



Quabog Hills *Newsletter*

Inside:

New Members & New Location • 2

Annual Meeting Recap • 3

Most Recent Events • 4

Advertise in the 2026 Guide • 5

Choice Awards Nominations • 6

Save The Dates • 7

Upcoming Member Events • 8

Business Spotlight • 9

Workshops & Training • 10

ModVic Workshops • 11

Bulletin Board • 12



Welcome New & Returning Members...

- ★ Cookies by Ray
- ★ Jersey Mike's - Palmer
- ★ Law Offices of Richard H. Maynard, P.C.
- ★ Monson Arts Council
- ★ Palmer Restaurant



We Moved!

Five years after the Chamber relocated its operations from the Palmer Development Center on Converse St to the Palmer Technology Center in Three Rivers, the Chamber has settled into its newest location at 191 Sykes St in Palmer. Thanks to a space agreement with Pathfinder Tech, the QHMA office is located inside the newly renovated and remodeled Pathfinder Tech - Four Corners, providing the Chamber with an elevated presence for our members and communities.



We would like to thank Pathfinder's Faculty, Board, and Students for all of their work and dedication to making this possible!

The Chamber's mailing address remains:
PO Box 954 - Palmer, MA 01069



Annual Meeting & Dinner

Presented by Superior Plus Propane

On November 6th, the QHMA Annual Meeting & Dinner returned to Salem Cross Inn in West Brookfield for a festive evening to celebrate the past year and look forward to what lies ahead. The event attracted its largest attendance since 2014 and received tremendous sponsor support from Presenting Sponsor: Superior Plus Propane; Speaker Sponsors: Baystate Health & Burkhart Pizzanelli, PC; and Table Sponsors: Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency, North Brookfield Savings Bank, Pioneer Valley Environmental and SERVPRO Team Fall!



During the evening, member businesses were recognized for their "birthday" milestones in 2025:

- Country Bank - 175 years
- Noonan Energy - 135 years
- Rondeau's Dairy Bar - 85 years
- Palmer Paving - 70 years
- Amherst Railway Society - 60 years
- Howe Lumber - 60 years
- Sunsetview Farm Camping Area - 55 years
- Quabbin Wire & Cable - 50 years
- Alternative Telecom & Security - 45 years
- J. Stolar Insurance Agency - 45 years
- Teresa's Restaurant - 45 years
- M-PACT - 45 years
- Keep Homestead Museum - 35 years
- Flamingo Motorsports - 25 years
- Michael's Party Rentals - 25 years
- Rose32 Bread - 15 years



Besides the amazing food and service from the Salem Cross staff, guests also enjoyed a presentation by guest speaker, Megan McDonough, founder of the Wholebeing Institute, dessert featuring Rondeau's Ice Cream and QHMA - KEEP IT LOCAL headgear!

Member Meet & Mix - Steampunk Wonderland

Presented by Sanderson MacLeod

On October 22, the ERC5 Chamber and QHMA partnered for a unique mixer with members from both Chambers visiting Steampunk Wonderland in Thorndike, the home, studio and workshop for famed Steampunk artist, Bruce Rosenbaum and his company ModVic. Admission and catering was underwritten for both Chambers by Sanderson MacLeod and featured a capacity crowd who products from Seven Railroads Brewing Company, and a VIP presentation and tour by Bruce.



Night Out at Silver Bell Nights

QHMA Members strolled right into the holiday spirit on December 17th enjoying discounted admission to our region's premier holiday light show experience courtesy of Silver Bell Farm and owners, Laura & Michael Moore.

As a special thank you to Silver Bell Farm, net proceeds from the event were then divided and donated to three local non-profits: the Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry in West Brookfield, the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance and QHMA.com.

It was a perfect evening taking in the awe inspiring displays that get more incredible each year.



ADVERTISE IN THE 2026 QUABOAG HILLS CHAMBER'S BUSINESS & RECREATION GUIDE!

- Playbill (5.5" x 8.5") sized publication – Full Color
- More than 10,000 copies distributed annually at area events
- Permanent distribution kiosks in more than 15 regional locations
- Digital download copy on QHMA.com (98,000 visitors annually)
- Four visible pricing options to meet your budget



FULL PAGE	\$1000	Design full page artwork to: 4.5" wide x 7.5" length
HALF PAGE	\$750	Design half page artwork to: 4.5" wide x 3.75" length (horizontal) or 2.25" wide x 7.5" length (vertical)
QUARTER PAGE	\$500	Design quarter page artwork to: 2.25" wide x 3.75" length (vertical) or 4.5" wide x 1.875" length (horizontal)
YOUR LOGO NEXT TO YOUR DIRECTORY LISTING	\$250	Estimated size 2" x 2" depending on logo orientation Submit high resolution JPG or PNG files

Order Deadline:
Monday, March 23, 2026
Reply with your size order to: james@qhma.com

Artwork Deadline:
Monday, March 30, 2026
Email artwork to: james@qhma.com

- All advertisements should be submitted in PDF format.
- When saving file as a PDF, please embed all fonts and convert all color artwork to CMYK.
- Pricing listed is for QHMA Members. Add 15% for Non-members.
- All members must be in good standing to advertise in the Guide and be listed in the Guide's Directory.
- Not responsible for improperly sized submissions or corrections.
- Need help with artwork? The Chamber can help, just email james@qhma.com



We are seeking Nominations for the
2026 Choice Awards

Community Hero of the Year
&
Educator of the Year



***VISIT QHMA.COM OR SCAN TO NOMINATE
INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR COMMUNITY TODAY!***



NOMINATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Online voting for Finalists in seven categories will
be open from Feb. 15 - March 15 at QHMA.com

All Finalists & Award Winners will be honored at
an event in May.



BINGO *Night*



Purses, Power Tools & Tech Grand Prizes!



FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026
DOORS AT 6PM GAMES AT 6:30PM
AMVETS POST 74 2150 Main St Three Rivers, MA 01080



SAVE THE DATES

Quaboag Hills
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



2026 ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

PUBLIC HOUSE HISTORIC INN
STURBRIDGE

Upcoming Member Events This Quarter

Ongoing - Saturdays thru February

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

January 10, 2026

Monson
Watercolor Workshop
Monson Arts Council
monsonartscouncil.org
&
Palmer
Author Talk with Comedian Chris Duffy
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org
&
Ware
Chicago Total Access - A Chicago Tribute Band
Teresa's Restaurant
(413) 967-7601
&
Ware
The Green Sisters Concert
Workshop13
workshop13.org

January 16, 2026

Hardwick
Six One Five Collective Concert
The Center at Eagle Hill
thecenterateaglehill.org

January 17, 2026

Hardwick
Mental Penetration – A One-Man Mind Show
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com
&
Ware
Drum & Dance Circle Meet-Up
Workshop13
workshop13.org

January 21, 2026

Brimfield
Brown Bag Speaker Series
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

January 23, 2026

Hardwick
Assassins (An EHS Production)
The Center at Eagle Hill
thecenterateaglehill.org

January 24, 2026

Monson
Wildlife On Wheels
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

January 24-25, 2026

West Springfield
Railroad Hobby Show
Amherst Railway Society
amherstrail.org

January 31, 2026

Brimfield
Baking Bread Made Easy
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org
&
Hardwick
Murder Mystery Dinner Show
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com
&
Ware
Singer Songwriter Series
Workshop13
workshop13.org

February 7, 2026

Hardwick
Nova Linea Contemporary Dance
The Center at Eagle Hill
thecenterateaglehill.org

February 10, 2026

Monson
Friend's Bake Sale
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

February 17, 2026

Palmer
A Night With Paranormal Investigators
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

February 20, 2026

Ware
Open Stage
Workshop13
workshop13.org

February 21, 2026

Palmer
Annual Soup Cook Off
Tailgate Tavern
(413) 289-2009
&
Ware
Drum & Dance Circle Meet-Up
Workshop13
workshop13.org

February 28, 2026

Ware
John John Brown Concert
Workshop13
workshop13.org

March 10, 2026

Palmer
Baystate Health Blood Drive
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

March 21, 2026

Ware
Drum & Dance Circle Meet-Up
Workshop13
workshop13.org
&
Hardwick
Scenes: A Billy Joel Experience
The Center at Eagle Hill
thecenterateaglehill.org

March 28, 2026

Ware
Singer Songwriter Series
Workshop13
workshop13.org

March 31, 2026

Monson
Friend's Bake Sale
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com



In this edition, we shine the spotlight on Top Floor Learning, a privately funded non-profit that has been helping others help themselves for 35 years with its Adult Basic Education programs. Top Floor Learning provides a wide range of personalized adult literacy programs and lifelong learning courses, workshops, and computer classes to the residents of the Quaboag Hills region and surrounding areas.

Can you share some details about your business, how it started, what services you provide and what plans you have for the future?

Top Floor Learning was incorporated in October of 2003, building on the legacy of Literacy Volunteers of Quaboag Valley, which began as the adult literacy services in the Palmer library in 1978. Top Floor Learning is non-profit 501(c) 3 organization that is self-supporting. We rely on private donations, fundraising and grants to support ourselves, as well as the work of our many volunteers, many whom have been with Top Floor for many years!

What drives you and your business to be better each day?

I have always wanted to help people learn, be it about history or a language. Many of our students here want to learn English, get their high school equivalency, learn how to use technology better: it is always a new challenge!

What do you want new and/or existing customers to know about you or your business that they might not know already?

Top Floor Learning is a hidden gem that many don't know about. Being on the Top Floor of the Palmer Library, accessible by only the elevator(which also makes up handicap accessible) it is not the space you just wander into, we want it to become that! Come ask us a question about why that phone update made your phone act weirdly, how does your friend apply for citizenship, how does your nephew get his GED? Or just come up and say hi!



Located at the Palmer Public Library
1455 North Main Street, 3rd Floor
Palmer, MA 01069

Contact:
dkimball@topfloorlearning.org

If you'd rather call, talk to us at (413) 544-6600 or leave a message at any time!



Upcoming Affiliate Business Workshop & Training Events

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

- Jan. 13 SCORE Free Webinar - Simple Steps for Starting Your Business: Concepts
- Jan. 14 SCORE Free Webinar - Employment Law: The Hiring Process
- Jan. 15 EANE Technology Training
- Jan. 20 SCORE Free Webinar - Simple Steps for Starting Your Business: Marketing
- Jan. 21 Rise & Shine w/QuickBooks Online Advanced Series
Resume Workshop: Online Job Search and Resume Writing Submittal - Monson Free Library
- Jan. 24 Small Business Marketing Workshop
- Jan. 26 QVCDC Business Planning Workshop
- Jan. 27 EANE Leadership Training
SCORE Free Webinar - Simple Steps for Starting Your Business: Financials
- Jan. 28 Resume Workshop: Changing Careers and Avoiding Age Discrimination - Monson Free Library
QVCDC Business Planning Workshop
- Jan. 29 EANE Leadership Training
- Feb. 2 QVCDC Business Planning Workshop
- Feb. 3 EANE Technology Training
SCORE Free Webinar - Simple Steps for Starting Your Business: Cost, Pricing & Breakeven
- Feb. 4 Discover EANE!
QVCDC Business Planning Workshop
- Feb. 11 Excel for Beginners Class
- Feb. 12 EANE HR & Compliance Training
EANE Technology Training
- Feb. 16 - 21 Hypnosis Certification Training
- Feb. 18 EANE Leadership Training
- Feb. 19 EANE HR & Compliance Training
EANE Professional Training
- Feb. 22 Bookkeeping 101
- Feb. 24 EANE HR & Compliance Training
- Feb. 26 Excel for Beginners Class
- Mar. 3 EANE HR & Compliance Training
- Mar. 4 EANE Leadership Training - Agawam
EANE Technology Training
Discover EANE!
- Mar. 8 Business by the Numbers
- Mar. 9 Google Suite for Beginners Class
- Mar. 10 EANE Technology Training
- Mar. 16 EANE Professional Training
- Mar. 18 EANE Professional Training
- Mar. 26 EANE HR & Compliance Training



ModVic Creative Problem Solving & Team Building Workshops

A customized Creative Problem Solving & Team Building Workshop tailored exclusively to your business, employees and challenges.

Overview

Unlock your team's creativity inside one of New England's most extraordinary spaces—an 1876 Gothic church transformed into ModVic's Steampunk Wonderland, a working gallery of art, history, technology and adaptive reuse.

Led by Bruce Rosenbaum, founder of ModVic LLC -- an internationally recognized Steampunk artist and designer, known for fusing history, art and technology into immersive adaptive-reuse installations and experiences. Bruce has been dubbed the Steampunk Guru by the Wall Street Journal and Steampunk Evangelist by Wired Magazine. His functional Steampunk artwork has been featured in the Boston Globe, The Chicago Tribune, The New York Times, Architectural Digest, CNN, NPR and featured on MTV, A&E, HGTV and Netflix. Bruce also worked as an assistant buyer at the NYC Lord and Taylor Flagship HQ in the 1980s.

This 4-hour immersive workshop blends creative play, problem-solving and hands-on innovation training. Perfect for companies seeking to strengthen teamwork, spark new ideas or energize employees with an unforgettable shared experience.



Booking & Contact

Host: Bruce Rosenbaum – ModVic: Steampunk Re-Imagineer

bruce@modvic.com

781-856-1445

www.modvic.com

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



Your Business
Logo/Name on QHMA
Billboard at
Mass Pike Exit 63
36" x 9"
\$200/year

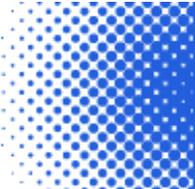
Full Page Ad in
Quarterly
e-Newsletter
\$75/edition

Become a 2026
Gold - Silver - Bronze
Underwriter
Commit by Jan. 31

Contact
james@qhma.com
413.283.2418
for details



Contact Us
River East School to Career
ascrnbner@RiverEastSTC.org
413-283-5051
RiverEastSTC.org



Empowering Students for Success



Unlocking Opportunities for Students and Schools

River East School to Career offers innovative resources and support to help students excel in their education and prepare for future careers.

Bridging Education and Career Readiness

Our non-profit services provide essential support to school districts, enhancing student engagement and fostering a pathway to success for all learners.

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 Pathfinder Tech - Four Corners building in Palmer at 191 Sykes Street.

In 2024, more than \$40,000 in referral business was generated between Q.R.G. members, an average of more than \$3,500 in new business per member. Membership to the Chamber and the Referral Group truly pays for itself and then some!



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



Burkhart Pizzanelli
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



countrybank
Made to make a difference.

Monson Savings
Your Bank Forever



J. Stolar
Insurance Agency, Inc.



Behavioral Health Network



CHRISTOPHER HEIGHTS™
of Belchertown
AN ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY