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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

March 14, 2024 | Vol. CLXXIII, No. 7 | \$1.00

www.journalregister.turley.com

PALMER

## Supt. presents budget to School Committee

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
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PALMER – Last week, the School Committee had a Special Meeting March 6 to discuss the school budget that Superintendent Matthew Francis would present to Town Council the following week.

Francis started his presentation by thanking Principals Susan North and Holly Riopel and her administration teams, as well as the Director of Student Services, directors from IT, transportation, food service, facilities, and Kids' Corner.

"The budget process had been expanded on this year and we asked for more detail. This is Principal North and her admin team, Principal Riopel her admin team, Director of Student Services and all the different directors from IT, transportation, food service, facilities and Kid's Corner.

"This was a different process than last year," Francis said. "This year we expanded it greater, so you're going to see it a little differently this year than in years past. I think you'll like the way that it's presented and compiled but it goes back to all the pre-work that those different individuals and groups of individuals did to get us to this point."

Francis's presentation outlined a number of the costs that the school district is expecting to accrue this fiscal year. This included contract negotiations for paraprofessionals, for nurses, and all individual contracts that are not unionized.

"Although (the budget is) reducing our full-time education positions, as of right now, we are not laying off any individual due to a budget cut," Francis announced. "I want to stress that; we are reducing our FTEs, but we will not, in this budget as it is right now, be laying off due to budget cuts."

There are, however, retiring teachers who will not be replaced according to this year's budget. Francis added that there will be some potential class size increases, but that they are within the contractual numbers and described them as

SCHOOL | page 5



Logan and Hannah, play in the Boys Scouts' camping section.

Turley photos by Harrison Giza

## Old Mill Pond Open House



A group of students, teachers, and parents color with Crayola markers.



School Psychologist Shea Conley alongside Special Education Evaluation Team Leader Monique Dubuc.

### Faculty and families celebrate learning with fun

By Harrison Giza  
Staff Writer  
hgiza@turley.com

PALMER - Old Mill Pond Elementary celebrated their annual open house last Thursday to a packed schoolhouse.

From the hallways to the classrooms, each and every place in the school seemed to be decorated or reimagined for the event.

"It really is such a great event," Principal Holly-Beth Riopel said. "We have so much for parents and students to do together. There's a little something for everyone."

One of the biggest highlights of the night was located in the gymnasium, where students could be found playing with an interactive exercise screen. A projection with the caption

"Sit back and relax. The exercise will begin soon" appeared every 15 minutes, inviting all students who walked by to drop in and nestle into the mellow vibes of the room.

Kids were encouraged to stretch and do yoga poses as the bright captions in front of them transformed into images. Yoga mats were distributed throughout the gymnasium.

The instructions read: "Anxious or stressed?" the caption states.

OMP | page 5

MONSON

## Supt. and Counselor filling in

Principal, Assistant Principal are on leave

MONSON – This week, Superintendent Cheryl Clarke confirmed that the Principal Arthur Murphy and Assistant Principal Katie Czarniecki are out on leave.

"Maria Barnes and I are covering the office of the Principal and Assistant Principal while they are out," Clarke said.

Clarke dismissed rumors that the Principal and Assistant Principal were terminated.

"Barnes and I have been and will continue to be at the high school daily until further notice, facilitating the day-to-day operations and ensuring both staff and students are supported," Clarke said.

If you need to get in contact with the high school, you can call them at 413-267-4589.

MONSON

## Police chief discusses budget increases

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – Chief of Police Steven Kozloski appeared before the committee to advocate for an increase to the his department's budget.

The meeting discussed several line items relating to salary increases, International Brotherhood of Police Officers contract increases, with one of the main issues being the transition of part-time officers to full-time.

"In response to evolving police reform requirements over the past years, we've gradually replaced part-time roles that the town could not fill with full-time positions as deemed necessary while balancing fiscal constraints with operational needs," Kozloski said. "To maintain this transition, we had planned to

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COMMUNITY

## Local Woman organizes safe space for addiction sufferers

By Harrison Giza  
Staff Writer  
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MONSON – Some residents held their first All Recovery meeting this past Friday at The Monson Thrift Shop and Community Outreach Center.

Liz Shaw, a longtime resident, wanted to create something for all in the area who struggle with addiction.

"I'm going to do this every Friday night," Shaw said. "I'd like to get it to a point where it is like an AA meeting. Not always the same person running it. We want to get volunteers who come in and know what the meeting looks like."

Shaw broke down her interests in the community and why she believed it is so important to have someone to speak to about times of



Liz Shaw and Mary Hull discussing plans for their All Recovery Meeting.

Turley photos by Harrison Giza

personal crisis.

"We will have people go around and introduce themselves," said Shaw. "Kind of like a weekly check in and then after that we will do an open topic discussion, who-

ever is running the meeting will have a list of topics to pull from around and introduce themselves," and then you just go around and you talk about it. Very open and

RECOVERY | page 6

COMMUNITY

## Dress Library proves a successful business venture for two friends

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

THREE RIVERS – With a dream and some serendipitous luck, Natalina Tulik and Michelle Annecchiarico have been able to found a very successful dress thrifting nonprofit.

Second Time's A Charm is located in Building #3 of the Palmer Technology Center on 4 Springfield St. Tulik and Annecchiarico founded it in 2018 after their daughters' prom.

"We had an idea back in the summer of 2018 after our daughters had gone to prom and we realized how expensive prom dresses were," Tulik said. "A classmate of my daughter's who had been asked to prom told her friend that she couldn't go because she couldn't afford it. I said to Michelle one day, these dresses are just hanging in closets, and some girls don't have access to afford these dresses."

The charitable non-profit is run entirely on a volunteer basis. People looking to buy prom dresses are encouraged to come to the store, are given a tour, and then get to try on their dresses, which they can then take for free, with the option of leaving a \$20



Submitted photo

Second Time's A Charm is located in the Palmer Technology Center on Springfield Street.

DRESS | page 3



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# Pet of the Week



**NALA & RYHOTT**

Nala (left) is 4 years old from Palmer, while Ryhott (right) is 6 months old, and also from Palmer. Ryhott was described as a "sweet angel boy" by friend of the family Elizabeth Passy, who said that Nala is "the bad influence." " (Ryhott) certainly wasn't an angel yesterday, detaching the pool filter and hoses for me!" owner Chantel Mallalieu replied.

We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).

## Renovated Happy Hen reopens for 2024 season



Owner Kim Grinnell smiling inside her beloved farmstand.



A display of delicious chocolate muffins.



The Happy Hen has breads, oils and refrigerated cookie dough at the ready for all interested.

By Harrison Giza  
Staff Writer  
[hgiza@turley.com](mailto:hgiza@turley.com)

**MONSON** - The Happy Hen Farmstand reopened for the 2024 season this year with freshly baked goodies and new kitchen renovations.

Kim Grinnell, owner The Happy Hen Farmstand, enjoys what she does immensely.

"It is kind of funny," said Grinnell. "Because it is never a master plan. It just all sort of organically unfolds and it was like that when I started my business. I knew when I was closing that I wanted to upgrade my oven, but just based off a lot of ovens being commercially zoned and all of that, it just became a bigger process than I thought. What started off as 'hey when I close I am going to buy myself a bigger oven' has turned into 'I have renovated my entire dining room' for this."

Even with her recent renovations, Grinnell has doubled up on staying busy for her business.

"My kitchen and dining room are combined and now it is just a gigantic bakery," Grinnell said. "And I took some classes up at King Ar-

thur. I have been taking some classes on social media, so these few months off have been so crazy, crazy busy because it sort of snowballed into this renovation/I don't even know. We are still finishing up on the renovation part of it, but I've got my bread oven in, I love it. I've got my proofer cabinet and everything is more seamless."

Grinnell says the customers are a big part of her business, and making sure they feel like friends when they come to see her.

Grinnell has been baking since she was younger, and started picking up her business during the pandemic.

"It is funny," Grinnell said. "My kids would say 'mom you are so happy when you are baking' but this honestly started out of me thinking about how I am going to help my daughter pay for college. When she was a senior in high school it was COVID, and the realization of how much school actually cost really hit me like a ton of bricks. So I decided that I will sell some herbs and some veggies and I have always sort of baked on the side so I thought I'd toss out some doughnuts and a bread and see what happened...and honestly that is how it started. I did not have any intention of it being what it is and 100% of every penny that I make goes directly to my



A chalkboard sign at the entrance of the secluded Monson treat location.

daughter's college tuition and then I've got two more kids going to college this fall. That's the driving force behind it. I'm a mom and it is really is about my kids so whatever I can do to help them... and I think people really have loved that aspect of why I started the business."

Every item Grinnell sells at The Happy Hen is homemade, and usually comes from her or a member of her family, from her mother helping put together gifts to her husband and son doing beneficial woodworking.

"The funniest part of it is my kids are not big bakery kids," Grinnell said. "It is because it always in front of them. They grew up with cookies always on the counter."

The Happy Hen Farmstand has been open for a few years now, with certain treats gaining popularity with her customers.

"The cinnamon raisin bread by far is always the most popular," Grinnell said.

Grinnell has high hopes for the



A cozy view outside The Happy Hen Farmstand.



A new Easter season apparel selection highlighted inside the stand.

future of her farmstand. "Last year was a whirlwind of how busy it was," Grinnell said. "So I think this year about the renovations and hoping to maybe streamline things a little bit for a better work-life balance. I think the one thing I would like to add is that I'd like to get into more of the bridal showers, baby showers, business meetings, and those types of things. I do them already but maybe now that I have a bigger capacity, I'd have the opportunity to do more."

The Happy Hen Farmstand is located at 185 Town Farm Rd, Monson.

### Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com), or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

### Spring Collection art exhibit by Carol Adamski-Maggi

The art collection opening reception will be Tuesday, April 9, 2024 from 5-7 p.m.

The event will be held at the Palmer Public Library at 1455 North Main St., Palmer.

The exhibit will run from April 3-9, 2024.

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*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

**DEADLINE**

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com) or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

**Monson Garden club to hold guest night**

MONSON— Monson Garden club is sponsoring its guest night program floral design with Bob Whitney on Monday, April 1, at 7 p.m., in First Church of Monson on High St.

Whitney, a local floral designer for over 37 years working in education, retail, and wholesale, will present an instructional lecture on how to create fabulous floral arrangements using unique materials and innovative techniques.

This program is open to the public with light refreshments to be served. A suggested donation of \$5 will give guests a chance to take home one of the arrangements made during the presentation. It is funded by a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency of the Mass. Cultural Council.

**Fashion show to be held on April 25**

WILBRAHAM— A Fashion Show Luncheon featuring Chico's is being sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club, Thursday, April 25, at the St. Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. with a social hour and lunch will follow at noon. The meal choices are chicken fraise or salmon with dill sauce. The \$35 donation helps to fund the club's scholarships and community service projects. In addition, there will be a raffle for many prizes. For reservations please contact Norma Bandarra at 596-8173 by April 17.

**Residents meet Judge Mulcahy during information session**

By Kristin Rivers  
[krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com)

WILBRAHAM - Residents had the opportunity to meet Judge Michael Mulcahy during an information session at the senior center on March 11.

Mulcahy, joined by Assistant Chief Probation Officer Brian Clune, serves as first justice at Palmer District Court and the presiding justice of recovery with justice for Springfield District Court's mental health court.

During the informational session, Mulcahy and Clune highlighted the matters addressed in district courts, the role of probation officers and the available resources offered in mental health courts.

Mulcahy explained the information session is part of programming provided during Massachusetts Judicial Outreach Month.

"The Massachusetts Trial Court encourages all judges and trial court employees to get out in the community to share with the community what we do in our respective courts," Mulcahy said.

Clune added Commissioner Pamerson Ifill is creating opportunities for getting out in the

community as done in the past.

"So this is a perfect example of coming out in the community explaining to people what the probationary court does and the services that we provide to our serving communities, including Wilbraham," Clune said.

Mulcahy and Clune appreciated the engagement from attendees.

"I thought they were a very in-tune and engaged crowd throughout and appreciated their questions," Mulcahy said. "They showed real, genuine interest in what we're doing over in district court."

"The people that came today, they're all stakeholders. They get to see that as much as Judge Mulcahy is in charge of the court and I'm one of the supervisors of the Probation Department, they're all part of what we do," Clune said. "And the more input we get and the more feedback that we get, the more it helps us in our day-to-day operations."

Mulcahy said he loves bringing these informational sessions to the community.

"It's a great opportunity," Mulcahy said. "I love my job. I think it's an important job. I think the work that the court

does is essential for a community and to be able to come out and just present what we're doing and kind of shine a light on it, it's an important responsibility."

He added the sessions bring light to what really goes on in the courts.

"There can be so much negativity and I like to be able to be optimistic and explain to everyone that there's laws designed to protect the community and everyone in the court system takes it seriously to try and use those laws to provide someone a fair trial and protect the community," Mulcahy said.

Clune agreed, adding the information sessions provides further insight into what each system does and how they work.

"So, it's important for us to come out and kind of explain to people what a district court does, what a judge does, what a Probation Department does and how we can help," Clune said. "And if there's services that somehow that people didn't know they could use a district court for,

it's good that we educate them on how we can be of help to them."

Mulcahy, who also serves as chairman of the Public Out-



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

**Brian Clune, assistant chief probation officer, and Judge Michael Mulcahy, first justice at Palmer District Court and presiding justice of recovery with justice for Springfield District Court, share their thoughts during their information session at the Wilbraham Senior Center on March 11.**

reach Committee for the district court, said they also do outreach for the schools through the "Law School for a Day" program at Western New England University.

Their next program is on April 5.

"It's a really great program and we're just trying to get kids who traditionally are underrepresented in the legal community, get them interested in law

school," Mulcahy said.

Mulcahy and Clune want the community to know there are resources available to them and they are still hard at work.

They also enjoy working with the Wilbraham Police Department.

"I hope that they got a better understanding of what we do in the district courts," Mulcahy said.

**DRESS** | from page 1

donation.

"We have it down to science," Annecciarico said. "We give them a tour of our huge showroom, and if you find something you like all our dresses are free. If you'd like to make a donation, we suggest \$20. We have sustained for six seasons on that tenet."

The initial idea was to do something on a small scale, with a little pop-up shop just to test out the idea. Things evolved a lot faster than that, though, as Tulik described receiving 250 dresses within two weeks that they had to hang up in their houses.

"In a few months we had a fundraiser, filed a 501c3 for nonprofit status, and found a small storefront in Ludlow with 800 square feet of space," Tulik said. "That's where we opened in January of 2016."

The shop gave away 653 dresses in its first season, at which point the founders realized they had outgrown the space in Ludlow, and started looking for another space, which is how they ended up in Three Rivers.

"Nat and I had zero prom or dress experience," Annecciarico said. "But every time we sat down and had a conversation about the future of Second Time's A Charm, less than 24 hours later, something happened that would fulfill that need."

In addition to prom dresses, the founders said that they're very popular for Mother of the Bride and Mother of the Groom dresses, and that there are early conversations happening about a potential bridal section.

Annecciarico had a few examples of these strange instances of serendipity to share.

"We were wondering where we were going to hang all these clothes, because we didn't have any racks," Annecciarico said. "A friend of mine called me an hour later to say that Sears was going out of business and they were giving away racks. I called Natalina and said, 'we gotta go to Sears.' We got in my little white minivan and drove to Sears."

The employees at Sears told the co-founders to take whatever they wanted, and so Annecciarico and Tulik were able to get numerous store-quality racks

for their dresses. However, when they got back to Annecciarico's van, they found the racks would not fit.

"We're saying what are we going to do," Annecciarico recalled. "Then a friend of Natalina's pulled up with a flatbed truck and asked what we were doing."

Tulik's friend helped them load the dress racks into the truck, and drove them to store in the founders' basement, as they had not arranged a location for the store yet.

In another instance, the founders were looking for other materials needed to run the store, and a friend called within the hour to tell them about a children's store in Longmeadow that was going out of business.

"They said to come take whatever you want," Annecciarico said. "They gave us everything that you would ever need; a vacuum, a radio, a keurig, a thing to tag dresses, hangers, display cases - they were happy to help and just gave it to us."

The shop has also been supported by its neighbors, including Sunshine Village, which regularly has its clients pick up racks of dresses to wash for the shop.

"We also have collaboration with Mom Prom of Western Mass, which is an organization that holds prom for cancer survivors and they have what we call a Pink List," Annecciarico said. "They invite any of the women going to the prom to come in get a dress."

Annecciarico said that the store usually refuses donations from people from this organization out of respect for their struggle, "because they're warriors."

Annecciarico said that it would not be possible for she and Tulik to run the shop without the help of the volunteers that make up its staff.

"Our volunteers are the heart of everything we do," Annecciarico said. "Last year over 1800 dresses left the shop; it's not a job for two people. Without the volunteers, we wouldn't be able to exist."

The store has one fundraiser every year, which is the adult prom that they usually hold in the fall. This year, it will be held on Oct. 26.

"It's for anyone who wants to relive going to a prom as an adult," Tulik said,

"which is much more fun than going as a teenager."

When asked what advice they would give to someone looking to buy a dress, Tulik and Annecciarico said to try everything on.

"Everything looks different on a body than a hanger," Annecciarico said. "Almost nobody leaves the shop without

trying them on."

The store is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Jan. 13 to May 11. If you'd like to see about getting a dress from Second Time's A Charm, give them a call at 413-530-5966, or send an email to [ntluk@aol.com](mailto:ntluk@aol.com).

**Legal Notice**

The Monson School Committee will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** to discuss the proposed **2024-2025 School Department budget**, as required by law, on **March 27, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** at **Quarry Hill Community School-School Committee Room # 428, 43 Margaret Street, Monson, MA 01057**

Join Zoom Meeting  
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## Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY  
*Matters*  
By Russell GloorWill my benefit  
increase if I work  
while collecting  
disability?

Dear Rusty

I will be 64 in March and currently receive Social Security Disability Insurance payments. My full retirement age is 67, but I'm thinking about trying to return to work.

If I work and my earnings exceed the monthly disability payment limits, but do not exceed the annual limit, how will my disability payments be affected? Will working while receiving Social Security disability payments change my Social Security benefit amount when I reach my full retirement age of 67?

Signed Mending

Dear Mending

Social Security doesn't go by annual earnings when it comes to disability; they go by monthly earnings. If your work earnings in any one month of 2024 exceed \$1,550, that will be a flag to SS that you are no longer disabled (\$2,590 per month if you're blind). If that happens for a few months in a row, they will most likely stop your SSDI payments.

Often, this happens retroactively, they won't find out until sometime later that you repeatedly exceeded the monthly limit, but they will likely cancel your SSDI benefits and require you to repay any benefits you received in months you exceeded the monthly SSDI earnings limit or months they deem you were capable of working without restriction.

I suggest you consider enrolling in Social Security's "Ticket to Work" program. While enrolled, you can work and will have a rolling nine month "Trial Work Period" over five years, during which you can earn more than \$1,110/month in 2024 without jeopardizing your SSDI benefits.

If, after completing your nine month trial work period, you are taken off of SSDI (because you're no longer considered disabled), and you again become disabled and unable to work, your SSDI benefits can resume without requiring you to go through the entire application process again. You can test your ability to work, will be able to work some and can earn more than the limit in some months, which makes the Ticket to Work program your best option. Read more about it here by visiting <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>.

As for whether working while on SSDI will improve your benefit at your Full Retirement Age, that depends. Your current SSDI benefit is equal to your FRA entitlement from your earnings record at your disability onset date, but paid to you prior to your FRA. The method for determining your benefit under SSDI is complex and depends on the age at which you became unable to work and the number of Social Security credits you had accumulated at that time. Although SS retirement benefits normally require you earn at least 40 SS quarter credits and are based on your highest earning 35 years, those approved for SSDI can get benefits with fewer than 40 credits and less than 35 years of lifetime earnings. Since each case is unique, I cannot say whether your earnings while on SSDI will improve your FRA amount, but Social Security will monitor your earnings and increase your benefit if appropriate.

FYI, your SSDI benefit would normally automatically convert to become your regular SS retirement benefit at your FRA at the same amount you were receiving while on SSDI. It's possible that the limited earnings you may have from working while on SSDI may increase your benefit, but that's impossible for me to predict. Your benefit is based on your lifetime earnings history (adjusted for inflation), not on your contributions to Social Security while working.

So, if you are on SSDI and wish to try returning to work, and you think your monthly earnings will occasionally exceed the SSDI limit, I suggest you contact Social Security (1-800-772-1213 or your local office to explore enrolling in the Ticket to Work program. That would be your best option to avoid jeopardizing your SSDI benefits, and your benefit amount will be automatically adjusted by Social Security if appropriate.

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



## News from my garden to yours

I received a text from a friend earlier today asking what is covering my strawberry plants.

I answered her with one word: water.

Yes indeed, a good portion of my garden is drowning at the moment, as are various parts of my yard. We have had too much rain in too short of a period and the ground is still frozen partway down. It's happened before and will likely happen again, but every time it does, I wonder how these areas could possibly rebound and look good come spring.

Usually, they do and with little help from me.

The water recedes and spring comes.

Keep in mind that the soil, be it in your garden or yard, will lose some of its fertility because of leaching, and it will be compacted from such excessive rainfall. Give your plants a side dressing of compost this spring; it will be sure to help restore fertility and improve the condition of the soil in general.

According to a soil test, my garden was notoriously low in nitrogen, so I incorporated blood meal into the soil at planting time with another dose a few weeks later. It didn't occur to me at the time, but flooding a couple of times early in the year could be the culprit of the low nitrogen reading.

Soil that is heavy with water literally pushes out the space that was meant for oxygen and becomes compacted. Without oxygen, plants' vascular systems won't function properly.

As I said before, a few days in the off season likely won't hurt much, but if this were to happen during the growing season, your plants may look wilted even though they are sitting in water.

Root rot, perhaps, or simply that the roots are unable to absorb the water around them.

Lawns should be aerated to remedy this problem, and garden soil should be loosened — once it's dry of course — to get some air into the soil. This can be done numerous ways, by use of various hand tools.

Although scratching around with a three tine cultivator will likely bring some weed seeds to the surface, it is one of my favorite things to do in the garden. I find it a great stress-buster, too.

Do remember to try not to walk on saturated soil or it will compound the problem. Even in the spring when you

are working in your garden, place a board under your feet to distribute your weight evenly and prevent more compaction.

Have you noticed that your houseplants have begun to put on an abundance of new growth? Mine sure have! Support this with a dose of half strength liquid fertilizer.

I need to take cuttings of fuchsia and geranium plants that I overwintered. It will be sure to be great to make cemetery logs with our own geraniums this year.

I will simply cut a terminal (meaning top) stem about 4-5 inches long just after a node (that's where the leaved join the stem). I'll carefully take off all but the top two or three leaves and insert the leafless section into a small pot (say around 2-3 inches in diameter) of good quality moist potting soil.

The two or three leaves you left will be above the soil line. If you have rooting hormone on hand, you can dip the stem into that first, but you don't have to; plants in active growth usually root fine even without it.

I will place my cuttings in indirect light and mist with a spray bottle a couple of times a day to keep them from wilting before they root. Check in about a month, and if you are lucky, roots will have formed.

Depending on the size pot you used, and the size of the roots, it may be a good time to put the plants into a bigger pot and place them in a sunnier window until it's safe to plant them outside.

My daffodil plants are starting to pop up here and there in the yard. I had a little bit of balanced organic granular fertilizer left from last year, so I sprinkled it around the clusters.

Now and once the flowers have gone by are the two best times to fertilize narcissus. I am so excited to enjoy the varied colors and scents from this huge Genus of plants.

To me, they are the epitome of a true spring flower. Soon enough, soon enough!

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



## Spring Drums

By Charles Barnes

The earth gone gray in the ground lay alone  
Less wakened now by chanticleer's red-rocking dawn;  
A few green heads of moist flowers betimes;  
And long ago echoes from distant tom-toms;  
But past the maples it might be heard, cold and wet  
The march of tapping, tapping begun.

Slow one, long-looping, liquidy, drop,  
But then faster, easier, to its crescendo;  
Almost hurrying as it comes forth and then,  
The iron pail is full,

In the uncertain weather a week ago,  
It was too soon for the sap to be;  
Until the days warmed far to the thaw  
And many wings were free.

And the buckets respond in cool chambers,  
Following the lead from the throaty maples;  
It's not much of a stream but becoming  
Sweetwater, trickling into early-placed wells.

Kingly stuff that resides with a tree,  
Wearing ancient thick gnarled mail;  
A river of kings, that runs uphill  
Inside past the trunk bluish-gray and mottled.

They have their ups and downs (to root level),  
In the chill of night, or what morning will bring;  
The lid, it's cap- to keep its thoughts pure,  
But still the hour will set the seasoning.

Carted off by truck, of a heavy dray horse,  
Mud-clapped up to the wheels, or hocks, may be,  
And back it goes, to an olden shaped house,  
In the woods, where sugar-clouds it seems to be making;  
And farmer in the services of the trees,  
Boiling down to syrup-ambrosia concentrating.

Where dark fires burn all around midnight  
In a gingerbread light, before dawn comes creeping  
With tempting smells offered at the door.  
For visitors, who come there asking,  
About the bubbling and frothing brown columns of Heat  
Like springs from the earth below, seething.

Its gent stove with scarlet flames showing thru,  
And ventilated roof where the smoke will carry:  
To the call of its own, or winter's passing,  
Or the robin cheerily-cheerily.

And afterward graded as any school-kid  
Among its mates, standing there reciting  
And judged on the performance of taste,  
With highest, to the golden fancy.

Its system like a Roman aqueduct, dispenses;  
No need to fool with the usual connections:  
Of unions, ells, nipples, hydraulic lifters;  
Or along stone walls with lengths of copper tubing.

And the little siphoned-off to human use  
Won't hurt a single leaf of the branching;  
But keeps the flow going, thru its wooden flesh,  
That hardly lets on the inner workings.

Tho' down here the cadence when walking by,  
As if the snow-fed pails were talking;  
A solitary sound in the years advance,  
Or only to themselves the tapping, tapping.

Of how much goes in to the smallest act,  
That never surfaces, even when ready;  
The pail emptied, and returned to the tree,  
And placed again to hear the piping.

And soon the warm syrup raised to the lips,  
By the toilers, for the time ahead;  
And this year like others you and I  
Have had- will watch the way some have trod.

As the curling smoke sends its laboring  
Vapors, escaping up to the local gods.  
With the snowbanks melting to rivulets,  
And maybe down to the seas they sing,  
And sighs escape, the trees are tapped  
As we letting out juices of spring.

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The Journal Register (USPS 418-940)  
is published every Thursday by Turley  
Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass.  
01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393,  
Fax (413) 289-1977.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes  
to The Journal Register,  
24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



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The submission deadline  
for consideration is  
Monday at noon.

Election letters  
to the editor  
welcome

The *Journal Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

**Campaign news**  
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

## Life Together

A few weeks ago, Sesame Street's Elmo posted: "Elmo here, just checking in. How's everybody doing?"

Hundreds of responses flooded the posting. People poured out their lives to the puppet. Cheaper than therapy, the fear and pain of many were shared online.

People are hurting. People are alone. Mental health professionals now tell us that the leading cause of mental illness is loneliness.

So many of us seek healing for our broken lives. Whether due to loss and our grief, addiction, or our disconnect from others to eliminate the stimulation of our nerves, or our inability to enter into and sustain intimate relationships, we seek connection and support.

Mental health is about relationships. When we are in relationship to others who care about us, they give us good energy and hope. We seek peace in our troubled times. We seek truth in our delusional politics.

One possible interpretation of TRUTH is: "Stop Forgetting".

Stop forgetting who loves you. Stop forgetting to whom you belong. Stop forgetting there is hope. A hope we need to do it all again tomorrow.

An acronym for HOPE, is, Help Other People Endure. When in pain and suffering we need to be grounded in hope.

Whatever your faith, or lack of faith, wise words

come to us from St. Paul in Romans 5: "Suffering produces Endurance, Endurance produces Character, and Character produces Hope, a hope that does not disappoint."

To be fully present with another person, to sit with them, walk with them, care for them, is the healing source for those who are alone and feel hopeless. Our presence embodies hope.

We need not say anything.  
Helping another person endure their suffering and move towards hope is a sacred event. In the end we may get to gratitude and discover that in our being present, not only may the other person endure and find peace, we too share the transformation from suffering to endurance to character to hope.

Who will you sit with? Who will, is, sitting with you?

May you trust you are not alone and there is a way forward.

Elmo hears you. Elmo cares. And we are called to hear each other and care for each other.

**Rev. Dr. Randy Wilburn**  
Minister, Therapist, Consultant

*Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn. With over 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope.*

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# Monson Arts Council holds 30th art exhibition

MONSON— The Monson Arts Council is pleased to announce its 30th annual Juried Art Exhibition and Sale. This year's show is sure to present some of the finest quality works of art from around the region. The works will be on display in Monson's

House of Art as well as next door at the historic Memorial Hall from noon to 5 p.m., each weekend day from April 20 through May 5. Cash prizes will be presented in four categories including: Painting, Photography, Multidimensional Art (Sculp-

ture, Fiber Art, Ceramics, etc.) and Graphic Arts/Mixed Media (Printmaking, Drawing, Collage, etc.). This year's cash prizes total \$4,500.

Artists can submit works for consideration up through March 22 at <https://monsonartscouncil.org/spring-art-exhibition-and-sale-2024/>

This year's jurors include professional artists Kara Bigda and Cathy Liontas, as well as Curator, Eli Yung of the Fitchburg Art Museum. Admission to the Show is free

and open to the general public.

For more information go to: <https://monsonartscouncil.org/>.



Stephanie and Chad Windyka with their daughters, Emmersyn and Hadleigh.



A group of Old Mill Pond Elementary preschool teachers happy at work.



The Godbout Family has a blast at OMP open house.



Principal Holly-Beth Riopel seated with a smile during the open house.



Assistant Principal Kerry Lynch, Principal Holly-Beth Riopel and Assistant Principal Penny Ann Manteria all hosted the open house.



A well-drawn display informing attendees where to go throughout the building.

## OMP | from page 1

"Try progressive muscle relaxation. Step 1.) Make yourself comfortable by sitting down or lying down. Step 2.) Close your eyes if you wish. Step 3.) Slowly tense each muscle individually for 10 seconds and then release - all while breathing normally. Step 4.) If you're holding a lot of stress in a certain part of your body, focus on just relaxing that area. Step 5.) Continue this exercise as long as you want."

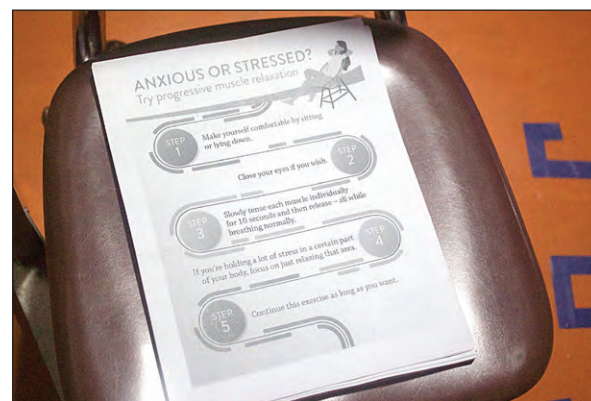
Just around the corner, there was also a raffle for those that were interested in participating, with flavorful BBQ goodies and handy household items for select winners.

Kids were going crazy for Play-Doh, crayons and markers while parents could be found close behind them, smiling at the amount of fun their kids were having that particular night.

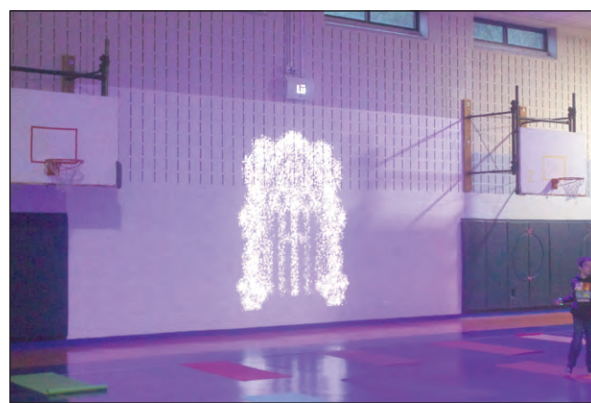
Riopel stood by the front door entrance with her fellow assistant principals as a student prepared to leave with her mother.

"Have a great night," Riopel said, "it was great seeing you both, did you have fun?"

The student's cheeks turned red as she nodded for her principal. It seemed, only for a second, that she didn't want to leave school.



Steps to Progressive Muscle Relaxation displayed for participating students.



The screen transforming into what appears to be cathedral doors.



An interactive screen located in the gym was a big hit with kids.

Turley photos by Harrison Giza

## SCHOOL | from page 1

"still very educationally sound."

"Transportation is very shortly going to be going out to bid," Francis said. "We did a three-year bid and then two one-year extensions, so it has to go out again."

Francis projected that the combined contract negotiations would total roughly \$950,000 for the district. However, Francis reported that Chapter 70 funds would be increasing by \$340,000, in spite of decreased enrollment, as a result of the changing economic status of the town's students.

"Pre-pandemic, our low-income or economically disadvantaged was at 39.1%," Francis said. "We are currently at 61% low-income, so even though our student enrollment has decreased, the need for our students has increased markedly within a very short period of time."

Francis announced that ESSER III funding will end in September 2024, and included that \$802,000 was pledged to balance Fiscal Year 2024.

"So we can't use ESSER money into FY25," Francis said, but added, "we still have some remaining ESSER III funding that we will be pre-purchasing some materials and supplies so that we can have a level funded budget or at least a net-zero budget with very little impact."

Francis mentioned that there have been discussions toward expanding the district's Pre-Kindergarten offerings.

"The budget that I'll be presenting this evening, which I'm extremely excited about, not only expands our PK offering, but expands it at no cost to any of our family members," Francis said. "We are looking at four classrooms, three of which are full-day classrooms; the third full-day classroom is kind of a hybrid that we're still working out the plans for, prioritizing four-year-olds, and then the fourth classroom is similar to this year. It's going to be an a.m./p.m. setup, for about two hours at a time, that's primarily going to be for our three-year-olds."

There was also discussion of moving Grade Six from the high school to Old Mill Pond Elementary School, and what the financial impact of that change would be. Francis projected that these costs would be related to personnel and purchasing curriculum materials.

Francis outlined some expanded partnerships with town departments, and mentioned, among other things, conversations between Principal Susan North and Holyoke Community College about offering an early college program.

"In January, the School Department took on the entire payroll for the entire town, so we took on all the other departments that fall under the town council," Francis said.

The schools' Technology Director, Roland Matthews, made an assessment of the internet and WiFi at Town Hall to address the technological issues.

"Recently, I initiated a meeting with the Executive Director of the Council on Aging on a potential partnership," Francis said. "Matthews was dispatched to spend some time over at Town Hall to see how we can partner with them about either upgrading and/or assisting them with their internet or WiFi upgrades."

Francis also said that he initiated conversations with the Council on Aging about opening up the school's pool for free swimming during the afternoon or evening and the possibility of providing food to the Senior Center, but added that these arrangements are still in their infancy.

After the presentation, the committee voted unanimously to support Francis's budget proposal.

## NOTICE

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## The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1025 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our 20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons. Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

HOURS:  
Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm  
Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm • Sat. 10am-2pm  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours. Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

## Glenda's

Come Celebrate St. Patrick's Day Weekend With Us!

Saturday, March 16th ~ 7pm-11pm  
A.S.B.

Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm  
Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes!

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm  
Karaoke

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Be one of the lucky ones and discover the treasure of Farmer Matt's corned beef and cabbage dinner. Available Mar. 13-17.

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FarmerMatt.com  
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# Ad club scholarship now available

SOUTH HADLEY—The Advertising club of Western Massachusetts Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce applications are now available for a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to a deserving western Massachusetts high school graduate pursuing higher education in the communi-

cation arts in 2024. Guidelines and application form can be found at [www.adclubwm.org/scholarships](http://www.adclubwm.org/scholarships) or by contacting David Cecchi, Scholarship Committee chairman at [cecco@davidcecchi.com](mailto:cecco@davidcecchi.com) or (413) 786-3236.

Completed scholarship applications and all support mate-

rials must be submitted to the Ad Club, postmarked by April 15. Scholarship decisions are made by the Scholarship Committee of The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts and are considered final. The scholarship will be awarded in May.

Western Massachusetts high

school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or technical school to study advertising, communications, marketing, or graphic design and will be attending school in September 2024 are encouraged to apply. The scholarship must be applied against tuition and fees at the school. Candidates will

be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future plans.

The Advertising Club promotes a tradition of excellence, and with this annual scholarship, looks forward to making an important contribution to future generations of communications professionals.

## Join Us For the 2nd Annual Senior Resource Fair

**Date: Saturday, March 23rd**  
**Time: 11am-1pm**  
**Place: Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Ware**

**NO COST! It's FREE!**

**Participants include**

- Home Modifications Specialist
- Realtors
- Ware Senior Center
- Home Modification Loan Program
- Senior Placement
- In-home Care Services
- Movers
- Estate Appraisers
- Legal & Financial Planning
- Senior Living Options
- QVDC Senior Outreach Program
- Senior Health Services
- Hospice & Palliative Care
- Funeral Services
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- Housing Authority
- SSDI Support
- Community Development Authorities
- And Many MORE

**For more information contact Danielle Souza (413) 949-0422 or email: [danielle.souza@fairwaymc.com](mailto:danielle.souza@fairwaymc.com)**

**Light Lunch Will Be Served!**



Liz Shaw with close friend and associate, Mary Hull.



Various items available at The Monson Thrift Shop.

Turley photos by Harrison Giza

### RECOVERY | from page 1

very casual."

Shaw learned about all-recovery meetings while living in Greenfield.

"I spent a lot of time sober but not working a program or not revolving around recovery," said Shaw. "So when I finally moved up to the Greenfield area, they have the Great Vine up there which they do 3 AA meetings a day, so I just started going there every day at the noon time meeting and I just started meeting people. I learned that there was a peer-to-peer recovery center project and then I started going there and volunteering there which turned into a job opportunity for me. That is where I learned about the all-recovery meetings. COVID hit and I came back to Monson. I fell out of recovery for a while and then I got invited to the listening session and that is where Mary and I connected and I've been down here volunteering ever since. So yes we haven't done anything with the opioid settlement money but I've seen progress since that first meeting in my own life personally."

Shaw says addiction is a reality everywhere, and Monson is no exception.

"I feel like it is a lot of people saying 'not in our town' you know," Shaw said. "We don't need more low-income housing, we don't need this. But we do and it is going to get worse before it gets better unfortunately."

She is hopefully someone will attend the meetings, and that one person will make it worth it.

"To me, even if one person comes down here, that is a win for me," said Shaw. "Just getting someone to come down for the first meeting? That is a huge win, because once it gets out 'hey I went to this meeting and I actually liked it it worked for me' that is how word gets out through their experience. Like, I can sit and advertise for it all I want... that is not what people are looking for. Half the time people are scrolling by it, they do not even know what kind of meeting it is."

Shaw hopes to begin making connections, and believes her openness could help those in town who are battling addictions.

"It might take a few months," Shaw said. "But I think we will be alright. Just getting people out and speaking... making those connections is going to be huge. That is what I need, I know I need it personally. I have been lacking so bad."

Even legal, Shaw said cannabis can even be an addiction, especially for youth who cannot legally consume it.

"Even when you are talking about cannabis," Shaw said. "it is scary because the type of cannabis that these kids are getting their hands on compared to like the type of cannabis I had when I was younger, it is messing them up."

Board of Health member Mary Hull was there that day to help set up Shaw's event. The two are close friends who want to share an open forum for those who struggle with addiction.

All Recovery Meetings will take place on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. at The Monson Thrift Shop Community Outreach Center. All above the age of 18 who wish to attend are welcome.

## The Recovery Center of HOPE

(RCH) is a community run for and by people in recovery.

We welcome those in or seeking recovery from alcohol, drugs, or any other addiction, whether that be personally and/or with a loved one.

Our community recognizes

Multiple Pathways because we understand that one size does not fit all.

**RCH is open Monday through Friday, with occasional weekend events.**

52 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082  
 (413) 277 6290 • [RCHinfo@wmtcinfo.org](mailto:RCHinfo@wmtcinfo.org)



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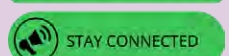
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**BASKETBALL**

## Panthers advance in state tournament



Vanessa Baer takes a shot from the free throw line.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—With Giamorya (Jo Jo) McTier cheering on her former basketball teammates from the bench, the Palmer Lady Panthers didn't have very much trouble advancing into the Division 5 elite eight for the second consecutive year.

The sixth-seeded Lady Panthers, who took control of the round of 16 contest with the help of a 17-0 run in the first half, cruised to a 53-32 victory over the 11<sup>th</sup>-seeded Hopedale Blue Raiders before a large home crowd, last Tuesday night.

"We love the energy that Jo Jo brings to our team," said Palmer senior Vanessa Baer. "She has attended a couple of our practices this week which has really helped us a lot. I learned so much from her during the past couple of years. Everyone has been contributing and we've been playing very well in our past few games."

McTier, who was the Lady Panthers captain last year, recently completed her freshman season as a member of the University of Saint Joseph (Conn.) women's basketball team.

"It's always great when one of your former players comes back," said Palmer co-head coach Denise Levasseur. "Jo Jo was a great captain, and she has helped us at prac-

tice. We've missed her and it's very nice having her back again."

Several other former Lady Panthers players have also come back in the past and have helped the girls' basketball team. A few of those players are Kendall Levasseur, Madison Cole, and Madalyn Theriault, who finished her outstanding high school basketball career with 1,060 points.

Madalyn's younger sister, Charlotte, is a sophomore on this year's varsity basketball team.

In the round of 16 victory, Charlotte Theriault, who has accumulated more than 1,100 career points, scored 16 of her game-high 20 points in the first half.

"We were a little bit nervous coming into tonight's game, but we were able to pull away with a big run in the first half," Theriault said. "We also played very well defensively. It's extremely special to be playing one more home game this season."

About ten minutes after wrapping up their round of 16 victory, the Lady Panthers players and coaching staff found out that 14<sup>th</sup>-seeded Drury had upset third-seeded Lenox, 32-30 in another round of 16 game. That outcome meant the Lady Panthers would be hosting the elite eight game, which raised the excitement level inside Palmer High School a little bit higher.

PALMER | page 8

**BASKETBALL**



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Richie Gula shoots for the Pioneers.

## Pioneers lose state tourney opener to Panthers

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—The Palmer Panthers won a preliminary round home game in the Division 5 state boys basketball tournament for the second time in the past three years.

Led by senior Andrew Menard and freshman Taydem Haley, who combined for 48 points, the 23<sup>rd</sup>-seeded Panthers advanced into the round of 32 with a 79-51 victory over the 42<sup>nd</sup>-seeded Pathfinder Tech Pioneers on Feb. 27.

"It's really good for these guys, especially the two seniors, to have a home win in the states,"

said Palmer head coach Missy Rucker said. "As soon as we found out that we would be facing Pathfinder, the kids were very excited about playing against their friends."

Two years ago, Palmer defeated the Hampden Charter School East, 61-40, in a preliminary home game before losing at Hopkins Academy in the round of 32.

This year's postseason journey also came to an end for the Panthers in the round of 32 following a 68-49 road loss to the 10<sup>th</sup>-seeded Douglas Tigers two nights later.

PIONEERS | page 8



Jayda Pardo fakes to her left and bounce passes to her right.



Jordan Bigda goes for a layup.



Madison Rathbone passes on the run.



Loretta Petraszewicz holds the ball back before passing into the paint.



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The first wave of harriers are off in the 2023 St. Patrick's Road Race in Holyoke.

## St. Patrick's Road Race set for this Saturday afternoon

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The weekend of St. Patrick's Day is synonymous with the popular parade in the streets of downtown Holyoke. But equally tradition is the 10K St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

The road race was disappointingly cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and again in 2021 when COVID-19 rates rose due to the vaccine not being as widely available at the time.

But last year, the race returned to the joy people throughout the region and beyond and Holyoke once again became a hub of activity beginning with "Race Day."

And the sights and scenes of St. Patrick's Day weekend were also back in the Paper City the past

two years as the downtown area around Maple and High Streets were lined with patrons. Bars and restaurants were filled with people going in and out, the Mummers gave their performance, and children and others were able to participate in the Kids Walk and Fun Run prior to the "main event" taking place at 1 p.m.

This year's race, the 47<sup>th</sup> running of the tradition, will take place this Saturday, March 16. Once again, many will be looking to add their name to the list of winners of the 10K.

In 2023, it was the ideal day for Jenna Gigliotti, an Amherst woman who won the 10K Road Race for the second consecutive year. She crossed the finish line at 35:29.

This year's male and overall RACE | page 8

**YOUTH BASKETBALL**

## Palmer Suburban 7-8 falls in finale



Cassian Kowalik goes for a shot on the hoop.



Alex Wilkerson fakes and tries to get around an opponent.



Liam McKinney makes his way down the court.



Ibis Castillo-Clotter takes a different path to the hoop.

PALMER – Last Saturday afternoon, the Palmer 7-8 boys Suburban Basketball team was defeated by South Hadley 51-39 in a game held at Converse Middle School. It

was the season finale for Palmer, and the playoffs were scheduled to begin this week, with Palmer set to take part.

# Pioneers 2024 schedule released

LUDLOW – Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19. The Pioneers have won an Open Cup match in the past. Later, the Pioneers have their “friendly” exhibition game scheduled for May 10. They will face 3<sup>rd</sup> Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule. Their opener for the regular season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York. The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.



# Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

## Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – March has arrived for the Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League.

The standings as of Feb. 27 had Acres and Blue B's tied for first place at 6-2. In third place, Team BK has a record of 5-3. The Champs R Here, Compression and Last in Line are tied for fourth place with a record of 4-4. Life is Good is in last place at 2-6.

Compression won in the first round and Life is Good won the second round. One more team is aiming to join them in the playoffs at the end of the season.

The Champs R Here bowled against Compression on this Tuesday night of March. In game one, The Champs prevailed with a commanding lead over Compression and won by a score of 423-378. Filling in for the Champs is Bryan Surprise starting off the evening with a 111.

John Colkos also bowled

well over his average scoring 113.

In game two, Champs R Here won again by a score of 387-370. Surprise had the high score of game two out of both teams with a 102. In game three, The Champs won 395-368 for a three-game sweep over Compression.

Surprise finished strong with a 118 and a series of 331. Total pinfall was won by The Champs R Here with a score of 1205 with Compression having a total pinfall score of 1116.

## Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League is several weeks away from wrapping up their season.

With a couple weeks left, several teams are aiming to win the second and final round. As of Feb. 29, Team Six, the winners of round one, are leading in round two at 25-15. Team One is in second place at 23.5-16.5. In third place, just one point behind Team One, Team Four is at 22.5-17.5.

In one match, Team Six bowled against Team Three. In game one, Team Six took the

first game by a score of 412-400. Dan Mahoney of Team Six started off the evening with a 110.

In game two, Team Six won again by a score of 421-375. Josh Gorham of Team Six bowled well scoring 105.

In game three, Team Six won for a three-game sweep by a score of 430-422. Team Six won total pinfall by a score of 1263-1197.

Team One bowled against Team Five and attempted to take first place from Team Six. In game one, Team Five took the first game by a score of 427-401. Mike Wadas of Team Five led the team starting off with a 108.

In game two, Team Five won again by a score of 408-386. In game three, Team One managed to win the last game by a score of 422-400. Team Five was the winner of total pinfall by a score of 1235-1209. Team One only managed to win one point where Team Six won four points.

The Thursday Night Mixed League will conclude on Thursday, March 28.

## RACE | from page 7

winner was Michael Norberg, who also is from Amherst. He finished with a time 30:50. He was more than 30 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher, Bradley Mish, of Hadley.

There were more than 5,000 participants in this year's event, which is part of a big weekend in Holyoke, going along with the parade that took place on Sunday.

It also is viewed as a practice course for runners participating in more races later in the year, including the Boston Marathon. There are harriers who will run 6.2-mile course multiple times to simulate 26.2-mile marathon distance, including participating in the main race.

Of the more than 5,000 harriers signed up, 3,813 registered

finishes.

Benjamin Lasky, of Ludlow, was a top local finisher, coming in 14<sup>th</sup> at 33:41. Lasky has been a top 10 finisher in the past.

The race continued traditions of participants running for various charities and other causes, in honor of deceased loved ones, and of course, the running of the race in costume.

This year, the

current cost, as of press time, to enter the race, is \$35. The two-mile walk price was \$25 as of press time, but was expected to rise on March 13.

The weather, as of press time, is expected to be warmer than in previous years, near 60 and sunny.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Hunter Griswold passes on the run.



Adrien Moskovitz passes on the run.



Trevor Allard makes a shot.



Adam Slonka ranges for a layup from the right side.

## PIONEERS | from page 7

Palmer finished their season with an 11-10 overall record.

Menard, who scored 13 of his 22 points against the Pioneers during the second half, and Shawn Troche are the two seniors listed on the Panthers varsity roster.

“Andrew and I have been playing on the same basketball teams since we were little kids,” said Troche, who chipped in with seven points. “It feels amazing to win a state tournament game in our final home game. We lost in the round of 32 two years ago and we’re hoping to get to the round of 16 this year.”

Haley, who’s a tri-captain captain with the two seniors, played in his first state tournament game against Pathfinder Tech. He netted 18 of his career-high 26 points after half-time.

“Winning a game in the state tournament feels really good,” Haley said. “There was a lot of pressure on us, but we worked very hard as a team.”

Troche was very impressed with Haley’s outstanding performance.

“Taydem is only a freshman, but he scored 26 points, which is amazing,” he said. “He always plays every game with a lot of confidence.”

Pathfinder Tech, who has made three appearances in the state tournament since the post-season format was changed in 2021, finished their season with an 11-10 overall record.

“Even though the final score was worse than the first time that we played Palmer, I thought it was a much more competitive game tonight,” said Pathfinder head coach Zac Button. “We battled them to the end.”

The seven seniors listed on the Pioneers varsity roster

are Hunter Griswold, Adrien Moskovitz, Branden Hnitecki, Luke Magnus, Trevor Allard, Adam Slonka, and Richie Gula. “We’ll be losing seven very good kids,” Button said. “I coached the seniors on the junior varsity team before coaching them at the varsity level the past two years. They work very hard on the court and in the classroom. They’re a very special group.”

Gula scored a team-high 17 points in his final high school basketball game.

Griswold, who’s planning on playing football at Mass Maritime Academy next fall, scored 14 of his 16 points during the second half.

“I do know most of the Palmer players and losing to them in a state tournament game is tough,” said Griswold, who’s an outstanding three-sport athlete. “It has been awesome being a member of this basketball team for the last four years.”

At the end of December, the Panthers made the trip down the street to Pathfinder Tech and celebrated a 53-37 non-league victory. Haley scored a game-high 18 points in that contest.

Menard scored the first four points in last Tuesday’s contest and the Panthers never trailed.

A couple of minutes later, a lay-up by sophomore Angel Torres (7 points) gave the home team an 8-4 advantage.

Gula made the first of his two trifectas with 5:15 remaining in the opening quarter, which closed the gap to 8-7.

Then Haley buried a 3-pointer from the top of the key beginning a 13-3 Palmer run. Haley scored six more points during the final five minutes of the first quarter.

“Taydem is an outstanding point guard for a freshman,” Rucker said. “He’s a big catalyst for our team and jump-starts things. His performance tonight was unbelievable. He made fantastic shots while driving, and that’s what we need more of.”

Sophomore Dylan Doherty (8 points) added a field goal and made a pair of foul shots for the home team during the run. Sophomore Stephen Fredette (5

points) also made a free throw, as the Panthers entered the second quarter holding a 21-10 advantage.

Pathfinder Tech began the second stanza with a pair of inside hoops by Allard (6 points) and Slonka (8 points) before Palmer scored the next seven points.

Late in the first half, a Doherty put-back hoop gave the Panthers a 37-21 lead.

Haley took over the spotlight offensively during the third quarter by scoring twelve points, which helped Palmer keep their double digit lead.

“Taydem is a heck of a basketball player,” Button said. “He cut right through our defense, especially in the third quarter.”

The Pioneers did cut the deficit to ten points a couple of times in the quarter, but they weren’t able to get any closer than that the rest of the way.

Griswold made five field goals and a foul shot during the final eight minutes of the contest for the visiting team.

The returning Pioneers players will be looking for a little bit of revenge when they play another game at the Palmer High School gymnasium during the 2024-25 regular season.

## PALMER | from page 7

“We just found out that Drury beat Lenox and we’ll be hosting another game, which is amazing,” said Baer, who finished the Hopedale game with nine points. “We just started screaming in the locker room.”

Palmer (14-8), who defeated Ware, 57-27, in the round of 32, hosted Drury in the elite eight last Friday night.

A year ago, the Lady Panthers defeated Monson, 44-22, in a round of 16 home game before losing at Millis High School by nine points in the elite eight game.

The only other senior listed on the Lady Panthers varsity basketball roster is Jordan Bigda, who scored eight points against the Blue Raiders.

Baer and Bigda, who are cousins, didn’t play in the Western Mass. Class C tournament because they were in Costa Rica on a class trip.

“We love our two seniors,” Levasseur said. “We missed them during the Western Mass. tournament, but it’s nice having them back for the state tournament.”

The Lady Panthers’ other three scorers in last Tuesday’s round of 16 victory were junior Loretta Petrasiewicz (9 points), junior Jayda Pardo (5 points), and junior Maddy Rathbone (2 points).

“I thought it was a total team effort tonight,” said Palmer co-head coach Amanda Theriault. “Everyone tries to focus on only one player on our team, but all of the other girls have made key contributions this season.”

Hopedale (11-11), who captured the 2022 Division 5 state championship title, took a 7-5 lead when junior Mackenzie Reynolds (7 points) hit a jump shot from the top of the key with 2:50 left in the opening quarter.

The Blue Raiders, who dispatched Granby in the round of 32, scored only two more points during the remainder of the first half.

A Bigda lay-up started the 17-0 run. Theriault, who scored 11 of the 17 points, hit a 3-pointer from the right side in the closing seconds of the opening quarter giving her team a 12-7 advantage.

Petrasiewicz and Bigda began the second stanza with field goals before Theriault made three consecutive lay-ups pushing the Lady Panthers lead into double digits (22-7).

“Our full-court press worked really well tonight,” Levasseur said. “We just kept our foot on the gas pedal and never let up.”

Late in the first half, Baer made a pair of inside hoops before Pardo buried a 3-pointer from the left corner.

The Lady Panthers, who held a 29-9 halftime lead, led by as many as 28 points in the second half.

Reynolds sank a halfcourt shot at the end of the third quarter. It gave the Hopedale supporters, who made the trip west on the Masspike something to cheer about.

Sophomore Anna Fafard led the visiting team from the Blackstone Valley with 10 points. Sophomore Phoebe Carroll, who’s approaching 1,000 career points, was held to only four points.

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## DEATH NOTICES

### John Winslow

**Hodgdon, 75**  
Died March 6, 2024  
Services March 18, 2024  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

### Doris E. Schofield

Died March 8, 2024  
Services March 18, 2024  
Lombard Funeral Home

### Jane H. Robert

Died March 8, 2024  
Services March 15, 2024  
Lombard Funeral Home

## The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

# O B I T U A R I E S

## John Winslow Hodgdon

PALMER—John Winslow Hodgdon, 75, passed away on Mar. 6, 2024, with loving family by his side. He was born on September 13, 1948, in New Haven, Connecticut to the late Winslow and Lucille (DePlacito) Hodgdon. He was raised in West Haven, CT and graduated from West Haven High School. After high school John took some courses at New Haven College until he made the decision to enlist in the United States Army. He was incredibly proud to serve his country for 3 years during the Vietnam War.

After being honorably discharged from the United States Army, John discovered his passion working in the restaurant industry and met his wife Linda. Over the years he owned and worked at a variety of restaurants including Turks and Zebs in West Haven, CT. to name a few. Locally, his pride and joy was CJ's Restaurant in Palmer, MA.

John was the J in CJ's and ran the restaurant for a little over 40 years. He was dedicated to the restaurant and generous to his employees and would always try to help in any way he could. His son, Michael, continues to keep the CJ's legacy going and was his caregiver for the last few years. When John had free time outside of the restaurant, he was an avid Harley enthusiast. He enjoyed Corvettes, motorcycles, and watching movies.

John was well loved by an abundance of family and friends as well as touched many people's lives. He will be deeply missed by his two children Michael Hodgdon (Amy Arnold) of Three Rivers and Jennifer Hodgdon of Shutesbury, his brothers, Gary E. Hodgdon (Karen) of Groton, CT and Donald J.



Hodgdon (Colleen) of Orlando, FL, his two granddogs Cricket and Bill as well as many nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, John was predeceased by his loving wife Linda (Ramadon) Hodgdon and his two nephews Christopher Ramadon & Grant Hodgdon as well as his son in law, David Peritz.

A graveside service will be held at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam on Monday, Mar. 18, 2024, at 3 p.m. followed by a gathering at CJ's Restaurant. All are welcome. In Lieu of flowers please consider making donations in memory of David Peritz, scholarship fund c/o Country Bank, GoFundMe, <https://gofund.me/286b948c> For more information visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com)

## Jane H. Robert, 1936-2024

MONSON—Jane H. (Furgal) Robert, 87, passed away Friday, March 8, 2024 surrounded by love of family. Jane was born April 6, 1936 to the late Martin and Rose Catherine (Jabonski) Furgal. She was raised in Monson and was a graduate of Monson High School. She traveled all over the country having her children in different states of the US. She settled back in Monson and retired from Mass Mutual, where at one time she met and shook hands with JFK. Jane met and married John Robert Sr in 1984, combining their large families. They enjoyed traveling the world together and having large family gatherings at their home on Peaked Mountain.

Jane was predeceased by her

husband John G. Robert, Sr. She leaves her children: Constance Finnegan, James Finnegan, Jr (Jo-Anne), Kathleen Finnegan, Daniel J. Finnegan, Mary Cardaropoli (Anthony) and Sean Finnegan (Vicki); ten grandchildren, Janey Ukrainets, Shane Finnegan, Taryn Finnegan, Kaitlyn Dansereau, Devin Finnegan, Pamela Cardaropoli, Vincente Cardaropoli, Martin Finnegan (Sierra), Emilia Finnegan, Daniel C. Finnegan; great grandson, Damien Gralenski; sisters, Eleanor Miller and Constance Schetzel (James); step-children, Donna Graveline, Nancy Plante



(Ken), Jackie Santucci, Tracy Theodore (Barry) and Michael Robert (Karen).

Visiting Hours will be held Friday, Mar. 15, 2024 from 6-8 p.m. in Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge St., Monson. Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 16, 2024 with a funeral procession forming at 9:15 a.m. at the funeral home and a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in St. Patrick's Church, 22 Green St., burial will follow at Bethany Cemetery, all in Monson. For online condolences please visit [www.lombardfuneralhome.com](http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com).

## Doris E. Schofield, 1933-2024

MONSON—Doris E. Schofield, 90, passed away Friday, March 8, 2024 two days before her 91st birthday with family at her side. Doris was born in Monson, March 10, 1933 to the late Ernest and Henrietta (Douty) Stacy. She was a graduate of Monson High School and a lifelong resident here. For many years she worked at Tyco in Stafford, CT. Doris enjoyed playing scrabble, sewing, baking and cooking. She will be greatly remembered for her care and de-

votion to her sister, Ida and niece Linda. Doris often had her four-legged companion by her side "John-Boy".

Doris was predeceased by her husband Stuart S. Schofield in 1990. She leaves her son, Brian C. Schofield and his wife Becky; grandchildren, Nathan Schofield, Christopher Schofield, Joshua Schofield and Makayla Schofield, seven great grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews. Doris was also predeceased by her son Da-

vid and her siblings; Erwin, Clifford, Donald and Ida.

Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. Visiting hours will be held Monday, March 18 from 5-7 p.m. Burial will be held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Monson Fire Department Ambulance Fund, PO Box 335, Monson, MA 01057. For online condolences please visit [www.lombardfuneralhome.com](http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com).

# Police/Fire

## Police Logs

### Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 457 incidents on its logs for Feb. 27 – March 4.

#### Feb. 27

At 2:32 p.m. police arrested Anthony Jerome Carter, 41, of 134 Union St., Westfield, on a warrant.

At 5:10 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 5:29 p.m. police responded to a motor vehicle accident on the corner of Shearer Street and Longview Street. Police arrested Jennifer E. McGuill, 40, of 15 Meadowbrook Ln, Palmer, on charges of OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, using electronic device while operating a motor vehicle, speeding at a rate that was greater than reasonable and proper, obstruction of a stationary emergency vehicle and failure to yield.

At 11:08 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Natasha Jose, 28, of 145 Beacon Dr., Palmer, for number plate violation, un-

insured motor vehicle, and unregistered motor vehicle.

#### Feb. 28

At 5:44 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Carlos Cruz, 50, of 320 Wilbraham St., Palmer, for number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured motor vehicle, and unregistered motor vehicle.

#### Feb. 29

At 10:37 p.m. police pulled over and gave summons to Tobias Rache Trainor Austin, 20, of 23 Molasses Hill Road, Brookfield, for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration and uninsured motor vehicle.

#### March 1

At 4:43 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Chelsea Ann Lopes, 25, of 128 S. High St., Bondsville, for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

#### March 2

At 8:29 p.m. police responded

to an accident with property damage at the corner of Sykes Street and Palmer Road.

#### March 3

At 12:22 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

#### March 4

At 7:29 a.m. police responded to an accident with property damage on the corner of N. Main Street and Shearer Street.

At 3:54 p.m. police received sex offender registration.

At 4:46 p.m. police responded to a hit and run accident on East Street.

At 6:28 p.m. police gave summons to Jermy Deamenderfer, 50, of 200 Bourne St., Three Rivers, for failure to register as a sex offender.

At 10:25 p.m. police pulled over and arrested Katherine E. Davidson, 42, of 1033 Chestnut St., Palmer, for operating a motor vehicle without a license, refusing to identify self, failure to stop/yield and 3 warrants.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com) or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in sentence form and as a Word doc or plain email text – no PDFs or flyers, please – to [pressreleases@turley.com](mailto:pressreleases@turley.com).

## INTERESTS

**CRAFTERNOONS:** Drop in 2-4 p.m. daily at the Holland Public Library, 23 Sturbridge Road to learn or practice different crafts. There are new crafts every Wednesday. For more information, call 413-245-3607.

**KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM:** Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the signposts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email [khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org](mailto:khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org) or visit [keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://keephomesteadmuseum.org).

**QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD:** Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are \$55 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

**BINGO IS BACK** at Amvets Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers, on Mondays. The kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Early Bird starts at 6:25 p.m. Call the Post at 413-283-4518 for further information.

**LINE DANCING CLASS:** 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Monson. Rose's line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

**GAME NIGHT:** 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at Top Floor Learning (third floor of the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St.). Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email [palewis19@yahoo.com](mailto:palewis19@yahoo.com).

**NOTCH VISITOR CENTER OPEN FOR WINTER SEASON:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday-Monday. The center is located on Rt 116, at the center of the Holyoke Range State Park. DCR Interpretive staff will be available for visitors. Coming in January, programs will also be offered to highlight the Range's special nature in winter, see the park web site for details.

**QI GONG:** 6 p.m., every Tuesday night at Memorial Hall with Randy Emerson. Free, no registration. Presented by Monson Parks & Rec and the Monson Free Library,

## POLICE | from page 1

prorate the addition of another full-time position in Fiscal Year 2025 and budget for a full year position in Fiscal Year 2026."

Kozloski said that this approach would allow the department to "address workload demands while maintaining budgetary constraints and ensuring the sustainability of essential services."

Kozloski responded to questions about the current staffing schedule of the police department, confirming that the department was meeting minimum requirements for each shift.

"Every shift is currently staffed," Kozloski said. "All of our shifts are currently staffed at least at a two-officer minimum."

Kozloski noted that the number of part-time officers has gone down from 25 when he started in 1992, to three, with "only two that have any kind of availability."

"Right now the state is potentially grandfathering the existing part-time officers if they are able to demonstrate 2,400 hours of patrol time by the beginning of 2027," Kozloski said. "That eliminates a lot of

part-time officers in and of itself right there."

Kozloski said that in 2027, many part-time officers who do not meet the 2,400-hour requirement will have their certification dissolved, and will not be recognized as officers.

"Any part-time officer who is not already trained as a part-time officer is expected to complete a full-time police academy, and that's generally, right now, about 26 weeks of full-time training," Kozloski said. "For part-time officers that generally have full-time jobs elsewhere, they're not going to be able to take 26 weeks off to attend a full-time academy."

Kozloski advocated for adding additional officers in order to raise the minimum staff to three officers per shift, both so that sergeants could supervise the other officers, and to allow officers to take time off without using overtime to fill gaps.

"The additional officers that I had been phasing in would be to raise our staff to a minimum of three officers per shift," Kozloski said. "That enabled me to be able to absorb one person out and still maintain a two-officer minimum. If I have two officers on and one person is out, then we're

filling that shift at an overtime basis.

"We used to have part-time officers to do that; now with part-time officers again just through attrition, those now have to be filled with somebody, and it's going to be a full-time officer at time-and-a-half," Kozloski said.

Kozloski also said that he's had difficulty getting officers to take overtime, and was worried that he would have to start ordering officers to work extra hours should no officers be willing to volunteer.

"If it were our voters' decision and the Finance Committee's recommendation to say, 'let's add to our overtime budget,' the problem that I still have to face is my officers are all human as well, they have lives that they want to lead," Kozloski said. "They enjoy the overtime when it's available but they enjoy their time off as well. In fact, I'm kind of even seeing a trend where officers seem to even be more interested in time off over overtime; that's changed, in the old days everybody wanted overtime and they would work it, but now it's become a little bit more challenging."

Kozloski also talked about wanting to fund a body camera project in

town.

"I had been working with prior Select Boards on trying to implement a body camera program here in Monson," Kozloski said. "It's still my intention to try to move towards a body camera program here, primarily for the protection of the officers, but certainly for the protection of the public, too, in case there are any questions about any type of wrongdoing on an officer's part."

Kozloski reported that the department receives minimal complaints from the public, and that the body camera project would primarily be to insulate the town from liability and to protect the officers.

Kozloski said he was anticipating the state offering a grant for body cameras during the upcoming fiscal year, but added that the state awards its grant after Town Meeting, and part of the grant requires some money from the town.

"Unfortunately, Monson doesn't have one of those slush fund accounts that I can keep money bur-

ied and take \$20,000 to pay for the community portion of it, so this year I spoke to our Finance Director and said that what I would like to do is to anticipate that there will be a grant offered again this year and try to get that money appropriated so that when the grant does become available, I can actually apply for the grant," Kozloski said.

Kozloski added that storing the video footage from body cameras would cost an annual fee for cloud storage, because the state only pays

for footage to be stored on servers in-house.

"The state says, 'we'll pay for a server,' but what they can't comprehend is all of the big reputable body camera companies don't use servers in-house," Kozloski said. "That becomes a challenge here, too; now I'm coming back and asking the town to maintain storage on the server."

The committee also heard presentations from the fire department and WestComm Regional Dispatch Executive Director Erin Hastings.

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#### HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Brookfield is seeking an experienced full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description at [brookfieldma.us](http://brookfieldma.us). Please submit resume and cover letter to [selectmen@brookfieldma.us](mailto:selectmen@brookfieldma.us). Application review will begin after March 28th. Resumes accepted until position is filled. Brookfield is an equal opportunity employer.

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The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for 16 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us). Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

### REAL ESTATE



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# Public Notices

## PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, March 25, 2024 at 7:00 PM** in the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Palmer Foundry Inc., is seeking a Site Plan Approval as allowed under section 171.29 to construct a building addition, relocate the existing sewage disposal system, and expand the Stormwater Management system on the property located at 22 Mt. Dumplin Road, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 19, Lots 9 & 10.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Michael Marciniac, Chairman  
03/07, 03/14/2024

## Town of Wales Conservation Commission

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission on **March 21, 2024, at the Wales Senior Center (Old Stafford Rd. Wales, MA) at 6:00 PM**, for a Notice of Intent filed by Sherman & Frydryk Land Surveying and Engineering on behalf of property owner Alice Lombard & Brian Hatch. The project site is located at 41 Fountain Rd. in Wales, MA 01081. This Notice of Intent is for the construction of a single-family home, driveway, septic, well, associated grading and landscaping to replace existing home. Please check the town website to view the agenda for this hearing. [conservation@townofwales.net](mailto:conservation@townofwales.net).  
03/14/2024

## The Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals

**110 Main Street Monson, MA 01057 LEGAL NOTICE**  
In accordance with Chapter 40A M.G.L. §.11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday March 28th, 2024 at 7:20 P.M.** at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, Ma 01057, on the application of Antonio Dias for a Special Permit as provided by Section 6.7 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks a special permit to construct an accessory apartment in the existing garage located at 127 Stafford Road, Map 101 and Parcel 006A. There are no proposed changes to the exterior or the footprint of the existing structure. The property is zoned Rural Residential. A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals.  
Ronald Fussell, Chairman  
03/07, 03/14/23

## TOWN OF PALMER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40 A, Sections 10 & 11 M.G.L. the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, April 1st, 2024 at 6:30PM** at the Palmer Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Stolar Realty, LLC, is requesting a variance from §171-35 Dimensional and Density Regulations. The variance request is to allow for the construction of a 20'x28' storage building within the front setback. The property is located at 2001 Calkins Road, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 67, Lot 63.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Dennis Fountain  
Chairman, Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals  
03/14, 03/21/2024

## Invitation for Sealed Bids Town of Monson Highway Department

The Highway Surveyor will accept sealed bids for Conventional Chip Seal and Rubber Seal for fiscal year 2025. All bid envelopes must be clearly marked as such. All bidders are required to be in compliance with Mass. General Laws, Chapter 149, Prevailing wage rates, where applicable. The highway surveyor reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any informalities in the bidding if he deems it in the best interest of the town to do so. Bid specifications must be obtained from the Highway Clerk's office. They can be picked up at 198 Main Street Monson, Ma 01057, rear of Memorial Town Hall from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or can be emailed upon request by calling the Highway Department at (413) 267-4135. Bidders must be pre-qualified by the Contract Engineer of Mass. D.O.T., before specifications can be handed out. Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., Friday, April 05, 2024, and will be opened and read at that time in the office of the Highway Surveyor. The bid shall include a statement of non-collusion.

Ben Murphy  
Highway Surveyor  
Monson Highway Department  
03/14/2024

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court

**50 State Street Springfield MA, 01103 Docket No. HD15P1669PM**  
In the matter of: **Timothy J Patenaude of Monson, MA Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Eighth** account(s) of **Karen Patenaude of Monson, MA James Patenaude of Monson, MA** as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

**You have the right to object to the account(s).** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **04/11/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a

copy of the account(s) at no cost to you.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 07, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
03/14/2024

## Legal Notice

The Monson School Committee will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** to discuss the proposed **2024-2025 School Department budget**, as required by law, on **March 27, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** at Quarry Hill Community School- School Committee Room # 428, 43 Margaret Street, Monson, MA 01057

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89265447858>  
Meeting ID: 892 6544 7858

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03/14/2024

# The Horace Smith Scholarship deadline extended

WESTFIELD— Due to the low number of applications received, The Horace Smith Fund, a private foundation that offers scholarships and fellowships to residents of Hampden County, MA, has extended the application deadline date for the Walter S. Barr Scholarships and Fellowships until March 31. Last year, The Horace Smith Fund awarded \$316,000 to 31 individuals.

"We have received only 38 scholarship applications and five fellowship applications so far. It is surprising that more students haven't applied yet," stated Teresa Regina, chair of the Scholarship Committee and Trustee. "This year, we would like to reach as many students as possible. Applications can be downloaded or

completed online. They are also available at every area high school and college and by contacting our office."

The Walter S. Barr Scholarship is available for residents of Hampden County. Applicants may either be graduating seniors or currently attending college. Scholarships awards of \$12,000 are distributed in two semi-annual installments of \$1,500 and renewable each year until graduation. Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including their academic scores, extra-curricular activities, recommendations from school counselors and teachers, and a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance.

The Walter S. Barr Fellowship

awards are made annually to those wishing to pursue a full-time graduate degree. In general, applicants must be permanent residents of Hampden County, Massachusetts. The award of \$15,000 is distributed in two semi-annual installments of \$3,750 for a maximum of two years. Awards will be based on all available information, including school records, recommendations, and examination scores. Consideration will be given to both the merit and financial need of the applicant. "We hope more students take advantage of this local resource," said Regina.

For more information, visit the website [www.HoraceSmithFund.org](http://www.HoraceSmithFund.org) or call (413) 739-4222.



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SESSION 3: JULY 8-12  
SESSION 4: JULY 15-19  
SESSION 5: JULY 22-26  
SESSION 6: JULY 29-AUG 2  
SESSION 7: AUG 5-9

Visit [Bement.org/summer](http://Bement.org/summer) for more information and to register. Register early!

**Enrichment Camps!**  
Led by faculty and staff from Bement as well as local area experts, enrichment camps are open to campers in a variety of grades. Check the website for specific offerings each week.

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Please contact [ceoneal@bement.org](mailto:ceoneal@bement.org) with questions.

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# Area fire chiefs stress importance of smoke/CO detectors



Westfield Fire Chief Patrick Egloff speaks at the East Longmeadow Fire Department on Feb. 22.



State Fire Marshal John Davine takes to the podium at the East Longmeadow Fire Department on Feb. 22 to talk about the importance of having working smoke and CO detectors and alarms.



Chicopee Fire Chief Dan Stamborski was joined by fire chiefs from across the region on Feb. 22.

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
dzbierski@turley.com

EAST LONGMEADOW – Led by State Fire Marshal John Davine, fire personnel from across the state gathered at the East Longmeadow Fire Department on the morning of Feb. 22 to emphasize the significance of maintaining working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

“We have carefully reviewed the recent data from fatal fires and have noticed some trends,” Davine said. “A total of 45 people lost their lives from fire in Massachusetts last year, and nearly 70% of those deaths took place in the home. Two-thirds of those fire victims were older adults ages 65 and up. Tragically, more than half of those homes that had fatal fires did not have working smoke alarms.”

There was a time in the state’s history where a single fire could take the lives of 492 people, as occurred during the Coconut Grove nightclub fire in Boston in 1942, so 45 fire fatalities statewide in 2023 represents generational progress, but more progress could be made if all residents installed working detectors.

Westfield Fire Chief Patrick Egloff noted that 30% of the state’s residential fire deaths last year occurred in Western Massachusetts. Egloff is vice president of the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association, which represents more than 100 communities west of Worcester, ranging from larger urban centers to small rural towns and everything in between.

“No matter where we work, we all agree on one thing: working smoke and CO alarms are vital, lifesaving tools that belong in every home, apartment, mov-

ing house and dorm,” Egloff said.

Egloff relayed that fire personnel are realistic and know fires will occur as long as people are cooking, heating their homes, smoking and using electricity. However, almost every fire death can be prevented if residents install, test and maintain their smoke detectors and alarms.

“Smoke alarms alert you to the danger and give you time to escape safely, especially in the overnight hours while you’re sleeping,” Egloff said. “The sooner you know about the danger, the faster you can escape, and the sooner we’re notified, the faster we can be there to help.”

Davine, formerly the Northampton fire chief, said that in the case of several dozen fatal fire incidents last year, investigators found smoke alarms disabled, outdated or altogether missing.

Springfield Fire Commissioner B.J. Calvi spoke of a tragedy that occurred in the city on March 30, 2023, during a structure fire. Multiple people were trapped in the residence and couldn’t escape.

“When (firefighters) made entry and knocked down the fire, they found two elderly adults who never made it out of their bed. The subsequent investigation showed that there were no smoke detectors present in the house,” Calvi said.

Calvi noted that there were five fire fatalities in Springfield last year, of which four had no smoke detectors present.

“These are tragedies that could have been averted and need to stop,” Calvi said, noting that all the fatal fires in Springfield last year occurred between midnight and 8 a.m.

“Please don’t spend a single night in your home without a working smoke detector,” he said.

Easthampton Fire Chief Christopher Norris encourages residents to check their detectors and alarms when they change their clocks, as the devices don’t last forever. If you don’t remember when you installed your smoke detector, the manufacturing date is printed on the back.

“Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. If your alarm was made before February of 2014, or if there’s no date at all, it’s time to replace it,” Norris said. “We recommend alarms made by well-known, national brands. You should be able to find most of these at your local hardware stores.”

Chicopee Fire Chief Dan Stamborski said smoke detectors and alarms are the first line of defense against a fire in your home and that everyone should know what to do when the alarm goes off.

“That’s where your home escape plan comes in,” Stamborski said. “First and foremost, take a look around your house on a daily basis, be sure to keep furniture and clutter away from your doors, windows and stairways because you don’t want anything blocking your way out during an emergency. And, when we respond to your home, you certainly don’t want to impede our access to get to you.”

Stamborski encourages families to practice their escape routes and choose two or more ways to leave the building, which can include windows if you are on a lower floor. Pick a meeting place outside; it should be a safe distance away where everyone can gather.

“Once you’re at the meeting place, never go back inside, not for anything. Call 911 and let the firefighters enter with their protective equipment,” Stamborski said.

Once you create your escape route, practice it often, both during the day and at night until it becomes muscle memory. Also, sleeping with your bedroom door closed is the simplest way to keep fire, smoke and carbon monoxide out.

“You’d be amazed how much protection a simple closed door offers,” Stamborski said.

Wilbraham Fire Chief Michael Andrews spoke about CO, a poisonous gas created by burning fuels that is often produced by home heating equipment. CO is harmful and potentially fatal, especially for young children or older adults.

“What makes CO so dangerous is that you can’t see it, smell it or taste it. Carbon monoxide is a silent, invisible killer,” Andrews said. “Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of accidental poisoning deaths in the country. Here in Massachusetts, more than 350 people end up in the emergency room each year because of CO poisoning.”

Last year, in Massachusetts, there were more than 5,000 calls reporting carbon monoxide, and the vast majority ended safely because people had working alarms.

Andrews said be sure to have CO alarms in every level of your home, test them every month and replace the batteries twice a year. The alarms themselves need to be replaced every five, seven to 10 years; one can check the manufacturer’s instructions or look up the make and model online to find out.

“Finally, if you hear it going off, get outside and dial 911. Don’t disable them or write it off as a malfunction. Let us check to see if it’s safe,” Andrews said.



Wilbraham Fire Chief Michael Andrews, shown speaking in East Longmeadow on Feb. 22.



On Feb. 22, Chicopee Fire Chief Dan Stamborski spoke on the importance of having a fire escape plan.

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## Healthy Quaboag: Improving Quality of Life for the Quaboag Hills Community

For those who live, work, and play in the Quaboag Hills region, we know that it is an area of scenic beauty, rural perseverance, and caring for our neighbors with hopes and concerns about the quality of life, including health, in our communities. Recognizing that the health and well-being of its residents are paramount to community prosperity, the Town of Ware launched the Healthy Quaboag initiative in 2022 to elevate the quality of life for everyone living within Quaboag Hills.

Healthy Quaboag embodies a collective movement toward healthier and more vibrant Quaboag Hills. The primary goal is to address health disparities and uplift the well-being of the region’s residents through collaborative efforts and impactful health interventions. By forging partnerships with various community members and organizations, including the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, Substance Use Alliance, and Baystate Health, Healthy Quaboag fosters cross-sector collaboration to tackle complex public health challenges.

Using a multi-sector approach, Healthy Quaboag concentrates on key priority areas crucial for the health and vitality of the Quaboag Hills region. One such area is the reduction of poverty and the improvement of access to resources essential for educational and vocational success. Through programs like the Education to Employment Project, Healthy Quaboag aims to empower youth and young adults, paving the way for a more equitable and prosperous community, while helping boost the local economy.

Additionally, Healthy Quaboag is dedicated to long-term strategic planning to improve community health outcomes. We are creating roadmaps that address pressing health issues while also laying the foundation for sustained improvement in the years to come. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), developed collaboratively with community input, targets critical health issues related to four priority focus areas: 1) housing, 2) transportation, 3) mental health, and 4) access to healthcare providers. Our community members and partners are invited to join a CHIP working group where you help determine goals, objectives, strategies, and measures to address these focus areas through regular meetings and events.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Healthy Quaboag has played a pivotal role in support-

ing rural communities, implementing measures to curb the virus’s spread. Initiatives like the Rural Vaccine Equality Initiative (RVEI) ensure equitable access to vaccines and flu shots through community clinics, emphasizing the importance of long-term planning. We hosted several clinics throughout the year where residents received free COVID-19 vaccines and Flu shots in a confidential manner. We had a great response, with residents young and old taking advantage of this amazing resource. Our focus on long-range planning ensures that we are not only addressing immediate needs, but also building a more resilient community prepared to withstand future crises.

Acknowledging the significance of a healthy and equitable food system, Healthy Quaboag’s Food Policy Council (FPC) endeavors to address food insecurity while promoting overall well-being. Through education, policy advocacy, and partnerships with local farmers and organizations, the FPC strives to enhance food accessibility and equity within the community. Anyone can take part in the FPC! You can find a growing list of local farmers markets in Quaboag Valley, as well as a variety of virtual cooking demonstrations in partnership with SNAP-Education Program out of Ascentria Care Alliance that highlights tasty culinary creations with a healthful twist on our website.

Led by a diverse team of passionate public health professionals, Healthy Quaboag exemplifies the power of community in effecting positive change.

“Healthy Quaboag has provided me with an incredibly supportive and fulfilling environment to work in the public health field. Every day, I am excited to collaborate with our team and other impactful organizations in our area, all dedicated to making a difference in our local community,” said Caitlin Geaghan, Food Policy Health Coordinator.

From its roots in Ware, Healthy Quaboag has blossomed into a beacon of positive change for the entire Quaboag Hills region. Join us as we build a healthier, more resilient Quaboag Hills for generations to come.

To find out more about Healthy Quaboag and learn how you can get involved, please visit [www.healthyquaboag.org](http://www.healthyquaboag.org) or contact Nisha Humayun, our Project Coordinator for Community Health, at [nhumayun@townofware.com](mailto:nhumayun@townofware.com).

HEALTHY QUABOAG & THE TOWN OF WARE

# QUABOAG VALLEY

## Food Policy Council

**VISION**  
"THE QUABOAG VALLEY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL WILL MAKE NUTRITIOUS LOCAL FOOD EASILY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS"

**MISSION**  
THE QUABOAG VALLEY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL MISSION IS TO CONNECT LOCAL RESOURCES, PROVIDE EDUCATION SURROUNDING NUTRITIOUS FOOD, PROMOTE AND ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL FOOD AVAILABILITY, INCREASE COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND IMPROVE THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM FOR ALL"

**Serving the towns of: Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Holland, Monson, North Brookfield, Palmer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield**

**Anyone is welcome to join the Council! You don't have to have prior experience or knowledge of the local food system and food policy to be involved.**

**For more information, email Caitlin at [cgeaghan@townofware.com](mailto:cgeaghan@townofware.com)**