.

Connor's first trip to Ukraine was in 2022, the same year the conflict started.

S.O.N.G., Inc. has also worked with Aerial Recovery out of Nashville, Tennessee. This organization provides support for children and people in disaster areas. Aerial Recovery responds to natural and man-made disasters globally by providing rapid assessments, search and rescue, medical aid and emergency supplies.

S.O.N.G., Inc. has also worked with New Horizons for Children, and has

provided support to over 1,000 orphaned children, who were able to be in safe havens in western Ukraine.

Overall, through S.O.N.G., Inc., they have supported around 5,000 people, including orphaned children. S.O.N.G., Inc. continues to support shelters and safe havens and with regular visits, they are able to bring love, hope and joy to these children.

The S.O.N.G., Inc. team will provide clinical support such as food, clothing, medical supplies, comfort and companionship for children in orphanages and shelters and educational and wellness programs that give kids a chance at a brighter future.

To support S.O.N.G., Inc. and its mission, donations are accepted online at [www.supportingorphans.org](http://www.supportingorphans.org). Organizations can do various fundraisers while working with S.O.N.G., Inc. In the past there have been music festivals, concerts, entertainment, dinners, raffles, calendar raffles and other fundraising related events.

Connor says S.O.N.G., Inc. is dedicated to continuing its mission and supporting children in need.

"We're happy that we're still able to provide support for the children in need," Connor said. "Very grateful for all the people over the years who have supported us."

More information about Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally can be found at [www.supportingorphans.org](http://www.supportingorphans.org). Contact S.O.N.G., Inc. by emailing [info@supportingorphans.org](mailto:info@supportingorphans.org) or calling 413-813-8100.

### FALL AUCTION FROM PAGE 5

professionals mixed in.

Director, Nym Cooke is a scholar of early American sacred music, conductor, arranger and retired college

professor. He is the very affordable treasure to the chorus in its seasonal preparations.

This season's theme is "Night, Moon, Stars". In addition to pieces composed by three of our current

members, there'll be country gospel music, French Baroque music, rural English music, late-Romantic German music, native American music, Danish Christmas music, and more -- including two pieces composed or arranged by John Rutter. (Don't worry--all the texts we'll be singing are English-language.)

Of the 23 pieces on the program, five compositions or arrangements will be world premieres. It's not every community chorus that offers fare as distinctive as this.

Performance dates are Saturday evening, Dec. 13 and Sunday afternoon, Dec. 14. There is no charge for admission. Free will donations are encouraged.

For more information, making a donation or becoming a Friend of the Chorus, visit [wingsofsong.com](http://wingsofsong.com).

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## - community -

### APPLES FROM PAGE 1

as “grafting”. This process is transferring a scion, containing one or more buds, into a stock or limb, by which the buds grow from a tree.

There were illustrations of various versions of grafting from Samuel Cole’s fruit book. The styles of grafting include splice, budding and cleft.

The next apple to sample was a Cox Orange Pippin, which comes from England around the 1830s. This apple is considered the grandparent of the Gala. The taste is considered sweet like a McIntosh and has a soft crunch.

Next apple to taste was a Black Gilliflower, or known by its other name, “Sheepnose.” The name comes from the unique shape of the apple. The Sheepnose came from Connecticut back in the late 1700s.

The next apple was a Golden Russet, which came from 18<sup>th</sup> century, but its origin is uncertain to this day. This apple had a hard bite, and the taste was a bit tart.

Another older apple that originated from New England is the Rhode Island Greening, circa 1650. Many residents at the West Brookfield Senior Center scored this apple with a high grade of five and thought it was very crisp.

The next apple is a



A presentation of historic New England apples took place at the West Brookfield Senior Center. Guests got to try some samples of these apples.

TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Northern Spy, an apple known for being big in size. Higginbottom said this type of apple is a favorite when it comes to baking pies. This apple was founded in East Bloomfield, New York in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The taste was crisp and sweet.

The last apple to taste was the Esopus Spitzenburg, named after where it originated, Esopus, New York. The name also came from the Spitzenburg apple orchard.

This apple from the 1700s was President Thomas Jefferson’s favorite apple. Jefferson ordered 12 trees to be planted back in 1790.

The apples for tasting were grown at Clarkdale Fruit Farms in Deerfield, and from Nashoba Valley Winery Orchard in Bolton.

Higginbottom ended the presentation with a quote from Amelia Simmons. Everyone thanked Higginbottom for her presentation, “An Infinite Variety of Fruit: Historic New England Apples.”

Palo, who grew up in West Brookfield, was first introduced to silversmithing when she was in high school and a forging class really inspired her love for metalwork.

This year, Palo is bringing her collection of pearl jewelry which she calls “Not Your Grandmother’s Pearls.”

Palo said she has a passion for pearls, but not necessarily the graduated strand of white pearls in a necklace worn around her neck.

“Just different things,” she said. “I have different shaped pearls just to mix it up...you don’t know what you’ll get [with pearls]; that is truly the beauty of them.”

Palo said she even has “peanut pearls,” which are green in color and shaped like peanuts and one of her featured pieces of jewelry has a Keshi pearl.

“It’s very irregular. It’s just fun,” she said.

Palo’s signature piece of jewelry that she makes is the bangle bracelet, which comes in a variety of styles and metals.

“I myself wear a lot of them,” she said. “I love to hear the jingle of them.”

Palo shared that when her son was a young child, she wore a big charm bracelet and he would listen to the sound of it and always knew where she was.

Palo is also known for mixing metals, and this year’s show will feature a corrugated metal necklace made with copper, brass and sterling silver. She said this necklace is the showpiece of her collection.

“I grew up in a generation where people said ‘you can’t mix metals.’ The rules are all changed for jewelry. You wear what you like. I love the contrast you get from the different metals,” Palo said.

Upcoming shows and events

Following the 3rd Annual Jewelry Show, West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery will host the 9th annual Holiday Group Show featuring gallery artists opening on Friday, Dec. 5 from 5-7 p.m.

For more information, call the gallery at 508-753-8604, email yafaceber@hotmail.com, visit west-

brookfieldartandframe.com or stop by the gallery during open hours, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

## Blood or platelet donation appointments needed now

WORCESTER – The American Red Cross urges donors to give blood or platelets now to help curb a drop in donor turnout this fall.

Donors of all blood types and those giving platelets are asked to book a time to donate at a Red Cross blood donation center or community blood drive to help give hospitals the tools they need to care for patients ahead of the holidays.

To say thank you, all who come to give now through Nov. 16, will get \$20 in e-gift cards to a choice of merchant, plus automatic entry for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 prizes. See [RedCrossBlood.org/Harvest](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Harvest).

Schedule a time to give blood or platelets by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

### Enhance community health

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. Understanding our own health is the foundation for helping prevent chronic illness and saving lives.

Blood and platelet donations can be a part of that journey. To help empower and educate our blood donors, in November, successful donations will get free A1C testing, commonly used to screen for prediabetes and diabetes. (One test result in 12-month period; do not fast before donat-

ing).

Listed are the upcoming blood donation opportunities at the Worcester Blood Donation Center, 381 Plantation St., from Nov. 1-16: Nov. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Nov. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12 from 12:15-7:15 p.m.; and Nov. 6 and 13 from 11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

### How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.

High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day

of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) or use the Blood Donor App.

Amplify your impact by volunteering

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross is to become a volunteer blood donor ambassador at Red Cross blood drives. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience.

Volunteers can also serve as transportation specialists, playing a vital role in ensuring lifesaving blood products are delivered to nearby hospitals. For more information and to apply for either position visit [redcross.org/volunteertoday](http://redcross.org/volunteertoday). About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission.

For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [CruzRojaAmericana.org](http://CruzRojaAmericana.org), or follow on social media.

### JEWELRY FROM PAGE 1

She said that silver has seen an increase in popularity recently amongst people buying jewelry.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

These earrings were made by jewelry artist Gathe Palo.

Goldwater is also utilizing the ancient Korean technique of Keum boo, fusing 24-karat gold leaf to silver, creating a more affordable option for jewelry buyers.

“It’s very elegant, it’s very dramatic,” she said. “You get to make something much more posh at a lesser cost.”

Goldwater has also taken classes on stone cutting and polishing, and noted how many rocks looks very different when wet versus dry, and how polishing can recreate the wet look.

Goldwater is also combining unusual stones that most people don’t see every day, including black and white rocks from a beach in Shelburne, Vermont that are from a geological deposit from Canada, and some small stones she found in the lower Bay of Fundy.

“When I went to Campobello Island,” Goldwater said. “It’s covered with beaches and the stones are different than the ones you find in Massachusetts.”

She said the focus of her jewelry making is to be “more organic and less organized.”

“Some people like to make the same thing over and over, and I’m not that person,” Goldwater said.

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- community -

# Workshop13 presented 'Different Ships, Same Boat'

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Workshop13 Cultural Arts & Learning Center proudly showcased "Different Ships, Same Boat" this past week.

This show is an interactive, multidisciplinary performance blending the spoken word, music, and song to explore many ways Americans live, love and laugh. The show is guided by Regie Gibson and composer Guy Mendilow, who created and directed this performance.

This performance came to Workshop13 thanks to a

New England state's touring grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts. In collaboration with six other arts centers in New England, Workshop13 had the pleasure of hosting this great event, "Different Ships, Same Boat".

This show took the Workshop13 audience on a journey through humorous and poignant true stories set to an evocative score of blues, classical, and folk traditions.

Gibson, as the storyteller, describes this presentation as "a nation on a journey" and soon would be joined by Mendilow and other talented musicians,

who provide the soundtrack to these inspiring stories.

The show consisted of five chapters with intriguing titles. The first was called "Sit Down, Children", and featured a combination of speech and song.

The poetic voice of Gibson grabbed the audience's attention as the background music was effective as Gibson continued to tell the tale. The audience participated in the show by clapping and singing along with Gibson.

Gibson is a poet, performer, and educator whose work consists of literature, music and social engagement. He is a National Po-

etry Slam Champion and inaugural Poet Laureate of Massachusetts.

Gibson has performed and lectured across the U.S., Cuba and Europe and has countless stage and musical works. He teaches at Berklee College of Music and Clark University. Gibson serves as the Co-Artistic Director of Arts for Social Cohesion.

Mendilow has been writing, directing, and performing in original, nationally touring productions since 1998. During the show, Mendilow played guitar, piano, and would sing and narrate.

The Guy Mendilow Ensemble creates original,

multimedia performances and immersive residencies that blend music, story, and visual art to explore real life stories.

Gibson and Mendilow were joined by Courtney Swain, who played bass guitar and Chris Baum, a violinist. Each performer did their part to bring the entire show together.

Each chapter told a story, which came from real people who have faced the best and the worst of humanity.

The instrumental music was first class, and the stories were all inspiring. Baum had a spectacular violin solo during one of the chapters. The titles of each

chapter really said it all and were incorporated into the speech and song by Gibson and Mendilow Ensemble.

The last chapter was called, "We All May Have Come on Different Ships, But We're in the Same Boat Now". This final chapter consisted of three different stories. Combined, the stories spanned nearly 300 years, from the 1700s to today.

These stories are from people who come from all over the world and are incorporated into speech and song.

As the nation commemorates

See DIFFERENT SHIPS  
PAGE 10

CANDIDATES  
FROM PAGE 1

point a Town Administrator on Oct. 27 at 3:30 p.m.

STRAP grant

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said at a previous meeting the board voted against accepting a Small Town Rural Assistant Program grant due to confusion about the need for matching funds and possible interference with the Department of Transportation's municipal paving project.

He said he spoke to an

employee from the DOT about the grant and learned the town can go through the contract process without paying the matching funds until a contract is signed. He said it is also possible that the town will not be required to pay the matching funds.

Petraitis said the board will still be able to decline acceptance of the grant before a contract is signed, in the event matching funds are needed. He said the board also needs to appoint someone to manage the grant, in order to move forward.

The board members voted to accept the grant and appointed Petraitis to be the administrator of the grant.

New police chief

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Jamie Gilman thanked everyone who attended the office hours he held to receive feedback from the community about hiring the Police Department's next Police Chief following the departure of Mark Smith.

"The people of North Brookfield have spoken," he said.

Gilman said more than 95% of residents he met with wanted to hire a candidate from within the department.

The board voted to post the Police Chief position internally.

Municipal paving project update

Gilman said the DOT has approved the municipal paving project from the town line in New Braintree to Spring Street. He said there is an official, signed agreement.

Gilman said due to the time of year the paving is

unlikely to happen this year. He said the completion date for the project is June 30, 2026.

"I would assume going into next year that we would be at the top of the list as to projects," he said.

Gilman said the municipal paving project is split into two phases and covers more than originally anticipated.

Website update

Administrative Assistant MaryBeth Kularski said they are waiting for final cost figures from two website server companies in order to update the town's website. She said a decision should be made at the board's next meeting.

Water and sewer billing

Water Department Superintendent Jamie Flaman and Sewer Department Superintendent Eric Cardenas both agreed that shifting to quarterly billing would be easier for utility users to pay. The board voted to move to quarterly billing, and combine the two utilities into one invoice.

The new billing model is expected to go into effect for July 2026. Invoices would be due July, October, January and April.

Cardenas said a public hearing on quarterly billing will be held after the New Year in 2026.

Grant application

Parks & Recreation Committee Chair Brandon Avery said the committee is looking into the Environment & Climate One Stop grant. He said this participating in the ECO One Stop grant program would reveal what types of grants are available to complete projects on the common.

Avery said some of the projects include the removal and planting of trees, removal of asphalt and seeding of grass.

"This is kind of the first step," he said.

Avery said he will return to the board to if grant funding is available.

COA formula grant

The board voted to approve a grant application for a state formula grant in the amount of \$20,270 to benefit the Council on Aging. Board of Selectmen Clerk Ralph Kay said there are no matching funds required for this annual grant.

Cemetery Commission update

The Cemetery Commission received a payment from the estate of Robert Salem in the amount \$4,312.74, which will go toward repaving the cemetery roads.

Highway Department report

Highway Superintendent Randy Morgan said the Highway Department paved several roads, including Town Farm, Donovan and lower south Fullam Hill. He said the reclaiming

of Hines Bridge, Stoddard and Walker roads will occur in the next week. He said a concrete pad has also been poured for a tank.

Morgan said catch basin repairs occurred in front of the liquor store and on Grant Street.

A drain was also repaired on an easement on Spring Street. The town's drain line, which passes through private property via an easement, was leaking onto that property.

Morgan said the department is working on vehicle repairs and maintenance in preparation for the winter season.

COA update

Kay said the Council on Aging has brought back Tri-Valley meals, effective Nov. 18.

He said the meals are \$3 for anyone over the age of 60 and \$6 for anyone under 60. Please contact the Senior Center to reserve a meal.

Kay said the COA is also contacting people who had expressed interest in volunteering at the Senior Center. The Senior Center's newsletter will also be printed in local newspapers to alert residents of upcoming activities and programs.

School building projects

Petraitis said the Building Inspector notified the board about projects that need to be completed at the school complex. One of these projects is the removal of the dugouts at the athletic field.

Petraitis said the Highway Department can remove the dugouts and they can be disposed of at the Recycling Center's demolition containers.

"It wouldn't cost the school any money," Petraitis said.

Petraitis said he has reached out to Superintendent Timothy McCormick regarding this project. School Committee Chair Matt Grant said they have discussed the removal of the dugouts and he will follow up with the board.

Petraitis said there are also trees at the end of New School Drive that need to be trimmed. This project will be completed by Verizon at no cost to the town.

After Verizon has completed this project, the Highway Department will complete wood chipping of small trees in that area that need to be removed.

Trick or Treating hours

Trick or Treating hours will be held town wide on Friday, Oct. 31 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Trunk or Treat will be held on the common at the same time.

Spending request

The board approved a spending request from the Fire Department in order to purchase a laptop computer. The department had budgeted to purchase one new computer this year.

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# SPORTS

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## Pioneers fall at home against Athol



**PALMER** – In its final game of the regular season, Pathfinder girls soccer was defeated by Athol High School. Athol took advantage of a depleted Pathfinder team that did not have a lot of depth on the bench. Athol would finish the game with a 5-0 win as Pathfinder fell to 4-9-2.

Jenna McKinnehy goes after the loose ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Amber Roman chases down a ball on defense



Evelyn Wood makes her way up the field.



Hannah Mellor winds up to clear the ball away.



Megan Clark advances past midfield.

## Lady Panthers suffer loss at Clinton

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

**CLINTON**—Falling behind early in the opening half is something that the Quabbin girls' varsity soccer team can't afford to do during the upcoming Division 3 state tournament.

The Lady Panthers, who conceded a pair of goals during the first ten minutes of last Tuesday night's road match against Mid-Wach D rival Clinton, suffered a 3-0 loss, which ended their three game winning streak.

"It was a little bit disappointing giving up the two goals at the start of the game," said Quabbin head coach John Gillis. "We played a little bit better as the first half went on and a lot better during the second half. They were able to put the ball into the net, and we couldn't in tonight's game."

Quabbin (8-5-1), who were shutout, 2-0, by the Lady Gaels at home on September 25, has already qualified for the Division 3 state tournament because they'll finish the regular season with a .500

record.

The Lady Panthers, who were ranked 53rd in the Division 3 power rankings, will be making an appearance in the post-season appearance for the first time since 2019. The state tournament is slated to begin on November 3.

"None of these players have ever played in the postseason tournament," Gillis said. "This was a big game for us, but we just came out flat at the start of the game. We struggled scoring goals last year, but we've scored more than 30 goals so far this season." The trio of senior Abi Falconi, junior Ailey Majo, and freshman Allie Lipiec have combined to score 17 goals of the Lady Panthers goals in the first 15 regular season matches.

The Lady Gaels (10-3-2), who celebrated their senior night, took a 1-0 lead during the third minute of the opening half when junior Molly Schoolcraft lined a shot from the top of the box over the head of Quabbin

See LADY PANTHERS PAGE 10

## Railers get first win in overtime

**NORFOLK, VA** — The Worcester Railers HC (1-3-0-0) beat the Norfolk Admirals (2-1-1-0) in their second match-up of the weekend on Saturday, October 25th with a final score of 3-2 in front of a crowd of 7,645 at the Norfolk Scope Arena. The Railer are back on the ice at the DCU Center on Friday, October 31st against the Reading Royals at 7:05 p.m.

The Admirals scored the first goal of the game at 0:56 into the second with an unassisted shot from Brady Fleurent (1-0-1). Worcester retaliated with a goal from Cole Donhauser (1-0-1) at 12:59, assisted by captain Anthony Repaci (0-1-1) to even the score. Norfolk closed the second period with a final goal from Justin Young (1-0-1)

at 18:17 to give Norfolk a lead heading into the third. Ryan Miotto (1-0-1) evened the score 2-2 for Worcester with a goal at 2:20 into the third, assisted by Riley Piercey (0-1-1). A final goal to break the tie in overtime came from Matt DeMelis (1-0-1), assisted by Michael Ferrandino (0-1-1) to win the game for Worcester.

Both teams came out swinging for their second matchup in Norfolk. Lincoln Hatten got into an early brawl with Admirals' Brayden Nicholets, each earning five minutes in the penalty box for fighting just three minutes into the first. Teammate Justin Young served Nicholets' penalty as he headed into the tunnel for a checkup on Norfolk medical staff. Worcester went on their first power

play of the game at 4:52, Norfolk's Marko Reifemberger took a turn in the box for holding a stick. No score for Worcester on the power play, but the Railers managed to gather up a bit of offensive zone time and apply some pressure on Worthington and the Norfolk net. No score from either side for the first. The Admirals went on their first power play of the game in the second half of the period, a slashing call on Max Dorrington at 11:26. Worcester managed to execute another successful penalty kill, their first of two of the period. The Railers went into the tunnel with a 0-0 score to close out the first. Worcester outshot Norfolk by one with a shot count of 10-9 for the

See RAILERS PAGE 10



Olivia Holmes sends the ball back the other way.

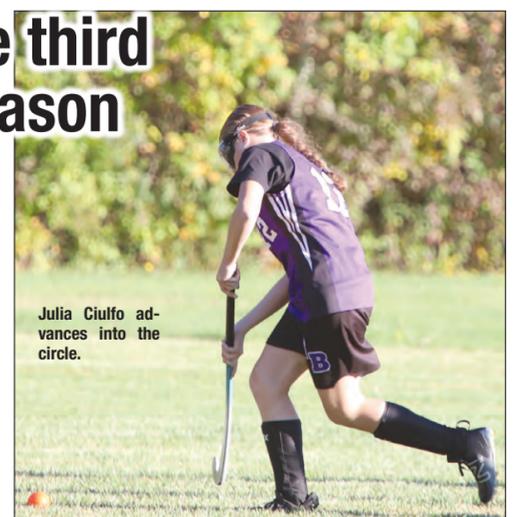


Noah Gilette takes a shot on goal.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## Indians score third win of the season

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Earlier this month, North Brookfield field hockey team picked up a much-needed win, a 3-0 shutout of Worcester Technical High School. The Indians led 1-0 at halftime and tacked on two more goals late. The Indians are 4-10 on the season as of this week and currently stand outside the top 32 in Division 4 state tournament rankings.



Julia Ciuffo advances into the circle.



Zoey Reardon receives the ball near midfield.



Kale McPartland tries to settle the bouncing ball.

## T-Birds fall at home to Wolf Pack

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-5-0-0) could not hold off a hungry Hartford Wolf Pack (2-4-0-0) squad in a 6-3 defeat on Saturday at the MassMutual Center in the second battle of the Braman Pest Control I-91 Rivalry Series.

From the onset of the game, the Wolf Pack, a night after getting shut out on home ice, peppered pucks on Georgi Romanov, with the T-Birds goalie standing tall to stop the first 13 tries that came his way.

The netminder's strong opening minutes allowed Springfield to get to the lead at 13:36 when Corey Schueneman squeezed a wrister through traffic and past Dylan Garand to

make it a 1-0 game.

A Wolf Pack power play quickly tipped the game on its head, though, as Brett Berard cashed in Hartford's first man-up goal in 15 tries at 16:15 to tie the game, 1-1. Blake Hillman followed 2:15 later with a back-post tap-in after a beautiful move by Bryce McConnell-Barker set up the chance. Hartford carried the 2-1 lead into the intermission after outshooting Springfield 17-4 in the opening period.

Unfortunately for Romanov and the T-Birds, things did not improve as the second period began, as Brendan Brisson crashed the net front and cashed in his own rebound at the 44-second mark of the period to extend the lead

to 3-1. Carey Terrance's second goal in two games against Springfield made it 4-1 at 2:09, and Gabe Perreault deflected a Justin Dowling shot home at 2:26, and in the blink of an eye, the Hartford lead grew to 5-1.

After a goaltending switch and a timeout, Springfield replied with Leo Loof potting his first career AHL goal at 3:39 to make it 5-2. Dalibor Dvorsky and Juraj Pekaric each assisted on Loof's goal, their second assists of the night.

The T-Birds could not pull any closer, though, as McConnell-Barker found the net after a fortuitous bounce on an odd-man

See T-BIRDS PAGE 10

- sports -

# College: Plymouth State spoils WSU's homecoming

WESTFIELD – Plymouth State QB Braden Lynn ran for two touchdowns and threw for one to offset a three touchdown-pass performance from Westfield's Miles Foerster, as the Panthers outlasted the Owls, 42-35 to spoil Westfield's homecoming on Saturday at Alumni Field.

Plymouth State improves to 6-1 overall and 5-1 in the MASCAC. Westfield is now 2-5 and 2-4 in the conference.

Westfield led 28-21 after a 10-yard TD run from Curtis Dion with 7:54 left in the third quarter.

Plymouth marched 65 yards on eight plays on the ensuing drive, capping the series with an 8-yard off tackle TD run from Reece Davis to tie the game at 28-all after Seamus Ross' extra point.

The Panthers caught a break on the next series, as the Owls fumbled and TJ Taveras recovered the ball at the Westfield 21-yard line, setting up a short field. Four plays later Lynn scrambled six yards on a bootleg to the left for the TD and a 35-28 Panthers lead.

Westfield was forced to punt after a third-down sack, and Plymouth again put together a long drive this time 82 yards in 10 plays, this one capped by a 9-yard TD scramble from Lynn for a 42-28 lead with 7:48 left in the game.

Westfield wasn't done, and after a 24-yard Brandon Paquette kickoff return set the Owls drive up at their own 40-yard line. Two plays later Foerster rolled left, then threw all the way back across the field to Aidan Patterson,

who caught the ball at the 34-yard line and scampered through traffic, all the way from the right side of the field back to the left, where Foerster, hustling on the play, threw the final block for Patterson to skip into the endzone untouched for a 66-yard completion and trimmed the lead to 42-35 after Andrew Currier's extra point with 6:03 left in the game.

But Plymouth was able to grind out the final six minutes of the game with a methodical 11-play, 62-yard drive with 10 straight running plays before the final kneel down.

Foerster finished 8-11 passing for 163 yards with three TD's. Patterson ran for 58 yards, and caught two passes for 71 yards. Westfield's Casey Tang caught four passes for 77 yards including a pair of

touchdown catches.

Andrew Lovell and Josh Marino led the Owls defense with 13 tackles each, and Marino added an interception with a 10 yard return.

For Plymouth, Lynn completed 10 of 16 throws for 144 yards with one touchdown and one interception. The Panthers rushed for 238 yards as a team, led by 129 yards from Reece David and 87 from Gregory Walker. Mitchell Cripps caught two passes for 84 yards. Taveras and Hunter Burke each made nine stops for the Panthers.

Westfield will be back in action at home next Saturday, hosting Mass Maritime at noon, which will also be the Owls senior day game before they close the year with two straight games on the road.

**LADY PANTHERS**  
FROM PAGE 9

senior goalie Kelsey Allen (8 saves) into the back of the net.

A couple of minutes later, senior Sofia Curley netted the Lady Gaels second goal following a corner kick.

Despite falling behind by two goals, Gillis thought his team still had a chance to make a comeback.

"A 2-0 lead is the worst

score in soccer," Gillis said. "If the trailing team scores a goal, the momentum usually changes very quickly. We did have a couple of chances."

With about ten minutes left in the first half, a shot attempt taken by Quabbin senior Bianca Wilder was deflected over the endline by Clinton senior goalie Reese Taylor resulting in a corner kick. Another shot by Falconi was saved by the Lady Gaels keeper. The Lady Panthers'

other two seniors are Anna Labrousse and Elizabeth Matheson.

"We graduated 12 seniors last year, but the five seniors on this year's team have been doing a very good job," Gillis said. "Not many people thought we would qualify for the state tournament, but everyone has picked up the slack. I'm hoping that our program continues to grow next year."

Quabbin's senior night was scheduled to be held

against Monty Tech on Tuesday night.

The Lady Panthers had several more scoring chances during the second half, but they failed to put the ball into the back of the net.

Clinton's third goal was scored by senior Zoey Morfis during the 72nd minute.

Two days later, the Lady Panthers got back into the win column by celebrating a 4-2 victory at Ayer-Shirley.

**RAILERS** FROM PAGE 9

first period. Both teams had two power play opportunities for the period.

The Admirals didn't wait long to score to start the second as Brady Fleurent (3rd) sank the first goal of the game for Norfolk at 0:56 unassisted. Fleurent stole the puck from a Railers forward and potted the shot past Henrik Tikkanen to make it 1-0. Worcester worked for a stretch of the

second to even the score. Cole Donhauser (2nd) finally broke through Alex Worthington with a goal at 12:59, as he sent a backhanded shot off the stick of Admirals' Brehdan Engum and over the shoulder of Worthington. The Admirals' Justin Young (1st) snuck a shot under the pads of Tikkanen from the left circle to give Norfolk a one-goal lead to finish the second (1-2). Worcester outshot Norfolk 15-10

in the frame. Neither team had any power plays or penalties for the second period.

A quick setup pass from Riley Piercey at just under two and a half minutes into the third allowed Ryan Mitto (1st) to even the game 2-2, adding another goal to Worcester's tally. The rest of the third showed end-to-end action from both teams, but the score stayed locked 2-2 as the Railers headed into their

first overtime of the season. The game-winning goal for Worcester came from Matt DeMelis (1st), set up with a pass from Michael Ferrandino, who nabbed the first win for Worcester at 4:34 into overtime. Worcester and Norfolk tied for shots 8-8 in the third. Worcester outshot Norfolk 6-1 in overtime. Worcester had one power play and Norfolk had one penalty in the third, a call against German Yavash for cross-checking.

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- El \_\_, Texas town
  - Rocker's tool
  - A lot
  - Traveling by ground
  - Spelling competition
  - Two-toed sloth
  - Small perfumed bag
  - "Much \_\_ about nothing"
  - Tough-skinned mollusk
  - Removes from record
  - It warms the planet
  - Leafy green
  - Quality of arriving favorably
  - Living thing
  - "Six of Crows" author Bardugo
  - Got around a rule
  - Resin from burned substance
  - Iraq seaport
  - Religious leaders
  - Fugitives are on it
  - Samson's influencer
  - Italian city
  - A quality of lacking interest
  - Predatory tropical fishes
  - Nobel physician Isodor
  - Luck
  - Stationary part of a motor or generator
  - Orthopedic
  - professional group (abbr.)
  - One point south of due east
  - It follows 79
  - Paper currency
  - Anger
  - Spanish seaport
  - Sleep in a rough place
  - Famous museum
  - Selves
- CLUES DOWN**
- Bullfighting maneuver
  - From a distance
  - Soul and calypso song
  - Expressions of delight
  - Lower in esteem
  - Inner region of an organ
  - Flowers
  - A bog
  - Remove a fastening
  - Membranes
  - Enormous
  - One who abstains from drink
  - Malayan wild ox
  - Type of student
  - Rejecting all moral principles
  - Sino-Soviet block
  - Egyptian unit of weight
  - Wrong
  - Make a mistake
  - Indicates location
  - Boxing's "GOAT"
  - Where wrestlers compete
  - Timid
  - Disney town
  - Suggesting the horror of death and decay
  - Male parent
  - Remove for good
  - Simple shoes
  - Flowers
  - Hindi courtesy title for a man
  - Not pleased
  - "Atlas Shrugged" author
  - CIA officer and writer
  - Hoodlum
  - Von Bismarck, \_\_
  - Woolen rugs

- community -

# 'The Unreal Thing'

*Tribute show fundraiser benefitted Tony Valley*

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Workshop13 hosted a tribute concert this past week to benefit a friend of the music community, Tony Valley.

The show was called "A Night for Tony Valley: A Tribute Concert Like No Other" and featured four tribute artists with an unforgettable tribute to music's greatest icons. The concert was to benefit Valley, who is going through cancer treatments.

One of Valley's friends in the music community, Amanada Meli said everyone at the show has a lot of hope and have come together to support a dear friend, who has done so much for other musicians and artists in the area.

"He was always here for the entire community," Meli said about Valley and the impact he has made on so many lives.

Valley is more than just a performer; he is a mentor and a big supporter of the music industry and those who were a part of it.

The idea of a tribute concert came from Charlie Lask, a singer-songwriter who is also a tribute artist for songs from legendary artists, Neil Diamond, Johnny Cash and Elvis. Soon the artists got a hold of Workshop13, and they were on board to host this tribute show to help support Valley and his fight.

Lask is known for doing Neil Diamond tribute shows and went as Diamond for the tribute concert at Workshop13. The last song of the evening was Diamond's "Sweet Caroline", which got the audience to stand and wave their hands and sing along during this good time.

Lisa Carter performed as Cher and has been

performing as a tribute artist for the last 16 years. Carter got her start from dancing.

"That was my stage," she said, and during one show the director wanted her to sing.

After that one show, Carter began singing more often and began to realize her voice sounded like a lot of various artists. While performing at music events Carter soon found Cher and her music as part of her act. Carter as Cher has done many tribute shows with dancers, musicians, and various costumes.

Soon, Carter thought Cher was a part of her and her passion. Her favorite Cher song to sing is "I Found Someone", and she feels singing that song feels like she becomes Cher.

Carter was excited to be a part of this concert and showcased the passion they have in performing.

"We love what we do," Carter said. "We're here for Tony Valley."

Nicole Fuller was Lady Gaga and has been performing and doing tribute shows for 10 years. Fuller's journey began with a talent show she did at her work.

Since that talent show, Fuller never stopped performing. She would do shows for friends and that soon directed towards booking gigs.

Fuller's favorite song by Lady Gaga is "Bad Romance" and she is also very talented on the keyboard.

"We all love music," Fuller said as she brought Gaga to the stage at Workshop13.

Meli was Mariah Carey, who brought high notes and holiday vibes. Meli as Carey came out to perform alongside Lask (Diamond) for a duet. Every performer came out at the same time for a final curtain call.

This tribute show was a night of music, heart, and unforgettable moments. The classics came to life thanks to these talented tribute artists.

**DIFFERENT SHIPS**  
FROM PAGES

orates the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, "Different Ships, Same Boat" invited audiences to celebrate not only America but also Americans. The show featured music and storytelling of stirring experiences of stories of some of the people who make America what it is, including those that often fly under the radar of history books.

It is a performance that celebrates all walks of life. The epilogue of the show

was called "It's About Time" as the show concluded.

More information about Different Ships, Same Boat can be found at [www.guymendilowensemble.com/different-ships-same-boat](http://www.guymendilowensemble.com/different-ships-same-boat). The show was sponsored by New England Foundation for the Arts, Country Bank, Monson Savings Bank, BT Copy & Print Center and Hanna's On Main.

For more information about Workshop13, visit [workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org) or contact them at 413-277-6072.



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- community -

# DA's event highlighted holistic approach to recovery

WORCESTER – On Oct. 23, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. welcomed community members, including recovery advocates, health and wellness professionals, and law enforcement personnel to Veterans Inc. in Shrewsbury for a half-day event organized by the Prevention and Support Network.

This event focused on supporting individuals and families affected by substance use disorders through holistic, mind-body approaches to recovery.

Keynote speaker Linda Geraghty, a trauma-informed yoga instructor and family recovery specialist featured in the award-winning documentary “Our American Family”, spoke about the deep connection between trauma and substance use. Drawing from both professional expertise and her own experience, she emphasized how recovery requires attention to one’s entire system – body, mind, and family – not just the symptoms of addiction.

“Addiction is relentless. We often try to hide it while our families get sicker. Engaging in open conversations is crucial to truly under-

standing this disease, and that understanding is vital for the family’s healing,” said Linda Geraghty.

Geraghty highlighted the ways in which stress and trauma can live in the body, and how practices like yoga, breathwork, and mindfulness can help release those patterns, restore regulation, and rebuild trust in oneself and others. Geraghty underscored the importance of supporting families, emphasizing that addiction affects loved ones as profoundly as those experiencing it firsthand, and that breaking generational cycles of trauma and addiction begins with compassion, communication, and consistent support.

Her work integrates trauma-informed principles to help families navigate recovery with understanding, boundaries, and resilience – key themes that resonated with many in attendance.

A panel of local wellness professionals expanded on these ideas, offering practical insights into how holistic methods can complement traditional treatment and recovery pathways.

Panelists included Kellie Hamilton, founder of A Better Path to Wellness; Phil



Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. hosted a half-day event organized by the Prevention and Support Network that focused on supporting individuals and families affected by substance use disorder

George, clinical biochemist; Jacqueline Monteiro, wellness practitioner and recovery coach; Anthony Bizzotto, president and co-founder of Revive of the U.S.A., Inc.; and Heidi Moody, personal trainer and L3 CrossFit coach. Each spoke about the ways nutrition, movement, mindfulness, and commu-

nity engagement contribute to sustainable recovery and overall wellbeing.

Throughout the event, attendees also took part in guided mindfulness exercises and movement breaks, offering moments to practice the very mind-body techniques discussed during the program. These activities

encouraged participants to experience firsthand how mindfulness and movement can support focus, stress relief, and emotional balance.

Early commended the speakers and attendees for their shared commitment to exploring new, compassionate approaches to supporting recovery throughout

Worcester County. He noted that addressing addiction requires collaboration across every part of the community – treatment and health care providers, families, schools, clergy, law enforcement, and local organizations – working together to reduce stigma and create lasting change.

## Petersham Art Center presents exhibit Stephanie Vignone



The Petersham Art Center is showcasing the work of artist Stephanie Vignone on exhibit through Nov. 23. All are welcome to a reception with the artist on Sunday, Nov. 2, from 4-6 p.m. at 8 North St. in Petersham center.

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Art Center is pleased to present a new exhibition, “Familiar Places: Landscapes by Stephanie Vignone” on display through Nov. 23.

The Art Center invites the public to join the artist in an opening reception on Sunday, Nov. 2, from 4-6 p.m.

Petersham Art Center exhibition coordinator Ken Levine notes, “This is the first exhibition of Stephanie’s work in the Art Center gallery and we are delighted to have her. Her beautiful landscape paintings will resonate with visitors. We hope the public joins us on November 2 for the opening reception to meet Stephanie and enjoy fine art and refreshments.”

Working in pastel and oils, Vignone is inspired by familiar places of Massachusetts and New England. Natural landscapes are transformed by her critical eye; skillful use of color, light, and texture; and clear-eyed imagination creating images of classical realism while at times verging on another worldliness.

Vignone shows her work regularly, including exhibi-

tions at the Oxbow Gallery in Easthampton, the Burnett Gallery-Jones Library in Amherst, the Hosmer Gallery-Forbes Library in Northampton, and the Connecticut Pastel Society.

Vignone explains, “As far back as I can remember, I have spent lots of time walking outdoors. I love to be outside in the woods, hiking with my dogs, in the gardens by my house. Painting the places I see has given me another deep way in which I can connect with them. I love light and texture, but what really makes me want to paint a scene is the way in which I am able to compose it.”

Regular Art Center hours are Thursdays through Sundays, noon-4 p.m. For more information about the exhibition and the Center, please call 978-724-3415.

Since 1912, the Petersham Art Center located at 8 North St. near Petersham Common, has been home to regional fine art and craft through its shop, gallery, classes, and special events.

## DCR announced 262-acre land acquisition in Deerfield

BOSTON –The Department of Conservation and Recreation announced the acquisition of three parcels of privately-owned land in the Town of Deerfield, representing a total 262.5 acres that will now be under the state’s protection.

“Protecting this land means more places for people to hike, explore and take in the incredible views that make Deerfield Valley so special,” said DCR Com-

missioner Nicole LaChapelle. “We’re grateful to the Rogers family for entrusting the state with this land, so we can protect local wildlife, preserve clean water and ensure that future generations can enjoy this space.”

The property was acquired through DCR’s Land Protection Program, which facilitates land conservation for the purposes of protecting plants and animals, conserving natural and cultural

resources, and providing recreational spaces for the public.

DCR acquired the property from the Rogers family, who managed this property as part of their home and business, Hilltop Farm.

“My family has owned this forest land since the 1890s. My grandmother, my mother, and my siblings and I grew up on this land. My father farmed and forested it for 45 years,” said Arthur W.

Rogers II. “I am very happy that, through this sale to the State of Massachusetts, these beloved forests will be protected forever.”

The newly acquired land is in close proximity to Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation and directly abuts the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail, a historic path that runs along various properties on

See DCR PROPERTY PAGE12

DECEMBER 2025

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# - community -

## As Halloween nears, potential fire hazards lurk

As Halloween nears, potential fire hazards lurk

From decorations and candles to flowing costumes, Halloween fun can quickly turn frightening if fire safety is overlooked.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, between 2019 and 2023, an annual average of 832 home structure fires began with decorations, resulting in three deaths, 28 injuries, and \$17 million in direct property damage. Nearly half (47%) of these fires occurred because the decorations were too close to a heat source; approximately one-third (33%) started with candles.

"Halloween is a festive holiday for people of all ages, but it's important to recognize where potential fire dangers lurk," said Lor-

raine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "By following a few simple steps, families can help keep the holiday fun and spooky, while still staying safe."

NFPA offers these tips and guidelines for celebrating Halloween with fire safety in mind:

### Costumes

When choosing a costume, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see clearly.

### Flashlights

Give children flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.

### Decorations

Dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper catch fire

easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters. Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes.

### Candles

Only use battery-operated candles or glow-sticks in jack-o-lanterns. If you choose to use real candles, be sure to place them well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways, and yards.

### Smoke alarms

Make sure all smoke alarms in the home are working.

Visit the Halloween safety page for more resources at [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org). Download the free NFPA Halloween Fire Safety Bundle featuring Sparky

the Fire Dog® for frightfully fun activities for kids and families.

### About the NFPA

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global self-funded non-profit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards.

The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach, and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

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

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Oct. 20-27, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 14 building/property checks, 16 directed/area patrols, eight radar assignments, two emergency 911 calls, two property damages, two citizen assists, one complaint, two investigations, three animal calls and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

### Monday, Oct. 20

9:54 a.m. Property Damage, Barre Road, Services Rendered  
10:43 a.m. Property Damage, Barre Road, Officer Handled

### Tuesday, Oct. 21

3:24 p.m. 911 Animal Call, West Road, Officer Handled  
5:15 p.m. Investigation, Memorial Drive, Investigated

### Wednesday, Oct. 22

9:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued  
12:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
5:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled  
7:07 p.m. Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Voice Message Left

### Thursday, Oct. 23

12:21 p.m. Complaint, Barre Road, Spoken To

### Friday, Oct. 24

7:21 a.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Spoken To

### Sunday, Oct. 26

5:09 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barr Road, Transported to Hospital  
10:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

## BBB warns people about tax relief scam

You may receive a call or voicemail from someone claiming to be from a tax relief company, saying they're following up on back taxes or missed filings and that this may be their only attempt to reach you.

They provide a callback number and sometimes reference an account or partial phone number to make the message seem legitimate. The voicemail emphasizes immediate action, pressuring you to call before a supposed deadline to resolve tax issues, request penalty

waivers, or enroll in relief programs.

Even though "Jessica" seems determined to help, returning the call could put your personal and financial information at risk. Scammers use urgency and official-sounding details to make the message convincing, often seeking Social Security numbers, bank account info, or other sensitive data.

### Tips to avoid tax relief scams

Verify the company's legitimacy. Contact the IRS or

your tax professional directly if you receive a call about taxes you don't recognize.

Watch for "too good to be true" relief offers. Scammers may promise to eliminate penalties or dramatically reduce what you owe – these claims are usually false.

Never pay up front for tax relief services. Legitimate programs or certified tax professionals do not demand payment before providing assistance.

Be cautious with urgent deadlines. Scammers create a sense of urgency to pres-

sure you into acting without verifying the claim.

Protect your personal information. Never provide Social Security numbers, bank account details, or other sensitive data to unsolicited callers.

Report suspicious tax solicitations.

### How to report scams

You can report scam calls to the Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker and the IRS at [IRS.gov/TaxScams](http://IRS.gov/TaxScams).

## BBB warns of new phishing phone call scams

The Better Business Bureau is warning people about a new phishing phone scam where callers claim you have an unclaimed "relief check" waiting.

In order to claim your check, you have to visit a website to collect it. The message sounds official, but it is a trick to steal your personal and financial information.

BBB Scam Tracker has received over 800 reports in less than two months about this scheme.

On BBB Scam Tracker, one person shared the message they received, "Hey, it's Dan from [www.myreliefcheck.com](http://www.myreliefcheck.com). Our records show you may have \$5,286 waiting in a relief check that's already been issued in your name, but has not yet been collected. This could be from past relief programs or federal assistance payments. visit [www.myreliefcheck.com](http://www.myreliefcheck.com). Search your name and collect it before it's returned."

### How the scam works

You receive a call, voicemail, or text, saying you qualify for an unclaimed relief payment. You're directed to a website that warns you to act quickly before the money is returned.

But the site doesn't lead to real government assistance. Instead, it redirects you to a page called, "My Cash Search."

On that page, you're asked to enter personal details such as your ZIP code, phone number, email, and home address. After that, you're pushed to redeem offers that lead to outside sites.

This setup allows scammers to collect your information, flood you with spam, and trick you into signing up for unwanted services or charges. Some sites may

also install harmful software on your device.

By handing over this data, victims risk identity theft, drained bank accounts, and nonstop contact from scammers. Many reports also mention follow-up calls, texts, or emails trying to get even more money or information.

### Tips to avoid this phishing scam

Hang up and don't engage. Government agencies will not call and tell you to visit a random website to claim money.

Verify with official sources and avoid unfamiliar websites. If you receive a call about unclaimed money, contact the government agency directly using contact information from its official website.

Do not click on links or visit sites given by the caller.

Never share personal or financial information with strangers. Do not give out Social Security numbers, banking information, ID numbers, or addresses.

Check the web address closely. Scammers often create sites that look real but are slightly different from the official one. Learn how to spot a fake website.

Watch for urgent language. Phrases like "act now" or "before it's returned" are red flags.

Call your bank if you shared payment details. They can help you freeze accounts and look for suspicious activity.

Report scams. File a report with BBB Scam Tracker, the FTC, and local law enforcement.

Keep a record. Save any texts, emails, or call details to share with investigators and your bank.

Find more consumer tips at [BBB.org](http://BBB.org).

## Legislature establishes Crumbling Foundations Commission

BOSTON - The legislature's enactment of a \$61.01 billion state budget for Fiscal Year 2026 brings good news for Massachusetts residents whose foundations are crumbling due to the presence of pyrrhotite, State Sen. Peter Durant said.

"With the establishment of a commission to study how the state can best help residents whose foundations are crumbling, we will be able to create legislation and move forward with the process of getting these affected homes fixed allowing residents to stay in their homes," Durant said.

In a bipartisan effort and after years of lobbying from members of Massachusetts

Residents Against Crumbling Foundations, the measure, as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, will move to the Governor's desk for her signature.

The establishment of the commission and duties of chairing the group will fall to Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities, Edward Augustus or his designee. The group has a March 31, 2026 deadline, at which time they will report their findings.

Durant said he hopes to craft legislation based on the group's recommendations and noted that crumbling foundations issues have been a priority for him.

"We often talk about the

state's housing crisis and here are families being forced from their homes because of, essentially, a natural disaster," Durant said. "We need to address that as soon as we can because the problem is worsening each day as these foundations further deteriorate and more homes are found to have this problem."

Members of Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations said Monday night they are relieved but that a celebration would be premature.

Some members of the group have been struggling to find funding to fix their foundations for the better part of a decade. Estimates for the repairs can reach

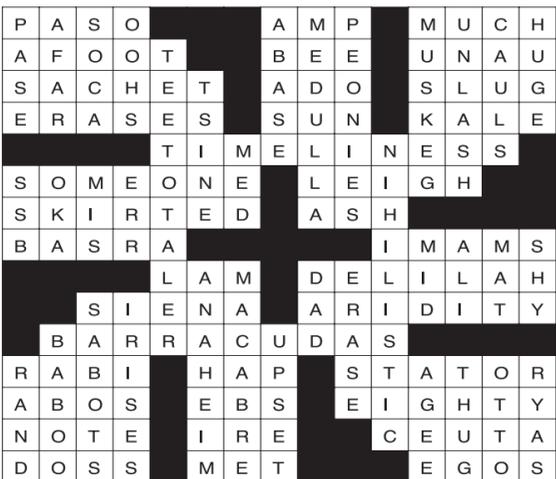
\$250,000

Michelle Loglisci said she believes part of the success this year came when legislators were invited to view the damage to homes firsthand. Group members said that people are often stunned after seeing the damage. The problem is also prevalent in Connecticut where a program to assist homeowners has been in place for some time. About 1,500 homes have either been repaired or are under contract for repair.

In addition to Augustus, the Massachusetts commission will also include the undersecretary of consumer affairs and business regulation or a designee; the commissioner of insurance or a designee; two members appointed by the attorney general who shall have experience in advocating for homeowners and consumers; the house and senate chairs and house and senate ranking minority members of the joint committee on financial services; two representatives of the Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations; a representative of the Massachusetts Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association, Inc.; a representative of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, Inc.; a representative of the Massachusetts Insurance Federation, Inc.; and a representative of the Massachusetts Mortgage Bankers Association, Inc.

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### DCR PROPERTY FROM PAGE 11

the ridgeline, which offers views of the Deerfield Valley. The property contains rare species habitats and is a climate resilient forest of high ecological diversity due to varied terrain that includes multiple cliffs, wetlands, streams, and significant changes in elevation.

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ests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. The agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the well-being of all.

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

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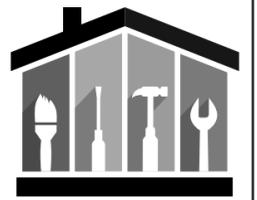
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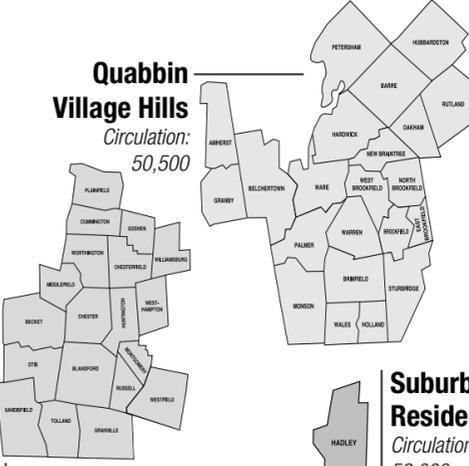
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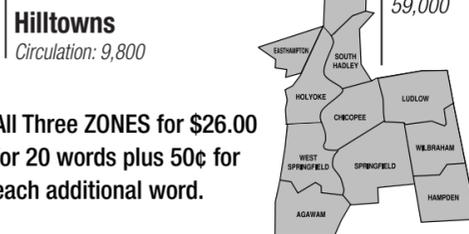
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