

Local Cultural Councils Accepting Grant Applications

By MARTHA AKSTIN

Cultural councils in Holden, Paxton, and Rutland are accepting proposals from individuals, schools, and organizations for community-based arts, humanities, and science programs for 2026. Deadline for applying for a grant is noon on October 16.

The three cultural councils are part of the Mass Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency that allocates funds to all 351 municipalities in the Commonwealth. The Local Cultural Council Program is the nation's largest grassroots cultural funding network and supports thousands of community-oriented projects every year.

Local projects that have been funded in the past include live music, exhibits,



John Higby the Yo-yo Guy
Photo courtesy of Gale Free Library

festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, performances, craft workshops, and lectures.

All applications must be submitted online through the MCC portal. The agency sends completed packets to each local council in November that review the ap-

plications and make funding decisions by the end of the year.

"An effort has always been made to attempt equality in service to all ages, from toddlers to the elderly, with

GRANTS

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A Tale of Two Towns

Paxton and Holden Confront MBTA Communities Act Compliance

By MARTHA AKSTIN

As reported last month, Paxton is facing a December 31 deadline to respond to the MBTA Communities Act (MBTACA) by choosing six acres in town that will have a by-right multi-family overlay zone. Four properties have been identified as possible sites: one on Route 31 near the Spencer line, 1105 Pleasant St. which is near the Rutland line, 221 Grove St., and 95 Asnebumskit Rd.

To help guide its decisions and generate resident input, the town has created an MBTA page on its website. The pages contain FAQs, the property locations, and a survey that asks residents to rank the proposed properties. The results of the survey will determine the final property

selection that will be put forward at the December 1 Special Town Meeting.

Andrea Joy Campbell, the Massachusetts Attorney General, has promised to enforce the MBTACA on non-compliant municipalities. Penalties may include the levy of fines, loss of state funding, the judicial appointment of someone who will determine both the location of the property and the wording of the multi-family bylaw, and other consequences.

To explain the law's impact on the town, organizers held an in-person meeting on September 18 at the Paxton Senior Center that was attended by about 40 residents.

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GRANTS

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added attention given so that those with disabilities may also enjoy the programs,” explained Kristin Steinmetz, a member of the Paxton Cultural Council.

“Our council is committed to supporting projects that reflect the diverse cultural, educational, and artistic interests of our community,” said Jescah Gannon, chair of the Rutland Cultural Council. “Each year, we look forward to reviewing applications that bring new ideas and opportunities for engagement to Rutland residents, whether through the arts, humanities, or interpretive sciences.”

“We fund projects that bring



From top: Flying High Dogs; Tanglewood Marionettes; Awesome Robb Magic Show
All photos courtesy of Gale Free Library

to send in their applications. “We would like to hear from local artists, musicians, craftspeople and teachers this year,” she said. “In the past we have also supported a science program at Mayo Elementary and a spring musical at the town’s middle school.”

Each town is awarded its own budget that is based on

population size. This year Paxton’s Cultural Council will be given approximately \$6,800, Holden will receive about \$13,400, and Rutland will receive about \$8,900.

For local guidelines, access to the grant application, and more information on the process, visit MCC’s website at massculturalcouncil.org.

The HCC is looking for new members. If you are interested, please contact Ana Gregory at anagregory@gmail.com. No experience necessary.

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people together, so people are socializing with each other without technology” explained Ana Gregory of the Holden Cultural Council. She points to the marionette performance at the Gale Free Library, the free Sunday night concerts at the town bandstand, and craft workshops at the senior center. “We are so lucky to have the HCC supporting our sum-

mer program,” said Kevin McDonough, head of youth services at Holden’s Gale Free Library. “We had so many wonderful acts we would never be able to present on our own. I am so appreciative of their support of arts in our community.”

Gregory encourages residents who have an idea but have never applied for a grant

Special Town Meetings

The towns of Paxton and Rutland will each have Special Town Meetings this fall.

PAXTON December 1, 7 pm, Paxton Center School Cafeteria. Anticipated opening date of the Warrant: Tuesday, October 14. Anticipated closing date of the Warrant: Monday, November 10. Warrant posting date: No later than Monday, November 17. Last date to register to vote for the Special Town Meeting: Friday, November 21. The Town Clerk’s office will be open that Friday for residents to register to vote.

RUTLAND November 20, 6 pm, Glenwood Elementary School. The Warrant opened on Monday, September 15 and closed September 19. The final Warrant will be posted no later than Thursday, November 6. Last date to register to vote for the Special Town Meeting: Monday, November 3.

Holden: No Special Town Meeting this fall.

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This was followed by a Zoom meeting on September 23 that was attended by just over 20 people. At each meeting, town resident Roberta Brien, a member of the committee working to help the town understand the law and its

Town Meeting. The Town of Holden has pushed back on complying with the MBTACA. At the town’s May 19, 2025, Annual Town Meeting, voters elected to reject Article 37 that would have done two things: established an MBTACA Multi-family Overlay District and amended the current zoning bylaw to include a new sec-

“We have not sought a waiver but the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and the Attorney General have made it abundantly clear to every town that has requested any form of waiver that no waivers of any kind will even be considered. So the option is not available.

We are planning a Special Town Meeting in late February/ early March (2026) at which point MBTACA will be one of the issues that we address there. In the meantime, the Board of Selectmen has decided to create a “working group” made up of key members from town boards and commissions, town staff, and four residents to try and propose a new map and plan for inclusion of the districts for allowing 750 new units to be zoned in town with the high-density housing model that the MBTACA requires,” Lukes concluded.

On September 12, the Holden Select Board posted on the town website that it is looking for residents to serve on the MBTACA Working

Group. Lukes indicated that the Select Board will appoint the members on October 6. The purpose of this group will be to assist in developing a plan to comply with the MBTACA, collaborate with town staff and consultants to review and select zoning options, engage with the community, and

prepare recommendations on how the town should move forward. “This work will help guide the Town toward adopting zoning provisions and amendments necessary to meet state requirements,” the post reads.

“We have not sought a waiver but the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and the Attorney General have made it abundantly clear to every town that has requested any form of waiver that no waivers of any kind will even be considered. So the option is not available.”

-Holden Town Manager, Peter Lukes, via email

impact on Paxton, was joined by two consultants, Will Rhatigan from the Citizens Housing and Planning Association and Jeff Davis from Horsley Witten Group. They plan at least one other general meeting that will be held in October, the date for which was not set at press time.

The link to the recording of the Zoom meeting is available on the MBTA page on the town website. Organizers urge residents to go to that page and complete the survey which will guide future steps. As of October 1, only 60 people have completed the survey according to Roberta Brien.

The final location and multi-family bylaw will be included as warrant articles on Paxton’s December 1 Special

tion, the MBTACA Multi-family Overlay District bylaw. At the meeting, Town Manager Peter Lukes explained to voters that Holden was facing a July 15 compliance deadline. “We spent tens of thousands of dollars with consultants on this.... It took a great deal of time, and I would ask that we at least vote on it tonight.”

When asked in an email for an update on Holden and the MBTACA, Lukes replied: “The compliance deadline at the time of the Annual Town Meeting was July 15. However, the Attorney General announced that she would forestall enforcement until Jan 1. Therefore while we may be technically out of compliance, we are “allowed” to be so until then.

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How Scammers Steal Life Savings

By MARTHA AKSTIN

It can happen to you so quickly. And before you know it, you have lost control. You're on your laptop checking your bank account – or playing Sudoku – when suddenly a

warning pops up from McAfee or Norton Antivirus (both reputable anti-virus and protective technology companies) that your computer has been hacked. Click here, the flashing words scream! Or, you think, it's better to call that 800 number and talk

to somebody. So with your heart hammering, you call because you don't understand what just happened and you want to protect yourself from any damage. The toll-free number is answered by a kindly representative who calmly says, "Let me see what happened. I'll need access to your laptop so I can help you out. What's your password so we can get started?" And so it begins – you have just opened the door to a team of professional scam artists who can now access all accounts you have online: bank, credit cards, retirement, emails, contacts, addresses – and your identity. "They create a sense of urgency," explained Lt. Daniel Collinge Jr. of the Rutland Police Department. "They get you confused because they want you to act quickly before you have time to think about exactly what they have you doing. They don't want you taking a breath to call a friend or family member. They create panic." Detective Cassie DeSousa says the Rutland Police Department

fields five to six scam cases a week. They might be phishing scams, Medicare or insurance scams, romance scams, lottery or sweepstakes scams, or a tech support scam. She agrees with Collinge that these professionals are good at their jobs. "Once you call that number, you have initiated contact with these criminals," said DeSousa. "And they keep escalating the "seriousness" of what they have supposedly discovered on your computer."

After being passed from one "security expert" to another, each escalating the panic you're feeling, you are finally referred to a "government official" who is going to assess the situation and help. According to DeSousa, the conversation then goes something like this: "It looks like your Social Security number is actually being used abroad right now."

SCAMMERS
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Top Scam-prevention Tips

Information courtesy of the Rutland Police Department

Don't Give Personal info over the Phone

NEVER share your Social Security number, Medicare number, bank details or passwords with anyone from an unsolicited call. If someone claims to be from your bank or a government agency, hang up and call back using an official number – not one they give you.

Beware of "Too Good to be True" Offers

Free vacations, lottery winnings, or investment opportunities that guarantee high returns are often scams. If you didn't enter it – you didn't win it.

Avoid Pressure to Act Quickly

Scammers create urgency ("your grandson is in jail" or "you owe the IRS") to trick you into acting without thinking. Take your time. Talk to a trusted friend or family member first before you act.

Don't Trust Caller ID

Scammers can "spoof" numbers to make it look like they're calling from your bank, Medicare, or even the police. If in doubt, hang up and call back on a number you trust.

Watch out for "Romance" Scams

Be cautious of new online relationships who ask for money, especially if you have never met them in person. Never send money or gift cards to someone you haven't met.

Don't Pay with Gift Cards or Wire Transfers

Legitimate companies and government agencies will never ask for payment in gift cards or wire transfers like Western Union. If someone demands payment this way, it's a scam. Hang up.

Be Skeptical of Tech Support Calls

Microsoft, Apple or other companies do not call you to report a virus on your computer. Don't allow remote access to your computer unless you initiated the contact with a reputable company.

Shred Personal Documents

Shred bank statements, credit card offers, credit card statements, and anything with your name, address, or financial information on it before you throw it out.

Sign up for Alerts

Visit www.ftc.gov/scams or your local police department's website to get email alerts about new scams in your area. If your home is recorded at the Registry of Deeds, enroll in the free Consumer Notification Service, which alerts you by email if a new document is recorded for your property. Visit cns.masslandrecords.com to enroll.

Trust Your Instincts

If something feels off or too good to be true - it probably is. It's okay to say no and hang up.

In Conclusion

Don't be embarrassed – these are professional, smooth-talking scammers who do this for a living. If you believe you have been scammed, report it immediately: Federal Trade Commission (FTC): 877-382-4357 or reportfraud.ftc.gov Call AARP's helpline at 877-908-3360 M-F, 8 am-8 pm (you do not need to be an AARP member) if you suspect a scam. Your local police department, especially if money was stolen.

A retiree's guide for National Financial Security Month



Anne-Marie Kelley

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If you're retired, it's easy to let your finances go on autopilot. Since October is National Retirement Security Month, it's a good time to revisit some areas that can impact your long-term financial security and help your money last a lifetime.

- Consider these suggestions:
- **Manage your withdrawal rate.** You'll likely need to tap into your retirement accounts — your IRA and 401(k)

or similar employer-sponsored plan. But think carefully about how much income you withdraw every year. If you take out too much, especially in the early years of your retirement, you risk outliving your resources. You have the option of withdrawing from these accounts at age 59½. Once you turn 73, you'll be required to take out at least a certain amount each year based on your age and account balance.

- **Estimate health care costs.** When you turn 65, you will be eligible for Medicare, but you may still need a Medicare supplement plan, both of which will require premium payments. You'll probably also incur a variety of other unreimbursed expenses for doctor visit copays or deductibles, prescription drugs and vision, hearing and dental care. Additionally, about 70% of adults ages 65 and older will need some form of long-term support, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

This may include a paid home health aide (average cost of \$77,792 per year), an assisted living residence (average cost of \$70,500 per year) or nursing home care (private room average cost of \$127,750 per year). (Cost estimates are from Genworth 2024 Cost of Care Survey.) Over the course of your retirement, these can add up, so be realistic when budgeting for health care expenses in retirement.

- **Consider when to take Social Security.** You can start receiving monthly Social Security checks at age 62, but your payments will generally be larger if you wait until your "full" retirement age of 66 or 67. (The size of your payments will "max out" at age 70.) If you believe you have longevity working in your favor, and you can afford to wait, you may well be better off by delaying Social Security as long as possible.
- **Avoid investing too conservatively.** Once you're

retired, you might think you should take as few chances with your investments as possible — after all, you have less time for them to bounce back from a downturn than you did during your working years. Nonetheless, it's important to consider keeping a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented investments in your portfolio to help you stay ahead of inflation. Even at a low rate, inflation can erode your purchasing power over time.

- **Keep your generosity in check.** If you have grown children who need financial help, or grandchildren heading to college someday, you'd no doubt like to do what you can to assist them. However, the hard truth is that they have more time than you to find workable financial solutions, whereas if you deplete your funds through your generosity, you could put yourself in a precarious position. So, be as giving as you can afford — but try not to go beyond that. By pre-

serving your financial independence, you'll end up benefiting your family as well.

Retirement is ideally an enjoyable time in your life, especially if you feel financially stable. So, take time to check in periodically to keep that stability on track.

If you're looking for a thoughtful partner to help you bring more clarity to your financial life, contact Anne-Marie today!

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SCAMMERS

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Someone using your identity has taken out \$1 million worth of loans overseas in your name. Oh, this is really bad. We have to secure your assets right now. We need to protect your accounts right now.”

So the victim, bewildered and confused, says he has an account with \$40,000 in it. “Let’s open that up,” says the ‘government official,’ “and transfer the money immediately into a secure government wallet.”

“Except it’s not a secure government account,” explained DeSousa. “It’s some bank overseas or some account that belongs to a guy in a rundown

house in Jersey.”

And then the conversation continues: “Ok – what else have you got? Let’s take care of that.”

DeSousa said some professionals drain victims’ assets quickly in one conversation, or over months at a time. When one Rutland resident’s life savings had been drained, he finally realized he had been scammed. But by then he was so embarrassed he didn’t want to admit what had happened.

“It took his family and his friends a while to convince him to come in and talk to us,” said DeSousa. “Obviously he broke down when we started talking. I spoke with him for over three hours and yes, he was out of his life savings.”

“Once you click that link on your computer screen, the caller can see everything you’re seeing,” said Collinge. “They can see your accounts, they can see the password you’re typing in, they can see how much money is in the account.

“You’re going to hear some common threads about how these scams work,” said Collinge. “Unsolicited contact, creating a sense of urgency, this has to happen right now or you’re going to lose everything, preying on a trusting victim. These callers are professionals – this is their job.”

DeSousa and Collinge said they get a fair number of romance scams, too, which are different than the tech support or

banking scams because these do not work on a sense of urgency. These criminals take time to develop trust.

Phony crypto investments, phony relationships that started online, DeSousa has heard them all.

“It’s unfortunate,” said DeSousa, “but Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook – they’re massive breeding grounds for disasters and scams.”

Sometimes the romance turns into an opportunity to invest cryptocurrency into a “brother’s investment company” that has seen extraordinary gains. Except the investment company is a fake website that is controlled by the bad guys controlling the woman – or man. And over

weeks, the victim, with access to the fake investment website, sees extraordinary gains of 30 percent or more. Who wouldn’t want to get into that kind of investment?

The romances that turn to financial fraud are called pig-butcher scams: The victim is fattened up before taken to slaughter.

“They have all these people in massive warehouses in Laos who just develop these relationships on line,” says Collinge. They make calls every day all over the world, coaxing the victim over time to invest tens of thousands of dollars into cryptocurrency. And the day the man says he has no more money to invest, the woman just disappears – along with the money. No contact, no website, no Facebook account – everyone and everything gone.

Fortunately for this victim, he came in and spoke with DeSousa within hours of his “investment” disappearing. DeSousa was able to contact Tether, the cryptocurrency that handled the transaction, and have the money frozen before it could splinter into hundreds of other accounts.

Collinge points out that with all the security breaches in cell phone companies, hospitals, insurance companies – people’s personal information is out there. “They have your name, your Social Security number, your credit card, the CCV number on your card, where you live, how you pay online,” said Collinge. “They have bought all this data and it’s just a matter of time until they call and try to scam you.”

Collinge and DeSousa work with federal agencies as well as other local law enforcement agencies to try and recover the losses. They also belong to networks that share information about current scams in the area.

“If you’re not sure just what happened or what you should do,” said Collinge, “just come down to the police station, have a five-minute discussion with us, tell us what happened, and we can figure out the best next steps.”

The Rutland Police Department will sponsor a scam prevention and safety symposium on November 6, 10 am-1 pm at the Rutland Senior Center. Rutland Fire Department will discuss fire safety and other town agencies and departments will attend.

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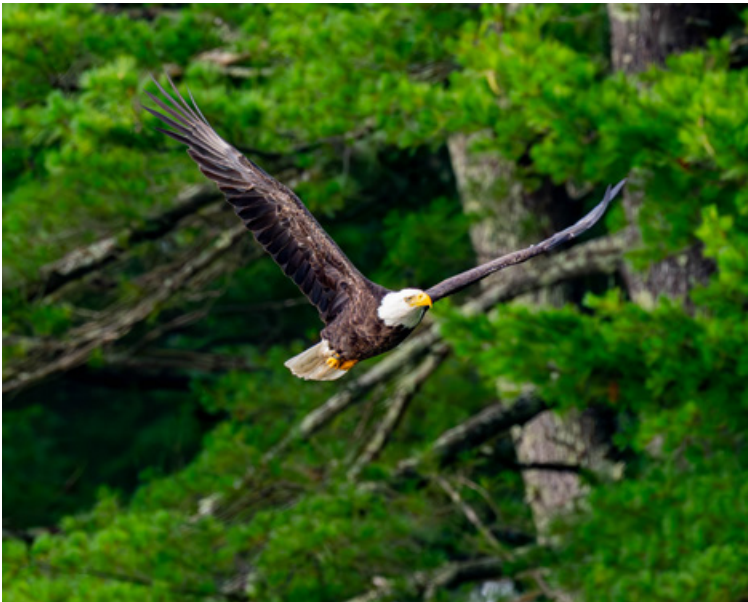
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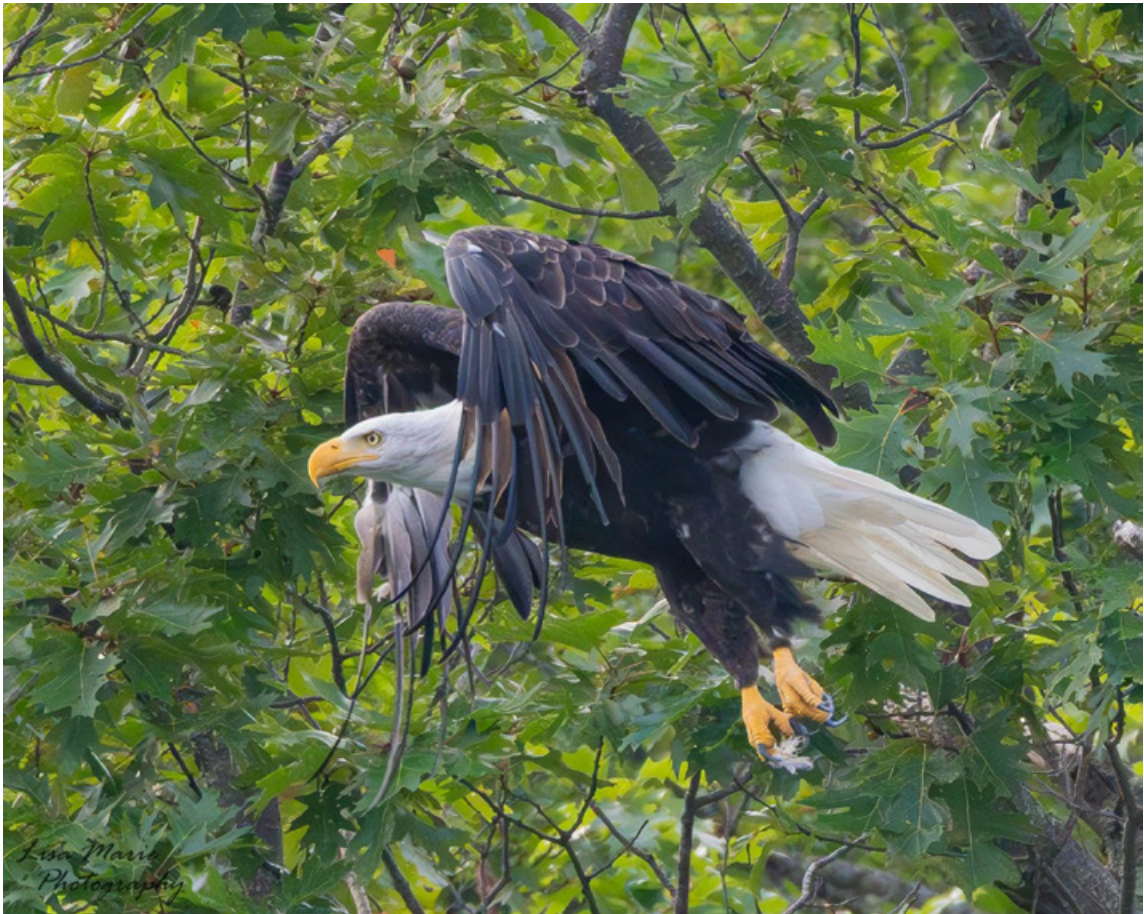
By SANDY QUADROS BOWLES

Bald eagles have made a soaring comeback at the Quabbin Reservoir and well beyond, making the national symbol a frequent and welcome sight to Central Massachusetts residents. “They’re so majestic, so beautiful,” said Lisa Ouimette, who regularly views and often photographs the eagles during her frequent hikes and drives around the reservoir. Ouimette’s photographs accom-

pany this article. Whatever challenges the day may bring, the Ware resident notes, “you go out in the woods and you see these beautiful animals and it takes the stress right away.” The bald eagle is native to Massachusetts, but for many years the state’s skies were virtually empty of the national symbol. By the early 1900s, breeding bald eagles had vanished from the landscape. The birds fell vic-



All photos by Lisa Marie Ouimette, Lisa Marie Photography, at the Quabbin Reservoir (Shot with Sony Alpha and Sony telephoto lens)



tim to intentional killing, habitat loss and pollutants such as DDT. A landmark ruling by the Environmental Protection Agency changed everything. In 1972, the agency banned the use of DDT in the United States. The end of the pollutant marked the beginning of an effort to return bald eagles to Massachusetts. The work to return a permanent population to Massachusetts began in 1982 after eagles had been discovered wintering in the Quabbin Reservoir area. This inspired biologists to try to create a more permanent population by transferring chicks from other areas and using a process called “hacking” in hopes the birds would view the area as home. From 1982 through 1988, young eaglets were transported from wild nests, mostly from Canada, and were raised in cages overlooking the reservoir. Biologists fed the youngsters from behind a blind so the birds would not see them and become imprinted on humans. Once the birds fledged, the cage doors were opened and the young eagles were free to fly. Forty-one chicks successfully matured and were released. The hope was that once the birds grew to maturity at about five years old they would

choose the Quabbin as their home and nesting territory. To the biologists’ delight, this is exactly what happened. The first adult territorial pair resulting from these releases was discovered at Quabbin Reservoir in 1987, the first housekeeping nest was discovered the following year, and in 1989, two separate pairs successfully fledged a total of three chicks. On average, the Quabbin is home to eight nests, each with one to three chicks, said Maria Beiter-Tucker, interpretive ser-

EAGLES
continued on page 9

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Sitting on a Frog

BY FAITH MAYER

If you have spent your life dreaming of sitting on a masterpiece, now is your chance. In a fairytale twist involving books and artists, old chairs were kissed by paintbrushes and transformed into magical thrones.

The Rutland Free Public Library is holding a raffle for nine hand-painted chairs. All chairs were created by community members and represent the best of books and art.

"Tomeca (Murphy, executive assistant to the town administrator and select board),

emailed many in town saying she had found wooden chairs upstairs in the town hall building that she needed to move along," said Rutland Library Director Kerry Remington. "She asked if any of us were interested, and I knew right away I wanted them to be the project for our next fundraiser. I immediately put out a call asking any interested artist to come take a chair and make it their canvas."

Each chair tells its own story: many are whimsical, some are reflections of the childhood of the artist, and some represent a now-grown child's bedroom.

Elizabeth Callahan of Rutland is one of the artists. When asked what led her to participate, Callahan said, "Let me start by saying that books were one of my very first loves. I still have my very first book that I got for Christmas when I was six (years-old). I also believe strongly in supporting my local community."

Callahan went on to say that she had a long and winding art career, but the

"Heck, if you see me on the street, and want to hand me money for a raffle ticket, I will happily take your cash."

— Kerry Remington on purchasing \$1 raffle tickets for the fundraiser

inspiration for this piece was clear from the beginning.

"Art was always my outlet and became a focus especially in high school. I went on to three different art schools, including the Worcester Art Museum, but never got my degree. However, I've taken instruction most of my life from some truly wonderful teachers. It's only in the past few years that I've started painting again," she said.

Callahan's early paintings were the inspiration for her chair that will be raffled off.

"The inspiration for my children's characters started before my daughter was born. I did not know if she would be a boy or girl so I chose a topic for her nursery that would work either way. The colors I chose were green and yellow and I wanted to have some art for the walls. There were originally three turtles and frogs," she explained.

She continued, "Painting on

the chair was a challenge. Preparing the chair meant sanding and priming and then painting the base color. I used acrylic because I was concerned about the length of time that oil (paint) would take to dry.

The actual painting was awkward and a challenge.

It required moving the chair around for the best painting access. Quite different from a stationary canvas on an easel. I decided to do the children's illustrations I had done for my daughter and grandchildren but had to alter them for the spaces. The bookworm is a constant in every illustration," she said.

Along with Callahan, the artists are Dale Hayden, Tina Greenfield, Jill Strait, Jan Williams, Jen Niles, Amy Sheridan, Mary Calkins, and Mary Remington.

"The end goal of the raffle," Remington said, "is to help bridge the gap from our budget shortfall. I am hoping to bring in \$1,000 to cover the cost of programming, new books and children's entertainment."

Remington encourages all to visit the library for their weekly book sale and fill a bag for \$5.

"This would also be a great time to hop upstairs and check out the amazing creations," she said.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each and are cash only. They can be purchased at the library counter during business hours or when you run into Remington.

"Heck, if you see me on the street, and want to hand me money for a raffle ticket, I will happily take your cash," Remington joked.

You can find all nine chairs on display at the Rutland Free Public Library located at 280 Main St. For more information about the library or to contact them, please visit <https://www.rutland-library.org/> or call 508-886-4108.



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Massachusetts State Grange Seeks Clothing Donations

Cleaning out your closets? You can now bring used clothing donations to 425 Main Street in Rutland, at the Thomas – Vaill Grange Library and Museum. The Massachusetts State Grange has partnered with St. Pauly Textile Inc. to provide a wood-frame shed for clothing drop-offs.

The shed is designed to give community members a clean and convenient option where they can donate their used clothing. St. Pauly Textile Inc. partners with businesses and organizations to distribute donated items both in the U.S. and worldwide, where they are ultimately re-worn by people who need them.

The Grange receives funding for donated clothing and has the option to use donations to serve community needs.

With over 1,600 clothing drop-off sheds in place, St. Pauly Textile Inc. collects over 175,000 pounds of clothing a day and estimates that this clothing ends up in 44 different countries yearly. In 2024, the company helped to keep over 64 million articles of clothing out of landfills, which clothed an estimated 7.8 million people worldwide. The company was founded in 1996 and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau.

Accepted items: clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals.



Thank you!

The staff of the WFP (Wachusett Free Press) would like to thank everyone for their kind words and positive feedback following our first issue in September. The response was better than we could have hoped for!

Many people have approached me and asked, "How can we ensure this continues?"

First and foremost, without our advertisers, this would never be possible. Please support our local businesses, and if you are a business interested

in advertising, contact Kate Carr at katecarr@wachusett-freepress.com or myself at kvasseur@wachusettfreepress.com.

Another option is to consider a donation. With the rising costs of printing and mailing, it makes this endeavor challenging. WFP has 15 sister publications covering 25 other towns throughout Central MA — all which receive their respective papers in the same manner as WFP — FREE, and directly mailed to their

homes and businesses.

If you are interested in learning about the donation process, please see page 13 for more information and a link. This information will be printed in all our papers so no need to worry that the new kid is being singled out.

Thank you for the warm welcome. We look forward to bringing you local news for a long time to come.

— Kimberly Vasseur, Designer/Marketing Manager

EAGLES

continued from page 7

vices supervisor for the Quabbin Reservoir Ware region.

"It's a wonderful success story," she said.

The birds are an impressive sight. One of North America's largest birds of prey, bald eagles weigh eight to 14 pounds with a wingspan of about five to eight feet. Unlike many animals, the females tend to be larger than males.

Their size requires a large and carefully constructed nest. A mated pair of bald eagles will build a large nest during December–February. The nest is constructed with large sticks and lined with sprigs of pine, grasses, and other soft materials.

The male eagle collects the nest material and delivers it to his mate, who is responsible for most of the actual nest construction. Once the nest site is chosen, the mated pair will usually return every year to the same site and add to the existing structure.

Nests are located in hardwoods or conifers from 30 to 120 feet above the ground and may measure up to 12 feet high and 8.5 feet wide. The nests weigh hundreds of pounds.

The eagles tend to choose trees for nesting that are relatively large and taller than their surroundings. They will ideally select one that shelters their young from the elements while still allowing adequate access to the nearest body of water.

The bald eagles primarily dine on fish, although they will also eat waterfowl, small mammals and reptiles.

All of this makes the Quabbin an ideal habitat for the eagles. People often visit the reservoir to view the birds, Beiter-Tucker said. She recommends areas near the Windsor Dam in Belchertown and the Enfield lookout as two good viewing spots.

But residents do not need to visit the Quabbin to catch a look at the birds.

Many bodies of water in Central Massachusetts serve as homes to territorial eagles. MassWildlife recognizes about 100 active bald eagle territories, but the actual amount is higher, according to information provided by the state agency.

The eagle population continues to grow and expand in range, even into places that had not been anticipated, Beiter-Tucker said. For instance, a nest has been observed in Worcester, not far from WPI, she noted. As a result of their wide range, "many children in the region have seen eagles in flight."

Such sightings represent the ultimate goal of the reintroduction of the bald eagle into Massachusetts more than 40 years ago.

"Bald eagles are flag bearers of how humans can positively impact endangered animals," Beiter-Tucker said. "They're really beautiful animals."

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A Blooming Success

By MARTHA AKSTIN

The Books & Blooms Flower Show, held September 11-13 at Paxton's Richards Memorial Library, was a success on multiple levels according to Robin Tasca, the driving force behind the event and president of the Paxton MA Garden Club (PMAGC).

Proceeds from the unique fundraiser equally benefited both the town library and the garden club.

the town – and make money for them and PMAGC. Thankfully the Friends took the idea to the library trustees – and well, the rest is history.

"The event would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors," continued Tasca. She included the Big Y Holden, Country Bank, Charcuterie Woo, Cork + Compass Photography, Howes Farm and Garden, Joan Laracy, Market Basket, Miles Funeral



Clockwise from top right: Master Gardener Joan Laracy volunteered her time and expertise for the two floral arrangement demonstrations; Winner of the Children's Literature Award arranged by Shannon Richards and Rosemary Regan; The People's Choice Award winners were Anne Weale (right) and Jane McTigue for their Day in the Hundred Acre Wood display; Ann McDougale poses with her Poetry blue ribbon submission; David Mangus was awarded the blue ribbon for his Murder Mystery botanical. *Courtesy photos*

Tasca first thought of the fundraiser years ago but put the idea aside as her energies were directed to helping the garden club grow.

Then the Paxton budget overrides failed in 2024. "I was really worried about the library, so I decided to dust off my flower show idea and pitch the concept to the Friends of Richards Memorial Library (FRML). I wanted to showcase what an asset the library is to

Home, On The Rise Baking, Ten West Market, and Wegmans Northboro.

The organizing committee, composed of members of both PMAGC and FRML, met monthly for six months and then more frequently as the event approached. "The committee members went above and beyond," said Tasca. "They worked seamlessly together." She thanked Carol Coleman, Anita Fenton, Sandy Hautanen, Kathryn Mahoney, Patti McK-

one, Rhonni Pender-Cudlip, Kristin Steinmetz, and Pat Wheeler.

"Robin kept everyone organized and on task," said one committee member. "Her skill with spreadsheets, her attention to detail, her energy and diligence are remarkable."

"We want to thank the garden club members who came out of their comfort zone to create stunning pieces of botanical artworks," said Tasca. The five winners of the Books & Blooms

were: Children's Literature: Shannon Richards & Rosemary Regan; Gardening: Helen Bures Urbanovitch; Murder Mystery: David Mangus; Poetry: Ann McDougale; Travel: Beth Vietze. The People's Choice Award winner was Anne Weale and Jane McTigue for their Day in the Hundred Acre Wood.

"We would also like to thank the community for its support and everyone who attended our two receptions as well as the public view day," said Tasca.

"Joan Laracy, who demonstrated flower arranging at both receptions, was very generous with her time."

While organizers would like to plan another Books & Blooms for 2026, Richards Memorial Library will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year. Discussions with the anniversary organizers will have to be held to see if – and how – another flower show could be incorporated into those festivities.

Flip the Script: From Mindless Scrolling to Meaningful Connection

By RICHARD LOPEZ, Ph.D.

About a year ago, I found myself at a playground with my three children on a crisp fall day. It should have been a perfect moment. Instead, I was glued to my phone, scrolling on Instagram. One of my kids had been calling my name for several seconds before I even noticed.

I'm a social neuroscientist who studies the effects of social media use on our emotions and wellbeing. And yet, there I was, the classic "zombie parent" at the park. If I can fall into this trap, anyone can.

This moment captures a paradox of our time: in 2025, we have more tools than ever to "connect," yet many of us feel more isolated than before. Social media gives us a sense of closeness, but it's often an illusion. We see curated highlight reels of other people's lives and can't help but compare them to our own messy reality. The result? A persistent feeling of incompleteness and inadequacy.

This isn't an accident. Social media platforms are designed to keep us hooked. Their business model depends on capturing our attention. In the U.S. alone, major platforms rake in billions in ad revenue each year. And while these apps can help us make initial connections, especially for those seeking community - they rarely deliver the depth and richness of real-world relationships.

So what can we do? I'm not suggesting all of us delete our Facebook and Instagram accounts tomorrow (though, some days that sounds tempting). Instead, we can take practical steps to reclaim authentic connection, starting today. This list is by no means exhaustive, but it's a good start:

First, be intentional online. Instead of mindlessly scrolling, reach out to someone specific. Rekindle an old friendship. Invite a former classmate for coffee or a FaceTime chat. Use digital tools as a bridge to real interaction, not a substitute for it.

Second, prioritize offline relationships. Our time and attention are precious. Let's invest them in people who matter most: family, close friends, neighbors. Make a habit of regular calls, shared meals, or even joining local groups and organizations based on shared interests. A few years ago, I joined a running club in my town. It not only improved my health but opened doors to friendships I never expected.

Third, build community where you already are. Connection thrives when we create space for it. Organize a neighborhood potluck, start a book club, or join a local volunteer effort. These small acts can ripple outward in subtle yet powerful ways.

Communities thrive when we act collectively. Imagine parents agreeing to limit phone use for themselves and their kids, so no child feels left out. Or neighbors organizing hikes and activities that bring families together. These small steps can really push the needle with respect to our sense of connection and belonging with us.

Ultimately, the power to flip the script is in our hands. We don't need to wait for tech companies to change their algorithms, although that should absolutely happen. Until it does, we can start to effect change now, by choosing fewer, deeper online interactions and more conversations and connections in person.

Because at the end of the day, likes and comments can't replace laughter shared across a table or the quiet comfort of a friend's presence. In a world saturated with screens, real connection is still our most valuable currency.

Dr. Richard Lopez is an assistant professor of psychology and neuroscience at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He studies the impacts of digital media use on emotions and mental health. He and his family live in Rutland.



Letter to the Editor

Books & Blooms Flourished!

The Richards Memorial Library extends heartfelt thanks to the Paxton MA Garden Club (PMAGC) and the Friends of Richards Memorial Library (FRML) for helping bring the Books & Blooms Flower Show to life.

This vibrant event, a joint fundraiser between the Garden Club and the Friends of the Library, was a wonderful success due to the generous support, creative energy, and community spirit of all involved.

A special thanks to Robin Tasca, who planted the seed of

inspiration, and to the PMAGC and FRML sub-committee members (especially FRML President Sandra Hautanen) who nurtured it into full bloom.

Together, you all cultivated something truly special!

—Richards Memorial Library Staff
Paxton

The Wachusett Free Press welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be 300 words or less (longer letters may be considered - but are at the discretion of the editor, and will only run

if space allows) and must have contact information for confirmation. Only name and town will be published. And please, no politics.

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BEST OF CENTRAL MASS 2024

Artists are everywhere

By ALANA GARRIGUES

Two Holden artists are currently featured in a competitive seven-person exhibit at ArtsWorcester, 44 Portland St., Worcester.

Every spring, the art gallery

cost of materials associated with an exhibit. Artists have approximately 18 months to work on their creations.

This year, two Holden residents were chosen to participate in the exhibition.

his lived experience with chronic illness and disability to explore personal histories and the domestication of illness. His Material Needs Grant supported The Disabled List, a series of sports jerseys honoring athletes whose



Above, work from "The Disabled List: Sports jerseys of athletes whose careers were cut short by injuries or illness" by Dominic Quagliozzi

(thanks to an anonymous donor) opens submissions to award a handful of grants to pay for the

Dominic Quagliozzi is a multidisciplinary artist and arts educator. His work reconciles

careers were cut short by illness or injury.

Drawing on his upbringing in Worcester — receiving cystic fibrosis care at UMass Hospital and loving sports he couldn't fully play — he connects to the games through art. The series reflects his memories of local sports heroes and the conversations around ability and health. His website can be found at artistdominic.com.

Alana Garrigues is an intuitive artist and writer who creates work heavily focused on nature and environmental justice. She is particularly drawn to trees. This Material Needs Grant supported a new body of work exploring roots. As the woods around her were cut down and root systems cleared during the period of this grant, her project expanded and shifted focus.

What was meant to be an artistic exploration of three-dimensional depictions of roots and root systems in celebration of forests became a space to mourn, reflect, and activate the community. The work features three-dimensional pieces created with live roots, as well as huggable tree roots made of canvas, and a cloth book called Root:Bound, reflecting on the experience. Her website can be



Above, Artist Alana Garrigues. Top: "Holy," by Alana Garrigues

found at alanagarrigues.com. The exhibit at ArtsWorcester will run through October 19. For more information about ArtsWorcester, go to info@artsworcester.org.

Wachusett Free Press welcomes submissions from the community as we can't be everywhere at once. Please send your submissions to martha@localtownpages.com for consideration. Submissions will run at the discretion of the publisher and staff based on content, space and timeliness.

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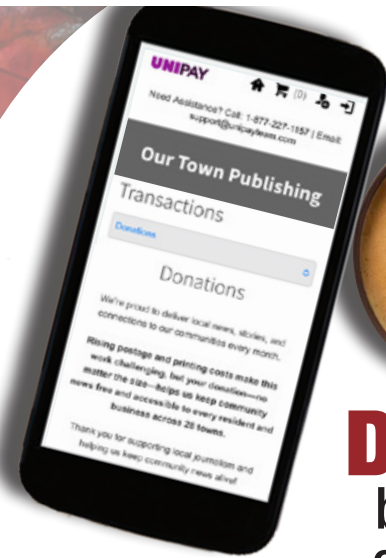
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Sports

The Youngest Head Coach in the Country

By Christopher Tremblay,
Staff Sports Writer

Tanner Kingsley grew up in Beacon Falls, Connecticut, in a family with a football focus: his father had been a coach his entire life and his two brothers also turned to coaching. Playing football for Woodland Regional High School, Kingsley broke and still holds the state record by tossing 113 touchdowns during his high school career.

Kingsley continued to play quarterback on the collegiate level for Division 1 Central Connecticut State. But prior to his senior season, he was in talks with Anna Maria College's football coach Dan Mulrooney. Kingsley promised the new coach that he would finish out his college football career with the AMCATs if he could be promised a coaching job following his graduation. So, in 2019 the Connecticut native led the Division 3 Paxton college squad onto the football field.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 hit during 2020, so his coaching debut was put on hold until 2021. That season, Anna Maria won the conference championship, and, under Kingsley's guidance as the team's quarterback coach, their quarterback was named the conference

player of the year. Over the next three years Kingsley would be elevated to the AMCATs offensive coordinator. The team was ranked nationally in the top 20 offensively as they averaged 39 points per game.

In 2024 Head Coach Steve Croce announced his retirement from Anna Maria and Kingsley jumped at the opportunity to apply for the vacancy. Eventually he was named the Anna Maria head coach, the youngest collegiate head coach in the country across all three divisions.

"All of my coaches along the way made some sort of impact on me so I wanted to return the favor," the first-year head coach said. "It's all about the guys on my team and I want to impact their lives."

Kingsley found that he loved all aspects of Anna Maria College as soon as he arrived on campus. Being named the school's head coach at the age of 28 meant a lot to him, as it demonstrated the faith the school has in his coaching skills. He also felt that he could relate to the players as he had been playing college football not that long ago.

Last fall the AMCATs finished 4-5, showing that they had great

promise. Playing in the Eastern College Football Conference (ECFC), the team was ranked 11th in the nation for passing and 16th in total offense with Kingsley as the team's offensive coordinator. Coming into this year, the ECFC was dissolved, and all Anna Maria sports teams now play in the Mass State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC).

"The MASCAC is a much better conference, and we should be a very competitive team. We already know and have played a bunch of the teams," Kingsley said. "The biggest change from the ECFC is that you could win a championship in four games. In the MASCAC, weeks two through ten are all conference teams and none of them are going to let you rest. It will challenge our guys to play their best all the time."

As the football players enter their first campaign under the tutelage of the new head coach, Kingsley is looking to build a family culture on and off the field. This year's team will be relatively young after losing a lot of talented athletes with a lot of playing experience, but the first-year coach is optimistic at forging a future with this team.



Tanner Kingsley.
Photo courtesy of Anna Maria College

"We have a freshman quarterback and since I am the head

coach, the offensive coordinator who calls the plays as well as the quarterback coach, I need to have a close relationship with them. It's one of the most important phases to the team," he said.

Although he has just begun his head coaching career, Kingsley is eventually looking to coach on a higher level.

"I definitely have dreams and aspirations of coaching on the highest level," the coach said. "But I am watering the grass where I am at for now."

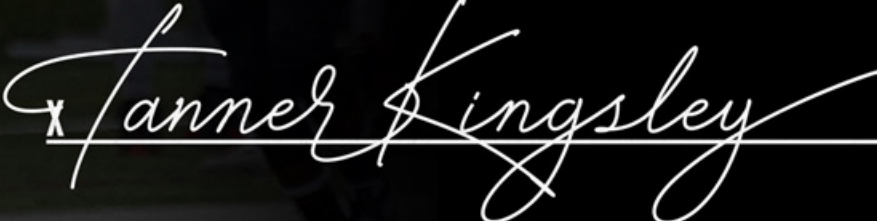
Having coached at Anna Maria College for four seasons, Kingsley has shown that he knows how to get his teams to elevate their play on the offensive side of the ball. If he can bring the process to the defensive side, he will most likely be a commodity to the higher levels of football coaching.



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-TANNER KINGSLEY



Sports

Wachusett Field Hockey Plays with Heart

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

It has only been two years since the Wachusett field hockey team advanced into the Division 1 State Tournament's Final Four. The Mountaineers went an impressive 13-1-4 that year and earned themselves a number three seed in the post season,

had been set in 1992 - by the Mountaineers field hockey Head Coach Kerry Berry.

"It was a bittersweet moment," said Berry about Johnson besting her record. "But a proud moment because Emmi is such a great athlete." Ironically, both Berry and Johnson share the Wachusett record of scoring 26 goals in one season.

will play to the team's strengths and keep the Mountaineers in the hunt.

"Like always, we are hoping to compete in the (Mid Wach A) League while earning ourselves a spot in the state tournament," she said. "It's not only our team that has a different composition of players, so do other teams."

Berry likes to schedule Wa-

the field.

"They're both great kids and have played the sport six plus years," Berry said. "They are strong on the field, possess high field hockey IQs with a positive attitude and want the best for the team. I am looking for them to play both ends of the field while doing some scoring or assisting front to back."

smart athletic player.

Junior Teaghan Steele, who made the varsity team as a freshman, missed the majority of last season with an illness, but the Mountaineer coach is ready to have her back on the field.

"She is a midfielder with speed and can contribute with scoring," Berry said. "I am really excited to see what she can accomplish in a healthy season."

Through the early part of the season, another junior, right winger Grace Woodsmall, has emerged as the team's top scorer. According to the coach, Woodsmall has either scored a goal or notched an assist in each game Wachusett has played this year. She is a very coachable individual who has added to the team's strength.

With a large group of freshmen coming out for the team this year, Berry has found two diamonds in the rough: Greta Hagenbuch, who will play defense, and Sydnee Montejo, a midfielder.

"We needed someone to step right in from the freshman class and these two have done just that," Berry said. "They are very poised as freshmen and are acting like they've been here for a while. You could tell they knew the game and we are going to build upon their talents. Both girls have aspirations of playing in college."

Berry was unsure how to fill some empty positions on the squad coming into this season, but Montejo and Hagenbuch stepped up and are just what the team needed.

In addition to these two freshmen, Berry was fortunate to have another 10 or 11 freshmen make the team, giving the Mountaineers a lot of promise and potential for the team's future.

"We may have entered this year without a prolific goal scorer, but we have a lot of talented players who are looking to work hard," the coach said. "I do not see why we cannot accomplish our goals this year. We are still trying to figure things out, but we are currently playing well."



The 2025 Wachusett High School Varsity Field Hockey Team. Photograph courtesy of Kerry Berry.

where they unfortunately fell to the number two seed Andover after a hard-fought game.

Last fall, Wachusett once again qualified for the tournament, grabbing a 10 seed spot. After defeating Essex North Shore 4-2 in the first round, they were ousted by Franklin 6-1 in the next round.

Coming into this season, the Mountaineers are without their top scorer, Emerson Johnson. By the end of her senior season, Johnson had set a new career record of 55 goals, eclipsing the school's record of 54 goals that

Although Johnson was a big part of the Wachusett squad, Berry believes the Mountaineers will be in a good position this fall with athletic individuals who know how to work hard and play with a lot of heart.

"We are in a sort of rebuilding mode right now," Berry said. "We do have a lot of two- and three-year players with experience coming back. They're just trying to figure out how to work together."

While the team is finding its rhythm on the field, Berry has installed a new formation, which

chusett's non-league games across the state and out of the school's immediate area. This allows the squad to compete with teams that they would not normally see - but who they might see in the playoffs.

Looking to help Wachusett back into the state tournament will be co-captains Somer Stati, a three-year defensive midfielder and Lilli Mitchell, who is entering her fourth season with the team as a center midfielder. The duo will be one behind the other, backing each other up and distributing the ball on both ends of

The coach is hoping that two other seniors, Ava Barone and Jazzy Abbella, both playing in their second season with the varsity team, will help the team to a winning season. Barone is a defensive midfielder who is a very reliable player with good game sense, while Abbella has a strong scoring history as a forward.

Midfielder junior Elise Montgomery found her way onto the Mid Wach All-Star team last fall and the coach anticipates she will continue to play her game on the scoring end. The junior has emerged as a strong scorer and a

Regional Calendar of Events

If you have a non-profit event you would like included in the Calendar, please email information to Martha@localtownpages.com

Thursday, October 9

10:30 am: Medicare Seminar at Paxton Senior Center. Medicare advisor Joseph Best outlines the options, kinds of coverage, and whether to change plans. Medicare open enrollment is Oct. 15-Dec. 7.

12-5 pm: Art exhibition that features two Holen artists, Alana Garrigues and Dominic Quagliozzi. Wednesdays through Sundays while the exhibit runs through Oct. 19. At ArtsWorcester, 44 Portland St., Worcester.

1 pm: Emergency 911 presentation at the Rutland Senior Center. What constitutes an emergency? When is it appropriate to call 911? Join Jodi from the Central Mass. Regional 911 District who will answer all your questions.

6:30 pm: An historical introduction to the people and places that helped make Paxton the town it is today. At Paxton Senior Center. Presenters are Paxton historians Anita and Richard Fenton. Hosted by the Paxton Woman's Club. If you want to learn about the Club, come at 6 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

6:30 pm: Ghosts of Sleepy Hollow with author Sam Baltrusis at Gale Free Library. Join the author as he weaves bone-chilling stories about this section of New York on the banks of the Hudson River with its dark history of witches, spies, and

Friday, October 10

pirates. Registration is required.

10:30-11:30 am: Paxton Fire Station visit for young children and their caregivers thanks to Wachusett Community Connections and Richards Memorial Library. Meet at the Paxton Fire Department, 576 Pleasant St. Learn about fire safety, meet fire fighters, and see fire trucks.

Saturday, October 11

10 am: New flagpole dedication on the Rutland Town Common. Thanks to Lou Cornacchioli who led residents and local businesses to raise more than \$12,000 to purchase a new pole, flag, memorial plaque, and solar light to replace the original pole that has stood on the Common since 1946. Mark Sinkewich of Wachusett Excavating removed the old pole and installed the new one.

Sunday, October 12

11 am-1 pm: 2.5-mile round-trip hike hosted by Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation Less and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center. Hidden History: Webster Road Trail. Relatively flat terrain. Quabbin's ghost towns are hiding in plain sight – if you know where to look. This guided, interpretive walk reveals clues about the hidden history of Webster Road. Explore old cellar holes and historic stone walls, get to know native and invasive plants, and learn more about the families who lived in Enfield 100 years ago. Meet at Hanks Meadow parking lot. Bring water and dress for the weather. All ages welcome. Dogs not allowed on any Quabbin property.

Monday, October 13

Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day. Federal, state, and municipal offices and departments are closed.

Tuesday, October 14

First thing: While it's not Paxton, this will affect those who use Route 56 and/or Marshall Street. Starting today, the intersection of Marshall Street and Route 56 will change from a 2-way stop sign intersection to a 4-way stop sign intersection.

8:30 am: Bus trip to Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT sponsored by Friends of Paxton Council on

Aging to enjoy A Tribute to the Legends of Old Vegas. Nonrefundable ticket cost (unless ticket can be resold) is \$129 per person and includes bus fare, meal, and show. For information, email Deb Grensavitch at grensavitchd@aol.com.

9:30 am: Friends of the Council on Aging meet at the Paxton Senior Center.

12 pm: Make a felted mushroom at the Rutland Senior Center. No experience needed. \$15 for non-Friends, \$13 for Friends members, due at RSVP. Call or visit the Center to reserve.

2:30 pm: Holden Veterans and American Legion meeting every second Tuesday of the month at Holden Senior Center. Contact Doug Harvey, Commander, Post 42 at 508-450-9965.

3-6 pm: Holden Farmers Market brings fresh produce and locally made products every Tuesday through the end of October. Route 31 North across from the Gale Free Library.

6:30 pm: Cooking Club – 5 Ingredients or Less at Gale Free Library. What's your go-to dish with five or fewer ingredients? Share your favorite dish and recipe and hear other choices. Registration required.

6:30 pm: Learn how to write in cursive for ages 8 and up. Rutland Free Public Library in the Children's Room.

6:30-8:30 pm: Needle Felting Mushrooms with Laura Darrow hosted by Paxton MA Garden Club at the Paxton Senior Center. All materials included. \$20 members, \$25 nonmembers. Advanced signup and payment required through the club's website.

Wednesday, October 15

1 pm: History at Play presents "I Now Pronounce You Lucy Stone." At the Holden Senior Center, funded by the Holden Women's Club and the Friends Holden Council on Aging. Register at the Center or call them.

6-7 pm: Ukulele Group at Gale Free Library. New to advanced players welcome. If you're new to the group, contact the Reference Desk to let them know you're coming.

6:30 pm: Holden Override discussion: at the Holden Town Hall. The select board, finance committee, Holden representatives to both regional school districts, the town manager and the Wachusett Regional School District superintendent

Youth Basketball Skills Clinics to get ready for the season!

Come join Paxton and Rutland skills clinics and get ready for the season.

Free for registered players, \$5.00 per day for non-registered players.

Dates: Tues. 10/14, Wed. 10/22, Tues. 10/28, Wed. 11/5

Clinics will be at Glenwood Elementary School, 65 Glenwood Rd., Rutland. Grades K-3 6-7 pm. Grades 4 and 5 boys, Grades 4, 5 and 6 girls 7-8 pm. Grades 6, 7 and 8 boys, Grades 7 and 8 girls 8-9 pm.

dent will meet to discuss what an override is, the process of passing one, and why Holden anticipates needing one for the upcoming fiscal year. The meeting will not decide whether to have an override or the amount it would need to be. This is to educate people on the basics and the needs.

Thursday, October 16

9 am: Coffee and presents "Overview of the Recently Passed Tax Legislation" at the Holden Senior Center. James O'Malley, CPA, and Ted Tamburro will present and discuss this timely topic. Treats and beverages provided. Register at the Center or call them.

10:30 am-noon: The Craft of Writing Workshop with Jennifer Freed "The Familiar and the Foreign." Online via Zoom. Looks at writing that invites readers to see a place from an unfamiliar perspective. Registration required by calling the Gale Free Library.

11 am: Make a Halloween Ghost Wreath with Lights at Rutland Senior Center. Cost is \$15, which includes all materials. Register at the Center or call them. Payment due at sign-up.

11 am: Birds of Prey with Wingmasters, which rehabilitates injured birds, to be held at the Paxton Senior Center. Learn about New England's birds of prey such as hawks, falcons, and owls. Program includes live, native birds.

12 noon: Local cultural council grant applications for Holden, Paxton and Rutland are due today online by noon. Go to massculturalcouncil.org to learn more and how to apply. Read a more detailed account in this WFP issue.

1:30 pm: Fall Wooden Pumpkin Board at the Holden Senior Center. No painting experience needed. All

materials supplied. Registration runs through Oct. 8. Each participant can only register themselves in person with \$20 cash. Holden Senior Center.

1:30 pm: Handmade Bow Making Class at Rutland Senior Center. Class is free but you will need three full rolls of 2.5-3 inch wired ribbon, which can be purchased from the instructor for \$10 a roll or bring your own. At the end of the class you will have made three bows and gained the skill to make your own.

4-5:30 pm: Teen Dungeons and Dragons Club begins at Richards Memorial Library. Gather weekly to play this fantasy, table-top, role-playing game led by teens and for teens ages 12-18. Create characters to go on imaginary adventures led by a Dungeon Master. Whether you're an experienced player or new to the game, you are welcome!

4:20 pm: Graphic Novel Book Club for Grades 4+ at Gale Free Library. Read and discuss Eerie Tales from the School of Screams by Graham Annable and learn about making comics. Registration opened 9/25. After you register, visit the Children's Room to borrow a copy of the graphic novel.

Friday, October 17

10 am: Kidding Around with Yoga with Miss Nicole, ages 2-5 at Gale Free Library. Little ones learn basic poses with lots of music movement and literacy too. Email communityconnections@wachusettcfce.com.

6:45 pm: Doors open for Hope Lives Here fundraiser: Grades K-5, join HLH at Wachusett Regional High School's cafeteria for a frightfully fun movie night showing of "Hotel

Call For Art: For a November Community Show at Gale Free Library

With the Theme of Comfort – whatever that might mean to you

Any two-dimensional art form is eligible: painting, poetry, photography.

All ages and abilities welcome. Unframed preferred, matted okay.

Drop off November 1-6, pick up November 29-December 3

Call the library with any questions.

CALENDAR

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Transylvania.” Costumes are a must and bring blankets and camp chairs for this drive-in movie style event. Tix are \$5 per adult and \$3 per child. All funds raised benefit the Dandelion Scholarship. Tix available at HLH.org.

Saturday, October 18

8 am-1 pm: Yard waste drop off accepted at Rutland’s Department of Public Works. Also on November 1.

12-1 pm: Mornings with Maggie at Gale Free Library. Brighten your day with Maggie and her person Kelly. This therapy team is certified through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

2-4 pm: Scavenger Hunt at the Wood House, 232 Main St., Rutland, hosted by the Rutland Historical Society. Join this fun scavenger hunt and discover interesting facts about Rutland’s history as you search their collection of artifacts for clues to locate the highlighted items. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday, October 19

1-4 pm: The Holden CROP Hunger Walk will start with check-in at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 346 Shrewsbury St. This family-friendly annual event supports the global hunger-fighting efforts of CROP Hunger Walk and Church World Service. They are looking for walkers – and donors. Learn more at www.immanuelholden.org

4:30-6:30 pm: Annual Trunk or Treat hosted by Paxton Center School’s PTO at the school’s parking lot. Bring the kids to this fun event. Rain date October 26.

Registration is now open for Pre-K through grade 12 winter basketball in Paxton

Pre-K - 2nd grade will play Saturday mornings. 3rd and 4th grade will play on Friday nights with an end of year tournament. 4th - 12th grade will have one weekday practice and Saturday games and play-offs (Paxton & Rutland). There will be free pre-season clinics for registered players. Register by November 2. Volunteers are needed. Register at <https://www.townofpaxton.net/recreation-department>

Monday, October 20

1 pm: Fire Safety Awareness at the Holden Senior Center. Zach Algarin, firefighter and public safety education coordinator at the Holden Fire Department, will give a presentation on how to raise fire safety awareness. October is Fire Prevention month. Register at the Center or call them.

Tuesday, October 21

October 21-24: The Rutland Center will close at 1 pm these four days; there will be no afternoon activities.

3-6 pm: Holden Farmers Market brings fresh produce and locally made products every Tuesday through the end of October. Route 31 North across from the Gale Free Library.

3:30-4:30 pm: LEGO Challenge at Richards Memorial Library: take the challenge or build from your imagination. All materials provided. Completed projects will be displayed at the library.

3:30-5:30 pm: Dungeons and Dragons One-Shot for Grades 6+ at Gale Free Library. Join the party for a first level adventure! This season is ideal for new or advanced players. Registration opens Oct. 14.

6:30-7:15pm: Nature’s Real Vampires: Leeches, Bats and other Spooky Creatures! At Richards Memorial Library. Just in time for Halloween, join Hands on Nature to learn about real animals that scare and spook all year round. Learn about leeches and bats and make a fun Halloween craft to take home. Geared to families with children ages 4-12.

Wednesday, October 22

10:30 am: Flower Arranging presented by Sam’s Stems at the Paxton Senior Center. Learn how to create a seasonal arrangement with dried flowers that can be displayed, tucked away, and then reused each year. RSVP by October 15.

10:30-11:15 am: Outdoor Story & Playtime at Richards Memorial Library. Today and 10/29 (No Storytime 10/15). Join us for healthy outdoor play and learning in the library yard, or fun indoors during inclement weather. We sing songs, go on scavenger hunts, tell stories, create, and play. For young children and their caregivers. Check website for updates.

4:20 pm: Spellbook Craft for ages 7+ at Gale Free Library. Ever learn a new spell and have nowhere to write it down? Decorate your own spellbook with Library Wizard Mr. McDonough. Registration opens Oct. 15.

6:30 pm: An Evening of Irish Harp and Vocals with Aine Minogue at Gale Free Library. The award-winning harpist, singer, arranger and composer with a dozen solo albums returns to Holden. Registration required.

Thursday, October 23

9 am-12:30 pm: If your birthday is in

October, stop by the Rutland Senior Center and enjoy a piece of birthday cake. Enjoy your special day!

10:30 am: Shoe Talk with Katie Lund at Paxton Senior Center. Get all the information debunking common myths about footwear and orthotics. Q&A follows. Sponsored by Choice Physical Therapy.

1:30-3:30 pm: Flu clinic at the Holden Senior Center. Registration required at the office or call them. Bring your insurance card and Medicare Card.

4:20-5:50 pm: Cuts and Bruises Stage Makeup with Little Spark Theater for ages 10+ at Gale Free Library. Dive into the world of stage makeup with some gruesome wounds in this special Halloween class. Registration opens Oct. 16.

6:30-8 pm: Welcome to the Graveyard with the Graveyard Girls at Richards Memorial Library. This 90-minute illustrated “virtual tour” chronicles cemetery art, history, and symbolism. From colonial New England burial grounds of the 1600s and 1700s, through the nationwide rural cemetery movement of the 19th century and into 21st century locations, the program examines why we have cemeteries and gravestones.

7 pm: The Rutland Bylaw Committee will hold a public information session at the Rutland Free Public Library (lower level) to review the proposed stormwater bylaw, which will be discussed and voted on at the November 20 Special Town Meeting. The EPA issued an Administrative Order that Rutland must adopt a stormwater bylaw no later than Dec. 31, 2025, to comply with the town’s Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.

Friday, October 24

10-11 am: Books and Blankies with Community Connections at Richards Memorial Library for babies birth to 24 months and their caregivers. Thank you to Wachusett Community Connections for providing this program.

1 pm: Felted Fall Scene at Holden Senior Center. All materials provided. Each person can only register themselves in person with \$25 cash. Registration begins 10/7 through 10/17 or until full.

5-9 pm: Parents’ night out hosted by Paxton Recreation. Halloween theme, held at Paxton Senior Center. Parents - drop off the kids and go out to have a nice dinner. \$20 per child, maximum \$50 per family.

Saturday, October 25

9 am-noon: Bottle and can drive on the Paxton Common organized by Paxton Boy Scout Troop 105.

9 am-2 pm: Craft & Vendor Fair at Central Tree Middle School, 99 Rutland Heights Way, sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society, Central Tree Middle School PTO, and Wachu Makin’. Free admission. Email rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org to reserve a table or for details.

This also kicks off the annual Festival of Trees, which the town has celebrated for 25 years!

10 am-2 pm: Monthly book sale at the Rutland Free Public Library open to all and hosted by the Friends of the Rutland Public Library. The book room is located on the lower level of the library and is full of books, music CDs and DVDs. Reasonable prices and discounts if you buy a bag full. Any children who attend the sale can choose five books to take home for free.

11 am-1 pm: Halloween Kid’s Fest at Rutland Free Public Library.

4-7 pm: A civic engagement for Paxton residents: Cornhole & Collaboration at Soccer Asylum, 603 Pleasant St., sponsored by Paxton Charter Review Committee, the Paxton Economic Development Committee and The Paxton Zoning Board of Appeals. Meet your neighbors, local business owners, elected officials, and town committees, boards, and employees. There will be information on town initiatives that will shape the town’s future.

Monday, October 27

10 am: Mindfulness Meditation with Marie Clemente at the Holden Senior Center. Learn tools, practices, and techniques to relieve stress. \$5 fee. Register at the Center or call them.

10 am-12 pm: Blood pressure and glucose clinic at the Holden Senior Center. Free for all.

10 am-12 pm: SNAP Pre-Screening Program with Miriam Nyante of the Regional Board of Health at the Holden Senior Center. She will discuss the process and provide free screening for eligibility.

1 pm: Movie Monday at the Holden Senior Center with popcorn and beverage. Register at the office or call them.

Tuesday, October 28

11 am: Scam alert! Presentation at the Rutland Senior Center. The Worcester County District Attorney’s Office will present awareness and tips so you don’t fall prey to scammers’ tactics. Learn about the kinds of scams that are active in the area.

3:30-4:30 pm: Nex Playground (Nex is canceled 10/14) at Richards Memorial Library. For ages 5+. Play this movement-based gaming device that combines physical activity with interactive play and fun.

3-6 pm: Holden Farmers Market’s final day of the 2025 season. Route 31 North across from the Gale Free Library.

4:20 pm: Bead Skeleton Keychain for ages 7+ at Gale Free Library. This keychain is sure to rattle your bones! Registration opens Oct. 21.

7-8 pm: Friends of Richards Memorial Library board meeting.

Wednesday, October 29

1:30 pm: Alstromeria Lily Topiary arrangement workshop with Debbie of DiMeco’s at the Holden Senior

The Paxton Council on Aging is accepting paintings and photographs from local artists for its Café Art Show.

Artwork will be displayed through the end of the year. Please contact the COA Director at 508-756-2833 for more information.

Center. All materials provided. Registration begins 10/7 and continues through 10/21 or until full. Each person must register themselves in person with \$35 cash.

3-4 pm: Larry the Librarian Day at Richards Memorial Library. Pun contest, watch Larry the Librarian’s Pun videos and meet and greet with Larry.

6-7:30 pm: Art Club: Meditative Art Making processes and the final Art Club of the Year. At Gale Free Library. Quiet music and all the art supplies you need: watercolor paints and paper, brushes, pastels, and more. Call to RSVP. The Club will be on hiatus until after the New Year.

Thursday, October 30

2:30 pm: Write Fest: a creative writing workshop at the Holden Senior Center with the “Write On” group. Poetry, mystery, and memoirs will be read with an opportunity for an open mic. Register at the office or call them.

Friday, October 31

9:30-11:30 am: Halloween costume fun at the Rutland Senior Center. Wear your best costume and enjoy treats and maybe some tricks. Prizes for the “Best” and lots of fun.

10 am: Halloween Scavenger Hunt with Community Connections for ages 2-5 on the lawn of Gale Free Library. Join them for a silly, spooky Halloween hunt. No registration required.

12:15 pm: Halloween Bingo at Paxton Senior Center. Denis is calling the numbers and there will be a prize competition if you come in a costume. Prizes and refreshments served. Early lunch is available. RSVP by calling the Center.

4-6 pm: 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat on the Town Common, hosted by Rutland public safety departments. Set-up 3 pm. Businesses, local organizations, and town departments are welcome to participate. If you want to join in the fun, see the online Central Tree Times to complete the registration form. Candy donations for the celebration can

CALENDAR

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Real Estate Transfers

Aug. 15 - Sept. 14, 2025

Wachusett Free Press will publish Recorded Land transfers in Holden, Paxton, and Rutland from the 15th to the 14th of the preceding months. For instance, this October issue publishes transfers from August 15 to September 14. This information is gathered from the Worcester Registry of Deeds website. We thank Kathryn A. Toomey, Register of Deeds, for her assistance.

HOLDEN

- 134 Fireside Ln. Aug. 15:** Grantors Minna Gregerman and Ira Gregerman to Grantees Alan J. Freeman and Merilee D. Freeman. \$674,000.
- 8 Lowell Ave. Aug. 15:** Grantors Lori B. Tokarowski, Lori B. Wagg, and Lori Beth Wagg to Grantees Lori B. Wagg and Thomas H. Wagg. \$100.
- 218 Reservoir St. Aug. 15:** Grantor Dorothy M. Aubin to Grantees Kenneth Digiovanni and Lisa McNamara. \$310,000.

- 57 Highland St. Aug. 15:** Grantors Lisa Hicks and Jason Hicks to Grantees RBW Realty Trust, Ellen C. Rauch Tr, Lynda J. Wills Tr, and Christine L. Butler Tr. \$939,000.
- 31 Wyoming Rd. Aug. 19:** Grantors Edna J. Sexton and Richard E. Johnson to Grantee Richard E. Johnson. \$100.
- 310 Salisbury St. Aug. 19:** Grantor Winifred M. Connolly to Grantees Winifred M. Connolly 2025 Living Revocable Trust, Winifred M. Connolly Tr., and Averil A. Capers Tr. \$100.
- 922 Wachusett St. Aug. 21:** Grantor Todd M. Ventres to Grantees Todd M. Ventres and Melissa Ventres. \$100.
- 40 Hayfield Dr. Aug. 21:** Grantors Andrew J. Galonzka and Heather L. Galonzka to Grantees Andrew J. Galonzka & Heather L. Galonzka Revocable Trust, Andrew J. Galonzka Tr., and Heather L. Galonzka Tr. \$1.
- 51 St. Mary Dr. Aug. 22:** Grantors Jessica K. George and Patrick J. George to

Grantees Kevin Bergeron and Jennifer Bergeron. \$795,000.

- 382 Malden St. Aug. 22:** Grantors Lisa Pepi and Lisa M. Pepi to Grantees Lisa Pepi Tr. and Lisa Pepi Living Trust. \$1.
- 10 Bullard St. Aug. 22:** Grantors Susan Jane Cassidy and Susan J. Cassidy to Grantees Susan Jane Cassidy Tr. and Susan Jane Cassidy Trust. \$1.
- 57 Surrey Ln. Aug. 22:** Grantors Ira L. Hoffman Tr., Bonnie B. Shattuck Tr., and Shattuck-Hoffman Living Trust to Grantees Sabita Sherblom Tr. and Mukerjee Family Trust. \$505,000.
- 92 Powers Rd. Aug. 22:** Grantors Mary Brytowski Tr. and Antinovitch 2019 Family Trust to Grantees Adam Ober and Sarah Maguire. \$450,000.
- 1903 Oakwood Street Ext. Aug. 25:** Grantors James F. Polewaczky Tr., Donna M. Polewaczky Tr., and Chester F. Polewaczky & Donna M. Polewaczky Living Trust to Grantee Keith Sullivan. \$405,000.
- 17 Damon Rd. Aug. 26:** Grantors Simone R. Mulkern, Est. and Joanna M. Mulkern to Grantee Thomas B. Mulkern. \$100.
- 59 Deanna Dr. Aug. 27:** Grantor Jackson Woods Investments, LLC to Grantees to Joseph Flynn and Jaclyn Flynn. \$911,061.
- 30 Walnut St. Aug. 28:** Grantor Kenneth D. Moore to Grantees Dylan K. Moore and Satchel C. Moore. \$100.
- 25 Hebert Ln. Aug. 29:** Grantors Robert O'Brien and Karen O'Brien to Grantees Robert K. O'Brien Tr., Karen C. O'Brien Tr., and O'Brien Realty Trust-2022. \$1.
- 64 Greenwood Pkw. Aug. 29:** Grantors Robert Band and Joy A. Band to Grantee Jessica Michelle Burkholder. \$890,000.
- 1818 Main St. Sept. 3:** Grantors Micha Shalev and Sara Shalev to Grantees Micha Shalev Tr., Sara Shalev Tr., and Shalev Realty Trust-2025. \$1.
- 252 Holden St. Sept. 4:** Grantors Wando DeOliveira and Monique Oliveira to Grantees Rameneni Murali Krishna and Moka Priyavadhana. \$845,000.
- 53 Apple Tree Ln. Sept. 5:** Grantors George J. Contis, Tr., Kristina L. Perry, Tr., and Contis Family Trust to Grantee Kathryn L. Schulte. \$580,000.
- 25 Pinecroft Ave. Sept. 5:** Grantors Roger P. Payson, Roger Prouty Payson, Carolyn A. Payson, and Carolyn Ann Payson to Grantees Roger Prouty Payson Tr., Carolyn Ann Payson, Tr., and Roger and Carolyn Family Trust. \$1.
- 296 Fisher Rd. Sept. 5:** Grantor Wingspan Properties, LLC to Grantees Robert N. Marchand, Jr. and Lynn A. Marchand. \$1,078,161.
- 20 Driftwood Dr. Sept. 5:** Grantor PJ Road 30, LLC to Grantees Calvin Vo and Tina Dinh. \$610,000.
- 12 Snowberry Ln. Sept. 8:** Grantors Jo-

seph A. Ryzewski and Melissa D. Ryzewski to Grantees Han Duy Luong and Nga Thi Vu. \$663,000.

- 181 South Main St. Sept. 10:** Grantors Robert E. Rossetti, Lori A. Gifford, and Lori A. Rickards to Grantees Anthony R. Rossetti and Christie M. King. \$100.
- 96 Paxton Rd. Sept. 10:** Grantors Jonathan Fiore, Valerie Fiore, and Valerie Crowther to Grantee 96 Holden St. LLC. \$375,000.
- 10 Mason Rd. Sept. 10:** Grantor Victoria Jones to Grantees Theodosios C. Billiouris and Jenna C. Katinas. \$415,500.
- 1202 Wachusett St. Sept. 10:** Grantor Joanne M. Rock to Grantee VB Flips, LLC. \$240,000.
- 50 Manning St. Sept. 11:** Grantors Darrin M. Bombard and Carrie J. Bombard to Grantees Darrin Tr., Carrie Bombard, and Bombard Family Trust. \$100.
- 77 Mark Bradford Dr. Sept. 12:** Grantor Carol A. Bobkowski to Grantee Ruby E. Bobkowski. \$525,000.
- 10 Nichols St. Sept. 12:** Grantor Ruby Carneiro to Grantee Stephanie Zapasnik. \$335,000.

PAXTON

- 9 Tanglewood Rd. Aug. 18:** Grantors Stephen J. Rapa, Allison T. Rapa, Allison Theresa Rapa and Allison Rappa to Grantees Stephen J. Rapa Tr., Allison T. Rapa Tr., and Rapa Family Revocable Trust. \$1.
- 7 Major Moore Cir. Aug. 18:** Grantors Richard S. Layte and Richard Layte to Grantee Patrick R. Bennett. \$780,000.
- 2 Knollwood St. Aug. 20:** Grantors John R. Pennace Tr. and Pennace Living Trust to Grantees Alexander J. Pennace Tr., John R. Pennace Tr., Survivors Trust, and Pennace Living Trust. \$1.
- 416 Pleasant St. Aug. 26:** Grantors Thomas L. White, Jr. and Kelli A. White to Grantee Allison Lee White. \$100.
- 416 Pleasant St. Aug. 26:** Grantor Allison Lee White to Grantees Allison Lee White, Kelli A. White, Janine E. Hartwell, and Robin D. White. \$100.
- 5 Cutler Rd. Aug. 27:** Grantors Christopher Kelly and Sandra Kelly to Grantee Alexander Nicholas Rome. \$595,000.
- 4 Colony Ln. Aug. 29:** Grantors Sue S. Sjogren, Sue Ann Sjogren, and Albert R. Sjogren to Grantees Albert R. Sjogren, Tr., Sue Ann Sjogren, Tr., and Albert R. Sjogren & Sue Ann Sjogren Family Trust. \$100.
- 72 Holden Rd. Aug. 29:** Grantors Scott Alan Wilson, Diane E. Wilson Est., and Diane Elaine Wilson Est. to Grantee Longmeadow Properties, LLC. \$180,000.
- 15 West St. Sept. 3:** Grantor Christopher Bird to Grantee Erica Lucht. \$410,000.
- 32 Village Rd. Sept. 3:** Grantors Johannah L. Baum, Johannah L. Baum

Tr., Selwood Realty Trust, Johannah Baum, Johannah Baum Tr. to Grantee Thomas E. Dwyer. \$449,900.

- 130 Holden Rd. Sept. 4:** Grantors Paul Michalczyk, Kelly Michalczyk, and K. Michalczyk to Grantees Zachery A. Roberts and Susan Roberts. \$643,000.
- 6 Blackhill Rd. Sept. 10:** Grantor Tonya Carpenter to Grantees Thalia Kaiwi and Joan Webster. \$670,000.

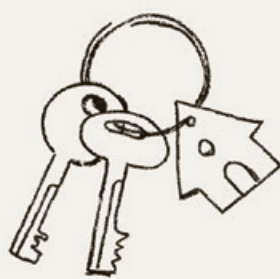
RUTLAND

- 236-238 Barre Paxton Rd. Aug. 15:** Grantors Miranda Greenhalgh and Miranda Buck to Grantee Keri J. Paradis. \$390,000.
- 3 Sycamore Dr. Aug. 15:** Grantors Susan L. Ethier and James G. Case to Grantees Aaron M. Pearl and Emily A. Pearl. \$660,000.
- 166 Main St. Aug. 16:** Grantors Kenneth Klayman and Harriet H. Klayman to Grantees Kenneth Klayman Tr., Harriet H. Klayman Tr., and Klayman Family 2025 Revocable Trust. \$1.
- 92 Intervale Rd. Aug. 18:** Grantors George L. Fortier, III and Meghann E. Fortier to Grantee Meghann E. Fortier. \$100.
- 43 Davis St. Aug. 19:** Grantor Mary E. Hatstat to Grantees Mary E. Hatstat Tr., and Mary E. Hatstat 2025 Revocable Trust. \$100.
- 83 C Maple Ave. Aug. 19:** Grantors Ngoc T. Nguyen, Nancy T. Nguyen, George W. Dilling, and George Dilling to Grantee Andrew Patrick Mitchell. \$255,000.
- 211 Barre Paxton Rd. Aug. 22:** Grantor Anthony Zingarella to Grantee Patricia Sue Webster. \$410,000.
- 176 Maple Ave. Aug. 22:** Grantors William F. Riley, William Frederick Riley, Jr., and Rebecca Ann St. George to Grantee Constitution Properties, LLC. \$75,000.
- 293 Pommogussett Rd. Aug. 26:** Grantor E & P Properties LLC to Grantees David Henshaw and Erica Peterson. \$1.
- 14 Patriot Ln. Aug. 27:** Grantors John L. Rutledge, Lucy K. Rutledge, Lucy Delrossi-Rutledge, and Lucy K. Delrossi to Grantees Matthew R. Hoch and Jamie M. Hoch. \$605,000.
- 53 Brunelle Dr. Aug. 27:** Grantors Seth M. Aram and Kimberly D. Aram to Grantees Deven Plant and Lindsay Sawyer. \$699,900.
- 109 Main St. Aug. 27:** Grantors Peter M. Heaney, Sandra L. Hume, and Sandra Hume to Grantee Jeremy Sullivan. \$359,000.
- 116 Maple Ave. Aug. 28:** Grantors Erica L. Mindell and Erica Mindell to Grantee Mary Lee Derr. \$400,000.

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REAL ESTATE

continued on page 19

CALENDAR

continued from page 17

be dropped off 24/7 in the Rutland Police Department lobby.

Saturday, November 1

11 am: Fall clean-up and tree pruning demonstration, Holden Community Garden, 175 Highland St.
6-9 pm: Sock Hop Boo Wop 50s Dance at the Rutland Sportsman Club, 75 Pleasantdale Rd. The Rutland Events Committee hosts this 50s Decade dance! Wear your 50s inspired outfit and enjoy delicious food and drinks.

Monday, November 3

1:30 pm: Legacy Matters: Passing on More than Valuables with Pamela Reidy at the Holden Senior Center. A special introductory workshop that will explore how to share your life and wisdom. They'll talk about "legacy documents" and creative

ways to capture memories, values, and love you want to pass along to your family. Registration required at the office or call them.

Wednesday, November 5

10 am: Schoolhouse Café at the Paxton Senior Center. Come enjoy coffee, a morning snack, and conversations with friends old and new at the Café. This month, join the Holiday Bake-off! Enter your favorite holiday bread, cupcakes, cookies, scones, or muffins and share the recipe. Entries will vie for prizes after sampling by everyone at the Café. If you want to participate, call Cindy at the Center.
4-4:40 pm: Graphic Novel Club for Ages 8-12 at Richards Memorial Library. Visit the library at the beginning of each month to pick up a featured graphic novel along with an activity or small treat. Read and enjoy! If you can, join other graphic novel fans the first Wednesday of each month, 4-4:40pm, for discus-

sion and fun activities related to the book. The Club's next in-person meeting is Nov. 5. Register online.

Thursday, November 6

The warrant for Rutland's November 20 Special Town Meeting will be posted no later than today on the town's website and in town buildings.

9:30 am: In honor of Veteran's Day, the Holden Senior Center will have an event with entertainment, snacks and beverages. Register at the office or call the Center.

10 am-1 pm: Scam prevention and safety symposium at the Rutland Senior Center. Town police, fire and other departments will attend. Call the Center for more information.

Friday, November 7

1 pm: Create a Thanksgiving Turkey Pin at Holden Senior Center with fabric and simple hand sewing. All materials provided. Registration begins 10/15 through 10/29 or until full. Each person must register

themselves in person with \$5 cash at the office.

6-8 pm: Family Bingo night at Paxton Center School Café hosted by Paxton Recreation. \$5 a card.

Saturday, November 8
9 am-1 pm: Hazardous household product collection: Wachusett Earth-day (aka Wachusett Recycling Center), 131 Raymond Huntington Highway. Will collect household hazardous products only today. The rest of the site including the ReUse Building will be closed. Up to 3 gallons or pounds \$30; over 3 up to 10 gallons or pounds \$60; over 10 up to 25 gallons or pounds \$100. For more information call 978-464-2854 or email wachusettearthday.org

Tuesday, November 11

Veterans' Day. Federal, state, and municipal offices and departments are closed.

Wednesday, November 12

The Greendale Choir honors Veterans' Day with a performance at the Paxton Senior Center. Details to follow.

Thursday November 13

6-8 pm: Lecture: Linen from Flax Seed to Woven Textile with Jane Bridgeman sponsored by Paxton MA Garden Club at Rutland Free Public Library. This illustrated talk follows linen from flax seed to woven textile including experience growing and processing the plant. Free and open to the public.

6:30 pm: Winter Porch Flower Pot workshop with Bemis Farms at the Paxton Senior Center, hosted by the Paxton Woman's Club open to all. Come at 6 pm to learn about the Club. \$40 for PWC members; \$45 for nonmembers. Make checks payable to PWC and mail to Kathy Card, 16 Red Oak St., Paxton, 01612.

REAL ESTATE

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24 Walnut St. Sept. 2: Grantors Keith A. Holmberg and Sandra A. Holmberg to Grantees Keith A. Holmberg, Tr., Sandra A. Holmberg, Tr., and Holmberg Family Trust. \$100.
53 Prescott St. Sept. 2: Grantors Maurice

J. Guarini, Maurice Guarini, and Valerie Guarini to Grantees Maurice Guarini Tr., Valerie Guarini Tr., and Guarini Legacy Wealth. \$1.

6 Quail Run Dr. Sept. 3: Grantor CB Blair Development Corp to Grantees Theophilus Teiko and Jedidiah Appiah. \$826,813.

13 Prescott St. Sept. 4: Grantors Eileen

S. Richards, Tr., Survivors Trust, Family Trust, and Mattson Living Trust to Grantees Katia Yari Santos Carrasquillo and Jorge Luis Melendez Sustache. \$405,000.

164 Glenwood Rd. Sept. 5: Grantors Christopher R. Robinson and Kayla N. Robinson to Grantees Christopher R. Robinson, Tr. and Christopher R. Rob-

inson 2025 Revocable Trust. \$100.

6 Lowry Ln. and 252 Glenwood Rd. Sept. 10: Grantor Jean Laquidara Hill to Grantees Jean Laquidara Hill Family Trust and Jean Laquidara Hill Tr. \$100.

Weaver Farm Rd. (no number) Sept. 11: Grantors Charles E. Patterson Tr and Ash Hill at Weaver Farm Nominee Trust to Grantee Jacob Matthew.

\$155,000.

176 Maple Ave. Sept. 12: Grantor Stephanie A. Zapasnik to Grantees John Michael Madonna and Karen Madonna. \$200,000.

3 Charnock Hill Cir. Sept. 12: Grantors Paul R. Lambert and Mark R. Lambert Est. to Grantees Paul R. Lambert and Diane Cole. \$1.

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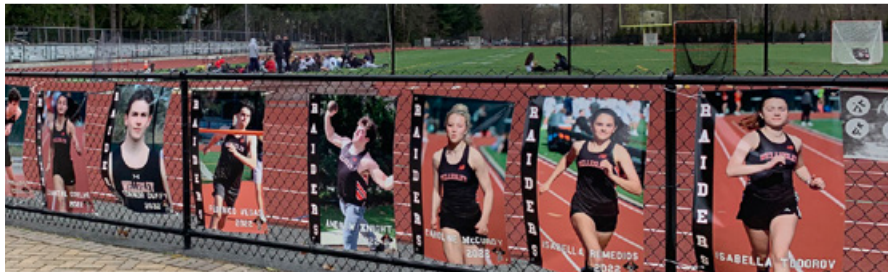
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