

North Brookfield Savings Bank Food Drive to continue the fight against hunger

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to announce the start of their Annual Food Drive, held from Oct. 1-25, offering the perfect chance to share kindness, support the community and help those in need during the season of giving. North Brookfield Savings Bank's Annual Food Drive helps provide much-needed food items to local neighbors and families in need within the communities they serve. As part of the bank's commitment to giving back, North Brookfield Savings Bank will contribute \$1 for every item and dollar collected, up to a total of \$3,000 to further support the operational cost of local food pantries.

Community members are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food items, paper goods, toiletries, or monetary donations at any of NBSB's convenient branch locations throughout the month of October. Drop off locations include: North Brookfield Branch, 9 Gilbert St., East Brookfield Branch, 100 West Main St. (Route 9), West Brookfield Branch, 128 West Main St. (Route 9), Ware Branch & Business Center, 40 Main St. (Route 9), Belchertown Branch, 4 Daniel Shays Highway (Route 9 and Route 202) and Three Rivers Branch, 2060 Main St. Examples of non-perishable and non-food items that pantries can

use are paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, diapers, and baby wipes; deodorant, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste; dry and canned pasta and soups, canned meats, tuna, and salmon; peanut butter, jelly, tea bags, and ground coffee; canned vegetables and fruits, hot and cold cereals, rice, cake mixes, pancake mix, syrup, powdered milk, and granulated sugar; canned juices, baby food, baby formula, granola, and cereal bars. To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank's Community giving efforts and the convenient banking products and services offered, visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

Backroads Studio Tour takes place Oct. 5-6

The artists and artisans of central Massachusetts Backroads Studio Tour will once again be opening their studios this fall, on Saturday, Oct. 5 and Sunday, Oct. 6 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in the towns of Petersham, Barre, Oakham, New Braintree, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and Spencer. This year the tour gladly welcomes back Tracy Crane from West Brookfield. Crane uses a wide variety of mediums to create her art including inks, glass, buttons, cut paper and resin. Her varied works have an accessible simplicity and capture one's eye and interest. Her work can be found year round at Worcester Art and Frame in West Brookfield. In the town of Petersham Sylvia Brown will showcase her line of contemporary classic leather handbags, beautiful garments, belts, briefcases and luggage. In the town of Barre people will find three studios including Deer Run Studio where metalsmith Bonnie Waterhouse works

with sterling silver, semiprecious stones, fused glass and crystals to create rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings and ornaments. Across the street from Waterhouse is Sue Morello of Sheldon Farm Baskets. She creates beautiful baskets in a variety of shapes and sizes, many of which are hand painted with lovely designs. A short drive from Morello and Waterhouse takes people to Stained Glass by Robert Hill. He enjoys building artwork from glass that has texture and character. His favorite pieces are those designed for gardens. In the town of Oakham one will find Dena Hengst showcasing her beautiful paintings, prints and notecards, many of which depict ocean shores, waterfalls and water surfaces. She also creates abstract pieces and looks forward to sharing her techniques with her visitors. Another short drive takes one to New Braintree where you can visit David Thompson's wood shop studio. There, you will find a

collection of handcrafted one-of-a-kind spoons, bowls and kitchenware. He also builds a variety of unique interior and exterior furniture pieces. Nearby in North Brookfield one can find Brookfield Paperworks where Elisabeth Hyder will welcome visitors to view her beautiful boxes, journals, cards, framed art and collages. Vibrant colors and beautiful design combine to create gorgeous "art you can use." In the town of Spencer this year visitors will find Lou Meyerderks creating beautiful table runners, penny rugs and holiday pieces, using techniques of wool applique, rug hooking, needle punch and counted cross stitch. So come and be inspired by the different studios and demonstrations this self-guided tour has to offer, while experiencing the autumn beauty of our serene New England backroads. For more information and a map, people may visit their website at backroadsstudiotour.org.

CDAC from page 1

tion choices that would be a better fit for the Town of Warren. "Safety is an essential highlight," Wriggins commented prior to reviewing the document he shared with the CDAC. One of the transportation departments' goals is to aim for zero roadway deaths and "ensuring the right to access the transportation network. We strongly encourage communities to follow the safety approach." The meeting began with talking about an EV charging station. Wriggins believed there was one in Warren. However, Town Administrator James Ferrera stated that the public EV charging station in the area where its placed doesn't work. It may be a benefit for the town to include ev charging stations for those traveling through town. Ferrera says there is a company that installs the stations throughout the Commonwealth. To go with his presentation, Wriggins provided a list of multiple funding sources that may help the Town of Warren see some of the transportation choices a reality. The first key finding Wriggins went over was preparing infrastructure for private investments and development. Lately, the Town of Warren has been looking over areas with open space and studies as to what would become of the Wrights Mill complex. Areas of any potential development are still under discussion. The first strategy is preparing assessments for improvements. Some roads in Warren and West Warren village do require upgrades and maintenance. According to Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson, West Warren has some connecting roads that are in need of extra help. "If we're going to have heavier traffic, they need to be upgraded," Olson said. Wriggins mentioned the possibility of having an exit or ramp off the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90). He believes there is precedent for an investor who could create a ramp for an exit. From a financial standpoint, it makes sense for a business or businesses to have that access. However, members of the CDAC have heard mixed responses from residents of town who are for and against the idea of having an exit. "Some people in town may not want an exit because they don't want to lose that small town feel," Olson said. However, he also stated that more traffic could lead to more businesses, more housing and more revenue. "Chances to grow as a community." Another key finding was focused on flooding. Wriggins learned that there are issues in Warren with some culverts and stormwater management. The strategy is to address the drainage issues. There should be a townwide plan to prioritize flooding and safety. Warren does have a rocky and hill shaped terrain and much flooding does occur. Wriggins brought up green parking lots. Green parking lots incorporate permeable or semi-permeable paving and porous design techniques to reduce stormwater runoff volume. These lots would help with erosion, rainfall and gravel. In addition to flooding dilemmas, Warren does have a considerable amount of dams. Olson mentioned he recently came across a beaver dam. Wriggins suggests the Town work with the department of conservation to get appropriate permits to handling beaver dams. Wriggins mentioned he drove through Warren prior to the meeting and noticed some areas lack sidewalks. An idea was addressed about connecting Warren and West Warren with a sidewalk. In other words, bring the two communities together. Wriggins would then discuss public transportation options. There is PVTa in nearby communities, the Quaboag Connector, and some other fixed route systems of public transportation. The CDAC mentioned that the Quaboag Connector is an affordable source of public transportation. Wriggins showed the map of what towns the Quaboag Connector serves. The Quaboag Connector serves residents in Belchertown, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Monson, North Brookfield, Palmer, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

According to CDAC Chair Jeremy Olson, more economic development would help grow public transportation. Next key finding is prioritizing safety and address unsafe areas and perceived danger. Some roads in town might have weak street lighting and according to the CDAC that is where most accidents could occur. Wriggins wanted to know what are the key area that would benefit from having flashing light signs on them. Those signs would be good to have, but Olson mentioned that certain qualifications for applications for those signs have to happen. According to Olson, an average of 15,000 vehicles a day traveling on a certain road would qualify for funds. For a small town like Warren, that much car travel on certain roads may not be likely. Crosswalk lighting is also a benefit that could help with minimizing accidents. The CDAC also has issues with trucks traveling on certain roads. Delaying traffic and getting caught while trying to maneuver through certain streets. Trash trucks have to drive on roads that a re not setup for them. The underpass in the center of town is also too small for some trucks to enter. The CDAC and the Town knows very well what they need for improvements. They just need the guidance to connect them to the best funding sources. The CDAC will meet with CMRPC at their next meeting for the chapter on town services and facilities.

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ESOL, project management, software and IT, and machine set-up and operation. Businesses can apply for two types of grants through the Workforce Training Fund Program: 1) Express Program, which provides fast and flexible access to grant-funded training designed so that small businesses can quickly and easily access

funding to address immediate needs; and 2) General Program, which are two-year grants used for large-scale, strategic training projects. During fiscal year 2024 (July 2023-June 2024), these programs awarded \$37.2 million to train more than 27,900 workers from more than 1,600 businesses. Employers receiving these grants plan to add more than 2,800 additional employees in

Massachusetts by 2026. These two-year grants are awarded competitively and can range from \$10,000 to \$250,000. Grant recipients contribute a matching investment of at least one dollar for each grant-dollar awarded. This announcement includes General Program Training Grants awarded from November 2023 through July 2024.

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Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, the Ware Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 17, 2024 during their normally scheduled meeting starting at 7:25 p.m.** in the Town Hall meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. The purpose of this hearing is to consider amendments to Sections 4.8.3 - Solar Energy Facilities, to revise language that pertains to proposed changes to the utility-scale and large-scale solar arrays. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means as a courtesy in accordance with the applicable law. Should there be technical issues, the meeting will proceed at the scheduled time. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in Town Hall Meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via Zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082. A complete copy of the proposed changes can be found at the Planning & Community Development Department Office and on the department web page at www.townofware.com. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated. All interested parties are invited to attend. WARE PLANNING BOARD Kenneth Crosby, Chair 10/03, 10/10/2024

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Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 20th.

Deadline for submissions is October 14th

Community Holiday Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Event Name _____

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