

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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Making a Master Plan

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WEST BROOKFIELD – Every so often communities need to assess where they are and what their vision for the future is, and this year West Brookfield is inviting its residents to do just that and take part in the first Master Plan the town has developed.

Jeff Bagg, principal planner with the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission, is helping the Master Plan Committee with the process of involving townspeople and officials in the process. That will start on Wednesday, March 22, at 7 p.m., at the West Brookfield Elementary School, where an overview of the process will be given and then those in attendance will be breaking up into smaller groups to discuss a variety of areas.

This is just one of three such sessions, with two more in June and August, and a full Master Plan developed from that input by October. It will be then be presented to residents, Bagg said.

“The Master Plan process is to help people envision the future, it’s an opportunity to help shape what your town will look like in the future,” he said. “No one really wants their town to change, but if

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Students sink their teeth into BEAVERS



M.J. Haesche instructed the West Brookfield Elementary School fifth-grade about which items they could touch and hold in the “show and tell” portion of the presentation.

Fifth-graders to write about American beaver

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff writer

WEST BROOKFIELD – Stuffed animals, feathers, skulls and pelts were scattered on desks during the wildlife presentation from Wickaboag Sportsman’s Club in the West Brookfield Elementary School on Wednesday, March 8.

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TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY MELINA BOURDEAU

“Mr. Chitter Chatter” the stuffed beaver was brought into the West Brookfield Elementary School to show fifth-graders what the subject of their Wickaboag Sportsman’s Club essays looks like up close and personal.

Democrats share ideas for political action

By Laretta R.
St. George-Sorel
Correspondent

BROOKFIELD – The Brookfield Democratic Town Committee held an organizational meeting and caucus last Sunday night at the Brookfield Inn, on Route 9 and followed their vote up with several guest speakers.

The invited speakers at the event included state Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), Nancy Friedrichs O’Sullivan, organizer of Action Together Central Massachusetts, and Muslim/interfaith activist Asima Silva.

Following the caucus, guest speakers addressed the voters, discussing their own activism and suggesting ways in which local folks can engage in politi-

“We need to do more to help our vets, too especially female vets.”

SEN. ANNE GOBI

cal action that advocates for the rights of all.

Gobi, the first speaker, an attorney and former public school teacher, is currently serving her second term as a state senator after 14 years as a state representative. She chairs the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture. Gobi’s central message to the assembled voters was that the local Democrats

need to work on getting people on the town boards. “We’ve really dropped the ball in this regard,” she said. She said that there are many small, but significant ways, in which we can make a difference.

She reminded people that Earth Day is approaching, and that local Democratic town committees might organize to help clean up their towns. “We need to do more to help our vets, too,” Gobi said, “especially female vets.” She said that female vets are having a hard time finding suitable housing. Gobi took questions from members, commenting on the size of the crowd. “I’m thrilled to see this kind of turnout; this is very exciting,” she said.

The second speaker, Friedrichs O’Sullivan, discussed



Asima Silva, founder and outreach director for EnjoinGood.org, was a speaker at the meeting.

her involvement in the local branch of a national political action network that formed from Pantsuit Nation. The branch to which she belongs has grown to include more than 600 members, she said, with statewide membership at 18,000 members. She provided the group with a handout listing numerous political action websites that people might like to research for more information. “We’re encouraging members to run

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Quaboag presents budget

West Brookfield’s assessment down

By Colleen Montague
Staff Writer

WARREN – The Quaboag Regional School Committee held a public hearing for school administration, teachers, residents and town officials on March 13 for the initial presentation of their proposed budget for fiscal 2018.

School Committee members also met with town officials from both Warren and West Brookfield to discuss the budget before the committee votes on the budget next week. The total town operating assessments in this budget would be \$6,649,081, and a total operating and capital budget for the district for fiscal 2018 is \$18,048,657.

The total operating assessment for the town of Warren would be \$3,331,490, an increase of \$43,831 over the current fiscal year.

School Committee Chairman Andrew Schwenker told gathered officials, teachers and residents that the committee had received a letter from the Warren selectmen requesting that all departments and boards put together a level-funded budget. However, the School District has items such as contractual obligations that make it necessary to increase the budget. Schwenker added that members of the School Committee, administration, principals and the superintendent had worked diligently over the past several months to put a level-funded budget together.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Brett Kustigian said that the fiscal 2018 budget was a level-service one that focused on staffing, which, he said, was exactly what was requested by the Board of Selectmen and reflected everything they have now. The only item that was added to the budget, he continued, was \$9,000 to replace

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POLICE LOGS

BROOKFIELD

Between March 6 and March 12, Brookfield police made three arrests. Gregory Joseph Carey, 28, of 5 Prairie Schooner Trail, Brookfield, was arrested on March 6 on a warrant. Heather L. Howe, 46, of 1299 Bemis Road, Brimfield, was arrested on March 9 for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, an unregistered motor vehicle, and a marked lanes violation. Robin M. LeClaire, 53, of 40 Gay Road, Brookfield, was arrested on March 10 on a warrant.

Police made 32 motor vehicle stops, one building and property check, four welfare checks, one records check, one investigation, six motor vehicle investigations, performed traffic control once, served five summons, served one warrant, and assisted two citizens. They responded to two safety hazards, one report of suspicious activity, three animal calls, one report of phone calls, one alarm, two reports of school zone traffic, one lockout, two motor vehicle accidents, and one report of trespassing. They appeared for court-related matters three times and four officers were initiated.

There were 10 911

calls. Of these, four were for medical emergencies, one was for a mental health emergency, one was for a report of illegal dumping, one was for a disabled motor vehicle, one was for a disturbance, one was for a complaint about motor vehicle operations and one was a misdial. Brookfield police assisted one other agency.

EAST BROOKFIELD

Between March 6 and March 12, East Brookfield police made 14 motor vehicle stops, four building and property checks, one investigation, performed harassment prevention twice, served on summons, served one warrant, and assisted two citizens. Police responded to one report of burglary or breaking and entering, one disturbance, two disabled motor vehicles, one report of utility issues, three parking complaints, one motor vehicle accident and one complaint about motor vehicle operations. Two officers were initiated.

There were nine 911 calls. Of these, six were for medical emergencies, one was to assist a citizen, one was for a report of suspicious activity, and one report of vandalism.

WEST BROOKFIELD

Between March 6 and March 13, West Brookfield police made 37 motor vehicle stops, 12 building and property checks, one records check, one motor vehicle investigation, one repossession, two investigations, performed traffic control three times, served two summons, and assisted three citizens. Police responded to two motor vehicle accidents, one complaint about motor vehicle operations, one fire alarm, two medical alarms, one report of suspicious activity, one report of harassment, six alarms, one disturbance, three reports of phone calls, two complaints, one disabled motor vehicle, one animal call, three reports of school zone traffic and reports of found or lost property. They appeared for court-related matters three times, and one officer was initiated.

There were 15 911 calls. Of these, 10 were for medical emergencies, one was for a motor vehicle accident, one was for a lockout, one was for an auto fire, one was for a fire, and one was a hang-up call. West Brookfield police assisted one other agency.

D&D Fitness Factory invites all to take part in its annual Lift for Life competition and its 5k Walk/Run Race on April 29. All proceeds go to support the 12th annual Walk of Champions on May 7, which raises money for the Baystate Regional Cancer Program at Baystate Mary Lane in Ware.



D&D Fitness Factory invites all to Lift for Life and 5K Walk/Run Road Race

WARE – D & D Fitness Factory, a co-ed training facility in Ware, invites the community to join them for their annual Lift for Life and 5K Walk/Run Road Race, held on Saturday, April 29, in memory of their family member Donna Goudreau. The proceeds will benefit the 12th annual Walk of Champions, supporting the Baystate Regional Cancer Program at Baystate Mary Lane in Ware to be held on Sunday, May 7, at the Quabbin Reservoir.

The co-ed lifting competition has five men's weight classes and two women's classes, which

include a bench press, axle bar lift and a truck pull. The 5K Road Race features four co-ed age groups, students age 19 and under, ages 20-35, ages 36 to 50 and ages 51 and up, and prizes are awarded to the top finishers in each category.

Darryl Goudreau and his wife, Janine, who are joined by their family and friends, sponsor the annual event. "Cancer has touched our lives in a very personal way," said Goudreau. "The cancer care Donna received locally through the Baystate Regional Cancer Program at Baystate Mary Lane in Ware was important to Donna and

our family during her cancer journey."

The Goudreau family invites community members to join them as their family and friends put their strength together to support cancer care close to home by competing in the Fitness Challenge, the Road Race or to cheer on the competition throughout the morning. The morning-long event includes raffles and refreshments. For more information or to participate in the Lift for Life and 5 K Road Race, call D & D Fitness Factory located at 40 East Main St. at 413-967-6018.

CAUCUS | FROM PAGE 1

for office, she said. "Turn your outrage into action." Friedrichs O'Sullivan is a research and instruction librarian at Assumption College in Worcester.

The final speaker on the program was Asima Silva, founder and outreach director for EnjoinGood.org, who works to strengthen communication between the local Muslim community and other area religious institutions. She hosts the weekly radio show, Perspectives, on WCRN, is an engineer and IBM Master Inventor, and serves on the Wachusett Regional School Committee. Silva's presentation focused on enlightening the audience about the evolution of discrimination against Muslims as she experienced it in her life compared to the increased level of discrimination that her children have experienced. Using graphs and research studies, in addition to personal photos of her family and herself, Silva engaged the audience with her educational and provocative presentation.

Before the speakers, the large turnout of registered voters was greeted by Danielle Kane, a Brookfield Democrat and organizer of the event at 6:30 p.m.

The event began with the caucus to elect one delegate and one alternate to the 2017 Massachusetts



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY LAURETTA R. ST. GEORGE-SOREL
Nancy Friedrichs, of the Action Together Central Massachusetts Committee, left, and Senator Anne Gobi, (D-Spencer), right, were speakers at last Sunday night's gathering of the Brookfield Democratic Town Committee, held at the Brookfield Inn. The meeting included a caucus to elect a primary and an alternate delegate to the 2017 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, scheduled for June 3rd, in Lowell.

Democratic Convention, scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 3, at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell, where Democrats from across the state will gather to adopt a new party platform.

Prior to the election, Kane read a letter from Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Gus Bickford,

who expressed his desire that every Democrat have a voice. "This is a time to come together and speak to our shared Democratic values," he said in his letter. The members then proceeded to vote for the delegates. Tara Browne was elected as the primary delegate and Sean Mulligan as the alternate

to the state convention.

Members of the Brookfield Democratic Town Committee then voted their slate of new officers: Danielle Kane was named chairman; Scully Metz, vice-chairman; Peter O'Connell, treasurer; and Beth Coughlin, secretary/affirmative action and outreach officer.

Before the meeting adjourned, Kane thanked the proprietors of the Brookfield Inn, Paul and Melissa Puliafico, for hosting the Democrats at their Inn. She reminded the group that the next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 9 at 2:30 p.m., once again, at the Brookfield Inn. For more information on the caucus or the committee, Kane can be contacted at Brookfield.DTC@gmail.com or by calling 508-867-3784.

Adult ed. program begins

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Courses including exercise, knitting, photography and CPR are available through April 28 at the North Brookfield elementary and high schools. Registration forms can be dropped off at the

elementary school or library. Courses, fees and contact information can be found at Nbschools.org under the "Adult Education" tab. For more information contact Susan LaFlamme, program director, at nbadult@nnschools.org.

MASTER | FROM PAGE 1

you don't plan for the future then change will happen randomly."

There are a number of aspects to town life that the Master Plan looks at including open space and recreation, population and housing, land use, economic development, natural and cultural resources, transportation and town services, he said.

The Master Plan Committee already has a website, which he urged

residents to take a look at, which can be found at westbrookfieldmasterplan.com.

There are also plans to survey as many residents as possible at the very end of March, leaving paper surveys at Town Hall, the Merriam-Gilbert Library and other locations. The surveys may also be available online.

The town has not completed a Master Plan before although it completed a similar process in 2004, which is now outdated, he said.

Celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** Friday, March 17th
Special St. Patrick's Day Menu
Lower Level
They will be playing Irish Classics and all your favorites too!
6pm until close

TRIVIA TUESDAYS
7 pm
Grab your team
and head to 308 for some fun!
Cash prizes! Giveaways!

Free Valet Parking
Friday & Saturday
Casual Waterfront Dining on Lake Lashaway
308 East Main Street, East Brookfield
774-449-8333 308lakeside.com

308 LAKESIDE
Saturday, March 18th 9pm
TODD PERRY
22 yr old folk singer songwriter & recording artist influenced by Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson & Johnny Cash
Saturday, March 25th 9pm
THE SARA ASHLEIGH BAND
Debut performance at 308 for this great band!
Pays homage to some of the best blues, rock and country artists of our time

Wales Irish Pub
Music 8pm-12am
Happy St. Paddy's Day!
FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH, 8PM-12AM
"LIVESTOCK"
Join Us for Corned Beef & Cabbage Starting at 3 pm
FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH, 8PM-12AM
"REDHEAD"
THURS. 7-10PM
Acoustic Music
SATURDAYS 8PM
DJ Sizedog
CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!
413-245-9730
16 Holland Road, Wales, MA