

- public safety -

New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of Oct. 6-19, the Hardwick New Braintree Police Department responded to 49 building/property checks, 42 directed/area patrols, 23 radar assignments, four traffic controls, six emergency 911 calls, four citizen assists, three assist other agencies, one disturbance, two trespasses, one harassment, one safety hazard, one motor vehicle investigation, one animal call and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, Oct. 6
9:59 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
12:46 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled
8:22 p.m. Disturbance, Moore Road, Arrest(s) Made

Wednesday, Oct. 7
7:45 a.m. Trespass, Moore Road, Officer Han-

dled
9:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Spoken To
2:46 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Hardwick Road, Vehicle Towed

Thursday, Oct. 8
9:02 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Spoken To
4:12 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Sibley Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Oct. 9
10:55 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Monday, Oct. 12
6:55 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, McEvoy Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Oct. 13
8:50 a.m. Trespass, Gilbertville Road, Spoken To

Wednesday, Oct. 14
9:25 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Barre Road, Ser-

vices Rendered
1:32 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Spoken To

Friday, Oct. 16
9:19 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Services Rendered
9:24 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Referred to Other Agency

Saturday, Oct. 17
5:19 a.m. Medical Emergency, Worcester Road, Patient Refusal
2:26 p.m. Harassment, Unitas Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, Oct. 18
7:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Worcester Road, Officer Handled
3 p.m. Assist Citizen, Wine Road, Officer Handled

Monday, Oct. 19
6:08 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Cut Off Road, Transported to Hospital

- public notices -

LEGAL NOTICE:
TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission

Death Notice
Elliott, Jeanne M. (Picard), 81
Died Oct. 3, 2026
Services Oct. 16, 2026
Varnum Funeral Home

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT FROM PAGE 1
ber Richard Chaffee, as she said he's often at the department giving directions, and said that if O'Donnell were hired, he may lack the patience for that.
According to Chaffee, he's only going there to help the lone employee find projects that need to be

will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY, November 4, 2026 at 6:00 pm** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.
6:00 – Public Hearing:
NOI – Existing Transmission Line Right of Way – New England Power Company – Improvements to access roads and replacement of all structures/

wires on the O15N electric transmission line
NOI – 380 West Main Street – Continued - Raymakers Construction – Staging area
NOI – Wickaboag Pond – Board of Health – Continued - Weed Treatment
10/23/2026

Ayala on Regis College Dean's List

WESTON – Regis College recognized Serenity Ayala, Class of 2026, of North Brookfield, whose academic excellence and commitment to learning have earned them a place on the spring

2026 Dean's List.
To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher. First-year students qualify with a GPA of 3.25 or higher.

done by riding the streets of town and finding issues like potholes, for example. Chaffee also said he would have liked the skills test that was talked about following the interviews, so the board could observe how the candidates handled machinery.
Chaffee, who was in favor of hiring O'Donnell as well, said he may have changed his mind following the test, but said the town cannot

afford to hire anybody but O'Donnell at this time in the year. Campbell said skills test did not happen because of liability concerns.
After deliberation, the board voted to appoint O'Donnell as the Highway Superintendent. The town also has job postings for an operator, mechanic and administrative assistant to the department.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO
A flat stone at the North Cemetery was recently cleaned.

GRAVESTONES FROM PAGE 1

tha Blodgett.
The couple joined the group three years ago after seeing a Facebook post from Hersee about how to clean gravestones.
Their first session was held at the North Cemetery where Hersee brought materials to teach the volunteers how to clean the stones.
Ken Blodgett said the first thing Hersee did was point to one stone and its condition. The stone was almost completely black, and the markers were difficult to read.
After cleaning the stone volunteers could recognize who was buried in these lots and see the generations of families who were buried in the cemetery.
“You get satisfaction from cleaning these gravestones,” Ken Blodgett said.
After learning the process Ken Blodgett found it simple and effective and continued to volunteer as much time as he could to clean the

stones at both cemeteries.
One of Ken Blodgett's focuses was the flat stones embedded in the ground of the cemetery. Many of these flat stones had sunk into the earth and became visibly impossible to see thanks to the weather elements.
He wanted to make them visible again by finding the edges of the stone and trying to clear the vegetation around the stone by digging.
The gravestones are made of granite, marble, and slate and Ken Blodgett makes sure he uses tools to remove lichen without scratching the stones themselves.
The Blodgetts come down about once a week to clean stones as a way to help out the cemeteries and the town.
“We're doing this because we want to do it,” Ken Blodgett said.
There have been occasions where people walk through the cemetery during the day and notice the work being done by the gravestone keepers. Ken Blodgett



Eight Civil War veteran stones were cleaned by the Sturbridge Gravestone Keepers.

and his fellow volunteers have been given a lot of compliments for what they do for the cemetery.
Robin Roberts is another Gravestone Keeper who has been volunteering since day one. She attended the first day of training and recalled Hersee pointing out a blackened headstone.
After cleaning it, the gravestone keepers learned it was an infant's burial. When learning about the history of this individual stone Roberts was hooked immediately and was dedicated to preserving the headstones at the cemetery.
“If you start something, finish it,” she said.
Roberts said she cleaned 20 stones in one day. She estimated that over 1,000 stones were cleaned in the last three years.
Roberts shared that she has ancestors buried at the

Old Burial Ground, established around 1740. Having ancestors at these historic burial grounds is a key factor in why Roberts is motivated to continue her volunteer work as a Sturbridge Gravestone Keeper.
Amy Gorham has been volunteering for the last year and a half. Her interest in preserving headstones dates back to when she was growing up in upstate New York.
While going through family history and files, Gorham had a difficult time identifying a family stone. She later found out there was a volunteer group in upstate New York who cleaned and repaired gravestones.
After the stones were cleaned their information was placed on the Find a Grave website. Gorham managed to find the stone of her relative, her third-great-grandfather.
Gorham found out about the volunteer group in Sturbridge and wanted to provide the same work as the volunteer group did in New York.
There are many gravestones dating back to the 1800s at the North Cemetery. Many of them have family burial plots with several generations.

The work behind gravestone keeping requires patience, especially when cleaning. Gorham credited Hersee as a great teacher and also wants to learn about leveling and repairing headstones in the future.
Another major motivation for this work was identifying the veterans buried at these cemeteries. Once identified, flags were placed by their stones.
Eight of the Civil War veteran stones were cleaned at the North Cemetery and

are recognized as veterans of Grand Army of the Republic Post 173.
There is a gap in between two of the stones and Hersee found out through town records that one soldier had his wife buried next to him without a stone.
For more information, visit the Sturbridge Gravestone Keepers Facebook page. Those interested in volunteering can visit heritageoakpress.com or contact heritageoakpress@gmail.com.



Wally Hersee demonstrated the products used to clean a gravestone.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP



91 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-277-0009
hanasonmain.com



We Are Hiring!

We are looking for experienced kitchen and wait staff.

We have openings for

- Sous Chef
- Line Cooks
- Servers

Scan QR code To Apply

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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