

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Annual Valentine celebration

*benefited Stone Church*

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

HARDWICK – The Friends of the Stone Church put on a Valentine’s celebration at the Hardwick Crossing Country Club last Saturday.

The annual fundraiser celebration included a buffet dinner courtesy of the country club, live music by the Mason Tyler Duo, a silent auction and a live auction led by Barre’s Paul Varney.

According to the organization’s website (friendsofthestonechurch.org), they are a charitable corporation who own the Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville. Their goal is to preserve the building, and facilitate its usage to the public.

Built using Monson granite, this Tudor Gothic style church was designed by noted Worcester architect Elbridge Boyden; who also designed Mechanics Hall in Worcester, the Hubbardston Public Library and the



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette  
Auctioneer Paul Varney took bids on a Valentine’s-themed teddy bear held by Clare Hendra at the Friends of the Stone Church’s annual Valentine’s Celebration fundraiser held last Saturday at the Hardwick Crossing Country Club.



Silent auction items included artwork, such as this painting.

Congregational Church in Brookfield.

Judy Edington, the president of the organization, said one of their biggest priorities is securing the steeple on the church. She said they have complet-

ed about 75% of the work on the steeple, but still need close to \$400,000 to finish the job.

She said the organization has received grants for this work from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund

Please see **GALA**, page 11

## SB discussed school boiler

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The condition of the boiler at Hardwick Elementary School was discussed during visitor’s comments at the Jan. 28 Select Board meeting.

As of now, the Capital Planning Committee is looking into options on how to handle this project. Some of the options include repairing the currently existing technology of the school’s circa 1990s boiler or replacing it entirely with new, modern technology.

Considering the weather, the board members questioned if fixing the boiler would fall under an emergency plan. With any decision, the subject would require a special town meeting vote.

Select Board Clerk Jeffrey Schaaf said he believes the project “happened too quickly” and thought it was done based off very little information to go on. Other committees could look at this project more, besides the Capital Planning Committee.

William Cole of the Planning Board wanted to comment on the boiler discussion and mentioned the town could look at grants and other alternatives. However,

considering the current condition on the school’s boiler, the town may not want to stretch out the timeline of this project considering its vulnerability.

Rebecca Bottomley of the Conservation Commission described the school building as a big asset, and the boiler situation is something that can’t be put on hold for an extended period of time.

“We can’t delay this forever,” Bottomley said.

The town wants to continue to support the school and keep the building maintained. The town will also assess what options are available in handling this project.

### Appointment

The Select Board appointed Nick Gaumond to the position of acting Fire Chief following the resignation of Fire Chief Josh Pease. Gaumond is currently the Deputy Fire Chief.

### Public records fees

Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker discussed public record requests and how fees are assessed and collected.

Tinker shared three invoices with the rest of the

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 3

## Selectmen approved contracts for bank, Fire Station A

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen revisited the agenda item of a contract with Tecton Architects during its

Jan. 29 meeting.

The board discussed a contract with Tecton Architects for the purpose of conducting a building assessment at 968 Main St., the former Cornerstone Bank Building. The item was pre-

viously tabled due to the Board of Selectmen wanting more information regarding files and reports on the building.

The Board’s Vice Chair, Derick Veliz, said he believes the town should get digital

copies of all the different files that are used. Veliz feels there is a lot of value in those files the town should have when submitting a report on a building and giving the town some preparation for the future.

Board of Selectmen Chair Richard Eichacker shared that both contracts with Tecton Architects and H2M Architects & Engineers are AIA standard contracts.

Please see **WARREN**, page 5

## Police vs. Fire

Basketball game fundraiser this Saturday

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Ware is known for its decades-long rivalry with a neighboring town on the football field, but there’s another one just as intense between the town’s own Police and Fire departments on the basketball court.

This Saturday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m., the teams will face off again in the Paul Orszulak Gymnasium at Ware Junior Senior High School, 237 West St. The cost is \$5 per person to attend, and there will be concessions and 50/50 raffle tickets available for sale as well. All proceeds will benefit the Class of 2026.

Class of 2026 Advisor Betty Brown said this fundraiser has been ongoing for about a decade, and that both the Police and Fire departments have been supportive of the students.

“Their participation in this fundraiser is greatly appreciated!” she said.

Please see **POLICE VS. FIRE**, page 3

## Knox’s Noble Train makes a stop

OSV celebrated 250th anniversary of historic event

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – In the winter of 1775-1776, Henry Knox and his men transported 59 pieces of heavy artillery across a frozen land-

scape from Fort Ticonderoga in New York, to Dorchester Heights.

According to the Fort Ticonderoga website, this artillery weighed nearly 60 tons, and this Noble Train of Artillery, was known as “one of the most challenging

operations of the American Revolution.”

At just 25 years old and a bookseller by trade, Knox and his men have long been recognized for their efforts, which proved to be a turning point in the war.

This past weekend, Old Sturbridge Village partnered with Fort Ticonderoga to commemorate the 250th anniversary of this historic journey, offering a variety of demonstrations and activities for all to experience.

Historical re-enactor and longtime village blacksmith, Robert Lyon, spoke about his participation in a reenactment of the march in 1976, when he was just a couple of years older than Knox was on the original journey.

The 1976 reenactment lasted 18 days, traveling through the Berkshires into Cambridge.

Lions spoke about the challenges they faced on the journey, and shared some of the highlights, including a stay at Spec Pond in Wilbraham.

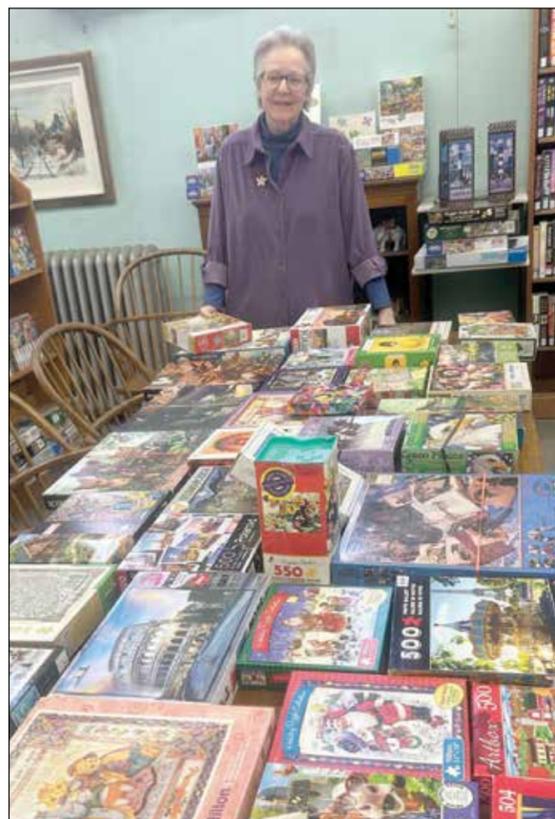
While camped at a pavil-

Please see **KNOX**, page 8



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

A historian described the conditions from Fort Ticonderoga to Massachusetts, and how the 59 pieces of artillery were moved 300 miles through a harsh winter.



Submitted Photo

## PUZZLE SWAP KEPT BOREDOM AT BAY

Circulation Librarian Kathy Kowak is shown next to a table of puzzles available at the Ware Library’s puzzle swap held this past Saturday.



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# Community Garden task force met to discuss updates

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

Members of the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council's Community Garden Task Force held a brief meeting on Feb. 3, to discuss progress on the project's development.

Coordinator of the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council, Sawyer Blake, said they would be applying for an Activation Fund grant through the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts.

"It's kind of like a one time capacity building opportunity," Blake said of the grant. "It's not eligible for ongoing operations costs."

If awarded, this grant will help to cover the initial costs of creating the community garden at its location on the grounds of the Jubilee Ministries, 80 Pleasant St.

According to the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts' website, the Activation Fund provides support for discrete, one-

year projects designed to help organizations move to the next level of capacity and effectiveness.

The website said the grants are limited to a 12-month duration for projects that will have continued impact beyond the end of the grant period. Requested amounts range between \$50,000-\$125,000.

Examples of the types of funding requests considered include but are not limited to: discrete capital projects/equipment and technology purchases; one-time, train-the-trainer professional development activities; and program planning or bridge funding for initial implementation costs of new programs or service areas, provided funding is identified for sustainability beyond the grant period.

### Other task force news

Task force member Mary Remington designed a flyer to be used for outreach to residents about becoming potential gardeners at the

site, which will be released closer to the spring.

Blake said the community garden's Facebook page would also become more active, offering gardening tips and more to engage the community.

Blake will also be meeting with members of the Ware Grange to discuss collaboration and hosting community agricultural workshops.

### About QVFPC

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council is overseen by Healthy Quaboag, and is funded through a grant received by the Town of Ware in partnership with Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, covering the towns of Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Warren, Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield.

The council is open to all, and everyone is welcome to join in the discussion.

## STM rescheduled to March 2

WARE – The Special Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, Feb. 2, has been postponed to Monday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ware High School auditorium.

## Fire vs. Police basketball game Feb. 7 at WHS

WARE – The Fire Department and Police Department will face off on the court for the annual basketball game in the Ware High School gym on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m.

The cost of admission is \$5 at the door and all proceeds will benefit the Class of 2026.

There will be food and beverages available for purchase. A half time show will be performed by dancers from Limelight Dance Center.

## Drinking water information session to be held Feb. 5

WARE – A Drinking Water Community Information Session will be held on Thursday, Feb. 5 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

All are welcome to join this event to learn about the Town's (public) water supply, and to share how you get information about town water and what more may be helpful to you in understanding about the water that flows to your tap.

You'll hear from Ware DPW and have the opportunity to share comments

and questions, and help the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission develop an approach toward greater understanding about drinking water.

Food and beverages will be provided.

Register today by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/youkekhp> or scanning the QR code. The first 20 participants to sign up and attend will receive a gift card as compensation for attending.

Need transportation? Contact the Quaboag Connector at 413-544-3401 by Feb. 4.



please recycle this newspaper

# Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo Last week's photo from 2022 showed Brynn Kelly with Sofie Vanilla Cookie during a rehearsal for the Gilbert Players' production of "Annie". Ann Bigda correctly identified Sofie Vanilla Cookie.



## Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics on March 7

WARE – The Ware Polar Plunge fundraiser to benefit the Special Olympics will be held on Saturday, March 7 at West Beach – Beaver Lake.

This event is weather/ice dependent. It is subject

to change if the ice is not melted.

Check-in for the plunge is at 11 a.m. and the plunge will take place at noon.

To register, scan the QR code or visit [www.polarplungema.org](http://www.polarplungema.org).

## Paige Memorial Library hosts Valentine's Day events

HARDWICK – Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, offers programs to make New England winter feel warm and welcoming.

Pam Hinckley's workshops are held on Saturdays January through March 14.

From 9-10:30 a.m. – Kids Can Sew (and knit and crochet...) Class size is limited so registration is mandatory.

From 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – Adults handcraft group, knitting, crocheting, beading, and quilting.

Questions or to register: contact Hinckley by calling 413-477-6004 or [pahinckley@gmail.com](mailto:pahinckley@gmail.com).

A Gothic Valentine Card Workshop will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 5:30-7 p.m. This is card making with a Gothic twist. Have fun using black lace, silver, dark red, sparkles, and

Victorian-esque stickers.

Come do something a bit different and make a special Valentine card for someone special.

The All-entire Tea Party – a party for everyone, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 14, at 10:30 a.m. This is a drop in event. Enjoy a variety of tea flavors, cookies, and games with your favorite person or people.

On Saturday, March 14, from 3-5 p.m. Shenanigans with Friends, an exciting cover band of Western Massachusetts and Southern Vermont will perform a wide range of songs

Check out the library's Facebook page and website, [www.facebook.com/paigelibrary](http://www.facebook.com/paigelibrary) and [www.paigelibrary.com](http://www.paigelibrary.com).

For more information call 413-477-6704, or email [paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com](mailto:paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com).

## Beaver Lake Club Corporation offers scholarship

WARE – Beaver Lake Club Corporation of Ware announces its annual Louis H. Healy Scholarship of up to \$1000.

These scholarships will be presented to deserving high school seniors or current college students who are residents of the town of Ware or who are a member of the Beaver Lake Club Community.

The scholarship is given in the memory of Louis Healy a long time and well-respected member of the Beaver Lake community and the town of Ware. Lou was an active leader and participant in both town and community matters and his family and friends continue to celebrate his thoughts, ideals, and memory by awarding this yearly academic scholarship.

The application deadline is April 17, 2026 and applications must be post-marked by that date. The selected recipient will be and the scholarships will be awarded in early June.

Applications and information can be obtained by sending an email to [crtietsch22@gmail.com](mailto:crtietsch22@gmail.com) or by mailing a request to BLCC: P.O. Box 253, Ware, MA 01082



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## Ware Senior Center NEWS

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

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

### Activities

#### Monday, Feb. 9

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. chair Yoga with Lisa

#### Tuesday, Feb. 10

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class.
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. St. Valentine's/Birthday Party. Call front desk on Feb. 10 before noon to be put on the lunch list. Limit 100.
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
- 6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

#### Wednesday, Feb. 11

- 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

#### Thursday, Feb. 12

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Walking Club

- (weather permitting)
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
  - 10 a.m. Line Dancing
  - 10 a.m. Scat
  - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
  - 12:15 p.m. Art Class

#### Friday, Feb. 13

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Brown Bag Program
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
- 6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

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

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

#### Monday, Feb. 9

Meatball Sub Sandwich, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

#### Tuesday, Feb. 10

Valentine's/Birthday Party Turkey Dinner, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Dessert of the Day. Entertainment provided by the Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 11

Hot Dogs with Beans, Coleslaw, Dessert of the Day

#### Thursday, Feb. 12

Stloppy Joe Sandwich over Texas Toast, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

#### Friday, Feb. 13

Baked Fish, Scalloped Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

## POLICE VS. FIRE

from page 1

The funds raised from the game go toward the students' Senior Banquet, Senior Trip and graduation expenses.

Brown said there have been many great games over the years, and the community support has been fantastic as well.

"Last year we had such a great turnout we needed additional seating in the gymnasium," she said.

Last year's basketball game saw the Fire Department break a three-year win streak held by the Police Department.

In addition to the game, dancers from Limelight Dancer Center will perform an energetic show during halftime.

All are welcomed and encouraged to attend this fundraiser event, not only to support the Class of 2026, but to cheer on their favorite basketball team and dancers.



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 pouimett@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.

# School Committee heard update on budget

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Andy Paquette of TMS, Inc. provided an update on the fiscal year 2026 budget to the School Committee.

At the Jan. 28 meeting, Paquette said he had projected the school district would have a high demand in heating costs this winter when he built the FY 26 budget, and it appears they will be using all of that account.

"I always plan for the worst and project that we'll use the full heating budgets for all the school," he said. "There are times when we win a year; sometimes we don't."

Paquette said he is "cautiously optimistic" for the rest of the heating season.

He said not much else has changed in the FY 26 budget from prior months, aside from special education transportation, which will be noted in next month's report.

"It was not available in time for the report," he said.

Paquette said the school district would be seeking additional funding at town meeting to complete the chiller project at the high school, due to bids coming

in higher than expected. The Special Town Meeting to vote on the project will be held in the school's auditorium on Monday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m.

### Superintendent's report

Interim Superintendent Michael Wood spoke about the recent snow day closures due to the heavy snowstorm earlier in the week. He credited the town's Department of Public Works and the school district's facilities crew for their efforts to clear the snow over multiple days.

Wood said there are still significant staff vacancies in the school district, but there are plans in place to address this.

"We are looking for candidates for that but we are contracting with an outside provider," Wood said of the speech language pathologist position.

He said the high school's speech pathologist and the SLPA from the elementary school are helping to ensure all students' needs are being met.

Wood said there is also an eighth grade teaching position open, which is currently being filled by "a really fantastic substitute." He said a candidate would be inter-

viewed this week to fill the position permanently.

He said the high school also has a candidate for the computer teacher position.

"We're really very hopeful that those two positions will be filled," he said.

Wood said there is a vacancy for the special education staff in the high school, which staff members are helping to cover. He said they have not found a candidate for that position at this time.

Wood has been meeting with administrators and building principals to discuss fiscal year 2027 budget needs. He said drafts of the budget and the capital plan should be presented to the School Committee in February.

### Comments and concerns

Resident Jessica Rohan said the principal of the high school has been on administrative leave since September 2025, and the school district has paid him \$50,492.50 during this time.

"I understand there is an investigation going on...I'm asking if there's any answers, if you're moving forward on this...what is going on here," she said. "That's a lot of our tax dollars wasted."

Rohan asked the School Committee to look into this situation in order to move forward.

"We need to have a deadline on what's going to happen," she said.

### Superintendent search update

School Committee member and superintendent search subcommittee chair Mel Whitham said they have reviewed almost two dozen applications for the position of permanent superintendent and some of them are "really strong."

She said they would draft questions to ask the candidates at their next meeting, before selecting the candidates to be interviewed in the first round.

### Rates for stipend positions

School Committee Chair Brian Winslow said the committee had previously approved memorandums of understanding for the Ticket Sales Coordinator, Head Scorekeeper and Event Site Administrator. He said the committee would need to set the rates for these stipend positions.

## HARDWICK from page 1

Select Board and suggested the petitioner who filed these requests be refunded \$650, due to only getting a portion of the request.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said this process is set by Massachusetts General Law, and a process set by the Attorney General. She said the town had spent time searching for the records that were requested.

"That's the time this resident was billed for," Caggiano said.

Caggiano said she feels the town has complied with the law and the public records law. The Town Administrator is the backup

Records Access Officer in the event the Town Clerk is not available.

Tinker said he believes it is in best practice to refund the money to the petitioner. He said about 20% of the requested information was provided to the petitioner.

The board members will continue the discussion of public records fees at their next meeting.

### Town Administrator's report

Caggiano shared in her report that the town is looking to make Americans with Disabilities Act improvements for the police station, the municipal building, and the next phase of the Gilbertville Memorial

Park project. Caggiano also attended a meeting with the residents on Highland Terrace to discuss the new infrastructure project with the highway superintendent, highway clerk, and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

The town is also working on two police department grants, and after putting her report together Caggiano learned the town is being awarded one of them. The grant is a wellness grant through the insurance company.

Caggiano said she is working on the fiscal year 2027 budget. She said the Select Board will have a preliminary budget in front of

them at their next meeting.

Caggiano recognized Pease for his dedicated years to the Town of Hardwick, as the Chief of the Fire Department.

Caggiano announced that on Monday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. the Superintendent of Schools for the Quabbin Regional School District, Colleen Mucha, would be at the municipal building to do a presentation on the regional agreement.

State Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume will be holding office hours on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 10-11 a.m. in the Select Board meeting room.

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# viewpoints

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Submitted Photo

### School received donations from American Legion Auxiliary

On behalf of the learning community at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School (SMK), I would like to thank the American Legion Auxiliary in Ware, for your generous donation of snow pants, winter boots, winter gloves, and toys to some of our elementary school students.

On these cold winter days, it will help them be prepared to play outside in the snow and cold weather, bringing lots of smile to their faces and healthy play into their lives. The

toys donated for Christmas helped to bring some smiles to young faces on Christmas morning when they opened them up and are now able to play with them while learning and having fun.

We appreciate you reaching out to us, providing some of our students with these items, and helping to enrich the lives of some of our students and families here at SMK!

**Karen Hill, MSW, LCSW**  
School Adjustment  
Counselor

### Onion culture, continued

This morning, after reading last week's column, my mom commented, "Boy, I didn't realize onions are so challenging to grow."

Oh no, I truly hope that the column did not convey that message. I've been growing onions for years, and find them no more challenging than any other vegetable that you start indoors.

I hope I didn't discourage anyone. In fact, I hope just the opposite happened, whereby everyone purchased some seed to give growing onions a whirl.

Read on to learn more from where we left off last week.

#### Growing on

How does one achieve lots of top growth so that by seasons' end a big bulb will result? Provide sufficient moisture and nitrogen, and lots of it, but only early in the gardening season.

Amend a 100 square foot area with a bushel of aged manure or finished compost prior to planting, then top dress when plants are six-eight inches high and again for the last time three weeks later. Fish emulsion is a great foliar fertilizer for this purpose.

Because onions have limited top growth and are relatively shallow rooted, it makes it hard for them to compete with more aggressive plants for moisture and nutrients. For that reason, be sure to address enemy #1: weeds!

I have found that a hand held circle hoe is great for getting into the narrow space between plants as well as within the rows. Perform this task once or twice a week and you will be weed-free all summer.

You can also apply grass clippings or chopped up leaves as mulch. It will reduce weeds and conserve moisture, and, as it breaks down add valuable organic matter to the soil.

As the summer solstice draws near, the need for nitrogen drops as the bulb switches from top growth to bulbing up. From this point on, no additional fertilizer is necessary and watering can be cut back some.

#### Security.

When you applied for benefits, Social Security reviewed your lifetime earnings and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) to calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" or "PIA," which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your Social Security full retirement age. If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than your earnings while serving in the military, Social Security would have used your later higher earning years to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings would not have had an effect on your Social Security benefit. However, if any of your military earnings including the "special extra credits" were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating your Social Security benefit.

So, whether you would benefit from these "special extra credits for military service" depends largely on your earnings history after you were discharged from active duty. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years over your lifetime, and you provided SSA with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS benefit already includes consideration of your military

Please see **SSI**, page 11



## in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

#### Harvesting

In early fall your onion tops will begin to yellow and bend at the necks. As mentioned earlier, reduced daylight has signaled the plant to go into dormancy.

When half have bent, bend the rest and allow them to remain in the garden just a few more days. If no rain is in the forecast, pull them up and lay them on edge in place, turning on occasion. This will begin the curing process.

Should rain threaten, they can easily be protected with a tarp or moved under cover.

After three days to a week of sunshine it is time to move them to an airy, dry location such as a shed to cure for an additional two-three weeks. Should this time frame include lots of rain or humidity, sometimes a household fan can help the drying process along.

Dry onions will definitely be the best for long term storage.

#### Storage

You have a good idea that your onions are ready for storage when the necks have withered away and the outer skin is dry and starts to slip. Nineteenth century gardeners would have braided and hung them in the root cellar, where cool and dry conditions would, fingers crossed, keep them fit for use as needed into the spring months.

Onion braids have modern day appeal- they look pretty and it is easy to simply tug the perfect size onion from the braid as you need it. The key to success is to attach twine or string to at least one of the braiding strands - this will give your braid strength, not to mention a way of hanging it up.

We can also store onions

in mesh bags or old hosiery in a household location that remains close to freezing and relatively dry. My unheated mudroom works great.

Here simply cut the tops to one inch prior to bagging up. When you are going through them to cut, or braid, be sure to separate out those with double bulbs, as well as those whose necks remain thick; neither will be good keepers and should be used first.

This is also a great time to think about good traits and the prospect of saving some of your best onions for seed production.

#### Save the seeds

Saving the seeds of your open-pollinated, non-hybrid onions is the next frontier for allium aficionados. In the north, we employ what is called the "bulb to seed" method.

Our bulbs are harvested normally and stored over the winter, and when the ground is ready for planting, three or four of your best onions are replanted three inches apart. Soon a flower stalk will form. It can get quite tall (three-five feet!) so place a stake for support early on and tie it off as you need to.

After the flower head has formed be on watch for the black seeds to ripen and loosen up- you want to catch them before they shatter. This can be accomplished by clipping a few sections of the head at a time.

Dry in an airy spot for a few days before storing in paper envelopes in a cool, dry location for use the following spring. Be advised that to avoid cross pollination, only one variety of onion can be in flower at a time; it is fine, however, to have first year onions in the garden.

Onion seeds are viable for one-two years.

Now that you know the ins and outs of onion culture, embrace the challenge and try growing onions from seed this year.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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 TEAM



**EDITOR**  
Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.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.



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www.warivernews.turley.com

**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President



www.turley.com

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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 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 statements 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.



## USPS commemorates life of Phillis Wheatley

### New Black Heritage stamp honors 'Mother of African American Literature'

BOSTON - The U.S. Postal Service held a first-day-of-issue stamp dedication to commemorate the life of Phillis Wheatley at the

historic Old South Meeting House.

"An important goal of the Postal Service's stamp program is to honor the people, places and things that represent the very best of our nation," said Chenise R. LeDoux, USPS vice president of Southern Area retail and delivery operations, who served as the dedicating official. "That is what our Black Heritage stamps are all about. Introduced in 1978,

the Black Heritage series has put a spotlight on distinguished African Americans and their notable contributions to our nation."

The 49th stamp in the Black Heritage series honors poet Phillis Wheatley (ca 1753-1784), the first author of African descent in the American Colonies to publish a book. An enslaved woman with an education

Please see **STAMP**, page 13

## Nomination papers for Ware election

WARE – The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, April 13.

Offices which will appear on the ballot are: Selectboard, three-year term, vote for two; School Committee, three-year term, vote for one; Board of Assessors, three-year term, vote for one; Board of Health, three-year term, vote for one; Park Commissioner, three-year term, vote for one; Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term, vote for one; Planning Board, five-year term, vote for one; Ware Housing Authority, five-year term, vote for one

The last date to register to vote is Friday, April 3. The last date to obtain and file nomination papers (49 days prior to the Annual Town Election) is Monday, Feb. 23 by 5 p.m.

The last date to file nomination papers with the Town Clerk (35 days prior to the Annual Town Election) is Monday, March 9. The last date to object to filing of nomination papers or withdrawal of papers filed (33 days prior to the Annual Town Election) is Wednesday, March 11.

The last date for file an application for Vote by Mail (five business days prior to

Please see **ELECTION**, page 6

## Quaboag Student Council Craft Fair to held on Feb. 28

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School will be hosting its 5th annual Quaboag Student Council Craft Fair on Saturday, Feb. 28.

This craft fair has free admission with a raffle table and concessions available. There will be over 80 local vendors.

Approximately 10 Student Council members who attend Quaboag help with the annual craft fair. Students will assist with setup, vendor support, raffle sales, and cleanup.

Overseeing the work done by members of Student

Council is Kayla Hatch, a teacher at Quaboag Regional Middle High School. Hatch is an advisor for Student Council, and works closely with student leaders to plan, organize, and run the event.

“My role includes coordinating logistics, communicating with vendors, overseeing student responsibilities, and supporting students throughout the planning process,” Hatch said.

Additional Quaboag staff assist with supervision, setup, cleanup, and day-of-event support.

With Student Council members taking the responsibility of helping out during the craft fair, they develop a wide range of leadership and life skills. These skills

include communication, teamwork, problem-solving, organization, time management, and responsibility.

Hatch said students will also gain experience working with adults, managing real-world logistics, and adapting to unexpected challenges in a professional manner.

The craft fair supports both community engagement and fundraising for students to attend the annual Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Leadership Conference held in Hyannis in March.

Proceeds from the event also help benefit organizations such as the Special Olympics and support local initiatives.

This annual craft fair

also gives local vendors an opportunity to showcase their work.

A raffle will be held during the craft fair. Raffle prizes are generously donated by local businesses, community members, and the vendors participating in the craft fair.

“These donations help increase community involvement and support fundraising efforts,” Hatch said.

Over the last five years of hosting this craft fair, Quaboag has seen the event grow in attendance, vendor participation, and community involvement. According to Hatch, improvements in organization, promotion, and student leadership roles are made each year making the

event more successful and impactful.

Hatch said this craft fair is important because it brings together students, staff, families, and community members in a meaningful way.

“It provides students with authentic leadership opportunities, supports local businesses and charitable causes, and strengthens the connection between the school and the community,” Hatch said.

The annual Quaboag Student Council Craft Fair will take place on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Quaboag Regional Middle High School, 284 Old West Brookfield Road. For more information, contact Hatch at khatch@quaboagsd.org.

## Nomination papers for town election available

WARREN – Town Clerk, Laura J. Stockley, announces that Nomination Papers are available on Monday, Feb. 2 for the upcoming Town Election to be held on Tuesday, May 5.

These papers must be filed with the Board of Registrars, in the Town Clerk's office, for certification on or before Tuesday, March 17 at 5 p.m. Final day to withdraw as a candidate is Thursday, April 2 at 5 p.m.

Appearing on the ballot will be the following:

Moderator, three-year term; Selectman, three-year term; Board of Health, three-year term; Assessor, three-year term; Park Commissioner, three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term; Sewer Commissioner, three-year term; Planning Board, five-year term; Housing Authority, five-year term; and Housing Authority, two-year term.

The Quaboag Regional School District positions will also be incorporated on the Town Ballot. Two

members from the Town of Warren for a three-year term and two members from the Town of West Brookfield for a three-year term. These nomination papers are available on Feb. 2 at the Superintendent's office at 284 Old West Brookfield Road, Warren. Deadline for returning these papers is Friday, March 20 by 4 p.m.

Last day to register to vote before the Town Election is Friday, April 24 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office in the Shepard Municipal Building.

## 'Teenage Life in the 19th Century' program is Feb. 7

WARREN – Celebrate 150 years of the Warren Public Library with stories from a historic diary of Warren teenager Nellie O. Northrop on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 3:30 p.m.

Northrop grew up in Warren in 1875. As a teenager, she received a diary as a New Year's present from her grandmother, with whom she lived.

She wrote in the diary

almost every day, and through the pages of the diary we learn much about the life of a typical but remarkable young woman and about the wonderful town in which she lived.

The event will be held at the Warren Public Library, 934 Main St. For more information, email warrenpubliclibrary@hotmail.com or call 413-436-7690.

### WARREN from page 1

The owner of the bank building, Jim Fountain, attended the Jan. 29 meeting and said he was disappointed in what was said in a prior meeting. Fountain said some of the information explained by Selectmen David Dufresne was untrue regarding him preventing the town to acquire the bank building prior to him purchasing the property.

Fountain stated he bought the bank building and even though Cornerstone Bank is no longer inhabiting the building, he still pays taxes on the property.

Fountain said he was willing to negotiate a price on the bank building with the Town Administrator, James Ferrera. Fountain feels one of the options for a potential public safety complex will not be approved by the town voters.

Dufresne said he thinks the best plan is to invest in a public safety complex that will last in the town about 100 years from now.

“Investing a bunch of money into a building that's already over a hundred years old is not going to sustain us for another hundred years,” Dufresne said.

Veliz said there are a lot of differences in opinion when it comes to the topic of housing a police station.

The board members approved a motion to enter into a contract with Tecton Architects for a building assessment of the former bank.

The next agenda item was to discuss and vote to enter into a contract with H2M

Architects & Engineers for the purpose of maximizing the use of the basketball court adjacent to Fire Station A. Ferrera explained that there could be possible expansion and updating for the existing Fire Station.

Ferrera said H2M has experience working with fire departments and improving fire station buildings.

The board members approved the contract with H2M Architects & Engineers.

“We're moving ahead for the best of the town,” Eichacker said.

### FEMA SAFER Grant

The board heard from Fire Chief Adam Lavoie regarding him applying for a FEMA SAFER grant. This is a grant Lavoie has talked about for the last few years, and it does require a financial obligation from the town.

A SAFER grant is for the staffing for the adequate fire and emergency response program. The chief is looking to hire additional staff through this grant funding.

This is in response to ongoing rise in call volume. Lavoie recalls recently getting close to 1,400 calls in one year.

Lavoie is looking to target two positions if the town gets the grant. The obligation is the grant pays 75% and the town pays 25% the first two years, then it changes in the third year. Lavoie will look into the numbers further, but addressed the Board that the department currently does not have staff overnight from 11 p.m.-7 a.m.

The Fire Chief is budgeted for part-time help, on-call

help, and EMS stipends, but with the help of this grant he'd be able to accommodate coverage for that particular shift. According to Lavoie, this grant would ultimately benefit the town.

Ferrera wanted to commend Lavoie for his forward thinking on this grant idea. He also commented on having a similar experience with this kind of grant that helped with policing in Springfield. He said a lot of layoffs occurred afterwards due to a difficult economic curve.

The board members want to consider having the town put a plan in place to keep stave ahead of any potential economic curve if the grant is received. The board endorsed Lavoie's efforts to pursue this grant.

### Animal Control Officer vehicle

The board heard a request from Lavoie to transfer the Animal Control Officer's vehicle over to the Fire Department for use. The current Animal Control Officer, Deborah Young, is looking to use her own vehicle and is only seeking reimbursement for her mileage.

Lavoie is asking for the vehicle because he has a staff member who needs a vehicle for scene response on the Mass Pike and other areas in town. This staff member's own vehicle had already taken some damage and could use a vehicle that is repurposed.

Lavoie said the ACO vehicle has been sitting without use for months.

Ferrera confirmed with the board that the Animal

Control Officer does not want the vehicle but would have to sign a release to go forward. The board also said the vehicle would have to be assessed to see if it can be salvaged.

The board also may investigate what other town-owned vehicles are not currently being used.

The board tabled a vote on this matter to their next meeting.

### Town Administrator's report

Ferrera's report included him attending the Springfield Armory and the Town of Warren was recognized as a Knox Trail Town. The town received a beautiful plaque and Ferrera is looking to display it somewhere in the Town Offices.

Ferrera attended the Warren Public Library open house, and it was good celebration put together despite the weather that was happening the same day.

In his report, Ferrera wanted to comment Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson and his staff for their handling of the recent snowstorm and taking care of the roads.

“It was a large-scale event,” Ferrera said.

Request from Highway Surveyor

The board heard a request from Olson for the authorization to deficit spend in the snow and ice account. Olson

stated it is that time of year where the town handles the winter weather. Looking at the numbers for the account, Olson says they match almost perfect and comes out to about treating the roads every other day.

The next salt order will be placed soon as the Highway Department has spread tones of material all over town.

“We're trying to clean everything up,” Olson said.

The Department has a lot more work to do and putting in time to take care of the side streets and sidewalks. Intersections in town need to be done as well.

“It just takes time,” Eichacker said.

Olson also reported that they had very little to know issues with equipment.

“All of our equipment held up,” Olson said.

The board authorized the deficit spending and thanked Olson and his team on a job well done during this big winter storm.

### Glass container and waste shed

The Board of Selectmen revisited the agenda item of having the Chair sign Statement of Work forms from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for the glass container and a universal waste shed. This revolves around a state grant to be administered by the Board of Health.

The board tabled this item from their meeting on Jan. 8 and wanted more information regarding the glass container. Ferrera heard back from someone at Solid Waste Solutions, and it appeared beneficial to have a waste shed and take the glass container.

Ferrera said this is part of a Green Communities act to help with recycling efforts.

The board wanted to know if the container is a requirement. Ferrera said the Board of Health applied for these items. The town could go to the state and say they'll take one item, but not the other. Ferrera just wants the board to be aware of what the response is from the State.

Veliz asked if it was possible to put the container somewhere else and have someone collect the glass. The board still didn't seem in favor of the glass container, but the Board of Health needs to submit this form by the first week of February.

Eichacker recommended the board goes with the waste shed. The board moved to approve the shed for the town dump.

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# public safety

## Multiple towns responded to Pleasant Street fire

WARE – On Sunday, Feb. 1, at 2:20 a.m., a fire was reported by the Ware Fire Department's ambulance while responding to a medical call, in the vicinity of Pleasant Street and Church Street.

The crew radioed West Comm Regional Dispatch and requested a tone for additional members along with a full second alarm assignment. On arrival a working structure fire was confirmed at 14 Pleasant St., a three-story single family currently unoccupied.

The incident was then upgraded to a third alarm due to the weather and need for additional manpower and apparatus. An initial interior

attack was attempted but the crews were forced out due to the volume of fire and limited initial manpower available on scene.

Upon arrival of our first due mutual aid a second attempt was made at an interior attack, due to the second-floor ceiling collapse a May Day was called and the building evacuated. There were no injuries reported.

Once all personnel were accounted for operations moved to a defensive mode for the remainder of the incident. National Grid in the area on an unrelated service call was quickly on scene and cut the power to the building.

The cause remains deter-

mined at the time of this press release and is under investigation by members of the Ware Police Department, Ware Fire Department and the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Fire Chief James Martinez thanked Palmer Fire, Warren Fire, West Brookfield Fire, West Brookfield Rescue Squad, Belchertown Fire, Bondsville Fire, Ludlow Fire, Wilbraham, Fire, Brookfield Fire, North Brookfield Fire, Hardwick Fire, the DFS Rehab and Support Unit, the Central Mass Sparks Rehab and Canteen for the exceptional professional support the town received during this incident.

*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.*

## Ware Police Log

During the week of Jan. 18-28, the Ware Police Department responded to 40 miscellaneous calls, 39 administrative calls, 16 traffic violations, 11 emergency 911 calls, two thefts/larcenies, three harassments/stalks/threats, one damage/vandalism, one motor vehicle accident, one structure fire, one vehicle fire, one indecency/lewdness, one fraud, eight animal calls and 24 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

911 Call, South Street, Services Rendered  
8:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Thursday, Jan. 22**  
3:02 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Services Rendered  
3:37 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Walnut Street, Parking Ticket Issued  
3:55 a.m. Bylaw Violation, South Street, Appears Secure After Check

**Sunday, Jan. 18**  
1:08 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Walnut Street, Services Rendered

**Monday, Jan. 19**  
10:12 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Eagle Street, Dispatch Handled  
1:21 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Warren Road, Unfounded  
2:07 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Investigated  
5:48 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Homecrest Avenue, Dispatch Handled  
7:06 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, Investigated  
8:20 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, Dispatch Handled

**Tuesday, Jan. 20**  
2:03 a.m. Structure Fire, Gilbertville Road, Investigated  
6:27 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Unknown Location, Services Rendered  
7:40 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Belchertown Road, Dispatch Handled  
3:31 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Investigated

**Wednesday, Jan. 21**  
10:56 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised  
4:34 p.m. Abandoned

**Friday, Jan. 23**  
2:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
3:45 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Park Street, Parking Ticket Issued  
9:50 a.m. Assault, North Street, Services Rendered  
4:36 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, East Street, Could Not Locate

**Saturday, Jan. 24**  
6:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
8:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
9:51 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Meadow Road, Services Rendered  
10:43 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, Osborne Road, Criminal Complaint Request

**Sunday, Jan. 25**  
12:19 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Main Street, Investigated  
5:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
2:52 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised  
5:04 p.m. Fire Investigation, East Street, Investigated

**Monday, Jan. 26**  
8:50 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Castle Street,

## Warren Police Log

During the week of Jan. 11-17, the Warren Police Department responded to 146 building/property checks, 18 community policings, 13 emergency 911 calls, three parking issues, two complaints, one burglary/breaking and entering, one fraud, one safety hazard, three motor vehicle accidents, two animal calls and 22 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

**Sunday, Jan. 11**  
11:52 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Brook Road, Transported to Hospital  
12:48 p.m. Parking Issues, Reed Street, Information Given  
1:16 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Jones Street, Report Filed  
3:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
11:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

**Monday, Jan. 12**  
5:58 a.m. Shooting or Stabbing, Keys Road, Arrest(s) Made  
1:05 p.m. Complaint, Old West Brookfield Road, Report Filed  
11:54 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, River Street, Officer Spoke to Party

**Tuesday, Jan. 13**  
8:58 a.m. Complaint,

Quaboag Street, Call Transferred  
9:33 a.m. Overdose/Poisoning, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital  
1:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
1:31 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Central Street, Officer/Chief Advised  
9:07 p.m. Safety Concern, Winthrop Terrace, Officer Spoke to Party  
9:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Wednesday, Jan. 14**  
7:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Quaboag Street, Citation Issued  
11:57 a.m. Falls, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital  
1:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
3:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Report Filed  
5:05 p.m. Parking Issues, Main Street, Report Filed

**Thursday, Jan. 15**  
1 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
1:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
2:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Brookfield Road, Criminal Complaint  
8:27 p.m. Suspicious

Activity, Keys Road, Report Filed

**Friday, Jan. 16**  
10:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
2:35 p.m. Suspicious Person, Washington Street, Report Filed  
4:12 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Crescent Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
4:21 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Reed Street, Transported to Hospital  
8:02 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Crescent Street, Transported to Hospital

**Saturday, Jan. 17**  
7:21 a.m. Parking Issues, Reed Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
9:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
9:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
10:25 a.m. Gunshots, Little Rest Road, Report Filed

12:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Keys Road, Vehicle Towed  
1:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital  
5:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

## Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of Jan. 19-Feb. 2, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 104 building/property checks, 77 directed/area patrols, 15 radar assignments, 10 traffic controls, 19 emergency 911 calls, seven citizen assists, six assist other agencies, four complaints, two safety hazards, two investigations, one motor vehicle investigation, one fraud, one fire, one property damage, one scam, one motor vehicle accident, two animal calls and nine motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, Jan. 19**  
8:28 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, River Run, Transported to Hospital  
7:08 p.m. Assist Citizen, High Street, Officer Handled

**Tuesday, Jan. 20**  
12:23 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
1:40 p.m. Investigation, Out of Town, Officer Handled  
5:43 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled  
7:11 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Negative Contact  
11:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

**Wednesday, Jan. 21**  
9:58 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Pine Street, Negative Contract  
11:45 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Barre Road, Investigated  
11:56 a.m. Fraud, Turkey Street, Services Rendered  
4:07 p.m. Fire/Other, Thayer Road, Services Rendered

**Thursday, Jan. 22**  
7:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Turkey Street, Services Rendered  
10:38 a.m. Parking Complaint, Bridge Street, Spoken To  
2:37 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled  
2:40 p.m. Assist Other

Agency, Petersham Road, Services Rendered  
3:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled  
6:51 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Taylor Street, Negative Contact

**Friday, Jan. 23**  
9:25 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
12:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning  
3:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Citation Issued  
3:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning  
5:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Street, Negative Contact  
5:13 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled  
5:30 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Pine Street, Unfounded  
6:35 p.m. 911 Neighbor Dispute, River Run, Officer Handled

**Saturday, Jan. 24**  
8:25 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital

**Sunday, Jan. 25**  
9:37 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered  
1:47 p.m. 911 Complaint, Lower Road, Services Rendered  
5:34 p.m. Scam, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled  
6:24 p.m. Safety Hazard, Brook Road, Officer Handled

**Monday, Jan. 26**  
11:15 a.m. Property Damage, Lower Road, Report Taken

**Tuesday, Jan. 27**  
11:22 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital  
12:29 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Petersham

Road, Services Rendered  
7:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Railroad Lane, Transported to Hospital

**Wednesday, Jan. 28**  
11:20 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

**Thursday, Jan. 29**  
5:18 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prouty Road, Transported to Hospital  
7:23 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital  
8:23 a.m. 911 Utility Issues, North Street, Removed Hazard  
10:29 a.m. Parking Complaint, Bridge Street, Services Rendered  
10:40 a.m. Assist Citizen, Ridge Road, Referred to Other Agency  
2:45 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Services Rendered

**Friday, Jan. 30**  
11:21 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Report Taken  
4:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued  
7:27 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Patient Refusal  
7:38 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Bridge Street, Peace Restored  
10:44 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Ridge Road, Officer Handled

**Saturday, Jan. 31**  
4:46 a.m. Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital  
8:11 a.m. 911 Welfare Check, Church Lane, Services Rendered  
1:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Ridge Road, Officer Handled  
4:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled  
8:27 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Pine Street, Negative Contact

**Monday, Feb. 2**  
12:20 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Dispatch Handled

## Town Clerk releases 2026 dog licensing information

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 Tuesday, 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 licenses must be purchased prior to March 31, and your envelope must also be post-marked 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 2025, check the license to see if the Rabies Certificate is current (the information is on your 2025 license); it is current, simply come into the office to license in person or license by U.S. 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 sufficient 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 the dog

license.

Contact the Town Clerk's Office at 413-967-9648 extension 177 if you failed to license in 2025 so that we may inform you what is owed in entirety to license for 2026.

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 your dog for the first time, be sure to supply the owner's name, address and contact telephone number; a copy of the current Rabies Certificate and if the dog is neutered/spayed also send this certificate unless it is stated on the Rabies Certificate.

Question may be directed to the Town Clerk's Office at 413-967-9648 extension 177.

### ELECTION from page 5

a registered voter in Ware. Nomination Papers may be picked up as of Jan. 18 during normal business hours – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 8

am.-4 p.m. Questions may be directed to the Town Clerk, Nancy J. Talbot, at 413-967-9648 extension 103.

# WB&CA and Beyond enters 15th year

## Staff Report

For the past 15 years, the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond has been a catalyst for growth, creating a hub for businesses to visit and invest in the community of Ware.

The Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond began in 2011, with a gathering of local business and civic leaders at the Goodwill store, located at the corner of Main and North streets, currently the site of Hanna's on Main restaurant.

"Local businessman, Joel Harder, organized the meeting," said Chris Murphy, WBCA&B Board of Director and IT officer. "Joel noted the pessimistic trend with business in Ware and thought there would be strength in numbers."

Meetings were held, more people and businesses joined the group and idea developed to support the town.

From that starting point, the WB&CA and Beyond took root in Ware. Over the next few years, community and business activities such as the Holiday Stroll, Shop Local weekends and the Fall Fair were held.

"The last year of the Fall Fair, over 80 businesses and organizations participated. The fair included a breakfast at the Millyard, art show in the town hall, chili contest and vendors at Veterans Park and other events at the library and Workshop13. We also hosted a decorating contest for area stores. It was a wonderful event that brought hundreds to town. One highlight was Cindi LaBombard had over 500 people sign in at the art show," said Carol Zins, member of the Fall Fair committee.

One WB&CA and Beyond program that has excelled since its inception in 2014, is the Ware in Bloom campaign.

"The Flowers in Bloom Committee began in the early years of the WBCA as a way to support the Main Street Improvement Project. Funded by local businesses and powered by hands-on volunteers who even helped water the flower baskets themselves, the initiative has always been rooted in community pride. It's inspiring to see it still flourishing today, with dozens of volunteers continuing to make downtown bloom, season after season," said Shelley Regin, Senior Vice President, Marketing, of Country Bank. Regin served on the original Ware in Bloom committee. The Ware in Bloom continues to today, as Carol Zins handed off the program to current leaders, Carol Blackmer and Janice Ouimette.

WB&CA and Beyond officially became a not-for-profit status organization. Mission statements were created, organizational bylaws set and a formal slate of officers were elected.

In 2014, the mission statement bent towards Ware's revitalization and economic development.

The WB&CA and Beyond has been active over the years with regional and local initiatives.

Members of the WB&CA



Baystate Health President, Peter Banko, presented to attendees at the February Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond meeting.



Jason Turcotte, Co-owner, Tombstone Trading Company, is shown at a Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond monthly meeting.

and Beyond also serve on the Town of Ware's Downtown Economic Development Committee, Community Development Authority, the Massachusetts Regional Railroad Transport Committee and the Hampshire County Transportation Committee.

The goals of the association remain rooted in membership support, networking and communication.

"Membership has grown every year, even during the COVID 19 pandemic," said WB&CA and Beyond President Dan Flynn. "We continue to evolve in some program areas, but we never lost sight of our core mission. Each month's meeting offers a quality program, each event is enjoyable, the membership fee is inexpensive, but the benefits far outweigh the cost."

For members who have joined the association, the membership benefits have been numerous.

"The networking aspect alone has been very rewarding for myself and my company," said Melissa Fales, president, QVCDC of Ware and WB&CA and Beyond Clerk/Treasurer. "Our Association growth has been making a bigger impact even outside of the Town of Ware."

In 2022, the WB&CA and Beyond altered the approach to its program.

Monthly program meetings were held every third Wednesday of the month at E2E on Main Street. However, due to membership increases and attendance had grown to the point where the meetings had to move the Cedarbrook Village on South Street.

"We wanted to have our members promoted within and outside the association," said Flynn. "We opened up our monthly programs to include meeting at our member's locations. Members could host and get to showcase the location, product and such."

Meetings have been held

at American Athletic Shoe Company, Quabbin Wire, Tombstone Trading, Palmer Motorsports Park, 13th World and the newest WB&CA and Beyond member, Align Hypnosis.

At a WBCA&B monthly program, each meeting would begin with a Town Manager/Administrator report from attending towns. Currently, the Towns of Ware, Warren, Hardwick and Palmer belong to the WB&CA and Beyond.

"I believe WB&CA and Beyond provides the town with a unique opportunity to share its latest projects, events, and future economic development opportunities within the town," said Jim Ferrara, Town Administrator, Town of Warren. "One of my roles as a Town Administrator is to market and promote the town for future economic growth and I believe WB&CA and Beyond creates a forum for this to happen."

"This report from each town improves communications about what projects and growth are moving forward, and what we should be planning together for future projects," said Stuart Beckley, Town Manager, Town of Ware. "In the Quabog region, connection and cooperation are necessary. The meetings of the WB&CA and Beyond promote the sharing of regional knowledge and resources. This information is very beneficial for each of us."

In 2023, discussion was held to open up the membership to include businesses and organizations from contiguous towns.

"The association was being approached by many non-Ware businesses," said Flynn.

In 2024, the association's bylaws were updated to include members from Palmer, Belchertown, Hardwick, Warren and West Brookfield.

A quarterly evening activity program was developed.



Author Elena Palladino presented her book, "Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley", to the attendees of a Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond workshop held at Workshop13.



Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond members dropped off collected school supplies to Stanley M. Kozio Elementary School administration.

"We planned evening events such as bowling, pinball and pickleball. We had even rented a portable axe yard and held several axe throwing events," said Flynn. "A sponsor assists with defrayment of the cost of the facility or rental. Food is provided. It's a relaxed, fun networking outing but with a twist. A small business or sole proprietor may not be able to have an outing like this for themselves or employees, so this program is another member benefit"

In 2023, an special opportunity opened for the WB&CA and Beyond. The local state senate seat had been left open as the State Senator Anne E. Gobi took a position with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts administration and special election was then scheduled.

"We contacted both of the candidates on the ballot to offer a Candidates Forum, where both would be given time for an opening statement, each would answer questions, and then give a closing statement," said Flynn. "The forum was taped by local community access channel 15 and the tape was shared with the other town

channels within the state senate district. It was a monumental event."

A second forum was held in 2024 for the candidates in the 2024 election.

One of the recent WB&CA and Beyond initiatives is new local business recognition. "The towns within the WB&CA and Beyond represents are fortunate to have state legislators who are active and truly present in their towns," said Flynn. "We have been setting up and having ceremonial ribbon cuttings for new businesses. If the legislators are available, they or a staffer will attend with a commendation from the Massachusetts Statehouse. The event is then reported in the local newspaper and promoted on social media,"

The WB&CA and Beyond had partnered with the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce on several ribbon cuttings and support of each organization's past events.

"It's been wonderful to work with the WB&CA and Beyond," said TRCC President, Matt Lemieux. "We have even had a friendly wager, President to President, on the outcome of the annual Ware Palmer football game

rivalry. Losing President had to scoop ice cream at Rondeau's Dairy Bar. This wager created a lot of interest in both of our towns."

This past summer, the WB&CA and Beyond and the TRCC collaborated on a town wide school supply collection to support the schools in Ware, Palmer and Monson.

Members of the WB&CA and Beyond are very active with the community, supporting Main Street banners and the Ware Flair to name a few of the program, Flynn and Director Dustin Pennington serve on the Town of Ware Fireworks Committee.

"When we saw how much the cost of the fireworks went up from the 2024 show to the 2025 show, the committee was nervous about raising the money needed. We approached the WB&CA and Beyond. They volunteered to host and support two celebrity bartender/server nights. Hanna's on Main hosted and members of the WB&CA and Beyond acted as bartenders and servers," said Pennington. "All tips collected went to support the 2025 fireworks show. We had Neil Diamond aka Charlie Lask of Nat Falk, the first night, then karaoke the second night. We raised enough funds to cover the huge fee increase of the 2025 fireworks show. Both nights were a huge success."

To become a member of the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond, go online to <http://www.ware-bca.com/>, email [warebca@gmail.com](mailto:warebca@gmail.com), on Facebook under Ware Business and Civic and Beyond, contact any board of director, or Flynn at 413-297-5886

Interested businesses and organizations are welcomed to attend the monthly meetings, held every third Wednesday, 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Cedarbrook Village, 73 South St., Ware, MA.

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**Hardwick Crossing Country Club**

GILBERTVILLE, MA

The scenic, 18-hole golf course, nestled at 262 Lower Road, known as "Hardwick Crossing" and has a 9-hole par 3 course without the price tag.

The newly renovated clubhouse is a state-of-the-art facility with a full bar and lounge area. The clubhouse also features a pro shop, a fitness center, and a putting green.

The clubhouse is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. People may follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

**THE JOURNAL REGISTER & WARE RIVER NEWS**

is offering our local businesses an opportunity to advertise at a **REDUCED RATE!**

- Business profile - 250 words
- Photo - yourself, employees or building
- Advertisement - 4.75" wide x 6.35" high

ALL FOR ONLY \$275

This special section will run in the April 9 issue of *The Journal Register* and the *Ware River News*.

AD DEADLINE: MARCH 25, 2026

- Quarter page ad with story (4.75" x 12.75") \$275
- Half page ad with story (9.75" x 12.75") \$460
- Full page ad with story (Two 9.75" x 12.75") \$650

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Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Historians used rope to move a large cannon.



A young team of oxen prepared to get hitched to a sled.

**KNOX** from page 1

ion near the pond, a local woman offered to wash the clothes of the re-enactors, who had been on the road for quite some time. In exchange for this generous offer, all she requested was to have a cannon fired off in front of her flower shop.

Lyon, who was charged with carrying the black powder, was eager to oblige.

To repay her kindness, the re-enactors loaded a mortar and lit it, creating a loud and powerful boom, which was followed by the sound of tinkling glass – the force of the mortar’s explosion had caused the shop’s windows to break, along with several flower pots. Lyon said the woman seemed pleased with their efforts, and didn’t mind the broken glass at all.

While on the trail, Lyon and his crew enjoyed a variety of meals, from breakfast at Friendly’s, to multiple McDonald’s stops. He said once they reached Palmer, they enjoyed a delicious (and historically accurate) venison stew.



A historian portraying Henry Knox enlisted the help of young visitors in attendance at Old Sturbridge Village to secure a cannon to a sled. The museum held a weekend-long commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Knox’s Noble Train of Artillery.

The group traveled through Warren, Slab City and West Brookfield, where Lyon met his future wife. This town later became his home.

Lyon recalled traveling Foster Hill Road, and noticing how little had changed in the past 200 years.

“It was an amazing trip that I’ll never forget,” he said.



A team of oxen arrived to pull a sled carrying a 300 plus pound cannon.

# Drinking Water Community Information Session

We want to hear from you!

**DATE**

February 5, 2026  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:**

Ware Senior Center  
1 Robbins Road, Ware MA 01082

Need transportation? Contact the Quaboag Connector at 413-544-3401 by February 4, 2026.

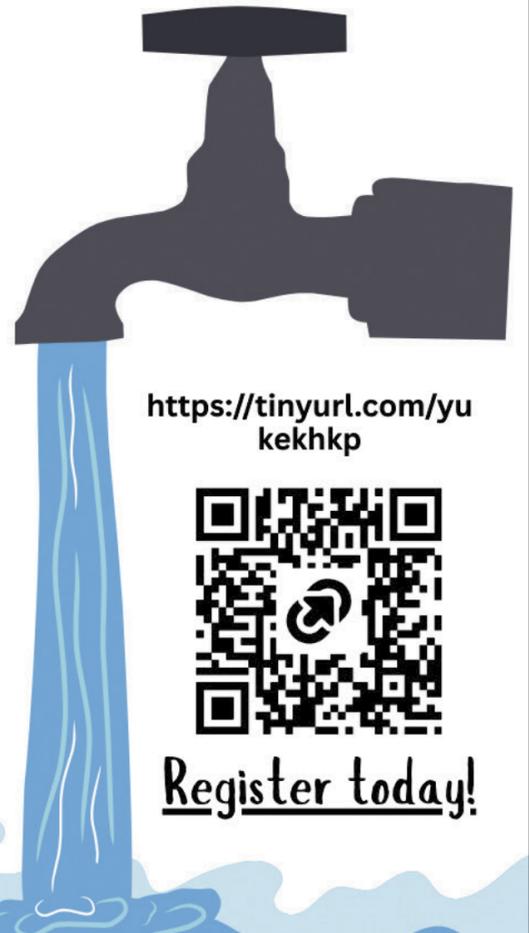


All are welcome to join this event to learn about the Town’s public water supply, and to share how you get information about town water and what more may be helpful to you in understanding about the water that flows to your tap.

You’ll hear from Ware DPW and have the opportunity to share comments and questions, and help the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission develop an approach toward greater understanding about drinking water.

Food and Beverages will be provided

The first 20 participants to sign up and attend will receive a gift card as compensation for attending!



<https://tinyurl.com/yukekhp>



**Register today!**



**MVP**  
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness



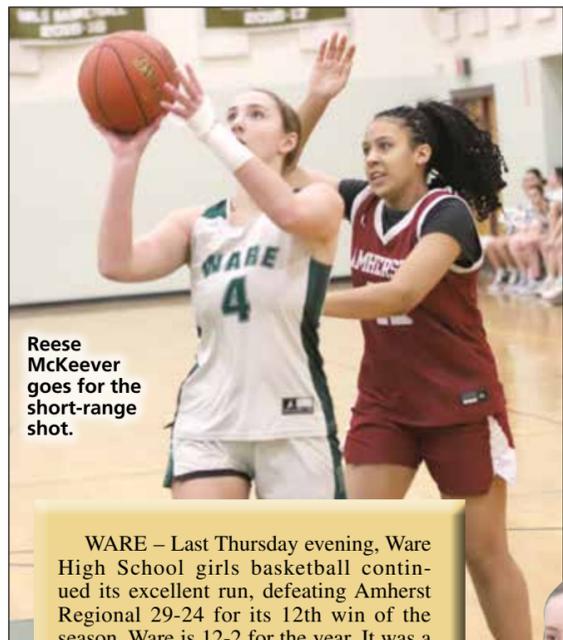
# SPORTS

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## Indians win 12th game of season

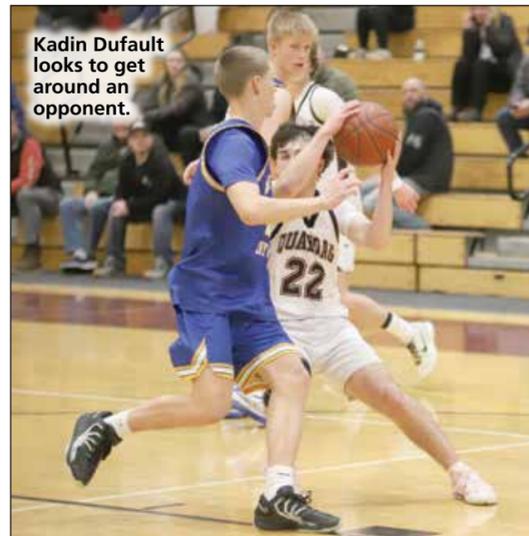


Reese McKeever goes for the short-range shot.

WARE – Last Thursday evening, Ware High School girls basketball continued its excellent run, defeating Amherst Regional 29-24 for its 12th win of the season. Ware is 12-2 for the year. It was a low-scoring game, but Ware played excellent defense, holding Amherst's offense down. Reese McKeever scored 12 points for Ware, leading the Indians to the win.



Amelia Orszulak heads down the court under pressure.



Kadin Dufault looks to get around an opponent.

## Recent win streak gets Cougars above .500

WARREN – Quaboag Regional boys basketball has won four straight games, and is now 7-5 on the regular season. Last Wednesday night was Quaboag's latest win. The Cougars scored a solid win over Whitinsville Christian School 53-30. The Cougars also defeated Advance Math & Sciences, Douglas, and Bartlett. The Cougars, who are now in better shape to make tournament, are next set to face Douglas in a rematch on Monday, Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m.



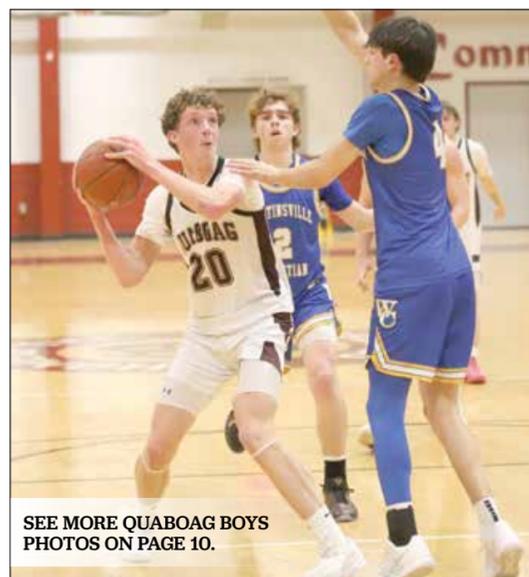
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Gloria Cotaj is pressured near the sideline.



Madisyn Slattery starts a play on offense.



Naomi Torres looks to get around an opponent.



SEE MORE QUABOAG BOYS PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Jack Stevens eyes the hoop.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Brady Patchen flies to catch a pass

## Panthers notch third win of the season

BARRE – Despite a lot of early pressure, Quabbin Regional boys basketball overcame Tyngsborough's defense and scored a 57-45 win last Friday night at home. The Panthers improved to 3-11 on the regular season. The Panthers got revenge from an earlier loss to the Tigers, as they lost on the road at Tyngsborough on Jan. 6.



Collin Leclair tries to overcome full court pressure.

SEE MORE QUABBIN BOYS PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.

## Pioneers unable to come back against Duggan

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD—After defeating John J. Duggan Academy by 19 points in a home game at the beginning of January, the Pathfinder Tech Lady Pioneers made the trip to Springfield last Thursday night looking to sweep the season series.

Things didn't go according to plan for the Lady Pioneers, who were hoping to move above the .500 mark. The Jayhawks built a 15-point lead in the middle of the second quarter and held off the Lady Pioneers during the second half for a 47-37 home victory in a Tri-County North League contest.

"I'm very disappointed because we defeated them pretty easily in our first meeting," said Kevin Aldrich, who's been coaching the Pathfinder Tech girls' basketball team for the past twenty years. "If we don't qualify for the postseason tournament or contend for the league title, this will be one of the games that we'll look back on. The players probably thought it would be another easy game. Give Duggan a lot of credit because they played very hard against us. They just



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Addison Doktor grabs an offensive rebound.

wanted it a little more than we did."

The Lady Pioneers (5-6) will need to win at least four of their remaining regular season games to clinch a berth in the Division 5 state tournament for the third consecutive year.

A year ago, Pathfinder Tech defeated Boston United, 57-36, in a pre-

liminary round home game before losing at the Renaissance School in the round of 32. It marked the first time that the Lady Pioneers had won a state tournament game since the MIAA changed the postseason format prior to the start of the 2021-22 regular season.

The Lady Pioneers proba-

bly won't be one of the eight teams who'll be competing in the Western Mass. Class C tournament, which starts next week.

Junior Megan Clark and senior Addison Doktor each finished with 14 points in the road contest against the Jayhawks (4-8).

Doktor, who fouled out late in the fourth quarter, scored 34 points in the first meeting with Duggan, which was a 50-31 victory on January 2. She made 16 field goals and two foul shots in that contest.

In the second meeting, Doktor scored eight first half points on four inside hoops. She only made two field goals and two free throws in the second half.

Clark doubled her point total from the home win against the Jayhawks. She scored nine second half points in last Thursday's contest.

The Lady Pioneers only other scorers were junior's Ciara Green (4 points) and Taylor Allen, who scored all five of her points in the fourth quarter. The only time that Pathfinder Tech held the lead was at 2-0 less than a minute into the

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10

# sports

## Candlepin League NEWS

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Bondsville League

WARE – The Wednesday Night Bondsville League at Roll-A-Way Lanes has reached week 20 of the season.

Fire Mountain stays hot and maintains its #1 seed position with a record of 89.5-50.5. Sandri moved to second place with a record of 81-59 and Night Hawks are in third place at 80-60.

Spare Parts Bud bowled against P&J Meats during week 20. In game one, P&J Meats won by a score of 487-469. Kristy Temple of P&J Meats bowled well starting with 115 and her teammate Paige Stabach began with 116. Madison Jebb of Spare Parts Bud bowled her best game of the season with 110.

In game two, Spare Parts Bud won by a score of 504-501. Jebb broke the century mark again with 101. Stabach continued to stay in the 110s with 111 in game two.

In game three, P&J Meats won by a score of 507-494. Temple finished with 114 and a series of 331. Stabach finished with 103 and a series of 330. John Jebb finished strong with 111. The final score was 1495-1467 in favor of P&J Meats.

Cannonballs bowled against Team UMass in week 20. In game one, Team UMass was the winner by a score of 471-457. Game two was also won by Team UMass, 453-444.

In game three, Team

UMass won for a three-game sweep over Cannonballs, 505-438. Keith Ferenz of Team UMass finished with a good game of 116. The final score was 1429-1339 in favor of Team UMass.

Flaming Bowling Balls bowled against the Snappers in week 20. In game one, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 513-497. Andy Tombor of Snappers bowled well with 139 in the first game. Don Paulus of Flaming Bowling Balls began with 119.

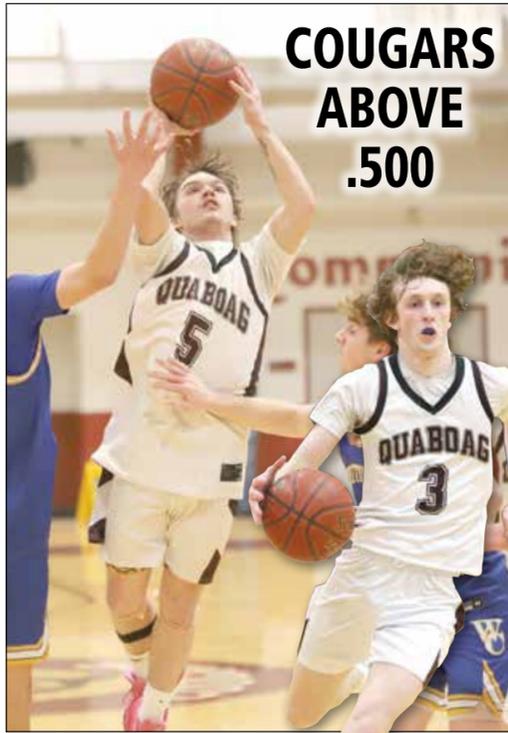
In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won again by a score of 469-445. Kevin Krasnecky of Snappers had the highest game of 108 in game two.

In game three, Flaming Bowling Balls win to sweep the Snappers, 454-448. Krasnecky finished with 120 and a series of 341. Paulus finished with 109 and a series of 333. The final score was 1436-1390 in favor of Flaming Bowling Balls.

Night Hawks bowled against Zeke's Freaks in week 20. In game one, Zeke's Freaks defeated Night Hawks by a score of 482-455. A 120 was bowled by Dave Smig of Night Hawks. Pete Ducharme of Zeke's Freaks began with 112.

In game two, Night Hawks won by a score of 464-457. Gavin Sinclair of Night Hawks bowled 113 during the team's win. Ducharme bowled a 109 in a losing effort.

In game three, Zeke's Freaks got the win, 466-443. Ducharme finished with 108 and a series of 329. The final score was 1405-1362 in favor of Zeke's Freaks.



**COUGARS ABOVE .500**

ABOVE: Jacoby Labillois flies and takes a shot.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

RIGHT: Isaac Cowher goes on a break to the hoop.



Jackson McGarry works around two defenders.

## Thunderbirds get better of Wolf Pack

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (16-20-4-2) muscled their way past their I-91 rivals, the Hartford Wolf Pack (16-21-4-1), capturing a 4-1 win on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

For a second straight night, Steve Ott's team got off to a quick start as Marc-Andre Gaudet jumped up through the slot area, received a drop feed from Matthew Peca, and picked the glove side on Dylan Garand to give Springfield the 1-0 jump at 6:55 of the first.

After a 2-for-3 night on the power play on Friday, the T-Birds man advantage did not get off to a strong beginning on Saturday, as back-to-back penalties brought an early end to a Springfield advantage and, instead, handed Hartford a 5-on-3. Brendan Brisson cashed in from there, one-timing a Justin Dowling pass through the wickets of Georgi Romanov at 13:20,

equalizing the score, 1-1.

The T-Birds settled into the game as the second period began and, once again, a blueliner had the tone-setting goal for Springfield as Hunter Skinner glided down the left circle and snapped a bar-down wrister over Garand's glove at 3:38 of the second, restoring the T-Birds lead, 2-1.

Just over four minutes later, Otto Stenberg made a savvy play, sneaking behind the net to steal a drop pass from Garand and setting up Dillon Dube for a wide-open net at the edge of the crease, extending Springfield's advantage to 3-1 at 8:13 of the period.

Like Friday night, the Springfield defense and goaltending locked things down in the final period, as the penalty kill successfully thwarted a pair of Hartford advantages, and Chris Wagner added his fourth goal in as many games played into an empty net with 3:00 remaining to seal the T-Birds' second straight win.

## PANTHERS NOTCH A WIN



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Matt Wade is surrounded after he makes an offensive rebound.

LEFT: Isaac Patchen makes a no-look pass.

### PIONEERS from page 9

opening quarter following a Doktor inside hoop.

Doktor also made a put-back basket, which sliced the Lady Pioneers deficit to 11-8 with 2:10 left in the opening quarter.

When Pathfinder scored again with two minutes remaining in the first half, they were trailing, 23-8.

"We struggled offensively in the first half," Aldrich said. "We should've scored 50 or 55 points in this game. We just kept allowing them to get into their defensive sets. They played a man-to-man defense against us, which we didn't handle very well."

The Jayhawks reeled off twelve unanswered points during that ten minute stretch.

Senior Rosemary Santos scored 15 of her game-high 28 points for the home team during the first 16 minutes. She scored 10 points in the first meeting.

No other Duggan player scored more than six points in the home win.

Clark finally ended the Lady Pioneers scoring drought with a 3-pointer from the left side.

Doktor also added an inside basket and a put-back, which sliced Pathfinder Tech's deficit to 25-15 at halftime.

Pathfinder Tech battled back as they outscored Duggan, 10-5, during the third quarter.

With 2:25 left in the third, Green hit a jumper in the lane, which closed the gap to 28-25 before Santos made a lay-up.

The Lady Pioneers were trailing 30-27 less than two minutes into the final quarter following a Green lay-up. They couldn't get any closer than that, as Duggan built a 41-32 lead with the help of an 11-5 run.

"We've been playing very well lately," Aldrich said.



Taylor Allen hustles down the court.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Cassandra Nykiel tries to get her hands on the ball.



Ciara Green heads down the court.



Megan Clark attempts a bank shot.

"I really didn't expect this outcome. We just need to bounce back from this loss." It was Duggan's first win against Pathfinder Tech since 2023.

## Registration now underway for QVBL

SOUTH HADLEY – Registration has opened for the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16<sup>th</sup> game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a week-night game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16<sup>th</sup> game with an opponent to be determined as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but

specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration is live at [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org). Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30<sup>th</sup> season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

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## Stephania Ann Couture. 93

WARE – Stephania Ann (Smigiel) Couture, age 93 passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 26, 2026, at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield.

Stephania was born in Belchertown on Dec. 9, 1932, daughter of the late Franciszek and Anna Smigiel. She grew up in a loving home where she was taught the values of faith and hard work.

She was a loving mother and grandmother. Stef and Paul built a home in Ware in the late 1950s and have resided there since.

A loving homemaker for her late husband and children, she loved flea markets, cats and trips to the Casino. She was employed for many years at the William

E. Wright Company in West Warren, prior to her retirement.



Stephania was the loving wife of the late Paul Edward Couture.

She leaves behind her two sons: Edward Couture and Richard Couture, grandchildren: Michael Couture, David Ladue and Christopher Sinclair, and great-granddaughter, Sierra. Stephania knew the pain of loss, losing her husband Paul in 1998, her daughter, Linda in 2017 and her grandson, Timothy in 2011, as well as her siblings.

Stephania was the ever-present rock of her family. She will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved her.

Take comfort in the knowledge that Stephania has returned to God who created her, loved her, and sustained her throughout her long life, and in whom arms she now rests. The family would like to thank Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center for their care they extended to Stef, over the last few years.

A Gathering of Family and Friends took place on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, in All Saints Church, Ware. A Funeral Mass was offered in All Saints Church, Ware. Burial followed in Mount Carmel Cemetery in Ware.

Funeral Arrangements and Service were under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home of Ware. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: [www.cebulafuneralhome.com](http://www.cebulafuneralhome.com).

## Elena Iverson, 91

WARE – Elena Iverson, age 91, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, surrounded by her family and the love she gave so freely throughout her life.



Elena was born on June 20, 1934, in Veliuona, Lithuania, to Joseph Ramonas, Sr. and Bronislava (Tamkus) Ramonas. In 1949, she emigrated to the United States with her family, beginning a new chapter marked by resilience, hard work, and hope.

Over the years, Elena made her home in Ware, Southwick, and Sarasota, Florida, before returning to Ware to live at Cedarbrook Village.

Elena was a gifted seamstress for many years, a skill that reflected her patience, creativity, and care for others. She later retired from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, where she worked as a long-time toll collector.

Those who knew Elena will remember her warmth, her gentle humor, and the way she made everyone feel seen and welcome. Her kindness was constant and unwavering, and her presence brought light and joy wherever she went.

Above all, Elena cherished her family.

She is survived by her son, Anthony Simmoneau (Alice); her beloved grandchildren, Matthew Simmoneau (Taylor Serus), Jessica Monahan (Nicholas), and Andrew Simmoneau (Samantha); and her treasured great-grandchildren, Brantley Simmoneau,

Olivia Monahan, Parker Monahan, and Amelia Monahan, who brought her immense pride and happiness. She is also survived by her last remaining sister, Virginia Newsome, along with many nieces, nephews, and dear friends who will miss her deeply.

Elena was predeceased by her beloved husband, Einar F. "Ivey" Iverson, who passed away on Jan. 29, 2001; her partner of 18 years, Walter Dembek, who passed away on Dec. 21, 2025; her son, Paul R. Simmoneau, who passed away on Jan. 15, 1996; and her siblings, Joseph Jr., John, Kestutis, Genevieve, Judy, and Ramona.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, from 9-11:30 a.m. at Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware, MA. A prayer service with words and poems of remembrance will follow at 11:30 a.m. A Celebration of Life reception will be announced at the conclusion of the visitation and service.

Elena's legacy lives on in the love she gave, the family she cherished, and the countless lives she touched with her kindness. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in honor of Elena.

Funeral Arrangements and Service is under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home of Ware. For more information and an online guestbook, please visit: [www.cebulafuneralhome.com](http://www.cebulafuneralhome.com).

## Death notices

**Couture, Stephania Ann**  
Died Jan. 26, 2026  
Services Jan. 31, 2026

**Iverson, Elena**  
Died Jan. 28, 2026  
Services Feb. 7, 2026

## 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 (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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



Cheryl Wolfe, left, recognized the event volunteers.

Turley Photos by Paula Quimette

## GALA from page 1

along with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Edington also said they have received many donations from private foundations. She said their next goals are making aesthetic fixes, and improving handicap accessibility.

The Stone Church's tower is the only one of three such towers of Boyden's still standing.

Phillip Warbasse, the project architect for the Friends, said the group is close to completing its goal to repair and stabilize the church's tower. He said work on the tower has now reached the lantern level.

Warbasse said a steeple collapse in New London, Connecticut persuaded the group to further pursue stabilizing the steeple.

"That was the nudge to keep moving on ours," he said.

Warbasse said the challenge is always to raise enough money in order to put a grant together. Fundraisers such as the Valentine's celebration, and donations from people near and far, have helped to make that possible.

"We keep pushing," he said.

Following the dinner, Edington recognized the event committee members, Kat McCrohon, Clare Hendra, Paula Roberts, Mary Warbasse, Michelle Webb and Cheryl Wolfe, and presented each with a bouquet of flowers. Wolfe then thanked the event volunteers, Ruth Baker, Becky Bottomley, Angie Broussard, Edington, Frank Hanson, David Salvatore and Phillip Warbasse.

Keeping with the Valentine's Day theme, auctioneer Varney kicked off the live bidding by enticing the audience with a heart-adorned mug, followed by a teddy bear. This was followed by a unique wooden tie – an accessory that would surely set its wearer



The Mason Tyler Duo performed a variety of music throughout the evening.

ed by Paula Roberts, and jewelry donated by Roberts and Dorothea Simmons, and much more.

Dozens of gift cards to area businesses were also available for people to place bids on.

## Upcoming events

Edington said other fundraisers for the organization include an annual appeal each November, and ticket price programs, like the concert series at the stone church.

Upcoming events include a Family Silent Film Night featuring Charlie Chaplin's "The Gold Rush" (1925) on Saturday, April 11 at 7 p.m. and a piano recital by Mackenzie Melemed featuring songs from his debut album on Saturday, May 2 at 2 p.m.

To purchase tickets, visit [friendsofthestonechurch.org](http://friendsofthestonechurch.org).

Summer Concerts on the Lawn will be held on Sunday, May 31 at 2 p.m. with the Weir River Concert Band and on Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m. with the Weir River Jazz. Both of the Concerts on the Lawn are free to attend.



Friends of the Stone Church President, Judy Edington, thanked everyone for their continued support of the organization's efforts to preserve the church.

apart from the crowd.

The live auction also featured a one-year membership to the Baglio Center at Eagle Hill School donated by Eagle Hill School; a five day stay in Paris, France donated by Mark and Judy Edington; a two-night weekend stay for two couples or a family of four to the Sugar Maple Trailside Inn in historic Florence donated by Kathy and Craig Della Penna; heating oil from R.J. McDonald Heating Oil; a six night stay at the Villa Camilla on Grace Bay Beach in Turks & Caicos and a night at Great Wolf Lodge, an indoor waterpark.

There were many items for auction in a silent auction including a painting donated by Christine Greene, a hand-made quilt donated by Becky Bottomley, a planter donat-

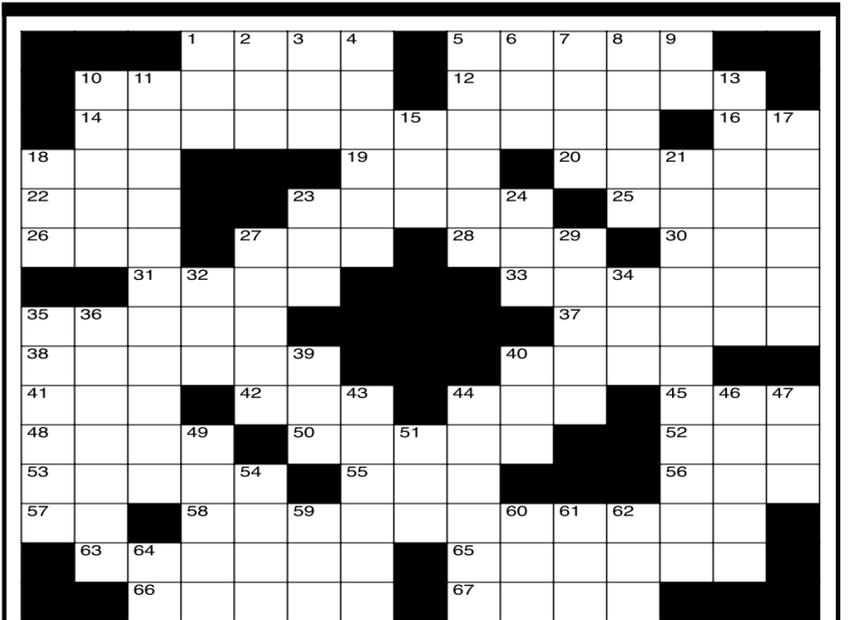
## SSI from page 4

service. FYI, Social Security should have asked about your military service when you applied. If you didn't tell SS about your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren't sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800-772-1213 and ask if you were given those "special extra credits for military service" for your 1960s military service years when you applied for Social Security. But if you had at

least 35 years of higher earnings after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get any additional Social Security benefit because of the "special extra credits" for your military service years.

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



## CLUES ACROSS

- Native American group of N. California
- Geological times (Brit. sp.)
- Tool to remove
- Rods
- One who renews
- They precede C
- Chatter incessantly
- \_\_\_ King Cole, musician
- Insect parts
- One from Utah
- The world of the dead
- Singer Redding
- NBA legend Nelson
- Indicates wrongly
- Unhappy
- Anger
- Dark brown
- Some are in kitchens
- Made a mistake

## CLUES DOWN

- Damp
- Type of fuel
- Actor Damon
- What thespians do
- One's mother
- Disallow
- Swiss river
- A banana has one
- Philippines lake and volcano are two
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Agave
- Journalist Tarbell
- One-time tech giant
- Indicates upon
- Intestinal bacteria
- Loose sheaths around the spinal cord
- It goes with nook
- A fashion
- Very eager to hear or see
- Witch
- Utilize
- Writing utensil
- Where rockers go to work
- Subsides
- Consume
- Greek mythological figures
- California mountain town
- Tin
- Muse of lyric and love poetry
- Animates anew
- Humorous criticisms
- Cool!
- Worst
- Designed to be useful
- Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- High schoolers' test

- Computer device
- Indian territory \_\_\_ and Diu
- A place to sleep
- AI tool
- Pass or go by
- Indicates a purchase
- A digital tape recording of sound
- More (Spanish)
- Disfigured
- White (Spanish)
- Church building
- Georgia rockers
- Type of surgery
- Much \_\_\_ about nothing
- Make by braiding
- Local area network
- Unit of work or energy
- Member of indigenous people of Thailand
- Liquefied natural gas
- Distance to top

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**STAMP** from page 4

and prominent social connections, Wheatley occupied a rare place in Colonial America.

Her poems charmed readers on both sides of the Atlantic and offer subtle commentary on her times, while Wheatley herself has inspired generations of writers.

Born in West Africa and brought to Boston on a slave ship, the child who would become known as Phillis Wheatley was enslaved by merchant John Wheatley and educated in his household.

By age 11, she had already begun to compose her own poems. Her 1773 collection, "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral," showcased her mastery of forms ranging from hymns and elegies to philosophical and narrative verse.

As a figure whose life and writing speak to the complexity of her times, Wheatley is especially relevant in 2026 as we reflect on the Revolutionary era as part of our nation's 250th anniversary celebrations. Wheatley was freed from slavery in 1773, and her later poems reflected growing support for the American Revolution.

In late 1775, while George Washington was encamped near British-

occupied Boston, Wheatley sent him an ode, published the following year, in which she suggests that the nations of the world are closely watching him to see if a new age in human history is dawning. Washington replied with praise for Wheatley's poetic talents and extended an invitation to meet if she found herself near his headquarters. Wheatley kept writing but was unable to publish a second book before her death in her early 30s. Her poetry continued to circulate widely, and her book was reprinted several times in the United States. Before the Civil War, abolitionists republished her work as an argument against slavery. Abolitionists and emancipationists invoked her name and accomplishments to affirm a shared humanity and the intellectual ability of people of African descent. Her legacy endures



The Black Heritage stamp art features a black-and-white ink-on-paper portrait of Phillis Wheatley, the "Mother of African American Literature."

today: schools, libraries, community centers and university buildings across the country bear her name, and she has inspired numerous children's books. In 2003, a statue of Wheatley was included in the new Boston Women's Memorial, all part of an ongoing effort to recognize the poet often praised as "the mother of African American literature."

The Forever stamps are available at Post Office locations nationwide and online at [usps.com/shopstamps](https://usps.com/shopstamps). News about the stamp is being shared on social media using the hashtag #BlackHeritageStamp.

**Stamp design**

The stamp art features a black-and-white ink-on-paper portrait of Wheatley by Kerry James Marshall, who imagines her later in

life, working on her second, unpublished book of poems.

Marshall's image draws from the one known portrait of Wheatley made during her lifetime, the engraved frontispiece of her 1773 book. While the 1773 portrait shows Wheatley in profile, Marshall's stamp art shows her looking directly at the viewer, wearing similar clothing and sitting at the same chair and desk as in the original. Next to Wheatley's left hand is a copy of the only book she published during her lifetime, "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral".

In the stamp art, she has begun to write on a paper that reads "Preface to my second volume," a reference to the book she was unable to publish.

Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp using Marshall's artwork.

The Phillis Wheatley stamp will be issued in panes of 20. As a Forever stamp, it will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

A video about the stamps will be posted after today's event on the Postal Service's Facebook page at [facebook.com/USPS](https://facebook.com/USPS) and on X, formerly known as Twitter, at [x.com/usps](https://x.com/usps).

**Friends of Ware Town Hall offer Spring Lotto Calendars**

WARE – The Friends of Ware Town Hall are now selling Spring Lotto Calendars to raise money to restore the beautiful large windows in the Great Room of the Town Hall.

Lotto Calendar sales will continue through March 31. Drawings will be made weekly beginning April 1 and winners will be notified by phone.

The cost of each calendar is \$10 and there are multiple chances to win since winning stubs will be put back into the drawing. Cash prizes range from \$25 to one \$500 prize on the final day of drawing, April 30.

Calendars may be purchased from members of

Friends of Ware Town Hall, as well as the following locations in town: Ware Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office; It's Wine O'clock; Crystal Springs Dairy Bar; Ware River Club; Ware Senior Center; Changes Hair Design; Ware Library; Moulton Insurance Agency; Nat Falk; Otto Florist; and Silhouettes on Main.

Anyone who would like to purchase a calendar but is unable to do so locally can mail a check for \$10, payable to Friends of Ware Town Hall, along with their address and phone number to: Friends of Ware Town Hall, P.O. Box 692, Ware, MA 01082. The calendar will be mailed to you.

**Deadline for art entries is Feb. 12**

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery invites artists of all mediums from throughout the northeastern U.S. to explore the theme of "Winter."

The deadline for entry is Feb. 12 by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on [workshop13.org](https://workshop13.org).

ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. "Winter"

will be on display from March 7 through April 4, opening with a reception on Saturday, March 7, from 3-5 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

The juror for "Winter" is Susan Tilton Pecora. She has been painting the streets, harbors, factories and farms of New England throughout her life.

**public notices**

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE**

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2026.

The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural, and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid's IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

National Grid may utilize any of the herbicides noted the MA Sensitive Materials list. Rodeo, and possibly one of the following

herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Cambistat as a tree growth regulator. Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way scheduled for herbicide treatments in 2026:

**Ware, Warren**

Municipalities that have rights-of-way that were treated in 2025

but may require some touch-up work in 2026:

**Ware**

**TREATMENT PERIODS**

Feb 1–May 30, 2026	May 30–Oct 15, 2026	Oct 15–Dec 31, 2026
CST	Foliar	CST
Basal	CST	Basal
Dormant stem	Basal	Dormant stem
	Cut stubble	

\*The exact treatment dates are dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon–Fri from 8:00 am–4:00 pm):  
 Mariclaire Rigby, National Grid,  
 939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01610.  
 Telephone: (781) 290-8310 or email:  
[mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com](mailto:mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com)

02/05/2026

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

SP-2026-01

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting and Site Plan Review Authority, will hold a Public Hearing during the scheduled meeting on **THURSDAY, February 19, 2026 at 7:00pm**, on the application of **Shawn Crevier**, for a common driveway, under Zoning Bylaw Section 6.6.2, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. 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 the Board of Selectman's 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 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.

**SITE LOCATION: 275 Malboeuf Road, Ware MA.** Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 15005 Page 72. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel 6-0-8. Zoned: Rural Residential (RR).

A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk's office and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

WARE PLANNING BOARD  
02/05, 02/12/2026

**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 Jason Strniste, Tracy Pilch and Brian Tinker will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 70 Boston Post Rd Warren, MA on **February 14, 2026 at 9:00 AM.**

The contents of Kaylee Louvistikis, Adam J. Perez, Kelley Sullivan, Eric Young and Don Aubin will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, MA on **February 14, 2026 at 9:45 AM.**

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.  
01/29, 02/5/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampshire Division  
Docket No.  
HS26P0014EA**

**Estate of:  
Elizabeth M Dembkowski  
Date of Death:  
October 31, 2025**

**INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Steven E Dembkowski of Palmer, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Steven E Dembkowski of Palmer, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond. 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.  
02/05/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampshire Probate and Family Court  
15 Atwood Drive  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413)586-8500  
Docket No.  
HS22P0315EA**

**In the matter of:  
George R. Gaudette  
Date of Death: 04/16/2020  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR ALLOWANCE OF  
ACCOUNT**

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by **Michael G. Gaudette of Montgomery, MA** requesting allowance of the Special Personal Representative's Amended First and Final account(s) as Personal Representative and any other

relief as requested in the Petition.

**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court.** You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on **03/04/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 29, 2026

**Mark S Ames**  
Register of Probate  
02/05/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampshire Probate and Family Court  
15 Atwood Drive  
Northampton MA, 01060  
Docket No.**



**HS26P0019GD  
In the interests of  
Tyler N. Volz-Benoit  
Of: Ware, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated Person  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT  
OF GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED PERSON  
PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Eric M. Volz-Benoit of Ware, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Tyler N. Volz-Benoit** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Eric M. Volz-Benoit of Ware, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of

**02/18/2026.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 20, 2026

**Mark S. Ames**  
Register of Probate  
02/05/2026

**PUBLIC NOTICES  
ARE NOW ONLINE**

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

**visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)**

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