

North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival, back for the 27th year

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

It started over a potluck in 1998. Ricky Baruc and wife, Deb Habib, wood-worker Jim Fountain and wife Alyssa with neighbor Lydia planned a festival.

From such a small beginning something unique arose.

On Sept. 27 and 28 of this year, The North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival celebrated 27 years.

Your correspondent was at the first event. It took place after a horrendous rain storm the previous night that did augur well, but the sun came out and the day turned out lovely.

And so, it has gone on.

This year saw beautiful weather and temps that made it seem summery rather than autumnal, and there was not a sweater in sight.

To those not from the North Franklin County



Turley Photos by Richard Murphy

Residents of Wendell took a stand against battery storage farms.

area, the venue might seem out of the way, but the instructions on the website are clear. Carpools and disabled can park at the site. The main parking lot is a seven-minute ride away

by shuttle bus. It is an efficient system, with two vehicles constantly picking up and dropping off.

When one exits the bus and comes to the festival entrance, there is another pleasant surprise.

Inflation never stops, and as prices rise for fairs and festivals, the Garlic and Arts Festival holds the line, and is run without corporate sponsorship or sales of alcohol. The adult admission was still \$10. Students and seniors as well as EBT, WIC, and Health Connector customers are charged \$5. Under 12 also \$5. Come on Saturday and that pays for Sunday.

Once in the festival, you notice that it is much the same as other years, but there is always something new.

There is somewhat of a 1960s vibe. One might hesitate to say that as many if not most of the attendees were born well after those years. Still, the counter culture feel is there for everyone.

Rick and Deb have a tent with all things garlic. Their Seeds of Solidarity Education Center has the ethos of “Grow Food Everywhere.”

Most of the old food vendors are back, but there are some new ones. No one needs to starve.

Wandering around the grounds, one comes across well-known vendors and exhibitors, some that are new and others that are old friends.

There is White Buffalo Herbs, down from Warwick. Carol Joyce is a community herbalist with vast knowledge. If you have it, she treats it.

Continuing to meander, there was a booth where a couple was going about bringing something from the past into the future. The American Chestnut was near extinction, but valiant efforts to save it have long been ongoing. Lois and Dennis Melican were at the festival to spread the word. There are lovely trees in New England, but the return of a beautiful native would be welcome.

Fortunate were we to arrive at the table of Sam Scherer. After a teaching career, he learned to turn wood into bowls on a lathe from mentors, and is himself an accomplished artisan, but it is his manner of interacting with customers and friends that



Lois supported the return of the American Chestnut tree.

captivates festival goers.

In front of Sam’s booth was a field with children playing hula hoops, a festival tradition provided by Shenandoah of “Alotta Hoopla.”

Catching the eye was a booth with the logo, New England Mineral Extractor. The name sounded a bit industrial for Garlic and Arts. Nope, it was not some huge machine digging into the ground to haul out interesting crystals. Rather, Jason James and wife search info from geographic databases such as Mindat.com and then go and dig up the intriguing specimens.

Rambling along, there is the Portal to the Future. Enter and you won’t all of a sudden see your great great grandkids, but a metaphorical distance where “art, food, small-scale farming, renewable energy, smart transportation, care for the land, and

hand skills all contribute to community-building and local resilience.”

EVs from cars to tractors, solar info and garlic ice cream from Batch were all there.

There was a wonderful discussion about pollinators with Grow Native Massachusetts Executive Director Heather Pruiskma, and Pollinator Advocate Heidi Dollard. In the Portal to the Future, pollinator insects and birds on our plants better be forever.

Out of the Portal and up the hill to listen to poets and performers at the Spoken Word stage. Then over to the band stand where the Moon Shells were performing.

Still there was much more to see and experience, but there is never enough time.

Oh well, The North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival 2026 is less than a year away.



A wall of garlic was displayed at the 27th annual North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival.

Public Notices

Town of Barre HEARING NOTICE Dog Hearing

In accordance with the provisions of MGL C. 140 s.157 and Barre Bylaw C. 11 s. 13, a Public Hearing will be held by the Select Board on **Monday, November 3, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** to determine if 2 dogs at 140 Valley Road, Barre, MA 01005 is a potentially dangerous or dangerous dogs. The meeting will be held at the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA in the Select Board Meeting Room, first floor, at which time interested parties will have the opportunity to be heard. The meeting room is accessible; persons requiring special accommodations should contact the Select Board’s Office (978) 355-2504 x135 in advance.

For the Select Board
Sandra Hood
Executive Assistant
10/16, 10/23/2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDDERS Town of Barre

The Town of Barre is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of #2 Heating Oil, Propane, Diesel, and Kerosene under MGL c.30B §5. Sealed bids must be addressed to the Town Administrator, Henry Woods Building, 40 West St., Barre, MA 01005 and endorsed “FY26-05: Heating Fuel Fiscal Year 2026”. Two (2) identical bids must be submitted. **Bids will be accepted until 10:00AM on November 12, 2025** at which time said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Town Administrator’s office. Bid packages will be emailed upon request by contacting townadmin@townofbarre.com.

The Town of Barre reserves the right to waive any informality in and to reject any or all bids.
10/23/2025

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT DOCKET NUMBER 25 SM 003146 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Joseph Mitko
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*):
Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc.
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Barre, numbered **721 Worcester Road**, given by **Penny L. Mitko f/k/a Penny L. Earle and Joseph Mitko to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns, dated March 6, 2013**, and recorded in Worcester County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book **50604, Page 105**, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **12/1/2025** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**
Chief Justice of this Court on

10/16/2025
Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson,
Recorder

10/23/2025

**Oakham
Conservation Commission**
There will be a Notice Intent Hearing on **November 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Oakham Town Hall for work to be done on property at Site 1 lot 2 Old Turnpike Rd., Oakham, MA. The Request has been filed by Joseph Amidio of Oakham for the purpose of constructing a driveway. The work may fall under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act.

Lucy Tessnau, Clerk
Oakham Conservation Commission
10/23/2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDDERS Town of Barre

The Town of Barre is accepting sealed bids for road materials, road maintenance and equipment rentals under M.G.L. c.30 §39M. Sealed bids must be addressed to the Town Admin-

istrator, Henry Woods Building, 40 West St., Barre, MA 01005 and endorsed “FY26-03 Road Materials, Road Maintenance and Equipment Rental”. Two (2) identical bids must be submitted. **Bids will be accepted until 10:00AM on November 10, 2025** at which time said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Town Administrator’s office. Bid packages will be emailed upon request by contacting townadmin@townofbarre.com.

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10/23/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and
Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No.
WO25P3511EA
Estate of:
Daniel G. Damon
Date of Death: 09/18/2025
CITATION ON PETITION**

FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Laura Ashley Dumont of South Barre, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Laura Ashley Dumont of South Barre, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/11/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a

timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A **Personal Representative** appointed under the MUPC in an **unsupervised administration** is **not required** to file an **inventory or annual accounts** with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the **Personal Representative** and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 14, 2025

Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
10/23/2025

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Barre Gazette

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.