

Holden's \$35M Sewer Settlement Will Not Offset Proposed \$5.5M Override, Officials Say

BY RILEY FRANKIAN

A multimillion-dollar legal victory over the City of Worcester is not expected to reduce the need for a proposed \$5.5 million Proposition 2½ override, according to town officials, who say state financial rules restrict how the funds can be used. Holden voters will have already decided yes or no on the \$5.5 million override request at the Annual Town Election, which was held on May 11, before this issue of *Wachusett Free Press* was sent to the printer. See our web page and FB page for updates on the Holden, Paxton, and Rutland town elections, which were all held on Monday, May 11.

The Town of Holden is set to receive \$35.5 million following

more than a decade-long sewer rate dispute with Worcester. However, Town Manager Peter Lukes said the money that was awarded to the town's water and sewer enterprise fund cannot be used to support general government operations or offset the override amount on the ballot.

"The sewer transport award will have no impact on the override or the Fiscal 2027 budget regardless," Lukes said.

Why the Funds Are Restricted

Enterprise funds are a specific type of municipal accounting structure used to manage services such as water and sewer systems. According to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue website, these funds are

designed to "account separately for all financial activities" tied to a particular service and are primarily supported by user fees.

This means revenue generated within an enterprise fund from fees, charges, and other income is generally expected to be used for that same service.

Because Holden's lawsuit was funded through its water and sewer enterprise fund, the resulting judgment was awarded to that fund rather than the town's general budget.

"DOR officials have explicitly advised us that the money is intended for the water/sewer fund and cannot be moved to pay for non-water/sewer operations at

VERRIDE

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Aerial view of part of Anna Maria College's 260-acre campus
Photo from anaamariacollege.edu

Anna Maria College: What Comes Next

BY MARTHA AKSTIN

The Anna Maria College community was left reeling when President Sean Ryan announced last month that the college would close at the end of this spring semester. The college administration assured seniors they would be able to walk at graduation in May. They pledged that they would

do everything possible to help undergraduates affiliate with other institutes of higher learning so they could complete their degrees.

However, a different question looms for Paxton and its residents: After the students, faculty

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this time,” Lukes said.

While the funds from the settlement are tied to the enterprise fund, state guidance indicates that enterprise revenues can include additional sources such as interest earnings and other financing mechanisms.

Lukes said the town is currently exploring whether any portion of the award - such as accumulated interest or potential borrowing strategies - could eventually provide broader financial flexibility.

“These are complex legal issues that have never been dealt with before in this manner,” Lukes said.

The town’s Water and Sewer Department has received less than 30 percent of the total

award so far, with the remainder expected to be paid over the next three years.

Override Proposal and Budget Impact

Considering the funds being given to the town of Holden as a result of this case, residents have questioned whether the proposed 2 ½ override might be offset in any way.

The proposed \$5.5 million override for the town of Holden is aimed at maintaining current service levels and addressing rising costs across town departments.

According to Lukes, the override would fund:

- The annual assessment for the Wachusett Regional School District
- Restoration of three police officer positions
- Restoration of three firefighter/EMT positions, including two partially funded through a federal SAFER grant
- Restoration of three Department of Public Works employees
- Full operating hours for the library and senior center
- Capital improve-

ments, including school security upgrades and building repairs

Without the override, officials say the town would face service reductions, including cuts to public safety staffing, reduced

prudent,” he said, noting that relying on one-time revenue for recurring expenses could create a “much higher fiscal cliff” once the funds are depleted.

State guidance supports this

Lukes said the funds could help reduce the amount of money borrowed for future infrastructure projects, which could lower sewer rates over time. The town is also exploring whether it can provide direct rebates to residents who were overcharged, though that process would be complex and require additional analysis.

“We don’t have an estimate as to how much rates will decline,” Lukes said, adding that future rates will depend on upcoming negotiations with Worcester, involving the help of rate experts.

What Remains Unclear

Although state guidance and local officials point to clear restrictions on how the settlement can be used, several questions are still unresolved, including whether any part of the funds could eventually be used to provide measurable financial relief for town residents.

At this time, it is unclear when a detailed public plan for the funds will be released.

For now, the settlement and the override remain separate issues; one tied to long-term infrastructure and ratepayer costs, the other to the town’s immediate operating budget and services. *

“DOR officials have explicitly advised us that the money is intended for the water/sewer fund and cannot be moved to pay for non-water/sewer operations at this time.”

— Peter Lukes, Holden Town Manager

library and senior center hours, and the potential loss of library certification.

One-Time Funds vs. Ongoing Costs

Even if the settlement funds could be used more broadly, Lukes said using them to fund ongoing operations would create long-term financial risk.

“Using the award money for capital purchases or capital investments is much more

general approach by emphasizing that enterprise fund revenues should align with the costs of the services they support, reinforcing the separation between enterprise activities and general municipal spending.

Potential Impact on Ratepayers

While the settlement is not expected to affect taxes, it may eventually benefit sewer ratepayers.

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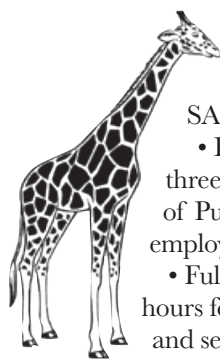
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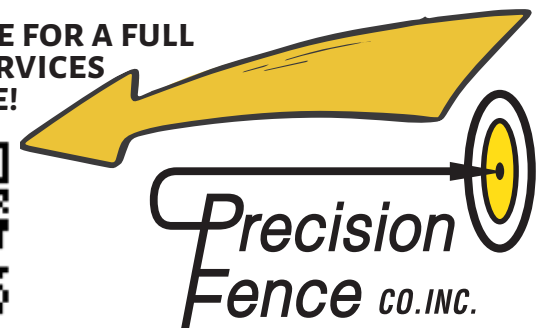
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and staff leave the college and quiet descends on the 260-acre campus, what comes next for the property? What economic and social impact will its future have on the town of just over 5,000 residents?

There have been lively suggestions online: the dormitories will be converted to senior housing, low-income housing, 40-B, or condos. Given the college's debts, the buildings will remain vacant, and the campus will deteriorate into a ghost town. Or some think the campus will resemble Atlantic Union College in Lancaster. Closed in 2018, that 130-acre campus remains largely undeveloped while its owner, the Atlantic Union Conference, maintains the upkeep on the main campus' buildings and grounds.

At the April 27 Selectboard meeting, Chair Peter Bogren asked Town Administrator Robert Birkbeck to ask Leicester officials how they managed the 2021 closing of Becker College, which had a campus and numerous buildings in that town.

He also asked Birkbeck to reach out to the City of Amherst officials to ask how they are managing the news from Hampshire College, which announced its closing just a week before AMC's announcement.

"My biggest concern," said Bogren, "is what is going to become of that property. The Sisters of St. Anne own it now. There are notes on the property."

Concerns were raised over immediate financial impacts on the town. The college has paid more than \$1 million annually to the town for different services, including, among others, water and electricity usage and meals tax.

"We need to be proactive and reach out to the school," said Bogren, "and start the process of at least getting our voice heard." The property is zoned for education, which limits future development. "That puts us in the seat," said Bogren "so we at least have a voice."

Bogren suggested that the selectboard form a committee after the May 11 election when two new candidates will join the board.

Birkbeck said residents have

suggested the town move some of its offices or the DPW facility to the campus to create a compound. He also said a suggestion was made to site a vocational technical high school on the campus.

On April 1, the Mass. Senate passed the FARM Bill: an Act Fostering Agricultural Resilience in Massachusetts. State Senator Ryan Fattman of Sutton, representing the Worcester and Hampden District, successfully added an amendment calling for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to study the feasibility of creating a new agricultural high school.

Currently, if a Central Mass student wants to study agricultural sciences, the town where that student lives must provide that education by sending the student to one of the four agricultural high schools that are in Walpole, Dighton, Northampton, or Danvers - at a cost of upwards of \$70,000 per year. The study will identify possible sites for the school and hold at least four public hearings, one of which must be in Worcester County. DESE will post a draft

no later than Dec. 31, 2026, and hold one additional public hearing. The final report is due no later than July 1, 2027.

"This is a huge step toward regional equity in education offerings for agricultural school districts across Central Massachusetts," said Fattman when the bill was passed. "If Central Massachusetts had an agricultural school, we could save tremendous money on transportation costs while still offering competitive agricultural education to students who are interested."

Senator Fattman's office confirmed there will be a legislative breakfast at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School sometime in June. While

the spokesperson acknowledged the point about possibly siting a school at Anna Maria, she said the senator was looking at high schools with acreage capacity.

The selectboard concluded its discussion by asking that a representative from the Sisters of St. Anne, perhaps Dr. David Trainor, chair of the AMC Board of Trustees, come before them or meet with Birkbeck. Suggestions for the local committee composition included representatives from the planning board, zoning board, conservation committee, and interested town residents.

"The impact on the community is going to be substantial," said Bogren about the property's future. *



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Rutland Prison Camp Advocacy

By MARTHA AKSTIN

More than 20 supporters of the Rutland Prison Camp turned out to a Rutland Historical Commission meeting on April 28 to protest the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (DCR) plans for the site. DCR has proposed demolishing the cell block and blocking off the root cellar, alleging structural safety concerns and persistent hate and/or racist graffiti.

The meeting was an opportunity for the commission to meet with DCR to counter the demolition plans and present their solutions to retain the structures. Joining the meeting that night were Rutland Police Chief Nicholas Monaco, State Senator Peter Durant, State Representative Kimberly Ferguson’s staff, and Rutland Select Board member Leah Whiteman.

DCR and Rutland have been meeting to discuss the structures at the prison camp for many years. Representing DCR that night were Dan Clark, regional director, Quabbin/Ware River Region and John Scannell, director of the Division of Water Supply Protection.

Lindsay Maus, Historical Commission member, read five proposals that would address DCR’s concerns:

- Install “Historic Structures – Do Not Climb” signs
- Community Painting Initiative
- Mural Contest for Prison Cells
- Apply Graffiti-Resistance Coating to the Root Cellar
- Replace broken/stolen Cameras

Chief Monaco stated that, in his opinion, the structures do not pose a public safety concern as the police department has not received any emergency calls to the site. He said Rutland police work collaboratively with the Mass Environmental Police Department, which patrols the DCR land. “We have not investigated any criminal acts” Monaco said, “except for graffiti. If there was something offensive it was painted over.” Monaco pointed out that even the trash has been picked up.

“Every once in a while, somebody breaks into a car at the rail trail,” Monaco continued, “and we don’t close the rail trail.”

Clark reviewed the commission’s proposals and then clarified that DCR does not propose to demolish the root cellar, but to block off its opening. “We will consider your proposals before we come to a decision,” Clark said.

Senator Durant responded, “Once removed or altered, these structures can’t be brought back. The commission has volunteers to address the graffiti. I don’t see a pressing need to take drastic actions that can’t be reversed.”

Corrine Puliafico, a life-long



The cell block. Photo by Lindsay Maus.

Rutland resident, asked what prompted DCR’s proposal to demolish or block off the structures. “Filling it in is just as bad as knocking it down,” she commented.

Scannell said that if somebody falls off the top of the cell block and dies, public opinion would be to blame the Commonwealth and DCR and ask, “How could you have let this happen?”

Puliafico, who was sitting right next to Scannell, responded, “If someone drowns at Whitehall Pond [at Rutland State Park] you don’t close the beach.”

Multiple residents then voiced their opinions that the site should remain as is and the commission’s proposals would, once put in place, counter DCR’s concerns. “There are

cliffs in the park,” said Rutland resident Alex Moss, “you’re not going to take the cliffs down.”

After the public comment period, Scannell said that DCR would consider the commission’s proposal before they come to a decision. When he was asked for a timeframe for this decision, Scannell replied there wasn’t one. When he was asked who at DCR would make the final determination, he replied, “We haven’t made any decisions. We said we would listen to the commission and the public. We haven’t made any plans further than that.”

Senator Durant then asked if the town would be notified of any decisions before demolition would begin. Scannell nodded yes. “Equipment won’t come and tear down the structures before notice is given to the

town?” Durant asked. Scannell shook his head no.

Chief Monaco remembered there had been a large hole that led to a deep pit in the prison camp area and that DCR had filled in that danger. “That was reasonable and prudent to fill it in,” said Monaco. “To tear down structures where there are no hazards is neither reasonable nor prudent,” Monaco concluded.

After the meeting, when Scannell was asked how to obtain a copy of the structural engineering study he referred to, he told this reporter to go to the DCR website and file a Freedom of Information Act request. Since FOIA pertains to federal-level departments, *WFP* has reached out to the DCR media office for a copy of the study to understand the specific safety issues about which DCR is concerned *.

WFP will continue to follow this story.



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New Moon Integrative Veterinary Care

Dr. Rebecca Soco’s journey to opening New Moon Integrative Veterinary Care in Hudson, Massachusetts has taken a winding path across the country. Along the way, she built a strong foundation in traditional sciences while also discovering the benefits of alternative medical therapies.

With her love of animals and interest in science, Dr. Soco knew from a young age that she wanted to be a veterinarian. Raised in the Brattleboro, Vermont area, Dr. Soco studied biology and environment sciences at Tufts University as an undergraduate.

“I applied to veterinary school, but I didn’t get in,” she explained, “so I moved to the San Diego, California area to become a surfer – and then realized I did not like surfing.” She also taught science as a middle school teacher and met her future husband.

Her path shifted in 2013 when, at the age of 34, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. “It was an opportunity to ask myself, ‘If I look back on my life, what would I regret?’” she said. “I realized I still wanted to work with animals but also do something that made a difference in people’s lives.”

She applied to Tufts Veterinary School in Grafton and when she was accepted, she and her young family moved East. “I had one kid before breast cancer and two after, which was a blessing,” she said. In addition to her 13-year-old daughter, she and her husband have a 5- and a 7-year-old. Dr. Soco remains cancer-free today.

After graduation, Dr. Soco worked for the non-profit Second Chance, providing low-cost services in Worcester. She then delved into integrative medicine and started her own mobile veterinary clinic out of a truck. In February 2026 Dr. Soco opened a brick-and-mortar business in a 3,300 square foot space on Coolidge Street in Hudson. “We want people to feel the positive energy as soon as they walk through the door,” said Dr. Soco. “That energy creates a calming experience to ease stress and foster healing. It doesn’t have that sterile feel that so many spaces have. A lot of patients have followed me here and I’m very grateful for their support.”

In addition to traditional medical therapies and diagnostics such as ultrasounds, X-rays, surgeries, vaccines, and



blood work, New Moon Integrative Veterinary Care offers alternative therapies such as ozone therapy, which is proven to reduce inflammation, improve circulation, and support healing on a cellular level. It also offers halo therapy, red light therapy, and Class IV laser therapy that enhances the body’s natural healing process. Dr. Sheila Henriquez has also joined the practice and specializes in acupuncture and physical therapy.

After an in-depth consultation that includes the animal’s medical history, lifestyle, diet, symptoms, prior treatments, and a physical exam, Dr. Soco offers a holistic path forward that fits the pet’s needs. “I focus on spending time with patients to discover the specific therapies that will work best for the animal and the owner,” she explained.

“For instance, some people choose a course of antibiotics to treat their pet that tests positive for Lyme disease,” said Dr. Soco. However, there are alternatives. “Ozone therapy is effective to treat Lyme,” she explained. “It takes longer and is a bit more expensive,



but you don’t have the need for antibiotics. Antibiotics can cure disease, but they can also cause other problems.”

New Moon continues to offer appointments where they come to your home to treat your animal. “Mobile appointments work great for cats who get so distraught coming into a veterinarian office,” said Dr. Soco. “Other animals just feel more secure in their home and are easier to treat there. It’s also great for people who are

home-bound and can’t manage to get out with their dog or cat.

“I really do feel that combining traditional therapies with proven alternative therapies is what makes us unique,” concluded Dr. Soco. “There are a lot of academics involved in veterinary care, but I love the personal side of this work – getting to know the people who love their animals, getting to understand their concerns and what they envision for their pet’s health.”

New Moon Integrative Veterinary Care is located at 101 Coolidge Street in Hudson. They are open Monday to Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm, and Fridays 9 am to 3 pm. Their phone number is 508-321-7224 and email is info@newmoonvet.com. Visit their website at newmoonvet.com.

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Spring Gardening

By ROGER MCGAUGHEY

The recent bitterly cold winter is thankfully (hopefully) now a distant memory. I have been a Paxton resident for just over 10 years and I'm ready to enjoy another spring in my perennial garden. As we can see now, na-

- changes:
- Moving certain varieties that don't quite fit the color scheme or growth pattern.
 - Splitting/dividing a variety prior to moving.
 - Simply buying another item to add to the mix or trading



ture never disappoints and our gardens are on the verge of giving us another incredible array of color. It is amazing how a bare winter landscape can produce so many different shapes and colors in spring and summer. (See photos above)

I enjoy perennials as they offer plants suitable for various environmental conditions ranging from full sun to heavy shade. Each growing year provides a different set of climate conditions. With proper care and attention, once a bed is created you can look forward to the bounty of color that will follow.

As gardeners, we like to be creative and each spring or fall adjustments can be made to the arrangement of different varieties within each area. There are numerous ways of making

plants with another avid gardener.

While most of my plant material is of the perennial type, around this time of year I sometimes use annual varieties to add to the array of color for a more beautiful summer display. A flat of impatiens/petunias/zinnias/dianthus, for example, can add to the color mix within a given area.

It's also fun to make containers full of perennials and annuals to add to your deck or patio display. If planting a selection of pots together, I recommend creating the display by first 'planting' the empty pots, removing them and then putting

HARVEST
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Letters to the Editor

Statement from the Trustees of the Gale Free Library Regarding the Override Election in Holden

For 138 years, the Gale Free Library has been a place where children discover reading, residents find community, and everyone has equal access to knowledge.

With a Proposition 2½ override vote on May 11, the Trustees are providing information about how municipal funding affects library services and operations. If the override does not pass, the library's municipal appropriation would likely be reduced by approximately 30 percent - a cut that would almost certainly lead to decertification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Decertification would have concrete consequences. It would mean Holden residents lose access to the statewide borrowing network that connects them to hundreds of libraries across the Commonwealth, as well as shared digital collections and research databases that no single town library could afford on its own. Your Holden library card currently opens doors far beyond our walls. Decertification closes them. The library would also lose approximately \$40,000 in annual state aid.



tion closes them. The library would also lose approximately \$40,000 in an-

nual state aid.

Since the Massachusetts State Aid to Public Libraries program was established in 1987, Holden has never once failed to meet the Municipal Appropriation Requirement. Not once in nearly four decades. The upcoming fiscal year would be the first time.

The library's budget affects hours, staffing, programs, and the basic maintenance of a historic building that belongs to this community. The library itself was established as a public trust in perpetuity in 1888. In recent years, private donors and the Friends of the Library have stepped up to restore the historic windows and renovate the Children's Room - but private generosity cannot substitute for the municipal funding that keeps the doors open and the lights on.

Thousands of Holden residents rely on this library each year. The Trustees offer this statement so residents can understand how funding decisions affect the services the library is able to provide for the community.

— Unanimously approved by the Trustees of Damon Memorial / Gale Free Library, April 14, 2026

Letter to the Editor:

The Paxton, MA Garden Club (PMAGC) would like to express its sincere gratitude to

the Savickas family for their generous donation towards our Community Garden & Learning Greenhouse project we are building.

We are also extremely grateful to Kevin Quinn of Quinn Engineering for all his guidance and development of the plot plan. To Lawler Construction for their commitment to build a staircase up the banking and other site preparation work. To Jason Burgess of Burgess Homes for their commitment to build the shed. To Fling Electric for their commitment, Cornerstone Bank and Worcester County Memorial Park for their financial contributions, and to the Paxton Recreation Commission and Select Board for granting us the space to build upon. We are so excited to create this project for the community!

— The PMAGC Community Garden Subcommittee

Julie Dubuque, Karen Gearin, Duston Hill, Mary Hollingsworth, Barbara Matheson, Patti McKone, John Pender-Cudlip, Joyce Powers, Robin Tasca, & Andrea Thackeray

Dear Editor,

I am a lifelong resident of the Wachusett area and a retired middle school teacher. I am extremely concerned about Holden's middle schoolers' behavior on Release Time days. My heart

flies to my throat as they barrel down the hill to Dunkin, heedlessly running or e-biking right through moving traffic. I fear a horrid accident or even a fatality.

The newly formed Holden Safe Cycling Group (HSCG) offers a Fun 'n Safe Family Bike Ride on Sun. May 17, from Mountview Middle School, 2.5 miles on the new, mostly flat bike path to the center of town. Family cycling is an ideal way for parents to have fun with middle schoolers and model best practices of cycling safety.

HSC's program in partnership with Massbike.org aims to keep kids safe. We target both 'kids on screens' and 'kids on e-bikes' in a fun, educational way. The family group ride, with school and police support, introduces the program.

In the fall, we will offer Safe Cycling clinics with professional MassBike instructors on Release Time days. Kids will be able to develop safe cycling routes to their own destinations, including Wachusett Greenways. It is an ideal place to get exercise and have fun with no motor vehicular traffic whatsoever.

We will also offer a demonstration Bike Bus for Davis Hill elementary schoolers. Teachers love it because the kids arrive wide-awake and ready to learn. Bike Busses are very popular in the Boston area. My 9-year-old granddaughter looks forward to riding her Bike Bus

every Friday. <https://youtu.be/pMvxYyA0bK0>

Here is a fact to consider from *The Boston Globe*: Boston has the worst traffic in the nation, with Worcester trailing right behind at #4. We aim to cultivate safe, courteous cycling and driving. Too much is at stake.

If you have a bike that you would lend to a community member for the family bike ride, please email me j_elizabeth55@icloud.com

—Elizabeth Johnson
Holden

A Joint Statement From Paxton Selectboard Candidates

To the Editor:

For those who have been watching some of the recent board meetings on WPAX, sadly, the dialogue has become personal and divisive. Unfortunately, what makes great TV and politics does not necessarily work in the real world. What works in the real world is constructive cooperation while working towards shared outcomes.

While there are so many great things happening in town through active groups like the Lions, Women's Club, Recre-

LETTERS

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OpEd

Teachers like to ask three questions about political issues: Who benefits? Who pays? Who decides?

Holden residents this month join communities across the state facing proposals to override existing tax limitations in order to maintain town services and meet shared responsibilities for public education. In Holden we have clear answers to those three questions: all of us benefit from the services provided by the town and by our excellent schools. Property owners, including those who have no children in the schools, almost always agree that public education is a public good.

Who *pays*? Well, we pay most

of the cost through the property tax and fees for some services. We also rely on state appropriations funded by state (and sometimes federal) taxes, which many of us also pay.

And who *decides* how we will balance benefits and payment? We do! What is remarkable about local government is that we decide on the budget at town meeting, which we all can attend, and on the over-ride, we decide by referendum, when we all can vote. It is up to us!

A tax increase this year will be extra hard because prices for

everything we and our families need are higher than ever. Not everyone will agree that the *benefits* for our common life outweigh the costs. The last thing we Americans need are more self-righteous divisions. Instead, as we decide in the next few weeks whether we can afford what we are asked to pay for, we all might learn at least three things.

First, and most important,

OPED

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HARVEST

continued from page 7

the plant’s root ball in the hole that remains. This will allow for good root penetration into the new container environment. Just pushing roots into a container

is a guarantee of unsatisfactory growth of the arrangement. (See photo below.)

At this time of year, it’s important to remove weeds that will soon be in serious competition with your favorite plants. Simply hand-pulling the weeds or cultivating the soil between the

plants is highly recommended. (See photo, right)

Preventative pest and disease control NOW is also something I strongly advise. Here are materials that I find useful for specific problems:

- Aphids (BioAdvanced All-in-One Concentrate Rose &



Flower Care)

- Drench the soil around each plant (roses, lavender, peonies, asters, and hollyhocks are examples of specific aphid-susceptible varieties).

Mildew (Ferti-Lome Systemic II Liquid Fungicide) – Spray early in the plant’s life (asters, phlox, bee balm, peonies, rudbeckia, sedum).

For mosquito and tick control I use Cutter Backyard Bug Control in my yard.

IMPORTANT: Always follow safety precautions and label recommendations.

I am a member of Paxton Garden Club, and we will be having our Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, June 6, on the Paxton Common. There will be a range of perennials, vegetables, herbs, and annuals, all at reasonable prices, which could add to your gardening enjoyment. ★

Roger McGaughery was educated in Northern Ireland and received a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Horticultural Science from Reading University in England. He has 50 years of experience working in the greenhouse industry in England and America.

LETTERS

continued from page 8

ation, and the Garden Club, just to name a few, we are facing some difficult challenges. Some of these challenges are structural deficits, and the recent news of the transition of the town’s largest employer – AMC. Sometimes, while in flight at cruising altitude, we encounter turbulence. What is needed now is cooler heads to prevail and for us to generate the collective horsepower of the many great people and boards/committees working across town govern-

ment to move forward.

We firmly believe that “we are all in this together” is a much better philosophy than “it’s their fault.” We do not have to check our opinions and brains at the door, but if we pivot towards getting something done, what success we could share! As a former U.S. president once said, “politics doesn’t have to be a blood sport; it can be an honorable enterprise that advances the public interest.” We believe anyone who steps up to serve the public (usually for free and on their time) should be respected. We encourage everyone at the Paxton political tables to appeal

to their better angels and try to propel this town towards a mission of continuous improvement.

Thank you to everyone who serves on any board, committee, or volunteers in town in any capacity, and to our many great town employees. Without you, we would share an empty village.

We should never stop thinking about tomorrow!

— Steve Rebesco
Jeff Wentzell
Candidates for Paxton
Select Board

OPED

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we actually do share responsibility for our community and our schools: that is a fact and not an option. Second, we can learn once again that, on these matters of self-government at least, we can actually fulfill those responsibilities. We have access all along the way: at open meetings of finance and school committees and the select board, at town meetings where we decide together on the budget, and, when needed, referenda to

decide together, in this case on additions to our public revenues. There is no excuse for indifference. And third, we may learn that we, or at least many of us, myself included, should pay more attention to state government, where decisions get made about shared statewide responsibilities that make a difference for us and our families. And all of that is connected to other states and communities: we cannot ignore national decisions also made in our name.

We Americans have been working on our experiment in self-government for 250 years.

It is a beautiful thing, but it takes work. We answer the “who decides?” question by saying that we do, together. The upcoming decision about taxation will show that we mean it here in our towns and district. But we all have some work to do in our state and our country. Self-government remains our commitment and the discussion, deliberation and decisions of politics is our public work. Politics matters. Let’s renew our faith in that democratic idea as we decide *together* who *benefits* and who *pays* for our common home.

— David O’Brien, Holden

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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Jay Conte (2nd gen.),
Kris Henderson
(2nd gen.) and
Sarah Conte (3rd gen.)

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NEWSbitz

By MARTHA AKSTIN

• Each of the towns that *Wachusett Free Press* covers is facing structural deficits in their fiscal year 2027 budgets, and each is asking voters to approve Proposition 2 ½ overrides: **Holden \$5.5 million, Paxton \$640,000, and Rutland \$3.1 million.** Budgets must be approved by both a town meeting vote and an election vote. While Paxton held its Annual Town Meeting on May 4, Rutland will hold its meeting on May 9, after *Wachusett Free Press* has gone to press. All three towns will hold their **Annual Elections on May 11**, also after we go to press for this month's issue. Holden will convene its Annual Town Election on June 8.

• **Kimberly Ferguson**, who was first elected as **State Representative** for the **First Worcester District** in November 2010 and is serving her eighth term, announced on December 8, 2025, that she would not seek re-election. We have heard of two candidates who have thrown their hats into the ring for the First Worcester District that represents the towns of Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, and Westminster.

Krista Ferrante, a Princeton resident since 2014, graduated from Shrewsbury High School and earned her bachelor's degree from UMass Amherst. She received a master's degree in library and information science from Simmons University. According to her website krista-ferrante.com, Ferrante works as a corporate archivist at a nonprofit dedicated to helping government work better.

Holden resident **Stephanie Mulroy** earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education with a double major in psychology from Gordon College in Wenham. According to her website stephaniemulroy.com, Mulroy served on the Holden Select Board and is the owner and business manager of Mulroy Family Dental in Holden.

Holden

• **The Holden Garden Club's Annual Perennial Plant Sale** will be held **Saturday, May 16**

from 8 am to 1 pm at Damon House on the corner of Main St. and Highland Ave. Only cash and checks are accepted. The club raises money for school



Holden Garden Club's plant sale, 2025.

grants, to maintain civic plantings, and to provide speakers for meetings. Dues are \$25 per year and new members are welcome. The sale will have a large variety of perennials, annuals, houseplants, shrubs, and perhaps a few trees for purchase. Variety packs of tomatoes, herbs, and peppers will also be available.

This year, the club will hold a special silent auction featuring a variety of exceptional plants and shrubs as well as a number of patriotic red, white and blue planters. Auction proceeds will support the **Blue and Gold Star Memorials** to be installed in front of the **Holden Town Hall**. The Gold Star is a tribute to those families who have lost a child in the line of duty. The Blue Star is a tribute to those families who have a member serving in the armed forces. Every plant and shrub in the silent auction will have a "Take it Now!" price so there's no need to wait. Purchasing early helps support the Blue and Gold Star Memorial project. The auction closes at noon. These sponsors donated to the auction: **Burnham Mulch, Busy Bee Nursery, Jed's Hardware and Garden Center, and Sterling Greenery.**

Club members put in many hours to make this plant sale the success that it is. Come join the fun and buy plants!

• **The Holden Community Pantry Committee** is looking for a location to host a 24/7, 365-day, pantry that will hold

nonperishable food and fresh produce, hygiene products, and essential clothing (socks, hats, gloves). The location should be on or near a major roadway in

town, have ample flat parking, lighting, and be handicapped accessible. The pantry will be a pre-fab or stick built structure, the size of a small garden tool shed.

If you are a business owner or landlord who would be willing to discuss hosting the pantry, please contact Jim Hurley at 4 Others Inc. via email at 4Othersinc@gmail.com or call him at 774-622-9732. This pantry will provide critical items for individuals who are experiencing a difficult time in their lives.

• "Hey, Holden families, let's cycle on the new bike path together," invites organizers of **The Holden Safe Cycling Group**. In partnership with the **Mass Bike Coalition**, the group hopes Holden families and friends will join them on their totally fun **Family Bike Ride Sunday morning May 17**. They will assemble at **Mountview Middle School** at 9 am to enjoy an easy 2.5 mile, mostly level ride to the bandstand. "I may be walking my bike up the hill toward the bank where the bike path joins Main Street, so don't be embarrassed to join me if you get a little short of breath on the uphill!" said organizer **Elizabeth Johnson**. "Family cycling is a great way to engage kids of all ages and make memories together. And model safe cycling," continued Johnson. For more information, email Liz at: J_elizabeth55@icloud.com or DM her (Elizabeth Johnson) on Facebook.

• **The Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce** will host its

Scholarship Scramble Golf Tournament on Monday, May 18 at Sterling National Country Club in Sterling. The Chamber is seeking players, sponsors and prizes for this event, which is sponsored by Country Bank. Proceeds from the tournament benefit the Chamber's Scholarship Fund. This year, the Chamber will award up to four \$2,500 scholarships to graduating seniors residing in the Wachusett area.

Registration begins at 8 am, followed by a shotgun start at 9 am. The tournament fee is \$200 per player or \$380 for a two-some. Entry includes greens fees, a cart, continental breakfast, and a buffet lunch. Throughout the day, participants can enjoy prize drawings, a silent auction, and special contests. Sponsorship packages are also available. Players of all ability levels are welcome. Register on the Chamber's website wachusettareachamber.org, call them at 508-829-9220, or email info@wachusettareachamber.org.

• **The Wachusett Area Rotary Club** announced that it will sponsor two local students, **Emily O'Connor** of Holden and **Adalynn Nietzsche** of Rutland, to attend this year's **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** Conference to be held in June. **Savvas Fotiadis**, local committee chair, said that the chosen students will be among the more than 150 Massachusetts high school sophomores who will attend the conference.

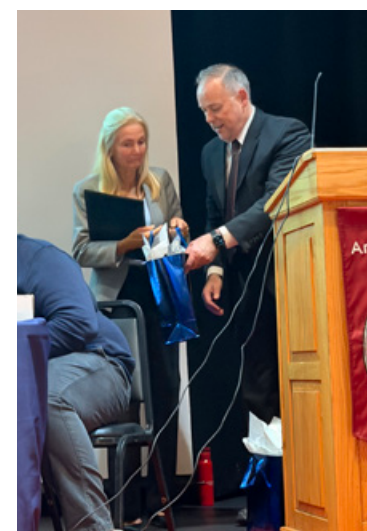
Aimed at developing the leadership potential of young men and women, the conference will feature challenging events including interactive leadership labs, guest speakers, and mental and physical activities that will provide the participants with a chance to excel amongst and with their peers. Topics will include decision-making, critical thinking, communicating effectively, ethics, and public service.

To be chosen, the candidates needed to demonstrate leadership potential, good citizenship characteristics, and a strong desire to attend and benefit from the conference - then stand out from other applicants during an interview process. For

more information visit www.ryla7910.org/ or contact Fotiadis at 508-873-9836, savvas@ourmanor.com or any member of the Wachusett Area Rotary Club.

Paxton

• Paxton has held an **Annual Town Meeting** every year since its first meeting on **March 11, 1765**, said **Town Moderator Roger Brunelle** at Paxton's Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 4. This year, **156 voters**, a turnout of **4.1 percent of registered voters**, attended the meeting according to **Town Clerk Laurie Becker**. That night,



Carol Riches (above), and Kirk Huehls (below) who did not seek re-election to the Paxton Select Board, were honored for their years of service by Select Board Chair Peter Bogren at the town's Annual Town Meeting.



voters considered 18 warrant articles including a **\$8,351,406** budget for fiscal year 2027. The

NEWSBITZ

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budget, including a **\$640,000 override**, was approved 94 to 45 with one abstention. The budget – along with other matters put before the voters - will be on the May 11 Annual Town Election ballot.

- Article 17, the **Wachusett Regional School District budget**, was defeated by voters 74 to 64 with 2 abstentions. While **Superintendent Dr. James Reilly** argued for the article's passage citing a 2.8 percent budget increase over last year's budget, voters seemed to agree with **Mark Love, Chair of the town's Finance Committee**, that the district should not have exceeded the 2.5 percent cap. In addition, voters asked if the district could have tapped into its Excess and Deficiencies Account (like a municipality's Free Cash Account), which has a balance of \$3.8 million. It takes two towns in the Wachusett Regional School District to send the budget back to the district to be reworked. Sterling has approved the budget, Paxton voted against it, and Holden, Princeton and Rutland will address it at their annual town meetings and annual town elections.
- In a letter dated April 27 **Governor Maura Healey** informed the **Paxton Fire Department** that it has been awarded **two SAFE grants: \$5,879.85 for a Student Awareness of Fire Education grant and \$2,700.62 for a Senior Awareness of Fire Education grant** for a total of \$8,580.27. The monies will be used to "educate our most at-risk populations on fire safety, with the goal of preventing injuries and deaths from fires and other preventable hazards," acknowledged the department.
- Paxton residents are invited to join the town's **annual Memorial Day Observance** on **Monday, May 25**. Begin the day at 8 a.m. by enjoying breakfast with **Paxton Boy Scouts Pack 105** at the **First Congregational Church**. The Memorial Day Parade starts at 10 am at the

(whiffleball, basketball, soccer, and volleyball), nature walks, water fun, arts and crafts, playground, fishing, swimming, and much more. Rainy day activities are planned. Each day a bus will take attendees to the Rut-



Paxton's Memorial Day Parade, 2025.

Public Safety Building and is followed by the ceremony on the Common (rain location will be at Paxton Center School). After the ceremony, join the **Paxton American Legion Post 306** in paying respects (gun salute) at each of the three cemeteries in town: the **Old Cemetery** behind the Congregational Church, the **WW II Memorial at Mooreland Cemetery**, and then at **Worcester County Memorial Park**. Post 306 invites everyone to the Legion Hall for a luncheon following the last gun salute at WCMP.

- Applications for **Paxton's Summer Recreation Program 2026** are now open. Location: Paxton Center School. Mon - Fri 9 am to 4 pm and 9 am to 1:30 pm for pre-school age. Early drop off available 8-9 am for an additional charge. Enjoy the summer with friends and counselors. Days will include scheduled fun activities, sports

land town pool for swimming (11 am to 1 pm). Go here for details and application: www.paxtonma.gov/1333/Summer-Program-2026

Rutland

Join the **Finnish Heritage Society Sovittaja** at it celebrates the **100th anniversary of Savittaja Park**, Finn Park Rd. in Rutland. Experience a little bit of Finland right here in Central Massachusetts! They kick off celebrations on June 20 with a **Midsummer Comedy with Finnish Comedian Miska (Family fun)**. Food available between 5-6 pm. Program starts at 6 pm. Admission \$5 per person. **Celebration Dance** at 7 pm with music

by **Dan Mackowiak**. Advanced ticket sales: 508-723 -0447.

Other events are planned throughout the summer and into the fall. All events are sponsored, in part, by the **Cultural Fund of the Finnish Heritage Society Sovittaja** to celebrate the park's centennial birthday and share the Finnish culture and heritage with the community. Visit their website at Sovittaja.com

- **Rutland Board, Committee & Commission Vacancies**. Serving on a Town Board, Commission or Committee is a valued and appreciated contribution to the community. It provides a great opportunity for residents to get involved in local government and to better understand the roles and responsibilities

email the town at admin@rutlandma.gov or call 508-886-4100, ext. 2001.

- **The Teen Advisory Board (TAB)** is a group of teens who get together several times a month at the **Rutland Public Library** (May 13, 5-6 pm). TAB designs fun activities for teens, hosts a monthly game night, and pitches in to help with special programs for younger kids. Interested in joining? Come to a TAB meeting. You won't be disappointed. It is a group of amazing young people who are energetic and supportive and not to mention, pizza is served at TAB meetings. As one leader wrote: "I want to remind you to invite friends to our meetings, game nights, movies, etc. The more the merrier. Everyone grade 6 and up is wel-



that help to keep the town operating efficiently.

There are currently vacancies on 13 boards and commissions. Terms run from July 1 through June 30 of the fiscal year. Please visit the town website at rutlandma.gov for information and details on each seat and a link to the volunteer application form. If you have any questions,

come! Kerry will provide pizza and chocolate milk for our meetings and game nights, as well as pizza and popcorn for our movie nights. Also, everything you do for the TAB counts for volunteer hours, so it might be helpful for you to track these hours and get Kerry to sign off on them!" Call the library for more info. *

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Sports

Fast Break: Wachusett Girls Lacrosse Takes the Field

By Christopher Tremblay,
Staff Sports Writer

Alexis Hahn will take over the Wachusett girls lacrosse team this spring in hopes of getting the squad into the win column on a regular basis. Hahn grew up playing lacrosse for Leominster High School before taking her talents to Georgian Court University in Lakewood NJ, where she was the goalie all four seasons for the Division 2 Lions. Prior to taking over the Mountaineers program, she spent the last two years as an assistant coach at Fitchburg State.

“At this time, I don’t know much about this team,” she said. “I am hoping to help them achieve a successful year as a unit by winning games and improving. I’ll figure things out more once we get to tryouts and I meet the girls.”

Although the new coach has yet to have her team take to the field, she is looking to have the team spread the wealth around on offense. In doing so she feels that Wachusett will be a much better team than just having one individual doing everything.

Last year the Mountaineers did not have a successful season, capturing only a handful of wins. “It was a tough year – our last coach wasn’t here long enough to build team bonding, and the captains were not really connecting with the rest of the team,” senior captain Lillianna Mitchell said. “We lost two or three seniors, but we have a talented bunch of freshman and sophomores looking to get playing time this year.”

In addition to Mitchell, who plays midfield, Wachusett will go with four captains this year with goalie Ali Jones and defenders Sydney Marshall and Jayla Bertrand. The foursome wants to build a team bond that was non-existent last year. “If you’re not good, you’re not going to go anywhere,” Mitchell said. “I think that both the varsity and junior varsity players have gotten to know one another much more this year through captains’ practices both on and off the field.”

In the past the Mountaineers have taken the field with a strong defense leading the way, but with a gifted group of



Alexis Hahn, WRHS girls’ lacrosse coach
Photo submitted

underclassmen coming onto the scene things could all change. A good part of that change will rely on the new coach.

Elise Montgomery will be back once again to help anchor the Mountaineers defense and provide the stability that Jones

will need in front of the goal. Offensively Wachusett graduated some athletes while also losing freshman Addie Citro who transferred. The freshman was high amongst the Mountaineer goal scorers last year.

Mitchell, along with senior Ashley Shaw Nelson and junior Clara Robinson, will be looked upon to pick up the slack. While Mitchell will stick around the midfield the other two girls have the capability of either playing middle or moving up to attack. Junior Evelyn White has also impressed during the practices thus far.

“Things will start to get a little clearer once the coach gets to practice and decides where she thinks people should play,” the senior captain said. “She told us that she was looking to win right away, but winning is not our entire life. There will be no pressure put on us, if we put the work in – great, but if we don’t want to then don’t bother coming to practices.”

Mitchell realizes that a lot of the girls have played certain positions in the past but knows once tryouts begin and the coach sees what she has she may do some adjusting.

The returners, wherever they may play, are hoping that the team can qualify for the state tournament. Mitchell definitely wants to win more and if they happen to lose, she is hoping that the team learns from its mistakes to get better. “With a new coach you never know how things are going to go,” Mitchell said. “But we do have a good amount of talent coming in. Unfortunately, they haven’t played the game on this level before so there is going to be some grooming on the captains’ part so they can become the building blocks of the future.”

So, while the girls are waiting to see what Coach Hahn brings to the team this spring, they are excited to turn the page and start a new chapter in Wachusett lacrosse, one in which they believe could be very positive with many wins. *



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Sports

Flag Football Program Sidelined as AMC Closes

By Christopher Tremblay,
Staff Sports Writer

With the emergence of flag football throughout the country, Anna Maria College had announced adding the sport to its women's athletic program. Designed to be fast-paced and highly competitive, the program would have expanded women's access to collegiate athletics and contributed to the evolving landscape of women's sports.

AMC had announced the hiring of Bridget D'Amelio as the inaugural head coach of the program in November 2025. At that time, D'Amelio stated, "I am honored to be named head coach of Anna Maria College Women's Flag Football. Now that women's flag football has emerged, it has become my passion to help bring this sport to girls and women now and in the future. I'm grateful for the opportunity to empower young women to showcase their strength, skill, and athleticism."

D'Amelio has extensive experience and a commitment to the sport, having coached youth flag football teams and built the girls flag football program at Wachusett Regional High School. Her teams have earned top conference finishes, statewide recognition, and opportunities to compete on prominent stages, including Gillette Stadium.

But then, unexpectedly, on April 23, Anna Maria announced it would permanently close its doors at the end of the Spring 2026 semester after 80 years in existence, citing unsustainable financial pressures and declining enrollment.

With the shutdown of the private Catholic college came layoffs of staff and faculty, affecting 150 employees, and 1,000-plus students scrambling, looking for a place to continue their education. According to D'Amelio, students are reaching out to colleges such as Worcester State University, Dean College, and Springfield College that are working to accept the displaced undergraduates.

"The first season was to be next spring," said D'Amelio, "and we had athletes committed to play here, but now they have to look elsewhere. It's tough, but not as detrimental to our program as some of the others [sports programs at the college] as we hadn't started yet. It is still hard on all the athletes already here."



Bridget D'Amelio Photo submitted

In a statement from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, Commissioner Noe Ortega wrote, "The Department continues to work with President Ryan [of AMC] and his leadership team to ensure that students who are not graduating this spring have opportunities to transfer and complete their degrees as seamlessly as possible."

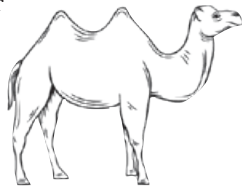
With the first season set to begin in the spring of 2027, D'Amelio had been using all of her connections to recruit girls to play for AMC. She had reached out to athletes who had played on the high school level from all of her coaching experiences so that she would have had a team by the fall 2026 to begin practicing and be ready for their inaugural season.

AMC was slated to play in the Mass State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC), where they would have been the third New England college to participate in female flag football, the second four-year college, and D'Amelio the first female coach.

While it never came to fruition, D'Amelio's appointment was historic. She would have been the first female coach in New England to lead a women's flag football program at a four-year college. Her work with youth leagues, summer programs, and New England Patriots Girls Flag Football initiatives underscores her commitment to player development and program building.

An athlete growing up and a soccer player in college, D'Amelio has always held football dear to her heart. She thought that she had been given the chance of a lifetime and wanted to make Anna Maria proud. While she will not get that chance to be one of the first females to coach flag football on the collegiate level, she will continue to coach the girls at Wachusett Regional High School and mentor the student athletes.

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Day Trippin'

WFP will publish easy day trips by car from Holden, Paxton, or Rutland to interesting places. If you would like to contribute a short description with photo of one of your favorite places to visit, please email it to martha@localtownpages.com

Helen pauses to learn about this light tank.
Photo by Steve Urbanovitch

By STEVE URBANOVITCH

This day trip brought us to the American Heritage Museum in Hudson, MA. It features over 85 artifacts from the Revolutionary War through modern conflicts, including a large collection of operating tanks and military vehicles. Self-guided tours take you through the 67,000 square foot museum with numerous video displays. Veterans are available to answer any questions and share their experiences. A visit to this museum will make you aware of the true cost of freedom. American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St. Hudson. Open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am-5 pm. Admission: Adults \$23; Children 16 and Under \$12; Seniors (62+) \$20; Active Duty Military with ID and Veterans \$20; Children 3 and Under free. Save \$2 per ticket by purchasing tickets online. Visit their website americanheritagemuseum.org *

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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

Monday, May 11

7 am-8 pm: Rutland's Annual Town Elections. Precincts 1 & 3 vote at Naquag Elementary School, 285 Main St. Precinct 2 votes at Rutland Free Library, lower level, 280 Main St. For more information on what is on the ballot, go to rutlandma.gov.

7 am-8 pm: Holden's Annual Town Elections The ballot contains the FY2027 \$5.5 million budget override request as well as elections for the town's open seats. Go to the town website at holdenma.gov for budget, and ballot information. The Annual Town Meeting will be held June 8.

10 am-8 pm: Paxton's Annual Town Elections at Paxton Center School, 19 West St. See the town website for the final ballot, paxtonma.gov.

Tuesday, May 12

10 am: The Friends of the Paxton COA meeting. The Friends are the fundraising arm of the Council and offer other support as needed. The Friends meet on the second Tuesday of every month in the Activity Room at the Senior Center.

10 am: Get your manicure at this complimentary "spa" at the Paxton Senior Center provided by Bay Path Regional Technical High School.

Students of the Cosmetology Dept. are on hand to beautify your nails – and yes, it's for men, too! Call the Center to RSVP in advance.

2:30 pm: Veterans and American Legion Meeting at the Holden Senior Center. For more info, contact Doug Harvey, Commander of Post 42 at 5508-450-9965 or email harvey1234@charter.net

6 pm: Icebox Cakes with the Cooking Club at the Gale Free Library. The icebox cake is a simple yet delicious combination of cookies and whipped cream. Learn how to assemble one with guest presenter Chef Colleen Kranich who will talk about the versatility of a recipe and how to adapt it. Chef Colleen will bring one for the class to enjoy. Everyone will make their own mini-icebox cake. Registration required.

7 pm: Rutland Historical Society Annual Meeting in the Wood House at 232 Main St. Reports of the society's leadership will be available and an election of officers will be held. Learn about accomplishments this past year, plans for the coming year, and browse their collections at the close of the meeting.

Wednesday, May 13

7:30-9:00 am: Wachusett Women's Connection hosted by the Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce at the Holden Senior Center. Network with fellow women in business and enjoy breakfast courtesy of their sponsor, Myles Funeral Home. Free, but register at wachusettchamber.org to be included in the food count.

8 am – late morning: Slow birding walk Central Mass Rail Trail, Glenwood Rd to Moulton Pond. Leader: Ted Purcell. Migrants are returning, settling into breeding territories, and doing a lot of singing. Join us for an easy walk; we'll stop and listen, practice observation without binoculars, and watch for bird behavior. Suitable for beginning birders. Bring cameras and binoculars. Registration preferred for weather updates warrivernatureclub@yahoo.com. Meet at parking area at 102 Glenwood Rd, Rutland.

10 am: Veterans Meeting and DCR talk at the Paxton Senior Center. 10 am-meeting; 10:30 am-program

on the Wachusett Reservoir by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Open to all.

10 am: Senior Hike: Wachusett Meadow Sanctuary, Princeton. This hike will follow trails on the north side of the sanctuary. It will be about 2.5 miles and include the trails to the top of Brown Hill, around North Meadow, and over to Otter Pond. This is a pretty hike, and plenty of wildflowers should be in bloom. For more info or to register: TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com

1:30 pm: Pretty Powerful: The History of Our Clothes: At the Holden Senior Center. Join Professor Charlotte Haller from Worcester State University as she explores the ways clothing reveals relationships between politics, identity, and women's history of the past 100 years. Wear clothing meaningful to you from your own collection or bring an item that represents a particular era. Please call the Center to RSVP.

7 pm: Giant Wasps - In-person or via Zoom with Paul Sievert at Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St, Athol Using photos taken in Gill and Montague, Paul will describe the ecology of some of North America's largest wasps: Cicada Killers and Giant Ichneumons. Cicada Killer Wasps provision their offspring with cicadas they capture in treetops, while Giant Ichneumons lay their eggs on larvae of other wasp species found deep within rotting tree trunks. These behemoths play an important role in food webs by controlling insect populations and serving as prey for insectivorous birds. Spend an evening with the giants. Register for Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/join/webinar/register/WN_QVOuG-9EsRgCfmVNMTpNhXA#/registration?

Thursday, May 14

9 am: Coffee and...: at the Holden Senior Center. Amy Drelinger of Sacred Circle Transition and Healing will share tools for caregivers' wellbeing, ways to stay connected with loved ones living with memory changes, and suggestions to feel less alone and better supported as you move through changes that

come with aging. Call the Center to RSVP.

10-11 am: Chamber Chat: Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly chat at The Bagel Inn in Holden. Join them for coffee and conversation.

10:30am-12 pm: Artful Loss with the Gale Free Library's Craft of Writing Workshop. Online via Zoom. Looks at writing that shows ways of addressing – even with a light and humorous touch – the inevitable losses of being alive. Registration required.

11 am-2 pm: Spring Bling Fling at the Rutland Senior Center with Dawn Rizzo Eager of DRE Design who will showcase and sell her unique jewelry created with rare, vintage crystals and other elements.

12:30 pm: Music Through the Decades at the Paxton Senior Center. Enjoy singer/guitarist Arizona Doug in his popular show tracing the sounds of music from the 1940s to 1970s. He returns with his acclaimed skills and engaging entertainment. Pre-show lunch available with a required reservation by calling the Center by May 12.

4:30 pm: Dine Out at the Hardwick Crossing Country Club, 262 Lower Rd., Gilbertville with the Rutland Senior Center. Meet at the restaurant. RSVP by calling the Center.

6 pm: Art Workshop - Hydrangeas. Join the Gale Free Library's May exhibiting artist Cristina Farrer for this mixed-media painting workshop. Participants will make canvas panels with a collage background, then learn to paint hydrangeas using bubble wrap. All supplies included. Registration required.

Fri. May 15 -Fri. June 12

Teen Care Kits for ages 12-18

This time of year can be stressful for teens with exams and big transitions. Drop by Richards Memorial Library to pick up a Teen Care Kit filled with calming activities, resource suggestions, and a small snack.

10 am: Kidding Around Yoga with Miss Nicole



CALENDAR

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L(a)unch hour tours are getting rave reviews. Don't miss the next blast off!

This hour-long tour, led by Director of Exhibits Vanessa Bumpus, has drama, romance, suspense, explosions and adventure. Learn more about Goddard's life, education, and research in Worcester, and his wife Esther and her role in preserving his legacy after his death. Ticket options indicate tour dates and times. Limited to 20 participants per tour. Registration is required. Cost: \$15 Non-Members (includes Museum Admission &



Tour), MOW members free. Exclusive Guided Tours at the Museum of Worcester, 30 Elm St., starting at 1 pm on May 12, May 20, and May 28 with an evening tour on May 28 at 5:30 pm. Call 508-753-8278

Photo Courtesy of Goddard Library, Clark University

HOLDEN

Gale Free Library, 23 Highland St., Holden. 508.210.5569; galefreelibrary.org; galefreelibrary@gmail.com

Holden Community Garden, Jessica Cosenza, 508.284.6612

Holden Recreation, 1420 Main St., Holden. 508.829.0263; holdenma.gov

Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St., Holden. 508.210.5570; holdenma.gov

Holden Garden Club, holdengardenclub.org

Holden Woman's Club, HoldenWomansClubMA@gmail.com

PAXTON

Paxton Council on Aging, 17 West St., Paxton. 508.756.2833;

paxtonma.gov; clove@paxtonma.gov

Richards Memorial Library, 44 Richards Ave., Paxton. 508.754.0793;

rmlpaxton.org; richards@cwmar.org

Paxton Recreation, townofpaxton.net/recreation-department

Paxton Garden Club, paxtongardencub.com

Paxton Women's Club, paxtonwomensclub.com

RUTLAND

Rutland Senior Center, 53 Glenwood Road, Rutland; 508.886.7945;

rutlandma.gov; nancyn@rutlandma.gov

Rutland Free Public Library, 280 Main St., Rutland; 508.886.4108;

rutlandlibrary.org; kerry@rutlandlibrary.org

Rutland Recreation, Community Hall, 250 Main St., Rutland.; 508.886.4100,

ext 3011; rutlandma.gov; cfohock@rutlandma.gov

Rutland Historical Society, 232 Main St.; 508-886.4893;

rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org

Rutland Food Pantry, 290 Main Street, Rutland. 774-696-3008.

REGIONAL

Wachusett Food Pantry, 50 Worcester Rd., Sterling. 978-563-1064.

Wachusettfoodpantry.org

Info about DCR Wachusett Reservoir Watershed Events series can be found at mass.gov/locations/Wachusett-reservoir/events. All programs are free and open to the public. Dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands. Service and medical support animals, when acting within their service capacity, are welcome. In the case of inclement weather, hike may be cancelled or modified. To check on hike status call 617-352-4044 or email Kathryn.Parent@mass.gov. For ADA/reasonable accommodations, call 617.645.0358, or email moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov



CALENDAR

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for ages 2-5 To register, email communityconnections@wachusettcfce.com This is not your typical yoga class. Little ones learn basic poses with lots of music, movement, and literacy incorporated. Yoga helps children manage anxiety and improve emotional regulation, all while developing strength and flexibility. At the Gale Free Library.

1 pm: Felted Sea Turtle at Holden Senior Center. All materials provided. Registration began April 27 and continues until full. Each participant must register in person with \$20 cash. If you cancel after 3:30 pm on May 8, you will not receive a refund.

Saturday, May 16

10:30 am and 12 pm: Music at the Salisbury Mansion, 40 Highland St. Worcester. Greater Worcester Opera and the Salisbury Mansion partner for a special one-day event that will include the Worcester Revolutionary House Tour combined with selections from Greater Worcester Opera's production of the Tony Award-winning musical, 1776. Join them as they fill the Mansion with music and make the American Revolution come alive. Tours are one hour and limited to 16 participants. Registration required. Cost: \$15 non-members; MOW members free. Call the MOW at 508-753-8278.

All month at the Gale Free Library:

Cristina Farrer returns to Holden for her second solo show. A former schoolteacher with majors in biology, chemistry, physics, and math, Cristina brings an innate understanding of the science behind flowers to her floral paintings. See how she is innovating the painted backgrounds that highlight her flowers. See the May 14 listing about Cristina's program on painting hydrangeas.



11 am-12 pm: Mornings with Maggie at the Gale Free Library. Our friend Maggie will be back to brighten our day! Maggie and her person, Kelly, are a therapy team certified through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. No registration required.

11 am-1 pm: Drop in, Open House at Richards Memorial Library. The

Friends of Richards Memorial Library invite you to join them at this Open House. FRML is the library's primary fundraising organization and funds most library programming, museum passes, technology, and more. Join them to meet the new Library Director Vicky Biancolo, celebrate this year's accomplishments, share your dreams for the library, and learn how you can get involved. Charcuterie Woo will generously provide snacks.

Sunday, May 17

10 am: Hope Lives Here's Walk to Remember. Join them for their 5th Annual Walk to Remember, which will start and finish at the HLH Community Grief Garden behind the Rutland Library. This event will give everyone the opportunity to remember and reflect on those that we are missing over the 1.7-mile course. Come share your stories,

some laughter and some tears. This year's walk will support the Memorial Garden and the programs HLH offers to the community.

3-5 pm: Discovering the Other Lost Valley with Maria Beiter-Tucker, Interpretive Services Supervisor at DCR. Held at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St. Before the Swift River Valley was cleared and flooded, 23,000 acres were taken along the Ware River in Barre, Oakham, Rutland, and Hubbardston to supplement the waters of the new reservoir. Approximately 350 people lost their homes along with three villages: White Valley, Coldbrook Springs and West Rutland, which are featured in this presentation. Also taken were parts of New Salem, Belchertown, Pelham, and Ware. This presentation focuses on this other lost valley, why it was cleared and the role the Ware River Watershed plays in protecting the water supply of 2.7 million Massachusetts residents.

Monday, May 18

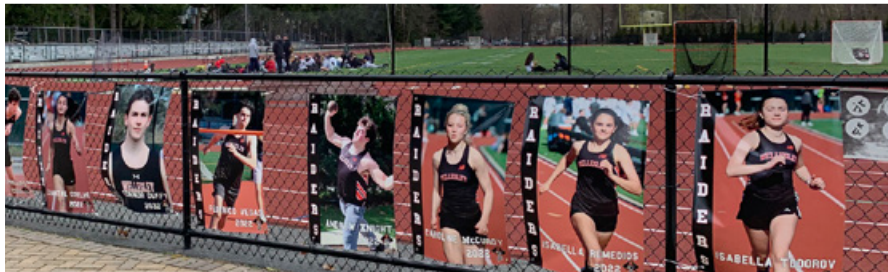
8 am-4 pm: Scholarship Scramble Golf Tournament. Join the Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce at Sterling National Country Club for an 18-hole golf tournament to support the

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port the Chamber's Scholarship Fund. The tournament fee includes greens fees, golf cart, continental breakfast, and buffet lunch. There will be prize drawings, a silent auction and special contests throughout the day. Don't miss this fun event! For details, go here: wachusettareachamber.org/events/golf-tournament/

10 am: Mindfulness Meditation with Marie Clemente at the Holden Senior Center. \$5 per person. RSVP and pay in cash at the Center office.

Tuesday May 19

10:30 am: Get the facts around fire safety in this interactive and engaging presentation by Ryan Plante of the Paxton Fire Department. Topics include smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, cellphone safety, using 911, and home heating/outdoor tips. A good time to ask questions to ensure your home and loved ones are safe. At the Paxton Senior Center.

6:30-7:15 pm: Animal Adaptations with the Ecotarium at Richards Memorial Library. Discover which characteristics and behaviors help animals move, hunt, and survive. Meet a live EcoTarium ambassador animal, explore the amazing ways it's adapted to its ecosystem, and

handle skulls, pelts, and more to get a firsthand look at evolution. For kids and their caretakers/families.

Wednesday, May 20

11:30 am: Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Paxton Council on Aging, which is open to all. Find out how the Friends support the COA mission. Complimentary lunch follows. Call the Center by May 12 to RSVP.

1:30 pm: Friend's Ice Cream Social at the Holden Senior Center. Join them for a fun afternoon making your own sundae. \$5 per person. RSVP at the Center.

2 pm: Support group for families affected by loved one's mental illness held every other Wednesday at the Rutland Senior Center. This is a safe and confidential space. It will meet again on June 6.

4:20 pm: Arthropod Petting Zoo at the Gale Free Library with Professor Bugman for ages 3+. Registration required, opens 5/13. Learn all about arthropods, the most diverse group of animal life, during this show-and-tell-and touch program. Learn, see, touch, and smell the incredible adaptations that help these creatures survive.

6-7 pm: Ukulele Group at the Gale Free Library. Whether new to the ukulele or more advanced, you are welcome to join this group where you can play together, learn from each other, and have fun. Ages 16+. If

you are new to the group, contact the Reference Desk to let them know you'll attend.

Thursday, May 21

11:30 am: Memorial Day meal at the Rutland Senior Center. Enjoy hot dog, baked beans, coleslaw, baked apples. Suggested donation \$3 payable at time of sign up. RSVP by May 18 by calling the Center.

12:30 pm: The Jazz Age: Rita Parisi brings to life the woman who inspired The Great Gatsby in her fascinating one-act play, "I Am Zelda." It's a time of free-wheeling lifestyles which Zelda and her husband novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald embraced. Vivacity and tragedy rule. Supported through grants from the Paxton Cultural Council and Council on Aging. Lunch available. At the Paxton Senior Center. RSVP by May 18.

12:30 pm: Acrylic Painting Class at the Rutland Senior Center. Class is limited to 10 people. RSVP with payment of \$10 to secure your place.

4:20 pm: Graphic Novel Book Club for grades 4+ at the Gale Free Library. Registration opened 5/1. This month's graphic novel book club will be a special one. Bring descriptions of the favorite graphic novels you've read this year to decorate a bulletin board so that others can have suggestions from the community.

Friday, May 22

9:30 am: Memorial Day observance at the Rutland Senior Center as they honor the men and women who died while serving our country. All attendees will receive a commemorative American flag. Cupcakes and coffee served.

Saturday, May 23

9 am: Hike the Rutland to Oakham Rail Trail. One of the favorite sections of the Mass Central Rail Trails, this hike is level and pretty, and provides a chance to enjoy some flora. The length will be variable, from 4 - 8 miles towards Barre and back. Hikers may use their discretion to decide how far they wish to go. It's hard to get lost! For more information or to register TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day. Please see your town's websites for their sponsored Memorial Day remembrances.

Tuesday, May 26

8 am: Slow Birding walk: Central Mass Rail Trail, Miles Rd, Rutland, Leader: Ted Purcell This walk will be similar in spirit to our slow birding/nature walk on May 13, but we can expect changes in both bird species and nesting cycle behaviors. The appearance of trees

and selection of wildflower species will remind us how quickly spring changes. For info email wareriver-natureclub@yahoo.com

3:30-5:30 pm: Dungeons and Dragons One-Shot for grades 6+. Registration opened 5/19 Join the party for a fourth-level adventure! This session is ideal for new and experienced players. You can come with your own fourth-level character or choose from a premade sheet.

Wednesday, May 27

10 am: Senior Hike: Wachusett Reservoir South Side. This short and slow hike will be two miles round-trip. From the parking area we'll walk over the West Boylston causeway from the Old Stone Church, passing through pine forest. There is one hill to go over, but otherwise the trail is on an easy gravel road with pretty scenery. For more info or to register email TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com

12 pm: Tastings Lunch Series at Paxton Senior Center. Luncheons are catered by area food businesses. Come for a special treat on the last Wednesday of the month. \$3. Seating is limited and you must RSVP by May 20. Paxton seniors are given priority.

6-7:30 pm: Monthly Art Club for ages

CALENDAR

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GET NOTICED!

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CALENDAR

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16+ of all abilities at the Gale Free Library. Registration required. Bring your own supplies or use theirs: watercolor paints and paper, brushes, pastels, colored pencils, graphite, pens, collage materials, and more. No specific project, but each month there will be a quotation, book or image to inspire.

Thursday, May 28

6:30-7:30 pm: Nature journaling. Learn how this practice can improve your mental wellbeing and foster a deeper connection with the natural world. This session will provide you with the tools to create your own nature journal or bring your own. This program is provided by the DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection for Wachusett Reservoir. At the Gale Free Library, registration required.

Friday, May 29

9-10:30 am: DCR Event – Bird Outing. This program is designed to be inclusive and accessible for beginning birders. Birders of all experience levels are welcome. Nestled between two water bodies, this trail is a wonderful place to look and listen for birds and use your senses to observe behavior and notice habitats. We will walk slowly for ¾ mile round trip. Strollers and wheelchairs are welcome. Meet at Sensory Trail, Mass Central Rail Trail Sterling Spur, 25 Gates Road, Sterling.

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

11:30 am: Culinary Herb Pot by Bemis Nursery at the Rutland Senior Center. Cost \$25; \$20 for current Friends members. RSVP at the Center.

Saturday May 30

7:30 am-12 pm: Birding Barre Falls Dam Ware River Watershed. Leader: David Ammerman. We will bird the fields from the parking area to Route 62, hike Brigham Rd over the Ware River West Branch crossing, and return along the river via Tracy Lane to the parking area (~2.5-mile loop). Meet at the parking lot above the dam, 1/2 mile south of Route 62 in Hubbardston. Restrooms available at Barre Falls Picnic Area on Coldbrook Rd across from the dam. Call 508-930-0356 or email ammsus@comcast.net

1 pm: Worcester Revolutionary Walking Tour hosted by the Museum of Worcester. Walk Main Street in the footsteps of Worcester's Revolutionaries as they forced local defend-

Massasoit Art Guild Show at Paxton Senior Center.

Five members of the Massasoit Art Guild of Spencer will display their creations at a new show in the Paxton Senior Center, 17 West St. The show will run from May through August from 10 am to 1 pm on weekdays. Enjoy the colorful exhibit and cast your vote for the Best in Show. All are welcome.

ers of royal government to walk a gauntlet of common men intent on defending their liberty as they spread their revolutionary ideas between the town's taverns and meetinghouse. The tour begins and ends at Salisbury Mansion, 40 Highland St., Worcester. Wear comfortable shoes. Space is limited to 25 people. All are welcome - All ages appropriate. Cost \$15 nonmembers; MOW members free. Call the MOW at 508-753-8278.

4 pm: Rendezvous with Rachel Revere at the Paxton Senior Center. In honor of America's 250th birthday and Richards Memorial Library's 100th birthday, the Paxton Historical Commission and the Friends of Richards Memorial Library co-sponsor this very special program. It is the story of Rachel Revere, the wife of Paul Revere, as presented by Judith Kalaora of History at Play, LLC. Kalaora is a professional educator, award-winning playwright and living historian. All are invited to attend.

7:15-9:15 pm: Evening Whip-Poor-Will walk Muddy Brook WMA, Hardwick. Thanks to over a decade of habitat restoration, Muddy Brook is home to one of the largest inland congregations of Eastern Whip-poor-will in the state. Join experts from Mass-Wildlife to experience the iconic whip-poor-will song on this 1.5-mile moonlit walk. Space is limited, and registration is required here: www.mass.gov/forms/masswildlife-2026-spring-bird-walks

Sunday, May 31

7:30 am-late morning: Birding DCR

Kristoff Farm, Sterling. Leaders: Scott Handler & Marion Larson. We'll walk at least 2 miles on the old farm roads of this property looking for field and woodland birds. Expect a diverse mix of resident breeders, returning short-distance and neotropical migrants. Blue-winged Warbler and Indigo Bunting are common here. Encountering 50 species for the morning is not uncommon. Attendees are welcome to stay as long or as short as they like. RSVP requested at srhdvm@verizon.net so leaders can communicate regarding any weather-related changes. Meet at the end of Merrill Rd, off Rte. 140, in Sterling.

11 am- 2 pm: Annual Meeting of the Paxton Garden Club at the Stonehouse on the Hill in Holden. This event is for 2025-2026 dues-paid club members only. Guest speakers Brian Bjorklund, Alexis Sigillo, and Nolan Durkee, wildlife biologists with the USDA, will discuss Wildlife Disease and Invasive Insect Management in Massachusetts. Enjoy an assortment of door prizes and a generous gift for each attendee courtesy of Fidelity Bank. RSVP deadline is May 18, details on the club's website.

Tuesday, June 2

6:00-8:30 pm: Annual Dinner of the Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce where State Representative Kimberly Ferguson will be honored as the recipient of the 2026 Community Leadership Award. Other recognitions include the Chamber's Championship Award, presentation of the Scholarship Awards, membership milestone anniversaries, and

election of officers and the board. To be held at the Chocksett Inn in Sterling. Tickets are \$55 per person. Go here for more details: wachusettareachamber.org/chamberevent/annual-dinner-2/

Thursday, June 4

Time TBD: Volunteer Appreciation Garden Party at the Rutland Senior Center. If you volunteered at the Center any time since July 2025, this invitation is for you! If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the Center.

Saturday, June 6

8 am-12 pm: Annual Plant Sale on the Paxton Town Common, rain or shine. Looking for a unique plant for your home landscape? Visit the Paxton Garden Club's largest fundraiser of the year. Details and application to be a vendor or donate plants on the club's website. Help support the club that does so much around town - buy plants and beautify your home.

11 am-1 pm: Sheriff's Annual Senior Picnic: Drive-through at SAC Park, 438 Lake St. Shrewsbury. BBQ meal with dessert, lottery tickets, tons of giveaways, raffle bonanza. You must register by May 20 nydia@worcestercountysheriff.org or 508-796-2638. Leave your name, address and phone. First come, first serve.

Monday, June 8

7 pm: Holden's Annual Town Meeting at the Wachusett Regional High School auditorium. Check in starts at 5:30 pm. To see the warrant, go to the town website holdenma.gov

Tuesday, June 9

6-7 pm: Costa Del Sol & Madrid Discovery Tour info session. Area residents are invited to join the Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce at this session to be held at the Manor Banquet Facility in West Boylston, which will preview the April 5-13,

2027, tour provided by the Chamber in partnership with Collette. The all-inclusive package covers RT transportation to and from Logan, RT airfare, 11 meals, experienced tour guides, and deluxe motorcoach travel. An optional three-night Barcelona post-tour extension is available. See the trip itinerary on the Chamber's website wachusettchamber.org or email questions at info@wachusettchamber.org

Wednesday June 10

12:30 pm: Father's Day Luncheon at the Holden Senior Center. BBQ luncheon by Morawski Barbecue. This one is for the guys only. Registration required by June 1 at the Center with \$5 cash.

Friday, June 12

1 pm: Felted Elephant at the Holden Senior Center. All materials provided. Registration begins May 26 until full. Each participant must register in person with \$25 cash. If you cancel after 3:30 pm June 8, you will not be refunded.

Thursday, June 11

Time TBD: Butterfly Pot with Bemis Nursery at the Rutland Senior Center. Cost \$25; \$20 for current Friends members. RSVP at the Center.

Saturday, June 13

10 am-8 pm: Paxton Days/Summer Jam: Held on the Center Field and Bandstand (enter through the Paxton Center School parking lot). Come join local artisans, craftspeople, artists, and community organizations and enjoy great food, great music, and fun family activities. Free and open to all. *



Real Estate Transfers

March 15, 2026 – April 14, 2026



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 May issue publishes transfers from March 15 to April 14. This information is gathered from the Worcester Registry of Deeds' website. Compiled by Karin Warzybok.

HOLDEN

- 622 Shrewsbury St. 03/16:** Grantor Vitavera Realty LLC to Grantees Vitavera Nominee Trust and Andri Moli Tr. \$10.
- 40 Holden St. 03/16:** Grantors Brooke K. Johnson and Philip L. Johnson to Grantees Brooke K. Johnson Tr, Philip L. Johnson Tr, and Johnson Family Trust 2026. \$1.
- 29 Timber Ln. 03/17:** Grantor Kimberly L. Stone to Grantees Kimberly L. Stone Tr and Kimberly L. Stone 2026 Living Revocable Trust. \$100.
- 267 Holden St. 03/17:** Grantors William J. Miskinis and Jean A. Miskinis to Grantees William P. Miskinis Tr, Andrew J. Miskinis Tr, Elizabeth A. Miskinis Tr, and Miskinis Family 2026 Irrevocable Trust. \$100.
- 168 Twinbrooke Dr. 03/18:** Grantors Christine E. From and Philip Manfred Hanson Est to Grantee Lisa Videtto.

- \$545,000.
- 14 John Alden Rd. 03/18:** Grantors Matthew J. Labovites and Karen M. Labovites to Grantee Matthew J. Labovites. \$1.
- 63 Timber Ln. 03/18:** Grantors Cole M. Haynes, Karen M. Haynes, and Cole Haynes to Grantees Cole M. Haynes Tr, Karen M. Haynes Tr, and Haynes Family Trust Agreement. \$100.
- 23 Gail Dr. 03/18:** Grantor Alexander S. Ljoko to Grantees Sarah Gale and Malcolm Gale. \$520,000.
- 57 Powers Rd. 03/19:** Grantor Susan B. Duchemin to Grantees Susan Duchemin Tr and Susan Duchemin Family Trust. \$100.
- 199 Salisbury St. 03/19:** Grantor Matthew J. Baker to Grantee Matthew Baker Tr and Mathew Baker Family 2026 Trust. \$100.
- 11 Canterbury Ln. 03/20:** Grantors Michael C. Stokes and Laurie M. Stokes to Grantees Danielle M. Stokes and Nicole E. Stokes. \$100.
- 4 Boyden Rd. 03/20:** Grantors Robert P. Prunier and Gretchen L. Prunier to Grantee TFS Real Estate Holdings LLC. \$330,000.
- 138 River St. 03/20:** Grantor Nona Antinarella to Grantees Nona Antinarella Tr

- and Nona Antinarella Revocable Trust. \$100.
- 246 Salisbury St. 03/20:** Grantor Nancy E. Bousquet to Grantees Nancy E. Bousquet Tr and Bousquet Family 2023 Revocable Trust. \$100.
- 284 Fisher Rd. 03/20:** Grantors Jimmy Ngo and Jessica L. Ngo to Grantees Ngo Revocable Living Trust, Jimmy Ngo Tr, and Jessica L. Ngo Tr. \$100.
- 271 Quinapoxet St. 03/23:** Grantors John C. Lally and Maureen E. Lally to Grantees John C. Lally Tr, Maureen E. Lally Tr, and Maureen E. Lally Living Trust. \$10.
- 31 Alpha Rd. 03/24:** Grantor Lynne M. Annunziata to Grantees Lynne M. Annunziata Revocable Trust and Lynne M. Annunziata Tr. \$100.
- 412 Quinapoxet Rd. 03/25:** Grantor Pamela D. Nadeau to Grantees Pamela D. Nadeau Family Trust and Pamela D. Nadeau Tr. \$1.
- 202 Parker Ave. 03/26:** Grantors Tracy Gallagher and Tracy Stickney to Grantee Timothy Gallagher. \$1.
- 216 Reservoir St. 03/26:** Grantors Louis M. Waddell III 2021 Living Revocable Trust, Louis M. Waddell III Tr, and Louis M. Waddell IV Tr to Grantees Raymond C. Cullen and Jennifer A. Cullen. \$355,000.
- 131 Twinbrooke Dr. 03/27:** Grantors Sandra J. Flynn 2016 Revocable Trust and Sandra J. Flynn Tr to Grantees Colleen Daly and John Sauers. \$801,000.
- 69 Dorothy Ave. 03/27:** Grantors Steven Alzamora and Nancy K. Alzamora to Grantees Steven Alzamora and Nancy K. Alzamora. \$100.
- 135 Causeway St. 03/27:** Grantors Donald R. Werme and Charmian Werme to Grantees Kimberly A. Stencil Tr, Kristen L. Werme Tr, and Donald R. Werme and Charmian Werme Irrevocable Trust.

- \$100.
- 216 Reservoir St. 03/30:** Grantors Celeste I. Nozzolillo and Jonathan J. Nozzolillo to Grantee Mary Ellen Phetteplace. \$359,000.
- 216 Reservoir St. 03/31:** Grantor Ralph J. O'Grady to Grantees Sandra G. Cotanche and Douglas A. Cotanche. \$375,000.
- 134 Jamieson Rd. 03/30:** Grantors Curtis M. Amidon and Thomas A. Kelley to Grantee Nicholas Bove. \$455,000.
- 32 Juniper Ln. 04/01:** Grantors Andrew J. Kane and Andrew Kane to Grantee Ellen M. Kane. \$1.
- 226 Holden St. 04/01:** Grantor Linda G. Podmostka to Grantees Linda Podmostka Tr and Linda Podmostka Revocable Trust. \$100.
- 300 River St. 04/01:** Grantors Malcolm A. Hill II and Dolores J. Hill to Grantees Malcolm A. Hill II and Dolores J. Hill. \$100.
- 385 Malden St. 04/01:** Grantors Robert P. MacGrath, Deborah MacGrath, and Robert MacGrath to Grantees Robert P. MacGrath Tr, Deborah A. Guzman-MacGrath Tr, and MacGrath Family Trust. \$100.
- 40 Jackson St. 04/01:** Grantor Pamela Bussiere to Grantees Pamela Bussiere and William Breault. \$100.
- 135 Highland Ave. 04/01:** Grantor Jeremy E. Bancroft, Jeremy Bancroft, David M. Powles, and Cassandra Bancroft to Grantees Amy Tisdell and Stephen Oppon Jr. \$469,000.
- 503 Torrey Lane Ext. 04/02:** Grantors David R. Keller Tr and William D. O'Connell Revocable Trust to Grantees David R. Keller Tr, William D. O'Connell Marital Trust and Michelle A. O'Connell. \$100.
- 5 Dorothy Ave. 04/03:** Grantor Barbara J. Dennison to Grantees Barbara J. Dennison Revocable Trust and Barbara J.

- Dennison Tr. \$100.
- 19 Wyndhurst Dr. 04/06:** Grantors Tony K. Nayebe, Toney Khosrow Nayebe, and Michaela M. Sullivan to Grantees Tony K. Nayebe and Michaela M. Sullivan. \$100.
- 19 Sherwood Hill Dr./Roger Rd. 04/06:** Grantors Danielle G. Van Cott, Danielle Gordon, and Danielle Van Cott to Grantees Danielle G. Van Cott and Taylor J. Van Cott. \$100.
- 6 Wendover Rd. 04/07:** Grantor Robert S. Caron to Grantees Robert S. Caron Tr and Robert S. Caron 2026 Revocable Living Trust. \$100.
- 1 Red Barn Rd. 04/09:** Grantors Justin T. McNally and Erin E. McNally to Grantee Erin E. McNally. \$100.
- 36 Avery Rd. 04/09:** Grantor Jennifer Cuddy to Grantees Jennifer H. Cuddy Tr and Jennifer H. Cuddy Revocable Trust. \$100.
- 30 Duxbury Dr. 04/09:** Grantors Kaleigh O'Neil and Kaleigh Beaudoin to Grantees Alessandra Petrozza and Ryne McNeilly. \$540,000.
- 218 Reservoir St. 04/09:** Grantor Arsine Sahverdiyan to Grantees Arsine Sahverdiyan Irrevocable and Alin Haxhi Tr. \$1.
- 8 King Philip Trail 04/09:** Grantors David F. Moan and Margaret E. Moan to Grantees Amanda J. Webb Tr and Moan Irrevocable Trust. \$1.
- 114 Stoneleigh Rd. 04/10:** Grantors Stephen R. Russo Tr, Linda A. Russo Tr, and Russo Family Trust to Grantees Lisa Caso Tr, Joanne Murphy Tr, and Russo 2025 Family Trust. \$100.
- 93 Autumn Cir. 04/10:** Grantor Eugene A. Degre to Grantee Patricia Degre. \$100.
- 93 Autumn Cir. 04/10:** Grantor Patricia Degre to Grantee Patricia Degre Trust. \$100.
- 162 Jennifer Dr. 04/13:** Grantors Glenn Gaudette Tr, Nancy Gaudette Tr, and Gaudette Family Trust to Grantees Logan Gaudette Tr and Gaudette Irrevocable Trust. \$1.
- 560 Malden St. 04/14:** Grantors Peter J. Valinski Jr. and Sandra E. Valinski to Grantees Peter J. Valinski Jr. Tr, Sandra E. Valinski Tr, and P&S Nominee Realty Trust. \$1.

PAXTON

- 44 Camp St. 03/16:** Grantors Gary E. Englander Tr, Gary E. Englander 2012 Irrevocable Trust, and Barbara A. Englander 2012 Irrevocable Trust to Grantees Eges Metohu and Alexandra Metohu. \$575,000.
- 17 Crowningshield Dr. 03/19:** Grantor Ellen O'Rourke to Grantees Tina M. Chaput and Shawn Chaput. \$750,000.
- 3 Colony Ln. 03/20:** Grantors Mary H. Gardner, Mary H. Tolley, and Steven D.

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REAL ESTATE

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At Paxton's Annual Town Meeting, Robin Tasca of the Paxton Garden Club set up an information table about the club's proposed community garden.

REAL ESTATE

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- Tolley to Grantees Steven D. Tolley and Mary H. Tolley. \$100.
- 3 Monticello Dr. 03/23:** Grantors David Kiremitjian, Harry Kiremitjian Est, and Lillian Kazarian Est to Grantees David Kiremitjian Tr, Harry Kiremitjian Revocable Trust, and Lillian Kazarian 2004 Revocable Trust. \$0.
- 72 Grove St. 03/31:** Grantor David J. Provost to Grantees Thomas Provost Tr and David J. Provost Irrevocable Trust. \$100.
- Rolling Ridge Ln. 04/06:** Grantor Gerard Rudy Joseph to Grantees Rudolph Joseph Tr and Penance Trust. \$10.
- 8 Indian Hill Rd. 04/07:** Grantors Gino V. Gangai, Paula Gangai, and Paula Anastation to Grantees Gino V. Gangai & Paula Gangai Irrevocable Trust and Gino J. Gangai Tr. \$100.
- 41 Hill St. 04/09:** Grantors Catherine C. Mullaney and Marybeth Graves to Grantee Justin Pike. \$655,000.

RUTLAND

- 5 Miles Rd. 03/16:** Grantors Bryan T. Ruchala and Ann E. Ruchala to Grantee Jonathan Bacotti. \$650,000.
- 5 Karen Way 03/17:** Grantors Jacqueline D. Sebastian and Pablo Rene Portilla Jr. to Grantee Gerard J. Lombardo. \$430,000.
- 132 Fidelity Dr. 03/18:** Grantor Harmony Place LLC to Grantee Irene Russell. \$542,000.
- 41 Sassawanna Rd./Sussawanna Rd. 03/19:** Grantors Thaddeus Z. Szymczak and Anna T. Szymczak to Grantees Thaddeus Z. Szymczak Tr, Anna T.

- Szymczak Tr, and Szymczak Family Revocable Trust 2026. \$100.
- 20 Emerald Rd. 03/20:** Grantor Emerald Land Holdings Inc to Grantees David Merk and Taylor Merk. \$719,000.
- 307 Main St. 03/24:** Grantors Mark A. Elbag Jr. to Grantees Elbag Living Trust, Mark A. Elbag Jr Tr, and Christine Elbag Tr. \$1.
- 4A-4B Glenwood Rd. 03/24:** Grantor Mark A. Elbag Jr to Grantees Elbag Living Trust, Mark A. Elbag Jr Tr, and Christine Elbag Tr. \$1.
- 118 Fidelity Dr. 03/25:** Grantor Harmony Place LLC to Grantees David Doughty and Karen Doughty. \$505,163.
- 176 Maple Ave. 03/26:** Grantors Amber Kerns Tr and Christian R. Kerns 2018 Irrevocable Trust to Grantee Zenon Paluch. \$155,000.
- 39 Laurelwood Rd. 03/27:** Grantors Benjamin M. Korstvedt and Paula C. Korstvedt to Grantees Zahiruddin Parwiz and Armaghan Hadia Naimi. \$390,000.
- 14 Welch Ave. 03/30:** Grantor Emerald Land Holdings Inc to Grantee Doris Owusu. \$499,900.
- 29 Glenwood Pl. 03/31:** Grantors Luis Montalvo and Kaitlyn Montalvo to
- Grantees John M. Mullen Sr and Kathy A. Mullen. \$1.
- 29 Glenwood Pl. 03/31:** Grantors John M. Mullen Sr and Kathy A. Mullen to Grantees John M. Mullen Sr Tr, Kathy A. Mullen Tr and Mullen Realty Trust -2025. \$1.
- 18 Fairview Ave. 04/01:** Grantors David W. Gentlemen and Jennifer E. Gentlemen to Grantee M&M Capital LLC. \$490,000.
- 13 Inwood Rd. 04/01:** Grantors Dorene A. Kolofsky, James K. Furtado, and Andree Furtado to Grantees Kevin J. Benoit and Ashley Kolofsky. \$400,000.
- 14 Lizzy Ln. 04/02:** Grantor Joan D. Mahoney to Grantees Joan D. Mahoney Tr and Joan D. Mahoney Trust. \$100.
- 152 Pommogussett Rd. 04/02:** Grantors Stephen Oklah, Abena Yeboah, and Abena Oklah to Grantees Charles Dowuna and Stephen Oklah. \$10,438.32.
- 20 Fernwood Dr. 04/03:** Grantors Robert Edward Tetrault, Jonina Debra Tetrault Est, Jonina D. Tetrault Est, Tetrault Family Realty Trust, and Robert Edward Tetrault Tr to Grantee Kelly George. \$450,000.
- 33 Soucy Dr. 04/03:** Grantors Scott A. Lauria and Pamela A. Lauria to Grantees Jeffrey M. Lauria Tr, Shaun D. Lauria Tr,

- and Lauria Family Trust. \$100.
- 176 Maple Ave. 04/06:** Grantors Worcester Korean Church and Worcester Korean United Methodist Church to Grantee Arifin Enam. \$195,000.
- 385 East County Rd. 04/08:** Grantors John L. Place, Mildred E. Place, John D. Place, and Anita J. Provencher to Grantees John L. Place and Mildred E. Place. \$100.
- 116 Brintnal Dr. 04/09:** Grantors Michael E. Joyal, Darlene L. Joyal, and Darlene
- Joyal to Grantees Joyal 2026 Revocable Trust, Michael E. Joyal Tr and Darlene L. Joyal Tr. \$100.
- 120 Fidelity Dr. 04/13:** Grantor Harmony Place LLC to Grantees Edward C. Schuster, Peyton R. Schuster, and Abigail Anna Schuster. \$523,783.
- 6 Watson Ln. 04/14:** Grantors Michael J. Ferro Jr and Margaret E. Ferro to Grantees Michael J. Ferro Tr, Margaret E. Ferro Tr, and Ferro Joint Revocable Trust. \$100. *



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