

100 years strong: Joe Rovezzi keeps doing what he has to do

By WALTER BIRD JR.

Stepping into the backyard of his home in Rutland, Joseph Rovezzi looked quite dapper in a short-sleeved, blue-toned Hawaiian shirt and charcoal grey shorts. He wore a pair of loafers and glasses. His handshake was firm, with a direct look into his guest's eyes.

It was a gorgeous, sunbaked Sunday afternoon and the yard was relatively empty. A steady stream of friends and family members, along with a few dignitaries, would soon fill the space for what had initially been planned as a surprise birthday party. By now, the secret was out, and he questioned all the pomp and circumstance.

To hear him tell it, his century of life (Joe, as he is known, was born in 1926 when Calvin Coolidge was president and you



could see a movie for 25 cents) has been fairly unremarkable.

In fact, an incredulous expression crossed his face when a guest marveled at how fit and spry he looked at 100 years old,

joking that it would be a miracle if they made it to that age.

"Why would you say that?"

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The Holden Unified Soccer team in Minnesota.

Holden Unified Soccer returns from Special Olympics USA Games with bronze medal — and memories to last a lifetime

By RILEY FRANKIAN

For the athletes of Holden Youth Soccer's Unified Team, the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games were about far more than bringing home a bronze medal.

After qualifying by winning

its division at the 2024 Special Olympics Massachusetts State Cup, Holden represented Massachusetts at the Special Olympics USA Games in Min-

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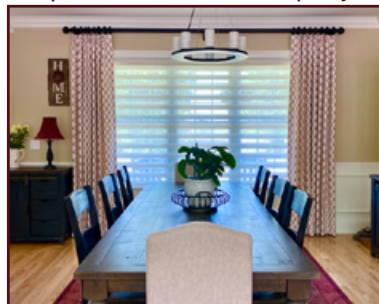
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Joe Rovezzi asked, appearing genuinely surprised at the suggestion. "I'm just like you."

The truth, however, is Joe Rovezzi is not just like you or me.

"He would tell you he has lived the most normal and average life," his grandson Michael A. Rovezzi said. "Obviously, that's not true."

Joe Rovezzi is the namesake behind the former Rovezzi's Restaurant (one he founded in Worcester, a second operated by his son, Christopher, for many years in Sturbridge) and a US Army veteran who spent 28 months in captivity in North Korea until after the Korean War Armistice Agreement was signed on July 27, 1953. Ironi-

cally enough, the agreement was signed just one day before his 27th birthday.

That he had served in the military at all is a story unto itself.

"I was drafted for World War II. I took the physical at a hospital in Springfield and I got rejected," he said. "I had a perforated eardrum."

Several years later, he was drafted once more, for what at the time was called the Korean Conflict.

"Same hospital in Springfield," Joe Rovezzi recalled. "They had a big stamp, and they banged it on the sheet of paper. 'Accepted.' I said, 'What happened to my eardrum?' The guy said, 'Must be better.' Next!"

He tells the story with a laugh, but what happened while he was serving overseas was no laughing matter. Although he doesn't remember exactly when, Joe and his squad were surrounded and captured by Chinese forces. He

spent the final 28 months of his tour in captivity.

He has told the story before, most recently during a local radio interview. His recounting of the ordeal was brief and matter of fact when asked how he survived two-plus year as a prisoner: "You do what you have to do." He added: "We had guys like me that survived it very well. And then we had guys that just couldn't handle it. In all my life ... I just did what I had to do."

All these years later, Joe Rovezzi said he doesn't "give it much thought."

There's a humility and quiet toughness to the man, however, that hints at some of the trials and tribulations. Maybe those qualities came from being part of a large Italian family, one of 10 siblings.

"We just had to do whatever we had to do everyday and moved along like you're supposed to," he said.

One thing is certain: food was a big part of his family's life, and as a young man, Joe Rovezzi got into the food business, selling raw chicken out of the F.W. Woolworth's five-and-dime store.

"All of a sudden," he said to his guest as others started trickling in, "I became popular."

At one point, he teamed up with two other men, brothers, to open the former Colony Restaurant. In 1979, the old Cypress Room on Main Street went up for sale, "so I took the opportunity buy it."

That became the first Rovezzi's Restaurant. The hospitality industry is something two of his six children (one son, Paul, passed in 2024) have continued.

Years later, his son, Chris, would operate Rovezzi's Ristorante in Sturbridge. That space ultimately closed and in 2021, Chris opened Villa Sofia (so named after his daughter) in Brimfield.

Another son, Joey, and his wife Erika, own and operate the popular Joey's Bar and Grill in Worcester.

Michael A. Rovezzi operates a winery and recalled making sausage and bread with his grandfather, who he said essentially served as his daycare when he was a young boy.

"He still makes bread three times a week," Michael A.

Rovezzi said of his grandfather. "He really was as big an influence on my life as anyone, other than my mother. He is just a remarkable guy."

As for celebrating his grandfather's 100th year on earth, even if Joe Rovezzi didn't see it as anything special, Michael A. Rovezzi said, "It's pretty amazing. I believe there's got to be a trick to it. He swears there isn't."

Well, maybe one or two.

Joe's son, Michael C. Rovezzi, let slip that his father does enjoy a glass of vodka in the afternoon. And, as Michael A. Rovezzi pointed out, a healthy dose of olive oil.

For his part, Joe Rovezzi, whose wife passed in 2002, insists his longevity isn't the result of some secret ingredient or magical elixir.

"I've been very fortunate that I've had good health, really," he said, with Michael C. Rovezzi adding that his father "never stops moving."

On this Sunday, at least, Joe Rovezzi, didn't have to move much. He relaxed in a chair under a pop-up canopy, receiving praise and citations from a number of officials, including state Sen. Peter Durant and representatives of local and state

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Local athletes compete at Special Olympics USA Games

By Martha Akstin

According to the Special Olympics of Massachusetts, 68 athletes competed in 11 sports, bringing home 10 gold medals, 8 silver medals, and 15 bronze medals. As Riley wrote in his article about the Holden Unified Soccer Team: “For the athletes, coaches and families, the week’s greatest reward cannot be measured by a podium finish. It lives in the confidence gained, friendships formed, and the reminder that meaningful inclusion creates opportunities for everyone to grow.”

Acknowledging that, here is a list of athletes and unified partners from the towns that WFP covers who practiced long and hard to participate in this year’s games in Minnesota. Congratulations to each of them!

- Stefanie Curtis, Rutland**
Swimming:
Gold medal, 100yd breaststroke
Silver medal, 4x50yd freestyle
5th place, 50yd freestyle
- Jordan Harris, Rutland**
4th place, 5 x 5 basketball
- Kathryn Peloquin, Holden**
Bronze medal, Unified 7-a-side soccer
- Mason Burke, Holden**
Bronze medal, Unified 7-a-side soccer
- Noah Goulet, Rutland**
Bronze medal, Unified 7-a-side soccer
- Owen Murphy, Holden**
Bronze medal, Unified 7-a-side soccer
- Lilliana Groccia, Holden**
Bronze medal, Unified 7-a-side soccer
- Remy St. Germain, Holden**
Bronze medal, Unified 7-a-side soccer
- William Berger, Holden**
Bronze medal, Unified 7-a-side soccer
- William Peterson, Holden**
Bronze medal, Unified 7-a-side soccer

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neapolis from June 20-26. Facing some of the nation’s top Unified soccer teams, the squad earned a bronze medal in Division 2 while creating memories that players, coaches and families say will last a lifetime.

Preparation for the national stage began months before the opening ceremony.

The team took part in a training weekend in Marlborough designed to help athletes adjust to the challenges of travel, staying in unfamiliar places and building relationships with fellow Special Olympics Massachusetts competitors. They also competed in a tournament in Connecticut and played a scrimmage against a Holden Unified alumni team on Holden’s new turf field to prepare for the intensity of national competition.

Team Massachusetts sent a 94-member delegation to Minnesota to compete in 11 sports, returning home with medals across several events, including gold in Unified flag football, golf, swimming, and powerlifting.

For Holden Unified Soccer, however, the week quickly became about much more than the competition itself.

The team stayed in dormitories at the University of Minnesota, giving many athletes their first taste of college life. Shortly after arriving, the players searched for a place to watch the U.S. Men’s National Team and stumbled upon what head coach Jon-Paul St. Germain described as a hidden “man cave” tucked beneath campus.

Known as “The Gopher Hole,” the recreation space featured televisions, pool tables and foosball, quickly becoming the team’s favorite gathering place between competitions.

The team’s beloved mascot, Jerry the Owl, also became

something of a celebrity during the Games, even appearing on television during the Unified flag football gold medal game. Jerry’s popularity inspired a special commemorative trading pin that quickly became one of the team’s favorite keepsakes.

Beyond the games and ceremonies, it was the relationships formed throughout the week that left the greatest impression.

St. Germain recalled watching player Will Peterson, who is largely nonverbal, confidently interacting with athletes from other sports while spending time in The Gopher Hole.

“He was thriving,” St. Germain said.

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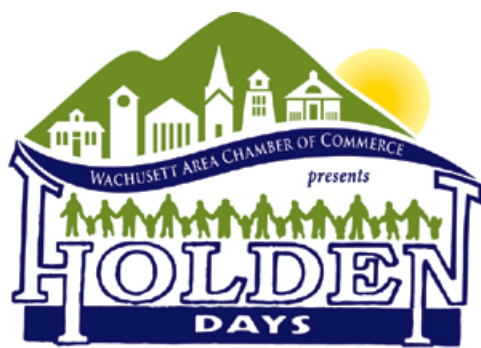


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For Remy St. Germain, watching Peterson embrace the experience became one of the week's defining moments.

"My most memorable moment was seeing Will Peterson, who has been in the HYS [Holden Youth Soccer] Unified program since its beginning in 2018, showcase what Holden and Massachusetts is all about," he said. "Seeing roughly eight years of work and development rewarded by the opportunity to compete in a national competition was special to witness ... and few deserved that more than Will."

The friendships formed in Minnesota reflected the spirit of Unified Sports, where inclusion extends far beyond the final score. That same sense of teamwork carried onto the field when competition began.

Holden opened tournament play with a hard-fought 1-0 loss to Nebraska before facing Northern California and Special Olympics District of Columbia to determine tournament placement.

After being placed in Division 2, Holden squared off against District of Columbia once again in a defensive battle that remained scoreless through regulation. Goalkeeper Mars Burke delivered several remarkable saves during a frantic stretch before the match was decided by penalty kicks.

Although the loss ended Holden's hopes of competing for gold, it also produced one of the tournament's most memorable displays of sportsmanship.

"As painful as it was, the two teams were arm in arm with each other celebrating each other together, which was really cool to see," St. Germain said. "There was a lot of mutual respect for each other that made us coaches and all the parents really proud."

The team responded in impressive fashion, defeating Nebraska 3-1 in the bronze medal match. Ben Walsh scored twice, while Liam Wise added another goal to secure Holden's place on the podium.

"I'm really proud of the way the team played," St. Germain said. "It was a really tough competition, and the team left it all out on the field."

While the bronze medal marked an extraordinary accomplishment, players say the greatest reward came from sharing the experience together.

"My most memorable moment from Minnesota was having our team win bronze after playing so many talented and amazing teams," athlete Chad Plouffe said. "We all worked so hard for that accomplishment."

The experience also reinforced the team's culture of support.

"Something I have learned about myself as a result of the USA Games is that I had support from my teammates and coaches and they were always there for me," Plouffe said.

Those same lessons resonated with the athletes' families.

"Seeing my son thrive and be celebrated for being completely himself — to see his hard work, determination, resilience, pride and joy fully recognized and on display was breathtaking," said Jen Walsh, whose son Ben competed on the team.

She believes the week in Minnesota proved what can happen when athletes are given opportunities to succeed.

"My son is braver, stronger, more resilient and more capable than he or anyone else gives him credit for — he just needs to be in the right environment, with the right people — where inclusion is not just talked about but ingrained and lived," Walsh said.

Looking back, St. Germain believes every athlete returned home with something more meaningful than a medal.

"All the athletes will walk away from the trip holding their heads a little higher and be more comfortable with self-advocating," he said.

Weeks after returning from Minnesota, the bronze medals remain a tangible reminder of what the team accomplished on the national stage. But for the athletes, coaches and families, the week's greatest reward cannot be measured by a podium finish. It lives in the confidence gained, friendships formed and the reminder that meaningful inclusion creates opportunities for everyone to grow.

As the team looks ahead to its fall season, St. Germain expressed his gratitude to Holden Parks & Recreation and Holden

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Building your child’s education fund, one brick at a time



Anne-Marie Kelley

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Every solid house starts with a good blueprint and a strong foundation. Saving for a child’s education is very similar.

College costs can seem daunting. In addition to tuition, you’ll need to account for housing and food, books and supplies, transportation and other expenses. The average annual budget at an in-state public university runs around \$30,990 today, and a

private school is \$65,470 according to the College Board. While most families won’t pay a college’s list price, you’ll still want to start saving as early as possible to be ready when your child is.

Lay the foundation early.

You don’t have to wait until you have the perfect set of plans to start building. There are specific accounts designed to save for education and some do not require a minimum opening deposit. Setting up automatic recurring contributions, even modest ones, lets you build steadily over time without requiring constant attention.

As your child ages, look for ways to redirect expenses you no longer have towards the build. For example, day-care costs, which can exceed \$1,000 a month, can be shifted into a college savings account once your child enters school. Tax refunds and annual bonuses make excellent additional contributions. And

others can pitch in – instead of birthday or holiday toys, ask grandparents or relatives to contribute directly to a college savings account.

Know the size of the house you’re building.

Families saving for community college followed by two years at a public university might target around \$65,000. Those aiming for four years at a public school are looking at roughly \$100,000. Whatever the goal, plan for education inflation of about 4% annually, which can roughly double costs over 18 years.

You don’t have to source all the building materials yourself. Scholarships, grants, student loans and income from part-time work are all legitimate ways to help finish the structure.

Don’t let one project consume the whole budget.

One risk for parents is pouring so much into the college fund that the retirement fund

goes neglected. Remember, loans and grants exist for college, but not for retirement. Striking the right balance may mean targeting a more affordable school, planning to cover only a portion of costs or adjusting retirement timelines slightly.

Choose the right building materials.

For many families, a 529 plan is the right foundation. Earnings grow tax-free, distributions are federally tax-free when used for qualified education expenses, and many states offer additional income tax deductions for contributions. Even better, anyone – such as grandparents or friends – can contribute.

Additionally, qualified expenses for a 529 plan go beyond tuition and cover books, computers, internet access, room and board, and more. Vocational and trade schools often qualify, too, opening the door to careers in skilled trades, health-care and technology.

No contractor builds alone. A knowledgeable financial advisor can help you draw up a realistic blueprint and make sure the college project doesn’t crowd out the rest of your financial future. The earlier you break ground on that conversation, the stronger the structure will be.

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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Grand Prize Winner enjoys a day at Southwick's Zoo



Grand Prize winner Chelsea T. recently redeemed her four-pack of tickets to Southwick's Zoo, enjoying a memorable day with her extended family. Pictured above, Chelsea is the second from the right.

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Rutland couple's first Pan-Mass Challenge inspires community fundraiser for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

For Rutland residents Karen Sharpe and John Bubello, riding 177 miles in the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) wasn't simply an athletic challenge – it was a way to honor the people they love.

Unfortunately, on day one at mile 53, Bubello was involved in a serious bike accident where he suffered a concussion and facial lacerations. While Sharpe was unhurt, both riders left the PMC by ambulance so Bubello could be assessed and treated at a hospital.

Despite the accident, Sharpe said that riding the PMC was one of the most moving experiences they have ever had. “We were part of a movement of so many driven to make life better for everyone,” said Sharpe. “There were people lining the streets shouting their support, ringing cowbells, holding signs, some even saying, ‘I’m alive because of you.’ It’s like nothing we’ve ever experienced.”

Sharpe said they rode in honor of loved ones who have faced cancer - including Matt, Marcia, and Mia - and in memory of family members and friends they have lost, while celebrating those whose lives have been changed by advances in cancer treatment.

Their commitment inspired the creation of Rock the Night, which will take place on Saturday, August 15, at the Rutland Sports-



John Bubello and Karen Sharpe at the start of the PMC at Holy Cross.

man's Club. Organized by local volunteers, the event will feature four live bands (The Vig, Tuna's Stones, DW & the Shakemakers, and Michael Luke Kelly), an opportunity drawing, and a community united against cancer. It was created to bring the Central Massachusetts community together in support of families affected by cancer while helping advance Dana-Farber's lifesaving mission.

While Bubello continues to recover from the accident, Sharpe said they are committed to Rock

the Night. “We are focusing on our community event as a positive, forward-looking activity,” said Sharpe.

Guests will enjoy food, an opportunity drawing featuring donations from local businesses, and an evening of music and community, with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the PMC.

“Cancer has touched both of our families, our friends, and so many people in this community,” said Sharpe. “While I have the privilege of work-

ing at Dana-Farber every day, this ride and this fundraiser are deeply

personal. We hope our neighbors will come out, enjoy a great night of music, and help us make a difference.”

Local businesses are invited to support the event by donating gift certificates, merchandise, services, experiences, themed baskets, or other items for the opportunity drawing. Businesses contributing to the event will be recognized during the evening.

Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Advance tickets are available by Venmo: @Karen-Sharpe-2 or at <https://ticketstripe.com/RocktheNight>. For sponsorship opportunities, drawing donations or more information, call Karen Sharpe at 978-407-7210 or John Bubello at 508-762-8957.

Since 1980, the Pan-Mass Challenge has raised more than \$1 billion for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Remarkably, 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar goes directly to Dana-Farber to support innovative cancer research and exceptional patient care. *

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veterans' groups, to name some. There was no speech from the guest of honor. He simply accepted the accolades, the hugs, the handshakes, and the flowers with a smile and little more in the way of expression.

Still, there had to be something truly special about living to 100. Joe Rovezzi was asked; something of which he is most proud?

“There's a lot of things I did,” he said. “First of all, to bring up six boys. I was always proud of my kids. They were always good kids and good to me.”

While the guest of honor may have preferred a big fuss not be made about this particular birthday, others were more than happy to do so on his behalf.

“He doesn't treat it as a big deal,” Chris Rovezzi said during a break from shoveling freshly made pizzas in and out of a small pizza oven in the backyard. “But we are all amazed at him.” *

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From left to right: Peter Conte (3rd gen.), Jay Conte (2nd gen.), Kris Henderson (2nd gen.) and Sarah Conte (3rd gen.)

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Sports

Running is her passion

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

When Naomi Witt entered Notre Dame Academy for middle school, her mother thought it was time for her to get involved in some sort of sport. The then-seventh grader decided to try field hockey but quickly found that this was not for her, so she moved onto her second option – cross country. “I immediately loved the team and fell in love with the sport as

I could see improvements,” she said. “By the time I got to eighth grade, I also joined the track team, but not seriously.” Witt noted that while she was in middle school the coaches were all volunteers and they came and went so there was no real stability. When she got to Wachusett for high school, she realized that she was getting the proper coaching, workouts and found herself building a foundation. “It was in high school that I

learned that I could run faster than I ever could,” Witt said. “We were building a strong base where improvement was coming on a regular basis and I liked that.” In addition to running cross country for the Mountaineers Witt also joined the track team during the winter and spring seasons. Having found herself to be a distance runner through her cross-country exposure, she decided to focus on running the 800 and mile for Wachusett. While running the mile during the outdoor season, the then-junior would break the school record – without telling her coach that she was planning to do so. “It’s a rather funny story,” she said. “At the district championship meet, I had discussed with my coach about running a 5:08 race, but in my mind I was really looking for a sub 5-minute run but didn’t let him know that.”

Witt felt that she was in great shape and had the ability to accomplish the feat. When the race started, she felt good and kept a good pace. When she completed her second lap, she realized that her time was on target to get that under 5-minute time, so she pushed herself even harder. Crossing the finish line, she had run a 4:59.09 mile, etching her name in the Wachusett record books. “My coach was shocked and when I told him that was my plan all along, he said that I should have told him,” she said. “I wanted to prove to myself that all I needed to do was mentally prepare myself and execute. Track allows you to be capable of posting those faster times if you set your mind to it and to this day, I am still improving.” As she gets ready to begin her final cross-country season with the Mountaineers, Witt has been named a captain, and she is looking to have her team prepared and ready to take on the season. She is hoping that the girls will all dedicate themselves so that Wachusett can once again achieve a top five finish at the Division 1 Championship Meet (Wachusett finished fifth last year). She also has her eye on another top 10 finish at the All-States, where they placed ninth last fall. Having already put up a personal best time of 18:23 running the 5k, the senior is hoping that she can bring her time below 18 minutes before the end of the



season. Much like her mile record-breaking pace, she believes that she can hit that goal. “There are times that I occasionally start out a little too fast and I am dying by the end of the race,” Witt said. “I just need to once again maintain my pace and focus on the task at hand and I’ll be ok.” Although Witt has been blessed with her speed and skills while running for the Mountaineers, she made it clear that she couldn’t have gotten to where she is without her teammates. “It is very important to let them know that I would not be where I am without my team,” she said. “It’s a very supportive environment and I couldn’t have done it without them.” With such focus and talent, this team will run as one and will attain all their objectives. *

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Sports

Graves is ready to get back on the field

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

After having a rather successful season with the Wachusett soccer team as a freshman, Danny Graves was looking to improve upon his first-year stats. Unfortunately, six games into his sophomore campaign, it all came crashing down when he broke his foot in practice. Not only was he sidelined for the remainder of the soccer season, but he also missed the entire basketball season with the Mountaineers.

“As a freshman making the varsity team, he actually played a decent amount of time,” said soccer coach Rick Porter. “He played every game for us and played in excess of fifty percent each game. We were looking for a big improvement for him the following year. As a freshman he was playing against older kids but was tall, strong and fast. However, he did play like a freshman at times.”

Graves was devastated to miss the opportunity to improve upon his freshman season.

“I was really hoping to put together a big season,” the now junior said. “I had played pretty good for my freshman year and wanted to keep things rolling in my second year. It was extremely tough, especially after I tried to get back with the boys two weeks in but realized that I couldn’t and just needed to take it off.”

From the bench last fall, Graves watched Wachusett go

8-4-6, earning themselves a spot in the Division 1 tournament, where they fell to Leominster in the preliminary round. Although he was thrilled for his teammates to make it into the post season, he was devastated when they lost, wishing he could have been on the field to help the team.

Following his five months of healing, Graves was sent to physical therapy where he spent the next three months rehabbing. As soon as he was cleared to return, he took part in the IMG Academy Showcase with his club team, NEFC U17. His club coach had him playing center back, where Graves was accustomed to winning a lot of balls in the air as well as on the ground.

Soccer came into Graves’ life when he was around three or four years old. He started kicking the ball around with his father, who had played the sport at St. Anslem’s College in New Hampshire. And although he was young, he noted that he liked the sport from the first time he began playing.

Wachusett Coach Porter found Graves to be a very versatile player. But playing in the midfield was his specialty and where he was best suited to help the team.

“Previously he showed that he could be a dominant threat in the midfield and the short time he was on the field last year, I think that he realized that he was just as good as the other players on the field,” said Porter.



Danny Graves dribbles past a defender.

Graves believes his game is creating chances for his teammates with his passing skills through the middle of the field. As this year approaches, he is not only looking to put together some bigger assists, but he also wants to add scoring to his resume, especially by using his head.

Since he finished his physical therapy, Graves feels that he is playing better than prior to getting hurt. Recently he has been playing with NEFC, an under-23 team while he himself is a mere 16 years old.

“It’s a much more physical game as a lot of the players are already playing in college,” he said. “By playing with them I am learning a lot while building a name for myself. By the time I take to the field with my high school team, I am hoping that by playing with NEFC U23 that I’ll be able to run circles around the opposition while scoring

some goals.”

Coach Porter noted that with Graves playing with the under-23 team, the junior should come into this year thinking that everyone will be smaller than him and that will give him a huge advantage.

“This year he should come in and be a defensive reckoning in

the midfield with a lot of confidence to score a lot of goals,” Porter said. “I hope he takes that confidence to step up as a leader and lead by example and develop those skills.”

As he gets ready to begin his junior season, Graves is looking to help his team make a deep run through the Division 1 Tournament while having the team earn a home playoff game. Personally, he wants to score at least 10 goals and have five assists in addition to being named to the All-Star team.

Having played with older and very skilled players has only peaked Graves’ interest in playing soccer for a college team - but that’s still a few years down the road. For now, he has to get back onto the field with his Wachusett teammates. He will discover how he will deal with the high school opposition after playing the past few months with the big boys. *

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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

All month

A Tall Glass of Art, Paintings of Water at the Gale Free Library. Will Holmes returns to the library with a new series of his large-scale water paintings on display on the second floor. Exhibit applications for the 2027 season open soon.

Art show at the Paxton Senior Center. Five members of the Massasoit Art Guild of Spencer display their creations through August from 10 am to 1 pm on weekdays. Enjoy the exhibit and cast your vote for the Best in Show. All are welcome.

Tuesday, August 11

2-7:30 pm: Celebrate Richards Memorial Library's 100th birthday during this 1920s-themed day. From 2-6 p.m., view and take photos of historical cars in the yard, thanks to the Worcester County Model A Club. From 6-7:30 pm, enjoy games popular in the 1920s including jacks, marbles, hopscotch, card games, yoyos, Mahjong, paper dolls, Bingo with prizes, and more. All ages are welcome.

3-4 pm: Pencil case decorating at the Gale Free Library. They will have canvas pencil cases for you to decorate with fabric paint. Supplies available while they last.

6:30-7:30 pm: Cooking with Yogurt. The Cooking Club at the Gale Free Library looks at the many ways you can put yogurt to work: Enrich soups and stews, bake cakes and cookies, and create delicious marinades. Join with one of your favorite yogurt dishes and bring the recipe. Registration required.

Wednesday, August 12

10:00 am: Veterans meeting at the Paxton Senior Center (open to the public) followed at 10:30 am: The Greatest Generation presentation by author John P. Mollica. Who were the young men and women whose heroism and devotion to duty led them to leave their schools, jobs, homes and families to rescue a world in flames? Hear compelling stories in this vivid presentation, followed by a Q&A.

Thursday, August 13

10:30 am-12 pm: The Persona Poem with the Craft of Writing Workshop, online via Zoom sponsored by the Gale Free Library. They will look at poems in which the first-person speaker is not the author, but some

other character, and discuss why and how one might apply this approach. RSVP required at the library.

12:30 pm: Steel Accent Band at the Paxton Senior Center. Enjoy the sounds of the islands – Calypso, Caribbean, and Reggae - featuring Phil Andrews and company with steel drum, guitar and vocals. Lunch option at 11:45 but must RSVP to the Center.

3:30-6:30 pm: Paxton Farmers Market at 17 West St. (behind the Council on Aging) hosted by the Paxton Garden Club. The July market was a huge success so don't miss this month's offerings of fresh produce from local farms, unique handmade gifts by talented artisans, delicious foods, the club's fresh-picked floral arrangements, and representatives from several town departments. All proceeds support the club's proposed Community Garden and Learning Greenhouse project.

Saturday, August 15

11 am-1 pm: Hike the north side of the Quabbin watershed via Gate 29 sponsored by the Quabbin Visitor Center. Join them for a 2.4-mile moderate hike on a dirt road and end at the reservoir's shoreline. The hike covers 1.2-miles with relatively little elevation change to the water, then backtrack. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed. Gate 29 is off Route 202/Elm Street area in New Salem, with roadside parking near the gate. To register, go here: mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events

6 p.m. Rock the Night a fundraiser to support the Pan-Mass Challenge at the Rutland Sportsman's Club, 75 Pleasantdale Rd. Live music by The Vig, Tuna's Stones, DW & the Shakemakers, and Michael Luke Kelly. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Advance tickets are available by Venmo: @Karen-Sharpe-2 or <https://ticketstripe.com/RocktheNight>

7 pm: Dance at Finn Park continues the 100th anniversary celebration of this Rutland icon. Finn Park Rd., Rutland with music by Dan Mackowiak. Admission \$8.

Tuesday, August 18

6:30 pm: Wildlife out your window lecture by wildlife ecologist and nature author Brad Timm, hosted by Paxton Garden Club at Paxton Senior

Center. Free and open to the public. What if fascinating wildlife was right outside your window? Join Timm for a presentation that will change how you see the natural world.

6:30-8pm: Finding Your Roots. Genealogy workshop with Seema Kenney at Richards Memorial Library. Ever wondered where your family came from—or how to begin finding out? This is the perfect introduction to learn what information to collect, where to look for it, and how to organize it using tools like pedigree charts and family group sheets. Explore online resources, local archives, and how family stories and old photos offer clues. Kenney is a professional genealogist with over 20 years of experience

Wednesday, August 19

11:30 am: Path for peace workshop facilitated by Marty French at the Rutland Senior Center will discuss worrying, stress and anxiety, what to do when life is overwhelming, and what you can do to find a happier, more peaceful life. RSVPs are helpful for planning, but walk-ins are welcome.

1 pm: Enjoy a cool pie a la mode at the Paxton Senior Center. Treat yourself with your choice of pies with delicious ice cream. Compliments of the Council on Aging. RSVP by calling the Center by August 14.

6-8 pm: Rutland Community Electricity public info meeting at the Blair Conference Room, Rutland Public Library. Rutland Community Electricity is the town's new municipal aggregation program designed to provide residents with new electricity supply options that feature competitive prices, longer-term price stability and more renewable energy (though savings cannot be guaranteed). This program was approved by the Rutland Town Meeting in 2025 and by the Department of Public Utilities in February 2026. The program will launch in October 2026 and will offer three electricity supply options for residents and businesses. The program will also support regional renewable energy by sourcing all additional, voluntary renewable energy from 'MA Class F' resources. Learn details at this public info session.

Thursday, August 20

11 am: Drumming Circle returns to the Paxton Senior Center. All fitness

BACK TO SCHOOL

Wachusett Regional School District

August 26: First Day of School Grades 1-12

August 27: First Day of School PreK & Kindergarten



levels can participate and enjoy the combination of directed movement and drumming to the rhythm of music featuring yoga balls placed on top of a basket and drumsticks. It's a fun workout. Sponsored by Benchmark Tatnuck Park. Sign up by Aug. 17.

1 pm: Felted seal workshop at the Holden Senior Center. All materials provided. \$20 payable in cash at sign up.

Friday, August 21

10-11 am: Pete the Cat, back to school scavenger hunt with Community Connections (wachusettcfce.com) at Richards Memorial Library. Outdoor (weather permitting) scavenger hunt, stories, and activities for young children and their caregivers.

Saturday, August 22

Deadline to register to vote for the September 1 State Primaries.

9 am-3 pm: Holden Days. Join this fun family event along Main Street that is in its 45th year. Park at WRHS or Dawson School and take one of the free shuttle buses that run on the hour and half-hour. Enjoy delicious food, live music, children's activities, farmers market, and talented artisans selling unique gifts. Learn about local businesses, nonprofits, and town departments. WFP will have a table and tent near Damon House so please stop by, say Hi, meet the staff, and tell us what you love (or don't like!) about the paper. We look forward to seeing you, rain or shine.

Sunday, August 23

2 pm: Coffee with the Finns at Finn Park, Finn Park Rd., Rutland with Finnish sweets and a presentation by Lisa Tarkiainen Steele, cookbook author, fifth generation chicken keeper, and master gardener. Donations appreciated.

See more details in this month's NEWSbitz.

Tuesday, August 25

11 am-1 pm: Tracy Lane River Walk as part of the Ware River Bridge Hike Series sponsored by the Quabbin Visitor Center. This easy 2-mile hike starts at an open meadow then follows the Ware River on the north side of Barre Falls Dam along a forested path to a scenic bridge. Backtrack to return. Wear appropriate footwear, bring water and have tick and insect protection. Park at Barre Falls Dam Overlook Parking Lot, 200 Coldbrook Road, Barre. To register, find the event here: www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events

Wednesday, August 26

Women's Equality Day marks the 106th anniversary of the 19th Amendment certification, which gave women the right to vote in 1920: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." According to the International Women's Day website, although the Amendment eased obstacles that some women faced at the ballot box, women of color still faced legal barriers and unequal access for years. "For Black women, our right to vote was only secured with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965," said Valethia Watkins, an associate professor of Africana studies at Howard University. More information: internationalwomensday.com

12 pm: Summer Tastings at the Paxton Senior Center is a special full-course summer luncheon catered by a local

CALENDAR

continued on page 11

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, HoldenWomensClubMA@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 Area Chamber of Commerce, 1174 Main St., Holden, 508-829-9220, info@wachusettareachamber.org

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

CALENDAR

continued from page 10

food business. \$5 at the event. RSVP by Aug. 21 by calling the Center.

12 pm: Annual cookout at the Holden Senior Center. \$5 per person must be paid when you sign up. Limited seating. Join them for their end of the summer bash.

6-7:30 pm: Monthly Art Club at Gale Free Library. This program is intended for all adult patrons from beginner to pro. However, they embrace multigenerational experiences: children are welcome to join with a registered adult. Bring your own supplies or use theirs.

6-7:30 pm: Pizza and game night at the Rutland Public Library. All kids ages 8 and up are welcome for fun food, games, and laughs.

Sunday, August 30

3 pm: The first of the fall Historical Piano Concerts: Duo Fuerza featuring James D’León and Alwen Yeung, piano by Ignaz Bösendorfer, Vienna (1832). Four-hands Masterpieces by Schubert, Schumann, and Mendelssohn. \$20 per adult; children and students free. Cash or personal checks only. Concerts are held at the New Dawn Arts Center/Ashburnham Community Church, 84 Main St., Ashburnham. Treat yourself this season to hear music played on one of the Frederick’s historic pianos.

Monday, August 31

10 am: Mindful meditation with Marie at the Holden Senior Center. \$5 per person. Meditation can help reduce stress, improve sleep quality, and help regulate emotions.

Tuesday, September 1

7 am-8 pm: Massachusetts State Primary. On the ballot are numerous seats including U.S. senator and representative, governor, lieutenant governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth, state representative and senator, district attorney, and register of probate. For a full list, go here: sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections

If you’re registered as a Republican or Democrat, you may only vote on your party’s primary ballot. If you’re registered as Unenrolled, you may choose either ballot. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3.

Wednesday, September 2

9:30 am: Council on Aging board meeting at the Paxton Senior Center followed by the Schoolhouse Café (opens at 10) where you can enjoy good coffee, tasty treats, and conversations with old and new friends.

Thursday, September 3

10-11:30 am: Late summer meadow visit sponsored by the Quabbin Visitor Center. Hikers will meet at the parking area at the Middle Entrance of Quabbin Park (Gate 54 off Route 9) for this easy 1-mile

hike. While the walk along the Spillway Road to a small meadow across from the Boat Cove is easy, the road along the spillway is heavily trafficked. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear, bring water, and come prepared for insects. Dogs are not allowed anywhere at Quabbin. To register, find the event here: mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events

Sunday, September 6

11 am-1 pm: Quabbin’s hidden history sponsored by Quabbin Visitor Center. Quabbin’s ghost towns are hiding in plain sight – if you know where to look. This two-hour guided, interpretive 2.5-mile roundtrip walk will teach you how to read the natural landscape to uncover clues about the history of Webster Rd. Explore cellar holes and historic stone walls, get to know native and invasive plants, and learn more about the families who lived in Enfield 100 years ago. Bring water, wear appropriate clothing for the weather, appropriate footwear and protect yourself against ticks. All ages welcome. Dogs are not allowed in Quabbin Park. Meet at Hank’s Meadow parking lot, which is off Administration Rd., accessible via the Middle or East Gates off Route 9 in Belchertown. To register, find the event here: mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events

3 pm: The second of the fall Historical Piano Concerts featuring Margarita Nuler, piano by Érard & Cie., Paris

(1836). Mendelssohn, Schumann, Chopin. \$20 per adult, children and students free. Cash or personal checks only. Concerts are held at the New Dawn Arts Center/Ashburnham Community Church, 84 Main St., Ashburnham. Treat yourself this season to hear music played on one of the Frederick’s historic pianos.

Monday, September 7

Labor Day Celebrated

Tuesday, September 8

1 pm: Porch Pot DIY workshop with Bemis Nurseries at the Rutland Senior Center. Sign up at the Center with \$25 fee (\$20 for Friends) to reserve your space.

Circumstantial Light - paintings by Doug Caves at the East Wing Gallery, Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner, through Oct. 15. Reception Thursday, Oct. 15, 5-7 p.m. MWCC presents this solo exhibit of paintings by

Doug Caves, including Cliff House, which received second prize at the 90th Regional Arts & Crafts Exhibition at the Fitchburg Art Museum. The exhibit reflects Caves’ exploration of natural light and its ability to transform architectural and rural subjects. An MWCC alumnus and Paxton resident, Caves dedicates the exhibition to the late Gene Cauthen, professor of art, whose mentorship shaped generations of students.

Thursday, September 10

3:30-6:30 pm: Paxton Farmers Market behind the Senior Center hosted by the Paxton Garden Club. Don’t miss fresh produce from local farms, unique handmade gifts from talented artisans, delicious foods, the club’s fresh-picked floral arrangements and representatives from various town departments. All proceeds support the club’s proposed Community Garden and Learning Greenhouse project.

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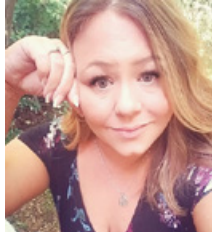
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NEWSbitz

By MARTHA AKSTIN

Holden

• **Holden Days** will be held **Saturday, August 22 from 9 am – 3 pm**. Join this fun family event along **Main Street**. Park at WRHS or Dawson School and take one of the free shuttle buses that run on the hour and half-hour. Enjoy delicious food, live music, children’s



Check it Twice will be performing at Holden Days

activities, a farmers’ market, and talented artisans selling unique gifts. Learn about local businesses, nonprofits, town departments – Come one, come all! *WFP* will have a table and tent near Damon House so please stop by, say Hi, meet the staff, grab some swag, and tell us what you love (or don’t like!) about the paper. We look forward to seeing you, rain or shine.

• As posted on the Friends of the **Holden Senior Center’s** Facebook page: “The Holden



View of the parking lot from the Holden Senior Center.

Senior Center remains closed until Monday, August 17. During this time, the building will be accessible to staff only. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we make these improvements, and we look forward to welcoming you back soon!” According to the Senior Center’s Director **Karen Phillips**, the improvements involve expanding the Center’s parking lot. Despite the recent heavy rains, Phillips says they are “being hopeful that we will re-open on Monday, the 17th.”

Paxton

• The **Paxton Fire Department** is coordinating free reflective street number signs that can be displayed in the front of your home. The signs can be in a vertical or horizontal orientation. If you would like to order one, stop by the **Senior Center** and speak with

Director **Cindy Love**, who has application forms. She will then send the forms to the Fire Department. Senior Center hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am-2 pm.

• **Spotted lanternfly** lands in Paxton. Unfortunately.

For those readers unfamiliar with this voracious, creepy insect, the SLF (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an aggressive, invasive, sap-feeding insect that first found its way to Pennsylvania in 2014, now covers most of that state’s counties,

as grape arbors, vineyards, orchards, and maple trees. And no exaggeration, if the nymphs and adults infest your yard, it is something right out of a Hitchcock horror movie.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) maintains an online map of the infestation, which can be viewed on its Invasive Pest Dashboard. Like a scourge slowly covering the state, the highlighted cities and towns show the insect’s inexorable, advancing onslaught.

Go here to learn more about Pennsylvania’s experience: extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly or go here to report a sighting: massnrc.org/pests/slfreport.aspx or here to learn about MDAR’s steps to take if you find an adult, nymph, or egg masses: www.mass.gov/spotted-lanternfly

Rutland

• The celebration of **Finn Park’s 100th anniversary**

fee and delicacies. According to the Finish Heritage Society Sovittaja, Finns are the world’s heaviest coffee drinkers, averaging 3-4 cups daily, with consumption so vital that the law mandates two daily coffee breaks for workers. On the 23rd, the coffee will be imported from Finland and there will be Finnish foods to enjoy including homemade pulla or nisu, coffee bread; rye bread; cheese and butter; cookies; and Karelian piirakkas. The featured speaker is **Lisa Tarkiainen Steele** who will speak about traditional Finnish egg coffee. Lisa is a fifth-generation chicken keeper, Maine master gardener, and “coop to kitchen” cook. She has been featured on *The View*, *Martha Knows Best* on HGTV, and her own show, *Welcome to My Farm* on PBS/Create TV. After her presentation, she will be available for a Q&A. Lisa grew up in Central Mass. and now lives in Maine. There is no charge, but donations are appreciated.

• A public information meeting about **Rutland’s Community Electricity Program** will be held from 6-8 pm on Wednesday, **August 19** in the Blair Conference Room, **Rutland Public Library**. Rutland Community Electricity is the town’s new municipal aggregation program. It is designed to provide residents with new electricity supply options that feature competitive prices, longer-term price stability and more renewable energy (though savings cannot be guaranteed). This program was approved by the Rutland Town Meeting in 2025 and by the **Department of Public Utilities** in February 2026. The program will launch October 2026 and will offer three electricity supply options for residents and businesses. The program will also support regional renewable energy growth by sourcing all additional, voluntary renewable energy from ‘MA Class I’ resources. These consist primarily of wind and solar projects located within New England. Learn details at this public information session.



Adult lanternflies on a tree trunk. Photo courtesy of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

and can now be found in more than 50 Massachusetts municipalities.

While they are not harmful to humans or pets, this insect can devastate agriculture such

continues August 15 at 7 p.m. with a dance at the park’s historic community building with music by **Dan Mackowiak**. Tickets are \$8. This is followed on August 23 at 2 pm with an afternoon of cof-

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Real Estate Transfers

June 15, 2026 - July 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 August issue publishes transfers from June 15 to July 14. This information is gathered from the Worcester Registry of Deeds' website.

HOLDEN

- 32 Mount View Dr., 14 Mount View Dr. 06/15:** Grantor UNIC Holdings LLC to Grantee Mary Akotey \$550,000.
- 1818 Main St. 06/16:** Grantor Carol Corbett to Grantees Carol A. Corbett Tr and Carol A. Corbett Trust. \$100.
- 202 Torrey Ln. Ext. 06/17:** Grantor Daniel M. DeVaney to Grantees Michael F. Richardson and Denise Richardson. \$430,000.
- 449 Quinapoxet St. 06/17:** Grantors Anthony M. Maxner, Anthony Melvyn Maxner, Anthony Maxner, and Mary-Jo Maxner to Grantees Anthony Melvyn Maxner Tr, Mary-Jo Maxner Tr, and Anthony & Mary-Jo Maxner Family Trust. \$1.
- 300 River St. 06/18:** Grantors Malcolm A. Hill II and Dolores J. Hill to Grantees Malcolm A. Hill II Tr, Dolores J. Hill Tr, and Malcolm A. Hill II & Dolores J. Hill Family Trust. \$1.
- 23 Tea Party Cir. 06/18:** Grantors Mark J. Smith and Joanne E. Smith to Grantees Mark J. Smith Tr, Joanne E. Smith Tr, and Smith Living Trust. \$100.
- 18 Edgewood Dr. 06/18:** Grantors Samer Alkhameesi and Itidal Alrahhal to Grantee Samuel Ntabundi. \$425,000.
- 376 Elmwood Ave. 06/18:** Grantor Wingspan Properties LLC to Grantees Douglas Misael Palacios Hernandez and Ruth Ninoska Lainez Urrutia. \$903,900.
- 1818 Main St. 06/22:** Grantor Robert Dyer to Grantee Catherine McCarthy. \$355,000.
- 59 Wyoming Dr. 06/23:** Grantor Gary W. Hall to Grantees Richard G. Hall and Kevin H. Hall. \$100.
- 24 Centerwood Dr. 06/24:** Grantors Andrew Fish and Mallory Fish to Grantees Cameron M. Germond and Kasey A. Maxner. \$503,250.
- 340 Reservoir St. 06/24:** Grantor White Oak Land Conservation Society Inc. to Grantees Brian Krikorian and Taylor Martel. \$385,000.
- 29 Towle Dr. 06/24:** Grantors Esther Ntim Manu and Esther Manu to Grantees Aysa Asia and Francis Minoza. \$360,000.
- 96 Wyndhurst Dr. 06/25:** Grantors Theodore VanLiew, Lisa A. VanLiew and Lisa R. VanLiew to Grantees Theodore A. VanLiew Tr, Lisa A. VanLiew Tr, and VanLiew Family Trust. \$100.
- 55 Fort Sumter Dr. 06/25:** Grantor Eileen B. Wood to Grantee Phoenix Properties LLC. \$425,000.
- 26 Eagle Ter. 06/25:** Grantors Donna M.

- Conlon Tr, Peter J. Conlon Sr Tr, and Conlon Family Trust to Grantees Morgan Murray and Christian A. Polymeros. \$708,000.
- 78 Powers Rd. 06/25:** Grantors Mark A. Fiorentino and Lynn A. Fiorentino to Grantee Lynn A. Fiorentino. \$1.
- 78 Powers Rd. 06/25:** Grantors Lynn A. Fiorentino to Lynn A. Fiorentino Tr and Lynn A. Fiorentino 2026 Trust. \$1.
- 250 Shrewsbury St. 06/25:** Grantors Marcello G. Cardona Sr., Tatiana P. Cardona, and Tatiana Cardona to Grantee Danielle Standing. \$630,000.
- 17 Slipper Hill Ln. 06/25:** Grantors Sanders James Genna, Sanders J. Genna, Doreen Ann Genna, and Doreen A. Genna to Grantees Sanders James Genna Tr, Doreen Ann Genna Tr, and Sanders & Doreen Genna Family Trust. \$1.
- 216 Reservoir St. 06/25:** Grantor Mary Ellen Phetteplace to Grantees Mary Ellen Phetteplace Tr and Phetteplace Trust. \$100.
- 68 Princeton St. 06/25:** Grantors Jon Norton and Denise Norton to Grantees Christian Andrew Rohman and Marcy Michelle Rohman. \$710,000.
- 189 General Hobbs Rd. 06/26:** Grantors Brendon P. McNulty, Elizabeth F. McNulty, and Elizabeth A. Floryan to Grantees Caleb Collins Mullen and Abinishaa Siv-araj. \$641,000.
- 52 Vicksburg Cir. 06/26:** Grantors Robert C. Holmes Tr, David N. Holmes Tr, and Grace L. Homes 2000 Trust to Grantee Cassidy E. Rydberg. \$599,000.
- 122 Winter Hill Rd. 06/26:** Grantors Patrick C. Sarkisian Tr and Patrick C. Sarkisian 2024 Irrevocable Trust to Grantees Patrick C. Sarkisian Tr and Sarkisian Realty Trust-2026. \$100.
- 157 Holden Rd. 06/26:** Grantors Dennis R. Dunn and Mary E. Dunn to Grantees Dennis R. Dunn Tr, Mary E. Dunn Tr, and Dunn Holden Realty Trust. \$10.
- 32 Steele St. 06/26:** Grantor Bran S. Nathan to Grantee Sabrina T. Amaral Nunes. \$675,000.

- 216 Reservoir St. 06/29:** Grantor Dhimitraq Doko to Grantees Dhimitraq Doko 2026 Living Revocable Trust and Dhimitraq Doko. \$100.
- 7 Kenwood Ave. 06/29:** Grantors Kenneth Brian Dale and Christina M. Arcure to Grantee Christina M. Arcure. \$251,947.
- 31 Mount Pleasant Ave. 06/29:** Grantors Thomas J. Dufault and Elizabeth Brennan to Grantees Elizabeth Brennan Tr, Thomas J. Dufault Tr, and Brennan Desrochers Family Trust. \$100.
- 319 Malden St. 06/29:** Grantors Laila Mhirig and Abdessamad Bayi to Grantees Sheena Salvador and Francis Giorgio Salvador. \$570,000.
- 26 Hultin Cir. 06/30:** Grantors Andrew Trapp and Natalya Trapp to Grantees Amber Goguen and Douglas Kirkpatrick. \$725,000.
- 59 Bancroft Rd. 06/30:** Grantors Lance G. Lazar, Marieke Peleman Lazar, Maria J. J. Peleman, Lance Lazar and Marieke Peleman-Lazar to Grantees Christopher Brady McCarthy and Anne Heartfield Szender. \$845,000.
- 74 Deanna Dr. 06/30:** Grantors Benjamin J. Pickrell and Megan Pickrell to Grantees Justin Rothermich and Emily Rothermich. \$750,000.
- 34 Fort Sumter Dr. 06/30:** Grantors Elizabeth R. Cranford Tr and Barbara A. Rocha Revocable Trust to Grantees Matthew Hadley and Melissa Hadley. \$565,000.
- 99 Flagler Dr. 06/30:** Grantors Matthew C. Cummings and Jennifer M. Cummings to Grantees Benjamin Pickrell and Megan Pickrell. \$800,000.
- 1106 Wachusett St. 07/01:** Grantor Todd Stowell to Grantee Rosemarie A. Stowell. \$100.
- 1106 Wachusett St. 07/01:** Grantors Rosemarie A. Stowell and Todd Stowell to Grantee Todd Stowell. \$100.
- 2B Tea Party Cir. 07/01:** Grantors Lawrence Greenleaf and Lawrence H. Greenleaf to Grantees Lawrence H. Greenleaf Trust, Lawrence H. Greenleaf Tr, Michael P. Greenleaf Tr, and Donna M. Greenleaf Tr. \$100.

- 2 Osgood Ave. 07/01:** Grantors Steven P. LeBeau and Patricia A. LeBeau to Grantees Kim M. LeBeau Tr and 2 Osgood Avenue Realty Trust. \$100.
- 27 Towle Dr. 07/02:** Grantors Kwame Nkumah and Sylvia Asante to Grantee Shivashankar Kalinga. \$320,000.
- 284 Highland St. 07/06:** Grantor Jenna R. Wilmot to Grantee Donald M. Wilmot. \$1.
- 1 Heather Cir. 07/06:** Grantors Amy Jodice and Amy Bouve Jodice to Grantee Amy Bouve Jodice Revocable Trust. \$100.
- 43 Appletree Ln. 07/07:** Grantors Sandra Michelle Jackson and Sandra M. Jackson to Grantees Sandra Michelle Jackson Revocable Trust and Sandra Michelle Jackson Tr. \$100.
- 848 Wachusett St. 07/07:** Grantors Anderson Irrevocable Income Only Trust and Karl Anderson Tr to Grantee Jeremy Ross. \$510,000.
- 111 Arizona Ave. 07/08:** Grantors Kaitlyn O'Reilly, Kaitlyn Marie O'Reilly and K. O'Reilly to Grantees Kaitlyn Marie O'Reilly Tr and Kaitlyn O'Reilly Living Trust. \$1.
- 11 Allen Rd. 07/08:** Grantor Deborah M. Coury to Grantee Deborah M. Coury Tr and Deborah M. Coury Revocable Trust. \$100.
- 56 Deanna Dr. 07/08:** Grantors Andrew Tejeda and Priscilla G. Galera to Grantees Priscilla G. Galera Tr, Andrew Tejeda Tr, and M2B Trust. \$1.
- 6 Towle Dr. 07/08:** Grantor BD Homes LLC

- to Grantee Jody L. Barrett. \$351,500.
- 139 Bailey Rd. 07/10:** Grantors Jean K. Mattson, Jean Kelly Mattson, Kelly Sarah Brooks Est, and Kelly Sarah B. Est to Grantees Emily St. Thomas and Matthew Lorrain. \$435,000.
- 192 Reservoir St. 07/10:** Grantor Michael Denault to Grantees Kyle Newell and Felicia Shelton. \$405,000.
- 114 Mason Rd. 07/10:** Grantors Janet R. Swenson Est and Paul Carlberg to Grantee Jose Ricardo Baez. \$495,380.
- 167 Fox Hill Rd 07/13:** Grantors Peter J. Wallace and Donna A. Wallace to Peter J. Wallace Tr, Donna A. Wallace Tr, and Wallace 2024 Family Living Trust. \$100.
- 62 Deanna Dr. 07/13:** Grantors Paul Mourad and Pierre Mourad to Grantees Paul Mourad and Melenna Mourad. \$100.
- 11-15 Mayo Dr. Unit 24 07/14:** Grantor Robert G. Oriol to Grantee RG Oriol 2026 LLC. \$100.
- 11-15 Mayo Dr. Unit 15 07/14:** Grantor Robert G. Oriol to Grantee RG Oriol 2026 LLC. \$100.
- 969 Main St. 07/14:** Grantor Robert G. Oriol to Grantee RG Oriol 2026 LLC. \$100.
- 18 Frederickson Ave. 07/14:** Grantors Nina T. Dow and Virginia T. Keith Est to Grantees Nina T Dow Tr and Virginia T. Keith 2023 Revocable Trust. \$10.

PAXTON

- 8 Burtenmar Cir. 06/18:** Grantors George

REAL ESTATE

continued on page 14

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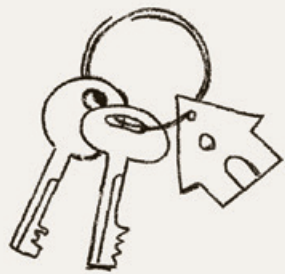
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REAL ESTATE

continued from page 13

- F. Adams and Candice M. Adams to Grantees Alexander Johns and Darlene Johns. \$550,000.
- 628 Pleasant St. 06/18:** Grantor James R. Stone Jr. to Grantees James R. Stone Jr. Tr and James R. Stone Jr. Revocable Trust. \$100.
- 9 Forestdale Rd. 06/18:** Grantor Marni L. White to Grantee Trisha L. Milton. \$460,000.
- 11 Baxter Dr. 06/22:** Grantors Theo Blaise Rukundo and Danielle Rukundo to Grantees Baxter Paxton Trust and Coons Carter Tr. \$1.
- 3 Sherbrooke Dr. 06/22:** Grantors Stephen A. Krosoczka Tr, Melissa M. Krosoczka Tr and Krosoczka Nominee Trust to Grantees Rhythm Kesavan and Patrick Douglas. \$710,000.
- 20 Knollwood Rd. 06/22:** Grantors Jane E. McTigue, Melina C. McTigue Garland Tr and McTigue Realty Trust to Grantees Kevin Nisbet and Jennifer Nisbet. \$530,000.
- 89 Laurel St. 06/25:** Grantors Christopher G. DeVico, Christopher G. DeVico and Christopher B. DeVico to Grantees Christopher G. DeVico Tr, Rita M. DeVico Tr, and DeVico Family Trust. \$1.
- 28 Village Rd. 06/29:** Grantor Lynn M. Higgins to Grantees Drew C. Higgins Tr, Matthew J. Higgins Tr, and Lynn M. Higgins Irrevocable Trust. \$1.
- 58 Streeter Rd. 06/29:** Grantor Erin Guzman to Grantees Ronald Rodriguez and Ana Rodriguez. \$590,000.
- 12 Eagle Ln. 07/02:** Grantors Eric P. Racine, Tracy A. Racine, Eric Racine, and Tracy Racine to Grantee Tracy Racine. \$100.
- 131 Pleasant St. 07/02:** Grantors Thao Ngo and Hieu Nguyen to Grantees James Dure and Christina Whelan. \$465,000.
- 52 Davis Hill Rd. 07/07:** Grantors Mark C. Baker and Mary A. Baker to Grantees Mark C. Baker & Mary A. Baker Revocable Trust, Mark C. Baker Tr, and Mary A. Baker Tr. \$100.
- 9 Cutler Rd. 07/09:** Grantors Stuart E. Glass and Kathleen M. Glass to Grantee Kathleen M. Glass. \$100.
- 9 Cutler Rd. 07/09:** Grantors Kathleen M. Glass and Stuart E. Glass to Grantees Kathleen M. Glass Tr and Kathleen M. Glass Revocable Trust. \$100.
- 727 Pleasant St. 07/14:** Grantor Gustavo Mejia-Ramirez to Grantees Holly Chaput Channell, Kade Channell, and Shawn Chaput. \$330,000.
- ald Westgate and Susan C. Westgate.** \$558,348.
- No number Irish Ln. 06/17:** Grantor J&K Ventures LLC to Grantee MFB Realty Consulting LLC. \$170,000.
- 51 Woodside Ave. 06/18:** Grantors Stephen James Maintanis, Stephen J. Maintanis, and Nicole M. Maintanis to Grantees Michael Casey Jr. and Danielle Casey. \$680,000.
- 122 Pleasantdale Rd. 06/18:** Grantors James Michael Dolan Tr, David William Dolan Tr and Dolan Irrevocable Trust to Grantee Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust Inc. \$1,750,000.
- 15 Skyline Dr. 06/18:** Grantors Jeffrey M. Lange and Lynn Marie Lange to Grantees Steven Michael Labrie Tr, Kristen Nicole Labrie Tr, and Labrie Family Trust. \$579,900.
- 18 Prouty Ln. 06/18:** Grantors David S. Poole and Ellen R. Poole to Grantees Jose M. Herrera Ruiz and Ashley Marie Herrera. \$628,000.
- 93 Glenwood Pl. Ext. 06/22:** Grantors Ashleigh Nicole Stitt and David Joseph Stitt to Grantees Meghan L. Casson and Steven M. Casson. \$699,900.
- 2 Kosta Ave., 2 Kosta Ln. 06/23:** Grantors Sara Spooner and Sheila Wallace to Grantee Phoenix Properties LLC. \$135,000.
- 14 Nancy Dr. 06/24:** Grantor Christine T. Boutwell to Grantees Christine T. Boutwell Tr and Boutwell Family Trust. \$100.
- 97 Glenwood Ext. 06/24:** Grantors Todd C. Snopkowski Tr and Todd C. Snopkowski Revocable Trust to Grantees Kevin Timothy Dobbs and Melissa Charlotte McLean. \$749,900.
- 99 Glenwood Pl. Ext. 06/24:** Grantors Jörn Velaers and Janice Velaers to Grantee Todd C. Snopkowski. \$850,000.
- 37 Maple Spring Dr. and No Number Beech Tree Dr. 06/25:** Grantors Mark E. Strait, Carol E.R. Strait, Carol E. Strait and C. Strait to Grantees Strait Family Trust, Mark E. Strait Tr, and Carol E.R. Strait Tr. \$100.
- 18 Welch Ave. 06/25:** Grantor Emerald Land Holdings Inc. to Grantees Timothy J. Sherblom and Lynn A. Sherblom. \$499,900.
- 39 Vista Cir. 06/25:** Grantors Jeffrey M. Sullivan and Sandra M. Sullivan to Grantees J&S Sullivan 2026 Family Living Trust, Jeffrey M. Sullivan Tr, and Sandra M. Sullivan Tr. \$100.
- 16 Brooke Haven Dr. 06/26:** Grantors Thomas Welch and Jennifer Grace Welch to Grantees Ryan Sandstrom and Emily Sandstrom. \$649,900.
- 42 Maple Ave. 06/26:** Grantors Seth N. Gilchrest and Olivia E. Snow to Grantees Matthew Welch and Emily Welch. \$450,000.
- 11 Nancy Dr. 06/29:** Grantors Gerald H. Quist, Gerald Quist and Rita J. Quist to Grantees Stacey L. Skerry, Erica L. Skerry, and Kendra A. Slack. \$100.
- 91 Central St. 06/29:** Grantor Town of Rutland to Grantees Joseph Somerset and Wendy Somerset. \$170,000.
- 14 Bigelow Rd. 07/02:** Grantors Lesley E. Gorski and Lesley Gorski to Grantees Lesley E. Gorski Tr and Gorski Family Revocable Trust. \$1.

- 30 Michael Dr. 07/02:** Grantors Stacy M. Brown and Stacy Molinari to Grantees Randy J. Zaterka and Briana L. Zaterka. \$665,000.
- 311 Pleasantdale Rd. 07/02:** Grantor CB Blair Development Corp to Grantee Sylvia Asante and Kwame Nkrumah. \$669,900.
- 35 Demond Pond Row and Irish Ln. 07/06:** Grantors Jean M. Bulger and Thomas M. Bulger to Grantees Thomas M. Bulger and Britt M. Lobov. \$100.
- No numbers Milo Way and Wachusett Rd. 07/07:** Grantors William E. Zottoli Tr, Carla Zottoli Tr, Carla A. DeFosse Tr, and Margaret H. Zottoli Marital Trust C, and Margaret H. Zottoli Trust to Grantee Tyler Favreau. \$7,500.
- 3 Philips Ave. 07/07:** Grantor Christopher J. Duesberg to Grantees Christopher Josepher Duesberg and Kathy Marie Duesberg. \$100.
- 328 East County Rd. 07/09:** Grantors Bradford M. Keizer and Kathleen M. Keizer to Grantee Jeremy Gillis. \$585,000.
- 8 Lynnwood Dr. 07/13:** Grantors Chase C. Smith and Suzanne M. Smith to Grantees Stephanie Fenner and Alastair Yonkauskis. \$662,000.
- 14 Cheryl Ann Dr. 07/14:** Grantor Dawn M. Martin to Grantee Dawn M. Martin Tr and Dawn M. Martin Revocable Trust-2026. \$100.
- 22 Fidelity Dr. 07/14:** Grantor Harmony Place LLC to Grantee Philip J. Bartkus and Paula M. Bartkus. \$504,170. *

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PHOTO FINISH



1. Anna Maria’s statement to its neighbors.
Photo by M. Waize.



2. Left to right: Andrea Thackeray, Joyce Powers, Julia Pingitore, Julia Dubuque, Jeff Wentzell, John Pender-Cudlip, Tracy Sasseville, Tom Galvani, Robin Tasca, Karen Gearin, Patti McKone, Erik Skinner, Sean O’Connell, Marina Taylor, and Ann McDougale.
Photo submitted.



3. Randy Jordan was named Hometown Hero for Fox 25’s Zip Trip to Rutland on July 24.

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. *

1. According to the June 26, 2026 Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Worcester by the Sisters of St. Ann, d/b/a **Anna Maria College**, between 200 and 1,000 (we heard 378) creditors are owed between \$10 million and \$50 million. As reported by MassLive, entities who have the largest financial claims include Citizens Bank \$3 million (a loan to help the school during its phase-down); U.S. Department of Education \$1.5 million - \$1.6 million (monies intended for student awards and grants); Sodexco Inc. \$1.3 million (for food services); Risepoint LLC \$300,000 (its education technology partner); students \$211,000 (for unreturned tuition payments). And Paxton: \$100,000.

A qualified-bidder auction of the former college will be held on October 20, 2026. On its website, the Worcester Realtor Kelleher & Sadowsky has listed the 261+ acre property, which has been valued at some \$41 million to \$42 million, for sale as “Subject to Offer.”

Until then, no lookies - according to that sign at the end of Sunset Lane.

2. In brighter news, the **Paxton Garden Club** celebrated a \$10,000 donation by **Fidelity Bank** on July 2 that will support the club’s **Community Garden & Learning Greenhouse**. The check was presented by bank representatives including Sean O’Connell, Fidelity Bank President, at the proposed garden site behind the town’s Council on Aging, 17 West Street. Club President Robin Tasca said, “The club is deeply appreciative and grateful for Fidelity’s belief and commitment to invest in our Community Garden project! This capital gift will directly support our goal to purchase a 12x30 Haven Custom Greenhouse that will be a focal point of the project.” Tasca said the garden is proposed for spring 2027 where the greenhouse will provide space for horticultural learnings for Paxton Center School students and the public.

3. The **Boston 25 News’ Zip Trip** journeyed to Rutland on **July 24** from 7-10 a.m. for a live broadcast that celebrated the town, its local businesses and farms, and the resident-chosen **Hometown Hero Randy Jordan**, a fifth-generation dairy farmer and long-time community volunteer. Hundreds of Rutland residents turned out for the morning that included local farms and businesses that set up tables and tents. As one resident noted (who asked not to be identified given the recent rancor): “I think it’s just what the town needed. It was a positive morning and felt like the old Rutland.”

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



The Lagoda. Photo by Steve Urbanovitch

By STEVE URBANOVITCH

This day trip took us to New Bedford to visit the New Bedford Whaling Museum. It is the world’s premier institution exploring the history, art, and science of the global whaling industry. It features five full-size whale skeletons including a blue whale, and a half-scale model of the whaling ship Lagoda, along with over 750,000 items pertaining to the whaling industry. It is located in the heart of the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, which commemorates the heritage of the world’s pre-eminent whaling port during the nineteenth century.

Address: 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford. Open: Mon–Sun, 9am–5pm. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Years Day. Tickets are available online and on site. Advance purchase is not required. Museum only: Adult \$24; Senior (65+) \$22; Youth \$14. Metered street parking is available throughout downtown. The Elm Street Garage is located at 51 Elm St., two blocks from the museum. For more information: www.whaling-museum.org *

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