

Quaboag Hills



CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Newsletter



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ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE EXTENDED!

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce has extended the order and artwork deadlines for this year's 2025 Business & Recreation Guide by an additional two weeks. We know many of you have been busy and we hope this extension will provide you with that extra opportunity to participate this year!

ADVERTISEMENT OPTIONS:

- \$250 – Your logo next to your directory listing in the Guidebook
- \$500 – Quarter page
- \$750 – Half page
- \$1000 – Full page

To reserve your space, email james@qhma.com with your size order by April 7 and have your artwork submitted by April 14.

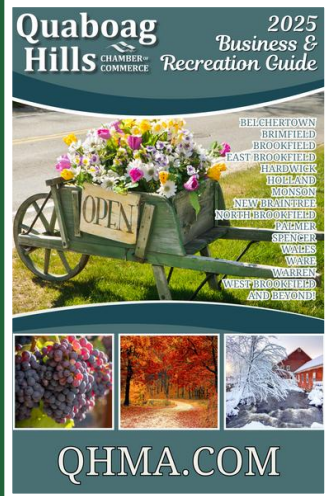
DESIGN SPECS:

- Full Page = 4.5" wide x 7.5" length
- Half Page = 4.5" wide x 3.75" length (horizontal) or 3.75" wide x 7.5" length (vertical)
- Quarter Page = 4.5" wide x 1.875" length (horizontal) or 2.25" wide x 3.75" length (vertical)

REQUIREMENTS:

- All advertisements should be submitted in PDF format.
- When saving a file as a PDF, please embed all fonts and convert all color artwork to CMYK.
- All members must be in good standing to advertise in the Guide and be listed in the Guide's Directory.

Need help designing your ad? The Chamber can help at no additional cost.



Recent Chamber Events

On January 28th, the Chamber held a breakfast at Christopher Heights of Belchertown featuring Peter Banko, CEO of Baystate Health.



The sold out event was Presented by Superior Plus Propane and provided an intimate and personable environment for guests to network and ask pointed questions about the future of the former Mary Lane Hospital property and Baystate Health's plans and goals within the Quaboag Hills region.

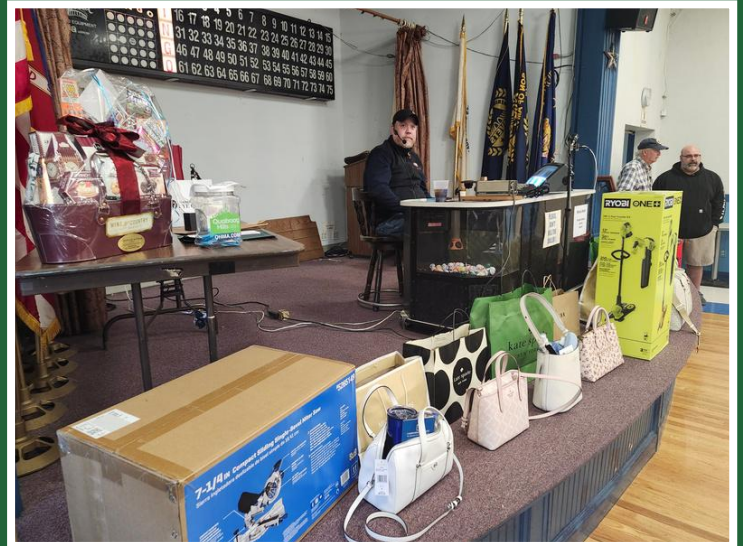


Cedarbrook Village at Ware served as Table Sponsors, while Christopher Heights of Belchertown contributed to the event's success by covering the breakfast expenses!

Recent Chamber Events



Hope sprung eternal on the first full day of Spring this year with the 1st Annual QHMA Handbag & Hand Tool Bingo Night on Friday, March 21. More than 80 celebrants and enthusiasts filled AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers for a fun filled evening featuring more than \$3,500 worth of Grand Prizes & more than a \$1,000 worth of Door Prizes!



The Chamber would like to congratulate all the winners and extend a huge thank you to all of the participants, sponsors, contributors, vendors and volunteers for making this event a success!

Volunteers

Cindy Skowrya
Christina Hazzard
David Loos
Julie Quink
Lena Buteau
Lorna Stone
Mary Demkowski
Renee Niedziela and her staff
at J. Stolar Insurance Agency
Rich Lapierre
Tracey Giard

Grand Prize Sponsors

Burkhart Pizzanelli PC
Christopher Heights of Belchertown
J. Stolar Insurance Agency
Pineapple Express
Quabbin Valley Eye Care
Sanderson MacLeod



Door Prize Donors

Burkhart Pizzanelli PC
Cedarbrook Village at Ware
Country Bank
Hardwick Crossing Country Club
Hardwick Farmers Co-op
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
Monson Savings
Quabbin Valley Eye Care
Salem Cross Inn



Upcoming Chamber Events - Register at qhma.com

Friday, April 11, 2025

Chamber Chat Breakfast

Presented by Cedarbrook Village at Ware

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce invites you and/or members of your staff to a unique networking and information session, Chamber Chat, featuring open discussions at four different chat tables/topics every 15 minutes!

Digital Marketing & Technology

with Edward Fisher Jr/Fisher Tech Solutions & Patrick Hughes/Lantern Digital Marketing Agency

Business Training, Financial Planning & Insurance

with Melissa Fales/Q.V.C.D.C., Renee Niedziela/J. Stolar Insurance Agency, and Nicholas Manolakis/MassMutual's Charter Oak Financial

Maximizing Your Membership

with James Przypek/Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce & Tanya Bullock/Life's Memories & More

Working with Municipalities

with Stuart Beckley & Anna Marques/Town of Ware & Brad Brothers & Heidi Mannarino/Town of Palmer

Date/Time	Location	\$15/Member
Friday, April 11, 2025	Cedarbrook Village at	\$20/Non-Member
7:30am: Check In/Breakfast	Ware	Includes Breakfast
8am-9am: Chat Sessions	73 South St.	Limited to the first 36
	Ware, MA 01082	registrants

Upcoming Chamber Events - Register at qhma.com

Thursday, May 8, 2025

QHMA Choice Awards

Join us as we honor and celebrate the 36 deserving Finalists for the 2025 QHMA Choice Awards!

The QHMA website experienced record visitation with more than 5,000 submissions and more than 22,000 total votes for this year's Finalists:

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Casey Kibbe, Swift River Elementary (Belchertown)
Gregory Devine, Quabbin Regional School District (Barre)
Heather Weirbrick, Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School (Ware)
Marcie Fusco, Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School (West Brookfield)
Stephen Duff, Quaboag Regional School District (Warren)
Tina Young, Palmer Public Schools (Palmer)

FOOD/DRINK ESTABLISHMENT OF THE YEAR

Arcpoint Brewing Company (Belchertown)
Brimfield Winery (Brimfield)
Figlio (Palmer)
The Grapevine Grille (Belchertown)
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery (Hardwick)
Steaming Tender (Palmer)

COMMUNITY HERO OF THE YEAR

Adam Brougham, Belchertown Police Dept. K-9 Officer
Amanda Hodgen, Greene Acres Equestrian Center, owner
Jennifer Whitehead, Clapp Memorial Library, Children's Librarian
Jillian Smith of Wales, 2024 Madeline Amy Sweeney Award Recipient
Paul Kuc, Recreation Program Director for Behavioral Health Network
Seth Blackwell, Warren Fire Dept. (Retired)

Date and Time

Thursday, May 8, 2025
6pm - Arrivals & Check-In
6:30pm-8pm: Awards & Dinner

Location

Teresa's Restaurant
315 Palmer Rd, Route 32
Ware, MA 01082

Registration deadline is Friday, April 25

\$50/person, includes Dinner

Cash Bar

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE YEAR

Don's Auto Sales & Service (Belchertown)
Hardwick Farmers Co-op (Hardwick)
Life's Memories & More (Three Rivers)
Monson Thrift Shop & Community Center (Monson)
The Spirit Shoppe (West Brookfield)
Tina Marie's Hair & Boutique (Belchertown)

QHMA CHAMBER BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Country Bank (multiple locations)
Hardwick Farmers Co-op (Hardwick)
J. Stolar Insurance Agency (Three Rivers)
Monson Savings (multiple locations)
Salem Cross Inn (West Brookfield)
Teresa's Restaurant (Ware)

QHMA CHAMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Cindy Skowrya, Hitchcock Free Academy
Edward Fisher Jr., Fisher Tech Solutions
Lena Buteau, Monson Savings
Lorna Stone, Christopher Heights of Belchertown
Mary Dembkowski, Cedarbrook Village at Ware
Tracey Giard, Country Bank



Welcome Newest Members...



- ★ Howard's Drive-In
- ★ Janine's Frostee
- ★ June Eaton Realtor at REMAX Connections
- ★ The Clam Box

News



In January, the Chamber shared the passing of former Chamber Officer & Director, Dr. Gerald Paist. A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Paist earned his Masters & Doctoral Degrees in Educational Administration from Harvard University. For 47 years, Dr. Paist was the Superintendent/Director of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School and became the longest running School Superintendent in the United States. It was during this time that Dr. Paist also served the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce in a variety of roles and the first Director to be named Director Emeritus by the Chamber. Memorial donations can be sent to: Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School, 240 Sykes Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

On Thursday, March 27, the Chamber was on-hand to welcome and celebrate the opening of Tropical Vibes & Grille located at 2162 Main St in West Warren. Congratulations to Abonita Davis, her family and staff on opening this beautiful Caribbean-American restaurant in the Quaboag Hills region. And thank you to the Town of Warren officials, and the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond for having the Chamber present to help commemorate the occasion!



Upcoming Affiliate Business Workshops, Training & Networking Events

For full details, including times & registration requirements on the events below, and for event additions, visit:
<https://business.qhma.com/events/calendar/>

April 1	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting SCORE Live Webinar - Starting Your Business		
April 2	Discover EANE! SCORE Live Webinar - Price IT Right! QV CDC Smart Strategies: Organizing for Impact & Growth		
April 3	SCORE Live Webinar - Going Deep in Instagram Direct Messaging SCORE Live Webinar - Starting a Nonprofit SCORE Live Webinar - 3 Easy Steps to Boost Your Sales Appointments		
April 8	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting SCORE Live Webinar - Tariffs & Trade - Navigating the Uncertainty SCORE Live Webinar - Simple Steps - Concepts		
April 9	EANE Technology Training SCORE Live Webinar - Retail Best Practices		
April 10	EANE Leadership Training SCORE Live Webinar - The Importance of CASH FLOW SCORE Live Webinar - How to Use Google Workspace in Your Business - Tips and Best Practices		
April 11	QHMA Chamber Chat Breakfast Presented by Cedarbrook Village at Ware		
April 14	QV CDC - ServSafe Certification Session		
April 15	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting SCORE Live Webinar - Simple Steps - Marketing SCORE Live Webinar - Mastering Small Business Financial Management - Keys to Growth and Profitability		
April 16	SCORE Live Webinar - Excel Statistics		
April 17	EANE Leadership Training SCORE Live Webinar - What to Know When Considering Bankruptcy SCORE Live Webinar - Starting a Successful Food Service Business SCORE Live Webinar - Integrating AI In Your Business - Harnessing Workstations for SMB AI Operations		
April 22	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting SCORE Live Webinar - Digital Marketing Strategies to Boost Your Business Growth		
April 23	SCORE Live Webinar - SEO Part 1		
April 24	SCORE Live Webinar - How to Fund Your Business Without a Loan - Alternative Funding Sources		
April 29	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting EANE Technology Training		
April 30	EANE Professional Training SCORE Live Webinar - SEO Part 2		
May 1	EANE Technology Training	June 3	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting
May 5	EANE Technology Training	June 4	Discover EANE!
May 6	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting EANE Professional Training	June 10	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting
May 7	EANE Technology Training Discover EANE!	June 11	EANE Technology Training
May 13	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting EANE Professional Training	June 17	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting EANE Leadership Training
May 15	EANE Professional Training	June 24	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting EANE Technology Training
May 20	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting		
May 27	Quaboag Referral Group - Weekly Meeting		

Upcoming Member Events This Quarter

Ongoing - Saturdays from 1pm-4pm

Brimfield
Cat Adoption Days
Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal
Sanctuary
heretodaysanctuary.org

April 3, 2025

Palmer
Take & Bake Brown Sugar Cinnamon Cake Mug
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

Hardwick
An Evening w/Psychic Medium Gary McKinstry
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

April 5, 2025

Monson
Epic Craft Swap
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

Palmer
Steampunkinetics Workshop
Palmer Historical & Cultural Center
palmerhcc.org

Ware
Tony Vacca & the Fusion Nomads Concert
Workshop13
workshop13.org

April 6, 2025

Monson
Stories From The Quarry
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

Monson
Opening Day/Open House
Keep Homestead Museum
keephomesteadmuseum.org

Ware
The Word – Open Mic Poetry
Workshop13
worksop13.org

April 9, 2025

Springfield
RESC's WTrades Career Fair for H.S. Students
Basketball Hall of Fame
rivereaststc.org

Palmer
DIY Needle Felted Bunny workshop
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

Palmer
Family Karaoke Night
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

April 10, 2025

Palmer
Bubble Painting
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

Springfield
Kamp for Kids Golf FUNraiser for BHN
Max's Swing Lounge at the Hall of Fame
bhninc.org

Monson
The Great Gatsby film screenings
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

Hardwick
Wine Glass Paint & Sip
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

April 11, 2025

West Brookfield & North Brookfield
Community Shred Day
North Brookfield Savings Bank
northbrookfieldsavingsbank.com

Hardwick
Wine & Easter Treats Pairing Experience
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

Palmer
Friday Night Rocks Rock Band Series
Palmer Historical & Cultural Center
palmerhcc.org

April 12, 2025

Monson
Beaver Presentation by MA Audubon
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

Hardwick
BroadwayVox
The Center at Eagle Hill
centerateaglehill.org

April 15, 2025

Brimfield
Homesteading Workshop
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

April 16, 2025

Palmer
Crafternoons for Adults - Tote Bags w/Cricut
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

April 17, 2025

Brimfield
Homesteading Workshop
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

April 17, 2025

Palmer
Pine Cone Bird Feeders workshop
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

Monson
Federal Judge & Author, Michael Ponsor
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

April 18, 2025

Ware
Open Mic Music
Workshop13
workshop13.org

April 19, 2025

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

Hardwick
Easter Egg Hunt
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

Hardwick
Spring Fling Wine Dinner
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

Ware
Drum & Dance Circle Meet-Up
Workshop13
workshop13.org

April 20, 2025

Hardwick
Easter Brunch
Hardwick Crossing Country Club
hardwickcrossing.com

Sturbridge
Easter Dinner Buffet
Publick House Historic Inn
publickhouse.com

West Brookfield
Easter Dinner Specials
Salem Cross Inn
salemcrossinn.com

April 22, 2025

Monson
Earth Day Crafternoon
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

April 23, 2025

Hardwick
Kids Painting Workshop
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

Upcoming Member Events This Quarter

April 23, 2025

Monson
Ruth Sanderson Storytime
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

Hardwick
Hat Burning Workshop
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

Palmer
Cupcake Wars: Wild Animals workshop
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

April 24, 2025

Palmer
Chocolate Pancake Tacos workshop
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

April 25, 2025

Palmer
After-Hours Library Rave: Squid Game
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

April 26, 2025

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

Monson
Celebrate Poetry
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

April 27, 2025

Hardwick
Sip & Roll Sushi Making Experience
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

Palmer
Crooked Ledge Concert - Patsy Cline Tribute
Palmer Historical & Cultural Center
palmerhcc.org

April 29, 2025

Palmer
Poetry Reading & Workshop w/ Melissa Dickey
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

April 30, 2025

Monson
Boston Lighthouse History
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

May 2, 2025

Charlton
Operation Soaring Eagle Golf Tournament
Heritage Golf Course
homefrontstrongus.org

May 3, 2025

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

Brimfield
Brimfield Winery Opens for the season
Brimfield Winery
brimfieldwinery.com

Ware
The Big League Collective w/ Norma Dream
Workshop13
workshop13.org

May 4, 2025

Monson
Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg presentation
Keep Homestead Museum
keephomesteadmuseum.org

May 8, 2025

Ware
QHMA Choice Awards Dinner
Teresa's Restaurant
qhma.com

May 10, 2025

Brimfield
Grow With Us Plant Sale
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

Monson
Children's Author Event with Phaea Crede
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

May 10-11, 2025

Hardwick
Lucky Stiff (An EHS Production)
The Center at Eagle Hill
centerateaglehill.org

May 11, 2025

Sturbridge
Mother's Day Dinner Buffet
Publick House Historic Inn
publickhouse.com

May 13-18, 2025

Brimfield
Brimfield Flea Markets
QHMA Member Fields:
Brimfield Auction Acres
brimfieldauctionacres.com
Central Park Antique Shows
brimfieldcentralpark.com
Quaker Acres
facebook.com/quakeracresbrimfield

May 24, 2025

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

Brimfield
Red Solo Cup Concert-Tribute to Toby Keith
Brimfield Winery
brimfieldwinery.com

Ware
Padded Waltz Concert
Workshop13
workshop13.org

May 31, 2025

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

June 1, 2025

Monson
Wildlife on Wheels from Forest Park
Keep Homestead Museum
keephomesteadmuseum.org

June 7, 2025

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

June 7-8, 2025

Brimfield
Pioneer Valley Wine Festival
Brimfield Winery
brimfieldwinery.com

June 14, 2025

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

June 21, 2025

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

June 28, 2025

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

UNLOCK NEW BUSINESS WITH THE



Quaboag Referral Group

The Quaboag Referral Group is the Chamber's own business networking and referral organization.

"Joining this group was the best thing for my business"

- Gene Birk, Gene Birk Electric

It's time for you to experience the difference Q.R.G. can do for you and your business.

- No fees or obligations to attend your first meeting.
- Membership is limited to non-competing professions.
- Q.R.G. meets weekly on Tuesdays from 7am-8:30am at the Palmer Historical Cultural Center in Three Rivers.



Contact the Chamber office at (413) 283-2418 or info@qhma.com to set up your initial meeting.



YOU'VE NEVER LOGGED INTO THE CHAMBER'S MEMBER INFORMATION CENTER?

You are missing out, in the MIC, you can:

- Update & enhance your Directory listing with your logo, photos, detailed descriptions & more
- Post Job Openings
- Post Hot Deals
- Post Member to Member Deals
- View & Register for QHMA Events, Business Networking, Training Seminars & Workshops
- Pay Chamber invoices
- And so much more!

Contact james@qhma.com to get a link to create your own login



LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE WAY TO:

- SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS
- SUPPORT THE CHAMBER
- WELCOME VISITORS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

JOIN MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE QHMA MEMBERS WHO ARE DISPLAYED
ON THE CHAMBER'S MASS PIKE EXIT 63 BILLBOARD IN PALMER

OPTIONS START AT \$200/YEAR

CONTACT [JAMES@QHMA.COM](mailto:james@qhma.com) FOR MORE INFORMATION



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Made to make a difference.

Monson Savings
Your Bank Forever



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Insurance Agency, Inc.

SERVPRO
SERVPRO of Hampshire County

bhn
Behavioral Health Network



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of Belchertown
AN ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY



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