

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Baystate commits to new care site

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Hospital Review Committee Chair Howard Trietsch provided an update about a recent meeting between town representatives, Baystate Health and state Rep. Todd Smola.

At the committee's Jan. 22 meeting, Trietsch said the meeting held earlier

in the month, was a "productive meeting."

"They seem to have changed their tunes about a number of things," he said of Baystate Health.

Trietsch said at this meeting, Baystate Health CEO Peter Banko said that Baystate Health had decided to hire a third-party accountant to look at all of the trusts associated with Mary Lane Hospital, and make that information public.

"We thought that was a big deal to get that agreement," Trietsch said.

Trietsch said Baystate Health has also committed to opening a physical site to house a Convenient Care facility, similar to the one operating at Baystate Wing Hospital. He said the facility will have one to three providers, starting with hours offered Monday through Friday.

"Their Convenient Care is a combination of primary care and urgent

care," Trietsch said.

Trietsch said Banko made it "very clear" that Baystate Health is also willing to expand the proposed Convenient Care if it's successful, including a laboratory and other specialties.

"They did say the limiting factor, most likely, is the recruitment of physicians," he said. "They feel right now

Please see **BAYSTATE**, page 6



## Selectboard OKs use of ReSource Waste funds

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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WARE – Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the Electrical Inspector reviewed the four electrical projects that were presented by the Ware Center Meetinghouse, to be paid for using donation funds provided to the town annually by ReSource Waste Services of Ware.

At the Jan. 21 Selectboard meeting, he said the inspector recommended that phase three should be completed first, and he also recommended upgrading to a 200 amp service in phase one, rather than a 100 amp service.

Beckley said the total cost for the first three phases is about \$4,700. He said phase four would be an additional \$10,000.

The Selectboard approved the request in the amount of \$4,763.

Selectboard member Terrance Smith motioned to use \$5,000 from the donation funds to honor the memory of both Ethan Donnelly and Lieutenant Tod Bertini by donating to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. An annual AFSP Suicide Awareness Walk is held in Grenville Park, led by Donnelly's family.

"The intended purpose of this donation is to match other AFSP fundraising efforts by the community for increased suicide prevention awareness, education outreach and screenings of youth and others who may be struggling, including public safety officials within the community," he said. "I'm looking for the support of that."

Smith said the \$5,000 donation would cover the cost to support an interactive screening program that could be used in the school system or for the town's law enforcement.

The Selectboard approved both uses for the donation funds.

Please see **FUNDS**, page 5

## FIRE SECURES WIN at annual basketball game



SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 7.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Jake Perron gets ready to pass the ball after driving it down the court.

WARE – The Fire Department's team broke the Police Department's three-year win streak this past Friday, as they secured the trophy for the Ware High School's Class of 2026 annual basketball game fundraiser.

Proceeds from this event go to benefit the Class of 2026.

Refreshments and a 50/50 raffle were available to purchase during the event, and the crowd enjoyed multiple performances by dancers from Limelight Dance Center during half-time.



Daniel O'Brien passed the ball over Dennis Pariseau during the annual Ware High School Class of 2026 basketball game fundraiser where the Police and Fire departments face off on the court. This year's game resulted in a win by the Fire Department team, breaking a three-year winning streak held by the Police Department.



James Gratton clears a block by John Cacula to score two points for the Fire Department team.



Dancers from the Limelight Dance Center performed a Strawberry Shortcake-themed dance during the half-time show.

## Selectmen appoint new sergeant to Police Department

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen met and first heard the report from Police Chief Gerald Millette to discuss the progress of filling the police sergeant position.

Millette said he created a panel to come up with several interview questions and scenario questions and the police department had five internal applicants who expressed interest in the position. The panel had the interviews finished in November and did follow up interviews early in January.

Based off their scoring system, Millette said the panel made a decision and their top scoring candidate was Officer Charlie Williams. Millette described Williams as a person who takes his initiative and always desires to come in and help out and wants to try and get grants.

"He is the reason why we got the shields we just got," Millette said.

The chief also mentioned that Williams has participated in a lot of trainings and is an instructor as well. Millette shared with the Board of Selectmen that the department had a lot of qualified applicants for the sergeant position and the decision wasn't easy.

"I think highly on everyone in the department," Millette said.

Selectmen David Dufresne commented on the chief's selected candidate, Williams, and believes he is a valued member of the police department and the town of Warren. Dufresne shared he has heard nothing but positive comments about Williams and his desire to help the town.

"We're very happy to have him in the community," Dufresne said.

Williams briefly spoke before the Board of Selectmen and

Please see **WARREN**, page 6

## Planning Board reviews zoning proposal for Mary Lane Hospital

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Planning Board met Jan. 22 for the review of zoning district changes and a bylaw

proposal for the Mary Lane Hospital property.

The idea of the proposal is to promote and restore the property as a usable property to help benefit the community and nearby communities. Members of the Planning

Board will review the language in the proposal and identify any necessary details and changes to be made when determining the appropriate zoning for the property.

Historically, the Mary Lane Hospital property has been used to

provide healthcare services. The board members wish to review every parcel and adjacent properties that could have multiple uses but depends on zoning.

"We have to numerate the exact parcels," said Planning Board Vice-

Chair Chris Dimarzio.

Planning Board Chair Ken Crosby said, "we're on our way of getting this in front of the town."

The board began reviewing all the uses that would fall under this potential zoning district change

before this bylaw proposal is brought before the Town.

Uses involve healthcare, medical training, and more importantly focus on taking care of the health-

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**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

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**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

**MARKET SPOTLIGHT**

**Tulips from West Brookfield, Bacon from Charlton – it's all good**

*Editor's note: The Ware River News will regularly feature a spotlight story on different farmers market vendors. Learn about the people that bring food and locally sourced items to your community.*

**By Richard Murphy**  
*Correspondent*

WEST BROOKFIELD – Yup, it's cold. Surely, you are tired of hearing about it and thinking about it, but it is so true.

What to do? Well, as we often belabor the point, there is a place of refuge. It is from 3-6 p.m. on Wednesdays at The First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St. It is the Winter Farmers Market. The temperature is warmer, as is the spirit of the vendors

We met Robyn last year and she is back with more. Back then, she related the story of growing up in Holden, but mom and dad eventually fell in love with West Brookfield, like a lot of us have.

Living on West Main Street, she only has to come a little way to the market.

Becoming the "Tulip Lady" was an adventure in itself. The family famous for the "Sound of Music" settled in Vermont, and one should not be surprised as they were an Alpine family.

Emily Von Trapp, a great-granddaughter of Baron Von Trapp teaches the craft and Robyn heard about it and she went to learn and came back to run Blair House Blooms.

So, what is new this year? Robyn is booking weddings and events.

There is a good reason to have Blair House Blooms' flowers at your wedding or special occasion. The keyword is sustainability. 98% of what Blair House does is local with no imports, and a low carbon footprint.

Valentine's Day will be here soon and Easter is not far away. This year, Blair House has doubled what will be available.

We don't need to import for gorgeous, it's here.

**Farm46**

Back again this year, and at his table across the room is Rich Laba of Farm46. Often in attendance with his wife Amy and daughters Madison and Charlotte, Rich was flying solo this day, but he had with him what Farm46 is known for.

That would be pork products from farm raised Berkshire pigs. Berkshires are a heritage breed that have been raised for 300 years.

The piglets in mobile structures



*Turley Photos by Richard Murphy*  
**Rich Laba from Farm46.**

are moved as pasture changes. They are always outside rooting on the ground and in the woods, which is what they naturally do, unlike factory farmed meat. Thus, the product is delicious, marbled and healthy.

When asked what's new this year, Rich related that he has a new butcher and has switched to all-natural bacon and sausage.

The new butcher is an artisan out of Maine providing all uncured products using maple syrup and no added sugar.

As if the bacon and sausage were not enough, Farm46 also does antibiotic free pastured poultry products. Chicken and eggs from the farm are on sale.

Farm46 will be at the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market through March 12. In the summer they are at the Charlton Farmers Market, on Wednesdays from 4-7 p.m. on the Common.

You can keep in touch at the website, <http://farm46ma.com/>, and on Facebook.

**Blair House Blooms**

On Jan. 22, when we passed through the doors, into the hall, on the right as usual was Robyn Scott. Robyn's specialty is tulips.



**Robyn Scott and some Blair House Blooms.**

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**Are You Old News?**

Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

**File Photo**  
Last week's photo from 1989 showed the new officers of the Polish Women's Alliance. Officers are Felixa Kochanek, recording secretary; Stasia Wozniak, financial secretary; Jane Lasota, treasurer; Evelyn Trela, vice-president and Jane Haznar, president.

If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com).

**Nomination papers available for annual Ware town election**

WARE – Nomination Papers are now available to any interested individual who are registered voters in the Town of Ware.

Nomination Papers are available for the following elected offices which will appear on the Annual Town Election Ballot of April 14.

Selectboard, one seat, three-year term; School Committee, two seats, three-year terms; Board of Assessors, one seat, three-year term; Board of Health, one seat, three-year term; Park Commissioner, one seat, three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, one seat, three-year term; Planning Board, one seat, five-year term; Planning Board, one seat, unexpired term, four years; Ware Housing Authority, one seat, five-year term; and Ware Housing Authority, one seat, unexpired term, one year.

All incumbent office holders have been notified of their term's expiration. Current office holders are as follows: Selectboard – Joshua Kusnierz, School Committee – Christopher Desjardins and Brian Winslow, Board of Assessors – Gerald Fountain, Jr.,

Board of Health – Jennifer McMartin, Park Commissioner – Ryan Mulligan, Cemetery Commissioner – Paul Harper, Planning Board – Kenneth Crosby, Ware Housing Authority – Nancy Brown.

The Planning Board seat which has an unexpired term of four years is due to the resignation of Shane Millier and the Ware Housing Authority unexpired term of one year is due to the appointment made by the Selectboard to last only until the next Annual Town Election.

Nomination Papers are available at the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours Monday through Friday. Deadline to apply and return Nomination Papers is Monday, Feb. 24.

Interested individuals may contact the Town Clerk Nancy J. Talbot by calling 413-967-9648 extension 103 to discuss further or ask questions as needed.

Information will appear on the Town of Ware website, [www.townof-ware.com](http://www.townof-ware.com) and in the Ware River News and TV 15.

**Nomination papers available for May 3 Hardwick town election**

HARDWICK – Nomination papers for the 2025 Annual Town Election on Saturday, May 3 are now available.

Offices for election and those presently holding the office are as follows: Select Board, Kelly Kemp, three-year term; Assessor, Lucinda J. Childs, three-year term; Constables, James D. Swett, Eric Vollheim and Ryan J. Witkos, (three) three-year terms; K-12 Quabbin School Committee, Jennifer E. Garvey, three-year term and Kristyl B. Kelly, unexpired two-year term; Board of Health, Ernest J. Warburton, three-year term; Paige Agricultural Fund Trust, Stephen A. Prouty, five-year term; Paige Memorial Library Trustee, Stacey A. Hill and Eric Vollheim (two) three-year terms; and Planning Board, John J. Samek, three-year term.

All deadlines below are 5 p.m.: Last day to obtain and submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification, Friday, March 14; last day to file nomination papers with the Town Clerk, Friday, March 28; last day to object

or withdraw nomination papers, Tuesday, April 1; last day to register voters for the Annual Town Election, Wednesday, April 23; and last day to apply to vote by mail (if haven't already), Monday, April 28.

**Voter registration**

Voter registration will be held in the Myron E. Richardson Building, 307 Main St. on Wednesday, April 23, from 9-5 p.m. This is the last day and hour to register voters who wish to vote at the 2025 Annual Town Election.

Mail-in voter registrations will be accepted if postmarked no later than the April 23 deadline.

**Financial statements**

Financial statements must be filed by all candidates for election by the following dates even if the candidate has no financial activity to report: #1 pre-election report, eight days prior to election, Friday, April 25; and #2 post-election report, 30 days after election, Monday, June 2.

**ACCURACY WATCH**

The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com), or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

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*Gathering*

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# 'Sorrow Visits the Paige Family'

Play performed by the fireplace at library

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library hosted a play by the fireplace titled "Sorrow Visits the Paige Family".

Guests had the opportunity to hear the readings of letters dating back to the 1850s from members of the Paige family.

The play consisted of three actors portraying members of the Paige family. Copies of the original letters are preserved in the Hardwick Historical Society, but the cast of this play had copies of their own to bring to life the events that took place when they were originally written.

Historian Susan Gainley was the narrator of the play and discussed some of the events that had taken place in the lives of the Paige family. In the years 1852 to 1854 there was a continuous stream of heart-breaking news to Lydia Paige and her family.

The letters were read by Celia Daniels and Joe Shea, who also portrayed members of the Paige family, who lived in that time period. Every character's attire matched the time period as well.

Library Director Julie Bullock began the play by welcoming everyone to the Paige Memorial Library and were seated in front of the library's fireplace.

"We turned our library into a theatre for the night," Bullock said.

Gainley described the reading of these letters as "like listening to a novel", due to the detail and extended thought and emotion put into the letters.

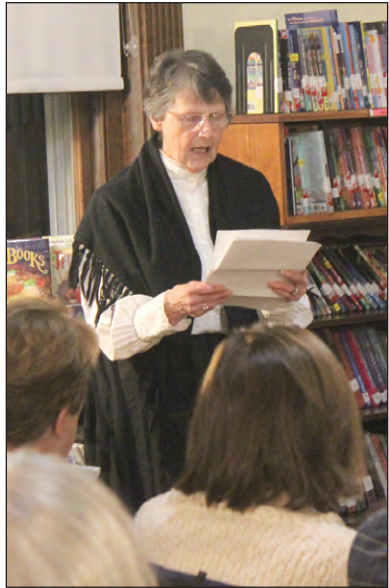
The first letter was read by Daniels and talked about a family members' boat trip to California. Not only did Daniels read the letter she expressed a lot of emotion to bring out the sorrow the reader and writer felt as the letter was first written.

Another letter was written by Sarah Paige. Before reading Sarah's letter Gainley shared a picture of Sarah Paige with the audience.

During her narration Gainley shared historical facts with the audience. One of the unique details was the use of the term "cars" back in the mid-19th century. Before the infamous invention years later, the



The Paige Memorial Library hosted a play by the fireplace called "Sorrow Visits the Paige Family".



Celia Daniels is shown reading one of the letters. She portrayed one of the Paige family members in the play.



Historian Susan Gainley talked about the letters that were written by members of the Paige family dating back to the 1850s. These letters were read during the play.



Joe Shea is shown reading and writing a letter to Mother Paige during the play. The letter dates back to April 14, 1853.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

# Select Board, FinCom discuss PILOT policy

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board had a joint meeting with the Finance Committee on Jan. 21.

The purpose of the meeting was to have a workshop on the payment in lieu of taxes policy. This policy involves payments requested by a city or municipality from a nonprofit organization that owns tax-exempt property within city or municipal limits.

Members of the Finance Committee and the Select Board joined together to research and identify the best conclusions to better understand the policy and how they should approach and negotiate with nonprofits in Town and how they benefit the community.

At first, Select Board Chair Kelly Kemp said she was an agreement with the policy, but that certain elements of the policy were unclear.

"I don't think this is a route we want to go down," Kemp said.

Select Board Clerk William Tinker mentioned they could vote to amend the policy. The board made it clear they don't want to single out anybody in the discussion and this workshop was to share different viewpoints on the PILOT policy.

Nonprofit organizations fall under various chapters that involve multiple entities. The Select Board and the Finance Committee are aiming to form a relationship between representatives of the town and the entities that identify as nonprofit organizations.

The biggest concern is how to determine the impact the nonprofit has on the town of Hardwick. Members of the Finance Committee reminded the board that there are some nonprofits who could come in and make other contributions besides a financial contribution.

One of the policies the board reviewed involved a formula that went work for certain nonprofits. It seems the policy would work better if the town viewed nonprofit organizations on an individual basis. The Finance Committee said they're willing to assess the impact the organizations have on

the town, but still want to agree upon a policy with the Select Board that makes sense.

At first, the Select Board was prepared to vote on the policy, but Town Administrator Justine Caggiano reminded them that this joint meeting is only a workshop and no vote is needed.

"You'll still need definitions on what these nonprofits are," Caggiano said.

Caggiano also mentioned the board would have to have a policy where they define what a base rate is. There was still confusion between both boards as to what was the best way to measure impact from nonprofits. Kemp does believe that there is good in both policies, but there has to be an agreement before the Board is set on a policy.

Tinker mentioned the East Quabbin Land Trust as an example since they have a lot of volunteers who help with improving areas in town and keeping trails clean and clear. One idea of measuring is to calculate the number of volunteer hours the trust puts in.

The board does understand that every nonprofit is not going to get the same impact fee, but the board still wants a policy in place that helps the town prosper and function properly. For review of contributions, the board is looking at doing the reviews on a biannual basis.

The joint meeting between the Select Board and Finance Committee would then discuss PILOT funds being allocated for specific things. They can't go to funding the budget, but could be used for capital projects. For example, if a road needs to be repaved the funds from the PILOT could be used to fund it.

Caggiano mentioned a fleet maintenance schedule and suggested an equipment database as well. For the negotiations between town representatives and the nonprofit entities, the board and finance committee were thinking about having them publicized after negotiations are complete or go into executive sessions. These ideas are further under advisement.

The Select Board put the policy discussion into their agenda for their meeting in February.

# 2025 dog licenses are now available

Licenses must be purchased by March 31 to avoid late fees

WARE – Massachusetts State Law, Chapter 140, §137, requires that all dogs six months of age shall be licensed each year.

Dog licenses are now available for sale and must be purchased by Monday, March 31.

If you are licensing in person the Town Clerk's Office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week during business hours. Town Hall is now closed to the public on Wednesdays.

If you are licensing by U.S. Mail, the license must be purchased prior to March 31 and your envelope must be also postmarked by March 31 or there will be a late fee.

Fees for licensing your dog are: male/female \$15; spayed/neutered \$10.

On April 1 there will be a late fee of \$15 per dog in addition to the licensing fee.

Rabies Certificates for each dog must be presented at the time of licensing as in the past. If your dog was licensed in 2024 check the license to see if the Rabies Certificate is current (the information is on your 2024 license); if it is current, simply come into the office to license in person or license by mail.

If licensing by mail you must provide a self-addressed, postage paid envelope in order for us to return the license and tag to you. If licensing more than one dog be sure to add additional postage to your envelope to insure delivery.

Checks are payable to the Town of Ware for the appropriate amount. All Rabies Certificates supplied will be returned to you with your dog license.

Contact the Town Clerk's Office by calling 413-967-9648 extension 177 if you failed to license in 2024 so that we can inform you what is owed in entirety to license for 2025.

There is also a blue drop box outside the lower level offices at Town Hall for those of you who wish to drop off your request for licensing. Address the envelope to Town Clerk – Dog Licenses.

If you are licensing for the first time, be sure to supply the dog owner's name, address and contact telephone number; a copy of the Rabies Certificate and if the dog is neutered or spayed (please also send this certificate unless it is stated on the Rabies Certificate).

Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk's Office by calling 413-967-9648 extension 177.

# Library hosts puzzle swap on Feb. 1

WARE – As we make our way through the cold winter months, you may be thinking of indoor activities; and puzzles are a great way to stay entertained.

If you are looking at your stack of puzzles thinking "I could use some new puzzles," you are in luck. The Ware Library, 37 Main St., is hosting a Puzzle Swap in the Reading Room on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Simply bring a puzzle you've already conquered and swap it out for a new-to-you puzzle. The Puzzle Swap is free to the public and there is no registration required; just drop in.

The library also has puzzles and games you can check out with a library card at any time. Follow the library on Facebook for updates, call 413-967-5491, or email warelibrary1881@gmail.com with any questions.

## ZONING from page 1

care needs of the community. The uses could incorporate facilities to support a hospital operation to follow with the proposed medical uses in the proposed zone.

The board hopes this bylaw will help promote development on the site. Many developments will still be allowed by special permit and site plan review.

There is a possibility of allowing tenants in areas of the property and maybe one wanted to offer a retail service that is applicable with the healthcare services zoning. Members of the Planning Board brought up retail services such as glasses and prosthetics.

Another big topic is education and training in healthcare services as well. Nursing programs and certificate programs all fall under educational uses.

"Education is customary at

hospitals," Crosby said.

Of a medical nature sales of materials and supplies could also be a desired use on the site. The board also had concerns regarding the frontage and spacing of the property. There are certain limitations and expectations for properties to have a certain amount of frontage and spacing around the perimeter of the property.

There are height limits for the building and square footage the Planning Board was reviewing to meet the expectations of a use in the proposed zoning. The Board was considering the possibility of the Mary Lane Hospital property being zoned as a campus setting. However, the Board agreed they could get some ideas from the residents during a public hearing for this proposed zoning bylaw.

The Board also wanted a clearer definition of what an

emergency department if the property were to have an emergency department operation on the property. There would also be office spaces to provide an office setting on the site. There was confusion at first regarding how different clinics are.

Laboratories, assisted living centers, intermediate care and nursing were all brought up during the zoning review. The Board had to decide what uses are allowed by special permit and site plan review.

"The town needs to know in order to proceed," Dimarzio said.

When one of the members brought up housing, the board decided it was not an allowed use in this proposal. Another use


denied for this zone was a cemetery. Utilities, research facilities, and laboratories are listed as uses allowed under a special permit.

The Planning Board would then set a public hearing date for this bylaw proposal. Residents will be able to share their input on the proposal and see what the ideal zoning should be for the Mary Lane Hospital property.

In past meetings, the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital have expressed a focus in wanting to reintroduce healthcare services to the town.

The Planning Board set the public hearing for the proposed zoning bylaw on Feb. 20.

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## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program launched for low-income families

GREENFIELD – The 2025 MASSCAP VITA program kickoff is being held together with Community Action Pioneer Valley (CAPV) and will be livestreamed on Greenfield Community College's YouTube Channel on Friday, Jan. 31.

The event will be held in Greenfield Community College's first floor dining area, 1 College Drive, and begins with coffee and networking at 9:30 a.m., followed by the program at 10 a.m.

Speakers include Congressman James McGovern, 2nd District; Rep. Natalie Blais, 1st Franklin; Senator Jo Comerford, Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester District; Mayor Virginia Desorgher, Greenfield; Carol Zins, Senior Outreach Coordinator, Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation; Jacqueline Charron, Senior Vice President, Greenfield and Northampton Cooperative Bank; Jessye Deane, Executive Director, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce; Ronald Deaett, Territory Manager, IRS Stakeholder Partnerships Education & Communication, IRS; Tana Qoqi, Local Taxpayer Advocate, Taxpayer Advocate Service, IRS; Jessica Keegan, Baby Steps Program Manager, Office of Economic Empowerment (MA); Mireille Eastman, Taxpayer Advocate, Department of Revenue (MA); Joe Diamond, Executive Director,

Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP); and Clare Higgins, Chief Executive Officer, Community Action of Pioneer Valley, CAPV VITA Volunteer.

It will include important messages about the updates to the program, its impact and importance, tax credits, as well as the need to raise awareness during this challenging time when so many are counting on the resources that VITA sites can help them access through free tax preparation.

The MASSCAP VITA program is run by 21 CAAs with more than 30 sites. It is underwritten by state resources through the Department of Revenue and a core two-year grant from the US Internal Revenue Service along with private and public resources raised at each CAA.

At VITA sites, volunteers not only provide free tax prep and access to the Earned Income Tax Credit, the new Child and Family Tax Credit and other credits to low-income taxpayers allowing them to pay bills, cover essential needs such as rent, save, and plan for the future, but also link them to other critical services strengthening families and the local economy.

The volunteers are the heart and soul of the VITA program. They are IRS Certified experts who volunteer their time to help to ensure timely, accurate returns as well as full access to tax credits

and savings programs.

The Earned Income Tax Credit has been called one of the most successful antipoverty programs. It bridges the wage gap – since the late 1970's wages have not kept up with productivity and many working people have trouble meeting their basic needs.

The EITC, along with other tax credits, has been shown to improve infant health outcomes, employment rates of single mothers, child educational achievement, and future earnings. In addition, the state EITC was increased from 30 to 40% for tax year 2023. Jan. 31, is also the 50th anniversary of the national Earned Income Tax Awareness Day.

### About VITA

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program administered by Community Action Agencies annually helps thousands of wage earners access millions of dollars in tax refunds, including the Earned Income Tax Credit. In Massachusetts, CAAs help more than 15,000 low-income taxpayers benefit from more than \$26 million in tax refunds.

There are approximately 80 VITA sites operating across the state, run by CAAs and other community-based organizations and colleges. Together they serve over 30,000 low-income taxpayers, helping them to access over \$60 million in tax refunds.

## Durant and Berthiaume list office hours for February

Staff from the offices of state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume will hold office hours at the locations listed below in February.

Feb. 4, 9:30 a.m. Ware Town Hall, 10:45 a.m. Hardwick Municipal Building, noon New Braintree Municipal Building; Feb. 5, 9:30 a.m. Hubbardston Senior Center, 10:45 a.m. Barre Senior Center, noon Oakham Town Hall; Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m. East Brookfield Senior Center, 10:45 a.m. Brookfield Town Hall,

noon West Brookfield Senior Center; Feb. 12, 9:30 a.m. North Brookfield Senior Center, 10:45 a.m. Richard Sudden Library, Spencer with State Rep. John Marsi's Chief of Staff Tammy Ruda), noon Leicester Senior Center

Constituents are welcome to drop in to meet with Donna Farmer, Chief of Staff for Rep. Berthiaume, along with Sen. Durant's District Liaison Jared Grigg and Communications Director Kim Mongeau who are

available to discuss legislative concerns and ideas or assist with matters involving state agencies.

In cases of inclement weather when schools are closed in the towns where hours are being held, office hours will also be cancelled. The staff will make every effort to quickly reschedule should that happen.

Staff members from both offices are also available by phone or email and can arrange to meet with you privately, if you desire.

## Planning Board held rezoning and warehousing public hearings

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Planning Board met on Jan. 16 to hold a couple of public hearings that address a myriad of concerns for the public.

The first public hearing was about the possibility of including warehousing as a permitted use in a highway commercial zoning district. Members of the Planning Board opened the public hearing as several residents spoke about their concerns of a warehouse operation in their neighborhood.

The board wanted to clarify the definitions of warehousing and what the operations would include. According to the Planning Board heavy equipment and packaging are what pertain to warehousing.

Vice Chair of the Planning Board Chris Dimarzio said he believes having warehousing in highway commercial zoning is a better choice and has limitations as to what use is allowable in the area.

The town's voters could reject both zoning proposals, however the Planning Board believes one zoning proposal is less impactful. From the board's perspective, the owner of the property is trying to make the property feasible.

If the proposal of accepting warehousing in highway commercial, then it would not change over into commercial industrial zoning.

The Planning Board made it clear during the public hearing on warehousing that even if the proposal is accepted, the owner still has limitations on what the use can be in the warehousing unit in a highway commercial zone. Limitations and conditions that fall under special permit or site plan review would still be enforced depending on what use the owner intends to install.

"It doesn't give them approval to do it," Dimarzio stated in regard to the possibility of warehousing being accepted as a permitted use in highway commercial.

There is a possibility that this

public hearing for warehousing in the highway commercial zoning district may become an article for the annual Town Meeting. Many residents who live in the zoning area addressed concerns of having warehousing in their neighborhood. The biggest concerns revolve around noise, traffic, and tractor trailers.

One resident stated that warehousing was not part of the Master Plan. Many residents insisted on not having warehousing at all.

Residents who live in the area shared concerns about the condition of the site already, and the need to keep it safe and quiet. The board suggested the residents contact the Building Inspector or Board of Health to review the site regarding their concerns.

Terrance Smith from the Select Board attended the public hearing and spoke on the matter. If a warehouse is allowed, there would be conditions to meet in the zoning bylaws. Details from parking, open space, conservation, and height of building must meet the conditions that are put in place for a warehouse.

The Planning Board voted to move the zoning amendment forward to the Select Board for review. Afterwards, the board closed the public hearing.

### Rezoning of lots on Mechanic and Maple streets

The Planning Board moved to their next public hearing on rezoning of multiple lots/parcels on Mechanic Street and Maple Street. The six lots off these streets are being discussed for rezoning to commercial industrial zoning.

Most of the lots are currently zoned as highway commercial zoning. One of the lots is currently zoned as suburban residential zoning and all these lots are being discussed during the public hearing to potentially be rezoned as commercial industrial zoning.

In the past, there have been several uses on the property and according to the current owner, the

property always had warehousing. The owner shared with the public that the intent is to rehab the property, considering the railroad is nearby. In addition, the owner wants to make the property a usable piece of land and making it a usable land will help bring up the property value.

With commercial industrial zoning being the possible change to the area, Select Board member Smith "draft a memo petitioning one or two article and the Select Board will see them."

However, the articles may seem confusing if they were brought up in the Town Meeting.

"Two article related to the same lot will be confusing to those who are at the town meeting," Smith said.

The board is trying to educate the public so they better understand the process and no decision is being made during public hearing. Town Manager Stuart Beckley reminded the Planning Board they could "make a recommendation to the town meeting."

With warehousing being considered to be permitted in highway commercial in addition to possibly rezoning lots to commercial industrial, the board believes only one of the proposals is necessary. According to Beckley, the second proposal of rezoning to commercial industrial could be dismissed if the first proposal is approved.

The owner has owned the property for a year and wishes to move forward with the proposal of highway commercial zoning to allow a warehouse. The proposal of rezoning the lots on Mechanic Street and Maple Street could be dropped if highway commercial proposal goes through.

The Planning Board voted to continue the public hearing until Feb. 6. The Town Meeting isn't until May and in that time the board will wait to hear back from the Select Board to await the review on highway commercial zoning decision for permitting warehousing.

### FUNDS from page 1

#### Mary Lane Hospital update

Beckley said Attorney Patricia Davidson has produced more documentation about the other trust funds associated with Mary Lane Hospital.

He said Baystate Health has organized an internal committee to discuss the type of facility they will need to open a convenient care facility in town. He said once that has been determined, Baystate Health will coordinate visits to potential sites of the facility with the town.

"Baystate, in looking at what they call a 'convenient care' facility, is not looking at putting that on the Mary Lane property," Beckley said. "They're looking at other places to be."

#### Town Manager's report

Beckley said the town received approval of its free cash from the

Department of Revenue. He said it is about the same as the previous year, at slightly over \$3 million.

"Which is very helpful going into the budget season," he said.

Beckley said surplus property was sold recently, including two police cruisers and the Fire Department's Engine 1 and mule.

He said the water tank project design should be completed by the end of January and available for bidding in February or March.

"Those projects are going forward," he said.

Beckley said a pump motor on Well #5 has been out of service for over a month. He said the parts have been ordered to fix the pump.

Beckley said department budgets for fiscal year 2026 are due by the end of the month. He said the month of February will be spent balancing a budget in order to be presented to the Finance Committee by March 1.

He said the Finance Committee

has requested to meet with the Selectboard on Feb. 4 to discuss budget priorities.

Beckley said the Town Hall will be adjusting its public hours starting in February. The Town Hall will be open its regular hours Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and by appointment only on Wednesdays.

He said the Planning and Community Development Department will hold a public forum on Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m.

"That discussion not only discusses what's happened in the past under the block grant program, but makes recommendations for what should be included in this year's block grant," Beckley said.

#### Bridge renaming

The Selectboard voted to rename the Three Mile Bridge in memory of the late "Gibby" St.

George-Sorel. St. George-Sorel spent 42 years working for the town, retiring as its Department of Public Works Superintendent in 2010; later returning to that position in 2018.

St. George-Sorel died at the age of 71 in 2022, following a brief illness.

"He was a massive advocate for many people in our town and still very, deeply missed," Selectboard Vice-Chair Josh Kusnierz said.

Charter Review Committee Kusnierz, who also serves as the chair of the Charter Review Committee, said for the past two meetings, the committee has failed to reach a quorum.

"I cannot stress for those that are on this group, that attendance is the utmost. We will not and cannot do anything if we do not have a minimum quorum," he said.

Charter Review Committee meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.

#### Upcoming events

The Selectboard approved two upcoming events to be held at Grenville Park: AFSP Ware Chapter's 2nd Annual Suicide Awareness Walk to be held on Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and St. Aloysius Catholic School's 5K for Play to be held on Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m.-noon.

#### Hearing scheduled

A public hearing will be held for a common victualler and entertainment license for the new own-

ers of Janine's Frostee, 149 East St., will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6:35 p.m.

#### Recognition

Kusnierz recognized the town's DPW for keeping the roads clear and safe during a recent snow-storm.

Selectboard member John Desmond also recognized the department heads involved with compiling the vacant property database.

#### Resignations

The Selectboard accepted the resignations for Kathy Galford from the 250th U.S. Celebration Committee and Shane Millier from the Planning Board.

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The Town of Ware Planning Board is looking for a member to fill one vacancy until the Town Election on April 14, 2025.

*Any interested persons should submit a letter of interest to the Selectboard by February 4th, and attend the Selectboard meeting at 7pm on February 4th.*

TOWN OF BARRE  
**Cemetery Clerk**

The Town of Barre is seeking qualified applicants for the part-time position of Cemetery Clerk. This position is approximately 10 hours per week and the minimum hourly rate is \$15.00/hour and the maximum hourly rate is \$18.02/hour. A full job description is available upon request. Applicants must have HS Diploma or GED, with a minimum of two to three years' experience in office setting, or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest to: Tammy Martin, Town Administrator, 40 West Street, Suite 697, Barre MA 01005 or townadmin@townofbarre.com. For further information, please contact the Board of Selectmen's Office at (978) 355-2504 x135. A.A. / E.O.E.

**Town of Ware Town Hall**  
**Change in Business Hours**  
**Effective February 01, 2025**

**NEW PUBLIC HOURS:**  
Monday 8am – 4pm  
Tuesday 8am – 4pm  
**Wednesday BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** 8am – 4pm  
Thursday 8am – 4pm  
Friday 8am – 4pm

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this transition.  
Ware Town Hall  
**Questions? Call 413-967-9648 x100**  
**Visit: townofware.com/town\_directory**

Taxes can be paid four ways (payable to Town of Ware):  
**By Mail:** Department 3370, PO Box 986500, Boston, MA 02298-6500  
**Electronically:** through your bank or online at <https://townofwarema.munisselfservice.com/css>  
**Payment Drop Box:** in secure drop box near the main entrance on West Street, available 24/7/365  
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Dancers struck a pose.



Dancers get ready to perform.



The crowd enjoyed the performance by dancers from Limelight Dance Center.



Dancers from Limelight Dance Center performed during the half-time show.



Dan Ladue brings the ball down the court with Dennis Pariseau.



Jake Crevier tips the ball for the Police Department team.

# FIRE SECURES WIN



Diana Gliniecki looks for an open teammate.



This dance had a Family Feud theme.



Daniel O'Brien attempts to get past a strong Police Department defense.



A player from the Fire Department team gets ready to pass the ball.



Randy Gratton goes in for a rebound.



Jhan Caro sets up to take a shot at the basket.



Randy Gratton celebrates his son James making his first basket for the Fire Department team.



Shawn Crevier gets ready to shoot the ball.

February 2025

## Quabbin Health District Public Health Nurse Newsletter

Kirsten L Krieger  
RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse

Andrea Crete  
MPH, RS, Director of Public Health

Email: [kkrieger@towofware.com](mailto:kkrieger@towofware.com)

Online: [www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com](http://www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com)

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In this month's online issue:

**Upcoming Events and happenings in and around the Quabbin Health District!**



Plus:

- ✓ Resources for quitting smoking
- ✓ Blood Drives in Ware and Belchertown

For the full issue please visit:



### MASTER PLAN from page 6

that has a lot of potential for development. What Olson hopes for is if there is a promotional way to clean the site.

Another piece of property the CDAC brought up is the West Warren Community Hall. One of the challenges of this structure is there is no space for parking and there is not much room around the building.

"We want to push for something the community will love," Olson said. "Warren is in the middle of everything."

The CDAC views Warren as a centerpiece with multiple opportunities to connect people to other areas of the State.

With the railroad off Route 67 and by the Quabog River, there is potential for a station where people could get to and leave Warren and connect to Boston, Worcester and Springfield. With the Wrights Mill by the railroad as well, if there was a development there it would become an ideal destination for visitors.

The CDAC hasn't heard anything new from the properties on Gilbert Road and what land use opportunities there are. As of now, the CDAC believes the feedback from the residents is big as they move forward to edit the chapters for the Master Plan.



Heart of New England, Scouting America Class of 2024 Eagle Scouts.

Submitted Photo

## Local Eagle Scouts recognized at celebration dinner

WORCESTER – Heart of New England Council, Scouting America proudly hosted the Annual Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner at the Hogan Campus Center at Holy Cross College.

This prestigious event honored the remarkable achievements of the newest class of Eagle Scouts, the highest rank attainable. One hundred-three young men and women were honored, including Adrik Matys, Troop 118, West Brookfield; Andrew Gentili, Troop 238, East Brookfield; Zachary Lowe and Gavin Finn, Troop 141, Rutland; Camrin Bolduc, Troop 142, Warren; Richard Tucker and Jacob Labarre, Troop 144, Oakham; and Nathan Lavoie, Joseph Roderick, Alex Fairbrother, Dominic Perreault, Adam Bailey and Ryan Beede, Troop 161, Sturbridge.

The evening was filled with inspiring stories of dedication, leadership, and community service. Distinguished guests, including local dignitaries, community leaders, and proud family members, gathered to celebrate the hard work and commitment of these exceptional young individuals.

The Heart of New England Eagle Project of the Year was awarded to Amsden Klinghard, Troop 131 Sutton. Amsden's Eagle project was inspired by Troop 131's long-standing partnership with American Legion Post 414 in Sutton.

The Eagle Off-Road 5k for Veterans was held to raise awareness and to collect much needed supplies for veterans' organizations. In lieu of an entry fee,

race participants donated three items requested by Veterans Inc., a shelter for homeless veterans in Worcester.

What it means to be an Eagle Scout

Becoming an Eagle Scout is a significant milestone that represents years of dedication, perseverance, and personal growth. To earn this rank, a Scout must demonstrate proficiency in various skills, complete a series of merit badges, and lead a community service project that benefits their local area.

The journey to Eagle Scout fosters leadership, responsibility, and a strong sense of community. Eagle Scouts are recognized for their ability to set and achieve goals, their commitment to ethical and moral values, and their readiness to take on challenges.

This rank is not only a testament to

their past achievements but also a foundation for future success in their personal and professional lives.

### About Heart of New England Council

Heart of New England Council is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves about 4,000 boys and girls in more than 60 communities in central Massachusetts. It provides the nation's foremost program that teaches young people character, leadership, and citizenship through fun and exciting adventures for the entire family.

HNE fosters a culture of diversity and inclusion that makes it enriching to participate, volunteer and work in the Scouting program. Visit [www.hnescouting.org](http://www.hnescouting.org) for more information.

## Ware Senior Center news

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, located at 1 Robbins Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The thrift store is open each of those days from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations to the store are only accepted by Sue LaBarge, who can be reached by calling 413-544-1574.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Monday, Feb. 3

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for appointments.
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch

#### Tuesday, Feb. 4

- 9-10 a.m. Council on Aging Meeting
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for appointments.
- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Birthday Party. Music by Chet Kurr A Touch of Class. Must call the front desk by noon on Monday, Feb. 3 to be put on the list.
- 1 p.m. Cornhole
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

#### Wednesday, Feb. 5

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for appointments.
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 2:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

#### Thursday, Feb. 6

- 9 a.m. Walking Club. Meet at Senior Center.
- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Cornhole
- 2:30 p.m. Art Class

#### Friday, Feb. 7

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

### LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted  
Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.

#### Monday, Feb. 3

Mac & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Antipasto Salad, Dessert of the Day

#### Tuesday, Feb. 4

Birthday Party  
Chicken Marsala, Mashed Potatoes with Mushroom Gravy, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day. Entertainment provided by the Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 5


Brunch  
Blueberry Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Dessert of the Day

#### Thursday, Feb. 6

BBQ Pork Sandwich, Potato Chip, Coleslaw, Dessert of the Day

#### Friday, Feb. 7

Stuffed Shells, Chef Salad, Dessert of the Day



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Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:  
<https://tinyurl.com/mr3zxfm3>

Please direct any questions to Nisha Humayun at  
[nhumayun@townofware.com](mailto:nhumayun@townofware.com), (413) 207-7698





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# SPORTS

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## Indians snap Rams win streak



Owen McKeever attempts the free throw.



Justin Grout tries to shoot over his opponent.

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Having already clinched at least share of the Bi-County West League title for the third consecutive year, the Granby boys' basketball team made the 25-minute trip to Ware High School last Thursday evening looking to win the league title outright.

The Indians, who are currently in second place in the league standings, put a damper on the Rams celebration plans with a 58-47 victory at Paul Orszulak Gymnasium.

"Granby is a talented basketball team and they're well coached, so we do have a lot of respect for their program," said Ware head coach Gene Rich. "I'm very proud of the way that my guys played in tonight's game. This is an outstanding win for our basketball program."

Granby, who saw their five game winning streak come to an end, had a 9-3 overall record and an 8-1 league record following the road loss. Their other two losses also took place on the road against Belchertown and Duggan Academy.

Ware (8-3, 9-2), who lost at Granby, 59-46, on January 11, hasn't won a league title since 2019.

The Indians can tie for this year's league title if they can beat archival Palmer on the road and if the Rams lose at Monson. Both of those league games are scheduled to be held on Friday night.

"We prevented Granby from winning the league title outright in our gym, which just feels amazing," said Ware junior center Jack Gaudreau. "We still have a chance to tie them for first place. All of us have been playing basketball together for a long time and this is a very special team."

Gaudreau scored eight of his game-high 21 points during the first quarter with the help of three inside hoops and a pair of free throws, which helped the Indians build a 13-9 lead entering the second quarter.

It was the tenth time this season that Gaudreau has reached double digits. He scored a season-high 24 points in a win at Franklin Tech at



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Brady Guimond tries to score with pressure coming on.

the beginning of the regular season. He also scored 22 points in a home victory versus Southwick in the middle of January.

"I've scored a few more points in two other games this season, but I played with a lot of confidence in tonight's game," said Gaudreau, who also plays soccer and baseball. "We moved the ball very well offensively and we also played with a lot of energy."

Back-to-back jumpers by

Granby senior guard Riley Goodhind (9 points) tied the score for the fourth time at 13-13 less than two minutes into the second quarter. Then senior guard Cody Breault (12 points) knocked down a 3-pointer from the left corner giving the visiting team its only lead of the game.

With 6:12 left in the first half, Gaudreau made a lay-up and added

Please see **WARE**, page 10



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Liam McGrath is pressured by the opposing defense.

## Late run hurts Cougars in loss to Senators

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WARREN—Prior to last Monday's non-league boys' basketball game between Mahar Regional and Quabog Regional, the home team had won the previous five meetings in the series.

The Cougars, who were looking to continue that trend, held a 17-point lead with less than three minutes remaining in the third quarter. The Senators came storming back in the fourth quarter with the help of a 26-6 run, and they headed back to Orange with a 51-48 road victory.

"We just blew a 17-point lead at home which is very frustrating," said longtime Quabog head coach Chris Reilly. "We played very well during the first three quarters of the game. Then we had a lot of trouble handling their pressure defense and we had too many turnovers during the fourth quarter."

Quabog, who had a 4-9 overall record following the home loss, defeated Mahar, 72-40, at home two years ago. They also celebrated a 46-40 home win at



Reilly Comptois makes his way down the court.

the start of the 2019-20 regular season.

The Senators won three home games against the Cougars before

Please see **QUABOG**, page 10

## Pioneers fall at Monson

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—In their only meeting of the regular season against Pathfinder Tech, the Monson boys' basketball team played very well both offensively and defensively, especially in the first half.

Holding a 40-12 halftime lead, the Mustangs put it into cruise control during the second half leading to a 58-38 road victory over the Pioneers, last Friday night.

"We normally don't get to use



Turley photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Dustyn Cook flies for a shot.

the press defense very often in our league games, but we felt like we would be able to use it in tonight's game," said Monson head coach Zach Dreher. "We were able to create some turnovers in the first half, which helped us build a large lead. We also had the chance to play our reserve players in the second half. It was a good opportunity for those guys to get some experience playing in a varsity game."

Three years ago, Monson lost a home game to Pathfinder Tech, 43-39, at the end of the regular season.

The Mustangs defeated the Pioneers, 84-57, last year, which was also played at Michael J. Kane Gymnasium.

Seven of the ten players listed on this year's Mustangs varsity roster scored at least two points in last Friday night's non-league game.

Leading the way offensively for the Mustangs was freshman Trey Dillahunt, who scored 16 of his game-high 20 points before halftime.

Dillahunt, who has been a member of the varsity basketball team since he was in the seventh grade, entered the road game with 956 career points. The plan is for him to score his 1,000th career points at home against Hampshire Regional on Wednesday night.

"Trey only needs 24 more points to reach 1,000," Dreher said. "We'll be playing another road game against Baystate Academy on Tuesday night, but we're hoping that he does it at home the following night against

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 11



Jack Leclair hustles down the court.

## Middle School boys action

BARRE – Last Thursday afternoon, the Quabbin Regional Middle School boys basketball team played host to Murdock High School. The boys are back in action next week.



Nathan Gingras attempts a three-pointer.



Ashton Dahlstrom sends a pass around the perimeter.



Cameron Bruley fires a pass across the court.



Robert Tobin fights to get a shot off.



Thomas Shoonmaker extends for the layup.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

# sports



Ethan Mooney tries to steal the puck away.



Sawyer Ferro tries to break up a Westfield player's progress.

## Hurricanes suffer rare blowout loss

WESTFIELD – Last Thursday evening, Amherst hockey, which co-ops with Pathfinder Regional, had a tough shutout loss 10-0 against Westfield. The Bombers, which play in a higher division and are hav-

ing an excellent year, took the Hurricanes out of the matchup from the very beginning, taking a 5-0 lead very early, and never stopping the pressure. The previous day, the Hurricanes got an overtime goal from Ethan

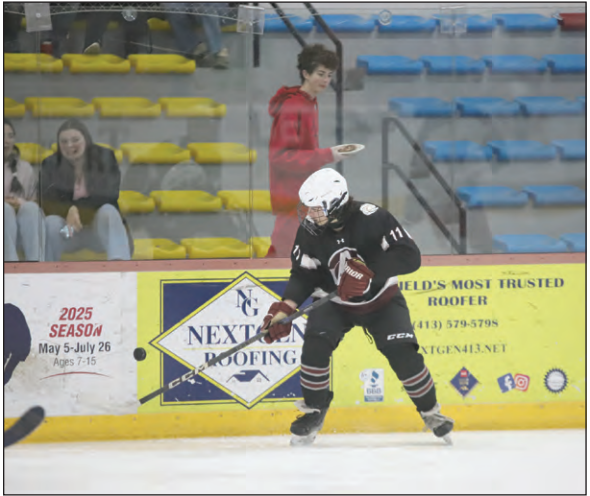
Mooney for a 4-3 win over McCann Tech. Mooney scored a hat trick in the win while Joshua Feldman had the other goal. Amherst is 6-4-1 and next faces Southwick on Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. at Amelia Park Arena in Westfield.



Goalie Jason Kim corraling the puck.



Silas Villegas recovers a loose puck.



Stephen Rich tries to settle the bouncing puck.

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks League at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes are several weeks away from completing round two.

As of Jan. 14, the Daft Kings are in first place with 19.5 wins and 8.5 losses. Team BK is in second place with 15.5 wins and 12.5 losses, just four points behind the first place Daft Kings.

Last in Line is in third place with a record of 15-13, followed by Compression with a record of 14-14, The Mailmen at 12-16 and the first session winner Gutter Mouths at 8-20.

Last in Line bowled against Team BK to secure second place in the final weeks of round two. In game one, Team BK defeated Last in Line by a score of 359-349. Paul Nothe of BK broke the century mark with a 102.

In game two, Team BK were victorious again with a score of 356-335. Nothe bested his first game by one, 103 and his teammate Mark Fitzpatrick joined him with a 100 of his own.

In game three, Last in Line salvaged a victory over Team BK, 358-337. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line finished the match with a 106. Team BK won three points and total pinfall by a final score of 1052-1042.

The Daft Kings bowled against Gutter Mouths on the league night of Jan. 21. In game one, Gutter Mouths defeated Daft Kings by a score of 360-351. In game two, Gutter Mouths

were victorious again with a score of 400 over Daft Kings' 342. Stephen Manolakis of Gutter Mouths had a good game with a 114 to increase the lead for his team going into the final game.

In game three, The Daft Kings got the win over Gutter Mouths, 403-355. Ken Trudel of daft Kings finished with 111 and his teammate Dave Cobleigh finished with 106.

Gutter Mouths still won total pinfall with a final score of 1115-1096.

Compression bowled against the Mailmen on Jan. 21. In game one, The Mailmen defeated Compression by a score of 382-369. David Bowman of Compression began the match with a 114. Bryan Surprise of Mailmen had a 114 of his own.

In game two, Mailmen were the winners again with a score of 370 to Compression's 322. Surprise bested his first game with a 137 to get the consecutive win for his team.

In game three, The Mailmen won 384-358 for a three-game sweep over Compression. Surprise finished with a 101 and a series of 352.

The Mailmen won total pinfall by a final score of 1136-1049.



### QUABOAG from page 9

winning this year's contest.

"Quaboag has also been a very tough team for us to play against," said Mahar head coach Chad Softic. "They're a scrappy team and Chris Reilly is an outstanding coach. This is the first time that we've been able to win a game in this gym."

Quaboag faced Mahar (7-3) without the services of leading scorer junior forward Isaac Cover, who suffered an injury in their previous game at Uxbridge.

The Cougars only double-digit scorers against the Senators were senior guard Hart Waz and junior center Jack Stevens.

Waz made five of his team's nine 3-pointers leading to his team-leading 15 points, while Stevens scored seven of his 12 points in the second half.

Junior forward Jacob Toomey checked in with eight points and junior guard Jacoby Labillois added six points. The Cougars other two scorers were sophomore forward's Liam McGrath (4 points) and Christian Rudz (3 points).

McGrath was a starter in a varsity game for the first time.

Just like the weather outside of the Quaboag gymnasium, both teams were ice cold offensively during the first eight minutes of the contest.

With 25 seconds left in the first quarter, Waz made his first 3-pointer from the left side which tied the score at 6-6. Then a put-back hoop by sophomore center Max Kimball gave the visitors a two point lead entering the second stanza.

Mahar held a 12-6 lead a minute into the second quarter before back-to-back McGrath lay-ups sliced the Cougars deficit down to two points.

The home team took their first lead of the game at 18-15 following another Waz 3-pointer from the right side. A minute later, Waz made a trey from the opposite side of the court pushing the lead to 21-15.

The Senators then scored the final three points of the first half, as senior forward Jayden Delgado (11 points) made a fast-break lay-up and senior guard Morgan Softic added a free throw.

Softic scored 12 of his game-high 17 points during the second half.

The Cougars put together an impressive 21-7 run during the first six minutes of the second half.

The third quarter run began with Toomey hitting a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

Then a pair of inside hoops by Stevens gave the Cougars a double digit lead for the first time at 30-20 with 5:15 left in the third quarter.

Quaboag built a 34-20 advantage a minute later following a



Jacob Toomey flicks a pass away.



Jacoby Labillois gets ready to receive the ball.



Hart Waz tries to get around a defender.

Waz 3-pointer. He made another trey and a Toomey put-back hoop gave the Cougars their largest lead, 42-25, with 2:35 remaining in third quarter.

The home team was only leading 42-34 entering the final eight minutes of the contest, as the Senators scored the final nine points of the quarter. Softic scored

six of those points.

Mahar also scored the first nine points of the fourth quarter.

Holding a slim, 42-41, the Cougars managed to hold onto the lead for a little bit longer when Stevens converted an old fashion three-point play with 3:19 showing on the scoreboard clock.

Mahar was able to tie the score at 45-45 with a lay-up and a pair of

free throws.

With 1:55 left Labillois buried a 3-pointer from the left side giving the home fans something to cheer about.

A Softic 3-pointer tied the score (48-48) for the final time with 1:20 left in regulation.

The Senators would retake the lead for the first time since the second quarter when Delgado was

fouled while making an inside basket with 18.8 seconds left. He also made the bonus free throw.

Quaboag had an opportunity to tie the score for the sixth time, but they missed a three point shot at the buzzer.

The two head coaches are hoping that the series continues next year.

### WARE from page 9

a free throw which started a 14-3 Ware run.

The Indians retook the lead at 19-16 when senior guard Jason Mumper buried a 3-pointer from the right corner. Senior forward Justin Grout (9 points) followed with a foul-line jumper.

Then Breault, who made a total of four 3-pointers in the game, buried his second 3-pointer closing the gap to two points.

The Indians second quarter run continued with a Gaudreau inside hoop, a Grout base-line lay-up and two free throws from junior forward Brady Guimond (5 points), which increased their lead to 27-19 with 1:46 left in the first half.

With 1.8 seconds showing on the scoreboard clock, Granby senior guard Gavier Fernandez Jr. made two foul shots cutting the Rams deficit to six points at half-time.

Fernandez, who scored 28 points in the first meeting of the regular season against Ware, scored 14 of his team leading 20 points during the second half of last Thursday's contest.

Gaudreau began the second half by making his first 3-pointer of the

season from the right side.

With 4:40 left in the third quarter, the Rams were trailing, 30-26 following back-to-back lay-ups by Fernandez.

The Indians responded with a 3-pointer from junior forward Alex Orszulak (5 points). He also made an inside hoop before senior guard Owen McKeever knocked down a 3-pointer pushing the lead into double digits (38-28) for the first time.

Just like he did at the start of the third quarter, Gaudreau ended the quarter by sinking another 3-pointer giving the home team a 45-34 advantage entering the final eight minutes.

Ware built a 15-point lead early in the fourth quarter after junior guard Brodi Koczur buried a 3-pointer and Grout made a free throw.

The Rams then put-together a 10-0 run.

With 2:30 remaining in regulation, Fernandez made a steal leading to a lay-up, which sliced the Rams deficit to 49-44. Grout ended Granby's run with an inside hoop.

With his team holding a 51-46 lead, Koczur hit another 3-pointer.

Koczur, whose older brother, Drew, was an outstanding three-



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Jason Mumper drives toward the hoop.

sport athlete at Ware High School, scored all ten of his points during the final quarter. He made four foul shots during the final sec-

onds, which sealed the victory and helped the Indians keep their league title hopes alive for another week.



Jack Gaudreau gets the fade-away shot.

The deadline for submissions for this sports section is the Monday before publication by noon.

To send in information, contact Sports Editor at 413-283-8393, send an e-mail to sports@turley.com or send it through the mail to: Turley Publications c/o Sports Editor 24 Water St. Palmer, MA 01069

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# Thunderbirds fall in shootout against Bruins

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (18-17-2-2) got a combined eight points from their top line but ultimately fell in a shootout by a 4-3 score to the Providence Bruins (23-13-3-1) last Saturday night before a seventh sellout crowd this season at the MassMutual Center.

T-Birds captain Matthew Peca got the capacity crowd energized just 3:48 into the first period, taking a slip pass from Matt Luff in the high slot and wiring a shot over Brandon Bussi's blocker to give Springfield the 1-0 advantage.

Springfield carried over their strong special teams night on Friday by dispatching the Bruins' lone power play of the first period, but the Providence attack kept pressing the issue. Georgii Merkulov evened the slate at 13:35 with a one-touch finish from just outside the blue paint, beating Vadim Zherenko upstairs to tie the score 1-1.

Neither team generated much offense in the closing minutes of the period, and the tie game carried into period two, with Providence outshooting Springfield 10-6 in the opening 20 minutes.

The Bruins vaulted to their first lead just 1:59 into the second period when Frederic Brunet found a home with a point shot off a faceoff play, making it 2-1. The T-Birds had a golden chance to get back in the game as they went to a 4-on-3 power play shortly after the Brunet tally, but Bussi and the Providence penalty killers held the fort.

Later in the frame, with Providence on a power play, Ian Mitchell rocketed a one-timer past Zherenko, and the visitors' lead grew to 3-1 at 11:04 of the frame. In desperate need of a spark,

Peca and the top line provided one at 15:32 when the captain entered the zone and lifted a shot over the net. Fortunately enough, the puck careened right to the side of the goal, where MacKenzie MacEachern jabbed it through Bussi to bring Springfield back to within a goal, 3-2. With the good fortune, the veteran winger picked up his fifth goal in his last nine games.

On the very next shift, MacEachern and Peca were at it again, with the captain spotting MacEachern behind the net, and the

winger blindly throwing a perfect pass in front of the goal to Luff, who mashed it home before Bussi could position himself and, thanks to two goals in just 18 seconds, the game was tied, 3-3, heading into the third.

Springfield kept pressing in the final period, but Bussi and the top defensive squad in the AHL kept the home side from gaining the advantage. Zherenko was also up to the challenge, stopping five shots in the third, including a dangerous close-in chance for Fabian Lysell in the dying minutes.

3-on-3 overtime proved to be a showcase of the two netminders' skills, as Bussi and Zherenko traded spectacular saves during the frenetic five-minute frame. Each team had four chances to ice the game, but thanks to the goalies, a shootout would be needed.

Merkulov ultimately made the difference, beating Zherenko in the opening round of the skills competition, while Bussi turned away Tanner Dickinson, forced Luff to hit a post, and then stonewalled Dalibor Dvorsky to earn the extra point for Providence.

## Worcester's point streak ends in loss at Maine

PORTLAND, Me. — Worcester's eight-game points streak, second-longest in team history, ended here Friday night via a 4-2 loss to the Maine Mariners. The Railers fell behind very early, eventually trailed by 3-0, and were never able to summon the energy to come all the way back.

"I thought they were flat," coach Nick Tuzzolino said. "I thought they were emotionless in the first period. It was not my favorite game with that group."

The defeat was part of a bad standings night for Worcester. Two teams trailing them in the battle for the fourth playoff spot both won. Maine closed to within five points of Worcester and has three games in hand. Reading, suddenly very hot, also won.

The Royals are 5-0-1 in their last six games. They are just one point behind Worcester. Both teams have played 40 games.

Griffin Luce and Jordan Kaplan had the Worcester goals. Luce's was his fifth of the season, extending a career high.

Jacob Hudson, Tristan Thompson, Owen Pederson and Nick Jermain scored for Maine. Hudson made it 1-0 a mere 67 seconds into the game as the Railers got off to a tentative start.

Once again a Railers game was stagnated by goal reviews. There were two. Both went against Worcester. One was an overturn of a floating shot by Kaplan that went over goalie Maine goalie Ryan Bischel's glove with Griffin Loughran in front in the first period.

Right after that, Thompson scored a power play goal that looked like Michael Bullion was interfered with. That goal held up.

It was a game of hard feelings. There were 23 penalties called good for a combined total of 84 minutes, a season high.

Luce's goal came at 6:07 of the third period. It cut the Maine lead to 3-1 and was scored only 21 seconds after Pederson's goal. Kaplan scored on a pretty wraparound at 14:40 for the game's final goal.

Bischel got the win as he stopped 27. Bullion made 28 saves for Worcester.

Recent Railers games have been overrun with goal reviews and it really takes away from the flow and momentum. Worcester's last eight games have averaged 2 hours, 37 minutes. That is well above standards from past seasons.

## Jack Baldwin to take part in modified tour this season

Tommy Baldwin Racing announced Wednesday that Jack Baldwin will pilot the historic 7NY in over 20 Tour-Type Modified events during the 2025 season.

The bulk of the races will come on the SMART Modified Tour - as Baldwin will compete in the full 14-race calendar driving the 7NY. Jack has two SMART Modified Tour starts to his credit, scoring 5th and 8th place finishes in 2024.

Jack will also compete in the Tour-Type Modified events at New Smyrna Speedway's World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing from February 10-14, along with end of the season events at Riverhead Raceway (Islip 300) and Wall Stadium Speedway (Turkey Derby). Additional events may be announced at a later date.

Jack is the reigning 602 Modified champion at New Smyrna and has multiple 602 Modified wins. In 2025, he will chase his first career Tour-Type win.

"Jack has run select events the last few years but we're excited to have him a full season in the Tour-Type Modifieds to continue to gain experience and refine his skills behind the wheel," team owner Tommy Baldwin Jr. said. "He will be running against stout competition in every race he runs."

"I'm definitely excited to get the chance to race on the SMART Modified Tour full-time," Jack said. "Watching the series the last few years, you can tell the racing is tight and the competition is unlike anything else when it comes to Modified racing in the south. Driving the 7NY and working with our family team all year will be special. Excited to kick it off with Speedweeks at New Smyrna."

## PANTHERS from page 9

Hampshire. I've talked to Trey about it, I think it's going to be a little more special for him if it does take place in a home game. He's a very special basketball player."

Dillahunt, who scored a game-high 24 points in last season's meeting against the Pioneers, didn't make any 3-pointers in this year's contest.

He was aided by junior Jake Beaupre, who scored 10 of his 16 points before halftime with the help of four 3-pointers. Beaupre scored a career-high 30 points in an 85-69 win at Southwick three days earlier.

The junior duo of Austin Meacham and Shane Szado chipped in with eight points apiece.

The other three Mustangs scorers were sophomore Kyle Beaudry (3 points), sophomore Brennan Peterson (2 points), and senior Tyler Labonte (1 point).

While the Mustangs, who are members of the Bi-County West Division, had a 7-4 overall record following the road win, the Pathfinder Tech had a 1-9 record.

The Pioneers played very well during the final 16 minutes of the contest, as they outscored the Mustangs, 26-18.

Pathfinder Tech junior Aiden Girard scored eight of his 11 points during the first half, while sophomore Cayden Bousquet netted all 11 of his points in the second half.

Junior Dustyn Cook added eight points for the home team, while freshman Cassian Kowalik scored five points, and freshman Jordan Mbi made a 3-pointer with less than a minute remaining in the game for his only points.

Kowalik, along with sophomore Ian Sauri-Nieves, and freshman Grayson Griswold, are from Monson.

"We do have a couple of players from Monson," said Pathfinder head coach Ethan Ortyl. "They were very excited to



Cassian Kowalik holds the ball back before taking a shot.



Cayden Bousquet heads into the paint.

play against their hometown high school tonight."

The score was tied 2-2 before the Mustangs pulled away with the help of a 24-2 run.

Dillahunt and Beaupre combined to score 15 of those points.

Meacham contributed five points with a 3-pointer and a put-back hoop.

The Mustangs were leading 26-4 after Szado made a pair of free throws with 56.9 seconds left in the first quarter.

The Pioneers closed out the opening quarter with Girard sinking a 3-pointer from the top of the key and a lay-up from Cook.

The Mustangs outscored the Pioneers, 14-3, in the second quarter.

Trailing by 28 points at the start of the second half, the Pioneers played very well in the second half.

"Monson is one of the best teams that we've this season. We did make some adjustments at halftime, and we executed

a lot better during the second half," Ortyl said. "These guys always play hard no matter what the score in the game might be."

Kowalik and Bousquet began the second half with back-to-back lay-ups.

A couple of minutes later, Girard hit a 3-pointer from the left corner, which closed the gap to 42-19.

The Mustangs finished the third quarter with a 13-4 run, and they entered the final quarter holding a comfortable 55-23 lead.

Dillahunt came out of the game with three minutes left in the third quarter and Labonte was the only Monson starter who played during the fourth quarter.

Bousquet scored nine of the Pioneers 15 fourth quarter points.

The only points scored by Monson during the final eight minutes of the contest was a Beaudry 3-pointer from the left corner.



Matthew Vanasse goes for the tip.

## When is a good time for Roth conversion?

In life, you often get second chances — and the same is true with investing. To illustrate: You might not have been able to contribute to a Roth IRA during your working years due to your income level, but you may get that opportunity as you near retirement, or even when you are retired — through a Roth conversion.

Why is a Roth IRA desirable for some people? Here are the key benefits:

- **Tax-free withdrawals** — You put in after-tax dollars to a Roth IRA, so you can withdraw your contributions at any time, free of taxes and penalties. And if you've had your account for at least five years and you're at least 59½, you can also withdraw your earnings free of taxes.

- **No RMDs** — With a traditional IRA, you'll have to start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — when you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later. But there's no RMD requirement with a Roth IRA — you can essentially leave the money intact as long as you like.

- **Tax-free legacy for your heirs** — When your heirs inherit your Roth IRA, they can withdraw the contributions without paying taxes or penalties, and if the account has been open at least five years, they can also withdraw earnings tax free.

But even if you were aware of these advantages, you might not have been able to invest in a Roth IRA for much of your life. For one thing, you might have earned too much money — a Roth IRA, unlike a traditional IRA, has income limits. Also, a Roth IRA has only been around since 1998, so, in the previous years, you were limited to a traditional IRA.

As you approach retirement, though, you might start thinking of just how much you'd like to benefit from a Roth IRA. And you can do so by converting your traditional IRA to a Roth. While this sounds simple, there's a major caveat: taxes. You'll be taxed on the amount in pre-tax dollars you contributed to a traditional IRA and then converted to a Roth IRA. (If you have both pre- and after-tax dollars in your traditional IRA, the taxable amount is based on the percentage of pre-tax dollars.)

If you have large amounts in a traditional IRA, the tax bill on conversion can be significant. The key to potentially lowering this tax bill is timing. Generally speaking, the lower your income in a given year, the more favorable it is for you to convert to a Roth IRA. So, for example, if you have already retired, but have not started collecting RMDs, your income may be down.

Timing also comes into play with the financial markets. When the market is going through a decline, and the value of your traditional IRA drops, you could convert the same number of shares of the underlying investments and receive a lower tax bill or convert more shares of these investments for what would have been the same tax bill.

Finally, you could lower your tax bill in any given year by stretching out your Roth IRA conversions over several years, rather than doing it all at once.

You'll want to consult with your tax advisor before embarking on this conversion — but if it's appropriate for your situation, you could find that owning a Roth IRA can benefit you and your family for years to come.

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# public safety

## Warren Police Log

During the weeks of Jan. 11-25, the Warren Police Department responded to 354 building/property checks, 80 community policings, 24 emergency 911 calls, one larceny/threat, one threat, three parking issues, one fraud/forgery, one safety concern, one complaint, five motor vehicle accidents and 47 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

**Saturday, Jan. 11**  
 9:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
 11:14 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
 12:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 1:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Grove Street, Vehicle Towed  
 2:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

**Sunday, Jan. 12**  
 8:46 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old Douglas Road, Transported to Hospital  
 9:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

**Monday, Jan. 13**  
 8:37 a.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital

**Tuesday, Jan. 14**  
 12:22 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Hillside Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
 2:59 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital  
 10:35 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Winthrop Terrace, Report Filed  
 1:09 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Yankee Drummer Driver, Public Assist  
 2:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning  
 7:50 p.m. Falls, Trudeau Drive, Transported to Hospital

**Wednesday, Jan. 15**  
 4 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Presidential Circle, Transported to Hospital

**Thursday, Jan. 16**  
 7:58 a.m. Fumes/Odor, Moore Avenue, Investigated  
 10:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

11:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bemis Road, Criminal Complaint  
 12:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
 1:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
 2:15 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Central Street, Transported to Hospital  
 4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 11:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 11:57 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Maple Street, Transported to Hospital

**Friday, Jan. 17**  
 12:33 a.m. Parking Issues, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 1:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 5:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 5:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 7:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Douglas Road, Vehicle Towed  
 4:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Summer Street, Criminal Complaint

**Saturday, Jan. 18**  
 1:09 a.m. Parking Issues, North Street, Citation Issued  
 5:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 9:19 a.m. Threats, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
 2:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 10:05 p.m. Fumes/Odor, Brimfield Road, Investigated

**Sunday, Jan. 19**  
 12:44 a.m. Parking Issues, Peletier Avenue, Citation Issued  
 9:51 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Quaboag Street, Transported to Hospital  
 5:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Keys Road, Vehicle Towed

**Monday, Jan. 20**  
 11:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Ware Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Tuesday, Jan. 21**  
 6:39 a.m. Stroke, Main Street, Mutual Aid Transport

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Jan. 20-27, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 52 building/property checks, 37 directed/area patrols, one radar assignment, six traffic controls, nine emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, one complaint, one motor vehicle accident, one vehicle fire, two investigations, one animal call and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Tuesday, Jan. 21**  
 6:56 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Negative Contact  
 9:34 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Services Rendered  
 1:22 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

**Wednesday, Jan. 22**  
 12:12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Dispatch Handled  
 4:18 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Thursday, Jan. 23**  
 11:40 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 3:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
 4:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
 5:19 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Broad Street, Spoken To

**Friday, Jan. 24**  
 9:53 a.m. Assist Citizen, Turkey Street, Officer Handled

## Open burning season now open through May 1

WARE – Open burning season is now open by permit and runs through May 1. Permits will be available online only at [ware.fire-permits.com](http://ware.fire-permits.com). If you are already registered for the site from last year's open burning season, you only need to log in and apply for a 2025 burn permit. Please make sure you link your bank account for UniPay for a smoother process. The bank requires time to process your payment and your permit will be inactive until payment is approved. Cash will not be accepted at the fire station for a burn permit. All processing fees are required through the online website.

*Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?*

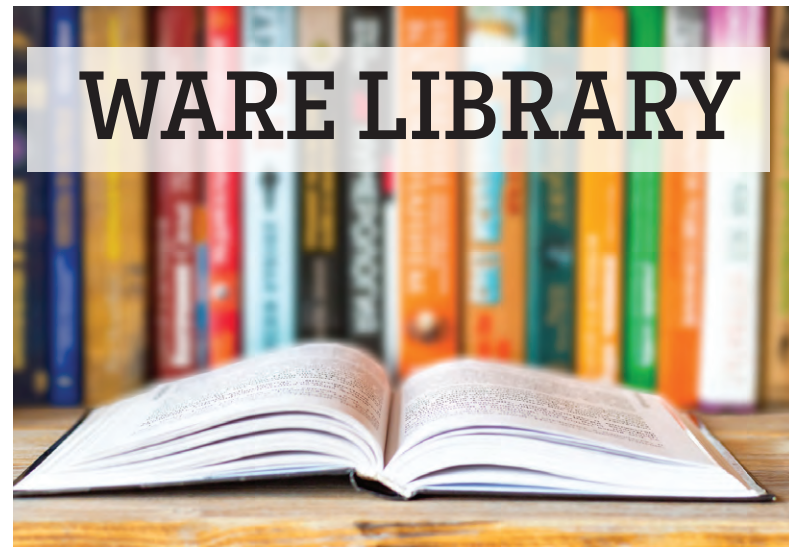
**We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.**

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

## Veterans eat lunch free at Ware Senior Center

WARE – Now through May 31, 2025, veterans of the U.S. armed services can enjoy a home-made lunch for free at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road. These meals are provided by the generosity of former Ware Selectboard member John Morrin, the Ware Veteran Fund and the Ware Veterans Carnival. For veterans to take advantage of this offer they must call the Ware Senior Center 413-967-9645 by noon the business day before they wish to come for lunch and place their name on the list. Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.-noon. Menus and more information are available on the Council on Aging page of [townofware.com](http://townofware.com) or by stopping by the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.



## Upcoming programs

WARE – The Ware Library, 37 Main St., welcomes 2025 with some exciting new programs for families and community members. All programs are free to the public, no library card necessary. Some programs require advanced registration (they will be noted if so), otherwise just drop in. Follow the library on Facebook for updates, or you can grab an event calendar at the library. Call 413-967-4858 or email [warelibrary1881@gmail.com](mailto:warelibrary1881@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Lecture Series: Visions of Our Founding Fathers**  
 Monday, Feb. 3 at 1 p.m.

Join library staff in the Reading Room for a live, virtual lecture to learn about the history and vision of our Founding Fathers by Rutgers University professor, Louis Masur. For patrons who are unable to make it to the library, staff can send you a link to participate from home - email [warelibrary1881@gmail.com](mailto:warelibrary1881@gmail.com) if interested.

**Book Club**  
 Monday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 10:30 a.m.

Feel free to join library staff at either meeting to talk about the current group reading endeavor. A new book will be handed out by the library after each discussion. You can also pick up a copy of the next book at the main circulation desk if you are unable to make either meeting.

**“Travel” to Peru**  
 Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 2 p.m.  
 Join library staff and “escape” the cold during a live remote tour

## Local author presents writing/publishing workshop on March 9

WEST BROOKFIELD – “Everyone has a story to tell,” said award-winning author Ed Londergan. His ninth annual creative writing and publishing workshop will be held on Sunday, March 9, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Salem Cross Inn. “The writing workshop aims to help those who want to write but don’t know where to start or who have had an idea for a story that’s been bubbling in their head for years and finally want to put it on paper. I also help people who have written something and need to know how to move ahead,” said Londergan, who provides a full day of information. “The workshop will cover the entire process of writing and publishing, including idea development and sources of inspiration, drawing from storytelling traditions, developing the story, structure, and flow, conceiving and bringing characters to life, dialogue, editing, short fiction, writer’s block, and the publishing process,” Londergan said. “The publishing process can be confusing and frustrating. I’ll take the group through the various publishing options available. There will also

of Cusco, Peru. Cusco is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the Western Hemisphere. Formerly the capital of the extensive Inca empire, it retains much of its highly crafted early stone architecture. For patrons who are unable to make it to the library, staff can send you a link to participate from home - email [warelibrary1881@gmail.com](mailto:warelibrary1881@gmail.com) if interested.

**Evening Craft: Faux Stained Glass**  
 Thursday, Feb. 13 at 5 p.m.  
 This is the library’s first adult/teen evening craft. This particular craft will have the end result of looking like beautiful stained glass, and each piece will be unique to the maker. The project will take about one hour to complete. Plus, there will be snacks. This event is for ages 13 and up. Registration is required by emailing [rdiemand@cwmar.org](mailto:rdiemand@cwmar.org) or calling 413-967-4858.

**Cooking Demonstration and Nutrition Education Program**  
 Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 5:45 p.m.

Join library staff as they welcome a Nutrition Coordinator from the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. There will also be a budget-friendly cooking demonstration. The Food Bank of Western Mass, in partnership with SNAP-Ed, offers free nutrition education programs to member agencies. Learn about MyPlate healthy eating guidelines, decipher nutrition labels, and more. Reservations requested by not required. Contact Cathy Goulet by calling 413-967-9691.

be some fun writing exercises.” Past workshops have been attended by people of all ages and occupations, from 12-year-old students to 75-year-old retirees. “Five attendees have written books and had them published while others have had stories and articles placed in various publications,” said Londergan. “One of the things past attendees have enjoyed and learned from is the writing exercises,” Londergan said. “The writing exercises this year are different than what I’ve done in the past. I enjoy seeing the creative ideas that come out of them.” “Back-and-forth discussion is always a popular part of the day. Attendees learn from each other. Individual issues or problems anyone has with their writing are discussed, and the group helps them with suggestions and observations. At times, a lot of ‘here’s what happened to me, and here’s what I did,’” he said. The workshop is limited to 14 participants. The cost is \$110, and lunch is included. Registration is required, and the deadline is Febr. 28. To register, email [ed.londergan@gmail.com](mailto:ed.londergan@gmail.com) or call 508-864-8685.

## Names sought of craftswomen who made 1991 town quilt

WARREN – The Warren Town Quilt has come out of its resting place and is now hanging in a brand new case on a wall at the Shepard Municipal Building. A celebration of its being hung in this beautifully crafted case will be scheduled in a few weeks. A plaque is planned to list all the craftswomen who worked on the quilt to celebrate the Town’s

250th Anniversary in 1991. If you, or someone you know (or knew), worked on the Warren Town Quilt in 1991, please contact Historical Commission Chair, Sylvia G. Buck [sgbuck37@verizon.net](mailto:sgbuck37@verizon.net) and include a telephone number at which you can be reached. Use “Warren Town Quilt” in the subject line to verify your intent.

## Express yourself at the Paige Memorial Library

HARDWICK – January is International Creativity Month and National Hobby Month, a time to celebrate the power of imagination at the Paige Memorial Hospital, 87 Petersham Road. Creativity can enrich lives – explore the benefits of creative activity and how mistakes are part of the creative process. The library can provide books and workshops for a new hobby or to rediscover an old interest. Knitting for Adults is held on Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Paige Writers on alternate Tuesdays at 3 p.m. FUNdamentals of Art is held on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Explore printmaking, cardmaking, calligraphy, painting, and more, or bring your craft and join with others to socialize and share knowhow. Book Club on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. and Cookbook Club on the last Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. For more information or to register, call 413-477-6704 or email [Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com).

## Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics is March 8

WARE – The Ware Polar Plunge to benefit the Special Olympics will be held on Saturday, March 8 at West Beach – Beaver Lake. The gates will be open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and there will be food, warm beverages, water, snacks and music provided. Check-in for the plunge is at 11 a.m. and the plunge will take place at noon. To register, scan the QR code or visit [www.polarplungema.org](http://www.polarplungema.org).



## Take-out turkey dinner to be held Feb. 3

WARE – The United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., will hold a take-out turkey dinner on Monday, Feb. 3 from 5-6 p.m. This dinner is take-out only and reservations are not required. Please park on the same side of the street as the church and stay in your car and a runner will come and take your order. The cost is \$15 per meal. Please pay with cash or check.



## Cradle Rock Chapter to hold designer pancake breakfast

BARRE – Cradle Rock Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, will hold a designer pancake breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge hall, 71 Pleasant St. People may create their pancakes with plenty of chips, fruit, nuts and more. The complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. The cost is still \$9 per adult and \$5 for children ages 6 and under. Everyone is welcome.

## Ruth Banfield, 86

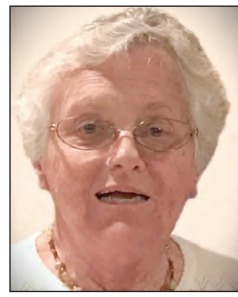
WARE — Ruth Banfield, 86, of 73 South St., Ware, formerly of Stow, died on Jan. 20, 2025.

She was predeceased by her loving husband, Ralph, on Oct. 24, 2017.

Ruth was born May 4, 1938, in Waltham. The daughter of the late Carl Gunnar and Ruth (Anderson) Johnson, Ruth was a lifelong resident of Stow.

Ruth graduated from Hale High School, class of 1956, and attended South Middlesex Secretarial School in Framingham.

Ruth raised her family and then worked many part-time jobs. Finally working full time at Digital



and retiring in 1992.

She was a member of the Union Church in Stow serving on the Pastoral Committee and was vice president and president of the Service Club. She was a board member at the Stow's Council on Aging, and a member of the Hale High Class Reunion Committee.

She loved caring for plants along side of Ralph, and loved camping at Wakeda Campground Hampton Falls, New Hampshire for 30 years with a devoted family.

Surviving are her sons, James Banfield and his wife, Diane, of Warren, Richard and his wife, Nicola, of Shrewsbury and her

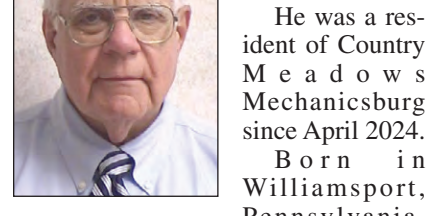
loving granddaughter, Lauren of Greenfield. Also survived by her twin brother Arnold Johnson and wife, Judy, of Hudson, and loving nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and sisters-in-laws Elaine of Virginia and Therese of Hudson. She was predeceased by her brother Carl Robert Johnson of Alton Bay, New Hampshire.

A visitation was held in the Acton Funeral Home, 470 Massachusetts Avenue (Route 111), Acton, on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, from 10-11 a.m. followed by a Funeral Service at 11 a.m. in the Funeral Home. Interment took place in Brookside Cemetery, Stow.

Contributions in Ruth's memory may be made to the Stow Council on Aging, 509 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775.

## Gerald LaVerne Paist

MECHANICSBURG, PA — Gerald LaVerne Paist ("Gerry") passed away peacefully at Harrisburg Hospital on Jan. 24, 2025.



He was a resident of Country Meadows Mechanicsburg since April 2024. Born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Gerry was the son of Thomas Holland Paist, Jr. and Ethel Ann (Hubbell) Paist. He grew up in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania and attended the Upper Meriand School District, where he graduated Valedictorian of the class of 1957.

Gerry was very active in Scouting and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. During his senior year, Gerry was selected to tour Europe with the World Friendship Organization. While there, he visited 18 European countries and received the Queen's Scout Badge, the highest award in English Scouting.

Following high school graduation, Gerry earned a B.S. in Mathematics from Lafayette College and Masters and Doctoral Degrees In Educational Administration from Harvard University.

After teaching Mathematics at Stoneham and Framingham School Districts, Gerry served as Assistant Dean of Westfield University in Massachusetts. He then became the Superintendent/Director of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High

### Death notices

**Banfield, Ruth**  
Died Jan. 20, 2025  
Services Jan. 27, 2025

**Chobot, Brenda Ianthe (Daley)**  
Died Jan. 18, 2025

**Hebert, Theresa**  
Died Jan. 24, 2025  
Services Jan. 28, 2025

**Paist, Gerald LaVerne "Gerry"**  
Died Jan. 24, 2025

**Simons, Anna R.**  
Died Jan. 22, 2025

## Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## Brenda Ianthe Chobot, 71

WARE — The family of Brenda Ianthe (Daley) Chobot of Ware are saddened to announce her passing on Jan. 18, 2025, at the age of 71 years.

Brenda was born in Springfield on Jan. 9, 1954, to the late beloved parents, Oswald G. and Cynthia T. (Baptiste) Daley. Brenda was raised and educated in Ware and was a lifelong resident.

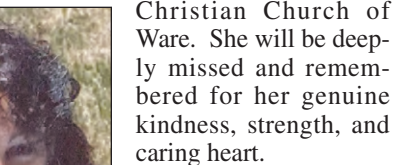
Brenda was a homemaker, and was employed as a nurse's aide and childcare provider.

Brenda will be deeply missed by her son's: Christian Lawrence and his wife Diana, and Andrew Lawrence. Brenda was prede-

ceased by her beloved son, Jonathan Lawrence whose memory she carried dearly in her heart. She is survived by her sister, Susan Tourtellotte and her husband Edward, sister, Yvonne Eriksen, brother, Paul Daley and his wife Mary, and sister, Andrea Blood and her husband Brian, Nicole Daley, and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Brenda also leaves behind her special, long-time friend, Gerry Siok, and caring friend, Carrie Kutt, and many other dear friends.

Brenda was a faithful Christian, and was a member of the New Birth Christian Church of Ware. She will be deeply missed and remembered for her genuine kindness, strength, and caring heart.



A Memorial Service to Honor Brenda's Life will be held at the convenience of her family, Cebula Funeral Home of Ware is honored to assist her family with the final arrangements. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: [www.cebulafuneralhome.com](http://www.cebulafuneralhome.com).

## Theresa Hebert, 87

WARE — Theresa Hebert passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Jan. 24, 2025, at her home in Ware.

She was born on Feb. 8, 1937, in Ludlow, she was the daughter of the late Louise and Charles Reynolds.

She grew up in Indian Orchard and graduated from High School of Commerce in Springfield. She worked as a Veterinarian Assistant and later in the Bakery at the Big Y.

She joins her sisters Linda MacDonough and Gloria Caron who passed previously, and leaves behind her sister Arlene Sedelow.

Theresa was married to the late Robert Hebert, and they had five children, Michael Hebert, Debra Boronski, Donna Warburton, Mark Hebert and Matthew Hebert.



She leaves behind nine grandchildren, Robert Hebert, Kyle Hebert, Tyler Hebert, Megan Hebert, Joseph Hebert, Lucy Hebert, Samantha Warburton, Alexandra Warburton, and Darin Boronski, as well as her great-granddaughter, Isla Jones.

For the past four years, she has lived with her oldest son and his wife who were dedicated and loving caregivers.

Theresa was fun, loving, and had a witty personality. She enjoyed word puzzles, watching game shows, and the Hallmark Channel. She loved butterflies and going for rides to enjoy the scenery.

Always easy to please, her favorite thing to say no matter what the situation was, "I'm Fine". The words "I Love You" were always the last words she said, and this held true to the end of her beautiful life.

Calling Hours for Theresa were held on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, from 4-6 p.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St. in Ware. A Graveside Service will be held privately in the spring.

Charbonneau Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hebert family. An online tribute book is available at [charbonneauhf.com](http://charbonneauhf.com).

## Anna R. Simons, 95

WARE — Anna R. Simons, 95, of Ware, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025.

She leaves behind her daughter, Susan (Motyka) Imbier and her husband, William, of Ware; her son, Timothy Simons and his wife, Kimberly, of Ware; her beloved grandchildren, Elizabeth Imbier, Douglas Imbier and his wife Jamie, Sydney Thomas and her husband Peter, Samantha Myers and her husband Lawrence, Sadie Stickell and her husband Matthew; her great-grandchildren, Isabella, Jackson, Amirah, Leo, Charlotte, and Elloise; and her many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her first husband, Joseph Motyka, and then later by her second husband, Robert Simons; as well as by her daughter, Anne Motyka-Quink; by her brother, Charles Roy; by her sisters, Irene Balicki and Carole (Doiron) Gust; and by her granddaughter, Christine Imbier.



She was born in Ware, daughter of the late Antonio and Ethel (Hagman) Roy.

In her early life Anna enjoyed going out polka dancing with her sister. She was a woman of faith and loved to host prayer groups in her home.

She loved to cook and most importantly spend time with her family. Her family could always count on a warm hug and

meal any day of the week. Her Thanksgiving stuffing continues to be a staple for every holiday celebrated within her family.

Anna was the happiest when she was with her family. She loved to care for her grandchildren and was fortunate enough to spend time with her six great-grandchildren. Spending time with them and watching them play, sing and dance around her was what she looked forward to most the past several years.

A Graveside service for Anna will be held privately with family in New St. William Cemetery, on Route 9 in Ware.

Charbonneau Funeral Home is honored to serve the Simons family. An online tribute page is available at [charbonneauhf.com](http://charbonneauhf.com).

## Blood drive to be held at Wing Hospital on Feb. 12

PALMER — The community is invited to celebrate Valentine's Day and National Heart Month by giving the gift of life by donating blood at the Baystate Health blood drive held on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Baystate Wing Hospital from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Additionally, blood drives will be held every other month on Wednesday throughout the year in 2025, on April 16, June 11, Aug. 13, Oct. 15 and Dec. 17.

"There continues to be an urgent need for blood! When you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift remains in our local communities," said Nicole VanZandt, MLT III, Supervisor, BRL Blood Donor Services.

"Please help us to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available by donating blood with the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program.

"There is no substitute for human blood," said VanZandt. "Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds, have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks."

Blood drives will be held at Baystate Wing Hospital, 40 Wright St., in Snow Conference Room C. In appreciation, all eligible donors will receive a \$10 gift card.

For more information or to book an appointment to donate blood, please call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Please be sure to note the Baystate Health hospital location where you would like to make your donation when you make your appointment.

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#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Where entertainers perform
- 7. Miller beer variety
- 10. Ageless
- 12. River in SE Europe
- 13. Able to be repaired
- 14. Type of wrap
- 15. Atomic #54
- 16. Type of tent
- 17. U.S. Treasury position
- 18. Opposed to
- 19. Protective covering
- 21. Bridge building degree
- 22. Clouding of the lens
- 27. Priestess of Hera loved by Zeus
- 28. Unacceptable
- 33. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
- 34. American national park

#### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Supreme god of ancient Egyptians
- 2. Nevada city
- 3. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 4. Bird's beak
- 5. Language
- 6. Midway between south and southeast
- 7. Punjab village
- 8. Small biting flies
- 9. Sportscaster
- 10. A way to get around
- 11. Repeat
- 12. A way to cook with fat
- 14. Temporary loss of consciousness
- 17. Reciprocal of a sine
- 18. Fir tree genus
- 20. "Transformers" director Michael

- 23. Criminals who steal
- 24. Genus of leaf-footed bug
- 25. Music product
- 26. "Talk to you"
- 29. Santa says it three times
- 30. Doctors' group
- 31. African nation
- 32. Ageless
- 35. When you hope to get somewhere
- 36. Worn
- 38. Deprives of vigor
- 40. Used to have (Scottish)
- 41. Where you live
- 42. Muslim ruler title
- 43. Basics
- 44. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 45. Spanish soldier
- 46. It precedes two
- 47. Illuminated



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**ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR**  
Council on Aging for the Town of Oakham is seeking an experienced Activities Coordinator. Miscellaneous duties to include supporting current programs and developing new programs to increase attendance and participation of the growing aging population in the Oakham Senior Center. Up to 12 hours per week (flexible) \$20.00/hr. depending upon experience. Resume should be sent to [Admin@Oakham-Ma.gov](mailto:Admin@Oakham-Ma.gov), or mailed to Board of Selectmen, Town of Oakham, 2 Coldbrook Road, Oakham, MA 01068.

**COA COORDINATOR** for Town of Westhampton. Description available online at [www.westhamptonma.gov](http://www.westhamptonma.gov). Applications accepted until position filled.

**HAMPDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT** is now accepting applications for a **FULL-TIME police officer.** Review of applications begins immediately. Visit [www.hampdenpolice.com](http://www.hampdenpolice.com) for more information. EOE

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Middlefield, MA.**  
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**HELP WANTED**

**TOWN OF BARRE Cemetery Clerk**  
The Town of Barre is seeking qualified applicants for the part-time position of Cemetery Clerk. This position is approximately 10 hours per week and the minimum hourly rate is \$15.00/hour and the maximum hourly rate is \$18.02/hour. A full job description is available upon request. Applicants must have HS Diploma or GED, with a minimum of two to three years' experience in office setting, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest to: **Tammy Martin, Town Administrator, 40 West Street, Suite 697, Barre MA 01005** or [townadmin@townof-barre.com](mailto:townadmin@townof-barre.com). For further information, please contact the Board of Selectmen's Office at (978) 355-2504 x135. A.A./E.O.E.

**WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH** is hiring a sexton three evenings, 7-10 hours per week, \$16 per hour. Additional compensation for hours needed for weddings and funerals.

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## DCR lists upcoming winter hybrid presentations

BELCHERTOWN – The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, announces the schedule for winter hybrid presentations.

All programs are scheduled for 2 p.m. In person seating is limited to 45 people.

In case of bad weather, the programs will only be held virtually. Please register for any of these events by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events>.

**The Mystery of Prescott Quilt of Names**  
Sunday, Feb. 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Step back in time and delve into the intriguing story behind a remarkable artifact that has woven together generations—a quilt embroidered with fifty signatures from 1895, hailing from Prescott, Massachusetts. Who created this piece of history, and why? How did it make its way to the Hitchcock Chair Museum in Riverton, Connecticut, and who played a crucial role in returning it to the Swift River Valley Historical Society?

Join historical interpreter Karen Traub as she embarks on a fascinating journey to unravel the quilt's past.

**History of Rutland Prison Camp**  
Sunday, Feb. 16 from 2-3 p.m.

Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping quarters and a private hospital—sounds like a delightful retreat for a prison? Indeed, it was!

This presentation will tell the story of this surprisingly successful social experiment nestled within the Ware River Watershed.

**Microscopic world of the Quabbin Reservoir**  
Sunday, Feb. 23 from 2-3 p.m.

What's in the water? Learn about the microorganisms that live in the water, and how they can impact water quality.

This presentation will cover phytoplankton and zooplankton found in the Quabbin Reservoir with a live microscope demo.

**Quabbin Reservoir and Watershed Protection**  
Sunday, March 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Engineering, forestry, wildlife and aquatic biology, carpentry, mowing and snowplowing... how do all of these things combine to protect the water supply of over three million people in Massachusetts? How does they benefit the region around the reservoir?

This presentation from the Visitor Center staff explores how the many different goals of DCR staff all support one goal, Quabbin watershed protection.

## National Blood Donor Month

Red Cross teams up with NFL for January donations

The American Red Cross urges donors to make an appointment to give lifesaving blood or platelets in the new year to help keep the blood supply strong this winter.

Type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now to keep critical blood products on the shelves for patients in need.

An active cold and flu season may prevent people from keeping donation appointments as they rest and recover from illness. During National Blood Donor Month, the Red Cross celebrates those who generously roll up a sleeve to help save lives and urges those who are feeling well to make and keep donation appointments to help the blood supply stay on track throughout the winter.

For the sixth year, the Red Cross and the National Football League are partnering in January for National Blood Donor Month to invite football fans and blood donors to join our lifesaving team and score big for patients in need. As a special thank-you to donors for helping address the need for blood during the critical post-holiday time, those who come to give Jan. 1-26 will be automatically entered for a chance to win an exciting Super Bowl LIX giveaway.

The trip includes access to day-of in-stadium pre-game activities, tickets to the official Super Bowl Experience, round-trip airfare, three-night hotel accommodations (Feb. 7-10), plus a \$1,000 gift card for expenses. For full details, people may visit [RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl](http://RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities at Worcester Blood Donation Center, 381 Plantation St., Worcester are: Thursday, Jan. 23 from 11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 24 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 25 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 26 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid and supports veterans, military members and their families.

The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, people may visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [CruzRojaAmericana.org](http://CruzRojaAmericana.org).

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# Second Chance to hold 26th Annual Auction Gala

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services is excited to host its 26th Annual Auction Gala on Saturday, March 29 at the AC Marriott, 125 Front St., Worcester.

This highly anticipated event is Second Chance's most important fundraiser of the year, raising critical funds to help provide lifesaving services to over 56,000 pets in need. The evening will feature hundreds of silent auction items, exciting raffles, and a small but exclusive live auction offering one-of-a-kind experiences.

With a relaxed cocktail and dressy casual dress code, the event is designed to be an enjoyable evening for all, combining great company with opportunities to make a meaningful impact.

All proceeds will support Second Chance's mission to transform the lives of pets by providing affordable veterinary care, keeping pets with their families, and finding loving homes for animals in need.

Tickets are on sale now, and seating is limited, so early reservations are encouraged. Businesses and individuals can also support the event by sponsoring, which includes recognition in event materials and highlights their commitment to supporting pets in need.

Donations to the auction are another great way to get involved, with unique goods, services and once-in-a-lifetime experiences being especially popular.

"This event is all about bringing people together to help pets in need," said Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer of Second Chance. "With hundreds of auction items, raffles, and a live auction, there's something for everyone. Every ticket, sponsorship, and donation makes a direct impact on the lives of pets in our community."

People may visit <http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/dinner-auction> or email [development@secondchanceanimals.org](mailto:development@secondchanceanimals.org) to purchase tickets, become a sponsor or donate auction items.

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