

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Maple Month kicks off



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

The ceremonial kickoff of Massachusetts Maple Season took place this past weekend at Deer Meadow Farm in Warren. To the left are members of the Julian family and representatives of Deer Meadow Farm. To the right of the ceremonial tapped tree is Winton Pitcoff (left), Mass Maple Producers Association President Kim Trust, and State Sen. Jake Oliveira.

## Deer Meadow Farm site for ceremonial tree tapping

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Deer Meadow Farm in Warren was the destination for this year's Massachusetts Maple

Producers Association's annual kickoff.

Joining the Julian family at Deer Meadow Farm was Massachusetts Maple Producers Association President Kim Trust who was excited for this year's

kickoff event of the maple season. This was the first time Deer Meadow Farm hosted this kickoff event and Trust wanted to thank the Julian family for their hospitality.

This kickoff event fea-

tured town officials and one of Massachusetts' senators in attendance during the ceremonial tapping of the first tree, a tour of the farm's sugar shack, and a reading

Please see **MAPLE**, page 8

## Select Board adopts RFP for Calvin Paige

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board met at the end of February and had a discussion and vote on a request for proposal for the Calvin Paige building.

The town is requesting proposals for the acquisition, renovation and redevelopment of a town owned historic building. The Calvin Paige building was built back in the 1930s and is located within the socially, culturally and economically emerging Hardwick Center.

The Select Board have listed the redevelopment options for the Calvin Paige building as well as uses. The preferred uses include historical, office space, studio space and community use.

Select Board Clerk William Tinker wanted to review one section of the RFP, the Comparative Selection Criteria. Tinker wanted to amend the evaluations and measures for the proposals.

The board would agree to use the point system as follows: Highly Advantageous, 3 points, Advantageous, 2 points, Not Advantageous, 1 point and Unacceptable, 0 points. Tinker explained the point system to the Select

Board and will send a copy to the Town Administrator.

Part of the RFP is to focus on Public Benefit and Community Impact. A possible project for the Calvin Paige building provides significant public benefits, such as community space, economic growth, or services that directly enhance residents' quality of life.

**"Rates for health insurance are skyrocketing."**

- Justine Caggiano,  
Town Administrator

"Highly Advantageous," as Tinker described it. "What is the public benefit?"

The Select Board voted and adopted the RFP for the Calvin Paige building. The property shall be conveyed with a historic preservation restriction, protecting the exterior of the historic building. A copy of this RFP can be found on the town website, www.hardwick-ma.gov.

**Town Administrator's report**  
Town Administrator

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 6

## Committee moves forward with investigation

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – School Committee Chair Brian Winslow said a rough estimate for the cost of the independent investigation into the allegations made against Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovato is anywhere from \$10,000-15,000.

"Money well spent, as far as I'm concerned," he said at the Feb. 26 School Committee meeting.

Winslow said the cost depends on the scope of the investigation and he suggested the committee remove any investigation of malice, which he said could be added further into the investigation if necessary.

"At this point, I want to just get this going," Winslow said.

School Committee Member Christopher Desjardins made a motion to withdraw his amendments made at the previous School Committee meeting (which included allowing the superintendent to approve of the selection of an independent investigator), which passed.

Winslow said after reviewing the motion with school's attorney, it was determined that Lovato's approval is not necessary to move forward with the independent investigation. Lovato said he does not have any issue with the investigator selected by the School Committee.

"For the record, I did do my homework on this person, so did my attorney, and we have no complaints about the

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 13

## Quabbin senior organizes blood drive

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Quabbin Regional High School senior Ellie Frost stands next to a chart that tracked the number of pints of blood collected during a community blood drive she organized on Feb. 27.

BARRE – In less than one hour, a single person can save the lives of up to three people by donating blood.

Hardwick resident and Quabbin Regional High School senior Ellie Frost and her team of volunteers helped to save dozens of lives on Feb. 27, when they organized an all-day blood drive in the school's gymnasium, in partnership with Rhode Island Blood Center.

This blood drive was Frost's community service project as a member of the school's National Honor Society.

"I really liked the idea of a blood drive," Frost said. "I don't think we've done one in about 11 years."

Once she settled on the idea of hosting a blood drive, Frost reached out to several blood donation cen-

Please see **DRIVE**, page 13

## Public discusses mill complex

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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WARREN – Many residents joined town officials, including the Board of Selectmen, and representatives of Weston & Sampson to discuss the potential plans for economic development for the Wrights Mill complex in West Warren held at the Senior Center last Wednesday.

This was the second public meeting for the Wrights Mills Master Recovery Plan. Copies of three possible concepts were provided at the

Please see **WRIGHTS**, page 6



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### Corned beef and cabbage dinner is March 17

WARE – The Trinity Episcopal Church, corner of Park and Pleasant streets, will host a drive up, take-out St. Patrick’s Day corned beef and cabbage dinner on Monday, March 17 from 5-6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per meal, which includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread and dessert. To reserve meals, please call 413-967-6100 and leave your name, number of meals and phone number.

All proceeds benefit parish mission and ministries serving the community.

### Wreaths Across America to retire wreaths March 8

WARE – The community is invited to help retire wreaths from veterans’ graves with Wreaths Across America on Saturday, March 8 beginning at 10 a.m. in Aspen Grove.

If you are willing to help, it may be beneficial to bring a broom, rake, or hockey stick to carry them. After retiring wreaths from Aspen Grove, volunteers will then move on to other cemeteries in town until the mission is complete.

### 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, March 10**

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch

**Tuesday, March 11**

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 10-11 a.m. Mass EDP presentation. Free on land and cell phone lines to the disabled seniors.
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Cornhole
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

**Wednesday, March 12**

- 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 10-11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Region DPH Nurse office hours
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 1 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

**Thursday, March 13**

- 9 a.m. Walking Club. Meet at Senior Center.
- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley

View Housing

- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Cornhole
- 2:30 p.m. Art Class
- Friday, March 14
- 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
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

**LUNCHES**  
**DINE IN 11:30 a.m.**  
All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted  
Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put you name on the lunch list.

**Monday, March 10**  
Hamburger Gravy over Toast, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

**Tuesday, March 11**  
Fried Chicken, Yams, Corn, Dessert of the Day

**Wednesday, March 12**  
Grilled Burger with Swiss Cheese, Lettuce and Tomato, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

**Thursday, March 13**  
Chocolate Chip Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Hash Browns, Dessert of the Day

**Friday, March 14**  
Chicken Cacciatore, Salad, Dessert of the Day

# Are You Old News?



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

Email your answers by Monday at noon to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com).

*File Photo*  
Last week's photo from 1989 showed members of the Ware Golden Age Club who celebrated wedding anniversaries. From left are Ed and Julia Norris, 50 years; Edward and Mary Szczepanek, 60 years; and John and Joan Lund, 50 years. 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).



### Project 351 ambassadors list service sites for donations

Recently, five eighth graders from the Quabbin Regional School District towns were selected as ambassadors for Project 351, a nonprofit organization dedicated to community service and empowerment.

This honor allows them to play a vital role in uniting their communities and spreading hope throughout the year. The ambassadors will engage in various service projects, addressing local needs and supporting those facing economic hardships.

In Massachusetts, over one in three children aged 12 and younger live in low-income or homeless situations, highlighting the urgent need for support. The ambassadors will lead the Spring Service campaign, the first of three statewide efforts coordinated by Project 351 for this year.

This campaign aims to support Cradles to Crayons, a nonprofit that has provided essential items to more than 3.4 million children since 2002. From March 31 to April 11, the ambassadors will set up donation bins at community locations, including Quabbin Regional Middle and High School, where a friendly competition will engage students in donating.

Other participating sites include Oakham Center School, Hannaford Supermarket in North Brookfield, and Wholesome Farmers Market in Barre.

This initiative not only addresses immediate needs but also instills values of social responsibility and kindness in young people. By rallying their peers and local businesses, the ambassadors embody the idea that every small effort can lead to significant change.

Together, they aim to ensure that every child has access to the resources they need to thrive and realize their full potential.

### Spaghetti supper benefits family of Kristen Murphy

WARE – A spaghetti supper in honor of Kristen Murphy will be held on Thursday, March 13 from 5-7 p.m. in the Ware Junior/Senior High School cafeteria.

The cost is \$15 per person and take-out is available. Take-out orders must be pre-ordered by March 12 by calling 413-967-5977.

All proceeds benefit Kristen’s family. Venmo is available @Jeannine-Bonnayer-1.



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## ACCURACY WATCH

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



MARKET SPOTLIGHT

Winter Farmers Market continues, Still Life Farm holds the center

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

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – The beginning of the week was horrendous. Driveways resembled skating rinks and the town barn, where they keep the sand, may have been the most popular place in West Brookfield. Slipping and sliding all over the place gave way to surer footing as the sand was spread.

The week got even better as a warming trend began. So, it was happily we took off down to the First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St., beginning at 3 p.m. to enter the Winter Market with its many vendors and shoppers buying and catching up.

Again, over toward the corner, there was music. The trio performing this day were three skilled ladies playing harps.

The harp is not something you pick and are expert a week later. It takes time, and training and as the three have been at the craft for around a quarter century, it was obvious they have that just from listening to them.



Winter greens grow in the greenhouse at Still Life Farm in Hardwick.

They are Susan Lincoln from next door in Ware and Paula Moore and Barbara Russell from Shutesbury west of the Quabbin, and go by the name of Valley Harp Trio. Wednesday was the first day out since the pandemic.

The ladies play music from a variety of regions such as Celtic from Ireland and Scotland, also some from Spain and New England traditional as well. They go as far afield as the Middle East with Sephardic and even Macedonian.

The variety of vendors was again in evidence, with baked goods, crafts, microgreens, flowers, honey and maple syrup along the walls.

As usual, holding together the center of the room was Halley Stillman ably representing Still Life Farm.

Still Life grows vegetables and in the cold winter, that's not seeds growing up from the bare ground. Such farming is a combination of art and science.

The farm has been using three high tunnels and an unheated greenhouse. This year, thanks to a NCRS grant, Still Life was able to put up two new unheated greenhouses (i.e. "high tunnels"). With the new infrastructure, the farm was able "to greatly increase the number of winter greens we could offer to our customers, allowing us to bring loads of greens to our winter farmers markets, and offer a Winter Greens CSA Add-on to our Winter CSA customers."

Halley characterized it as "Having winter greens available on the farm is the equivalent of having raspberries or tomatoes in the summer, so this addition was a huge win for the farm and our customers!"

One has to agree as certainly by volume and probably weight, Still Life Farm has the most product at the market.

Spring is now almost upon us and seasonal planting

must happen soon with trays of thousands of seedlings. It's serious business that began when her husband, Curtis purchased the farm in 2010, and Halley came on board in 2014. Son Kip and border collies round out the team.

The farm is in the idyllic town of Hardwick as Halley called it and who would gain-say that.

It is a lovely town, but as a farming "community," it is productive and home to the Farmers Guild of Hardwick. The Guild was formed some years ago, and the Stillmans were part of the impetus.

According to Halley, "The grass-roots non-profit was started to bring awareness of the importance of farming and farmland in Massachusetts, with an emphasis on Hardwick and her surrounding communities. A ton of local food for Massachusetts is being grown, raised and produced right here in Hardwick and the surrounding communities. Our desire is to bring attention to that farming endeavor and encourage people to love and cherish it as much as the farmers do. Keep supporting your local farms, eat local, and protect the small amount of farmland that is still available here in Massachusetts. Keeping it local ensures we have a strong local food system to depend on all the time."

Thus, the devotion to farming and to the town is strong. Both Still Life Farm and Farmers Guild of Hardwick have informative and active websites that reflect that and are worth visiting.

So is the Winter Market with the last day coming soon on March 12.

2025 dog licenses are now available

Licenses must be purchased by March 31 to avoid late fees

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rabies Certificates for each dog must be presented at the time of licensing as in the past. If your dog was licensed in 2024 check the license to see if the Rabies Certificate is current (the information is on your 2024 license); if it is current, sim-

ply come into the office to license in person or license by mail.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Candidates announced for April 14 annual town election

WARE – The following individuals have submitted nomination papers for the annual town election to be held on April 14.

The last day and time to register to vote for the election is Friday, April 4 at 5 p.m.

Selectboard, one position available for three years, Joshua Kusnierz (incumbent); School Committee, two positions available for three years, Brian P. Winslow (incumbent), Diane Reopell, Kevin Paul Slattery and Melissa Ann Whitham; Board of Assessors, one position for three years, Gerald Francis Fountain, Jr. (incumbent); Board of Health, one position available for

three years, Jennifer Lynn McMartin (incumbent); Planning Board, one position available for five years, Alex Bernard Bergeron; Planning Board, one position available for four year (unexpired term), Kenneth James Crosby; Ware Housing Authority, one position available for five years, Nancy J. Brown; and Ware Housing Authority, one position available for on year (unexpired term) Valerie E. Granger.

Nominations were not taken out for the following positions: Park Commissioner, one position available for three years and Cemetery Commissioner, one position available for three years.



Valley Harp Trio plays for the Winter Farmers Market in West Brookfield.

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viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

Should I wait until age 70 to claim Social Security?

**Dear Rusty:**  
I am a married woman, at my full retirement age and the primary earner in my marriage.  
How do I know if I should take my Social Security now or wait till 70? I will lose quite a bit if I take it now. How will it affect my taxes if I take it now while still working a full-time job?  
*Signed: Undecided*

**Dear Undecided:**  
As you apparently already know, waiting until you are 70 to claim Social Security will result in you getting your maximum possible monthly SS retirement benefit. After your full retirement age, you get about 8% more each year you delay claiming up to age 70. But deciding exactly when to claim should consider both your financial needs and, importantly, your life expectancy.  
If you don't urgently need the money now and your life expectancy is at least "average," then waiting until age 70 to claim is usually the right choice. But if you urgently need the money or your life expectancy is less than average (mid-80s for a woman your current age), then claiming before age 70 is usually prudent.  
Regarding taxation, Social Security benefits may be taxable if your combined income from all sources exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status. If you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income including your work income exceeds \$32,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income.  
But if your combined income is over \$44,000, then up to 85% of your SS benefits becomes taxable income (the thresholds are

lower for those who file as a single). So, your full-time work income will likely affect how much of your Social Security benefits are subject to income tax by the IRS.  
In the end, only you can decide when you should claim Social Security. Taxation of benefits may be a factor to consider since you are still working full time (thus more of your SS benefits will be taxable). But waiting longer to claim results in a higher benefit for the rest of your life (your SS retirement benefit will be .667% more for each month you delay, up to age 70). If the "rest of your life" is a long time and you don't urgently need the money, waiting is often the right choice. If not, claiming earlier may be wiser.  
If you want to get a more personalized estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest you use the tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: [www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/).

*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.*

And just like that it's spring

Well, maybe I am getting a bit ahead of myself. This coming weekend the days will feel a little longer because of Daylight Savings, when we "spring forward" an hour.  
The evenings will begin to lure us outside after supper, maybe for a walk or just a look-see around the yard. For, me, one sign of "spring" is starting my pepper seeds indoors.  
They are the earliest transplants I grow at home, and I am so excited to get started!  
Regular readers of the column may remember that I love growing peppers. Perhaps it is because I have the perfect spot- stone edged raised beds - that contain the heat and help them to grow quite successfully.  
By week's end my pepper seeds will have been sown in moist lightweight seed starting mix and placed on bottom heat. Seventy-eight to 80 degrees is perfect for germinating pepper seeds; at those temps I expect to see sprouting in eight days or so.  
Once they sprout, I will place the flats within inches of my shop lights and adjust the lights as they grow. When the second set of leaves form, known as the "true leaves," the pepper seedlings will find their way into six packs or their own two inch pot.  
By late April or early May, they will be given a larger pot once more; usually a four inch pot will do. After a hardening off period, I will transplant them into the ground once it has warmed considerably- usually by June first.  
A couple weeks prior to that I provide black plastic mulch on top of soil to get it pre-heated and ready for these tropic loving plants.

Although there are over 20 species of pepper, just one is known to American gardeners. It goes by the Latin name Capsicum annuum.  
Five categories of peppers fall under this heading, but I typically grow only the sweet types.  
Green when immature, sweet bell peppers ripen to a rainbow of colors: yellow, orange, red, purple, ivory and even chocolate brown. We eat them in the green stage more so than when fully ripe, and that's a shame. A little patience and a week or two longer in the garden will yield a sweet treat.  
If I had to choose only one variety to grow it would be AAS award winner "Carmen," bred right in Maine at Johnny's Selected Seed. Numerous six inch by two and a half inch red peppers make an appearance beginning in late July and continue through the first frost.  
Yes, I did say "late July!" If I'd dare to guess at the total yield of peppers per plant, one dozen would be a fair estimate. They are great fresh, frozen or fire roasted!  
Renee's Garden sells a lovely little pepper by the name of "Yummy Belles." The description is accurate when they say that the plants are "highly productive" and "load up" with lots of little three to four inch bright orange peppers.  
They call them snack peppers, and they are just that. Make a decadent snack by filling with veggie cream

cheese, or stick to healthier eating by adding one or two to a personal salad.  
Paprika peppers also fall into the sweet pepper category. Fruits are up to six inches long and three inches wide at the top and come to a blunt point.  
Dry and grind to make your own paprika spice in a coffee grinder. Indispensable when sprinkled on deviled eggs!  
Frying or pickling peppers go by the names Sweet Banana, Sweet Hungarian, or Cubanelle among others. They are good candidates for frying because of their thin walls and scant water content.  
Sweet Banana was noted in 1941 as an All American Selections winner and is still growing strong 60+ years later!  
Pimento peppers are those used to stuff with green olives. My Italian husband just loves it when his sister Denise makes this holiday treat!  
They grow a squatty three by four inches and are ripe when red or orange, depending on variety. Expect these to take a bit longer than the other types, a full 85 or more days from transplant to harvest.  
If you too are a pepper lover, and want to see the earliest yields possible, get ready, get set, and get sowing those pepper seeds!

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



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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.

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Letter to the Editor  
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**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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Successful Winter Carnival held with support from community

The Annual Winter Carnival was held on Feb. 10 at the Ware Jr./Sr. High School.  
Every year, parents, teachers, staff and students begin the preparations for the school's biggest event. We begin with meetings in September and continue throughout the year.  
This is weeklong event that starts with a theme each day of the week that requires dressing up in character. Our themes this year were, "Frat Party," "Rhyme without A Reason," "Dress Like your Favorite Teacher" and "2000s." The students pulled off these themes fabulously!  
On Saturday, the day begins at 8 a.m. with a day full of events competing against each class. The day ends with a dance with decorations and dancing. Our theme this year was "Game Night."  
We had a wonderful group of parents that put together decorations to make the night amazing. Those awesome parents were Mike and Cathy DiRienzo, Veronica Slaterry, and Elaine Cygan.  
We added Jello Eating Contest, 3-Legged Race and the Egg/Spoon Race to the festivities. Each class decorated the gym for the Cheer

Competition during Girls Basketball game to receive points.  
This event would not be possible without all of our devoted parents, staff and teachers. I want to thank each and every one of them for all their hard work and spending their Saturday off at the school.  
Our advisors coordinate information throughout the year with students, attend meetings and volunteer all day on Saturday. Dan Orszulak, Scott Slaterry, Betty Brown, Jesse and Caitlin Trzpit and Christine Weissman. We had parents volunteering throughout the day too! Thank you, Cathy and Mike DiRienzo, Amy Paul, Heather Gaudreau, and Kathy Radisic! Mr. Vantangoli did an amazing job being our DJ for the dance.  
We are very grateful to Country Bank for their donation towards our DJ services and Lazer's Pizza for donating pizza! We had a full house during the day and over 100 students attended the dance that night. I truly love being a part of this tradition and look forward to it each year!

**Carolanne McGrail**  
Ware PTSSA (Parents Teachers Student Spirit Association)



**your health**

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

When Mom or Dad won't accept help

Scientists have found that humans age dramatically in two bursts - at around age 44, then at around 60. As people get beyond middle age, a fairly significant number don't want to admit to themselves that they are getting older because of a variety of factors:  
Society portrays aging negatively. (At least we have Kathy Bates as "Matlock" showing us a seventy-something smart cookie.)

Psychologically, people associate aging with decline and loss of abilities, so they avoid thinking about it.  
Ageism, the last acceptable form of discrimination, is still present in workplaces.  
Preserving a younger self-image is a boost to the ego.  
This denial manifests itself in many ways - for example, buying a three-story house or getting a 50-pound dog when you're in your 60s or 70s. And I think it's at the root of why, when our parents are getting older, they resist accepting help from their children and their caregivers.

**It's a process**  
We may age more quickly at certain times, but getting older is a process, and processes take time. Which is why the first time you ask Mom or Dad, "Do you want someone to come in a few days a week to help you out?" the answer may very well be, "I'm fine" or "Heck no," or words to that effect.  
So you have to keep at it and not give up at the first sign of resistance, especially if you can see their capacity to perform

Please see **HEALTH**, page 11



# Selectmen approve liquor license for new restaurant

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing for a liquor license application for Tropical Vibes & Grille in West Warren.

This recently opened restaurant in West Warren is seeking a liquor license to be allowed to serve beer, wine and mixed drinks at their establishment. After hearing from the owners, the Selectmen asked them if they understand the responsibility of having a liquor license and the importance of enforcing an identification rule.

The board members reminded the owners of the possible fines they could get if someone who is under the age of 21 in their establishment was served alcohol. The Selectmen also shared that they have heard many positive comments from the public about Tropical Vibes & Grille.

“We hope you stay for a very long time,” said David Dufresne.

The building owner that houses Tropical Vibes, Jim Allard, attended the Board of Selectmen’s meeting and wanted to comment on the business. Allard spoke about how good their food menu is and how much support the owners got in getting the restaurant established in Town.

“I’m happy and pleased everyone helped out quite a bit,” Allard said. “See our town prosper.”

The Selectmen would remind the owners again about the responsibility of having a liquor license and there would be check ins by either the police department or the Alcohol Beverage Commission.

The Selectmen closed the public hearing and moved to a vote to approve the liquor license application. The Selectmen voted unanimously and approved the liquor license for Tropical Vibes & Grille.

**Appointment of police officer**

The Board of Selectmen would discuss the appointment of a full-time police officer.

Police Chief Gerald Millette spoke to the Selectmen and shared information and the job experience of Nicholas Dugre, who is looking to be a full-time police officer for the Warren Police Department. Dugre formerly worked for the town of Palmer and looks forward to serving Warren and brings a lot of experience and knowledge.

“I want to bring my experience over here,” Dugre said.

Dugre was appointed as a full-time police officer and the town will start him as a Step Four on the wage scale for a one-year term.

Reappointment of Building Inspector

The Selectmen would review and discuss the reappointment of William Cantell as the Town’s Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer. Board Secretary Karen Dusty said the board received a letter reminding the Selectmen that Cantell’s term is nearing completion, and he would have to be reappointed.

There were no specific complaints addressed in the letter or heard from the Town Administrator, but the board wanted to know how to approach this decision. Ferrera has heard from one resident that they want more of an opportunity to speak with Cantell in the future.

The Selectmen weren’t sure if they wanted to go with a three-year term. Ferrera told the board it is entirely up to them if they want to expand the Building Inspector’s term that long. Generally speaking, Ferrera said Cantell has done a good job and is described as someone who does things by the book.

The board agreed that one year is best for now just in case if any issues arise or if the board decides to change their philosophy on the process of voting in or reappointing staff in particular roles.

Cantell was reappointed to a one-year term as Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer.

**Selectmen’s FY 26 budget**

The Selectmen continued to review their budget for fiscal year 2026 and to see if any warrant articles are needed for the upcoming Special Town Meeting. Ferrera said he is still waiting for official numbers

from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association for liability and workers comp.

The town is also looking to fix some loose ends with regional dispatch. According to Ferrera, in the last five years the town has received a grant from to state to help offset costs. Ferrera said this year the full value will be assessed.

As for articles, Ferrera said he is still collecting articles from various departments. The Selectmen will talk more about the budget at their next meeting.

Administrator of naloxone boxes

The board had a discussion to appoint an administrator for the naloxone boxes that are in town buildings. Ferrera wanted to find someone who is responsible for maintaining and monitoring these boxes.

The candidate the Town Administrator first thought of was Fire Chief Adam Lavoie, who has knowledge of these naloxone boxes.

The board agreed with Ferrera and appointed Lavoie as administrator of the boxes in the Town buildings.

**Town Administrator’s report**

Ferrera had some items to share in his Town Administrator report. Police contract negotiations are underway with the Patrolmen’s union. The Finance Committee met during their meeting this past week and have welcomed a new member.

Ferrera would talk about the Wrights Mill meeting that took place at the Warren Senior Center. The residents who attended the meeting and spoke with consultants from Weston & Sampson were really engaged in conversation and according to Ferrera, “want to see some development and activity.”

The meeting really highlighted what the town wants to see happen at the Wrights Mill.

“We’re looking to create a relationship with a potential developer to develop that parcel,” Ferrera said.

A final report will be released in June and hopefully decide the future of Wrights Mill.

# CDAC reviews Housing and Economic Development chapters

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Community Development Advisory Committee met in February to discuss a couple chapters of the Master Plan.

The CDAC welcomed Sarah O’Brien of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission back to go over both the housing and economic development chapters. The committee began by first sharing comments on the housing chapter and what the possibilities are for more housing in Warren.

The CDAC seemed satisfied with the housing chapter but wanted more detail on a housing production plan. This plan is a community’s proactive strategy for planning and developing affordable housing by creating a strategy to enable it to meet its affordable housing needs in a manner consistent with Chapter 40B.

CDAC chair and Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson addressed the numerous open space in Warren and any housing concerns could be resolved if specific areas in Warren were looked at.

CDAC member Richard Eichacker shared a thought on Victorian housing and historically significant houses

in Warren. Victorian houses were an attraction in Warren and adds to the character of the town. Eichacker believes if the town goes in the direction of maintaining historical housing, it might be better to have people buy and own homes rather than renting them.

The biggest disadvantage for Victorian housing is those homes are difficult to maintain. Olson mentioned the housing market is really expensive to the point where many individuals can’t afford a house or a rented unit.

Olson, looking at the modern day, said “allow families to move into a multifamily house. Your own space within that house.”

According to the Master Plan that was crafted back in 2006, the plan originally predicted that the population of the town of Warren would be at around 8,000. Eichacker said the population of Warren has lingered around 5,000 in the last several years.

When considering trends that impact the town population Olson believes “development would have to change in the town to draw people in.”

Olson also believes if there was a big increase in housing, there would be a big increase in roads. According to the zoning, houses can’t

be built on top of each other. Olson said Southbridge Road has hundreds of acres that are mostly forestry but could easily be a destination for housing communities.

Olson hopes the Master Plan will promote the idea of how the land can be used.

Olson recalls other towns such as Rutland having multiple areas with built in housing communities. Warren is also viewed as “being in the middle of everything.” The midpoint of the main cities, but according to Olson, the town needs something that would help attract people to the Town.

O’Brien would then ask about the CDAC’s thoughts on the economic development chapter and all the members said they were satisfied with the chapter as written. O’Brien will make a copy of the chapter and highlight what has changed for the CDAC.

For the economic development chapter, O’Brien was looking for submitted photos. With photos of the town, O’Brien thinks adding photos would help spark more interest and viewership of the master plan. CDAC members referred to several local photographers who post a lot of photographs of areas of town on the neighborhood watch

Please see **CDAC**, page 13

# Planning Board reviews potential updates

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board met in February to discuss potential updates to the board’s fee schedule.

Building & Planning Secretary Laura Sherris provided copies of a final draft listing all the board’s fee schedule. The Planning Board members reviewed and discussed any needed adjustments to the fee schedule.

With cost increases currently ongoing, members of the Planning Board feel it is necessary to make some increases to their fee schedule to help cover costs.

“We have to cover the costs,” said Planning Board Chair Richard Eichacker.

One of the changes to the

fee schedule is any approval not required application would be \$75, but there is an additional cost of \$25 per lot.

There were also questions regarding the continuance of a public hearing remaining in the fee schedule. Sherris said it should be placed just in case there are any future public hearings.

Vice Chair Ed Londergan thinks the board is going in the right direction of adjusting these fees as costs continue to rise.

The board would then briefly discuss the subject of gravel pit inspections. The board confirmed that the Building Inspector has authority and conducts annual gravel pit inspections.

Planning Board member Derick Veliz mentioned the Planning Board used to do gravel pit inspections.

Sherris will make a sidenote in the fee schedule that the Building Inspector has the authority when inspecting gravel pits.

According to Sherris there have been no comments of questions submitted to the Planning Board in regards to the revised fee schedule. The board voted and approved of the Planning Board fee schedule. The board now has a new fee schedule in place.

**Old business**

Sherris asked the board for a preference on when she should begin sending letters of reminders for several solar companies who are currently working in town. A repair for Agilitas Solar is currently being monitored and the board wants to connect with Agilitas soon to see how their project is going.



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# 'Travel' to Peru with the library

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Enjoy a free program as you take a virtual tour of Peru at the Ware Library, 37 Main St.

Guests can arrive at the Reading Room on Tuesday, March 11 at 2 p.m. and escape the cold during a live remote tour of Cusco, Peru. Cusco is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the Western Hemisphere.

Cusco was the former capital of the Inca Empire and still retains much of its highly crafted early stone architecture. This historical city is located high in the Andes Mountains and was designated as a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage site in 1983.

This virtual program is free for anyone to attend, no registration is required. For those who want to watch from home, contact the library by emailing warelibrary1881@gmail.com to receive the link.

# Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming March events

HARDWICK – Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, offer books and workshops to try a new hobby or rediscover an old interest.

Knitting for adults will be held on Saturdays at 11 a.m. during March. The following events meet: Paige Writers meet on alternate Tuesdays at 3 p.m., Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m., Cookbook Club on the last Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. and FUNdamentals of Art on Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

People can explore calligraphy on Tuesday, March 11. They will learn from the Uncial alphabet. Other offerings are printmaking, card making, painting, and more or bring your craft and join with others to socialize and share knowhow. Interacting with others is part of the fun.

People may email for information or to register at Director. paigelibrary@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704.

Ireland to America come sing, clap, dance and play spoons with singer, yodeler, and multi-instrumentalist Roger Tincknell on Saturday, March 15 at 1:30 p.m. at the Hardwick Town House. Participants will celebrate with traditional Irish music and culture, lovely ballads, work songs and sing-along interspersed with lively jigs and reels.

Instrumentals performed on guitar, banjo, mandolin, Irish bouzouki, Irish bodhran (drum), harmonica, pennywhistle and spoons. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information, people may call 413-477-6704.

The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Representatives of Weston & Sampson share the notes they got from Warren residents during the Wrights Mill Master Recovery Plan's second public workshop at the Senior Center.

## HARDWICK from page 1

Justine Caggiano shared her report with the Select Board. Caggiano heard from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation regarding a project being done on Route 32 in Hardwick and neighboring towns.

Caggiano said there is rented space currently in the Planning Board office in the upstairs of the municipal building. Caggiano is still waiting on quotes for the tree removal project behind the municipal building.

She is also waiting for quotes for projects such as front door repairs or replacement.

Caggiano said she's been attending the meetings of the Finance Committee and lately their meetings have been focused on the fiscal year 2026 budget.

The town is also looking for someone to write grants for them at eight hours a week. The town is hoping to find someone to start soon.

Caggiano said she's heard back from several health insurance companies and consultants and have informed the Select Board the high increase of insurance policies and costs.

"Rates for health insurance are skyrocketing,"

Caggiano said.

Caggiano is continuing to speak and hopefully meet with consultants soon to find a better health insurance situation.

There are several vacant highway positions available in the town. Fortunately, the town has received some applications, and those applications and references will be reviewed. The Treasurer/Collector position is currently posted on the town website.

**Visitor comments**

At the beginning of the Select Board meeting, there were several visitor comments that were addressed.

One of the biggest topics is regarding repairs to Hardwick Elementary School's roof. Part of the current damage to the roof involves leaks in the cafeteria. The school is looking for reimbursement programs to help with the repairs.

The school staff left a copy of the information for the Select Board to review and see if Capital Planning could help out as well. The idea of switching to a metal roof was brought up to the Select Board and are longer lasting. If solar panels were added to the roof, there would be no additional damage.

## WRIGHTS from page 1

Senior Center for residents to view as they will soon share their input.

Town Administrator James Ferrera began with an introduction and was pleased to be joined by the Board of Selectmen. Ferrera mentioned that the purpose of these workshops and public meetings is to help identify the needs of the community around the Wrights Mill and hopefully "spur some economic development."

The mill is privately owned and Ferrera believes its important for the residents of Warren to share their insight on what the project should focus on when deciding the future of the mill.

Ferrera said having public discussion of this important project is crucial in order to "build a model that the town will support."

Weston & Sampson is an organization that offers interdisciplinary design, engineering, and environmental services that have been orchestrating a plan for the Wrights Mill. Project Manager Sussan Mara returned for the second public workshop at the Senior Center and presented the agenda for the workshop.

The team from Weston & Sampson have come up with three concepts to help understand what can be developed to help the town.

To share what has been discussed and worked on since the first public meeting was David Gamble, architect and urban planner and Principal of Gamble Associates. Gamble said Weston & Sampson has looked over numerous ideas on how the mill can be redeveloped and the three main concepts that could be the future of the Wrights Mill.

After a brief summary of the project, Weston & Sampson has identified key findings that will impact the decision of future development. According to the research, most of the buildings at Wrights Mill are in good condition. The campus of the site is cohesive and there is riverfront access to the Quaboag River.

Some of the buildings are historic and could represent some funding opportunities. One important key finding is the remote location has some challenges. One challenge is no major highway access and another is low traffic access.

Representatives of Weston & Sampson would then discuss concept one, which was called "Community Stitch." This concept focuses on making the area of Wrights Mill a mixed-use area with an ecotourism destination with rural charm that highlights outdoor activities and surrounding parklands.

The features from concept one would include biking, hiking, kayaking, adventure parks, restaurants and cottages. This concept would have selective demolition and 90% of the historical campus buildings would remain.

Gamble says one of the biggest benefits about most of the campus buildings on site is there is good space between them. This concept certainly focuses on the goal Gamble mentioned earlier in the workshop that the town probably wants to preserve as much as they can. Many residents who attended the meeting acknowledged they have been through the Wrights Mill complex in the past.

Concept two is a campus quad that focuses on manufacturing and as an innova-

tion hub. The potential market for this concept would be regional universities, vocational high schools, live-work spaces, daycare, internships, research and development, public safety training, and a blue/green economy.

Concept three is focused on neighborhood expansion. The concept paints the picture of a village-like living atmosphere with residential mostly occupying the mill buildings. This concept would involve more demolition with 35-40% of the historic campus buildings remaining. This concept sees two iconic buildings preserved for residential or mixed-use development.

Representatives of Weston & Sampson divided the residents into groups and each group went over all three concepts and the planners took notes based on the input from the residents. Running the groups were Gamble, Jim Riordan of Weston & Sampson, and Jeanne Boyle of Jeanne Boyle, Consulting, LLC.

Many residents were specific and well detailed on sharing their thoughts on what the benefits and the challenges would be for each concept. At the end of the breakout group session, the representatives summarized the notes they collected about each concept.

Mara believes there is a lot of space for growth and "a big range of alternatives." This public workshop is intended for discussion purposes and will help the planners of Weston & Sampson develop a proposed plan that can be looked at by potential developers who want to purchase and develop the property that is in line with the vision of the town's residents that is supportive with economic growth and community needs.

Gamble believes any possible developer wanting to take up the Wrights Mill would see the project as an important development that impacts the community it is in.

"A developer would want to work with community," Gamble stated.


The residents do see the benefits of each concept, but each concept does highlight some challenges that are impactful to the town. For example, concept two (campus quad) has benefits such as focusing on education and walkable settings. However, it also includes manufacturing and according to some residents there is more risk involved with manufacturing.

## Next steps

The representatives of Weston & Sampson shared what the next steps will be after this public workshop. The information gathered from this presentation will be used to create both a media and marketing plan to attract potential developers and investors. All the comments will be summarized and considered as a final report will be put together.

The final plan will be complete by June of this year. Ferrera thanked the members of Weston & Sampson and the residents who participated in this public workshop as the town gets closer to finding the appropriate path to take to help find the future use of Wrights Mill.

"This is a start of a long journey," Ferrera said. "This helps us with future vehicles to get to what the town wants to do."



## Quabbin Regional School District Should be YOUR CHOICE for School Choice.

### Quabbin Regional Middle High School is hosting a Prospective Middle and High School Students School Choice Open House for Grades 6-12 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 - 8:00 PM

***The night will feature information on:***

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- ♦ AP (Advanced Placement) Courses
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OR EMAIL: **[schoolchoice@qrsd.org](mailto:schoolchoice@qrsd.org)**

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AMVETS Post announces Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship

WARE – The Ware AMVETS Post 2577 will award the annual Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship to a graduating senior residing in Ware regardless of the school district they attend.

Michael was a devoted musician sharing his talents

with the town of Ware. He represented the town at the Quabbin Music Festival, Western District Festival and was a member of the Ware Community Band.

A music graduate of Westfield State he continued to honor the veterans of the

town by playing Taps at their burial ceremony and also at all patriotic and Memorial events.

To apply for this award of \$1,000, you need only to send your application, school transcript and an essay stating your accomplishments

and what your future plans are. Applications are available at your guidance office and must be submitted by May 1.

Please mail to: Ware AMVETS Post 2577, c/o Richard Rucki, 8 First Ave., Ware, MA 01082.

Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics moved to March 22

WARE – The Ware Polar Plunge to benefit the Special Olympics will be held on Saturday, March 22 at West Beach – Beaver Lake.

This event was previously going to be held on March 8, but has been rescheduled due to the ice.

The gates will be open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and there will be food, warm beverages, water, snacks and music provided. Check-in for the plunge is at 11 a.m. and the plunge will take place at noon.

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



Beaver Lake Club Corp offers scholarship

WARE – Beaver Lake Club Corporation of Ware announces its annual Louis H. Healy Scholarship of up to \$1,000.

This scholarship 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 14, and applications must be postmarked by that date. The selected recipient will be named and the scholarships will be awarded in early June.

Applications and information can be obtained by sending an email to [ctrietsch22@gmail.com](mailto:ctrietsch22@gmail.com) or by mailing a request to BLCC: P.O. Box 253, Ware, MA 01082.

Friends of Ware Town Hall offer 2025 lotto calendars

WARE – The Friends of Ware Town Hall announced their annual Lotto Calendar campaign is beginning.

Calendars are \$10 each, with drawings beginning April 1 and ending April 30 and prizes range from \$25-\$500.

Calendars are being sold locally at the following locations: Changes Hair Salon, Crystal Springs Dairy Bar, It's Wine O'clock, Moulton Insurance Agency, Nat Falk, Otto Florist, Platform Hair Design,

Silhouettes on Main, Talk of the Town, This n That 2, Ware Library, Ware River Club, Ware Senior Center, Ware Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office and Wilton Children's Store.

Anyone from out of town wishing to purchase a calendar may do so by mailing a check for \$10 for each calendar to: Friends of Ware Town Hall, P.O. Box 692, Ware, MA 01082.

Quaboag Historical Society seeks scholarship applicants

The Quaboag Historical Society is proud to announce its annual scholarship program, designed to support high school seniors with a passion for history and a commitment to preserving the past.

This \$1,000 scholarship aims to assist students planning to pursue higher education in any historical related field.

The scholarship is only offered to a student who resides in one of the Quaboag Plantation towns of Brookfield, East Brookfield, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Warren, or West Brookfield.

It is offered to a current high school senior planning to enroll in a college or university for the upcoming academic year who will pursue a degree in one of the following fields: education, history, museum studies, anthropology, women's studies, American studies, or archaeology. Students wishing to study closely related fields are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is May 2. For applications or more information, please contact Jeff Robbins by emailing [jeffrobbins@charter.net](mailto:jeffrobbins@charter.net) or calling 508-579-4786.

Cold weather clothing drive ongoing

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

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

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

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Key decisions for retired couples

Once you and your spouse retire, you'll have some decisions to make — decisions that could affect your quality of life in your retirement years. What are these choices?

Here a few of the most important ones:

- **How much should you withdraw from your retirement accounts?** By the time you retire, you may have contributed for decades to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. But once you retire, you'll probably need to draw on these accounts to help pay your living expenses. Consequently, both of you will need to be sure that you don't withdraw so much each year that you risk running out of money later in your retirement. One common guideline is to aim for an annual withdrawal rate of 4%, but everyone's situation is different based on age, pre-retirement income, lifestyle, health, travel plans and other factors. (Once you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later, you will have to take certain amounts, based on your age and account balance, from your traditional IRA and traditional 401(k) each year.)
- **When should you take Social Security?** The answer to this question depends on many factors, such as your age and other sources of income. You can take Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly payments will typically be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will be age 67 if you were born in 1960 or later. And if you can afford to wait even longer, your payments will "max out" when you reach age 70. Your decision on when to take Social Security can affect your spouse — and vice versa. If the lower-earning spouse claims Social Security before their full retirement age — again, age 67 — their own retirement benefit and any potential spousal benefit will be reduced. (Spousal benefits are given to the lower-earning spouse if their full retirement benefit is less than half the other spouse's full retirement benefit.)
- **Should you downsize?** If you live in a big home and your children are grown, you may find it economical to downsize. Of course, this is also an emotional decision, but you may find that you can save money by moving into a smaller home.
- **Where should you live?** Some states are far more expensive to live in than others. You'll want to weigh your decision carefully, considering the cost of housing, food, income and real estate taxes, transportation and health care in whatever state you choose.
- **Have you finished your estate plans?** If not, now is the time. You'll want to work with your legal professional to create whatever documents are needed — a will, living trust, power of attorney — to help ensure your assets go where you want them to go, and that your financial and health care choices will be protected if you become physically or mentally incapacitated.

Of course, many of these same issues will apply if you are single, divorced or widowed. But if you are married, you and your spouse will want to discuss all your choices and then decide which steps to take. Once you've got your plans in place, you may well find that you can fully enjoy your retirement years.

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The Julian family is the proud owners and operators of Deer Meadow Farm and were honored to be the hosts of this year's kickoff. Shown from left are Richard, Debra and Kylee Julian.



State Sen. Jake Oliveira spoke during the ceremonial tree tapping.

MAPLE from page 1

of the Governor's proclamation for Maple Month, which is the month of March.

Deer Meadow Farm is a small, family-run operation with a deep passion for crafting delicious, high-quality maple syrup. Owner and operators Richard and Debra Julian were pleased to be the hosts of the season kickoff for Maple Month.

Many in attendance got to see the sugar house and all the syrup making equipment and got to try a warm syrup sample in addition to refreshments such as donuts and coffee. Guests also got to purchase the some of the best locally made syrup you can find.

Richard Julian was excited about the season starting and said "its been a lot of work" and "it's an honor" to host this kickoff event.

Mass Maple Weekend is right around the corner and takes place on the weekend



State Sen. Jake Oliveira is preparing the bucket during the ceremonial tree tapping at Deer Meadow Farm.

of March 8 and March 9. According to Trust, there are more than 300 maple syrup producers in the state.

Many will have their



Winton Pitcoff drilled the tree for the ceremonial tree tapping.

sugarhouses open to the public this coming Maple Weekend, including Deer Meadow Farm, and will be hosting tours and syrup tastings. Some maple syrup producers have restaurants in addition to their maple sugaring operation.

Those interested can visit [massmaple.org](http://massmaple.org) and view the interactive map that shows maple syrup destinations. The Massachusetts Maple Producers Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of maple sugaring in Massachusetts. Regular members are actively producing maple products or directly related to the maple industry.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira was in attendance during the Mass Maple Kickoff at Deer Meadow Farm and shared some fun stories of when he used to tap maple trees as a child. Oliveira mentioned he likes to cook with maple syrup and has visited many maple farms throughout his life.

Oliveira was a participant in the ceremonial tree tapping at Deer Meadow Farm and was excited to be in Warren for this kickoff.

"It is an honor to be here to start up maple season," Oliveira said. "A small community that has a lot of character."

To read the Governor's Proclamation was Winton Pitcoff, the Deputy Commissioner/Legislative and Policy Director for Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

"This is the opening event of the growing season," Pitcoff said as he read aloud the proclamation that officially reads that the month of March is acknowledged as Mass. Maple Month. The proclamation was handed over to the Julian family of Deer Meadow Farm.

The Julian family has over 500 trees tapped and one of them was going to be used for the ceremonial tree tapping for the kickoff. Deer Meadow Farm is located at 60 Reed St. in Warren and spans 66 acres. Deer Meadow Farm makes delicious maple syrup and sells it out of their sugarhouse on location.

Deer Meadow Farm also sells maple syrup at farmers markets and many local businesses buy their maple syrup, including Laurel Ridge Bed & Breakfast in Warren and Deep Roots Distillery in Sturbridge.

Deer Meadow Farm also takes great pride in being the first and only farm in the state certified by the Massachusetts Audubon Society as a Bird Friendly Maple Producer. Members of Massachusetts Audubon Society, including Jeff Ritterson attended the kickoff and shared information about their organization and recognized Deer Meadow Farm as the "first recognized producer".

Oliveira and Pitcoff did the honors of participating in the ceremonial tree tapping at Deer Meadow Farm. Many guests stuck around and toured the sugarhouse and purchased some delicious maple syrup. Mass. Maple Month is officially underway.

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# SPORTS



Brady Guimond looks to pass near the paint.

## Delay doesn't stop Ware's momentum

WARE – A sinkhole on the westbound lane of the Massachusetts Turnpike delayed the start of Ware's Round of 32 boys basketball matchup with Brighton, a school near Boston. Once the opposition arrived, however,

Ware was in control, jumping out to a lead and scoring a 50-40 win last Friday night. In the Round of 16, it was Ware's turn to travel as they were scheduled to face Fenway High School in Boston earlier this week.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Owen McKeever looks around for an opening to shoot.



Jason Mumper drives down the court.



Parker Tunley tries to get around an opponent.



Juliette Boos crosses midcourt.



Alex Orszulak attempts a three-pointer.



Justin Grout looks to get a pass around the defender.



Jack Gaudreau waits for the jumping block before shooting.



RIGHT: Isabelle Manzano goes for a three-pointer

## Cougars scored tournament-opening win

WARREN – Last Tuesday night, Quaboag girls basketball scored a win in a preliminary round game of the Division 5 State Tournament against Lynn Vocational 52-34. The win brought Quaboag into the Round of 32 against Millbury High School. Highlights from that matchup will be in a future edition.

## Lady Panthers score win in season finale

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE– Celebrating a victory in the final game of the season was a very important thing for Quabbin girls' basketball head coach Evan Barringer and his players. Led by senior co-captain Brooke Austin, who scored a career-high 20 points, the Lady Panthers wrapped up the 2024-25 campaign with a 50-18 non-playoff home win over the Nipmuc Warriors on Feb. 18. "You certainly couldn't have asked for a better last game of the season. A lot of the things that we haven't done very all season, we did do in tonight's game," said Barringer, who coaches every game with the same amount of passion. "All of the seniors also played very well in their last home game." Both girls' basketball teams entered the final game of the season with 5-14 overall records. "Because we graduated four starters from last year's team, I wasn't really sure how many games we would win this season," Barringer added. "Coaching this group



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Mia Ducos attempts to shoot.

of players has been so enjoyable. They've done everything that I asked them to do. I'm very proud of them." Quabbin kicked off the regular season with a pair of non-league road victories against Narragansett Regional (44-31), and Worcester Tech (50-30). The Lady Panthers also defeated South Lancaster Academy, 34-30, in the opening round game of the Gardner High School Holiday Tournament. Their other two victories during the regular season

came against Lunenburg. The home victory against the Warriors in the season finale snapped Quabbin's four game losing streak. Prior to the opening tip-off, Quabbin senior Lianna Leger did an outstanding job of singing the National Anthem. Leger was a member of the girls' soccer team last fall and she'll be playing for the softball team this spring. Austin and Leger, along with classmates Bella Smith, and Christiana Dunn, were



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Bella Smith sends a pass around the perimeter.



Sadie Ouimette sends a pass out of the arc.

standing on the court together for the final time at the start of the game. The Lady Panthers fifth starter was junior co-captain Mia Ducos,

who scored nine of her 12 points during the first half.

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 10



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Madeline Dufresne looks to intercept a rebound.



Maddie Potvin looks to pass.



# State tourney berth spoiled for Quabbin boys basketball

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE — All the Quabbin Regional boys' basketball team needed to do to clinch a berth in the Division 3 state tournament for the first time since 2022 was defeat the Groton-Dunstable Crusaders in the final game of the regular season.

Things looked very promising for the Panthers who held a 30-19 halftime lead. It was a very different story during the second half.

The Crusaders scored 46 second half points with the help of 13 three-pointers, and they ended the Panthers post-season dreams with a 65-50 road victory on Feb. 18.

"Give Groton-Dunstable a lot of credit for coming out and playing a great second half against us. They increased their defensive intensity, and we just didn't match it," said Quabbin head coach Dennis Dextradeur. "We gave up close to 50 points in the second half, which is something that we haven't done very often in the past."

Dextradeur, who completed his 46th season as a varsity basketball coach, has won a total of 391 games as the Panthers boy's coach. He also won 84 games as the girls' varsity coach giving him a total of 475 career victories.

While Dextradeur is planning on returning to the sidelines next year, it was the final high school basketball game for Quabbin seniors Jaxon Warburton, Bryce Venne, Zeke Santoro, Quinn Geary, and Kyle Clark.

"Our five seniors didn't play basketball for two years when they were in middle school because of the COVID-19 pandemic," Dextradeur said. "After winning only four games in each of the past two seasons, they helped restore our tradition and our culture this year. I'm very proud of what the seniors did for our basketball program. They've worked



Kyle Clark chases down a rebound.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Brady Patchen drives toward the basket.

very hard and they're passing the baton to the younger players now."

Quabbin finished the 2024-25 campaign with a 9-11 overall record. The Panthers won eight of their first eleven regular season games. They then only won one of their final eight games.

The last time that the Panthers qualified for the Division 3 state tournament was in 2022. They lost a preliminary round game at Belchertown High School by the final score of 58-46.

Geary, who scored 10 points against the Crusaders (9-10), is the only remaining player from that team.

Clark led the way offensively in last Tuesday's home game with a team-leading 16 points. He just missed recording a double-double as he pulled down nine rebounds.

Venne finished the contest with five points, which all came during the first quarter. Warburton and Santoro each scored two points.

Rounding out the scoring column for the home team were sophomore Jacoby Dilling (9 points), and freshman Brady Patchen (6 points).



Jacoby Dilling attempts to keep the ball inbounds.

The Panthers first half points were evenly spread out among five different players.

Clark and Dilling scored seven points apiece in the first half. Patchen contributed with six points, while Geary and Venne each scored five points.

In the closing seconds of the opening quarter, a Dilling put-back hoop gave the Panthers a 16-9 advantage.

After making a spin move in the lane, Clark scored an inside hoop pushing the

Panthers lead into double digits (19-9) for the first time with 6:35 left in the second quarter.

With less than two minutes remaining in the first half, the Panthers built a 30-16 lead following a Patchen inside basket.

The Crusaders closed out the first half with senior Zach Romich burying his third 3-pointer of the game from the top of the key.

Romich, who scored 13 of his team's 19 points in the first half, recently scored his



Jacoby Dilling gets around the pressure for a shot.

1,000th career point. He put on an incredible offensive show during the second half, as he made five more shots from beyond the three-point arc giving him a game-high 32 points.

Groton-Dunstable junior

Finn Frazier also made six 3-pointers after halftime leading to his 18 points. No other G-D player scored more than six points in the contest.

The Crusaders made a total of 22 field goals and 16 of them were three-point shots.

After Romich began the second half by hitting a trey, the Panthers answered with a Clark inside basket and a Warburton lay-up following a steal.

The Panthers 34-22 lead slipped away very quickly, as the visiting team scored the final 21 points of the third quarter.

The Crusaders, who made a total of seven 3-pointers during the third quarter, entered the final eight minutes of the non-playoff contest holding a 43-34 lead. The visiting team continued to pull away during the final quarter, as they made six more 3-pointers.

Dextradeur is really hoping that his team will be playing in the state tournament a year from now.

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**Giant Raffle:** Many fishing items, a complete fly-tying kit. Bucket raffles for custom tied flies. Door prize is a fly rod combo.

Refreshments/Food for sale

Mention where you saw this advertisement or show your WMFF membership card and get \$1.00 off your admission

### PANTHERS from page 9

The other senior listed on the Quabbin roster is Makaylah Kingsbury, who didn't attend the home game because she was on vacation.

"The five seniors are very special to me," Barringer said. "There were members of our Central Mass. championship team last year, but they didn't get to play in many games. Each of them had signatures games this year. We're like a big family and I'm really going to miss them a lot."

The only time that the Lady Panthers trailed in the game was at 2-0 less than a minute into the first quarter.

With 6:55 left in the opening quarter, Dunn buried a 3-pointer from the left corner, which started an 8-0 run. The 3-pointer was her only points of the game.

After an Austin put-back hoop, Ducos made a free throw and a lay-up giving the home team an 8-2 lead with 4:50 remaining in the quarter.

The Lady Panthers entered the second stanza holding a 10-2 advantage.

The duo of Austin and Ducos combined to score all nine of Quabbin's second quarter points.

The home team headed into the locker room with a 19-5 advantage.

With a little more than three minutes left in the third quarter, Smith, who finished the contest with seven points, banked home a 3-point shot from the right side pushing the Lady Panthers lead to twenty points (29-9) for the first time. Her father, Brian,



Christiana Dunn tries to block a pass.

tinued to pull away.

"I'm very happy for Brooke," Barringer said. "She has battled a lot of injuries during the past couple of years and is a very tough kid. Coaches aren't supposed to have favorite players, but Brooke is one of my all-time favorites. She's just a great kid."

Austin is planning to play soccer at Anna Maria College in the fall. Barringer is also hoping she joins the Amcats women's basketball team next winter.

The Lady Panthers' other two scorers were sophomore's Abby Rogowski, who scored her six points in the second half, and Izzy Doty (2 points).

The other members of the Quabbin girls' basketball team were sophomore's Aubrey Thorpe and Sadie Quimette.



**Brooke Austin goes for the layup.**

is one of the Lady Panthers assistant coaches.

Julia Hamel was also an assistant coach this season.

Austin scored 13 of her points during the fourth quarter, as the Lady Panthers con-



sports

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night  
Commercial Elks  
League

PALMER – It is week three of the final 10-week round for the Commercial Elks League.

After the first two weeks, there is a tie for first place between Team BK, Gutter Mouths, Compression and Last in Line. All four teams have a record of 5-3, however the tie is broken by way of team's high single and high series (three-game total). Out of the four teams, Team BK has the high team single of 446 and the high series of 1212.

The Daft Kings bowled against the Mailmen during week three of the final round. In game one, Daft Kings defeated Mailmen by a score of 402-386. Matt Bertelli of Daft Kings bowled great by putting up a

score of 129.

In game two, The Mailmen salvaged a win over the Daft Kings by a score of 381-378. The high game was bowled by Bryan Surprise, 111. Bertelli followed up with a 104.

In game three, The Mailmen pulled off another victory over the Daft Kings, 364-350. Bertelli had the highest series out of all the bowlers in the match with a 319. Just two pins shy of 317 was Bryan Surprise of Mailmen.

The Mailmen won total pinfall by one pin, with a final score of 1131-1130. Mailmen take three points out of a possible four.

Team BK bowled against Compression in an effort to break the 5-3 tie for first place between them and two other teams. In game one, Team BK won a close game by a score of 365-362. Jason Dominick of Compression had a spare to fill in the tenth and needed a seven or higher to win, he only filled the spare with three.

In game two, Team BK

were victorious again by a score of 418-371. Paul Nothe of BK bowled his best game of the season with a 130 to help the team increase their lead.

In game three, Compression won the last game by a score of 384-380. Team BK won total pinfall and a total of three points out of a possible four, 1163-1117. After this match, Team BK's record is bumped up to 8-4.

The Gutter Mouths bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Last in Line was victorious by a score of 356-342. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line bowled a 117 to get the win.

In game two, Gutter Mouths were the winners by a score of 396-356. Stephen Manolakis of Gutter Mouths bowled a 120. In game three, Last in Line won the last game by a score of 346-338. Navarro had the highest series of 314.

Gutter Mouths won total pinfall with a final score of 1076-1058. Each team received two points.

HEALTH from page 4

the activities of daily living (ADLs) is becoming diminished.

What are the activities of daily living?

ADLs are an indicator of a person's ability to function independently. They include eating, bathing, toileting -- tasks needed to keep a body healthy and safe. ADLs can also include more complex tasks like managing money, managing medications, cooking and doing laundry, which are important for independent living.

If a parent has difficulty performing one or more ADLs, they may end up living in unsafe conditions and have a poor quality of life unless they receive assistance.

ADLs can be empirically observed and measured, which takes emotions and assumptions out of the equation. You can also report to Mom's or Dad's doctor if you observe difficulty with ADLs, so the doctor can have that conversation with them.

Most importantly, you want to keep an eye on ADLs before there's an accident, injury or financial mishap: a stove or oven left on, a fall in the bathroom, or bills going unpaid.

How to approach "the talk"

Getting a senior to accept help is sometimes not easy, but it's good to point out to them that they're in control now. There may come a time when the decision to accept help is no longer in their hands.

Some general guidelines:

Involve others, such as their doctor. What may be difficult to hear coming from a child may be more acceptable from a third party.

Listen to their concerns and feelings. Show that you understand their thoughts about the perception of aging.

Hear them out about their wishes and focus on the options they seem interested in. "If you could wave a magic wand, how would you make your life better?"

Then ask questions: Find out why they might be reluctant to accept help, such as fears about the loss of independence or the cost.

Give them choices: Allow them to help make decisions about the type of help they would be most comfortable with, and from whom. Would they be OK with a family member helping out but not someone from a care agency? How would they feel about having meals delivered a few times a week?

Point out how today's technological solutions can

maintain independence. Have DoorDash deliver the groceries and a rideshare take you to the doctor.

Reframe the meaning of independence: Remind them that asking for help doesn't mean they're becoming less independent, but rather embracing interdependence.

As much as you can, let Mom or Dad control the decision-making. But the fact is that at some point, children and caregivers may have to assume control. It's important to have in place powers of attorney for health care and financial matters.

Finally, keep in mind that you'll be next in line for this conversation with your children or caregivers. How would you want someone to speak to you, and how accepting will you be when someone says, "I think you need help?"

Teri(Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives. Summer camp benefits children in a myriad ways.

- Campers continue to socialize throughout summer. Socializing isn't just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That

can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they're used to.

- Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many tend to feature children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds.

- Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much

of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.

- Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time.

There's no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.

Camp by the numbers

Each year, campers of all ages head off to nearby recreation centers or travel to rural areas to claim their cabins and bunks. Here's a deep look at some of the statistics surrounding summer camps.

**1,467:** The number of day camps in the United States run by the YMCA. - YMCA

**\$3.91 billion:** The peak market size of the summer camp sector in the United States in 2019, before stay-at-home-restrictions affected statistics in subsequent years. - Statista

**14 million:** The average number of American summer camp registrants each year. - American Camp Association

**1 week:** The most popular session length for summer camp, although the majority of independent camp operators offer four-, six- and eight-week sessions. - American Camp Association

**50:** The percentage of respondents whose camps charge \$1,000 or more per session, with most programs costing between \$1,000 and \$1,500. - CampMinder

**58 to 63:** The percentage of female staff members at overnight and day camps, respectively. - American Camp Association

**200 to 300:** The average number of campers served each session. - CampMinder

**7 in 10:** The number of camps that run 10 or more different programs. - CampMinder

**79:** The percentage of camps that maintain a screen-free environment. - CampMinder

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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Feb. 23-March 4, the Ware Police Department responded to 29 miscellaneous calls, 18 administrative calls, 13 traffic violations, 18 emergency 911 calls, four motor vehicle accidents, one safety hazard, six harassments, four thefts/larcenies, two trespasses, one vehicle fire, one structure fire, 14 animal calls and 46 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

**Sunday, Feb. 23**  
3:36 a.m. Bylaw Violation, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
4:23 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Parker Street, Assist Given  
10:30 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, South Street, Services Rendered  
11:24 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Fisherdick Road, No Action Required  
12:43 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, River Road, Unfounded  
12:49 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Coffey Hill Road, Dispatch Handled  
2:57 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Services Rendered  
5:07 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Barnes Street, Services Rendered  
5:38 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, West Street, Services Rendered  
8:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Report Made

**Monday, Feb. 24**  
2:44 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Otis Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued  
10:14 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Could Not Locate  
5:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Tuesday, Feb. 25**  
3 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Vigeant Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
8:56 a.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Vigeant Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
1:07 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Palmer Road, Could Not Locate  
6:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Report Made  
7:32 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Coffey Hill Road, Dispatch Handled  
10:45 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, North Street, Criminal Complaint Request

**Wednesday, Feb. 26**  
3:30 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Homecrest Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued  
3:44 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Parker Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
3:51 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
3:58 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Pulaski Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
4:03 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Park Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
4:10 a.m. Bylaw Violation, High Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
9 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Greenwich Road, Report Made  
9:43 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Unfounded  
10:05 a.m. Vehicle Fire, Babcock Tavern Road, Extinguished  
9:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Thursday, Feb. 27**  
2:37 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Otis Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued  
6:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
7:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Stret, Arrest Made  
Arrest: Geoffrey J. Ralls, 33, East Longmeadow  
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Firearm Violation with Three Prior Violent/Drug Crimes; Firearm Violation with Three Prior Violent/Drug Crimes (Ammunition); Firearm, Carry Without License Loaded c269 s.10(n); Drug, Possess Class E; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class B (Cocaine)  
5:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
5:43 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised  
8:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Friday, Feb. 28**  
7:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
8:46 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, East Street, Report Made  
10:56 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated  
11:03 a.m. Structure Fire,

Maple Avenue, Extinguished  
12:33 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Dispatch Handled  
12:36 p.m. Drugs, North Street, Advised  
1:06 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, High Street, Advised  
7:47 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Report Made  
7:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Saturday, March 1**  
1:20 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Services Rendered  
3:59 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Dispatch Handled  
5:37 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Hillside Village, Report Made

**Sunday, March 2**  
2:36 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Prospect Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
4:13 p.m. Safety Hazard, Shady Path, Services Rendered  
7:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
8:54 p.m. Warrant Service, Main Street, Arrest Made  
Arrest: Darrin Bucknam, 21, Ware  
WMS Warrant; WMS Warrant; WMS Warrant

**Monday, March 3**  
2:44 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Prospect Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
3:38 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Eddy Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
8:58 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Gould Road, Report Made  
9:05 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated  
10:19 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Shoreline Drive, Services Rendered  
12:34 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Arrest Made  
4:01 p.m. Warrant Service, Hillside Village, Arrest Made  
Arrest: Daniel Kendall, 53, Ware  
WMS Warrant; Resist Arrest  
6:16 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Church Street, Services Rendered  
7:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Tuesday, March 4**  
3:50 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Warren Police Log

During the weeks of Feb. 23-March 1, the Warren Police Department responded to 132 building/property checks, 84 community policings, 12 emergency 911 calls, one safety concern, two fire/smoke investigations, one fire/illegal burn and 23 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

**Sunday, Feb. 23**  
11:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
2:41 p.m. Allergic Reaction, Brimfield Road, Mutual Aid Assist  
3:29 p.m. Safety Concern, Bemis Road, Negative Contact  
7:02 p.m. Fire Investigation, Maple Street, Investigated  
8:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

**Monday, Feb. 24**  
8:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
8:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made  
8:53 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Constitution Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
5:57 p.m. Falls, Mechanic Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

11:15 p.m. Suspicious Person, Brimfield Road, Report Filed

**Tuesday, Feb. 25**  
1:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
8:19 a.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Trudeau Drive, Report Filed  
12:05 p.m. Sick/Unknown, River Street, Transported to Hospital

**Wednesday, Feb. 26**  
9:17 a.m. Falls, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
4:55 p.m. Seizures, Coy Hill Road, Transported to Hospital

**Thursday, Feb. 27**  
11:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
4:54 p.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, Reed Street, Investigated

**Friday, Feb. 28**  
8:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Dean Street, Written Warning  
9:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
9:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
11:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Feb. 24-March 3, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 68 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, one traffic control, 11 emergency 911 calls, nine citizen assists, two assist other agencies, four complaints, four safety hazards, one investigation, one identity theft, one illegal dumping, two fire alarms, four motor vehicle accidents, one trespass, four animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, Feb. 24**  
9:29 a.m. Identity Theft, Pine Street, Officer Handled  
10:09 a.m. Past Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Spoken To  
10:22 a.m. Parking Complaint, Grove Street, Spoken To  
12:22 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Spoken To  
5:28 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Maple Street, Officer Handled  
6:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Officer Handled

**Tuesday, Feb. 25**  
6:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning  
8:30 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Officer Handled  
8:59 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital  
1:23 p.m. 911 Motor

Vehicle Accident, Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
3:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Report Taken  
4:28 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Street, Services Rendered

**Wednesday, Feb. 26**  
6:15 a.m. Safety Hazard, New Braintree Road, Dispatch Handled  
3:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
4:10 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered  
4:12 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Church Street, Merge  
4:58 p.m. Complaint, Broad Street, Officer Handled  
5:15 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Upper Church Street, Services Rendered  
8:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Joslyn Road, Officer Handled

**Thursday, Feb. 27**  
7:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
12:38 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Main Street, Officer Handled  
6:02 p.m. Fire Alarm, Prospect Street, Investigated

**Friday, Feb. 28**  
4:54 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Off Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital  
5:19 a.m. Safety Hazard, New Braintree Road,

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.

**Complaint**  
12:23 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Dunham Road, Report Filed  
2:18 p.m. Overdose/Poisoning, Keys Road, Transported to Hospital

**Saturday, March 1**  
7:35 a.m. Falls, Presidential Circle, Mutual Aid Transport  
9:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
9:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
11:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridge Street, Criminal Complaint  
1:04 p.m. Fire/Smoke Investigation, Bridge Street, Investigated

Dispatch Handled  
1:40 p.m. Welfare Check, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital  
5:48 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Spoken To  
9:10 p.m. Complaint, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

**Saturday, March 1**  
1:58 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Ruggles Hill Road, Services Rendered  
9:56 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Telephone, Officer Handled  
12:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Spoken To  
1:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Services Rendered  
3:37 p.m. Fire Alarm, Upper Church Street, Services Rendered  
5:22 p.m. Complaint, Jackson Road, Officer Handled


**Sunday, March 2**  
10:43 a.m. Assist Citizen, Creamery Road, Officer Handled  
12:55 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Officer Handled  
1:38 p.m. 911 Trespass, Taylor Hill Road, Services Rendered  
4:10 p.m. Investigation, Church Lane, Officer Handled  
5:23 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital  
6:50 p.m. 911 Neighbor Dispute, Prospect Street, Spoken To

Police seek information about shooting incident

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Feb. 16, the West Brookfield Police Department responded to a report of shots fired at a Lake Street residence.  
Fortunately, the victim was not struck.  
As part of an ongoing investigation, West Brookfield Police Department is asking for the public's help. They are looking for information about an older-model green Chevrolet pickup truck that was in the

area of Cottage Street, Lake Street, and Wickaboag Valley Road around 2:50 p.m. on Feb. 16.  
At this point in the investigation, police believe but cannot yet confirm that the weapon used may have been a BB or airsoft gun. Additionally, police have not been able to confirm whether this incident was a random act, targeted for other reasons, or related to the victim's political views.  
The West Brookfield

Police Department is also aware that a neighboring community experienced a similar incident on the same date, and they are actively working to determine if there is any connection between the two cases.  
If you live in the area and have road-facing security cameras, please check your footage from that time. If you captured images of what may be the suspect vehicle, please send them to CCulver@Wbrookfield.com.



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obituaries

Robert L. Goodwin, 94

ORIENTAL, N.C. – Robert L. Goodwin, age 94, of Oriental and Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, and a retired electronics engineer, died Jan. 31, 2025, from vascular disease in Grantsboro, North Carolina.

He had formerly lived in Syosset, Long Island, New York and in Rockville, Maryland before moving to Oriental, North Carolina in 2000.

Born on June 22, 1930, he was the son of the late, George H., Sr. and Amelia F. (Fanny) Goodwin, and was a native of Ware.

Mr. Goodwin was Valedictorian of the Ware High School Clas of 1947. During the Korean War, he served in the U.S. Navy as an Electronics Technician. In 1958, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree cum laude in Electrical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; he also did graduate studies at what later became the Polytechnic University of NY.

Mr. Goodwin spent his entire professional career in military-electronics research and development.

He worked at several industrial organizations in New York and Maryland from 1958 to 1972. Then, until 1990, he was a Senior Staff Consultant at the US Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), the Navy’s corporate research center in the

Washington, D.C. area. He originated, secured funding for, and directed a number of projects in broadband microwave receivers, precision direction-finding, as well as several novel pattern recognition programs for radar-signal identification. In this latter field, he held four classified/U.S. Government patents, as well as one civil U.S. patent.

Mr. Goodwin received the Navy Superior Civilian Service award from the Chief of Naval Research in 1982 for his work in pulsed-radar signal identification. While at NRL, he wrote over 25 classified reports, served on both U.S. and international working groups in signal processing, and received four Allen R. Berman Research Publication Awards.

Retiring from government service in 1990, Mr. Goodwin then formed Rho-Gamma Associated, Inc., consulting to government agencies on military-electronics problems. He ended this work in 1995. Later, he returned to military-electronics consulting activities from 2001 to 2004.

In 1998, his prior work in radar-signal identification was honored at the NRL 75th Jubilee Celebration, having been named as one of the “NRL’s seventy-five most innovative programs” since the Laboratory’s founding in 1923. He was a member of several honorary fraternities:

Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi and Tau Beta Pi (respectively) scholastic, research, and engineering. Mr. Goodwin was also a Life Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Mr. Goodwin was predeceased by his wife, Virginia Ann Jenks-Goodwin of Oriental, North Carolina, whom he married in 2000. His first wife, the former, Dorothy May Sargent of Harford Connecticut, died in 1996. His sister, Alba Mae Goodwin-White, formerly of Watertown, died in 1988.

Mr. Goodwin is survived by a daughter, Carol Marie Mancini of Harrisburg, North Carolina; a son, James Edward Goodwin of Middletown, Maryland; his brother, George Hamilton Goodwin, Jr. of Topsham and Waterford, Maine; and two nieces, Susan Goodwin and Nancy Goodwin-Brown. He is also survived by three sons of Mrs. Jenks-Goodwin from an earlier marriage, Charles W. Snader of Chesapeake, Virginia, Glen F. of Pollocksville, North Carolina, and James A. of Kinston, North Carolina.

Online condolences may be made to [www.danielssadlerfunerals.com](http://www.danielssadlerfunerals.com)

Arrangements provided by Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home & Crematory, Alliance, North Carolina.

John L. Perron Sr., 82

WARREN – John L. Perron Sr., 82, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Feb. 27 with his family by his side.

Born Oct. 26, 1942, to Walter and Rose (Messier) Perron he was one of 11 children.

He attended Springfield Trade School and went on to spend many years in the mobile home industry. He retired as a machine operator from Titeflex.

He served the town as a volunteer firefighter and was an Assistant Fire Chief of the Warren Fire Department in the 1970’s.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 63 years, Judith (Clough) Perron; two daughters, Michele Mues and her husband Christopher of Warren, Gail Pluta and her partner Ron Botta of West Brookfield; one son, John Perron Jr. and his wife Sandy of Warren; a sister, Shirley Homans of Ludlow; five grandchildren, Casey Mues, Lisa Distler, Nick Pluta, Kylie Pluta-Siniscalchi and Jake Perron; 10



great-grandchildren; brother-in-law Donald Robidoux of Warren; and many nieces and nephews. Along with his parents he is preceded in death by a daughter Deborah Olearcek; and siblings, Walter, Irene, Esther, Frances, Donald, Theresa, Rose, Margaret, and George.

He enjoyed his weekly phone calls with his life-long friend Pit, vacationing at Hampton Beach, playing cards on Saturday nights and going to the casinos. He loved having all his grandchildren and great grandchildren around.

A Visitation Period will take place on Friday, March 7, 2025, from 9-10:30 a.m. in Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. A Funeral Mass will be offered on Friday, March 7, 2025, at 11 a.m. in St. Stanislaus Church, Main Street, West Warren.

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



DRIVE from page 1

ters and quickly heard back from the Rhode Island Blood Center, which was eager to be involved.

“They set it up quick and easy,” Frost said. “They were really great.”

Frost said Rhode Island Blood Center is a subset of New York Blood Center and serves the greater New England region.

By 2:30 p.m. on the day of the blood drive, Rhode Island Blood Center had collected 52 pints of blood from students, school staff and members of the community. Frost said they had 89 people sign up in advance, which was just one person shy of the 90 per-

son maximum for the day, not including walk-ins.

Frost said she also had 18 students sign up to volunteer during the blood drive; with each one earning community service hours.

She said a number of the student volunteers are interested in joining the medical field after graduation and they were able to receive some firsthand knowledge from the nurses on staff with Rhode Island Blood Center.

“This gave them good insight,” Frost said.

After graduation, Frost plans to attend college in New York and study art history and anthropology.

**About Rhode Island Blood Center**

Rhode Island Blood Center was founded in 1979 as a nonprofit community blood center. For over 40 years, we have been the primary supplier of blood and blood products to patients being cared for in hospitals throughout Rhode Island and the New England area.

As part of New York Blood Center Enterprises, with national reach through our many divisions, the Rhode Island Blood Center proudly serves as a vital community lifeline dedicated to helping patients and advancing global public health.

For more information, visit [ribc.org](http://ribc.org).

CDAC from page 5

Facebook page.

In the next CDAC meeting, O’Brien will go over chapter reviews for transportation and town services. Discussion on roads will be included in transportation.

**Green Communities and One Stop**

Town Administrator James Ferrera briefly spoke with the CDAC about Green Communities and Community One Stop for Growth funding. Ferrera

mentioned there will be a weatherization project being done soon at the Shepard Municipal Building. Contractors will be in the building and will have to have access to the offices.

Furthermore, the Senior Center will be getting a new HVAC unit installed at the end of March. The town is also looking into Community Development Block Grant project funding for the doors and loading dock floor.

Ferrera mentioned there will also be radon testing

taking place.

For One Stop for Growth, the Town is also receiving engineering services for Pulaski Street and ideas for the project are being shared by Weston & Sampson, the company currently working on plans for the Wrights Mill Master Recovery Plan.

“There are a lot of projects going on,” Ferrera said as the CDAC reviews the Master Plan chapters and hopefully identifies future, possible projects.

SCHOOL from page 1

credibility of this person,” Lovato said.

Winslow moved to hire retired judge Mary-Lou Rup to serve as an independent investigator of the issues raised by the Ware Teachers Association as well as concerns around the hiring of Clark Consulting and its funding. The committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Winslow said the committee will discuss the scope of the investigation at the next meeting, after Rup has been secured to lead the investigation.

The committee also discussed if there was a need to meet in executive session to discuss these allegations with both Lovato and the Ware Teachers Association while the investigation was ongoing.

Winslow said he believes the independent investigation should happen first before any meetings occurred in executive session.

“Given the environment we’re in, executive session would probably be something that would be very difficult to do at this point,” he said.

School Committee Vice-Chair Aaron Sawabi said since both parties are willing to meet in executive session, it could help improve the dynamics in the school district while the investigation is ongoing.

“Let’s fix this...we’ve got a lot of issues to deal with and we need to get back on track,” Sawabi said.

School Committee member Julie Slattery said she also agrees that meeting in executive session could be beneficial to moving things forward.

School Committee member Michael DuBois said at this point, he believes the process should be left to the independent investigator and that an executive session meeting should have been held months ago.

Sawabi said having an executive session meeting would allow Lovato to respond to some of the allegations raised against him by the Ware Teachers Association.

Lovato said he is willing to meet either in executive session or during an open meeting, if necessary.

“That facts need to get out on the table,” he said. “I haven’t been able to present any supporting documentation that would counter what I consider to be false allegations.”

Ware Teachers Association President Amber Boucher said the union is not interested in meeting in executive session and they would prefer to have the independent investigator look into the union’s concerns.

“We are not interested in meeting in executive session...we are long past that,” she said. “We feel that an

independent investigator is the best route for all parties concerned.”

Special education audit

Desjardins said the auditor was away this past week, but appointments are being made with teachers who wanted to be interviewed.

Lovato said the auditor will be speaking with all special education staff, principals and assistant principals.

Lovato said the auditor identified that a number of evaluations from the start of the 2023-2024 school year were not research-based in the initial evaluation process. He said this is the time that both himself and Director of Student Services Dr. Ginger Coleman started their jobs with the school district.

“There was a major shift that occurred in January of 2024 where we really made a big difference on the evaluations and that’s where they started to get cleaned up,” Lovato said. “As of today, we’re pretty locked and loaded in that area in regard to a good way.”

Lovato said the auditor also noted that some IEPs did not meet the timelines at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year but noted a “significant difference” by January of 2024.

The completed audit report is expected to be completed by the end of March.

**Reenactment of Lafayette’s tour**

The Ware Historical

Commission requested use of the school facilities on June 14 for a historical reenactment to be held on the front lawn.

Historical Commission member Kathleen Galford said this will be a reenactment of the tour of Lafayette. The event will take place by the Lafayette elm tree, which was planted by the Historical Commission nine years ago.

“We felt that it was appropriate to hold the celebration at the school because the tree is there,” Galford said.

Galford said Lafayette was a Revolutionary War hero serving under General Washington. The event will also be attended by the American Friends of Lafayette, which is recreating his tour throughout the eastern seaboard.

Galford said that tree replaced the original tree that Lafayette rested under, which was blown over during a hurricane in 1923. A monument noting the site’s historical significance is located by the tree.

“Ware was lucky enough to have him visit in 1825 on June 14th, so it’s exactly 200 years to the day,” she said. “Because he visited Ware the first time around, we have been asked to participate and host him for a few hours, as the reenactment takes place in Ware. There’s not that many towns that he visited... this is a great honor to be asked to participate and to be part of this reenactment.”

The event will be held inside the gym in case of rain.

The School Committee voted to approve the use of facilities and waive the fee.

**Comments and concerns**

The parent of a middle school student said she was concerned about the lack of a vice principal in the middle school as that person will be moved to the high school.

Boucher said the union, parents, students and community members have all raised concerns about Lovato, and they have not had the same time as him to speak during School Committee meetings.

“We are not alone in raising concerns about the superintendent,” she said.

A senior at the high school commented that the former principal is still listed on his transcript, instead of the current principal.

**Superintendent’s report**

Lovato said the committee will need to discuss an update about the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exam, after it was removed as a requirement for graduation. He said he will forward the recommendations put forth by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to the committee members.

“Even though they’ve removed MCAS, they are leaning toward the direc-

tion of requiring competency exams or some formal assessment and they’re also talking about aligning some of the course work,” he said.

Lovato said the state has put out an email stating that graduation numbers for the last academic year are almost ready to be released.

“We’re pretty excited to get those numbers,” Lovato said. “We are on the right path for every single one of them. That includes scores, attendance, graduation, drop-out...over the last two years we have a steady line of increases in all these areas.”

Lovato said the principals have all presented their budgets for fiscal year 2026.

He said they are looking to present a level-service funded budget to the town, but they are still waiting for some figures from the town regarding insurance rates. He said they are anticipating an increase there.

Lovato credited Coleman with ensuring that transportation rates remain consistent along with out of district costs and maintaining required services.

Lovato also congratulated the girls’ and boys’ basketball teams for their successful seasons.

**Next meeting**

The next School Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11.

Death notices

**Goodwin, Robert L.**  
Died Jan. 31, 2025

**Perron Sr., John L.**  
Died Feb. 27, 2025  
Services March 7, 2025

Ware River News  
OBITUARY  
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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## HELP WANTED

**Executive Director for Community Survival Center** in Indian Orchard  
Resume and references to **survivalcenterio@gmail.com**  
Need experience in Management, Public Outreach, and Social Media  
Four-day work week; 5 weeks vacation; 5 days sick/personal time; holidays \$60,000 salary

**LOCAL TREE SERVICE** looking for climber and ground person. Must have driver's license in good standing. Call **413-507-1949**.

## HELP WANTED

**Worthington Police Department**  
**Full-time Police Officer**

The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for **Full-time Police Officer**. Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license. They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.

This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined, possess a community policing philosophy and live in or near Worthington. This position has the potential to be elevated to Police Chief.

Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to:  
**Worthington Police Department**  
**P.O. Box 247**  
**Worthington, MA 01098**  
Or via email to:  
**sboard@worthington-ma.us**  
Subject line: Employment

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public notices

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT  
TOWN OF WARE  
FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT  
13 NORTH STREET

he Town of Ware invites sealed Bids for the Façade Improvement Project at 13 North Street. The Façade Improvement Project includes the furnishing of all labor, equipment and materials required to complete the installation of vinyl siding, replacement of exterior stairs to the 2nd floor, and replacement of 2nd floor door and windows.

This project is being administered by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), FY21 Ware Community Development Block Grant Program.

Contract documents including detailed specifications will be available electronically beginning March 5, 2025 from 9:00 AM through the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Electronic copies may be obtained by contacting Sue Ortiz at sortiz@pvpc.org or 413-781-6045.

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §§26 to 27H, inclusive. All applicable Federal minimum wage rates and applicable Federal labor standards shall also apply pursuant to the Davis-Bacon Act. When both State and Federal wage rates are applicable, the higher rate must be paid.

The Awarding Authority encourages, to the extent feasible, the use of minority-, women- and disadvantaged-owned businesses for work under this contract and likewise encourages, to the greatest extent possible, that all bidders take affirmative steps to ensure training and employment for lower-income project area residents and award of subcontracts to HUD-defined Section 3 businesses. Bidders on the work shall make a good faith effort to achieve the goals of the Federal Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) policy regarding utilization of MBEs and WBEs in order to be deemed a responsible bidder.

Bid security in the form of a bid bond, certified or cashier's check, payable to the Town of Ware, is required in a dollar amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid amount. A performance bond and labor and materials bond for 50% of the total contract price, issued by a satisfactory surety company shall be required by the successful bidder.

The Town of Ware reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to accept proposals deemed to be in the best interest of the Town, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn within 30 days of the bid opening.

The Town of Ware, through its Selectboard, reserves the right to waive any informality in the bidding or to reject any and all bids in total or in part as may be deemed to serve the best interest of the Town.

The Town of Ware will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a bidder in preparing and submitting a bid in response to this IFB.

The Town of Ware Selectboard is the Awarding and Contracting Authority.

Bids may be changed or withdrawn prior to the bid opening, but not within the sixty (60) days subsequent to the bid opening, by submission of such a change in writing in a sealed envelope, identifying the submitting party and indicating that it contains a correction of the bid for the Façade Improvement Project at 13 North Street, Ware.

The submission and review of bids must comply with 2 CFR

Part 200, MGL Chapter 30, Section 39M, Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities/Community Development Fund Program (EOHLC/CDF) policies and other laws and regulations of the Commonwealth. Acceptance of any bid is subject to the continued availability of funds through the EOHLC/CDF grant awarded to the Town of Ware.

Questions regarding this procurement directed to Erica Johnson at PVPC, at ejohnson@pvpc.org.

**Hard copy bids for the Façade Improvement Project at 13 North Street for the Town of Ware, Massachusetts, must be received by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104 by 2:00 p.m. prevailing time, on Monday, March 24th, 2025.**  
03/06/2025

**TOWN OF WARE  
Public Hearing  
Monday, March 17, 2025  
at 6:30 p.m.  
Ware Town Hall  
126 Main St., Ware MA  
FY 2025 Town of Ware CDBG  
Application**

The Town of Ware Community Development Authority, with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will conduct a Public Hearing on March 17 at 6:30pm at Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St., Ware.

The public is encouraged to attend this meeting to discuss the FY25 application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for up to \$850,000 in available Community Development Block Grant Funds. All people with questions or comments regarding the grant application will have an opportunity to be heard. Those unable to attend can send written comments to the Community Development Authority, Planning Dept., Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St., Ware MA 01082, Attn: Paralee Smith.

The town is seeking input on community needs and projects which would benefit from grant funding. Construction of the Cottage Street Improvements project is currently being reviewed. The CDBG application will also include a request for funding up to five social services programs including, but not limited to, adult basic education and GED preparation, domestic violence prevention, elder services, and community health.

The Ware Town Hall is handicapped accessible. Persons who require special accommodation for either public meeting should contact the town at least one week prior to the hearing date at (413) 967-9648, ext. 118. For further information contact Erica Johnson at PVPC at (413) 781-6045 or ejohnson@pvpc.org, or Para Smith, Director of Planning & Community Development at (413) 967-9648, ext. 118 or psmith@townofware.com  
03/06/2025

**TOWN OF HARDWICK  
REQUEST FOR  
PROPOSALS  
43 Barre Road, Hardwick MA**  
The Town of Hardwick is requesting proposals for the acquisition, renovation and redevelopment of a town-owned historic building located at 43 Barre Road. Please visit the Town of Hardwick website for the full request for proposals.  
03/06/2025

**TOWN OF HARDWICK  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
Under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 166, and any additions or amendments thereto; please be advised that at their meeting **on Monday, March 10, 2025, at**

**6:30 p.m.**, the Hardwick Select Board will consider a request to give permission to Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc, to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

**Hardwick Pond Road-** National Grid to install 1 SO pole beginning at a point approximately 200 feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of Ware Greenwich Road. National Grid proposes to install pole #1-50, Hardwick MA.

**Taylor Hill Road-** National Grid to relocate 2 JO poles beginning at a point approximately 465 feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Taylor Hill Road and Delargy Road and continuing approximately 13 feet in the north direction. National Grid proposes to relocate poll 11 twenty feet west and pole 7 forty feet west, Hardwick MA.  
02/27, 03/06/2025

**Public Notice of  
Federal Funding:  
Historic Preservation Fund  
Paul Bruhn Historic  
Revitalization Grants Program  
WITHIN THE TOWNS OF  
BLANDFORD, GOSHEN, and  
MONSON  
(HAMPDEN COUNTY,  
MASSACHUSETTS);  
HADLEY, SOUTHAMPTON,  
AND WARE  
(HAMPSHIRE COUNTY,  
MASSACHUSETTS);  
AND HARDWICK  
(WORCESTER COUNTY,  
MASSACHUSETTS)  
December 31, 2024**  
To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Pioneer Valley Regional Ventures Center has provided \$650,000 in sub-grants through a competitive selection process for eligible historic preservation projects (Grantees) in the Hampden County Towns of Blandford, Goshen and Monson; the Hampshire County Towns of Hadley, Southampton, and Ware; and the Worcester County town of Hardwick. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will manage the program. These projects are being supported in part by a grant award by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, through the Historic Preservation Fund Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program. For more information, visit go.nps.gov/grants. All properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and work will meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and*

*Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation.* All activities undertaken on the properties during the grant period, regardless of funding source, are considered part of the Federal undertaking for Section 106 purposes. The Grantees shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local procurement laws and requirements for the use of sub-grant funds to complete the projects. In accordance with 2CFR200.318 and MGL c. 149A, the Grantees will conduct a formal procurement process to select a qualified contractor, or contractors, to complete the pre-approved scope of work.

The following entities and properties have received funding: Blandford Historical Society, 4 North Street, Blandford, \$70,000 for roof replacement; Town of Goshen, 42 Main Street, Goshen, \$89,000 for masonry repair, repairs to the main entry stairs, gutter installation, and kitchen ADA compliance; Town of Monson, 198 Main Street, Monson, \$100,000 for interior or plaster repair and painting in the grand hall; Workshop13, 13 Church Street, Ware, \$100,000 for an interior lift to support ADA compliance to the second floor gallery; Porter-Phelps-Huntington Foundation, 113 River Drive, Hadley, \$100,000 for planning and stabilization of the Charles Porter Phelps House ell; Town of Southampton, 8 East Street, Southampton, \$96,000 for exterior masonry repointing and restoration of the historic main entrance steps; and Town of Hardwick, 32 Common Street, Hardwick, \$95,000 for repairs to the roof, exterior masonry, windows and bell tower, and exterior painting. Funding is intended to support the preservation of National Register-listed historic community anchor buildings and serve as a catalyst for commercial and social activity and greater investment to benefit local economies. Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the proposed activity or request further information by contacting Shannon Walsh, Historic Preservation Planner for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 413-657-5052, email swalsh@pvpc.org.  
03/06/2025

**Notice of Sale of  
Motor Vehicle  
under G.L. c. 255.,  
Section 39A**

Notice is hereby given by REGIN'S REPAIR 19 CHURCH ST GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on 3/10/2025 at 10:00AM

at: Regin's Repair 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle description:  
2006 Honda Accord  
Registration#/State: 4HLF12/MA  
VIN: 1HGCM56116A042504  
Name and address of owner:  
Branden Vega  
755 Worthington St.  
Springfield, MA 01105

By: James M. Regin  
Dated: 2/12/2025  
02/20, 02/27, 03/06/2025

**The Town of Warren  
Senior Center Roof  
Replacement Project  
2252 Main Street  
West Warren**

The Town of Warren is seeking sealed bids for its Senior Center Asphalt Shingle Roof Replacement Project which will be received at the Office of the Town Administrator, Attn: Jim Ferrera, 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA, 01083-0609, until the time specified below at which the bids will be publicly opened and read.

Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the Office of the Town Administrator, 48 High Street, second floor, Warren, MA 01083, Monday through Thursday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by emailing Jim Ferrera, Town Administrator at townad-ministrator@warren-ma.gov.

All Work must be completed by no later than Friday, May 30, 2025.

**Bids will be due / opened in the Office of the Town Administrator on March 25, 2025, at 2:00p.m.** Each Bid must be accompanied by a bid security consisting of a **BID BOND, CASH,** or **CERTIFIED CHECK** issued

by a responsible bank or trust company in the amount of 5% of the bid price.

A performance bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total amount of the contract price with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be required for the faithful performance of the contract, as well as a labor and materials bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total contract price.

All bids for this project are subject to applicable public bidding laws of Massachusetts, including, but not limited to G.L. c. 149, §§44A-44H, as amended.

Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and the weekly payroll record submittal requirements under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 through 27D inclusive.

Selection of the contractor will be based upon bidder qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects, and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the awarding authority to be the lowest responsible and eligible bidder.

The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of the bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

The Town of Warren  
James J. Ferrera,  
Town Administrator  
02/27, 03/06/2025

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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



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This special section will run in the April 3rd issue of The Journal Register & The Ware River News.

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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Ware River News, please email [warerivernews@turley.com](mailto:warerivernews@turley.com).

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QHMA invites public to Bingo Night fundraiser

PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, the non-profit organization that promotes business and development within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, has announced its Handbag & Hand Tool Bingo Night fundraiser.

The event will take place on Friday, March 21 at

AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers. The Chamber will produce 10 exciting bingo rounds, each with a grand prize featuring one of seven designer handbags or one of three premium tools up for grabs.

Tickets can be purchased on QHMA.com. The registration fee is \$40 per person and includes 10 bingo cards,

bingo dauber, delicious snack platters, bonus raffle ticket and a cash bar.

Proceeds from the bingo event will benefit the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce and its on-going mission to assist its more than two-hundred member businesses succeed and grow with programs and initiatives throughout the year.

Veterans eat lunch free at Ware Senior Center

WARE – Now through May 31, 2025, veterans of the U.S. armed services can enjoy a homemade lunch for free at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

This meals are provided by the generosity of former Ware Selectboard member John Morrin, the Ware Veteran Fund and the Ware

Veterans Carnival.

For veterans to take advantage of this offer they must call the Ware Senior Center 413-967-9645 by noon the business day before they wish to come for lunch and place their name on the list. Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday from 11:30

a.m.-noon.

Menus and more information are available on the Council on Aging page of townofware.com or by stopping by the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

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