

Students learn about dating violence and relationships

Submitted Article

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The month of February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness.

The month is dedicated to increasing awareness about dating abuse within teenage relationships and the resources that are available for teen survivors. To support our students, North Brookfield High School worked with the Worcester County District Attorney's office to provide assemblies and workshops around healthy peer relationships and teen dating.

Students discussed healthy relationships during their flex block classes during the month of February and then had assemblies with Hope Rudzinski from the Worcester County District Attorney's office. Rudzinski spoke to the students about healthy peer relationships, teen dating violence, and resources available for all students.

Principal John Diorio stated, "We want our students to understand that we want

when the day ends. Students' mental health and safety are a priority at North Brookfield High School."

Then on Friday, Feb. 28, the high school girls attended a workshop on dating violence awareness and prevention, sponsored by the Vanessa Marcotte Foundation. The Vanessa Marcotte Foundation partners with organizations and schools to provide educational programs and self-defense classes that promote female empowerment and gender equity.

The goal of the program is to reduce violence against women in our society.

According to their website, "We're achieving our goals by partnering with organizations that provide educational programs and mentorship opportunities to promote female empowerment and gender equality. We believe these efforts will ultimately help reduce violence against women in our society. We are just getting started! By joining this important cause, we can work together to make a



Male students in grades nine-12 attended a presentation and fitness class with Anthony Bizzotto from Revive of the USA.

Female students in grades nine-12 participated in discussions around dating violence prevention and healthy relationships before moving into self-defense classes.

"The students were really engaged in the workshop. It was great to see so many students participating in the workshop," according to a NBHS Teacher Shelly Lacaire.

Sarah Moshin, NBHS junior, said, "It was very beneficial, they were able to get their point across, while still

of different scenarios."

"I think they did a really, really good job of keeping everybody engaged and actively taught us what to do in real life situations," stated NBHS student Sophia Giangrande.

The high school boys attended a presentation and fitness class with Anthony Bizzotto from Revive of the USA. According to Bizzotto, Revive of the USA is a non-profit community outreach program that passionately collaborates with youth and adult substance-abuse recovery and mental health facilities, seamlessly integrating movement and nutrition as potent therapies.

It focuses on fostering holistic well-being by unleashing the transformative power of physical empowerment for mental and emotional health.

Bizzotto shared his own journey as a high school and college student/athlete who struggled with substance abuse and how he was able to overcome his struggles. Bizzotto told the students to "Lean on your family. Lean on your friends. If you don't have good support at home, find it somewhere else. Don't forget, asking for help is not a

weakness. It's a superpower."

Bizzotto ended his talk by adding, "So here's my challenge to you: Find a healthy outlet. Find movement. Find community. And never let life's struggles take away your strength. Real freedom comes from helping others without expecting anything in return."

After he spoke to the students he led them through a fitness routine that included sandbag pulls, boxing drills, and cardiovascular exercises.

According to Diorio, "This was an important event for our high school boys. We wanted to show them there are healthy ways to deal with their challenges."

Student Brody Traska stated, "I learned a lot from the presentation by Mr. Bizzotto. It was very relatable and helpful."

NBHS freshman Fran Cotter said, "I think the way he says things is just straight up, and it's easier for kids who have been through stuff to understand and relate and talk to somebody who's been through the same."

Student Spencer Davis added, "I like how he was understanding and let people talk. Not that everything is ok, but the way he encouraged us helped a lot."

All in all, it was a great day for the North Brookfield students.



Submitted Photos

Female students in grades nine-12 at North Brookfield High School participated in a dating violence awareness and prevention workshop with the Vanessa Marcotte Foundation and Worcester County District Attorney's office.

them to be safe in school and out of school. We don't stop worrying about our students

difference. And we know that Vanessa would want us to do so."

making it an enjoyable experience. They covered a lot of topics and went through a lot



Self-defense techniques were put to use during the training.

Public Notices

BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 7:15 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, Boards' Office, 3rd Floor, requested by Paul A. Johnson, property owner, for the keeping of horses with fencing and shelter on property located at 379 Town Farm Road, Assessors Map H, Lot 202 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 35008, Page 0239.

All persons who wish to comment on this matter should attend the hearing, or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Planning Board.

Floyd Kelley
Chairman

03/20, 03/27/2025

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON **March 29, 2025 AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:**

2012 Ford Focus
VIN 1FAHP3E23CL285540
2009 Dodge Journey
VIN 3D4GH57V79T176875
2009 Scion xD
VIN JTKKU10449J048929
2009 Saturn Outlook VIN 5GZEV23D29J215953
2003 Toyota Highlander
VIN JTEHF21A830129334
2006 Honda Pilot

VIN 2HKYF18516H533557
2009 Honda Civic
VIN 19XFA169X9E005035
1993 Toyota Corolla
VIN 2T1AE09E2PC018052
1995 Toyota Corolla
VIN 2T1AE04B9SC092977
2012 Dodge Charger
VIN 2C3CDXBG5CH190239
2011 GMC Yukon XL
VIN 1GKS2KE33BR163097
2008 Land Rover Range Rover Sport
VIN SALS254X8A149606
2008 Honda Civic
VIN 2HGFA16578H310929
2006 Toyota Corolla
VIN 2T1BR30E26C680431
2005 Honda Civic
VIN 1HGEM22925L078868
The sale will be held at Early's on Park Avenue at 536 Park Ave., Worcester, MA 01603
03/13, 03/20, 03/27/2025

BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, Boards' Office, 3rd Floor, Barre, MA requested by Caruso Construction Corp. for a preliminary plan for a subdivision known as Piper Lane located at the gravel operation on South Barre Road, Assessor Map H, Lots 120 K, 120P, 120A and 120Q.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing. The plan can be viewed at the Boards' Office, 3rd floor.

Floyd Kelley, Chairman
03/20, 03/27/2025

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increases, which had not been changed since 2014. Select Board Vice Chair Haapakoski recommended the Board take the fee proposal under advisement. He said he believed a hearing must be held to change the fees.

Wire Inspector budget
Wire Inspector Dennis Bergin said he added bat-

tery storage to his fee list and he eliminated the two designations of underground and overhead service for residential property to just a single designation.

He also said the town never took their share of the electrical fee for the Barre Road Solar from his revolving fund. The total permit fee was \$52,000 with about \$47,000 the town's share. The Select Board will place an article on the Annual

Town Meeting warrant to move the town's share of the fee from the Wire Inspector's Revolving Fund to the town's General Fund.

Select Board Chair Lucy Tessnau said she believed this was the last of the budget meeting with town departments, officials and boards.

One Stop Grant

Select Board Chair Tessnau said she met with someone from One Stop

Grants. The current grants were for economic development and there were no grants that suited the town of Oakham at this time. She also said some grants would be available for bridge repair in the future. Highway Superintendent Patrick Mardirosian told the board the bridge on Robinson Road needed repairs so that might be a possible source for the repairs other than Chapter 90 money.

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electronics. All broken, used and outdated electronics are recycled or reused in accordance with all local and state laws.

Debbie Ennis of the Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., and an avid bicycle rider, offers a hand-on health and wellness program entitled "Wheels in Motion." This six-week program is "geared towards children and their families, who could medically benefit from increased activity and nutritional counseling and/or for children, who could use techniques improve their social skills." The project has been a long time dream for Ennis and was something she wanted to do, but did not have the funds. She received \$8,000 from Baystate Mary Lane Hospital through the Community Health Initiative Grant. She partnered with Worcester Earn a Bike, who will give the children a bike, helmet and water bottle. Parents can obtain a bicycle for themselves by donating

five hours with Worcester Earn a Bike.

25 years (March 23, 2000)

Michael Kowal, captain of the Barre Emergency and Rescue Squad, bought a letter before Barre Selectmen Monday night detailing Medicare's allowable increase for the year 2000. The billing increase is across the board and two percent above 1999 rates. For example, Basic Life Support Transport has been increased from \$224.26 to \$228.75. The board asked Kowal whether or not the increase fell within the allowable rates for private insurance carriers. He said a representative from the town's billing service, Medicompts, Inc., indicated to him that most private insurances use Medicare rates a base for their own allowable charges.

A sign to commemorate the historical importance of Quork Walker to Barre and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts stands high above the Welcome to Barre sign in the center of town.

It reads," Quork Walker – Nearby on James Street stood the home of Quork Walker, former slave, whose law suits resulted in the freeing of slaves in the Commonwealth in 1783." The town seal is at the crest of this historic marker, the third in series to be put up by the Barre Historical commission to document to landmark events in the town's history.

Whether due to apathy or satisfaction with the status quo, there is only on contest of the upcoming Hubbardston town election in May. The two men are Thomas Cover of Brigham Street and Michael Walsh of Williamsville Road. The only other new candidates are Susan Flagg, running unopposed for a one-year position on the Cemetery Commission, returning to to town office after a hiatus of several years and John Baird, running unopposed for a five-year term on the town's Housing Authority.

38 years (March 26, 1987)

Conserve Our Small Town has retained the services of

Attorney John Mirick of Worcester to help them fight the state from putting a prison in New Braintree. Mirick will be filing a suit against the state Department of Capital Planning and Operations, said Steering Committee member Susan Reed. Legal Committee member John Brennan said Mirick came well recommended. He said he was told Mirick was "a good choice" and "one of the best."

With all the publicity on Girl Scouts of late, our faithful Petersham historian said it was time to write about that subject as it pertains to the Hilltop Town – Petersham. The town can't lay claim to a troop at present, but scouting has been around since 1935 when the late Mrs. Corrine Babbitt got the first troop going.

Oakham Clerk Town Abby Dobson has announced that dog licenses are in and may be obtained during her office hours in the Town Hall on Monday evenings. These licenses must be obtained by April 1.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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