



Quaboag Hills *Newsletter*

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Inside:

New Member & Open House • 2

2026 Choice Awards • 3-4

Most Recent Events • 5

Quaboag Hills EmpowHer • 6

Bingo Night Fundraiser • 7

Business Spotlight • 9

After 5 - April 15 • 10

Area Events • 11-12

Workshops & Training • 13

Bulletin Board • 14

Welcome Newest Member...

★ Gray Craig Farm
11 Jeffrey Lane
Belchertown, MA 01007

Highlights:

Alpaca and Bantam Chickens

Unique Fiber products and gifts

Holistic Health and Wellness Venues

Small Farm Permaculture Ecovillage Design

Yurt Rental



Open House & Member Showcase - April 29

RSVP and stop in for our Open House & Member Showcase Presented by the Quaboag Referral Group on Wednesday, April 29 from 5pm-7pm at 191 Sykes St, the Pathfinder Tech - Four Corners building!

Check out the renovated space, location of the Quaboag Referral Group's weekly meetings, and home to many of Pathfinder Tech's Adult Continuing Education programs.

The event is free and open to the public. We will have food, music and giveaways, plus the Member Showcase featuring an eclectic collection of QHMA members and their fun promotions. We have a couple of outdoor spaces still available. Scan the QR code to RSVP and/or sign up to showcase!



Choice Awards - Finalists!

Finalists for the 2026 Choice Awards were announced on February 15 spanning seven categories and thirty-five deserving individuals and organizations. Online voting encompassed 28 days with 10,600 votes submitted! This year's Finalists are:

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Pamela Ellis, Granite Valley School
Jacqueline Fernandez, North Brookfield Elementary School
Marcie Fusco, Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School
Beky O'Brien, Old Mill Pond Elementary
Marion Reilly, Wales Elementary School



COMMUNITY HERO OF THE YEAR

Ann Davidson, Wales Community Food Pantry
Karen Davis, Monson Together Community Cupboard
Brenda McCarthy, Bondsville Post Office
Amy Scribner, River East School-to-Career
Chris Smith, Light Up Palmer

HVAC BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

C.W. Angell
Noonan Energy
Pioneer Valley Environmental
River-Air HVAC
Squier & Co.

NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR

Behavioral Health Network
Hitchcock Free Academy
Palmer Historical & Cultural Center
Quaboag Valley Community Development Corp
Workshop13 Cultural Arts & Learning Center

MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR

Palmer Foundry
Palmer Paving
Quabbin Wire & Cable Co.
Quirk Wire Co.
Sanderson MacLeod

CHAMBER CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

Burkhart Pizzanelli, P.C.
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
Pathfinder Tech
SERVPRO Team Fall
Superior Plus Energy

CHAMBER LEGACY AWARD

Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency
Country Bank
Monson Savings
Moulton Insurance Agency
North Brookfield Savings Bank



Choice Awards Dinner

Honoring this year's Finalists & Winners for:

- Community Hero of the Year
- Educator of the Year
- HVAC Business of the Year
- Manufacturer of the Year
- Non-Profit of the Year
- Chamber Champion of the Year
- Chamber Legacy Award

Wednesday, May 6, 2026
6pm Arrivals & Check-in
6:30pm-8pm Dinner/Awards

Steaming Tender Restaurant
28 Depot St
Palmer, MA 01069

SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$2,000

- Your logo/business name incorporated into the event title as Presenting Sponsor in all promotional materials prior to and during the event
- Your logo/business name included on the recognition presented to each finalists
- Opportunity to provide welcome remarks
- Company representative included in award winner photos
- Up to Eight (8) complimentary registrations to the event

FINALIST SPONSOR - \$1,250

- Your logo/business name featured in video presentation at the event
- Company representative included in finalist presentation photos
- Up to Four (4) complimentary registrations to the event

TABLE SPONSOR - \$750

- Your logo/business name on each guest table at the event
- Up to Four (4) complimentary registrations to the event

To book your sponsorship, contact the Chamber at (413) 283-2418 or james@qhma.com

Individual Tickets (included plated dinner):

\$50/person - QHMA Members

\$55/person - Future Members

Registration Deadline: April 24
Purchase at QHMA.com

Chamber Breakfast

Presented by Employers Association of the Northeast

On February 12, the Chamber conducted its first event of 2026 with hosts and Breakfast Sponsor, Cedarbrook Village at Ware. The sold out event featured a presentation by EANE staff, Gary Dawson, Director of Learning & Development, and Mackenzie Diaz, Workforce Solution Specialist providing an extensive introduction to EANE's programs and resources. Highlights from the event included EANE's jumbo sized highlighters, and raffle prizes from the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery and Monson Savings.



Intro to AI Workshop With Synaptic Labs

Twenty QHMA knowledge seekers spent ninety minutes on Monday, March 30, learning about Artificial Intelligence platforms and gained valuable hands-on experience using the platforms to create effective prompts and communicate desired outcomes to utilize AI tools at work.



The free workshop was led by Synaptic Labs' Chief Empowerment Officer, Joseph Rosenbaum, who started his company to deliver equitable access to AI through innovation, education, and practical solutions. Joe delivered a "How to Talk to AI" overview and provided the group with access Synaptic Labs Prompt Library, an AI Readiness Assessment for each organization, grant writing and reporting resources, video tutorials, and more information on having Synaptic Labs perform a deeper dive into AI training for each member business.



The Chamber's newest initiative, Quaboag Hills EmpowHer, was proposed by Board President Renee Niedziela and accelerated by the overwhelming survey responses the Chamber received at the Annual Meeting in November. Our new women in business group held its inaugural event on March 12.

Quaboag Hills EmpowHer's mission is to create an inviting meeting space where women in business can Learn, Lead, Connect, and Thrive - Supporting one another while strengthening our local businesses and economic growth.

The Q.H. EmpowHer breakfast was also made possible by Supporting Sponsor: Sanderson MacLeod, Raffle Sponsors: Cedarbrook Village at Ware, Life's Memories & More, and Quabbin Valley Eye Care.

The event was moderated by Renee, Kaitlin Young, and featured panelists: Jennifer Baublitz, Kara Noonan Pear, Rebecca Maurer and Tanya Bullock.

Each attendee was able to introduce themselves, share insight and experiences related to their jobs, favorite aspects of their work, recent successes, and exciting goals for what lies ahead.

Later, the moderators and panelists helped lead discussions about advocacy, new beginnings, juggling work and personal responsibilities, inspirations, financial challenges, leadership, life lessons, setting boundaries, community involvement, and much more. The common thread throughout the event was positivity.

Quaboag Hills EmpowHer events will become a quarterly fixture of the Chamber's taking place each March, June, September and December.

The next event is scheduled for Thursday, June 4. Stay tuned for a full announcement soon.

The Chamber's 2nd Annual Handbags & More Bingo Night fundraiser took place on March 20 at AMVETS in Three Rivers with more than 100 attendees.

The upbeat and fun atmosphere with sound provided by Sounds by Rich Entertainment, was a great way for friends, coworkers and family to get together for a spirited evening and celebrate the first day of Spring.

Ten exciting rounds of Bingo were played with a Grand Prize giveaway to each winner. The coveted prize list included designers handbags from Coach, Kate Spade and Michael Mors, plus power tool packages from DeWALT and Craftsman, and a 65" Samsung Smart TV.

Many Chamber businesses supporting the event including Grand Prizes Sponsors:

- Burkhart Pizzanelli, PC
- Christopher Heights of Belchertown
- J. Stolar Insurance Agency

High demand between game raffle prizes were given away throughout the night with donations courtesy of:

- Cedarbrook Village at Ware
- Dioguardi Jewelers
- Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
- Pathfinder Tech
- Quabbin Wire & Cable
- Roberts & Ludlow Printing
- Silver Bell Farm
- The Better Bean Cafe

As an added bonus, Pathfinder Tech provided a pair of student-made solid wood rocking Adirondack chairs for a stand alone raffle prize commanding admirable attention and significant pride.





PALMER & WARE



PRESCHOOL & SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS

No wait list! ~ Your family may be eligible for FREE or low-cost care!

BHN's early education and school-age programs provide a safe, nurturing environment where children learn and grow—helping local families work, study, and succeed.

We Offer:

- **Preschool for ages 2.9–5** with individualized learning, caring teachers, nutritious meals, and kindergarten-readiness support.
- The **Ware School Age program** provides before-school care, after-school enrichment, full-day vacation coverage, and summer programming.
- **Licensed, accredited services** designed to meet the needs of working parents.



Enroll Your Child Today!

Please give us a call to enroll or scan the QR code to complete our interest form:

bhninc.org/preschool

KIDSTOP Children's Center

70 Pleasant St., Ware, MA
413-967-9025

KIDSTOP School Age Program

SMK Elementary School
4 Gould Rd., Ware, MA
413-967-4046

Quaboag Children's Center

1060 Central St., Palmer, MA
413-283-3475



Get to know the Palmer Restaurant, the charming diner located in the heart of Depot Village at 1376 Main Street.

Please tell us about yourself personally and professionally?

My name is Meyfang Eang, and I'm the owner of the Palmer Restaurant. After graduating from UMass Lowell with a degree in Business Administration and Entrepreneurship, I purchased a liquor store and pizza restaurant in Michigan, where I gained hands-on experience in owning and managing a business. Professionally, I am passionate about hospitality and creating a warm, welcoming place where the community can gather and enjoy great food and great times. Owning and operating my restaurant has taught me leadership, resilience and the importance of building strong relationships with both customers and staff. I truly love serving our community and being part of Palmer's growth.

Can you share some details about the Palmer Restaurant?

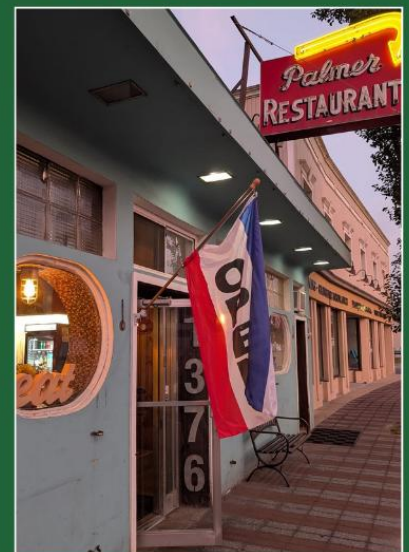
I'm deeply involved in the daily operations and management of the business. My journey started with a simple passion, bringing people together through good, comforting food in a warm and welcoming environment. We specialize in breakfast and lunch, offering fresh, homemade-style meals that make people feel at home. From classic breakfast favorites to hearty lunch specials, our goal is to provide quality food, friendly service, and a place where families, friends and neighbors can gather and feel comfortable.

What drives you and the restaurant to be better each day?

The responsibility and opportunity to build something bigger than myself. I'm not just managing a restaurant, I'm building a space where people start their mornings, hold conversations, celebrate small moments, and feel part of a community. I want every guest to feel welcomed, valued and satisfied with both the service and the experience. My family is also a big part of my drive. I want to show my son what hard work, leadership, and resilience look like. I want him to grow up seeing that with faith, courage, and dedication you can create opportunities not just for yourself, but for others too.

What do you want people to know about your business that they might not know already?

We expanded the menu to include lunch options in addition to breakfast. I wanted to offer more variety and give our community more choices throughout the day. Another thing that makes us different is our daily specials. They change every day and are not repeated regularly. It keeps things fresh, exciting and gives everyone something new to look forward to. We source produce from nearby farms and collaborate with other local businesses by incorporating their products into our specials. Lastly, we provide catering services for both small and large events. Whether it's a business meeting, family gathering, or special celebration, we're happy to accommodate.



AFTER 5 Superior Plus PRESENTED BY Propane

Don't miss April's After 5 networking event. A great place to connect with area business owners, managers and employees of member businesses and future members. This month's host is the Monson Arts Council who will open the Spring Art Show exclusively for event guests.

SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES:

PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$250

- Your Logo/Business name incorporated into the event title as Presenting Sponsor in all promotional materials prior to and during the event
- Opportunity for (1) company representative to deliver welcome remarks at the event
- Opportunity to provide company swag or promotional material takeaways to guests
- Four (4) complimentary registrations to the event

REGISTRATION SPONSOR - \$150

- Your logo/business name featured at the Chamber's welcome/registration table at the event
- Opportunity to provide company swag or promotional material takeaways to guests
- Four (4) complimentary registrations to the event

RAFFLE DONATION - \$50

- Provide an item with an estimated value of at least \$50 or pay to have the Chamber provide a \$50 valued raffle prize at the event courtesy of your organization!

To book your sponsorship or confirm your raffle donation, contact the Chamber at (413) 283-2418 or james@qhma.com

Wednesday, April 15, 2026
5pm-7pm

Monson Arts Council
House of Art and Gallery
170F Main Street
Monson, MA 01057

\$10/QHMA Member
\$15/Future Member
Register at QHMA.com



HOST, FOOD & RAFFLE
SPONSOR

Upcoming Member Events This Quarter

Ongoing - Saturdays thru May

Palmer
Kids ON TRACK
Amherst Railway Society
amherstrail.org

Ongoing - Most Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays thru April

West Brookfield
Fireplace Feast
Salem Cross Inn
salemcrossinn.com

Ongoing - Thursday thru May

Palmer
Drama & Dance Program
Palmer Historical & Cultural Center
palmerhcc.org

Ongoing - Mondays

Gilbertville
Trivia Night
Hardwick Crossing Country Club
hardwickcrossing.com

Ongoing - Wednesdays

Gilbertville
Music Bingo
Hardwick Crossing Country Club
hardwickcrossing.com

Ongoing - Saturdays from 1pm-4pm

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

Ongoing - Saturdays & Sundays

Hardwick
Live Music at the Hardwick Winery
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

April 4, 2026

Hardwick
Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Market
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

April 4, 2026

Ware
Bennie & The Jets - An Elton John Tribute
Teresa's Restaurant
(413) 967-7601

April 10, 2026

Hardwick
Jonathan Dely Concert
The Center at Eagle Hill
thecenterateaglehill.org

April 11, 2026

Hardwick
Murder She Float: A Mardi Gras Murder
Mystery Dinner
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

April 11-26, 2026

Weekends
Monson
32nd Annual Juried Spring Art Exhibition
Monson House of Art
Monsonartscouncil.org

April 11 - May 9, 2026

Weekends
Ware
Celebrating the Figure Art Exhibition
Workshop13's Artwork Gallery
workshop13.org

April 12, 2026

Monson
Indian Baskets of the Northeastern
Woodlands
Keep Homestead Museum
keephomesteadmuseum.org

April 15, 2026

Monson
QHMA After 5
Monson House of Art
qhma.com

April 18, 2026

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

April 18 - October 31, 2026

Saturdays (except 5/16, 7/18, 9/12)
Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

April 25, 2026

Hardwick
Dan Candell: Comedy Hypnosis Show
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
Hardwickwinery.com

April 26, 2026

Ware
Nicole Fuller - Taylor Swift Tribute
Workshop13
workshop13.org

April 29, 2026

Belchertown
BHS, JBMS & CHCS Jazz Band Concert
Belchertown High School
belchertown.org

April 29, 2026

Palmer
QHMA Open House & Member
Showcase
Pathfinder Tech at Four Corners
qhma.com

May 1, 2026

Charlton
Operation Soaring Eagle Golf
Tournament
Heritage Country Club
homefrontstrongus.org

May 1, 2026

Ware
Adult Workshop
Ware Grange
waregrange.org

May 2, 2026

Ware
The Super Group Concert
Workshop13
workshop13.org

Upcoming Member Events This Quarter

May 3, 2026

Palmer
Artisan Emporium
Steaming Tender Restaurant
steamingtender.com

May 6, 2026

Palmer
QHMA Choice Awards Dinner
Steaming Tender Restaurant
qhma.com

May 9, 2026

Belchertown
Opening Day
Stone House Museum
stonehousemuseum.org

May 9, 2026

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

May 9, 2026

Monson
MA Kid's Lit Fest
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

May 9, 2026

Ware
Kids Corner
Ware Grange
waregrange.org

May 9-10, 2026

Hardwick
Mother's Day Weekend, Sip & Shop
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

May 9-10, 2026

Hardwick
25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
(An EHS Production)
The Center at Eagle Hill
thecenterateaglehill.org

May 12-17, 2026

Brimfield
Brimfield Flea Markets

QHMA Member Fields:
Brimfield Show Promoters'
Association
brimfieldantiquefleamarket.com

Brimfield Auction Acres
brimfieldauctionacres.com

Central Park Antique Shows
brimfieldcentralpark.com

May 14, 2026

Monson
One Girl's Voice Reading
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

May 16, 2026

Monson
Kinusaiga Craft Workshop
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

May 23-24, 2026

Hardwick
Spring Fling Craft Fair & Food Festival
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

May 29-30, 2026

Springfield
N.E. Railroad Prototype Modelers
Meet
Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place
Hotel
amherstrail.org

May 30, 2026

Brimfield
Trash to Treasure Town Wide Tag Sale
Town of Brimfield
brimfieldma.org

May 30, 2026

Palmer
Lemonade Day
Town of Palmer
townofpalmer.com

May 31, 2026

Ware
Seth Newton Concert
Workshop13
workshop13.org

June 6-7, 2026

Brimfield
Pioneer Valley Wine Festival
Brimfield Winery
brimfieldwinery.com

June 12, 2026

Ware
Adult Workshop
Ware Grange
waregrange.org

June 13, 2026

Brimfield
The Spirit of Brimfield
250 Years of Freedom
& Old Home Day
Town of Brimfield
brimfieldma.org

June 13, 2026

Ware
Kids Corner
Ware Grange
waregrange.org

June 20, 2026

Ware
The Heart Collectors Concert
Workshop13
workshop13.org

June 21, 2026

Belchertown
Celebration of the Summer Solstice
Gray Craig Farm
info.graycraigfarm@gmail.com

Upcoming Affiliate Business Workshop & Training Events

For full details, including times & registration requirements on the events below, and for event additions, visit: QHMA.com



- Apr. 1 Discover EANE!
- Apr. 2 EANE HR & Compliance Training
- Apr. 14 EANE Leadership Training - Agawam
- Apr. 14 EANE Technology Training
- Apr. 22 EANE Leadership Training
- May 6 Discover EANE!
- May 12 EANE Professional Training
- May 12 EANE Technology Training
- May 28 EANE HR & Compliance Training
- Jun. 2 EANE Professional Training
- Jun. 3 Discover EANE!
- Jun. 9 EANE HR & Compliance Training
- Jun. 10 EANE Technology Training
- Jun. 16 EANE Leadership Training - Agawam
- Jun. 18 EANE HR & Compliance Training



- Apr. 7 Weekly Meeting
- Apr. 14 Weekly Meeting
- Apr. 21 Weekly Meeting
- Apr. 28 Weekly Meeting
- May 5 Weekly Meeting
- May 12 Weekly Meeting
- May 19 Weekly Meeting
- May 26 Weekly Meeting
- Jun. 2 Weekly Meeting
- Jun. 9 Weekly Meeting
- Jun. 16 Weekly Meeting
- Jun. 23 Weekly Meeting
- Jun. 30 Weekly Meeting



- Apr. 14 Google Suite for Beginners Class
- Apr. 18 Small Business Marketing Workshop
- Apr. 26 Business by the Numbers
- May 13 Resume Writing for Teens & Young Adults



- Apr. 2 Free Live Webinar - Bookkeeping Essentials
- Apr. 7 Free Live Webinar - Event Marketing Playbook
- Apr. 9 Live Webinar - Blogging for Small Businesses
- Apr. 14 Live Webinar - Build A 12-Month Growth Plan
- Apr. 21 Free Live Webinar - Meet Your AI Team
- Apr. 28 Free Live Webinar - Prepare for Event Success

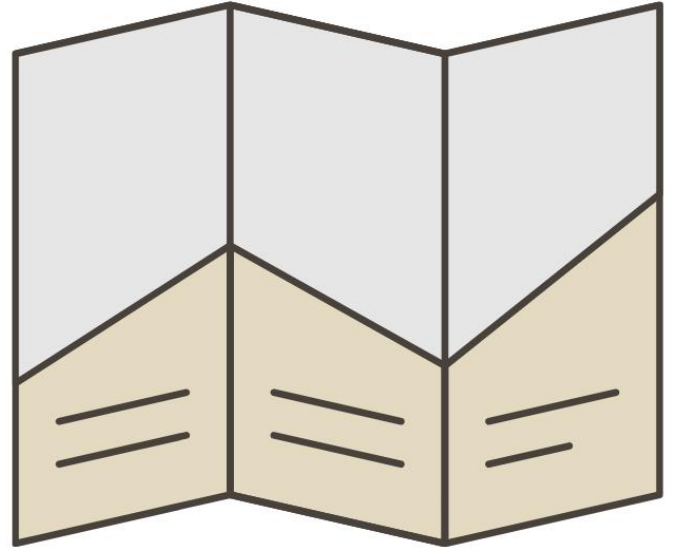


QHMA Member Exclusive Offer

The Steaming Tender Restaurant is offering QHMA Members the opportunity to display your rack cards in their vintage display rack!

Deliver up to 100 rack cards to the Steaming Tender for inclusion.

Thank you to the Lamothe Family for making this opportunity possible!



Volunteers Needed for CAREER DAY at Old Mill Pond

CAREER Day at OMP

WE NEED YOUR EXPERIENCES! WE ARE HOLDING A CAREER DAY FOR GRADE 4 STUDENTS AND ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO COME IN FOR ABOUT AN HOUR TO SPEAK. WHETHER YOU ARE A NURSE, ENGINEER, CUSTODIAN, BUSINESS OWNER, ETC... WE WANT YOU! LET'S COLLABORATE AS A COMMUNITY AND BRING THESE EXPERIENCES TO OUR YOUNG STUDENTS

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026
 TIME: 9:15-10:15 AM
 LOCATION: OMP PALMER MA

CONTACT: HOLLY RIOPEL
 HRIOPEL@PALMERSCHOOLS.ORG

Lets Discover our Future!

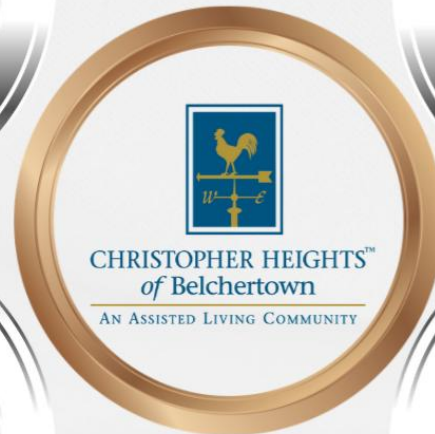


Attn:
Palmer
Businesses



Sign up now to host kid entrepreneurs & a Lemonade Stand outside your business for Lemonade Day Palmer on Saturday, May 30

Email Julia Taylor for more information & to sign up at:
lemonadedaypalmer@yahoo.com



2026 UNDERWRITERS