

Quock's quest for freedom

The story behind Massachusetts' Emancipation Day, July 8

By LUCY ALLEN

Quock Walker: his name comes to us from a court decision of 243 years ago. In 1783, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court found his enslaver, Nathaniel Jennison, guilty of assault on Quock and of false imprisonment. Supreme Court Justice William Cushing, in his instructions to the jury, wrote an eloquent explanation of how once, the laws of Massachusetts had condoned slavery, however, a "different idea has taken place with the people of America, more favorable to the natural rights of mankind, and to that natural, innate desire of Liberty..."

Justice Cushing's instructions to the jury included the statement that the new Constitution of Government "declares that all men are born free and equal...and that being the

case.... the idea of slavery is inconsistent with our own conduct and Constitution." This court decision signaled the "soft" end of slavery in Massachusetts. The hard proof was the first United States census in 1790, which counted no slaves in this state.

The Barre man who suffered the assault and false imprisonment was born enslaved about August 1753. Nine-month-old Quock and his parents, Mingo and Dinah, were purchased by James Caldwell of Rutland District (now called Barre) in May 1754. As was common with slaves at that time, the family had no surname. Caldwell must have seen something special in the baby who came to live in his home, and who grew up with Caldwell's children. James Caldwell promised that he would set Quock free when he turned 25 years of age.

Let's move forward to 1763. Quock was turning ten years old. The Caldwell family included James, his wife Isabel, four young children, and one "on the way." It was July 18 and Quock's enslaver, James Caldwell, was working outside when a sudden windstorm blew a tree onto him, killing him. James Caldwell's sudden death would transform the lives of the Caldwells and their enslaved family. Quock's quest for personal freedom started in earnest with James Caldwell's death.

James Caldwell, in his 52nd year, had not filed a will nor had he documented his promise to free Quock when he turned 25. Caldwell was a wealthy man with a large estate consisting of 1,125 acres, a farm, sawmill,

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Rumors swirl, but no solar farm has been approved in Holden

By RILEY FRANKIAN

Rumors of a proposed solar farm in Holden have prompted questions from residents in recent weeks, including the appearance of an individual holding a sign reading "Stop

the Solar Farm" along Shrewsbury Street. While the display reflected concerns that a large-scale solar project may be imminent, town officials and public

SOLAR FARM

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QUOCK

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cider mill, and substantial personal property, including the enslaved family. In the absence of a will, Massachusetts followed the laws of "Intestacy."

This is why Quock's quest became difficult. In 1763, a married woman could not own real estate. Upon a man's death, if he left no will, his widow was protected by her "Dower," or a limited interest in her late husband's estate. This was one-third of both his real and his personal property. The children of her husband received the other two-thirds; they would also receive the widow's Dower when she died. The widow did not inherit this Dower, nor did she own it outright. She could live on the "Widow's Third" of the real es-

tate and use the income to support her family. The Dower was the widow's to use, but not hers to give away.

From 1763 to 1769, Isabel worked alone to bring up five children (one born after James' death), to support the enslaved family, and to run the large estate. She had to live on her Dower, which was set off by the Probate Court. The children were all minors and had guardians appointed by the Probate Court to protect their individual shares of the two-thirds that were granted through the intestacy laws. In March 1769, Isabel married Nathaniel Jennison, a Barre bachelor. She must have hoped that her burden of responsibility would be relieved. Instead, Jennison's actions infringed on the rights of her children and of Quock.

Now it is 1774. According to testimony given during the Quock Walker trials, Isabel agreed to uphold her husband's promise to free Quock. In fact, she vowed to free him sooner, when he turned 21 years of age. That was August 1774. But Isabel did not live long enough to

free Quock. It is highly unusual that a wealthy and prominent widow died without any record of her death or burial. However, Isabel simply vanished. No one at the ensuing Quock Walker trials could remember just when or how she died but they thought it was late 1773.

Nathaniel Jennison remarried in August 1774, the month when Quock turned 21. The failure of Jennison to report Isabel's death to the Probate Court meant that her Dower did not pass to her children, as required by law. Nathaniel Jennison claimed that he inherited Quock through his marriage to Isabel, a claim that would have been disproven if it had gone through Probate Court.

To further complicate the situation, in August 1774, two protectors of the Caldwell family fled Massachusetts due to their Loyalist sympathies. Col. John Murray of Rutland was guardian of the children's interests, and when he ran from the angry mob one August night, the children lost their protector. Another Loyalist who fled was John Chandler, Probate Court

Judge, a friend of the Caldwell family and another who should have protected the Caldwell children and their property. Had the children received their property in 1774, it is possible that they would have honored the promises of their mother and their father to free Quock when he was 21 (in 1774) or 25 (in 1778). They did not wrest their rightful property from Jennison's grasp until the 1790s.

Let's move forward to April 1781. Quock complained to John Caldwell, brother of his late enslaver James Caldwell, that he was now 28 years old and he should be free. John Caldwell told him that in fact the new state Constitution made him a free man, and he invited Quock to work for him for wages. Quock accepted that invitation.

Jennison noticed that Quock was missing and knew he would find him at John Caldwell's. With several other men, Jennison captured Quock, pinned him down, beat him, and threw him in a shed for several hours until John Caldwell rescued him. With John Caldwell's assistance, Quock filed a complaint against Jennison for assault on April 30, 1781. For the first time, Quock used a surname—Walker—and claimed that he was a free man. He was represented by Levi Lincoln Sr., a prominent Worcester lawyer, who argued that the 1780 state Constitution made Quock a free man. The jury found Jennison guilty and awarded Quock Walker £50 in damages. Jennison appealed but lost.

Jennison sued John Caldwell and his son Seth, claiming they knew that Quock was his property and seduced him away. Jennison won that suit and was awarded £25 in damages, but the Caldwells appealed that decision and won.

Quock Walker's claim against Jennison triggered an indictment by the Commonwealth for assault on and false imprisonment of Quock Walker. This was the opportunity for Massachusetts Attorney General Robert Treat Paine to assert that Nathaniel Jennison had assaulted and imprisoned a free man, despite Jennison's protestations that he owned Quock by his marriage to James Caldwell's widow Isabel. The jury did not buy Jennison's defense and found him guilty of the charges. And as described at the beginning of this story, it provided Chief Justice Cushing the opportunity to render his opinion that slavery was not compatible with the 1780 Massachusetts Constitution.

Quock Walker successfully completed his quest for personal freedom, and in doing so, he helped raise other enslaved people in the Commonwealth to free status. *

Lucy Allen is a historian and a member of the Barre Historical Society. She offers talks on historical people, places and events throughout the year at various locations. Her most recent event was the June 17 guided hike to the Prince Walker (Quock's brother) burial ground and homesite. Find out more at the Society's website barremahistoricalociety.org or its Facebook page.

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SOLAR FARM

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records indicate that no solar farm has been approved, and no active town project currently exists.

The concerns stem from a proposal that has resurfaced over several years involving land near the WTAG radio towers on Shrewsbury Street.

According to a Holden Municipal Light Department (HMLD) notice distributed in the fall of 2017, the utility had been approached by a company interested in constructing a large solar energy project on the Shrewsbury Street property where the WTAG radio towers are located. Under the proposal, the privately developed facility would generate electricity that would be sold directly to HMLD.

At the time, HMLD emphasized that it was giving the proposal “serious review” and stated that, if an agreement proved satisfactory, the project could provide Holden ratepayers with “reasonably priced renewable energy for an extended

period of time.”

The notice also said the project would support HMLD’s goal of maintaining stable electric rates while increasing the amount of carbon-free electricity supplied to customers. Before any project could continue, however, it would require reviews and approvals from multiple local boards, including the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Conservation Commission, in addition to complying with Holden’s Solar Bylaw.

Nearly eight years later, discussion of a solar project surfaced again in the Municipal Electric Power Advisory Board’s February 27, 2025, meeting.

According to those minutes, HMLD General Manager Barry Tupper informed the advisory board that he had signed a Letter of Intent with Green Tower, LLC. The purpose of the agreement was to allow both parties to negotiate a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for a proposed 6-megawatt solar project at 412 Shrewsbury Street.

The minutes state that all electricity generated by the proposed facility would be sold to

HMLD. They also make clear that “neither party is obligated to finalize the PPA,” meaning no binding agreement has been reached and the project is still in the discussion stage.

At the September 4, 2025 HMLD advisory board meeting, Tupper noted under his updates “Green Tower Solar (WTAG) – We are close to having an executed PPA.”

The proposed solar facility was one of several energy-related topics discussed during the February meeting. Board members also received updates on HMLD’s battery energy storage system, which generated approximately \$38,573 in savings during January through reduced peak electrical demand. Additional updates included the utility’s interest in hydroelectric projects in New Hampshire as part of its broader renewable energy strategy.

Despite those discussions, town officials say there is no approved solar project before the Town of Holden.

Holden Select Board Vice Chair Linda Long-Bellil said, “There is no solar project in existence at this time. The town

has been approached by an interested party that wants to discuss the possibility of a solar project.”

Long-Bellil explained that Article 27 authorized the town manager to enter into discussions with the interested party but did not approve construction of a solar facility.

“If a concrete solar project proposal were to emerge from those negotiations, then it would need approval from the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, and other relevant boards and committees and public input would be sought during those processes,” she wrote.

Taken together, the available

public records show that Holden has explored the possibility of hosting a solar facility for several years. The proposal discussed in 2017 and the Letter of Intent referenced in the 2025 HMLD advisory board minutes show that conversations have continued over time. However, based on statements from town officials and the public documents reviewed, no solar farm has been authorized for construction.

Should a formal proposal move forward, it will be subject to multiple levels of municipal review, public hearings and regulatory approvals before any work can begin. WFP will continue to monitor this subject. ★



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Bay Path students clinch prestigious accolades - and Congressional recognition

By GRETHELINE BOLANDRINA

The Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School STEM Club's Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam project reached a series of historic milestones that capped months of rigorous engineering with a functional prototype, a pending patent application, and major accolades from Capitol Hill.

The student-led team is tackling a pervasive mobility barrier: the inefficiency and safety hazards of standard wheelchairs on difficult beach terrain. Driven by a mission to restore user independence, comfort, and safety, these dedicated young inventors successfully designed, built, and tested a fully operational track-extension prototype tailored specifically to the needs of a local beneficiary.

The project's momentum was fueled by a powerful community bond. Before the team's national presentations began,

the students met with their local beneficiaries to demonstrate the current iteration of the wheelchair.

"They told us they didn't expect us to make it this far," the team recalled. "To be able to exceed their expectations was a truly special moment for us. Hearing how proud they were boosted every team member's spirits and gave us the drive to finish the wheelchair this coming fall. We can't wait to see their joy when we deliver the final working model."

To solve the complex engineering challenges of beach terrain, the team's sustainability sub-group researched and selected eco-friendly, durable plastics for the prototype extensions and a specialized driving belt for the actual track. By engineering track extensions that attach seamlessly to the front and back wheels, the students minimized bulk—ensuring the chair can easily fit into a standard car

trunk—while drastically improving shock absorption and stability on uneven sand. The low-profile attachment height ensures that users with severe mobility difficulties can transition on and off the chair safely and with ease.

The journey began in the classroom, sparked by the vision of Bay Path Science & Engineering Teacher and STEM Club Advisor, Kristine Wade, who guided the students through the intensive Lemelson-MIT application process. With financial backing from the "Bay Path Family"—including faculty, peers, and local community donors—the team raised the funds necessary to travel and present at the prestigious MIT Open House in June.

During the event, the InvenTeam demonstrated their engineering approach and showcased components of their prototype. Beyond the technical presentations, the weekend



From left: David Adams - Southbridge Town Councilor, Matilda Paradis, Alivia Gauvin, Paul Skarzenski, Zachary Sirard, Christopher Feliciano, Perry Lima, Nicholas Meneguzzo, Ryan Lima, Logan Mondino, Ava Reed, Jady Goodwin, Shafick Vasquez-Grande, Jazzelle Wolverson, State Representative John Marsi, Emily Corey, Olivia Torres, and Timothy Tripp. Photo submitted

served as a masterclass in collaboration.

"This experience made me realize how similar everyone really is. We all have the same purpose: to make a difference," a team member reflected. The community aspect was felt immediately during a nerve-racking practice run: "A student from a California InvenTeam started clapping and shouting, 'You've got this!' It put everyone at ease. Making the invention was a great experience, but so were the friends we met along the way."

The team's commitment to humanitarian engineering caught the attention of federal lawmakers. In a surprise morning meeting, Wade presented the team with a major honor: A Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Massachusetts Senator Edward Markey.

In addition to the congressional certificate, the group received an official plaque from the national Lemelson-MIT program. Standout team members Jazzelle Wolverson (Webster) and Matilda Paradis (Southbridge) were

individually honored with the program's prestigious Communications Award for pioneering a new era of project outreach.

As the first InvenTeam to replace traditional written monthly newsletters with high-energy video logs, Wolverson and Paradis used Adobe Premiere Pro to translate complex engineering data into engaging Instagram VLOGs (@bpinventeam). The innovative storytelling format was so successful it was officially featured on the MIT News website.

"Since I am in the Programming and Web Development shop, this was the best way I could contribute," explained Wolverson. "I would stop recording during meetings to ask the technical team questions about their processes. It became a beautiful way to connect with my teammates, and through it, I discovered a genuine lifelong passion for video editing."

Taking their project into the professional arena, the STEM Club has officially secured intellectual property protection for

BAY PATH
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Small habits help shape a stronger financial future



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Financial security doesn't have to come from a big salary, a lucky investment or some dramatic turning point. For most people, wealth is built more simply, through small habits repeated many times over.

If you're like many young people, you may feel you don't have enough money to start investing. The reality is that you're in a great position to build the small habits that will

help you create lasting wealth. Here are five tips to help you get started.

1. Automate savings before you spend.

One of the most powerful financial habits you can build is among the easiest. Set up an automatic transfer such as by contributing to an employer retirement plan or exploring if you can direct part of your paycheck to a savings or investment account.

This helps remove the temptation to spend that money instead of saving it. Even setting aside 1% to 5% of your income can help build momentum over time.

2. Watch the small stuff.

It's easy to dismiss a \$15-a-month streaming service or a \$6 coffee twice a week. But those small purchases add up. Forgotten subscriptions, food delivery fees and impulse buys can quietly drain your bank account.

"Just \$25 a week, if in-

vested well, can grow into the thousands in a few short years." Scan your recurring charges regularly, cancel what you don't use and put that money to work instead.

3. Don't let your lifestyle outpace your income.

When you get a raise or bonus, it's tempting to upgrade your apartment, car or everyday spending. This "lifestyle creep" can be a significant hindrance to building wealth.

Here's an alternate approach: Every time your income goes up, increase your savings rate before anything else. Even saving half of a raise while spending the rest puts you ahead.

4. Start now, even imperfectly.

Don't wait to start investing. Even if you can only set aside a small amount each month, do it. Starting just five to 10 years earlier can result in significantly more wealth down

the line, even if the early contributions are small, thanks to compounding.

Compounding means your contributions earn interest, and even that interest earns interest. Over decades, that snowball effect can make a world of difference.

5. Stay aware, not obsessed.

You don't necessarily need to track every dollar you spend. But you do need to be aware of your money habits. A quick weekly or monthly check-in on your accounts, spending patterns and progress toward savings goals can help you catch problems early.

Financial awareness also means protecting what you build. An emergency fund covering three to six months of total expenses keeps one bad month from becoming a financial crisis. Avoiding high-interest debt does the same. These defensive habits make everything else possible.

Your financial future likely

won't be shaped by one big decision. Instead, it will probably be built by small choices you make every day. And the best time to start making good choices is now.

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

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DISCOVER

First and second graders honored after 911 call saves their grandfather

By MARTHA AKSTIN

We know heroes come in all sizes.

But in Rutland, they come in the form of two little boys, Anthony, aged 8 and Beau, aged 7 who saved their grandfather's life.

On Monday, June 15, Jessica Caloiaro left her two sons Anthony and Beau Hickey with her father so she could drive to Boston and be with her mother who had just been admitted to a hospital there. She was almost in the city when Anthony called her to say that Grandpa had fallen and was not responding to him. She told Anthony to hang up and call 911 while she called her father's neighbor (to check on the boys) and then her mother to say that she had to turn around and return to Rutland.

"That was a difficult ride," remembered Caloiaro about her solo ride back to Rutland, wor-

rying not only about her father, but also how her two boys were managing the experience.

But back in Rutland, the two brothers were handling the experience quite well. While Beau found their grandfather's oxygen tank, Anthony dialed 911, which connected to the Central Mass Regional 911 District. He spoke with dispatcher Raymond Balser and calmly told him his name, the address where they were, and what had happened.

Beau applied the oxygen mask but then Anthony told Balser that their grandfather had stopped breathing. Balser told Anthony he would have to begin chest compressions for CPR and described how to perform the life-saving technique. "He spoke clearly, calmly, and followed directions perfectly," said Balser.

When Rutland EMS arrived, the grandfather had resumed breathing on his own and was awake, alert, and able to

speak with paramedics. He was transported by ambulance to a Worcester hospital.

For their calm, courageous, life-saving actions, Rutland Fire Department held a young hero award ceremony on June 22 at Naquag Elementary School where Anthony is in second grade and Beau is in first grade. Attending were school staff, teachers, students, Rutland paramedics, dispatchers from the Central Mass. Regional 911 District, and the Rutland Fire Department.

The two brothers stood next to each other while RFD Captain Justin Bassett recounted their life-saving actions and presented each boy with a commendation, after which their schoolmates clapped, stomped their feet, and shouted their names.

As Bassett described it, he has never heard any adult handle such a stressful situation so calmly. "They displayed maturity and compassion beyond their years," said Bassett, "and that should be recognized and commended."

After the gym emptied and photographs were taken with their mother, paramedics, fire personnel, and dispatchers, Anthony was asked what he would like to do when he grew up. "I'd like to be a firefighter," he said, "so I can save lives." ★



Left to Right: Beau, Jessica, and Anthony at the Naquag Elementary School award ceremony. Photo by Martha Akstin

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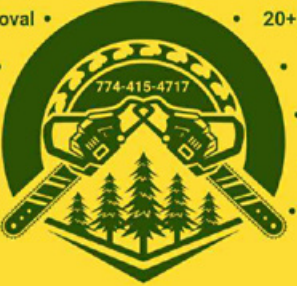
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Artist Reception at Gale Free Library

On Thursday July 9, from 6-7 pm an artists' reception will be held at the Gale Free Library for the artists Mary and John Zywar whose work is featured at the library for July. Light refreshments will be served.

Hometown Harvest

Garden plant management

By ROGER MCGAUGHEY

July is a time to enjoy our gardens and give ourselves credit for producing the color spectacle that shows up in summer. Whether it's from perennials or annuals, it's also time to reflect and even plan for next year. Is our color scheme turning out as we planned or are there additions that we would like to make? Maybe it's not too late to find some material in the garden centers to supplement what we have.

While many thoughts might be buzzing around in your heads, it's important to look at the plants that you have in your gardens and study how they are performing. Perennials especially may need extra care and attention. One of the little white lies that I told my wife years ago when I started on my garden creation journey was "Perennials, you just plant them and forget all about them." Wrong!! To ensure good plant presentation and long flowering life many varieties need help along the way.

Will adverse weather conditions, like rain and wind, damage the plants? Some varieties,

for example, Physostegia, phlox, verbena, salvia, and echinacea, could benefit from a bit of foliage support. I use green garden twine, bought from Amazon, to loosely tie around the foliage to give extra support and help the plants keep their shape if adverse weather conditions happen. (Photo 1) Sometimes, extra stakes might be necessary or use-



ful but often a simple wrapping around with twine is sufficient. The garden twine blends in with the plant's foliage and is generally not noticeable. Even some low-growing varieties could, in conjunction with staking, benefit



from tying up. To aid this process I use last year's pruned-off raspberry canes to produce the small sticks needed to provide support for the shorter plants.

Another plant management technique is acting at the right time. Will the first flush of flowers come and go and we won't get an extension of the flowering process? The container photos show an Osteospermum plant in the mixed planter with the first round of spent flowers pinched off. The plant is now supported by four sticks and tied up. Another round of flower buds is beginning to form, and a second flush of flowers will be produced in due course. Last year, I had flowers on a similar plant right through into late fall. Not bad from one six-inch plant that was potted up in early April. (Photos 2 & 3)



In some varieties, e.g., salvia, once the first batch of flowers has finished, cutting off the whole flowering stem is a necessary exercise that can significantly add to the extension of color in your garden. (Photo 4) Other varieties that benefit from cutting back are: Nepeta, lady's mantle, yarrow, coneflower, and hardy geranium. The salvia photo shows how the first flowering stem has been removed,

allowing two more to develop and take its place. A little bit of plant maintenance can be very rewarding and will justify the time spent.



This is what gardening is all about: getting in and around your plants, touching and feeling them and really benefitting from the closeness to nature. *

BAY PATH

continued from page 4

their design. Moving past their initial goal of a provisional filing, the team finalized their rigorous legal documentation and submitted a formal patent application on June 14, 2026. The invention officially holds a "patent pending" status—a rare, monumental achievement for high school-aged inventors.

The group's technical prowess also translated to the competitive stage this spring. Showcasing elite technical skills at the State SkillsUSA Competition, Bay Path students secured an impressive fourth-place finish in Web Design and commercial technical fields, cementing their reputation as rising leaders in the regional engineering pipeline.

The profound experience of balancing rigorous engineering, legal patent applications, and public speaking has permanently shaped the students'

career trajectories.

"Everything we've gone through has made me realize that hard work and determination bring you closer to your goals," Wolverson noted. "I have always wanted a computer science degree, and these experiences have made my communication skills concrete. When I go to college, I want to join a STEM or robotics club, so I can keep creating inventions that make a real difference outside of high school."

An undertaking of this scale requires a massive village. The STEM Club extends its deepest gratitude to the Lemelson-MIT program, Advisor Kris Wade, master educator Mr. Doug Scott, their dedicated project beneficiaries, and the entire local donor community for providing the guidance, funding, and belief that turned a classroom concept into a transformative, patented reality.

*This is a follow-up to the Bay Path article that appeared in the December 2025 issue of WFP. **

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Sports

Serving up success: Nathan Tran wraps up his WRHS tennis career

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Tennis wasn't a sport that Nathan Tran was looking at, but after his father introduced him to the game at the age of five, it became something that he wanted to pursue. Wachusett High School senior Tran likes the thought process of learning to improve his tennis skills and to work through the challenges that don't come easy.

"In the beginning I was really pretty bad, but I never gave up," he said. "When I was in middle school, I started to get better and began winning – it all became more rewarding for me."

Tran continued to take to the tennis courts and by the time he arrived at Wachusett Regional he was ready to play for the high school. As a freshman he was placed on the doubles team, and it was a flashback to his early years with the sport.

"Playing doubles my freshman year, I have to be honest with you, I was not very good at all," Tran said. "I was not used to be right at the net; I was more accustomed to singles where I was back further."

It took him some time to get used to playing doubles and now that he has the two-man game down, he is more open to playing it. But as a freshman, doubles was a nightmare for the first half of the season.

As a sophomore he was able

to move out of the doubles circuit and into singles play. Tran would spend the year playing third singles for the Mountaineers, a place where he was much more comfortable, despite having a few rough games during the season.

But those tough games helped Tran decide to pursue private lessons, which helped him learn new techniques and strategies that improved his game. In addition, he decided to adjust his exercise schedule: he began running to the gym, doing his workout, and then running home. Prior to his junior season on the tennis courts, he also joined the indoor track team where he ran sprints.

Running for the Wachusett track team helped him to become quicker on the court: he moved his feet much better and his game continued to steadily improve.

Entering his fourth and final season at Wachusett, Tran was looking to keep his record above .500 while playing the best tennis that he had ever played. He was also named a captain and wanted to help lead the team



and provide leadership to the younger players.

He feels that he accomplished those goals and was able to secure a winning record for the Mountaineers at his second singles position. Despite a couple games in which could have played better, he still felt that he was very competitive with his play on the courts.

"Nathan is one that is always willing to go above and beyond for the team's sake," Wachusett Boys' Tennis Coach Tony Brissette said. "He goes out of his way to help other players in any way that he can; he's a great player and is always positive." Brissette went on to say that

Tran had won some big matches for the team this year. On two occasions, the coach recalled Tran being very tired, but the team needed him to win his match so they could take home the victory.

"He was totally exhausted when I talked to him, but he pushed through his tiredness and won his matches," said Brissette. "It was really impressive to watch."

Brissette awarded Tran – for the third consecutive season – with the Coach's Award, which best exemplifies a team player. In his 27 years of coaching tennis, Brissette has never given this award to one player three times in their career.

Now that his season and high school career have come to an end, Tran would like to continue to improve his game and take it to the next level. He will attend the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, which takes part in

Division 1 sports. Tran doesn't believe that he could make the team, so he is planning on playing club-level tennis. In order to play at UMass, no matter the level, Tran will have to work hard this summer on his game.

Playing tennis on the next level wasn't something that he had ever really thought of until last season when he focused on becoming fitter and more athletic, which helped him to play much better tennis.

"Playing at UMass will be a big step forward," Tran said. "But I would have never been able to accomplish it without Coach [Brissette]. He was definitely an impact. And during my sophomore year when I truly doubted my skills, he not only believed in me but talked me into continuing."

Now Tran would like to repay his coach by playing well on the next level – college. ★

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Sports

Rutland native finds her calling

By Christopher Tremblay,
Staff Sports Writer

Lily MacDonnell grew up experiencing all kinds of sports in her early years. But the Rutland native was looking to not only find something that she enjoyed but something that she could grow into. She had played softball but had dropped that sport. While she still plays basketball in the winter, soccer has become her ultimate sport.

“Soccer was something that I found was fun,” she said. “I really liked running around in the outdoors, so it became a sport that I wanted to play on a regular basis.”

While playing for the Rutland recreational league, she realized that she needed to up her game and skills on the soccer field. So, four years ago she hooked up with the Worcester FC Stars, a club soccer program where she has been able to improve upon her skills as well as meet and make a lot of new friends.

“The FC Stars gave me a lot more coaching, and I was able to define my skill level,” MacDonnell said. “Here you learn from your mistakes and become a better player. I knew that I wanted to learn how to dribble effectively while making moves to get past players.”

Prior to joining the FC Stars, MacDonnell was one to take the ball and just try to run past other players. Now she has learned how to properly







Age

14

Position

ST

Country





Golden Boot Winner
U14 Girls Bronze

dribble while running and is able to get to the net without losing the ball.

MacDonnell and her teammates take part in many tournaments throughout the season. During their final tournament this year at the Boston Invitational Cup, the Stars were able to go undefeated during their five games and took home first place. MacDonnell scored seven goals during the tournament and was awarded the Golden Boot Award.

The Rutland native was surprised to have earned that

award.

“In the past my confidence hadn’t been there, and I was hesitating a lot. I found myself doing things wrong on the field,” she said. “I think it all started when I joined the FC Stars, there were a lot of good players around me and it intimidated me. I believe that I have a powerful shot, but I don’t always take it when I should.”

With her skills having improved throughout the year, she hit her stride right before the Boston tournament.

“Scoring my first goal was



Lily MacDonnell. Photos submitted

very exciting and got me to thinking that I can do this,” she said. “Then when I kept scoring, I started to become relaxed and my game got better.”

Earning the Golden Boot Award made her extremely proud of all the demanding work she has put into the sport. It will also be the one tournament that will stick with her for a while.

Her success in the season’s final tournament came at the right time as she will be entering Wachusett Regional High School in the fall and looking to play for the Mountaineers. The incoming freshman feels that the Wachusett coaching staff will know who she is and

what she can accomplish on the soccer field.

As an incoming freshman she is hoping that she can make the junior varsity squad. But she would also be satisfied if she were placed on the freshman team.

“I feel that I could accomplish so much more with the junior varsity team,” MacDonnell said. “I am good with my assisting but want to continue to work on making my way to the net.”

The Rutland athlete’s ultimate goal is to play on the collegiate level. While she has thought about playing at that level, she is focused on getting ready to play high school soccer – and forge a career with Wachusett. ✨

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-Joe Z.

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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

Wednesday, July 8

Massachusetts Emancipation Day. See this month's WFP cover story by Barre resident and historian Lucy Allen. She explains how the roots of this state holiday – and the start of the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts - began with an enslaved man who lived in Barre.

Through July

Massasoit Art Guild Show at Paxton Senior Center. Five members of the Massasoit Art Guild of Spencer will display their creations at an art show in the Paxton Senior Center, 17 West St. The show will run 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.

Thursday July 9

11 am-12 pm: Special Storytime Show on the lawn at the Gale Free Library. Get ready for a story-time double feature For one morning only, Mr. Kevin and Miss Rachel, your two favorite librarians, will perform a special story-time show with stories, singing, dancing, and more.

12-1 pm: The Greatest Generation Still Speaking at the Rutland Senior Center. This compelling, multi-format presentation by John Mollica captures the strength behind and beyond that era's wartime valor.

3:30-6:30 pm: Paxton Garden Club's farmers market. Enjoy fresh, local farm products and handmade goods. Behind the Senior Center, 17 West St.

6:30-8:30 pm: Paxton's Summer music series kicks off with The Vig. At the Paxton bandstand. facebook.com/thevigband Sponsor: Mass Cultural Council. Seven Saws will provide adult beverages, and the snack shack will be open.

Friday, July 10

2:30-4:30 pm: Library Book Sale and Donation Days sponsored by Friends of Richards Memorial Library. Donate books. Shop for books. All on the same day! Proceeds benefit library programs. The Friends accept donations only during scheduled dates and times: gently used books, DVDs, CDs, and video games. They do not accept textbooks, magazines, encyclopedias, VHS tapes, or bootleg CDS/DVDs. Do

not leave books when the library is not open. The book sale continues tomorrow, the 11th, from 10 am-2 pm. There will be no book sale in August.

6-9 pm: Summer Concerts in Rutland featuring The Army Band for the 250th on the Common. For more information, see the town website rutlandma.gov.

Fridays, July 10 & July 24

2-3:30 pm: Free Play Fridays at the Gale Free Library. Cool off on a hot Friday with some gaming in the Program Room. Board games and a Nintendo Switch will be available! Children aged 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, July 11

10 am-1 pm: Rutland's Maker's Market on the Town Common. Local creators, small business owners, handmade goods, and artisan products. Food vendors will be there offering delicious bites to enjoy while you shop. To become a vendor, see the town's website rutlandma.gov

Sunday, July 12

6-8 pm: The Holden Bandstand Summer Concert Series features Rick Barron & The Quavers (Country music). Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs or blankets.

Monday, July 13

1:30 pm: Galileo Galilei: The Starry Messenger by Mike Francis at the Holden Senior Center. This is a dramatic, fun-filled adaptation of Galileo's short treatise Siderius Nuncius. Galileo, dressed in costume, will give a lecture on his most recent discoveries made with his newly invented spyglass. Please sign up in person or call the Center.

Tuesday, July 14

2:30 pm: Veterans and American Legion Meeting at the Holden Senior Center. For more info, contact Doug Harvey, Commander of Post 42 at 508-450-9965 or email harvey1234@charter.net.

3-4 pm: Bead Axolotls At the Gale Free Library for ages 7+. It's everyone's favorite Central American amphibian! Make your own axolotl out of beads to carry with you! Summer crafts are available while space and supplies last.

6:30 pm: Cooking Club at Gale Free

Caterpillar Count: Ecological Monitoring at Richards Memorial Library

Saturday, July 11, 11am-12pm This program is open to all but is geared to young people. Participants must be able to focus, follow directions, and treat living beings respectfully.

Library. Let's Make A "Food Rainbow!" Registration required. You've probably heard that it's smart to "eat the rainbow." Colorful foods tend to be packed with nutrients, and eating a wide variety of colors is even better. Let's dig into these vibrant, healthy, everyday recipes we love using in our own kitchens. Bring your creation and the recipe to share.

6:30-7:30 pm: Terrariums for Teens for ages 12-18 at Richards Memorial Library. Learn about succulent care and then create a terrarium with live plants, rocks, accessories, and more. Thanks to the Paxton Garden Club for collaborating with the library to make this program possible. To ensure there are enough supplies, RSVP at the library or go here: <https://bit.ly/4uMAPT2>

Wednesday, July 15

4-5 pm: Wingmasters: Birds of Prey at the Holden Senior Center. Learn about some of the birds of prey native to the Holden area, Birds of prey, also known as raptors, are hunting birds that boast the best eyesight and sharpest hearing in the animal kingdom. This presentation will include five live birds. Thank you to the Holden Cultural Council for sponsoring this event.

Thursday, July 16

Blackston River tour bus trip sponsored by the Friends of Paxton Council on Aging. Enjoy a river tour, lunch at Davenport's Restaurant in Providence, and a stop at Wright's Farm Bakery. For info & details contact Deb Grensavitch at 508-245-4952 or email her at grensavitchd@aol.com

10:30 am-noon: The Craft of Writing Workshop at the Gale Free Library. "Politics and Polemics." Online via Zoom. Registration required. Participants will look at examples of writers responding to current events and discuss what makes some responses "political" and others "polemical."

1 pm: Felted Bluebird workshop at the Holden Senior Center. All materials will be provided. Register in person with \$20 fee.

6:30-8:30 pm: Paxton's Summer Music Series continues with This Guy That Guy at the Paxton bandstand. facebook.com/SKMnCo. Seven Saws will provide adult beverages, and the snack shack will be open.

Thursdays, July 16, 23, & 30

10-10:30 am: Lap-sit Story Times at the Gale Free Library for ages 2 and under. Join Miss Rachel for songs, short picture-book stories, and more. If there is rain or extreme heat, story times will be in the Program Room on the second floor; otherwise, they will be on the lawn.

11-11:30 am: Pre-K Story Times at the Gale Free Library for ages 3-6. Join Mr. Kevin for lots of laughs and fun stories! If there is rain or extreme heat, story times will be in the Program Room on the second floor; otherwise, they will be on the lawn.

Friday, July 17

10-11 am: Read to Shamrock the Reading Dog at Richards Memorial Library. Bring or borrow a book to read to Shamrock in a relaxed, outdoor setting. Shamrock is a miniature labradoodle certified through TDI (Therapy Dogs International). Please check website for updates in the event of inclement weather or schedule changes.

6-9 pm: The Rutland Summer Concert series featuring Wonderland Mafia on the Common.

Fridays, July 17 & July 31

3-4:30 pm: LEGO Club at the Gale Free Library for ages 4+. Come join the summer LEGO Club! They will build pieces for an end-of-summer Big G Amusement Park. Come with your family, grab a bin of LEGOS, and build with us. No registration necessary.

Saturday, July 18

7 pm: Dance at Finn Park, Rutland with music by Dan Mackowiak. The park's 100th anniversary continues. \$10 per person. Questions/advance ticket sales, call 508-723-0447.

Sunday, July 19

6-8 pm: The Holden Bandstand Summer Concert Series features Rick Barron & The Quavers (Country music). Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs or blankets.

Monday, July 20

1 pm: Heat and Tick awareness presentation at the Holden Senior Center by the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition. Heat safety and education and tick awareness and prevention strategies. Register in person or call the office.

Tuesday, July 21

10-11 am: Dino Scavenger Hunt at the Gale Free Library for ages 2-5. Join Community Connections for a roaring good time finding dinosaurs on the lawn! This program helps increase social, fine and gross motor and problem-solving skills, and is a fun way to build vocabulary.

6:30-7:30 pm: Kim the LEGO Lady for ages 5-11 at Richards Memorial Library. Take your LEGO building to a whole new level. Explore new ideas and create your own masterpiece in this encore LEGO workshop. All skill levels welcome. RSVP at the library or here: <https://bit.ly/4w61kE4>

Wednesday, July 22

11 am: Summer Music Comedy Show at the Paxton Senior Center. Luncheon at noon. Denis Cormier hits all the right notes with this entertaining mix of music and comedy. Take a stress break and enjoy! After the show there's a special lunch prepared and sponsored by Ten West. RSVP by July 17.

1:30 pm: America the Beautiful in Song by David Polansky at the Holden Senior Center. Patriotic songs from various eras in American history.

Thursday, July 23

1-2 pm: Henry the Juggler on the lawn at the Gale Free Library.

By the Numbers

By Martha Akstin

We looked at the number of voters in each town that *WFP* covers and showed how many participated at the annual town elections, annual town meetings, and special town meetings, when applicable. We thank each of the town clerks for their assistance in compiling this information.

As Thomas Jefferson said, “We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”

Holden
Total number of registered voters as of May 1: 15,939
Number of voters who voted in the May 11 Annual Town Election: 3,350 or 21.02%
Number of voters at the June 8 Annual Town Meeting: 208 or 1.3%

Paxton
Total number of registered voters as of May 4: 3,847
Voters at the May 4 Annual Town Meeting: 156 or 4.1%
Number of voters who voted at the May 11 Annual Town Election: 598 or 15.5%
Number of voters at the June 22 Special Town Meeting: 150 or 3.9%

Rutland
Total number of registered voters on May 8: 7,755
Voters at the May 9 Annual Town Meeting: 388 or 5.0%
Number of voters who voted at the May 11 Annual Town Election: 1,883 or 24.3%
Number of voters at the June 16 Special Town Meeting: 431 or 5.5%

CALENDAR

continued from page 10

Henry the Juggler is considered armed (and legged) and dangerous. He is known to cause spontaneous outbursts of laughter. Witness his juggling show to see for yourself. Thank you to the Holden Cultural Council for sponsoring this event.

5-6 pm: Read to Shamrock the Reading Dog at Richards Memorial Library. Bring or borrow a book to read to Shamrock in a relaxed, outdoor setting. Shamrock is a miniature labradoodle certified through TDI (Therapy Dogs International). Please check website for updates in the event of inclement weather or schedule changes.

6:30-8:30 pm: Paxton's Summer Music Series The Otters at the Paxton bandstand. facebook.com/fun-lovingmammals/ Sponsor: Mass Cultural Council. Seven Saws will provide adult beverages, and the snack shack will be open.

Friday, July 24

10:30-11:15 am: Music and Movement Storytimes with Julie Stepanek Murray at Richards Memorial Library. March, stomp, sing and stretch in this interactive story time for young children and their families. Thank you to the Paxton Cultural Council, a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, for funding this program.

6-9 pm: The Rutland Summer Concert series featuring Island Castaways on the Common.

Sunday, July 26

12:30 pm: 55th Annual Chicken Barbeque at Finn Park, Rutland, as the park's 100th anniversary continues. Raffle prizes and presentation of scholarships. \$18 per person, chicken dinner, beverage and desert. Advanced ticket sales: 508-723-0447.

6-8 pm: The Holden Bandstand Summer Concert Series features Wachusett Community Band (Show tunes).

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs or blankets.

Tuesday, July 28

10:30 am: Laughter Yoga at the Paxton Senior Center. An important dimension in Yoga is ... laughter! Join registered instructor Terri Gerhardt in a complimentary session of gentle stretching, breathing, and laughter exercises involving clapping, small movements or dance, and a laughter meditation. RSVP to the Center.

4-5 pm: Mike Bent's Abrakadabra! at the Holden Senior Center. This magic show from the Nickelodeon award-winning entertainer Mike Bent is sure to captivate and entertain all ages. You may even end up on stage as part of the magic! Thank you to the Holden Cultural Council for sponsoring this event.

6-7 pm: Poetry Reading & Open Microphone at the Gale Free Library. One of the exhibiting artists, John Zywar, will read several poems related to his asylum photography project and other poems that have been published. He will discuss his approach to publishing both poetry and photo art in literary magazines. Attendees are welcome to read their own poems. Zywar is a member of the Worcester County Poetry Association and the Poetry Society of New Hampshire.

6:30-7:30 pm: Protect our Pollinators with naturalist Jerry Schneider at Richards Memorial Library. Target audience is ages 5-11 but all are welcome to this fun, educational

conservation and art program. Learn about local pollinators, including bees, bats, hummingbirds, beetles, dragonflies, and butterflies. Then learn how to build and maintain habitat to help them. Then make a pollinator-themed stenciled t-shirts to take home. Thanks to the Paxton Cultural Council, a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, for funding this program!

Wednesday, July 29

1:30 pm: Phil Andrew's Steel Accent Steelband Trio in concert at the Holden Senior Center. Join this lively concert of island music funded by the Holden Friends Council on Aging. Register in person or call the office.

6-7:30 pm: Art Club at the Gale Free Library. Ages 16+. Registration required. Join the monthly art club and bring your own supplies or use theirs: watercolor paints and paper, brushes, pastels, colored pencils, graphite, pens, collage materials, and more. While there is no specific project, there is a quotation, book or image to inspire a(n optional) response. This program is intended for patrons of all abilities.

Thursday, July 30

4-5 pm: Sew an Emotional Support Chicken at Richards Memorial Library. Create your own stuffie to guide you through times of stress. For children, tweens, and teens. No prior sewing experience needed. Register at the library.

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6:30-8:30 pm: Paxton's Summer Music Series The Illusions Band at the Paxton bandstand. Seven Saws will provide adult beverages, and the snack shack will be open.

Friday, July 31

6-9 pm: The Rutland Summer Concert series featuring Hip Swayers on the Common.

Saturday, August 1

10 am-1 pm: Rutland's Maker's Market on the Town Common. Local creators, small business owners, hand-made goods, and artisan products. Food vendors will offer delicious bites to enjoy while you shop. To become a vendor, see the town's website rutlandma.gov

Sunday, August 2

6-8 pm: The Holden Bandstand Summer Concert Series features Elvis (Las Vegas Show). Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs or blankets.

Tuesday, August 4

3:30-5 pm: We all scream for ice cream at Richards Memorial Library. Drop in anytime between the hours and enjoy a sweet treat. It is also the last day to turn in summer reading logs for prizes.

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Thursday, August 6

6:30-8:30 pm: Paxton's Summer Music Series Paul Courchain at the Paxton bandstand. facebook.com/paul-courchainmusic. Sponsor: Mass Cultural Council. Seven Saws will provide adult beverages, and the snack shack will be open.

Friday, August 7

6-9 pm: The Rutland Summer Concert series featuring Donnelly Road on the Common.

Sunday, August 9

6-8 pm: The Holden Bandstand Summer Concert Series features Holding Back (60s music). Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs or blankets.

Monday, August 10

10 am-8 pm: The town's Special Election will be held at Paxton Center School.

Thursday, August 13

6:30-8:30 pm: Paxton's Summer Music Series The Valley Cats (Paxton Center School's music teacher Josh Sabourin's band) at the Paxton bandstand. Sponsor: Paxton Woman's Club. Seven Saws will provide adult beverages, and the snack shack will be open.

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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



Photo by Steve Urbanovitch

By STEVE URBANOVITCH

This day trip took us for a ride on the cruise ship Monhegan through the Cape Cod Canal. The cruise features a live commentary about the history and points of interest with breathtaking views of the Bourne and Sagamore bridges. They offer standard two- and three-hour cruises as well as summertime specialty cruises that include live music, Bingo and sunset cruises.

There is a snack bar that serves assorted items including local beer, wine and spirits, four restrooms, and indoor and outdoor seating. The cruise departs from the Onset town pier located at 184 Onset Ave., Onset, where metered parking is available. Cost for an adult ticket is \$24 for the two-hour cruise and \$26 for the three-hour cruise. Check the website for departure times and more information: hylinecruises.com. *

NEWSbitz

By MARTHA AKSTIN

Check the Calendar for listings of each town's free **Summer Music Series**. Holden's concerts are held Sundays at the bandstand on Main Street, Paxton's are held Thursdays at the bandstand on the field behind PCS, and Rutland's live music are held on the Common Friday evenings. Bring some snacks and drinks, a chair or blanket (if you can easily get up from the ground) and enjoy some nights out.

Holden

The town was rocked by the recent deaths of two of its favorite sons, **Dan Harrington** and **Rick Mansfield**.

Daniel J. Harrington died on June 6.



Born in Holden, he resided here most of his life, retiring as president

of **Sunnyside Motors**, a well-known, well respected family enterprise that had been in business for more than 100 years. Dan was a respected local figure who served on the **Better Business Bureau of Central and Western Massachusetts** and in the **Army National Guard**. He left behind his wife Cathy, four children, his mother Ann Harrington, two sisters, and his beloved grandchildren.

Richard S. Mansfield Jr. was a deeply respected community leader, funeral director, and resident of Holden who died on June 10. He and his wife **Beverly** owned **Miles Funeral Home** since 1992 and helped innumerable area families during the



worse periods of their lives. Rick served as chair of the **Holden Council on Aging** and

was instrumental in constructing the new senior center. He was active with the **Elder Services of Worcester Area**, the **Wachusett Area Rotary Club**, and the **Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce**. He left behind his wife Beverly, two children, and a beloved granddaughter.

fifth and sixth generations.

• **Hope Lives Here**, the non-profit in town that offers grief counseling to help people struggling with loss, is **looking for volunteers** in several capacities: watering and weeding its Garden located behind the Rutland Library, as a facilitator at a monthly meet-



Left to right: **Holden Grange Scholarship Committee co-chairman Orrie Mason**, recipient **Gemma Paolilli**, and her father **Joseph Paolilli**

These two men will be deeply missed by many in not only Holden, but Worcester County.

• **Holden Grange** awarded its **W. Sumner and Howard L. Jordan Scholarship** to **Gemma Paolilli** of Holden. In the fall, she will attend the **University at Albany**, majoring in atmospheric science. Gemma's goal to become a meteorologist began early on. In her scholarship essay she wrote, "Weather has been my primary interest for my entire life, even when I was as young as 3 or 4, and I've set myself up in every possible way to study meteorology in college. I have done a job shadowing at the **National Weather Service**, I've shadowed meteorology college classes, and I've also attended a summer camp that was all about meteorology. I'm thrilled that I finally get to attend college, and study the subject I've been interested in for my entire life." See Photo Finish for another award that Gemma received – congratulations!

The Grange scholarship is named in memory of former members, two brothers who owned and operated **Jordan Dairy Farms**, now run by the

ing, a program volunteer, or to join its board of directors. If you want to help this worthy nonprofit, go to its website hlgrief.org to learn more.

Paxton

• It seems you can't open a paper or click on a news link without hearing something new about **Anna Maria College**. The campus is now off limits to town residents – or anyone – driving or walking on the property. **The Sisters of St. Anne**, doing business as Anna Maria College, have filed for **Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection**, owing tens of millions of dollars to creditors (including monies to the **Town of Paxton**). The college has allegedly reneged on a land deal with an abutting neighbor. Faculty, staff and student artwork has been taken down and is leaning against walls waiting to be picked up by the artists (although if no one is allowed access to the property, how can the artists pick up their work). And of course last but not least, the 260+ acre property is on the market,

NEWSBITZ

continued on page 14

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Real Estate Transfers

May 15, 2026 – June 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 July issue publishes transfers from May 15 to June 14. This information is gathered from the Worcester Registry of Deeds' website. Compiled by Karin Warzybok.

HOLDEN

- 3 Torrey Ln. 05/15:** Grantor Andrew Robert Marks to Grantees Nicolas Genovese and Erin Genovese. \$600,000.
- 186 Doyle Rd and Mountain St 05/15:** Grantors Adam Cahoone, Pamela Cahoone, and Adam R. Cahoone to Grantee Christian Hernandez. \$427,500.
- 56 Sherwood Hill Dr. 05/15:** Grantors Blasius Family Trust, James R. Blasius Tr, and Rosemary R. Blasius Tr to Grantees Susan Jane Cassidy and Lisa Marie Pepi. \$750,000.
- 210 Parker Ave. 05/18:** Grantors Aaron Robert Schlesinger, Michelle Christina Schlesinger, Michelle Christina Serrentino, and Aaron Schlesinger to Grantees Jonathan Rodriguez and Michele Bravo Moran. \$515,000.
- 197 High St. 05/18:** Grantors Laudicea M. DeOliveira Monteiro and Laudicea Monteiro to Grantees Allison Pendleton and Brian Pendleton. \$460,000.
- 111 Homestead Rd. 05/19:** Grantors Kyle Jenket, Meaghan Rutledge, and Meaghan Jenket to Grantee Kyle Jenket. \$1.
- 79 Birchwood Dr. 05/19:** Grantors Patricia A. Celularo and Gloria Jean Celularo to Grantees Patricia A. Celularo Tr, Gloria Jean Celularo Tr, and Celularo Realty Trust-2026. \$1.
- No Number Fisher Rd. 05/19:** Grantors Jonathan P. Reheuser, Jean Marie Reheuser, and JeanMarie Reheuser to Grantees Jonathan R. Reheuser Tr and Jonathan P. Reheuser Trust. \$100.
- No Number Manning St. 05/20:** Grantors Douglas W. Drohan, Linda A. Drohan, Linda Alice Goehle Drohan, and Linda Goehle-Drohan to Grantees Jeffrey M. Dolan and MaryEllen Dolan. \$345,000.
- 81 Paugus Rd. 05/20:** Grantors Steven M. Richardson and Katherine T. Richardson to Grantees Steven M. Richardson Tr, Katherine T. Richardson Tr, and Richardson Irrevocable Trust. \$1.
- 105 Bull Run 05/20:** Grantors Kevin M. Adams and Colleen T. Adams to Grantees Colleen T. Adams Tr, Kevin M. Adams Tr, and Kevin M. Adams & Colleen T. Adams Living Trust. \$100.
- 146 Shrewsbury St. 05/21:** Grantors Jerrold O. Cote and Cecile M. Cote to Grantees Mariam Jan and David Holden. \$562,000.
- No Number North St. 05/22:** Grantors Teresa A. Parker Revocable Trust and

- Teresa A. Parker Tr to Grantees Sean Conger and Savanna Conger. \$200,000.
- 54 Parker Ave. 05/22:** Grantors James S. Kieras and Peggy J. Kieras to Grantees Matthew J. Kieras, Sarah E. Kieras, and Marie A. Kieras-Skiba. \$100.
- 129 Cannon Rd. 05/26:** Grantors Robert P. Lavigne and Darla L. Lavigne to Grantees Robert P. Lavigne Tr, Darla L. Lavigne Tr, and Darla L. Lavigne Living Trust. \$100.
- 21 Oregon Trail 05/27:** Grantors George V. Mioglionico and George Mioglionico to Grantees George Mioglionico Tr and George Mioglionico Revocable Trust. \$100.
- 11 Farragut Way 05/27:** Grantor Robyn M. O'Toole to Grantee Kate L. Amalfi. \$581,000.
- 95 Sunnyside Ave. 05/27:** Grantors David R. O'Brien and Heather L. O'Brien to Grantee Courtney A. Champlin. \$560,000.
- 14 Mark Cir. 05/27:** Grantors Colleen J. Smith and Anthony S. Lapinsky to Grantees Gopal Bastola and Tuka Dahal. \$825,000.
- 6 Slipper Hill Ln. 05/28:** Grantors Royce A. Singleton Jr. and Nancy G. Singleton to Grantees Michael Ferraiuolo and Valerie Lawrence. \$550,000.
- 91 Lincoln Ave. 05/28:** Grantor Joshua De-terra to Grantees Gabrielle Hesselberg and Jonathan Klys. \$385,000.
- 25 Heritage Ln. 05/28:** Grantors Andrew St. Jean and Alexandra Lynne St. Jean to Grantees Adam M. Rene and Kara D. F. Rene. \$440,000.
- 134 Fireside Ln. 05/28:** Grantors Alan J. Freeman and Merilee D. Freeman to Grantees Alan J. Freeman Tr, Merilee D. Freeman Tr, and Alan & Merilee Freeman Revocable Living Trust. \$1.
- 14 Wyndhurst Dr. 05/29:** Grantors James F. Paskavitz and Darrelyn L. Paskavitz to Grantees Martha D. Creegan Tr, Michael G. Creegan Tr, and Martha D. & Michael G. Creegan Family Revocable Trust. \$700,000.
- 288 Fisher Rd. 05/29:** Grantor Wingspan Properties LLC to Grantees Vamsikrishna Vijapurapu and Sai Divya Vijapurapu. \$999,749.
- 15 Parker Rd. 05/29:** Grantor Karen B. Hendrie to Grantees Thomas Goodrich and Lyndsy Morrisette. \$480,000.
- 218 Reservoir Rd. 05/29:** Grantor Deborah A. Lear to Grantees Diana L. Glass and Ira L. Keller. \$351,000.
- 24 Kris Alan Rd. 06/01:** Grantors Daniel B. Wolfe, Cheryl A. Wolfe, and Cheryl Ann Davis to Grantees Daniel B. Wolfe Tr, Cheryl A. Wolfe Tr, Daniel B. Wolfe Family Trust, and Cheryl A. Wolfe Family Trust. \$10.
- 15 Surrey Ln. 06/01:** Grantor Raymond T. Mahon to Grantees Raymond T. Mahon

- Jr. Tr and Raymond T. Mahon Jr. Trust. \$10.
- 41 Willow Brook Rd. 06/01:** Grantors Evan P. Graber, Evan Graber, Cynthia J. Graber, and Cynthia Graber to Grantees Evan P. Graber Tr, Cynthia J. Graber Tr, and Graber Family Trust. \$100.
- 420 Manning St. 06/01:** Grantor David Centeno to Grantee Angelique Centeno. \$1.
- 80 River St. 06/01:** Grantor William M. Ordnung and Dawn F. Ordnung to Grantees MSJ Realty Trust, William M. Ordnung Tr and Dawn F. Ordnung Tr. \$100.
- 1916 Main St. 06/01:** Grantor Maryann Davis to Grantees Stephen Davis, Katherine Davis, and Anthony Davis. \$100.
- 70 Cutler Rd. 06/02:** Grantors Scott Johnson and Jill Johnson to Grantee Scott M. Johnson. \$100.
- 31 Mayflower Cir. 06/02:** Grantors Andromaxi Isenberger and Jerry L. Isenberger to Grantees Andromaxi Isenberger Tr and Andromaxi Isenberger Living Tr. \$100.
- 40 St. Mary's Dr. 06/03:** Grantors Timothy W. Maloney Tr, Sharon M. Maloney Tr, and Timothy W. Maloney and Sharon M. Maloney Irrevocable Trust to Grantees Timothy P. Maloney Tr, and Timothy W. Maloney & Sharon M. Maloney Irrevocable Trust. \$100.
- 31 Miles Ave. 06/04:** Grantors Jonathan David Hutchinson and Colleen Marie Hutchinson to Grantee Sarah Hall. \$475,000.
- 63 Walnut St. 06/05:** Grantors Pauline F. Debatis Irrevocable Trust 2007, Marie-Anne Lavallee Tr, and Andre D. Debatis Jr. Tr to Grantees James E. Simpson and Lindsay M. Simpson. \$550,000.
- 165 South Rd. 06/05:** Grantors Seth S. Dodge Tr, Christine M. Dodge Tr, and Dodge Family Trust to Grantees Zarek Nieduzak and Alexis Mejia. \$821,000.
- 31 Montana Dr. 06/05:** Grantors Christopher Scott Jordan, Christopher S. Jordan, and Maria Jordan to Grantees Oscar Esposito and Gwendolyn D. Bois. \$500,000.
- 21 South Wachusett St. 06/08:** Grantors Peter M. Caputi and Julie A. Caputi to Grantees Peter M. Caputi Tr, Julie A. Caputi, and Caputi Family Revocable Trust. \$1.
- 17 Tea Party Cir. 06/08:** Grantor Kenneth S. Melnick to Grantees Kenneth S. Melnick Tr and Melnick Realty Trust-2026. \$100.
- 624 Main St. 06/08:** Grantors Daniel P. Leroux Tr and Elizabeth A. Leroux Revocable Trust to Grantee EL Main St. Properties LLC. \$100.
- 30 Salisbury St. 06/08:** Grantor Sunnyside Marketing & Sales Co. Inc. to Grantee Holden Town. \$1,753,200.
- 94 Cedar Rd. 06/08:** Grantor Thanh Huyen

- Cao to Grantees Thanh Huyen Cao Tr, Duc Phi Nguyen Tr, and 94 Cedar Road Realty Trust-2026. \$100.
- 147 Bailey Rd. 06/10:** Grantors Cassandra J. Herlihy, Mandy C. Robert, and Mandy C. Perry to Grantees Mandy C. Perry, Mandy C. Robert, and Donald F. Robert Jr. \$100,000.
- 950 Wachusett St. 06/11:** Grantor John D. Laprade to Grantees Maria Hopkins and Christopher Hopkins. \$365,064.11.
- 128 Parker Ave. 06/11:** Grantor Suzanne Dufault to Suzanne M. Dufault Tr and Suzanne M. Dufault Revocable Trust. \$100.
- 884 Main St. 06/12:** Grantors Cynthia Curtis, Cynthia Crowe, and Christopher V. Crowe Est to Grantees Raimundo Alves De Souza Junior and Sirlene Ferreira Sousa. \$500,000.

PAXTON

- 36 Village Rd. 05/18:** Grantor Carol L. Thorsen to Grantee Shirley Sprague. \$453,000.
- 2 Crestwood Dr./Crestwood Rd. 05/26:** Grantor Andrew Peck to Grantees Donna Ells and Michael Ells. \$443,000.
- 6 Cutler Rd. 05/27:** Grantors Edward A. Riley and Daria LaValle to Grantees Nicho-

- las Morrow, Anna Morrow, and Tina M. Chaput. \$665,000.
- 8 Red Oak St. 05/28:** Grantors Paul B. Riches, Carol L. Riches, P.B. Riches, and C.L. Riches to Grantees Paul B. Riches Tr, Carol L. Riches Tr, and Riches Family Trust. \$100.
- 3 Pierce Cir. 05/29:** Grantor Sheryl Lombardi to Grantees Anthony Lombardi, Sheryl Lombardi, and Paul P. Lombardi. \$100.
- 7 Rollingridge Ln. 06/01:** Grantor Conrad Nelson and Wanda Nelson to Grantees Conrad W. Nelson Tr, Wanda J Nelson Tr, and Nelson Family 2026 Trust. \$100.
- 17 Walbridge Rd. 06/01:** Grantors Sarah Sierra and Sarah Sierra Cosme to Grantees Maureen Marcoux and Walter Marcoux. \$615,000.
- 735 Pleasant St. 06/01:** Grantors Kimberley A. Trombley, Brain P. Green, and Brian P. Green to Grantees Emily N. Trombley, Kimberley A. Trombley, and Brian P. Green. \$100.
- 4 Black Hill Rd. 06/01:** Grantors Mark Alan Nilson and Robin L. Nilson to Grantees Charles Stratton and Elizabeth Potvin.

REAL ESTATE

continued on page 14

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NEWSBITZ

continued from page 12

valued at \$41 million by some estimates, although the listing by Kelleher & Sadowsky states the sales price is “Subject to Offer.” Phew. And it’s only Wednesday. Oh, and students and alumni are wondering how to get their transcripts, with one suggestion reaching out to **Regis College**.

• **The Select Board** has formed a committee to work with the representatives of Anna Maria in the aftermath of the college’s closing. It has begun to fill the appointments for the 11-member committee who will serve one-year terms or until the committee is dissolved. As the board stated: In making appointments, the Select Board shall seek

participation from individuals best positioned to understand Paxton’s current municipal needs, identify opportunities for Town benefit, and advise on the processes necessary to evaluate and obtain surplus or decommissioned assets. In particular, membership shall reflect experience or familiarity with Paxton’s municipal operations, facilities or infrastructure, planning, zoning, public procurement, utilities, and community engagement.

The Anna Maria College Transition Advisory Committee includes Neil Bagdis from the **Capital Improvements Planning Committee**, Mike Benoit from the **Paxton Municipal Light Department**, Robert Birckbeck, town administrator, David Bloom from the **Finance Committee**, Jason Burgess from the

Planning Board, Britt Clark from the **Zoning Board of Appeals**, Anthony Domineck from the **Economic Planning Committee**, Timothy Luring, community volunteer, Brian Lawler, community volunteer, Jeff Wentzell from the **Select Board** and a representative from the **Water Board**, to be named.

• The Town will hold an **election on Monday, August 10**, from 10 am to 8 pm at the **Paxton Center School**, which will address the **FY 2027 budget**. While a balanced budget was passed at the **June 22 Special Town Meeting**, an override vote was also passed, which asked for an additional **\$386,289** to be added to the budget. This **Proposition 2 ½** override request will be on the August 8 ballot.

Rutland

• The aftermath of the failure of the override to pass for the **FY 2027 budget** continues. In addition to veteran firefighters and police officers being let go, curtailed hours at the library, senior center and town hall offices, **WFP** has learned that **Tomeca Murphy**, the **executive assistant to the town administer**, has left her position because it had been cut from full-time to part-time hours. Murphy was a wealth of detailed information about the town she calls home. At one Select Board meeting, the board was asked how many liquor licenses the town has and how many were available. Murphy had that arcane number at the tip of her fingers. Always composed, calm, patient, and professional, Murphy will be missed. **WFP** wishes her –

and all the departing Rutland town employees - well as they begin new chapters of their professional lives.

• **The Maker’s Market** has returned Saturdays July 11, August 1, and September 5 from 10 am to 1 pm on the Commons. Local creators, artisans, craftspeople, small local business owners – anyone who creates local – will be there. In addition, food vendors will be on hand so you can nosh while you shop. If you’re interested in becoming a vendor, go the town’s website rutlandma.gov and search for Maker’s Market for guidelines and an application. ✱

REAL ESTATE

continued from page 13

\$750,000.

No Street Number Brooks Rd. 06/02: Grantors Matthew F. Erskine and Carolyn W. Erskine to Grantee Louise M. Erskine. \$100.

495 Richards Ave. 06/02: Grantor Louise M. Erskine to Grantees Carolyn W. Erskine and Matthew F. Erskine. \$100.

4 Crestwood Rd. 06/02: Grantors Angelito Destin and Joshan Niroula to Grantee

Joseph Smichinski. \$435,000.

29 Red Oak St. 06/09: Grantors Steven A. Benoit, Cara M. Benoit, and Cara Benoit to Grantee Cara M. Benoit. \$1.

3 Monticello Dr. 06/10: Grantors David Kiremitjian Tr, Harry Kiremitjian Revocable Trust, and Lillian Kazarian 2004 Revocable Trust to Grantees David Kiremitjian, David Kiremitjian Tr, Harry Kiremitjian Revocable Trust, Sona Murphy Trust, Lillian Kazarian 2004 Revocable Trust, Sona Murphy, and Separate Trust. \$1.

699 Pleasant St. and West St. 06/10:

Grantors Donald G. Wyman Jr and Kathleen M. Wyman to Grantees Alexander T. Dimare and Marie L. Dimare. \$175,000.

27 Village Rd. 06/11: Grantors Susan M. Madaio and Susan Madaio to Grantees Susan M. Madaio Tr and Susan M. Madaio Revocable Trust. \$1.

14 Dunanderry Way 06/12: Grantors David A. Mangus and Elizabeth A. Vietze to Grantees David Alan Mangus Tr, Elizabeth Ann Vietze Tr, and Mangus-Vietze Living Trust. \$1.

4 Intervale Rd. 05/19: Grantors Michael Tashjian and Darlene Tashjian to Grantees Carl J. Hyatt and Katelyn Marie Hyatt. \$455,000.

10 Newman Dr. 05/21: Grantors Christopher J. Cwalinski and Briana L. Cwalinski to Grantees Shaun Siequist and Shannon Siequist. \$477,000.

22 Village Way 05/26: Grantor Sure You Are LLC to Grantees Vincent Dinsmore and Kathryn Wesolowski. \$300,000.

24 Emerald Rd. 05/28: Grantor Emerald Land Holdings Inc to Grantees Christian Daniel Martinez and Nicole Leeann Martinez. \$699,900.

4 Summer Hill Rd. 05/28: Grantor Brett J. Beardmore to Grantees Brett J. Beardmore Tr and Brett J. Beardmore Family Trust. \$100.

8 Intervale Rd. Abbie Forbush, New Boston Rd. 05/28: Grantor Darlene Tashjian to Grantees Michael Tashjian and Darlene Tashjian. \$100.

45B Irish Ln. 05/28: Grantor Willett Construction Inc to Grantees Jennifer Michelle Harding and Aaron Donald Goupil. \$749,900.

4 Charnock Cir. 05/28: Grantors Mary-Joan Potvin and Frank Potvin to Grantees Brad Joseph Pelletier and Alicia Barr. \$650,000.

No number Crawford Rd. 05/28: Grantors Corey D. Wagner and Ruth Sunshine Wagner to Grantees Christopher E. Butler and Carolyn R. Butler. \$180,000.

47 Irish Ln. 05/28: Grantor Thomas M. Bulger to Grantees James A. Parisi Jr. and Jennifer J. Parisi. \$500,000.

85A Maple Ave. 05/29: Grantor Richard Zuscak to Grantee Arianna Setzco. \$437,700.

10 Soucy Dr. 06/01: Grantor John Restucia to Grantee Karen Hendrie. \$465,000.

1 Highland Park Rd. 06/01: Grantor

Modena Inc. to Grantees Jillian C. Quigley and Zachary T. Ramaska. \$339,900.

12 Central Tree Rd. 06/01: Grantor Heather Paulson to Grantee Adam John Gauthier. \$374,900.

2 Hickory Rd. 06/01: Grantors Stephen J. Stark and Elizabeth A. Stark to Grantees Stephen Stark Tr, Elizabeth Stark Tr, and Stephen & Elizabeth Stark Family 2026 Trust. \$100.

176 Maple Ave. 06/01: Grantor Noemi Flores to Grantees Brian Skeen and Sherry Skeen. \$160,000.

No number Peters Ave 06/01: Grantor Louise M. Erskine to Grantees Matthew F. Erskine and Carolyn W. Erskine. \$100.

63 Turkey Trail Rd. 06/02: Grantors John E. Finlay, II and Phyllis A. Finlay, Est to Grantee Maureen M. Finlay. \$280,000.

114 Main St. 06/05: Grantors James Wood and Martha Wood to Grantees James M. Wood Tr, Martha A. Wood Tr, and Wood Family Revocable Trust. \$100.

12 Lizzy Ln. 06/05: Grantor Joan G. Tedesco to Grantees Joan G. Tedesco Tr and Joan Tedesco Family Trust. \$100.

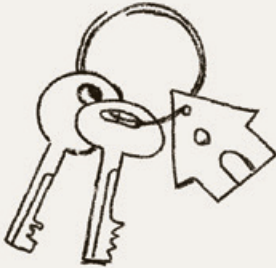
35 Brintnal Dr. 06/10: Grantor CB Blair Development Corp to Grantees Robert G. Tims and Victoria Tims. \$785,000.

98 Main St. 06/11: Grantors Brian R. Strand and Mary Ellen Strand to Grantees Brian R. Strand Tr, Mary Ellen Strand Tr, and Strand 2026 Revocable Trust. \$100.

29 Grizzly Dr. 06/11: Grantors Joel Bianchi and Leah Bianchi to Grantee Ethan Schlegel. \$711,000.

21 Village Way 06/11: Grantors James M. Soucy Tr, Patricia A. Soucy Tr, and Soucy Realty Trust to Grantee Barbara Sharma. \$324,900.

32 Glenwood Rd. 06/12: Grantor Diane Spindler to Grantees Colleen Spindler-Ranta, Sean Ranta, Kerri Spindler-Ranta, and Diane Spindler. \$100. ✱



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Town residents and friends celebrated **Paxton Days** on Saturday, June 13. Spearheaded by Donna Graf-Parsons, executive assistant for the Town of Paxton (pictured in the yellow tent), she received support from many town departments and staff. The day featured live music, delicious food from CharCUTerie Woo, face painting, balloon artistry, local artisans, and representatives from town departments, and town businesses. It was a beautiful summer day enjoyed by hundreds of people. Great job, Donna.

- 1. Donna Graf-Parsons. always with a smile.
- 2. James Thorpe and Cooper Pingitore enjoyed the day.
- 3. Friends of Richards Memorial Library lugged dozens of books to the field to raise funds.
- 4. Larry Spongberg, the newest recruit for PFD.



Two seniors received **Jason S. Bradshaw Memorial Scholarships** at the recent WRHS graduation. Each recipient was recognized for having persevered through health, learning, or other challenges. The \$1,000 scholarships will assist in their continuing education. This is the scholarship's 33rd year. **Lillian Guzman (5.)** is the daughter of Elizabeth and Angel Guzman-Rodriguez and will attend Gordon College, majoring in Health Science. **Gemma Paolilli (6.)** is the daughter of Jennifer MacInnes and Joseph Paolilli and will attend the University of Albany, majoring in Atmospheric Science.

7. State Representative Jim O'Day (left) and state **Senator Robyn Kennedy** (right) presented Holden resident **Meg Mulhern** (center), Thrive Support and Advocacy Vice President of Administration and Development, the Pillar of Service Award on May 28 at The Providers of Central Massachusetts's Annual Legislative Breakfast in Worcester. Mulhern was honored for her thoughtful, people-centered approach to human services leadership and human resources, ensuring that team members can succeed in their roles, grow, and make a meaningful impact on the lives of others. (Photo courtesy of Thrive Support & Advocacy)

We hope you enjoy Photo Finish, WFP's newest feature.
But we can't do it alone! If you have photos of a public event that you think the Wachusett community should know about, please email photos and a short description to Martha@localtownpages.com. Also include your name, address, and contact information (not for publication) should we have any questions. *





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