

- community -

Town Clerk announces annual election information

WEST BROOKFIELD – Town Clerk, Klarissa Rose, announces that Nomination Papers are available for the upcoming Town Election to be held on Tuesday, May 5.

These papers must be filed with the Board of Registrars, in the Town Clerk’s office, for certification on or before Tuesday, March 17 at 5 p.m. Final day to

withdraw as a candidate is Thursday, April 2 at 5 p.m.

Appearing on the ballot will be the following: Selectman, three-year term; Board of Health, three-year term; Assessor, three-year term; Common Committee, three-year term; Library Board of Trustees, three-year term; Library Board of Trustees, three-year term; Planning Board,

five-year term; Housing Authority, five-year term; Water Commissioner, three-year term.

The Quaboag Regional School District positions will also be incorporated on the Town Ballot. Two members from the Town of West Brookfield for a three-year term and two members from the Town of Warren for a three-year term.

These nomination papers are available at the Superintendent’s office at 284 Old West Brookfield Road, Warren. Deadline for returning these papers is Friday, March 20 by 4 p.m.

Last day to register to vote before the Town Election is Friday, April 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s office at 2 East Main St.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR FROM PAGE 1

lar every year that we have it,” he said. “This year we received over 1,200 votes.”

Votes were collected on the ExperienceSturbridge.com website, allowing one vote per email address. Masterson said this is about 50% more votes received from the previous year’s program.

“We got about 400-500 votes for each category,” he said. “It gathers a lot of public attention, a lot of community interest. It’s great because it gives these businesses a chance to be awarded for their value, their quality, the product that they make or the service they provide and the pride that they take in it... and it gives them a chance to be recognized as well by the community.”

In 2025, there were five businesses awarded the “Business of the Year,” with the “Best Place to Play” going to Old Sturbridge Village, which has been the “perennial winner” in this category, Masterson said.

James Donahue, president and CEO of Old Sturbridge Village said, “Old Sturbridge Village is hon-

ored to once again receive this recognition based on the votes of so many local, regional and distant visitors. We look forward to continuing to provide educational and entertaining programming as we enter our nation’s semiquincentennial.”

Masterson said the Publick House was awarded “Business of the Year” in the “Best Place to Stay” category. He also noted the Publick House’s commitment to the community, and its generosity in being the meeting location for many nonprofit organizations.

Michael Harrington, principal of the Publick House said, “We are so proud to have been chosen as the best hotel. It has taken some time for us to get to the level of comfort and service that lives up to the Publick House reputation. We look forward to providing unparalleled experiences for all our customers.”

Masterson said the “Best Place to Shop” was awarded to Twiddle T’s Pottery, a new business located on Route 20. He said the owner, Rona T. Roy, was the creator of the ceramic acorns used in the Acorn

Longevity project.

“I am honored to receive the Sturbridge Business of the Year Award. It is an incredible feeling to know that our community values my craft and all of the time and love that goes into every piece that is created,” Roy said. “I opened Twiddle T’s one year ago and it has been a whirlwind ever since. Sturbridge is such a special town, so warm, so supportive, and full of people who truly care about small businesses and handmade work. I am endlessly grateful to everyone who has walked through my door, shared kind words and supported my little pottery shop in any way. This town has become a part of my story, and I’m so proud to be a part of this community. Thank you Sturbridge!”

Masterson said Sturbridge Coffee House and BT’s Smokehouse were tied in the “Best Place to Eat” category. He said there are 35 eating establishments in town that generate almost \$80 million a year in food purchases.

Both Sturbridge Coffee House and B.T.’s Smokehouse draw a large following of customers that reaches beyond the town’s

limits, Masterson said.

Pia Rogers, owner of Sturbridge Coffee House, said, “We are beyond grateful to be chosen for a Sturbridge Business of the Year Award. This means everything to us. Community is at the heart of what we do and this recognition reflects the hard work, love and support that surrounds us every single day. We’re honored to continue learning, growing, and evolving alongside our community for years to come. Thank you for believing in us.”

Brian Treitman, owner of B.T.’s Smokehouse, said, “We are deeply honored to be voted Best Place to Eat in Sturbridge! A heartfelt thank you to our amazing community, loyal guests and dedicated staff team members who make B.T.’s Smokehouse what it is every day. Your support keeps our pits burning, our tongs turning and our passions sizzling. We could not deliver our food without you all behind us!”

Each winner received a Business of the Year plaque during the award presentation and were congratulated by members of the Select Board.

- legals -

Town of North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing

The Town of North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing on **March 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center 29 Forest Street.** The application is for a Special Permit to convert and renovate the existing building at 75 School Street into a four-unit

multifamily residential building by AUM Blackrock Investments LLC. The request is being made under the North Brookfield Zoning Bylaws, Section IV(A)(2)(1), which allows an existing dwelling to be converted to multifamily use if the ZBA grants a Special Permit.

03/06, 03/13/2026

CULTURAL COUNCIL FROM PAGE 1

of the celebration, including face painting, sculptors, dance schools, and demonstrations by the scouts.

Board member Tyler Neifert noted that he is a part of the scouts, and would bring up the board’s suggestion at his next scout meeting. Afton also suggested having recruiters from the five branches of the U.S. military attend, and do demonstrations. Other suggestions included a red, white, and blue dessert contest, colonial games from Old Sturbridge Village, and a historical scavenger hunt.

The council members said that the event would run from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and include four bands, with the final performance being from 5-7. Lytle said she knows a D.J who does karaoke, and

that there could be karaoke between the band’s sets.

Discussion of other events

Board member Aubin suggested a car show some time during June to be held in the parking lot of the Town Hall. She said a blues band called the Tony Soul Project would be a good fit for entertainment for the car show.

Neifert said she wanted to bring back baking contests at concerts on the commons, which the council said would take place on Fridays during July and August. Afton suggested setting up a dedicated table for the town’s VA officer so people can easily access him.

Afton said two companies, Fiore Cafe and The Wandering Buzz have agreed to attend events put on by the cultural council at no cost to them.

SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PAGE 4

your monthly Social Security retirement benefit is low.

One other thought to consider: if you are married and your spouse’s monthly SS benefit is considerably more than yours (e.g., more than twice as much as yours), you may want to explore your options for spouse benefits.

I hope this explains how your SS benefit is calculated, but if you still question your monthly SS retirement amount, I suggest you first obtain your “Earnings Statement” to review the lifetime earnings SS has on file for you. If there are any discrepancies in your Social Security’s earnings record, there are correction remedies available to you. If that is the case,

please feel free to contact us again for more information.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Spring home

AD DEADLINE: MARCH 11, 2026
PUBLISHED: APRIL 8, 2026

DISTRIBUTED IN ALL 12 TURLEY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

DON'T MISS OUT!

Contact Dan Flynn to reserve your space today
413-297-5886 or dflynn@turley.com

home garden lawn family

APRIL 2026
A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
Turley Publications, Inc.
WWW.TURLEY.COM

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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

			D	A	O				T	A	M				
			D	I	S	T	E	M	P	E	R	E	D		
F	R	A	N	C	I	S	S	I	N	A	T	R	A		
L	A	T	T	I	C	E			P	A	P	A	Y	A	S
A	D								A	N	A			R	I
P	I	C	T			A	B	C		T	H	E	S	E	S
S	O	A	Y			D	R	A	T		O	A	K		
	S	T	P			C	A	B	A	L		S	O	T	
			C	A	D		E	B	L	A		E	D	A	M
S	C	H	L	E	P			Y	A	M		S	A	N	A
C	A				C	U	B							N	T
I	N	D	W	E	L	L			P	R	A	I	R	I	E
	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	I	S	L	A	N	D	
			O	B	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	L	Y		
				B	E	D				D	I	S			