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Vol. 138 No. 52 16 Pages (Plus Supplements)

USPS 666100 \$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

A TURLEY PUBLICATION I www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

# **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 pouimette@turley.com

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.

# FIRE SECURES W at annual basketball game



WARE - The Fire Department's team broke the Police Department's threeyear 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 vailable to purchase during the event.



Daniel O'Brien passed the ball over Dennis Pariseau during the annual Ware High School Class of 2026 basketball game fundraiser where

# 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

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



**SEE MORE** 

PAGE 7.

**PHOTOS ON** 

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette Jake Perron gets ready to pass the ball after driving it down the court.

and the crowd enjoyed multiple performances by dancers from Limelight Dance Center during half-time.

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.





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

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

Hospital property.

the Fire Department team.

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

the proposal and identify any necessary details and changes to be made when determining the appro-

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

"We have to numerate the exact

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-

Please see **ZONING**, page 3



proposal for the Mary Lane Board will review the language in

priate zoning for the property.

but depends on zoning.

parcels," said Planning Board Vice-

# 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.

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



Paula Ouimette pouimette@turley.com

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WEB www.warerivernews.turley.com

Ware River News

The Ware River News is pub

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

**MARKET** SPOTLIGHT

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, its 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

# **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.

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.

geous, 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.

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The piglets in mobile structures



Turley Photos by Richard Murphy Rich Laba from Farm46.

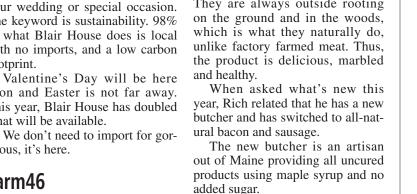
are moved as pasture changes. They are always outside rooting the product is delicious, marbled

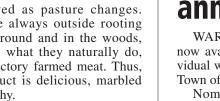
The new butcher is an artisan added sugar.

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.





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.,

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.



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

# Nomination papers available for annual Ware town election

Are You Old News?

WARE – Nomination Papers are 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.townofware.com and in the Ware River News and TV 15.

# Nomination papers available for May 3 Hardwick town election

HARDWICK - Nomination papers or withdraw nomination papers, for the 2025 Annual Town Election on Saturday, May 3 are now available.

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, fiveyear term; Paige Memorial Library Trustee, Stacey A. Hill and Eric Vollheim (two) three-year terms; and Planning Board, John J. Samek, threeyear 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

Tuesday, April 1; last day to register voters for the Annual Town Election, Offices for election and those pres- Wednesday, April 23; and last day ently holding the office are as follows: to apply to vote by mail (if haven't already), Monday, April 28.



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PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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- Creating a Community Survey
- How to Support Those With Substance Use
- Preventative Measures
- After Care

# **WHEN & WHERE**

# The Second Wednesday of Every Month 3:00pm-4:30pm at The Palmer Public Library

For any questions reach out to: (413)283-2606 or ngauthier@townofpalmer.com

# WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- People with lived experience
- Individuals in recovery
- Family/friends of those with substance use disorder

# To Join Our Group!

\*You will always be able to stay completely anonymous at Palmer for Tomorrow, we will never ask or share your name or your story.

## 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.



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, 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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# communi

# **'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 their 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 heartbreaking 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



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.

term "cars" was used for anything that transports people on wheels.

Shea read as well but he also portrayed a character as if he is writing the letter to Mother Paige. The letter read by Shea dates back to April 14, 1853.

This amazing play is part of the celebration of Hardwick's history. The Paige Memorial Library will be celebrating its 120th anniversary this year and this play is part of the celebration.

For more information, visit the Paige Memorial Library at 87 Petersham Road. You can also contact the library by calling 413-477-6704 or director.paigelibrary@ gmail.com.



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



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago Joe Shea is shown reading and writing a letter to Mother Paige during the play. The letter dates

# 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 wont 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

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 refinished 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).

#### back to April 14, 1853

# 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 denied for this zone was a cemeproperty 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

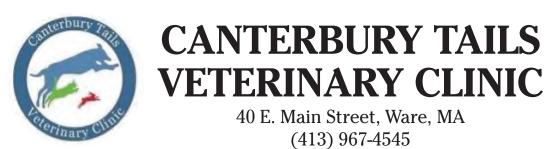
tery. Utilities, research facilities, and laboratories are listed as uses allowed under a special permit.

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.

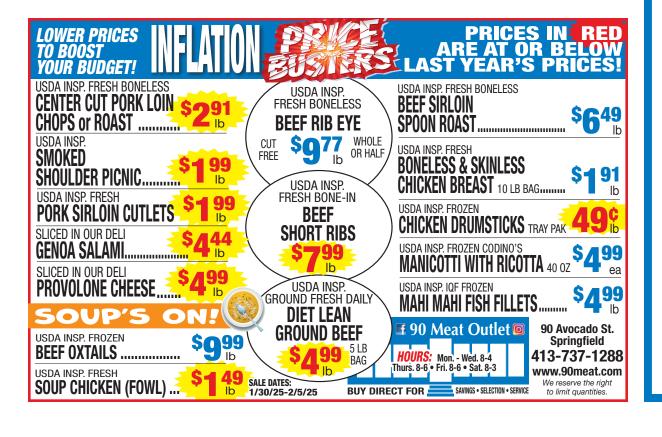
Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk's Office by calling 413-967-9648 extension 177.



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# viewpoints

# SOCIAL SECURITY By Russell Gloor

# Reader seeks clarification of Medicare IRMAA and MAGI

#### **Dear Rusty:**

I am confused by an article in my local newspaper which said that Modified Adjusted Gross Income, on which my Medicare Part B premium is based, is my Adjusted Gross Income, plus any non-taxable interest, plus 50% of the social security I received.

The part that is confusing is the 50% part. When I look at my tax return my Adjusted Gross Income includes the taxable portion of my Social Security benefit which, in my case, is 85% of my total benefits. Why must 50% of benefits be added to my AGI if it is already included in my total AGI?

Signed: Confused

#### **Dear Confused:**

The article you refer to was misleading for stating that the Modified Adjusted Gross Income used to determine your Medicare premiums includes your normal Adjusted Gross Income from your income tax return, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year. What the article should have said was that the MAGI, which determines your Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount to your Medicare premiums consists of your normal AGI from your tax return, which includes the taxable portion of your Social Security benefits, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had.

For additional clarity, the Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount is a supplemental amount added to the standard Medicare premium for those with higher incomes. The thresholds at which the IRMAA supplements apply depend on your IRS filing status, and your MAGI determines the amount of supplement which will be added to the standard Medicare premium.

Single filers with MAGI over \$103,000 or married filers with MAGI over \$206,000 will see an IRMAA supplement added to their Medicare premium. Those whose MAGI is under the first IRMAA threshold pay the standard Medicare premium, but those whose MAGI exceeds the first IRMAA threshold above will pay more.

How much more depends on how much their MAGI exceeds the first IRMAA threshold by. The IRMAA supplement (the additional premium amount) could be anywhere from \$69.90 to \$419.30 per month for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services) or an additional \$12.90 to \$81.00 per month to the Medicare Part D (prescription drug plan) premium - again dependent on how much over the initial MAGI threshold the person is for their IRS filing status. You can see the MAGI levels and corresponding IRMAA supplements by visiting this Medicare website at www.cms. gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2024-medicareparts-b-premiums-and-deductibles. IRMAA and MAGI can be confusing. If people have questions about their Medicare premiums, help is available by emailing SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org or calling 1-888-750-2622.



# Creating a "wow" factor at home

This past week I've been hard at work trying to come up with new and exciting garden ideas for the entrance areas of Old Sturbridge Village.

It's a job I've done for decades now, and maybe I take for granted how cool it is to work for a place that many people visit each year. I want to give visitors something to rave about with my color combinations and plant selections!

Read on, straight from the archives, to bring some of this "wow factor" attitude home to your own landscape.

How often have you visited an outdoor museum, amusement park or resort and felt inspired by the gardens or container plantings used to adorn the property? Chances are you may have even used an especially delightful display as a backdrop for a family photo or

#### two.

Tourist attractions such as these put "their best foot forward" each season of the year to awe their customers with spectacular combinations of unique plants, so that no matter when the visit is planned, the guest leaves with the feeling something special was done in their honor.

We can treat our home gardens in a similar fashion. Why not? Certainly we deserve to have exceptional plantings, for our own enjoyment and for the compliments they will elicit from our friends.

So instead of utilizing border plantings that provide only glimpses of color in the spring, summer and fall, devote entire beds to the showiest plants available for the time of year and change them with the seasons.

These types of gardens don't have to be very large, but they do have to be situated for optimal effect. Think "location, location, location!"

If you have a long driveway, consider placing a "welcome garden" just as you turn down the path. Since it will be viewed from a distance, and from a single vantage point, make the bed more wide than narrow, and raise the height of the soil in the back of the bed a bit for a multidimensional appearance.

Utilize large, bold flowers, bright colors, and strong foliage forms- these will capture the eye en route.

Which door do you or guests normally use to enter and exit the house? Plant a small gar-

den nearby, one that can be admired up close, each time you pass by it.

Here, the intricacies of color and form can be fully appreciated, whereas in the garden out front they would be lost. Experiment with a variety of flower and foliage shapes and color schemes.

Don't be afraid to use delicate or small flowers, or those that are mottled or two-tone. Likewise, variegated and cut-leaf foliage can make for interesting inspection if properly paired with surrounding plants.

Similar beds or container plantings can be planned for patio or pool-side, or for other areas within the landscape that might be suitable for entertaining. Simply tailor the gardens to the timeframe in which these locations are used most often, and choose your plants accordingly.

Next week we will get into the "nitty-gritty" of each of the three seasons: spring, summer and fall, and how to capture the essence of each in your plantings. You too can have museum quality gardens within your home landscape!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

# WARE RIVER NEWS EDITOR Paula Ouimette pouimette@turlev.com ADVERTISING SALES Dan Flynn dflynn@turley.com SPORTS EDITOR Greg Scibelli sports@turley.com STAFF WRITER Ryan Drago rdrago@turley.com The Ware River News (USPS 666100) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. f @ Ware River News WEB www.warerivernews.turley.com PATRICK H. TURLEY CE0

**KEITH TURLEY** President

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# **OPINION** POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and "Your Turn" guest column between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We

# **LETTERS** to the Editor **Resident responds to Baystate Health advertorial**

Baystate Health CEO Peter Banko has made two serious mistakes by publishing a full page "Addressing the health care needs of Ware" piece, locally and in Springfield newspapers.

First, CEO Banko has provided further proof that Baystate continues to spread false information in an attempt to cover up the misery, destruction and deaths Baystate has brought to the Mary Lane Region and more recently, throughout Western Massachusetts. So, thanks for adding to the lies.

It's not the "rhetoric and conspiracy theories" over the past three years. Residents have seen it and suffered through it.

It is not false.

My investigative work is based substantially on written information provided to me by Baystate Health staffers themselves who know about the abuse their leadership has heaped upon both residents and staff. Staff cannot speak openly because they would be fired. Many outraged staffers have been in contact since CEO Banko's piece was published.

CEO Banko's second mistake was threat-



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The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/ social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

ening residents with, "swift consequences for those continuing to spread false information". Again, if the information we bring to residents is based on actual documents from Baystate staffers who want to help us prove leadership lies, and on thousands of pages of documents from the Department of Public Health records, how can CEO Banko make this empty threat.

Nothing Ware residents have said or written comes close to the Official independent Report naming Baystate Medical Center The Worst Hospital in Massachusetts for Patient Safety. The May 2024 report by the nationwide Leapfrog Group used great detail to list poor sanitation and lack of hand washing, bedsores, surgical errors, tears and bleeding, Failure to Sterilize colonoscopy instruments, and Deaths as verified failures. Look it up.

Will CEO Banko threaten Leapfrog Group publicly for issuing their detailed and lengthy report putting Baystate dead last of 57 hospitals in our state?

I doubt that would happen. Baystate threatens the suffering residents instead, while trying to hide from the official Worst Hospital "Award".

**Stephen Granlund** Hardwick

# Town deserves access to healthcare

I was disgusted by the statement from Baystate that was published in the Ware River News and Springfield papers.

Mary Lane Hospital had a proud, nearly 100 year history of providing necessary Medical Care to Ware and its surrounding communities including inpatient, maternity and ICU. Also 24 hour emergency care, laboratory, radiology, physical therapy and others.

About a decade ago, Baystate started their destruction of our health care. Maternity and ICU were phased out. Eventually all inpatient care was closed.

In 2021 they closed the ER and in 2023, closed all remaining services and cancelled the lease agreements, forcing all private physicians to vacate the premises.

Within a few weeks, Baystate moved in heavy equipment and began to demolish the hospital buildings. Their goal was to prevent the use of the facilities by any other medical group. Supposedly removing "asbestos" but in fact, there was no asbestos in many of the buildings.

They chose to do things as obnoxious as possible including gutting the inside of the buildings, removing all walls, doors, ceilings plus all the bathrooms, plumbing and electrical.

Baystate promised that they would pause destruction. But just this month, they removed and trashed most of the windows and exterior doors allowing outside access, during a very chilly winter, to whatever remains in the buildings.

It would be hard to believe anything Baystate says or promises, now, as they have mislead us so many times in the past. The Town of Ware deserves better and they deserve healthcare.

> Katharine Zwemke Widow of former Mary Lane President, William Zwemke Ware



received an email from a Hampden resident on Dec. 6. She reported a bald eagle perched in tree in her backyard. She said, "The adult bald eagle sat in the tree for a while, then swooped over

my house to the



Bald eagle

north. This was the first time I had a sighting of a bald eagle in my yard."

I saw an adult bald eagle perched in a tree by a field along Route 67 in New Braintree on Jan. 17. It is always a thrill to see an eagle.

The bald eagle is a large 31 inch long dark bird with a white head and white tail. Immature eagles have dark feathers with white mottling on the wings and tail and variable amounts of white on the belly. They keep their immature plumage for four years.

Eagles eat mostly fish and birds. They also will eat carrion and some mammals like rabbits. The female lays one to three bluish white eggs in a massive platform nest of sticks and vegetation lined with moss and grasses. These nests are placed on cliff ledge or in the fork of a tree.

Eagles congregate at feeding areas in late winter and early spring. They inhabit coasts, lakes and large rivers. The eagle has a repeated piercing scream given between a pair and a rapid series of chirps given at the nest. Eagle populations are recovering rom series declines due to the use of DDT, which caused thinning of their egg shells.

#### Bluebirds

A North Brookfield resident had half a dozen bluebirds at his feeder on Jan. 9. Another Hampden resident reported the bluebirds were back in a Jan. 17 email. He said, "He puts out a container of warm water every morning and puts a scoop of critter food on the ground every morning.'

#### Great blue heron

The same Hampden resident with the bluebirds said in Dec. 5 email a great blue heron "has been visiting my fish pond early mornings and late afternoons for the past couple of weeks. It has consumed over 20 goldfish in the three foot deep pond."

#### Pine warbler

A reader some time ago had a bird with a lot of yellow. She identified it as a pine warbler. She said she never had a pine warbler come to her nugget feeder before and she has lived there for 40 years. She also included a photo of a mocking bird sipping sap from a maple tree after the yellow bellied sapsucker made multiple holes in the bark.

#### **Rescue of iced in loons**

The Loon Preservation Committee reported, "On Dec. 14, [they] responded to a report from Weare Reservoir (aka Horace Lake) in Weare, New Hampshire. As the reservoir froze, a juvenile loon became trapped in a small (15 foot diameter) hole of open water. Fortunately, the opening was not far from shore and LPC Senior Biologist, John Cooley, was able to make his way out across the newly-formed ice to capture it. LPC staff then evaluated the loon, taking blood and x-rays. No problems were detected,

and the loon was released onto the ocean that afternoon." The loon received two bands per leg in a unique color combination that will enable us to identify it if it returns to a New Hampshire lake in the future.

The LPC also reported, "That same night [Dec. 14], we received a call from volunteers on Franklin Pierce Lake. There, too, a juvenile loon was icing-in and with cold temperatures predicted overnight, its situation was not likely to improve. On Dec. 15, LPC staff headed to the lake. The loon was much further from shore than the loon on Weare Reservoir had been, but the ice was solid and we were able to capture the loon. The loon was given a physical examination on site and no obvious problems were detected. Because it was late in the day and we wanted to make sure the loon had plenty of daylight to explore and get acquainted with its new surroundings, we opted to have the loon stay overnight with wildlife rehabilitator Maria Colby of Wings Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. We banded it and released it onto the ocean at Odiorne Point the following morning."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

> Send opinions to: Ware River News Letter to the Editor 80 Main Street Ware, MA 01082 or via email to: pouimette@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

# **Turley Election** Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted state-ments of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

community

# **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 twoyear 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.

# **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

rum," he said.

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.

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

# 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.

Mary Lane Hospital update

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

**FUNDS** from page 1

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

ear, 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

& Bulk Trash Remo

budget priorities.

Department of Revenue. He said it has requested to meet with the George-Sorel. St. George-Sorel

is about the same as the previous Selectboard on Feb. 4 to discuss spent 42 years working for the

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.

• Stump Grinding

Bobcat Work

• Furnace Wood

wn, 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

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 ownRecognition

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

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.



# **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 **In Person:** during new public business hours or with a scheduled appointment



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# TOWN OF BARRE Cemetery Clerk

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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.



have a minimum quo-

• Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted

H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

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.

# warren

# **Cemetery Commission** discuss street name posts

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

WARREN - The Cemetery Commission met to discuss old business regarding street name posts on the cemetery grounds.

Cemetery Superintendent Jim McKeon reviewed a map of the area where two new posts could potentially be placed on the property. The commission members are satisfied with the looks for the signs that are more natural looking and blend into the surroundings quite well.

According to McKeon one of the best spots for placing a new sign is on the top of one of the hills. The Cemetery Commission wants to add two more posts and one could go over the cemetery's rule sign. The signs currently run down the side of the roads and McKeon thinks another good spot for a sign is the near the fork of the road where two streets connect

McKeon wants to review the map more to identify the streets prior to the commission coming up with an estimate to do the posts. The commission voted to erect two more road post signs to match the existing ones on the property. The streets named during the motion include South and West Ave and afterwards the commission will have a quote prepared at their next meeting.

## **Budget review and balances**

The Cemetery Commission reviewed salaries, balances and expenses at the start of the meeting on Jan. 21. The commission will have to return money back to the plot fund at the next Special Town Meeting. This is all part of the Cemetery Commission's budget review.

## Superintendent report

McKeon shared his superintendent report with the commission, going back to what's been done prior to the new year. McKeon had tallied the burials for the year 2024 and went over the most recent burials and cremations that have taken place.

Due to the recent winter weather the area of the cemetery has been plowed and daily checks of the cemetery have been done. For office items, McKeon mentioned the computer monitor the commission currently has is slow. Vice chair Steve Cristol and Secretary Cindy Baxter mentioned the town's most recent grant it received for new systems being installed.

For more clarification McKeon suggests the commission get a hold of Town Administrator Jim Ferrera about the system updates.

As of now, McKeon believes the current system they have is "taking a while" and the update is needed. He also brought up the monthly training for cybersecurity. The commission members said they keep up with their passwords and the trainings and want to watch out for fake emails.

For the South Warren cemetery McKeon said the perimeter of the stonewalls were mowed and he wants to keep the growth down near the walls.

For tree trimming, the commission members want to connect with Rusty's Tree Service to take care of one of the trees near the flagpole. Baxter mentioned that the job also featured some wiring being done. The purpose of wiring is to support some branches on the trees.

Other jobs include moving large sugar maple, removing brush around the flagpole, pruning sugar maples and grinding three stumps.

# Library hosts book club starting Feb. 8

happening at the Warren Public Library - the new Warren Public Library Book Club.

Come to the library on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 1 p.m. for refreshments and the first meeting. This first session will be a meet-

WARREN - A new event is ing reads, and set the schedule for monthly meetings going forward.

Anyone who cannot attend the first meeting can join the club anytime. The library will keep everyone up to date on each monthly read both in person and on Facebook, and there will be

# **CDAC reviews land strategies for Master Plan**

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

WARREN - The Community Development Advisory Committee reviewed the land strategies chapter in their Master Plan.

During its monthly meeting on Jan. 22, the CDAC met with members of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, Sarah O'Brien and Jane Wyrick to go over one final chapter of the Master Plan prior to moving on to doing chapter edits. O'Brien will soon go over the edits with the CDAC, starting in February.

There are three chapters ready for review as well and O'Brien wants to do two chapter edits per meeting. Both O'Brien and Wyrick thought land use strategies is a fun last chapter to discuss and summarize the master plan.

This chapter on land strategies will have a lot of involvement with the zoning bylaws in Warren and according to Wyrick, zoning bylaws directly impact economic development and other aspects of growth.

#### WARREN from page 1

described this moment as a great honor.

"I am here for the town," Williams said.

Board of Selectmen Chair Derick Veliz said, "this is something very good for the town."

#### **Complete Street Policy**

The Selectmen had a discussion and anticipated vote to adopt a Complete Street Policy for the town. Highway Surveyor and Community Development Advisory Committee Chair Jeremy Olson spoke to the Board about the details he had learned about this policy and how it could benefit Warren.

Olson said this is a policy he's been thinking about for a while and mentioned it is a program that almost all the communities in the state are involved in. This policy is also a grant program to help with safety in their streets.

Olson said the policy talks about transportation as a whole, cars, trucks, bicycles, all forms of transportation. With this policy the

One of the first strategies discussed was regularly amending zoning bylaws to crest a modernized document.

Warren's zoning bylaw was recently updated back in 2023 and establishes the framework for land use in town, influencing everything from economic development, public health and safety. The bylaw guides the use of land through zoning districts, specifying where residential, commercial, industrial and other types of development that occur in Town.

The document highlighted maps of Warren and their significant areas that have potential in growth opportunities.

"We're looking at what the town can accept for revised dimensional requirements in that area," Wyrick said.

When discussing the village zoning for Warren, CDAC Chair and Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson explained that some requirements may prevent potential growth in areas.

"Requirements don't come to where they need to be if we want that growth," Olson said.

Another potential strategy is aligning town-wide strategies with established Priority Development Areas and Priority Preservation Areas

Certain sites in Warren should be evaluated to determine which items have been accomplished or which ones that may need zoning amendments. Warren could identify what areas are potentially fit to be PDAs or PPAs.

Wyrick would then discuss infrastructure opportunities in Warren and bring up areas such as West Warren Village and Gilbert Road. Olson and the CDAC talked about a portion of land off Route 67 and near the Quaboag River that could have a riverwalk installed. Mass Wildlife owns a portion of that land and could have that riverwalk idea brought to reality.

Another potential strategy is to address natural features.

Warren could apply for hazard mitigation funding through FEMA and the MVP Action Grant Program to see the town is protecting their natural environment. One strategy is to address current stormwater drainage issues and

proactively incorporate resilience to extreme precipitation.

For vacant buildings and underutilized sites Wyrick shared the survey results from residents who expressed interest in numerous areas as to what they wish to see in town. With Wrights Mill in West Warren as an example, 25.5% of residents said they want shopping destinations. 23.5% said they want to see housing.

The responses from the survey help as the master plan chapters are being put together and the CDAC believes residents would like a shopping destination in their neighborhood. Wyrick mentioned the strategy of promote development in areas with existing development and encourage clustered housing.

"Hopefully create more of a neighborhood environment," Wyrick said.

There are many vacant buildings and houses not only off Route 67, but all over Warren. Olson mentioned a grange off East Road

> Please see MASTER PLAN, page 7

town West Brookfield that they adopted a Complete Street Policy and have benefited from improving sections of town. The Board

of Selectmen voted to adopt a Complete Street Policy for the town. **Contract approvals** 

The Board of Selectmen would discuss the possibility of entering into a contract between the town and Walter Irwin Radon Mitigation for professional services and radon assessment at the senior center.

Radon mitigation is something the state is requiring for radon testing. A resident at the meeting explained that radon is a gas that is noticeable in basement apartments. Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in the environment. It's colorless, odorless, and tasteless.

The purpose is to detect any radon in the senior center and mitigate to limit any type of exposure. The board accepted this contract, as well as a contract with All Vision General Contracting, LLC. The company will work on the Senior Center Improvement

Project, through the Community Development Block Grant funds. Projects include door replacement, side exit improvements and several more to improve parts of the senior center.

## **Concerns with Comcast Service**

The Board of Selectmen mentioned comments and complaints on Facebook about Comcast service. Dufresne mentioned a lot of residents don't like how expensive cable and Comcast service is and many are switching to Verizon lines for streaming and high-speed internet.

To share more input was Cable Advisory Chair Travis Baker. Due to the cost of infrastructure, it can be expensive for companies to switch and replace new lines.

"A new company would have to run their own lines," Baker said.

Baker also mentioned that residents can reach out to the Cable Advisory and they can provide suggestions or answer questions about the internet and cable television. Baker also believes a lot of people "buy more bandwidth than they actually need."

state allows exemptions. A committee could be put in charge and get to determine a street that is capable of upgrades to fit the format. The committee will vote to allow the project to be exempt if it doesn't fit the criteria. One big benefit of the policy

Olson shared is it gives the town opportunities to apply for grants involved in improving streets. Intersections, sidewalk additions to roads and crosswalks can be improved or installed on town roads.

When asked if there are any reaeveryone.

"Making it safe for everyone on the street," Olson said.

However, these clauses fall under local control and Olson says there are "endless options through this program."

Olson mentioned neighboring

sons why it may not be positive for the town to adopt a Complete Street Policy, Olson mentioned the outline is difficult to follow. Many towns push for bike lanes and one way streets. Olson explained this policy is designed to make all forms of transportation safe for

and-greet for patrons to get to copies of the books available at know each other, share their favor- the Circulation Desk for check ite genres, choose their upcom- out.

# Nomination papers for town elections available Feb. 3

WARREN/WEST BROOKFIELD - The Town Clerks' of Warren, Laura Stockley, and West Brookfield, Heather Gough, announce that nomination papers are available on Monday, Feb. 3 for the Annual Town Election, which will be held on Tuesday, May 6.

Office hours in the town of Warren are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Thursday from 1-6 p.m.; and for

ALZHEIMER'S R ASSOCIATION

the town of West Brookfield, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Quaboag Regional School Committee nomination papers will be available for pick up on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at the Quaboag Regional Middle High School front office between the hours of 8 a.m.-3 p.m. School Committee positions open are: two members from Warren for a three-year term and two members from West Brookfield for a three-year term.

#### **BAYSTATE** from page 1

they have the provider power to do it.'

Trietsch said Baystate Health is unwilling to open the Convenient Care facility on the Mary Lane Hospital site, due to a number of reasons including having to renovate the buildings.

"What they'd like to do is find something in town," he said.

Trietsch said some of the possible sites discussed include the Country Bank building on Main Street or St. Mary's School on South Street.

He said the Convenient Care facility is expected to open in a relatively short time frame.

"They thought that they could do this in months not years,' Trietsch said.

Trietsch said Baystate Health would like to utilize money from the Gilbert Trust annually as seed money to operate the convenient care facility. He said on Jan. 15, Baystate Health was planning to submit a proposal to Bank of America, regarding this use of the trust.

The Hospital Review Committee and had previously voted unanimously to use the trust funds as seed money to bring a medical entity to Ware, "and that priority for any entity should be the former Mary Lane site, but not limited to only that site."

Trietsch said another meeting with Baystate Health will be held on Feb. 10 for further updates.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said Baystate Health is also willing to work with other healthcare providers, such as New England Wound Care or Behavioral Health Network, with sharing space at the site.

"It may be possible to piece together different healthcare," Beckley said.

Beckley said Baystate Health would not share space with a federally qualified health center. This however, does not prevent a federally qualified health center from coming to town at another location.

'This is the first time that we've had a real entity saying that 'we're going to do this," Trietsch said. "This is the first healthcare entity, the largest one in western Mass, that has said 'we're going to bring back some kind of healthcare for the citizens of Ware."

Trietsch said the priority of the committee since Baystate Health left, was to bring healthcare back to the town.

"Things have changed in three years, they have new administration...there's been uproar from the town, there's been investigations from the Attorney General's office and questions being asked, and I think they want to make a change and do it right," Trietsch said.

#### Legal updates

Beckley said Attorney Patricia Davidson has primarily been working on researching deeds and trusts, and discussing these findings with Bank of America's attorney.

"She has researched deeds of additional trusts, they have not found additional trusts beyond three or four (not seven or eight), that are linked to Mary Lane Hospital, so she's continuing on that work," Beckley said.

Beckley said Davidson was also present during the recent meeting with representatives from Baystate Health. He said discussion was had with Banko about completing an audit of all of the trusts by a third party.

"So that we'll have a list of the trusts and a list of all the expenditures," he said.

Beckley said a list of questions were sent to Davidson regarding the land and property, but they have not heard back from her yet.

"We continue to have discussion of who owns the property, who has control of the property, what happens if the property is sold, what happens if Baystate goes away," he said. "We're looking for those answers from her and I would expect them soon...that seems to be the basis of a lot of discussions."

## Update about Wetherby Building

Trietsch said Baystate Health is willing to consider saving the Wetherby Building, if that is what the town wants to do. He said HKT Architects looked at the estimated costs if the town were to take over the building and reuse it.

"Their answer was \$9 to \$12 million," he said.

The lower cost would make the building usable for general office space and the higher cost would ready it for medical purposes.

#### Demolition

Trietsch said Baystate Health is delaying demolition of the buildings on the property, and there is now a 24-hour security watch for the property. He said everything is at a standstill for the time being and there is no date of when the demolition will move forward.

"It gives us a little bit more time," he said.

Trietsch said there hasn't been any interest from any healthcare entities to either reuse the existing buildings on the site or to construct new buildings.

#### **Role of committee**

Trietsch said the Hospital Review Committee was formed in 2021 to gather information and public input regarding the proposed closing of the Mary Lane Hospital outpatient center. He said the committee was charged with planning and recommending the best uses of the site and buildings.

Trietsch said he received an email from Friends of Mary Lane Hospital Chair Cindy Allen Bourcier outlining some concerns she had about the committee's work, including possible conflicts of interest for its members. Trietsch, a retired physician, said he was upfront about his ties to Baystate Health when he volunteered to serve on the committee, including having served on its Board of Directors. He does not receive a pension or any other money from Baystate Health.

"I felt that I would be helpful in any negotiations with the Baystate people because my name is well known there and it would get our foot in the door," he said. "And it did, for quite a while...they slammed the door in my face most of the time. It still allowed me to do the negotiations and the conversations on behalf of this committee and behalf of the town, with Baystate.'

He said he has tried to hold Baystate Health accountable during his four years on the committee.

Committee member Terrance Smith said Trietsch was selected as the chair because its members felt he was the best person to fill the role.

"Because of Howard's background and his experience and everything with this, this committee itself took a vote and felt that this man was the most qualified of the people that came out from the town at the time four years ago and who actually took time and put in effort into this consistently," Smith said.

Trietsch said some of Bourcier's other concerns, including the moving of funds by Baystate Health and requesting an inventory of the endowment funds, are not within the purview of the committee's work.

Trietsch said he believes the need for the committee will soon come to an end.

"I don't anticipate another three years on this committee, I think that this is coming to a conclusion and that hopefully our job will have been done; that we have represented the town and the townspeople," he said.

**THE DIAGNOSIS JANUARY 31, 2025** PRESENTATIONS 9:30 - 10:30 AM **PRESENTED VIRTUALLY** 

LIVING WELL AFTER

# 9:30 AM (EDT)

Hosted by the Alzheimer's Association New England Chapters: CT, MA/NH, ME, RI, VT

Designed for individuals living with early-stage dementia and their care partners.

#### https://www.alz.org/manh/events/ living-well-after-the-diagnosis



alz.org/MANH | 24/7 Helpline 800.272.3900

#### Opening Remarks & Keynote, Living Well: Panel of Individuals Living with Dementia; Presented by Meghan Lemay, MS, and Panelists This session will highlight what it is like to live with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia.

Panelists will discuss coping with the diagnosis and combating the stigma associated with the disease. They will also talk about the importance of disease education, social engagement, and

#### 10:30 - 10:45 AM: Break

having a voice in your own care.

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM: Living Well with Cognitive Challenges: Tips and Strategies Presented by Julie Brody Magid, PysD Establishing a more simplified routine and schedule can be helpful and affect one's wellbeing. This session will review cognitive strategies to help manage common difficulties encountered in daily life with the goal of improving feelings of well-being and self-reliance. Specifically it will focus on how to develop a person-centered roadmap to optimize meaning, structure and appropriate levels of stimulation



Dancers struck a pose.



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



Dancers get ready to perform.



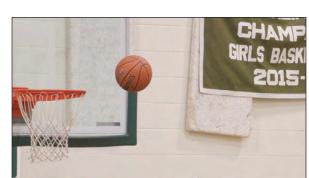


The crowd enjoyed the performance by dancers from Limelight Dance Center.





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.

## **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 Quaboag 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.



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 Online: www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com Serving the towns of Belchertown, Pelham, and Ware

> 126 Main Street Suite D, Ware, MA 01082



# 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







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

# 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 their past achievements but also a founrequested 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

dation 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 for more information.



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 you name on the lunch list.

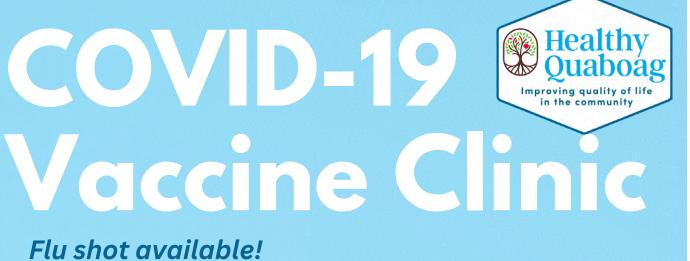
## Monday, Feb. 3

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



# Wednesday February 5,



\$75 gift card with Vaccination! (12 years old or older)

# 2025 11 am - 3 pm

Located: **Holland Community Center** 40 Brimfield Rd, Holland, MA 01521

Pfizer & Moderna available. Bring your ID, insurance card, and vaccination card (if you do not have an insurance card, you can still get the vaccine). All vaccinations are no cost to you, walk-ins and families welcome!

Supported by Healthy Quaboag and **The Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative** 

**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,(413) 207-7698



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

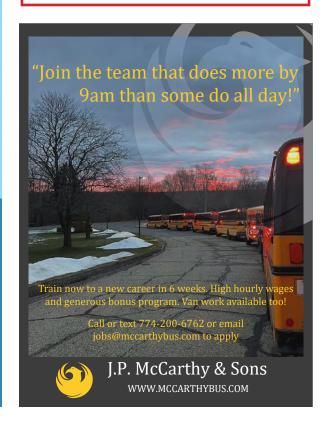


# UNDER NEW MANAGEMEN

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# **Indians snap Rams win streak**



**Owen McKeever attempts the** free throw.



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 archrival 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.



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

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

in two other games this season, but Breault (12 points) knocked down 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

the beginning of the regular sea- Granby senior guard Riley Goodhind (9 points) tied the score for the fourth time at 13-13 less than two minutes into the second "I've scored a few more points quarter. Then senior guard Cody a 3-pointer from the left corner giving the visiting team its only lead of the game.



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 Quaboag 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 Quaboag 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



Reilly Comptois makes his way

Justin Grout tries to shoot over his opponent.

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

offensively and we also played with a lot of energy."

Back-to-back jumpers by

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

Please see **WARE**, page 10

many turnovers during the fourth quarter.'

Quaboag, 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

down the court.

the start of the 2019-20 regular season.

The Senators won three home games against the Cougars before

Please see **QUABOAG**, 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.

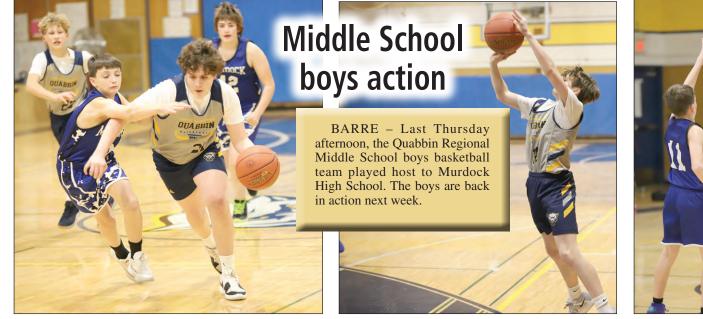
Seven of the ten players listed on this year's Mustangs varsity roster scored at least two points in last Friday night's non-league game.

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.

Cameron Bruley fires a pass across the court.



Nathan Gingras attempts a three-pointer.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli Robert Tobin fights to get a shot off.



Ashton Dahlstrom sends a pass around the perimeter.



Thomas Shoonmaker extends for the layup.







Ethan Mooney tries to steal the puck away.

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

# Hurricanes suffer rare blowout loss

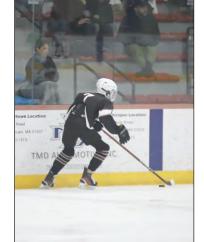
ning, Amherst hockey, which co-ops with Pathfinder Regional, had a tough shutout loss 10-0 against Westfield. The Bombers, which play in a higher division and are hav-

WESTFIELD - Last Thursday eve- ing an excellent year, took the Hurricanes Mooney for a 4-3 win over McCann Tech. 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 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 corrals the puck.



Silas Villegas recovers a loose puck.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli Stephen Rich tries to settle the bouncing puck.

# **Candlepin League News**

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

# **Tuesday Night Commércial 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 o14-14, 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 Cower, who suffered an injury in their previous game at Uxbridge.

scorers against the Senators were of the court pushing the lead to senior guard Hart Waz and junior center Jack Stevens.

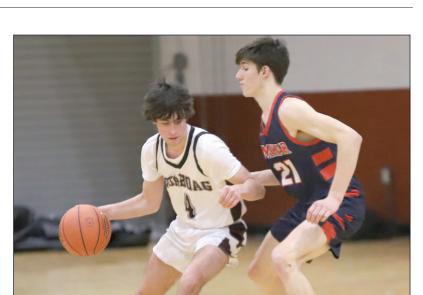
With 25 seconds left in the first quarter, Waz made his first 3-pointer from the left side which tied the score at 6-6. Then a put-back hoop by sophomore center Max Kimball gave the visitors a two point lead entering the second stanza. Mahar held a 12-6 lead a min-

ute 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 The Cougars only double-digit made a trey from the opposite side







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.

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 layup and senior guard Morgan Softic added a free throw.

Softic scored 12 of his gamehigh 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.

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



Jacoby Labillois gets ready to receive the ball.

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



Hart Waz tries to get around a defender.

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.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibell

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.

# 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



## 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 halftime.

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 Drew, was an outstanding three-

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 -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,



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 fadeaway shot.



# **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 closein 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

## **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.

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-pointrer and a put-back hoop.

The Mustangs were leading 26-4 after Szado made a pair of free throws with

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.'

a 3-pointer from the left corner, which closed the gap to 42-19.

ter with a 13-4 run, and they entered the final quarter holding a comfortable 55-23 lead.

Dillahunt came out of the game with



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Matthew

Vanasse

goes for



Cayden Bousquet heads into the paint.

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

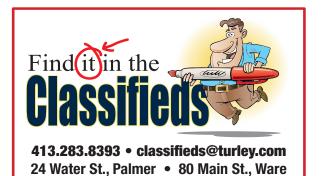
The bulk of the races will come on the SMART Modified Tour - as Baldwin will compete in the full 14-race calendar driving the 7NY. Jack has two SMART Modified Tour starts to his credit, scoring 5th and 8th place finishes in 2024.

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."



# 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 591/2, 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

This article was written by nes.com Member SPIC Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Edward Jones Financial Advisor. MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING Edward Jones, Member SIPC

# **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 Avene, 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, Mill Street, Transported to 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 Mutual Aid Transport

Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.

8:58 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Hospital

#### Wednesday, Jan. 22

9:25 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital

8:22 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed

5:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning 5:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

5:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Southbridge Road, Citation Issued

Boston Post Road, Transported to

11:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle

1:56 p.m. Unconscious/ Unresponsive/Syncope, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

8:53 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Quaboag Street, Transported to Hospital

## Saturday, Jan. 25

8:14 a.m. Safety Concern, Keys Road, Report Filed 10:57 a.m. Sick/Unknown,

6:39 a.m. Stroke, Main Street, Forest Avenue, Transported to Hospital

12:40 p.m. Assist Citizen,

Main Street, Services Rendered

Saturday, Jan. 25

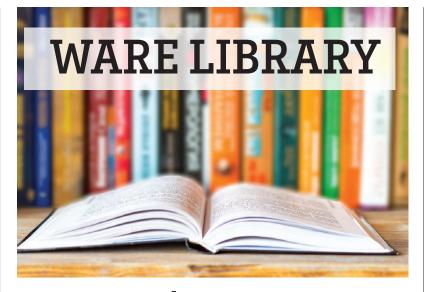
Vehicle, Lower Road, Vehicle

2:31 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane,

3:23 p.m. Investigation, Lower

5:12 p.m. Investigation, Out of

4:17 a.m. Disabled Motor



# **Upcoming programs**

ed.

the oldest continuously inhabited

cities in the Western Hemisphere.

Formerly the capital of the exten-

sive 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 partic-

ipate from home - email wareli-

brary1881@gmail.com if interest-

**Evening Craft:** 

Faux Stained Glass

Thursday, Feb. 13 at 5 p.m.

teen evening craft. This particu-

lar 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 com-

plete. Plus, there will be snacks.

This event is for ages 13 and up.

Registration is required by email-

ing rdiemand@cwmars.org or call-

**Cooking Demonstration and** 

**Nutrition Education Program** 

*Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 5:45 p.m.* 

come 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 nutri-

tion education programs to mem-

ber agencies. Learn about MyPlate

healthy eating guidelines, deci-

pher nutrition labels, and more.

Reservations requested by not

required. Contact Cathy Goulet by

Past workshops have been

"Five attendees have written

attended by people of all ages and

occupations, from 12-year-old stu-

books and had them published

while others have had stories and

articles placed in various publica-

ees 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

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 obser-

vations. At times, a lot of 'here's

what happened to me, and here's

The workshop is limited to 14

Registration is required, and the deadline is Febr. 28. To reg-

participants. The cost is \$110, and

ister, email ed.londergan@gmail.

"Back-and-forth discussion is

"One of the things past attend-

dents to 75-year-old retirees.

tions," said Londergan.

that come out of them."

what I did," he said.

lunch is included.

calling 413-967-9691.

Join library staff as they wel-

ing 413-967-4858.

This is the library's first adult/

WARE - The Ware Library, of Cusco, Peru. Cusco is one of 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 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 if interest-

## **Book Club**

ed.

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

# **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.

# **Polar Plunge to** benefit Special Olympics is March 8

WARE Th e 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.

be some fun writing exercises.

Thursday, Jan. 23 Main Street, Written Warning

7:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

9:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued

12:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

4:05 p.m. Complaint, Maple Street, Officer Spoke to Party

## Friday, Jan. 24

3:37 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Hospital

Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

# **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, Agency 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.firepermits.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 homemade lunch for free at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

This 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 or by stopping by the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

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 com or call 508-864-8685.

# Names sought of craftswomen who made 1991 town quilt

WARREN - The Warren Town 250th Anniversary in 1991. If Ouilt 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

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 and include a telephone number at which you can be reached. Use "Warren Town Quilt" in the subject line to verify your intent.

**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 in welcome.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE WARE RIVER NEWS ONLINE AT: WARERIVERNEWS.TURLEY.COM

Towed

5:14 p.m. 911 Misdial, Broad Street, Officer Handled

Transported to Hospital

Road, Officer Handled

Town, Officer Handled

Monday, Jan. 27 7:40 a.m. 911 Fire/Auto, Barre

Road, Taken/Referred to Other

obituaries

Ware River News

OBITUARY

POLICY

**Turley Publications** 

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obituaries.

One is a free, brief

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the name of deceased,

date of death and

funeral date and place.

The other is a Paid

**Obituary**, costing

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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.

Exceptions will be made

only when the family

# **Ruth Banfield**, 86

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

WARE – Ruth Banfield, 86, of and retiring in 1992.

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

ceased by her beloved son, Jonathan

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.

# 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-

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 remem-

bered 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.

# Theresa Hebert, 87

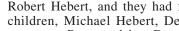
away peacefully surrounded by children, Michael Hebert, Debra her family on Jan. 24,

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 Commerce in Springfield. She

worked as a Veterinarian Assistant and later in the Bakery at the Big Y. who passed previously, and leaves ing caregivers.



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, graduated from High School of Alexandra Warburton, and

Darin Boronski, as well as her great-granddaughter, Isla Jones. For the past four years, she has She joins her sisters Linda lived with her oldest son and his MacDonough and Gloria Caron wife who were dedicated and lov-

WARE – Theresa Hebert passed Robert Hebert, and they had five 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.

# Gerald LaVerne Paist

MECHANICSBURG, PA - Gerald LaVerne Paist ("Gerry") passed away peacefully at

Harrisburg

Hospital on Jan.

ident of Country

He was a res-

24, 2025.



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 Moreland 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

# Anna R. Simons, 95

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

Sydney Thomas and her husband Peter, Samantha Myers and her husband Lawrence, Sadie Stickell and her husband Matthew; her great-grandchildren, Isabella, her home. Jackson, Amirah, Leo, Charlotte, and Elloise; and her many nieces and nephews. She was pre-

# **Death notices Banfield**, Ruth

Died Jan. 20, 2025 Services Jan. 27, 2025

#### **Chobot, Brenda lanthe (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

School, where he served for 47 years. Currently he is the longest running School Superintendent in the United States.

Gerry will be remembered lovingly by his sister, Susan Hubbell Whyte (Howard) of Carlisle, niece, Kimberly Eshbach Barger (Chad) of Mechanicsburg and grand nephews, Alec Barger and Chase Barger. Burial will be private at West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

The family would like to thank Country Meadows Mechanicsburg and UPMC Harrisburg for the excellent care given to Gerry. Also, the family would like to express their gratitude to Greg Salois, Eric Duda, Jim Jyz, Dan Whaley, Scott Moynihan, Mark Moynihan and Tim Moriarty for their ongoing support and friendship.

Memorial donations can be sent to: Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School, 240 Sykes St., Palmer, MA 01069.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family.

> 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

Imbier and his wife Jamie,

WARE – Anna R. Simons, 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

She loved to cook and most

provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



behind her sister Arlene Sedelow. Theresa was married to the late

and had a witty personality. She

Theresa was fun, loving, An online tribute book is available at charbonneaufh.com.

importantly spend time with her family. Her family could deceased by her first husband, always count on a warm hug and

available at charbonneaufh.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 pounds, have a

# Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

WARE - The Recovery Center of HOPE and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance will be hosting a Community Cold Weather Drive to benefit local individuals and families facing hardships.

They will be accepting new and gently used gloves, mittens, scarves, sweaters, blankets, base-layers, jackets and coats and new beanies and socks.

Items will be collected through the spring and can be dropped off at the following locations: Town Hall, 126 Main St., Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Recovery on Main, 78 Main St., Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.; Ware Library, 37 Main St., Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Recovery Center of HOPE, Fridays from 2-4 p.m.



VanZandt, MLT III, Supervisor, photo ID; be in good health (no book an appointment to donate 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

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

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14. Temporary loss of

consciousness

17. Reciprocal of a

18. Fir tree genus

20. "Transformers"

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43. Basics

44. Type of drug

45. Spanish soldier

46. It precedes two

47. Illuminated

(abbr.)

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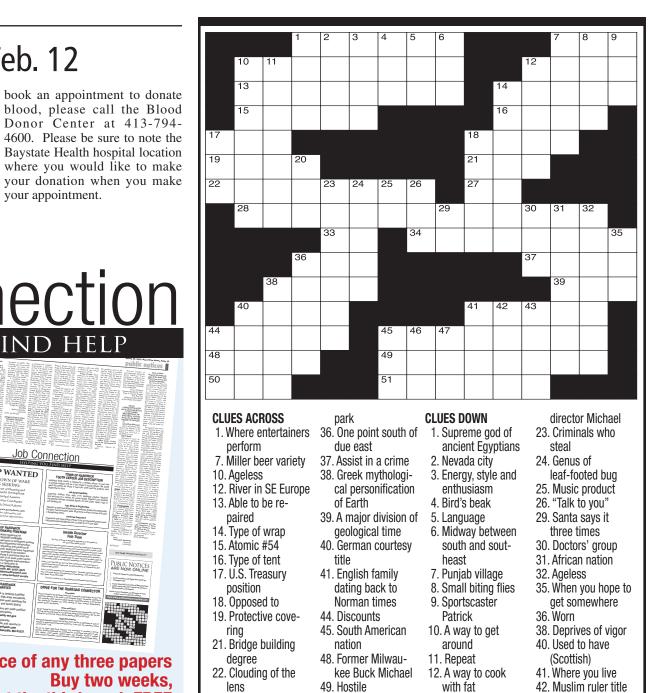
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**TOWN OF BARRE Cemetery Clerk** 

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 experi-

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.

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

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Amount of char	rge:					Date:		

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.

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 or CruzRojaAmericana.org.



**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!** 

# Mass DCR gives creel survey on fish species

**By Emily-Rose Pappas** Staff Writer epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN/WARE – The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife held a presentation about the Quabbin Reservoir Creel Survey this past Sunday, and many people joined remotely and in person.

The goal of the presentation, held by biologists Brian Keleher and Jason Stolarski, is to help people understand and learn about the different fish species found in the Quabbin Reservoir.

Keleher works as a district fisheries biologist for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, or MassWildlife, and specifically for the Connecticut Valley District in Belchertown, one of five management districts of MassWildlife that each have their own fisheries biologist.

'MassWildlife is responsible for the conservation of freshwater fish and wildlife in the Commonwealth, including endangered plants and animals. MassWildlife restores, protects, and manages land for wildlife to thrive and for people to enjoy," said Keleher.

"I have worked here at this position for just short of nine years. I'm originally from upstate New York, and have worked in and around the fisheries field for about 16 years now."

"Prior to coming to MassWildlife I worked as a Fisheries Biologist for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in North Central Washington State on the Columbia River. Prior to that I worked in Alaska, and the Adirondacks in New York," said Keleher.

"[My favorite part is] having the constant opportunity to work outdoors, especially in and around water. Work with the public and anglers has always been a highlight as well, particularly field trips and school groups where students get the chance to see and interact with fish and develop an interest in the outdoors and fishing," said Keleher.

MassWildlife stocks about 500 bodies of water across the state, and each year releases approximately 500,000 trout during the spring and fall, consisting of mostly rainbow trout and most fish are over 12 inches long.

Stocking these waterbodies provides opportunities for angling, and the fish are stocked in these areas when water temperatures are at the correct range

MassWildlife holds a creel survey, which "is an important tool that fisheries biologists can use to get a better understanding of how a fishery is used by anglers," Keleher explained.

cess rate of catching fish, like how long it takes to catch fish or a specific kind of fish, and what percentage of fish are kept or released after catching.

The MassWildlife team creates these surveys, and during the presentation Keleher illustrated how the Quabbin Reservoir Angler Survey is conducted, anonymously, and help to keep track of fish populations.

The Quabbin Reservoir is ideal for these creel surveys because of the largely constrained areas with three boat launch areas, and is consistently staffed by DCR attendants during fishing seasons.

The Quabbin Creel Survey is a complete survey and gate attendants provide all anglers with a creel card before their trip, which they fill out after their trip is finished and return to the attendants. The demographic and trip data is then collected by the attendants as part of the boat sealing process

Throughout Massachusetts, rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, tiger trout, and landlocked Atlantic salmon are stocked in the waterbodies.

The fish all come from five different hatcheries across the state, including McLaughlin in Belchertown. Bitzer in Montague, Sunderland, Roger Reed in Palmer, and Sandwich. More specific information on stocking can be found at www.mass.gov/trout.

Keleher also gave a refresher regarding clipped adipose fins on fish. A clipped fin on a salmon means it was hatchery-raised, while no clipped fin means it was produced naturally within the Quabbin.

For lake trout, the adipose fins are clipped for an ongoing study of the trout in the region since the 1950s, and a clipped fin means it has a PIT tag or is being handled in the study.

The Quabbin Reservoir has seen a steady flow of people fishing in the region, with a spike in more people during the COVID-19 pandemic, but have seen a steady decrease since then from 45,000 to 13,000 between the 1980s to today.

The surveys have also revealed that the annual average catch rates are low, but slightly higher than the Wachusett Reservoir because of a large amount of nutrients and influence of boats.

"I grew up fishing with my dad and family, and now effectively get to do it as a career, I think I'm pretty lucky to have had that opportunity for both; to have an outlet and positive exposure to the outdoors at a young age and to work in this field now.

"There is a certain level of mystery involved with water; ponds, rivers, streams and the ocean. For the most

# Webinar discusses parenting in a digital age

#### By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

WARE - The Young Men's Library Association shared a webinar for parents of kids and teens to review this past week.

This free program presented by the Boston Children's Digital Wellness Lab was about Parenting in the Digital Age. This webinar touched base on media and technology use among adolescents.

This program was made possible due to the partnership between the Boston Children's Digital Wellness Lab and Medfield Outreach, and Medfield Cares About Prevention.

Giving the presentation via Zoom was Medical Librarian and Knowledge Manager Kaitlin Tiches from the Boston Children's Digital Wellness Lab. Tiches presented youth technology trends and provided strategies and tips for parents on how to address and navigate media use with their children.

Studies showed in the webinar stated that 32% of 5-8-yearolds sometimes play social games with each other online. According to Tiches, "gamer" culture can be problematic.

One of the technologies Tiches spoke about was children being first introduced to cell phones. According to the lab's research the average age

of children receiving their first of 12 or younger. phone is around 10 years of age. The biggest concern parents

have when considering giving their children a phone is cyberbullying. Beginning in grade school, kids who have a phone are more likely to be involved in cyberbullying as victims and perpetrators.

Social media was next discussed during the webinar and how it impacts adolescents.

There are some positive and negative components to teenagers using social media. These effects can impact the social and emotional health of teenagers. On the positive effect, its helps find shared identity. A negative effect could be friendship pressures.

"Social media is just a snapshot of someone's life," Tiches said as she explained to many parents watching.

With this comment in mind, Tiches spoke on difficulties teens will encounter when using social media.

Parts of social media only seem to highlight the best parts of someone's life, which makes it difficult for teens to determine what is real or unreal. This could lead to difficulty in navigating difficult solutions, easier to partake in hurtful behaviors, privacy concerns, self-control and time management.

Research shows that 61% of teens signed up for their first social media account at the age

According to Tiches and the Lab's research YouTube is the most popular social media platform for teenagers. Most teens are never feeling anxious after being online or when they couldn't have access to online.

In the beginning of this study, the researchers were focused on the effects of overall screen time for teens. In recent years, the research now focuses on exploring specific content and individual effects. Personspecific effects show that almost half of teens didn't feel better or worse after using social media.

"They are more likely to say it affects others more negatively than themselves," said Tiches.

Moving back to cyberbullying, Tiches believes in person and cyberbullying go hand in hand. Children who are victims of cyberbullying also report high levels of in person bullying, including at school.

For parents, they should look out for signs such as grade or behavioral changes, lots of secrecy in person or online life, and changes in friend group behaviors.

Some of the suggestions Tiches shared with parents are for when their kids are exposed to new games or new phones. One of them was familiarizing themselves with the content and parental controls of apps and games before children gain

access.

Nancy Talbot

Tiches also suggested that parents should move beyond the "stranger danger" paradigm. This relates to wondering if tracking apps really provide safety.

Another helpful suggestion was parents should integrate media literacy moments into everyday conversations. The technology their kids are into may not interest the parents, but it is healthy to talk about their interests with them.

"Join your child in their experiences in the digital world," Tiches shared in her presentation.

Parents can play the same game with them and share their experiences on social media.

Parents should always ensure their children that their safety is a priority and not a punishment and they can come to them with concerns. Getting a phone can be exciting for children, but it comes with responsibilities and kids should learn how to use their phones to have healthy communication and know safe ways that protect themselves and their peers.

When it comes to apps, Tiches suggests that parents should check what the possibilities are for the monitoring of apps. There are many dangers on the internet to navigate, but parents should discuss what the content is and how to monitor them

# public notices

#### **Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board** LEGAL NOTICE

This is a Notice of Public Hearing. Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, the Ware Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 20, 2025 during their normally scheduled meeting starting at 7:00pm in the Town Hall meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the proposed new Zoning District "Health Care Services", amendments to the Zoning Map regarding the Health Care Services district, which will include the former hospital site at 85 South Street, and various adjacent parcels and Sections 2.2 (Definitions), Sections 3.1 (Zoning Districts), Sections 4.8 (Special Use Regulations), Sections 5.1 (Area Requirements), and Sections 5.3 (Height and Coverage Requirements) of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Ware. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means as a courtesy in accordance with the applicable law. Should there be technical issues, the meeting will proceed at the scheduled time. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in Town Hall Meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via Zoom. Go to https://zoom. us/join or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082. A complete copy of the proposed changes can be found at the Planning & Community Development

Department Office and on the department web page at www.townofware. com . Anyone interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated. All interested parties are invited to attend. Please contact the Planning and Community Development Director with any questions. (413) 967-9648, ext. 118. psmith@townofware.com WARE PLANNING BOARD

Kenneth Crosby, Chair 01/30, 02/06/25

**Town of Hardwick Conservation Commission** 

Notice is herby given accordance w Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Hearing will be held for a Notice of Intent on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the conference room of the Municipal Office Building, 307Main Street, Gilbertville. All interested parties are urged to attend.

Chair of Selectboard 01/30/2025 Notice of Sale of **Motor Vehicle** Under G.L. c. 255, Section 39A Notice is hereby given by REGIN'S REPAIR, 19 CHURCH ST.,

invited to attend.

GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031 Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on January 31, 2025 at 10:00 AM at: Regin's Repair 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, of Warren, MA has been care and expenses of notices informally

01/23, 01/30/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court** Worcester Division Docket No. WO25P0017EA Estate of: PAUL D THOMAS Date of Death: February 4, 2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner JUSTIN SAUCIER of Warren, MA.

for Determination of Applicability on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, in the Conference Room. All interested parties are urged to attend Applicant: Vittoria

Peterson Description of Proposed

Work: Construct single family home, well and septic Location: Thresher Road,

Map 129 Lot 8

Town: Hardwick Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at http://masspublicnotices.org. 01/30/2025

"It is simply an angler survey with questions designed to help look into specific areas of a fishery and the way that anglers interact with it. At its most basic level creels are used to see how many anglers fish at a location, how long they spend fishing, look into what they are 'targeting' or fishing for, and calculate their 'catch rate' and 'harvest,'" said Keleher.

Creel surveys determine the suc-

part you can look at the surface and have no idea what is going on below, there could be literally (within reason) anything down there out of sight," said Keleher.

"When you are a fisheries biologist you have access to many more tools that can help you look into that mystery a little further, to see what is below the surface and what it is up to down there."

# **DCR offers February vacation program**

Department of Conservation and Recreation will host a February Vacation Program "Tracks and Scat" on Monday, Feb. 17 from 10-11 a.m.

Although we may not see them often, our native wildlife is all around us. Come learn to recognize some signs of wildlife through a fun and

BELCHERTOWN – The informative indoor activity.

Meet at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center in Belchertown. Great for all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 413-323 - 7221. To register visit https://app. smartsheet.com/b/form/250b6dcbeefc-4f30a4da5b0f86abc4f3.

# Job Connection

# HELPING YOU FIND HELP

# **FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER**

The Warren Police Department is accepting applications for the position of full time Police Officer. Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen's contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior experience may also be considered to start at a higher step rate of pay.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than Thursday, January 30th, 2025, to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov. The Town of Warren is an EOE.

Applicant: Gadoury Homes Description of Proposed Work: Single family home, driveway, septic and well

Location: Lot 2, North Road

#### Town: Hardwick

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at http://masspublicnotices.org. 01/30/2025

#### Town of Ware **Public Hearing Notice**

The Selectboard will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:35 p.m., in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA, to hear an application for a new Common Victualler and Entertainment Licenses requested by Dugas Frostee LLC, d/b/a/ Janine's Frostee, located at 149 East Street, Ware, MA. Copies of the petition are available at the office of the Town Manager, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA. All interested parties are

Vehicle description: 2008 Ford Escape Registration#/State: 548WNW/MA VIN: IFMCU93118KA28749 Name and address of owner: Merryl Maleska Wilbur & Nathan L Wilbur 48 Rose St.

Chicopee, MA 01020 By: James M. Regin Dated:12/29/2024

01/16, 01/23, 1/30/2025

## **STORAGE AUCTION**

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of Dennis Craig will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 31 Southbridge Rd., Warren MA on February 8, 2025 at 9 a.m.

The contents of Joshua Toomey will be auctioned off at 70 Boston Post Rd., Warren, MA on February 8, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

The contents of Cynthia Stalter, Stephen Pike, Christopher Flood and Bernadette Carberry will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, MA on February 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.

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appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

JUSTIN SAUCIER

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

01/30/2025

**Town of Hardwick** 

**Conservation Commission** 

LEGAL NOTICE

will be held for a Request

#### Hardwick Planning Board **Public Hearing Notice**

Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:30PM at the Hardwick Town House at 32 Common Street, Hardwick, Massachusetts. This hearing is regard-

ing amendments to the Hardwick Zoning Bylaw: Sections 1.4 – Definitions; 3.2 - Schedule of Use Regulations; 4.0 - Special Permit Procedures; 5.0 -Site Plan Approval; 6.5 -Common Driveways; 6.8 - Home Occupation; 6.9.2 - Use of Trailers or Self-Contained Motor Home; 9.0 - Solar Energy Facilities and an addition of 11.0 – Battery Storage Systems. Copies of the listed amendments and addition can be found on the Hardwick Town Website www.Hardwick-MA.gov under the Planning Board Tab or at the Municipal Offices at 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA. Interested parties are asked to attend.

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at http://masspublicnotices.

Notice is hereby given Hardwick Planning in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act Board that a Public Meeting

Jenna Garvey, Chair 01/23, 01/30/2025

PUBLIC NOTICES
Email all notices to notices@turley.com
2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.
Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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D E T E R S

# 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 expe-

d riences.

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 seat-

ing 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 to purchase tickets, become a sponsor or donate auction items.





