

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## ArtWorks held opening reception

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Just as winter nears its end, ArtWorks Gallery held an opening reception for a Winter Art Exhibit.

A total of 27 art pieces were entered into the gallery, and the idea was put together by an exhibition team of volunteers. Director for the Winter Art Exhibition is Joyce Eichacker, said the volunteers select art themes for the whole year and decided on an open-ended theme for this show.

Winter is a season that can cover a lot of ground and inspire ideas and emotion.

Serving as the juror for the Winter Art Exhibit is artist Susan Tilton Pecora.

She is a signature member of The New England Watercolor Society, and had her watercolor painting called "Late Afternoon, Pine Street" display in the ArtWorks Gallery show.

There were different mediums featured during the Winter Art Exhibit including watercolor, oil, pencil, acrylic, photography and many other interesting mixes of art.



The Winter Art Exhibit will be on display at ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main Street, Ware through April 4.

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago  
Terrence Kiernan of West Warren alongside his acrylic work "Birchwood" featured in the Winter Art Exhibit located at ArtWorks Gallery in Ware.

Over 20 artists entered their work into the Winter Exhibit and some were in attendance during the opening reception.

Sue Fontaine had two of her pieces featured in the Winter Art Exhibit. She has always worked with a variety of mediums and she has a fine

arts studio based in Erving. The first is called "If Blue Was the Beginning and the Please see **EXHIBIT**, page 8

## SB, FinCom held budget meeting

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

HARDWICK – The Select Board met with the Finance Committee last Wednesday to begin discussions on the fiscal year 2027 budget.

Finance Committee member Mark Korzec gave an outline of the structure of the town's budget, and said there are 150 line items, each one representing various town departments and their needs. He said that the structure was confusing, and he sorted the line items into broader categories, reading them off from highest to lowest budgets.

The categories in order are schools, administration, police, highway, insurance, general government, debt, and fire.

Korzec said schools account for about half of the town's overall budget, and the water pollution treatment plant, which is not included in the line items, accounts for about

\$900,000. Korzec said that amount is equal to or slightly more than the police department.

Korzec also outlined the top sources of revenue for the town, which include property taxes, receipts, excise taxes, New Braintree Police Department reimbursements, and payment in lieu of taxes. He said property taxes amount to about 75% of all revenue.

Korzec said investments are generating little revenue. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the interest rates on their investments are starting to increase.

### Police Department budget

Police Chief Kevin Landine said he is requesting \$675,000 for FY 27, compared to the actual budget of \$650,500 for FY 26. Landine said the current budget is about 63% used at this point in the fiscal year, which he said is standard.

The first expense for the

Please see **MEETING**, page 13

## Parks reviewed guidelines for use of Memorial Field

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Parks Commissioners met at the Ware Fire Station for their meeting on March 9.

The biggest item being focused on was the guide-

lines for the use of Memorial Field. Copies of the listed guidelines were provided for the public to review and the Parks Commissioners, alongside Parks Manager, John Piechota, went over each guideline.

Memorial Field is the home of the high school's

varsity baseball team during the spring and summer months, which are fast approaching. The field also hosts youth football and soccer league practice and play during the fall months.

The first guideline reads "Organizations and teams are responsible for field clean up

after all games and practices." Seeing no discussion or questions from the public, the Commissioners agreed that this guideline is appropriate.

The Commissioners agreed that they want the field to look best for the kids who use it for practice and

games.

There were many youth sports representatives from the town in attendance, who coach youth baseball, softball, and football.

The next guideline is the Parks Manager has the final decision regarding operation of all town fields for

play. The next is night games being scheduled once the nighttime low temperature is consistent at 45 degrees. Both the public and the Commissioners appeared satisfied with these two guidelines.

Please see **PARKS**, page 6

## Supt. gave update on tuition agreement

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Superintendent Stephen Duff said the North Brookfield School Committee voted to stay as a single town district for the 2026-2027 academic year.

He said they have been in conversation with North Brookfield for about four years, first to look at the possibility of a regional agreement amendment and second to discuss the possibility of a tuition agreement between the districts.

At the Feb. 26 School Committee meeting, Duff said he will keep commu-

nication channels open with North Brookfield, in the event anything changes.

He said there were differences in the projected cost to provide special education services to North Brookfield students, and he said that was because North Brookfield had the students assigned one-to-one staffing to calculate future costs.

"When we service kids in special education, if they're in a small group, every student in that small group does not have a one-to-one teacher, it would be one teacher with five students," Duff said.

Please see **UPDATE**, page 13



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Announcers Paul Grant, left, and Greg Guoullart of Candlepin Bowling Network broadcasted during the 10-string candlepin bowling tournament at Roll-A-Way Lanes in Ware to help benefit Candlepins for Cancer. Grant is holding up a T-shirt which highlights his catchphrase whenever someone bowls a strike.

## Candlepins for Cancer bowling tournament held at Roll-A-Way

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – It was a day featuring strikes and spares as Roll-A-Way Lanes hosted a 10-string bowling tournament this past weekend.

This tournament was held to help benefit the New England based 501©(3) charity, Candlepins for Cancer. The tournament consisted of two shifts with over 30 bowlers entering the tournament and a portion of the \$120 entry fee per bowl-

er goes towards the charity. Livestreaming the tournament were Candlepin Bowling Network announcers, Paul Grant and Greg Guoullart. Grant shared that

Please see **CANDLEPINS**, page 6

## Select Board reviewed FY 27 sewer budget

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board met on March 9 and had the fiscal year 2027 sewer budget on their agenda.

Water Pollution Control Facilities Superintendent Scott Potter answered questions from the board members and explained which items in the budget are fixed costs and which ones are considered discretionary.

According to Potter, he says the plant expenses could be considered discretionary.

The superintendent said there has been a lot of in-house work being done and without having to budget for outside contract work.

Please see **SEWER BUDGET**, page 6

## Questions needed for 'Meet the Candidates' forum

WARE – Ware Community Television and the Ware River News will be hosting a "Meet the Candidates" forum prior to the April 13 election, and we need questions from the community.

Select questions will be asked to each candidate running for the Selectboard during the March 28 forum.

Please send your questions by email to pouimette@turley.com by March 27.





Donna Major of West Brookfield took this photo of a flock of cedar waxwings outside the Barre Family Health Center on March 6.

## Birds braved winter weather



Submitted Photos  
This hawk was spotted in New Braintree at the Gildert's bird feeding station last week.

# Are You Old News?

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

*File Photo*  
Last week's photo from 2022 showed Claire Guthorn, age 1, at the town of Hardwick's first ever Easter egg hunt held at Gilbertville Memorial Park, sponsored by Eagle Hill School, and presented by the Parks and Recreation Committee. Claire and her sister Quinn were visiting their grandmother, Judi Korzec.

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).

## Spring forward at Paige Memorial Library

**HARDWICK** – On Saturday, March 14, the Paige Memorial Library will present Shenanigans with Friends, a local group who will perform from 3-5 p.m., at the Hardwick Town House playing old favorites and deep cuts of rock, country, folk and R&B with tight harmonies and danceable rhythms.

This event is brought to you by the Paige Memorial Library with funding from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council under the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

On Tuesday, March 17 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. learn the basics of drawing Celtic knots and spirals with artist Elizabeth Buck, including some tips and tricks. Materials will be provided.

Participants will cover a different knot about every 20 minutes starting at 5:30 pm. Drop-in anytime.

Story Time with an activity is held Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m.-noon. This is a fun time for young patrons to experience the library and a nice place to make friends.

Drop-in for Stamp Mania, on Wednesday, March 18 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Early Release Day at QRSD. Explore printmaking with rubber stamps, ink, markers and more to make your own bookmarks and other creations. All ages will enjoy this.

On Thursday, March 19 at 6 p.m. a portal opens at the Paige Memorial Library. Become acquainted with David Payne and his debut novel "Out of the Dark" - a portal horror about two siblings, one who is taken, and one who spends their life searching. Payne has other short stories available, some to check out at the library.

On Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. the library will host a drop-in Springtide celebration. The seed library will debut, they will have fun make-and-take crafts, and more. If you are a baker, bring some goodies.

Saturdays, through March 28 drop in to Pam Hinkley's adult handcraft workshops from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 24 at

5:30 p.m. and Wednesday, March 25 at 2:30 p.m. join the library for Pysanky - Ukrainian Egg Decorating. Come learn the traditional process of egg decorating using wax and dye.

It is said that creating Pysanka fights evil in the world. Come create. Bring a fresh white egg. The library will provide the beeswax, dye, and kistkas.

On Tuesday, March 31 from 6-7 p.m. Page to Screen will discuss "Hail Mary". Read the book and/or watch the new movie, then come together to discuss your favorite parts and plot points that make you cringe.

Other ongoing library activities include the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers, and the Movie Festival Committee. Come join a group or suggest a new one. More events are coming.

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

## Ham radio club meeting to be held March 30

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – Local amateur radio operators and the public are invited to the next Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club meeting, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

This month's program features Smitty KC11KA, who serves as a Net Control Station (NCS) for ARES, Skywarn, and CERT – roles

that require staying on the air when conditions are at their worst.

Smitty will share a behind-the-scenes look at how he prepares for storms, power outages, and field deployments. His presentation covers the radios he relies on, the battery and solar systems he built, and the reasoning behind his equipment choices. He'll also discuss situational

awareness techniques and multiple methods for maintaining communication when the grid goes down.

Whether you're involved in emergency communications or simply enjoy operating portable from parks, summits, or Field Day sites, you'll come away with practical ideas you can apply to your own setup. All are welcome to attend.

For more information

about the club, upcoming events, or licensing opportunities, visit [www.QVARC.com](http://www.QVARC.com).

The club also will be having a VE session for any hams looking to upgrade or newcomers looking to test for the first time. The exam fee is \$15. Session starts at 5:30 p.m. Questions? Please email Peter at [pbaldracchi@charter.net](mailto:pbaldracchi@charter.net).

## Trinity hosts corned beef and cabbage dinner March 17

**WARE** – Trinity Episcopal Church, corner of Park and Pleasant streets, will host a corned beef and cabbage dinner on Tuesday, March 17 from 5-6:30 p.m.

This meal is drive-up/take-out only. The cost is \$15 per meal and includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread and dessert.

Please call 413-967-6100 to reserve meals by leaving your name, number of meals and phone number.

All proceeds from the dinner benefit parish mission and ministries serving your community.

# GREEN GOLD

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## Ware Senior Center NEWS

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

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

### ACTIVITIES

#### Monday, March 16

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

#### Tuesday, March 17

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11 a.m. Lunch St. Patrick's Day/Birthday Party. Music by The Elderly Brothers.
- 1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Mobile Food Pantry at Grenville Park.
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
- 6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

#### Wednesday, March 18

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

#### Thursday, March 19

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

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

#### Friday, March 20

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

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

All meals \$3.50

unless otherwise noted

Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.

#### Monday, March 16

Chicken Fingers, French Fries, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

#### Tuesday, March 17

St Patrick's Day/Birthday Party  
Corned Beef, Cabbage, Baby Carrots, Dessert of the Day, Music by The Elderly Brothers

#### Wednesday, March 18

Brunch  
French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Dessert of the Day

#### Thursday, March 19

American Chop Suey, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

#### Friday, March 20

Baked Fish, Au Gratin Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

## CDA reviewed CDBG grant applications

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

WARE – The Community Development Authority held a public hearing Monday to review and discuss applications from organizations looking for funding from the Community Development Block Grant.

The CDBG is designed to help towns fund infrastructure improvements, as well as social services. This year, the town of Ware applied for the entire \$950,000 maximum that was available.

Four social services submitted applications for funding, including the Friends of the Senior Center, The Literacy Project, the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation's Senior Outreach Program, and the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force. The infrastructure to be funded is the Cottage Street project.

suggested the Friends of the Senior Center seek funding from another source.

### The Literacy Project

The Literacy Project requested \$60,000 from the CDBG funds. Colleen Kucinski, the executive director of the organization was in attendance, and explained that The Literacy Project helps students pursue a GED, or a career.

She said on average, there are 50 residents from Ware enrolled yearly, and they rank 10th in the state out of 70 similar programs. She said they do not charge tuition, and provide students with Chromebooks as needed.

She said this request was lower than last year because she wanted to be reasonable about the other services applying for funds. The CDA clarified that this is a continuation service, and has been funded in the past.

### Friends of the Senior Center

The Friends of the Senior Center requested \$3,000 from the CDBG funds to provide free lunches, crafting, and senior entertainment at the Ware Senior Center. Members of the CDA noted that this application was focused more on entertainment than social services, which is what the funding is designed for.

Erica Johnson, a representative from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission said she was concerned about the application because it was a small request, and it would cost \$6,000 dollars for the PVPC to oversee it, regardless of the fact the request was half of that. She

### QVDC Senior Outreach Program

The QVDC requested \$38,000 in funding. Melissa Fales, who runs the program, submitted a letter to the CDA explaining what they do. She wrote that 33 seniors are serviced by the program, and 11 are regulars, and they provide grocery, pharmacy, and transportation services to seniors.

She said the average age of participants is age 76, and eight of them receive SNAP benefits.

### Domestic Violence Task Force

The Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force requested \$71,578 in funding. Monica Moran, the director of the task force was

in attendance, and explained that the members of the force meet monthly to gauge the community, and its response to domestic violence.

She said that a member of the Ware Police Department attends their meetings, and calls to the police involving domestic violence are referred to the Behavioral Health Network. She said the task force also has quarterly meetings with the chiefs of police of Ware, Hardwick, and Warren.

She said the task force is going to hold training for police officers on coercive control, and she anticipates 20-25 officers to be present. Moran clarified that only the Ware officers would be funded by the grant.

She said the requested sum of \$71,578 covers the coordinator salary, travel, and outreach.

### Cottage Street

Johnson said this project is going to be multi-phased. She said phase 1 of the project was funded by the 2025 application, and a procurement should be coming soon.

She said phase 1 is going to focus mostly on water, and phase 2 would pick up where the first phase left off, then focus on sewer. She said the entire project also involves drainage, and street and sidewalk improvements.

Johnson said an estimate for the entire project, which was from a year and a half ago, was quoted at \$2 billion. Johnson said the construction budget for this application is over \$600,000, and last year it was about \$440,000.

### Discussion on applications

Johnson explained that the CDA does not have to

fund social services, and all of that money could possibly go towards the Cottage Street project. Brandy Brusco, the chair of the CDA said it was possible that a reduction of social service funding could improve the construction project.

Selectboard member Ken Willette said that adding more money to the construction, and moving too fast with it could make overseeing the project difficult.

Brusco said that the 2021 CDBG funded the design of the project, and it is important to see it through.

Director of Planning & Community Development Paralee Smith said the senior outreach program is important to fund. The authority members agreed to not fund the Friends of the Senior Center, and instead put that \$3,000 towards Cottage Street.

All other social services were all granted their full requests, pending Selectboard approval.

The CDA said the Cottage Street budget is \$613,422.

### Regular meeting

The CDA held a regular meeting after the public hearing. Smith said that applications from the millyard for a ramp, as well as from the fitness center in the millyard may be coming in soon.

Smith said she added grant opportunities and development opportunities to the town website, and has worked to update the entire Ware site. The CDA is scheduled to meet next on April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

## C4R watershed council to hold gathering March 22

PALMER – We have all heard Carpe Diem-seize the day, well our local rivers need us to step up to care for them as we enjoy their beauty.

Join the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed, C4R, group as its members seek to continue their efforts to do that.

The first gathering in 2026 will be held on Sunday, March 22 from 2-4 p.m. in the Palmer Historical Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers.

Come hear what C4R has accomplished and



how you can help to keep it going. They will review water quality monitoring, paddling trails, clean ups, trail stewardship, leadership needs, and more.

For more information, email chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

## Beaver Lake Club Corporation offers scholarship

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

These scholarships will be presented to deserving high school seniors or current college students who are residents of the town of

Ware or who are a member of the Beaver Lake Club Community.

The scholarship is given in the memory of Louis Healy a long time and well-respected member of the Beaver Lake community and the town of Ware. Lou was an active leader and partici-

part in both town and community matters and his family and friends continue to celebrate his thoughts, ideals, and memory by awarding this yearly academic scholarship.

The application deadline is April 17, 2026 and applications must be postmarked by

that date. The selected recipient will be and the scholarships will be awarded in early June.

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

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# viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Is there income tax on Social Security benefits?

Dear Rusty:

The Trump Administration is saying that now there will be no taxes on Social Security benefits. Since we're getting ready to start our 2025 income tax return, can you explain how this all works?

Signed: Confused Taxpayer

Dear Confused Taxpayer:

You are obviously referring to the so-called "One Big, Beautiful Bill" and how that bill affects income tax on your Social Security benefits. And this is because of the publicity surrounding the so-called "one big, beautiful bill" enacted last year, which claims to "eliminate income tax on Social Security benefits." Well, that bill did, yet technically didn't, fully eliminate income tax on benefits. Allow me to explain.

The OBBB does eliminate income tax on most SS benefits, but it does so in a somewhat unique way – by providing an additional \$6,000 (per person) deduction to your federal taxable income as reported to the IRS. Thus, you will pay less total income tax when you file your taxes with the IRS because of that additional deduction to your taxable income.

The extra deduction is available to those over age 65 and is meant to offset the income tax which will still be levied by the IRS on the SS benefits you received in 2025. Essentially, the rules governing income tax on Social Security benefits have not changed.

The IRS will still levy income tax on your SS benefits if your combined income from all sources (known as your "provisional income") is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly or more than \$25,000 if you file as an individual. If your provisional income is below the threshold for your IRS filing status, you will pay no income tax on your received 2025 SS benefits.

But if your provisional income exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status, then somewhere between 50% and 85% of your received SS benefits will be taxed (how much SS income to be taxed depends on your combined income in 2025). By now, you should have received form 1099-SSA which advised of your 2025 Social Security income, including any income tax you had withheld from your SS benefits.

This income should

be reported when submitting your 2025 income tax return. If your "provisional income" is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly (or over \$25,000 as an individual filer), then your 2025 SS benefits will still be taxed by the IRS. But when completing your 2025 Income Tax Return, you will also be able to claim an additional \$6,000 per person (\$12,000 if you file jointly), which will likely offset any income tax you must pay due to the SS benefits you received in 2025.

If you use a tax preparer or tax preparation software, they will guide you through this calculation. Note, too, that the \$6,000 per person deduction amount will be less if your combined taxable income is more than \$150,000 as a married couple (or more than \$75,000 as a single filer).

Be aware, though, that the OBBB is temporary tax accommodation which expires after tax year 2028. And that's because the process used to pass the bill in Congress (a "budget reconciliation" process) didn't actually change SS law; rather it provided a way around it to offset income tax paid on SS benefits.

So, to recap, the IRS can still levy income tax on your received Social Security benefits but, because of the OBBB, you will likely also (depending on your provisional income level) receive an extra deduction which offsets any taxes calculated on your Social Security benefits.

Finally, be aware that if your first husband also predeceases you, you will then become eligible for a surviving ex-spouse benefit from him, even if he has remarried.

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.

### An herb catalog and a favorite herb

One of my favorite seed and plant catalogs of all time is Richters Herbs ([richters.com](http://richters.com)). I look forward to the paper copy arriving in the mail by early December.

The company is out of Ontario, Canada, and offers over 1,200 unique varieties, mostly herbs of all kinds with a few vegetables thrown in for good measure. I've ordered from them for well over two decades and think their products are just great, everything from common culinary herbs to unique medicinal plants and everything in between, even dye plants and ornamentals.

I love how the seeds are packaged in foil lined envelopes and quantities are liberal, often giving you enough seed for two or three years of sowing, depending on the variety. On occasion I have had to order plants that I couldn't find locally and despite the distance, they arrive in good shape. Basil (*Ocimum spp*) is one plant in particular that we typically order seed of, and we will soon be starting it indoors. The Richters catalog boasts 29 varieties, and we grow nine of them in the Paul Rogers Herb Garden at Old Sturbridge Village.

A trip to our herb garden in season is really worthwhile. Who doesn't like Italian or Genovese basil? Picture the pesto!

But in addition to our old favorites, there is lemon, anise, cinnamon and spice, each with fragrant leaves. Looking for unique foliage? Try dark opal, whose leaves are tinted dark purple or bush basil, whose tiny leaves altogether make a round globe of a plant, and who could leave out lettuce leaf, with its crinkled pale green leaves.

Over the years I have

found that there are just a few obstacles to growing great basil. Seeds should be planted indoors – rarely will they do well from an outdoor sowing.

instead are pale or even turning brown, your plants may have a nitrogen deficiency.

I usually have had to "top dress" my basil twice after planting, each time with a sprinkling of balanced organic fertilizer and some aged compost. Usually they green up in a matter of days.

Basil has the insatiable desire to flower. We must "deadhead" or the plant will fulfill its earthly desire to reproduce by making and dropping seed, all at the expense of foliage production.

Since we grow this plant for its leaves and not its seed, or its flowers for that matter, clip away the buds at the first sign of them. Another challenge to basil growing has been the Japanese beetle.

Basil leaves riddled with chew marks should best be removed. Japanese beetles are relatively easy to hand pick in the morning and at night.

A gentle tap on a leaf will easily knock beetles into a wide mouth jar of soapy water positioned underneath. Ideally, basil leaves should be harvested after the dew has dried in the morning but before the sun shines too brightly; at that particular time its oils are the most pungent. Enjoy the new catalog recommendation and be sure to get those basil seeds started by the end of the month.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](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.

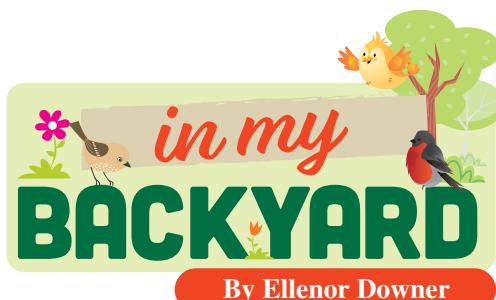
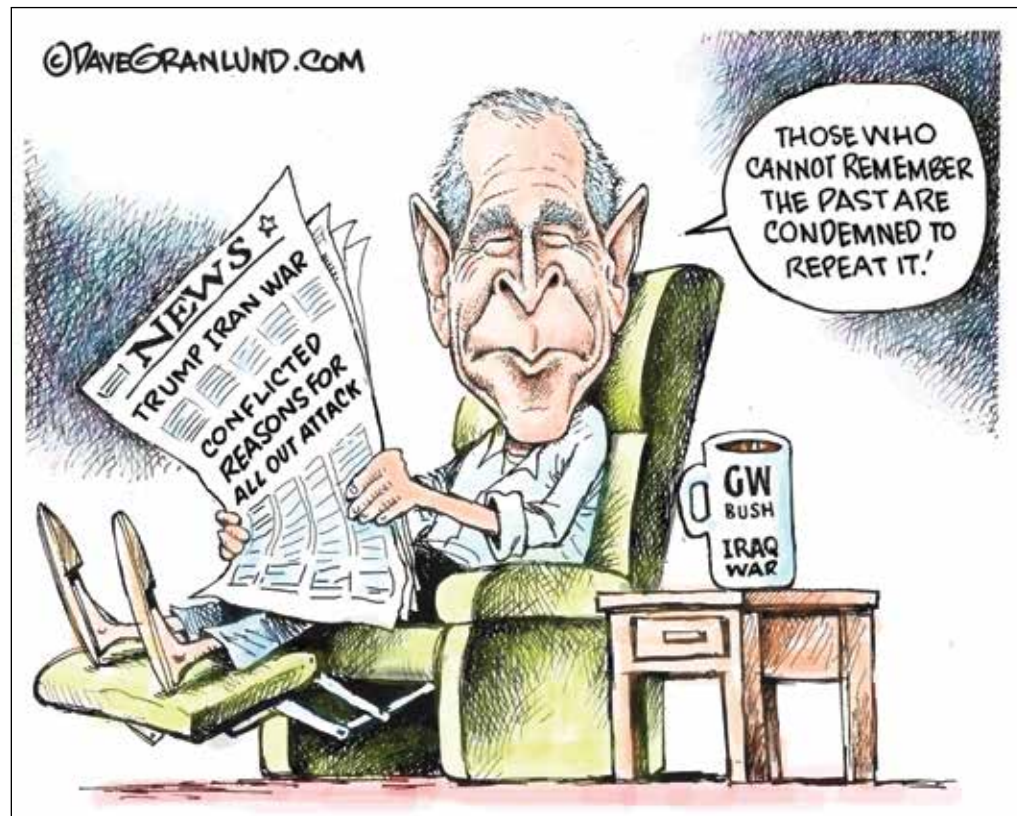
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Letter to the Editor  
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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

### 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.



Male red-winged blackbird

On March 2, I received an email from a Worthington resident that he just saw a red-winged blackbird.

Male red-winged blackbirds arrive before the females. They are one of the first birds to return to northern breeding grounds, arriving in late February or early March.

Red-winged blackbirds are abundant songbirds, who inhabit marshes, wetlands and fields. The male is glossy black with bright red and yellow shoulder patches or epaulets. Females have streaked

brown plumage.

The highly territorial males often sit on high perches, singing and displaying their epaulets. Their "conk-la-ree" is heard frequently. They are known for "dive bombing" crows, hawks and even humans to defend their territory. They primarily eat

insects such as beetles, dragonflies and moths during the breeding season and seeds and grains during fall and winter.

They nest in loosely associated colonies in shrubs or cattails and are found across

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

### 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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# Trzpit received Excellence in Teaching award

WARE – Ryan Trzpit has been selected by Ware Public Schools as their 2026 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award Winner.

Trzpit is a grade six teacher at Ware Middle School who has a passion for teaching history.

He goes above and beyond to teach his students and enhance their educational experience. He has a knack for explaining the curriculum to make it fun and interesting, which engages his students.

Trzpit cares about his students' social-emotional well-being, he spearheads fundraisers, coordinates field trips, and resurrected the school yearbook this year. As a graduate of Ware Public Schools, he has a vested interest in the school community and contributes positively on a daily basis.

Trzpit will be honored at a celebratory banquet at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on Wednesday, May 6.

The program will feature an awards presentation honoring the winners, who will each receive an engraved plaque and monetary award in recognition of their achievement, along with generous tuition incentives and scholarships offered by the following colleges and



Shown from left to right are Jesse Trzpit; Steve Alawonis, Ware Middle School Assistant Principal; Ryan Trzpit, 2026 Grinspoon Award recipient; Kim Thompson, Ware Middle School Principal; Michael Wood, Interim Superintendent.

universities in the region: American International College, Bay Path University, Elms College, Springfield College, Western New England University, Westfield State University, and the University of Massachusetts.

Winners also receive a three-month membership at one of the six regional YMCAs or a one-month membership the Springfield Jewish Community Center.

The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards program, now in its 23rd year, is made possible by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in partnership with the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation and supported by the American International College, Smith College, Arrha Credit Union, Country Bank, and Meyers Brothers Kalicka.

“Our teachers serve not

only as educators, but also as mentors, community leaders, role models and innovators. They play a fundamental role in supporting families and building communities. It is a great privilege to recognize and honor outstanding teachers in the Pioneer Valley,” said Michelle Moon, Director, Excellence in Teaching Awards at the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation.

# Hope Walks Here

Suicide awareness walk returns May 2

WARE – During Mental Health Awareness Month, community members and students from Ware Public Schools, will gather at Grenville Park for the third annual Out of the Darkness Campus Walk to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The 5K walk will be held at Grenville Park, 73 Church St., on Saturday, May 2, with check-in starting at 9 a.m. and the walk at 10 a.m. People can register at [afsp.org/ware](http://afsp.org/ware) or scan the QR code.

This event was estab-

lished in 2024 by School Resource Officer Jeannine Bonnayer and Ware Public Schools Food Service Manager Kristen Murphy, to help to bring awareness to and start a conversation about suicide.

In March of 2023, Murphy's son Ethan Donnelly died by suicide at the age of 24.

Murphy died in February of 2025, after a brief but fierce battle with a rare and aggressive cancer. This walk fundraiser was a cause very close to her heart, and a way she could honor her son's memory.



# Ware Grange hosts supper to benefit community garden

WARE – A public supper to benefit the Ware Community Garden will be hosted by Ware Grange and Ware Senior Center on Monday, March 30 from 6-7 p.m. at the senior center, 1 Robbins Road.

Enjoy a dinner of Chicken Marsala, roasted potatoes, carrots, salad,

roll, drinks, and cream puffs for dessert. The cost is \$15 per person.

Please RSVP in advance to [waregrange164@gmail.com](mailto:waregrange164@gmail.com) or call 413-284-1135.

All are welcome to purchase tickets for a good meal in support of the creation of Ware's new community garden.



Hazel Carter in turquoise snow pants shoveled a path to a chicken coop.



RIGHT: Sophia Wilbur was the youngest student to participate in the shoveling challenge.

# Quabbin students having 'snow' much fun

From the desk of Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha

This winter challenged all in ways that they have not experienced in awhile.

That is true for the Quabbin Regional School District students as well. There have been increased disruptions to learning including delayed starts and no school days. At the moment, students are thrilled when they think of sleeping in and playing in the snow.

However, with the recent storm Quabbin staff offered their students a Snow Day Challenge. They asked them to be sure to help out their families, neighbors and community with snow removal or whatever tasks were needed.

Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent



Brayden Hurley plowed snow on a 4-wheeler.

Colleen Mucha reported Quabbin students rose to the challenge. Some students put in a full day's work and had

very appreciative neighbors. All students, who participated, will get a Certificate of Community Service.

## BACKYARD from page 4

most of Northern America. They are polygamous and a single male may mate with up to 15 different females in his territory. Red winged blackbirds can form huge roosts during the winter of up to a million birds.

### Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident sent an email recently. He said, “On Saturday I was driving to West Springfield to put up some picture at the library

for an exhibit. Some members of the Allen Bird Club are displaying photographs there for the month of March. On the way I stopped by a nest in Ludlow that bald eagles have used for at least three years.”

In Brimfield, he said, “Lately we have been seeing a Cooper's several times in the yard and a broad-winged hawk was seen on Feb. 22. The broad-winged hawk sat in a tree in front of the house for over an hour. Last year a pair of broad-wings

had a nest on the next door neighbor's property. They could see the nest from their deck, but I was never able to see the nest walking around near where they described its location.”

### Turkey vultures

On Feb. 11, the Brimfield resident saw a turkey vulture in the center of Palmer near the intersection of Routes 20 and 32. This week, his wife saw 25 turkey vultures flying above that area. They often see vultures soaring over

that area and the first of the year shows up in mid-February. He said, “I believe the vultures nest in the area, possibly on or near Mount Dumplin that is just north of the turnpike ramps.”

### Other birds and more

The Brimfield residents still has lots of junco about as well as a healthy the gray squirrel population. Recently they saw two and sometimes three red squirrels. He is enjoying the longer days and looking forward to warmer

temperatures.

### Red-tailed hawk

A Rutland couple saw a red-tailed hawk quickly grab a gray squirrel her husband shot. They watched it hungrily consume a “warm meal” in the yard. They moved their feeder nearer to the house due to the deep snow. They have lots of black-capped chickadees and woodpeckers come to the new location

### Bluebirds

An Oakham resident sees

bluebirds on a daily basis. She enjoys watching them.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edownyer@turley.com](mailto:edownyer@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

**STIHL** **Husqvarna**

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Eric Lincoln, left, is shown after releasing the ball during the first shift of the 10-string candlepin bowling tournament.

**CANDLEPINS** from page 1  
so far in 2026, Candlepins for Cancer has raised around \$7,000 and had a record setting \$35,000 raised in 2025.

Overall, as of March 7 of this year, Candlepins for Cancer has raised \$114,000 supporting people in the candlepin bowling community who have family members going through cancer treatments.

During the tournament, Grant was running a 50/50 raffle with half of the proceeds going towards Candlepins for Cancer. Next to the broadcast booth was a table full of T-shirts featuring Grant's catchphrase of "Bombs Away Baby" which he says whenever someone on the lanes throws a strike. The proceeds from these T-shirts go to help benefit Candlepins for Cancer.

There were a couple of Candlepins for Cancer donation buckets placed throughout Roll-A-Way Lanes, as direct donations are always welcome.

There was one customer

who came in during the tournament and heard about the charity. After learning more from Grant, the customer gave a direct donation of \$50 to Candlepins for Cancer.

Grant has been promoting both Candlepins for Cancer and candlepin bowling for over four years and through tournaments, fundraisers, and donations. In the last three and a half years, the charity has helped over four dozen families.

As part of promoting the charity and this regional sport, Grant livestreams tournaments and bowling matches on the YouTube channel, Candlepin Bowling Network.

Gouillart is also dedicated to promoting both candlepin bowling and Candlepins for Cancer.

Gouillart covered his first candlepin match back in 2022 on Candlepin Bowling Network and has been part of the broadcast team ever since.

"Time flies," Gouillart stated when it comes to broadcasting candlepin bowling.

Both Grant and Gouillart

Candlepin Bowling Network livestreamed both shifts of the 10-string tournament at Roll-A-Way Lanes. The top six bowlers in the tournament received a cash prize and the tournament raised over \$1,000 for Candlepins for Cancer.

The winner of the 10-string tournament was Paul Campos with a total score of 1,410. Campos bowls out of Exeter Bowling Lanes in Exeter, New Hampshire, and he made the long drive to participate in this tournament. Aaron Halbedel of Warren finished in second place with a score of 1,405.

The next three places were candlepin bowl-



Keith Beaupre observed his ball going into the 1-3 pocket on lane six of Roll-A-Way Lanes in Ware.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



Paul Campos, right, was the winner of the 10-string tournament at Roll-A-Way Lanes. Campos bowls out of Exeter Bowling Lanes in Exeter, New Hampshire.

were featured in the most recently released short documentary called, "No Questions Asked", a documentary about Candlepins for Cancer. The documentary can be found on YouTube through the channel, Perry-Harlow Mediaworks.

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The next three places were candlepin bowl-

ers representing western Massachusetts. Jason Gauthier Sr., finished in third place with a score of 1,378, Bryan Surprise was fourth with 1,375, and Cameron Greene was fifth with 1,362.

Candlepins for Cancer hosts various tournaments throughout the year featuring men, women, and team events. According to Grant, it's all about promoting candlepin bowling and raising money for Candlepins for Cancer. Tournaments can be watched on Candlepin Bowling Network on YouTube.

Grant thanked Roll-A-Way Lanes for hosting the event and plans to return to Ware sometime in August to have another tournament. For more information on Candlepins for Cancer, visit [www.candlepins4cancer.com](http://www.candlepins4cancer.com). Information on donations can be found on [www.candlepins4cancer.com/donation](http://www.candlepins4cancer.com/donation).

**SEWER BUDGET**  
from page 1

Potter said the "majority of our budget is costs we don't control." These costs relate to fuel and electricity.

The Select Board asked Potter how the department handled sludge. A tanker comes in to handle the sludge, according to Potter.

The board will have Potter back for another meeting with the Select Board when they meet with the Finance Committee.

Potter said the plant is running well. This is the first year that the Sewer Department budget features retirement, and the budget also notes that they have one vacant position. The board does want the superintendent to consider that rates and retained earning could be impacted.

**Pole hearing**

The Select Board held a public hearing to 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 Collins Road.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano stated that the abutters were notified about this project and a notice was published. Representatives from National Grid said the poles that are to be installed along Collins Road are to increase the infrastructure.

After a brief presentation, the board moved to approve the poles as presented.

**Visitor's comments**

During visitor's comments, Elizabeth Cyran presented a letter to the Select Board that involves a request to put an item on their agenda for their next Select Board meeting on March 23.

Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim read the letter out loud, and the purpose is to recognize and reserve the rights of the Mixer family and the property of 58 Ruggles Hill Road, also known as the Ruggles Hill School.

**Meeting minutes**

During a review of their meeting minutes, Vice-Chair William Tinker had questions regarding the meeting minutes for Dec. 16, 2025.

According to Tinker, what is described in the meeting minutes looks a lot like the meeting on Oct. 1, 2025. This meeting involved Police Chief Kevin Landine and the New Braintree Select Board. Tinker also wanted to address some of

the language in the meeting minutes.

Without a clear understanding of what meeting these minutes are highlighting, the board decided to table the meeting minutes for Dec. 16, 2025.

**Discussion on 179 Main St., Gilbertville**

Caggiano shared that the town received a request via email regarding the property of 179 Main St. in Gilbertville. The person who reached out wasn't in attendance, but the board wanted to know what they want to do with the building. The board believes they're trying to turn it into apartments.

According to Vollheim, the building still needs a lot of work done before it could possibly be put out to bid. The building has been sitting vacant for a while.

"It has to be cleaned out first," said Vollheim.

Select Board Clerk Jeffrey Schaaf said this property should be considered rather than be a delayed topic.

Caggiano says she could draft a request for proposal that could be looked at. Any applicants interested in the property should email the Town Administrator or Select Board.

**Appointment of Wastewater Plant Operator**

The Board discussed possibly appointing Mr. Nathan LaCroix as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. The applicant has provided certification and has been interviewed. Scott Potter shared that the applicant is licensed and feels this is a good decision. The Board approved and appointed Mr. LaCroix to the position.

**Town Administrator's report**

As part of her report, Caggiano included that two cameras inside the Select Board meeting room have been repaired. A meeting was held to talk about the school boiler issue and the town has successfully paid off a 2014 loan to fix the bricks in the municipal office building.

During her report, Caggiano was granted permission to read a letter by an anonymous resident, which expressed appreciation for the Police Department during their assistance of a medical situation during a recent snowstorm.

The Annual Town Election is May 2, and an information fair at the Barre-Hardwick Senior Center will be on Wednesday, April 15, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tinker also added for the public to be aware that the Annual Town Meeting will be on June 6.

**PARKS** from page 1

The next guideline revolves around light fees. On the sheet, it reads "All light fees will be incurred by organization using them (current rate is \$25/hour but is subject to change per Park Commission based on electric rates)."

Piechota explained the light source where a password needs to be added for lights and logins will be in place. He said that "there are

costs associated with these things," when it comes to operating the field lights.

There were many questions being asked when the next guideline about double headers came to the discussion. The guideline reads, "Double headers limited to two per calendar year."

There are a lot of factors that go into double headers, especially during the baseball season in the spring.

One of the components is prepping the field in between

games, because all parties want the field to look best for the kids.

Athletic Director for Ware Junior-Senior High School, Thomas Shamgochian, brought up the impact double headers have on buses and safety concerns regarding rain and thunderstorms. When it comes to double headers on the homefield, Shamgochian believes it's not okay to separate junior varsity and varsity teams.

The Parks Commissioner

wants to have a field that works for the town and wants to put policies in place to make sure the field is taken care of. Another coach shared that the community looks forward to double headers and playoff games.

When thinking of making certain adjustments, the Commission and the organizations who wish to use Memorial Field can look at schedules for games and see how the season is lined up. Two out of nine home games

could be doubleheaders was mentioned as an example.

The Commission also mentioned they don't want to see student athletes coming home late after games. This is a guideline the Parks Commission will further review.

The next guideline is weekend games being prepped by the Parks Department on Friday. The Parks Department workweek is Monday-Friday, and the Parks Manager approves any other person prepping or working on fields when he is off duty.

Ware Junior-Senior High School games played during the week will be prepped by Parks Department. Everyone appeared okay with this guideline. Organizations using Memorial Field will provide their own supplies for games.

Piechota said this has been done in the past and is has been beneficial for all organizations.

The athletic director will contact the Parks Manager via email or text prior to noon that day. Piechota wants good communica-

tion to be going forward and wants a better understanding of why changes are being made.

Field House being available for use is listed as a guideline. The Parks Manager will schedule times and dates for usage. Teams and organizations will be responsible for cleanup of equipment, damage and garbage.

The Parks Commissioners want the field house to be well kept and orderly, and don't want any mess left behind. Piechota also asks if any team or organization that is using the field house is making sure it is locked up at the end of use.

When it comes to these guidelines for Memorial Field, the Commissioners want the town to know that it is a town field and is available for use by all town organizations. The point of these guidelines is to protect the fields in town and protect the Parks Manager and his staff.

The Parks Commission will revisit these guidelines, including the focus on doubleheaders.

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# March is maple season

## Barn breakfasts served at Hardwick Winery

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**HARDWICK** – The Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Road, is hosting its annual Maple Barn Breakfasts during the month of March.

This is the 18th year the winery has offered this breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays. Hardwick Vineyard & Winery owner John Samek was keeping busy working with his dedicated team making sure all the guests were taken care of as the buffet of breakfast foods were ready to be served.

Samek wanted to create a festival to take place in the springtime. Since March is the month of tapping trees and making maple syrup, the idea of having an event where “everything maple” is a theme soon lead to the idea of a Maple Barn Breakfast.

The idea certainly stuck as the annual Maple Barn Breakfast sells out every weekend. Samek and his manager Kaitlin Young estimate that the winery gets about 400 guests in a day during Maple Barn Breakfast.

The food made at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery is irresistible and features all the breakfast favorites, including buttermilk pancakes, maple bacon, maple sausage, eggs, twice baked potato casserole, maple baked French toast, and Lucy’s famous homemade porridge.

The highlights during breakfast include local maple products, harvest maple wine, maple wine slushies, maple wine mimosas, Hardwick red bacon bloody Mary’s, local vendors, and live music.

The annual Maple Barn Breakfast draws commuters

from all over Massachusetts and Connecticut and share about their great experience at Hardwick Winery.

“The breakfast is delicious, and they have great wine,” said Jackie Vaillancourt from Connecticut.

One of the parties dining this past weekend is members of the Connecticut Wine Lovers Group. This was the group’s first visit to the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, and they said they loved their visit, the breakfast, and the wine. After experiencing the Maple Barn Breakfast, members of the Connecticut Wine Lovers Group said they will come back to the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery.

The popularity of the Maple Barn Breakfast has certainly grown. Young shared that tickets for the event are released in January and half are already sold out by the time March arrives. The entire crew at Hardwick

Vineyard & Winery work hard to put this amazing breakfast together.

One of the popular warm beverages during the Maple Barn Breakfast is maple coffee. Samek shared that the coffee comes from King David Coffee in Nashua, New Hampshire. The winery sells packets of this coffee.



Members of the Connecticut Wine Lovers Group enjoyed their first time at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery.



Breakfast is served, featuring pancakes, French toast, maple bacon, eggs, and a lot more.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



The line was getting long as Maple Barn Breakfast is served at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery.



A booth featured Magwiggan's Gold Maple Syrup, based out of Monson.

The Hardwick Vineyard & Winery uses multiple maple sugar shacks in the local area; Hardwick Sugar Shack, North Hadley Sugar Shack, and Magwiggan’s Gold Maple Syrup of Monson.

The Maple Barn Breakfast also welcomed several local vendors during the month of March. There is Cookies by Ray, Wickedly Wild Gourmet

Sauces, Magwiggan’s Gold Maple Syrup, Wicked Good Treats by Elaine, and Girl Scout cookies.

Live music from local music groups is also highlighted during the Maple Barn Breakfast. Music is played on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.hardwickwinery.com](http://www.hardwickwinery.com).

## Annual Town Election will be held April 13

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

Offices which will appear on the ballot are: Selectboard, three-year term, vote for two; School Committee, three-year term, vote for one; Board of Assessors, three-year term, vote for one; Board of Assessors, one year unex-

pired term, vote for one; Board of Health, three-year term, vote for one; Park Commissioner, three-year term, vote for one; Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term, vote for one; Planning Board, five-year term, vote for one; Ware Housing Authority, five-year term, vote for one  
The last date to register

to vote is Friday, April 3. The last date for file an application for Vote by Mail (five business days prior to the Annual Town Election) is Monday, April 6 by 5 p.m. Questions may be directed to the Town Clerk, Nancy J. Talbot, at 413-967-9648 extension 103.

## Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics

**WARE** – The Ware Polar Plunge fundraiser to benefit the Special Olympics will be held on Saturday, March 21 at West Beach – Beaver Lake.

This event is weather/ice dependent. It is subject to

change if the ice is not melted.

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

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



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<https://topfloorlearning.org/>

# Winter Art EXHIBIT



Best in Show was "Green River in Winter" by William Roberts Jr.



Jacquelyn Stein's "Running Afoul" was selected as being the Best Watercolor artwork in the Winter Art Exhibit.

## EXHIBIT from page 1

End." This piece was done using acrylic paint, graphite, and paper covered canvas. The work was inspired by a scene Fontaine came across in the town of Wendell. It features a tree with a farm silo in the background.

"The urban experience and the natural world come together," Fontaine said when it comes to the expression of her artwork.

Her second piece at the ArtWorks Gallery is a larger piece called "A Tale to Enliven Long Winter Nights". This piece is also done with acrylic, graphite drawing, and paper covered canvas.

Another artist in attendance was Terrence Kiernan of West Warren. Kiernan was joined by his family and visited the spot in ArtWorks Gallery highlighting his acrylic work, "Birchwood."

Photography was a popular medium featured in the Winter Art Exhibit. One of these pieces is by Doug Hockman titled "Silence," and the photograph was pasted on a piece of wood. Another photograph was by Mary Jeanne Tash, titled "In the Quiet," and featured a snow-covered field of cows with snow falling.

Selected as the Best Photograph was "Cold at Midnight" by Vern McClish.

The artwork selected as Best in Show was an oil on panel called "Green River in Winter" by William Roberts Jr.

The Winter Art Exhibit will be on display at ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St., until April 4. The gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.



"If Blue Was the Beginning and the End" by Sue Fontaine, made from acrylic paint, graphite, and paper-covered canvas.



Gary Lippincott's watercolor work, "Knight of Winter (The Victorian Faery Tarot)."

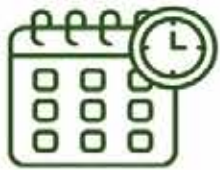


"In the Quiet," is a photograph by Mary Jeanne Tash.

LEFT: Doug Hockman's "Silence" is a photograph on wood featured in the Winter Art Exhibit at ArtWorks Gallery.

## Public Supper for the Ware Community Garden

Hosted by Ware Grange and the Ware Senior Center



Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00pm



Ware Senior Center - 1 Robbins Rd, Ware MA 01082



### \*\* MENU \*\*

Chicken Marsala

Roasted Potatoes

Carrots

Salad and Dinner Rolls

Drinks

Delicious Cream Puffs for Dessert!



\$15 Per Person

Please RSVP ahead of time to

waregrange164@gmail.com or call 413-284-1135

# SPORTS

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## Ware girls basketball defeated in second round

WARE – Last Monday night, Ware High School stayed in the region, going from home in the opening round of the Division 5 state tournament, to a road matchup in the Berkshires at Drury High School.

Drury slowed Ware's offense to a crawl, unfortunately, the defeated the 14-win Indians 61-21 to end Ware's season.

Ware had a very good run during the regular season and defeated Neighborhood House Charter to start the tournament.

Ware was led by Reese McKeever with just five points in the defeat. Ware went 13-5 this season before losing the Class C Western Mass. Tournament last month. Ware would enter the state tournament and edged Neighborhood House 48-47.

## Indians season ends in Round of 16

Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Brady Guimond starts his way down the court.



WARE – It was the quarterfinals appearance they had last season, but Ware boys basketball made it into the Round of 16 this year in Division 5. Ware would defeat Renaissance in the preliminary round at home, followed by a visit to Boston to defeat Boston English in the Round of 32 on Feb. 26 57-43. Finally, Ware's season came to an end closer by as the Round of 16 brought the Indians to Hoosac Valley in Cheshire. The Indians fell 66-48. In the final action of the season for Ware, which finished 12-11 overall, Brodie Koczur had 15 points while Brady Guimond had 13 points and Alex Orszulak had 11 points.



Alex Orszulak attempts the three-pointer.

LEFT: Jack Gaudreau snags the opening tip.

## Local seniors headed to All-Star Games

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2026 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Friday, Mar. 20, the Hall of Fame will host the 2026 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. Sixty of the region's top seniors were selected from different divisions to participate in the final high school contests of their prep career.

"We are honored to welcome Western Massachusetts' top high school basketball players to the 15th annual All-Star celebration at the Basketball Hall of Fame," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "This event is a special opportunity to recognize the hard work and achievements of these outstanding seniors, and we invite the community to join us as they take the court one final time in their high school careers."

A committee of local coaches and media members, representing each division on both the boys' and girls' sides, selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls' teams, two boys' teams of Class A and B players, and two boys' teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters are on the next page.

Please see **ALL-STARS**, page 10



Dalton Marquis fights through a pair of opponents to get a shot.



Brodie Koczur keeps the ball away from his opponent as he seeks to get a shot off.



Kaleb Kanozek floats a shot to the hoop.

## Road Race set to kick off big weekend

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Last March, for the first time in several years, it was gorgeous weather for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race.

More than 6,000 people participated in this year's event, with nearly 5,000 participants finishing the 10K, or 6.2-mile course.

It was Samuel Whittaker of Salem, CT, who finished the race in 31:24. Alex Corbett, who placed second in last year's race, came in 23 seconds later at 31:47.

The top female finisher was Angelia Rafter at 34:13 and she placed 12th overall. Rafter is from Glastonbury, CT.

Among local finishers, Matt Provost of Monson was 19th overall at 35:09. Ryan Davis of South Hadley was a

close 20th at 35:10. Lindsay Smith of South Hadley finished 22nd at 35:12.

While the race course, commonly known as a "hilly" course throughout downtown Holyoke ending with a turn off Beech St. and up the hill on Hampden St. toward the finish line remained largely the same, there was one noticeable change in this year's event.

Presidential Timing took over the official timing duties after 4RUN3 went out of business last year. Those looking for more results from the events can go to www.presidentialtiming.com to look at more specific results from the race. Like previous timers, you can look up people by name and bib number to get more specific results.

This year, the road race is set to take place on Saturday, Mar. 21 with the main race



The participants are off in the 48th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race last March.

beginning at 1 p.m. This year's race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick's Day Road Race as practice for the marathon

Please see **ROAD RACE**, page 10



The first wave of harriers starts the course on Maple St.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

# sports

## Candlepin League NEWS

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Bondsville League

WARE — The Wednesday Night Bondsville League at Roll-A-Way Lanes has reached the month of March.

After 25 weeks of league candlepin bowling, Sandri holds the top seed with a record of 109-66. Fire Mountain, the team that held on to first place since the start of the season, has now dropped to second place with a record of 104.5-70.5.

During week 25, Night Hawks bowled against Fire Mountain. In game one, Fire Mountain won by a score of 489-460. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain began the match by bowling a 112. Gavin Sinclair of Night Hawks began with 113.

In game two, Fire Mountain won again by a score of 469-452. In game three, Night Hawks won the last game by a score of 497-478. Sinclair finished strong with 132 and a three-game series of 352. Gary Delisle of Fire Mountain finished with 115.

The final score was 1436-1409 in favor of Fire Mountain. Night Hawks get two points and have a record of 96-79 after 25 weeks.

Team UMass bowled against Ironmen in week 25. In game one, Ironmen won by a score of 489-454. Pete Swistak of Ironmen had the highest game of 132. His teammate, Billy Brunk, bowled a 111 to start.

In game two, Team UMass won by a score of 488-464. Brunk bowled well with 121 in game two.

In game three, Team UMass won again by a score of 464-449. Swistak finished with 121 and a three-game series of 353.

The final score was 1406-1402 in favor of Team UMass, who move into fourth place with a record of 90.5-84.5. Ironmen are in fifth place with a record of 87-88.

The Flaming Bowling Balls (FBB) bowled against Zeke's Freaks in week 25. In game one, Zeke's Freaks pulled ahead and won 442-438. Zeke Sicard of Zeke's

Freaks bowled over his average with 113.

In game two, Zeke's Freaks won again by a score of 437-418. Ryan McCarthy of FBB had the highest game of 104.

In game three, FBB defeated Zeke's Freaks by a score of 478-457. The final score was 1336-1334, just a two-pin victory for Zeke's Freaks.

Spare Parts Bud bowled against Sandri in week 25. In game one, Sandri defeated Spare Parts Bud by a score of 496-482. Sue Horton of Sandri began with 138. Madison Jebb of Spare Parts Bud bowled well over her league average with 108.

In game two, Sandri won again by a score of 490-428. Horton bowled 139 in game two during her team's win.

In game three, Sandri won for a three-game sweep over Spare Parts Bud, 479-470. Horton finished with 97 and a three-game series of 374. Rich Picotte of Sandri finished strong with 143.

The final score was 1465-1380 in favor of Sandri.

Cannonballs bowled against P&J Meats in week 25. In game one, Cannonballs defeated P&J Meats by a score of 472-450.

In game two, P&J Meats struck back and won 463-452. Shaun Midura of P&J Meats bowled 107 in game two.

In game three, Cannonballs won the last game by a score of 453-439. The final score was 1377-1352 in favor of Cannonballs.

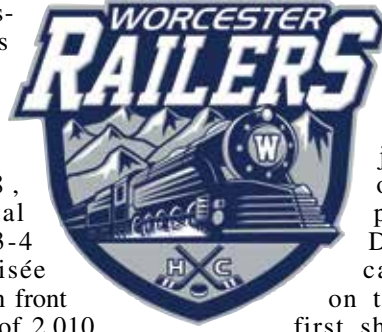
Slow Burners bowled against the Snapper in week 25. In game one, Snappers defeated Slow Burners, 492-450. Andy Tombor of Snappers began the match with 126. His teammate, Eddie Stachowicz, began with 110.

In game two, Snappers and Slow Burners tied, 457-457. As a result, each team receives one victory point.

In game three, Snappers won by a score of 491-469. Tombor finished with 114 and a series of 326. Jody Orszulak of Slow Burners finished with 117. The final score was 1440-1376 in favor of Snappers, who go 6-1 against Slow Burners.

## Railers fall to Lions in shootout

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC — The Worcester Railers HC (25-22-5-2, 57 pts) fell in a shootout



to the Trois-Rivières Lions (26-24-1-3, 56 pts) on Sunday, March 8, with a final score of 3-4 at the Colisée Vidéotron, in front of a crowd of 2,010. The Railers are back in action on Wednesday, March 11th against the Norfolk Admirals at the DCU Center for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop.

Trois-Rivières struck first on Sunday afternoon, as Jacob Dion (1-2-3) gave the Lions a 1-0 advantage just 0:59 seconds into the first off a redirect from a Railers defenseman's skate. The Lions grew their lead to 2-0 at 6:22 as Mathieu Bizier (1-0-1) sank a one-timer from the left circle. Riley Piercey (1-1-2) picked up the first goal for the Railers unassisted at 6:47 in the second on a rush from the defensive zone. Calle Odellius (1-0-1) tied the game for Worcester just shy of eight minutes later with a point shot through the pads of Benjamin Gaudreau. Trois-Rivières closed out the second with a late power play goal from Isaac Dufort (1-1-2), which regained the Lions' lead heading into the third (3-2). Worcester tied the game once more as MacAuley Carson (1-0-1) narrowly snuck the puck between the pads of Gaudreau (3-3). Carson's goal pushed the game into extra-time. Nicholas Girouard claimed

the only goal scored in the five-round shootout for the Lions' narrow 4-3 win.

Trois-Rivières picked up the game's first goal just 59 seconds into play. Jacob Dion (5th) capitalized on the Lions' first shot of the game, as a lucky bounce off Calle Odellius' skate put the puck in the back of the net. Another goal for Trois-Rivières at 6:22, this time a one-timer from Mathieu Bizier (2nd) along the inner edge of the left faceoff circle, put the Lions ahead by two. Cam McDonald and Anthony Poulin came to blows with just over a minute remaining on the clock. Both men headed to the box for roughing to serve their first half of the penalty. As the period came to a close, Worcester remained shut out by Trois-Rivières goaltender Benjamin Gaudreau. Worcester outshot Trois-Rivières 10-9, and both teams finished the first period with one penalty apiece.

Worcester was eager to close the growing gap created by Trois-Rivières in the first. Riley Piercey (4th) fired a shot in the left corner over Gaudreau and shrunk Trois-Rivières' two-goal lead to one at 6:47. Piercey gained quick possession in Worcester's zone off the faceoff and made a 2-on-1 rush down the near boards alongside Max Dorrington. Calle Odellius (2nd) kept the scoring going for the Railers at 14:29. The puck remained

loose in the Lions' zone after a quick initial save from Gaudreau. With a rebound that ricocheted off the right boards, Odellius stepped up to the puck and fired it between the legs of Gaudreau and evened the board at two apiece. The tie game didn't last long, however, as Isaac Dufort (9th) closed out the second with a slapshot to beat Gahagen with 16 seconds remaining on the Lions' power play and just 1:24 left in the frame. Worcester tied Trois-Rivières with shots on goal at 10 each. The two teams also tied in penalties with two each.

MacAuley Carson (3rd) kept the game alive for the Railers as he tucked the puck through Gaudreau's five-hole at 11:24. Max Dorrington set up the play as he entered the zone with just one hand on his stick and set Carson up for the goal with a quick pass. Carson's goal was the only one scored in the third period and pushed the game into overtime. Shots on goal favored Worcester with 9 to Trois-Rivières' 8. Worcester and Trois-Rivières were even with penalties at two.

As overtime came and went, neither team found the back of the net for the extra frame of play, and both Worcester and Trois-Rivières were forced into a shootout. In the end, it was Nicolas Girouard for the Lions that came out on top and lit the lamp for a fourth and final time in the fifth round for a 4-3 final in favor of Trois-Rivières. Worcester trailed in total shots on goal by two, with 33 to Trois-Rivières' 35.

## T-Birds upset by Wild

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (22-27-5-2) put forth a big push down the stretch but succumbed to a late goal in falling 2-1 against the Iowa Wild (19-30-4-1) on Saturday night before the ninth consecutive Pink in the Rink sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

The two clubs, who combined for 23 goals in two games in Des Moines in February, continued a week-end of tight checking in the opening period, with young netminders Will Cranley of Springfield (eight saves) and William Rousseau of the Wild (nine saves) turning away every shot that reached the target in period one. Dillon Dube came the closest to breaking the tie for Springfield, ringing the post behind Rousseau with one offering.

The Thunderbirds were frequent penalty killers in the opening half of the game, and the Wild finally connected as their fourth power play began at 9:01 of the third, as Dylan Gambrell stole a clearing attempt, firing a shot on net to force a rebound off Cranley's pads. Tyler Pitlick drove to the rebound and backhanded it under Cranley to make it a 1-0 game as the veteran potted his ninth goal in 14 AHL games this season.

Cranley had to atone for his own gaffe late in the period when he turned a puck over right in front of an open goal, but he recovered to sprawl back into his crease and make a stop to hold the score at 1-0 into the third.

Steve Ott's team emptied the tank in the final period, to the tune of an 18-5 shot advantage. After failing to connect on two more power plays, the T-Birds used a great effort on the rush to finally crack into the score-sheet as Matthew Peca made a perfect drop pass onto the tape of Hugh McGing, who one-timed it through Rousseau to even the score at 13:49.

The Thunderbirds had thoughts of jumping to the lead down the stretch, but Rousseau and Iowa kept Springfield from a tie-breaking goal. Instead, it would be the visitors who tasted victory late in the third. After a misplay at the offensive blue line from the T-Birds, Jean-Luc Foudy raced up the ice to set up a 2-on-1 with Gambrell, who one-timed a shot past a stretching Cranley with exactly 2:00 remaining in regulation. Springfield's last-ditch efforts with Cranley on the bench for a sixth attacker came up empty, and Iowa completed the two-game sweep of the weekend. The visiting team won each of the four matchups in the season series between the teams.

The T-Birds returned to a sold-out Thunderdome on Wednesday, Mar. 11 as they host the Providence Bruins for the first of two games wearing St. Patty's Day specialty jerseys.

### ROAD RACE from page 9

because of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

While there has been a considerable amount of snowfall this past winter, the Holyoke DPW will have the streets utilized in the race ready to go for both runners and spectators. Helping matters has been the recent warmer weather that has helped accelerate the melting of a lot of the snow.

For participants in this year's race, Runner numbers and bib-tags can be picked up on Friday, Mar. 20 from 3 to 6 p.m. They can also be picked upon



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Alex Corbett takes second in the race for the second year in a row.

Saturday morning between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

There will be free shuttle service going from Holyoke Community College to the race area. The shuttle will drop runners off at the Mater Dolorosa School parking lot outside of the clothing drop. Race officials advise using a shuttle by 12 noon in order to make the start of the race.



Female winner Angelia Rafter crosses the finish line at 34:13.

### ALL-STARS from page 9

For the 15th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for

their achievements on the court as well as their sportsmanship and character off the court.

Participants in the Boys Class C and D game include: Ware's Jack Gaudreau and Brady Guimond, Palmer's Dylan Doherty, Gavin Smola, and Stephen



Fredette, Mahar's Jayden Delgado, Granby's Zavier Fernandez, and Monson's Austin Meacham.

In the girls game, participants include: Minnechaug's Cailin O'Brien, Kelly

Cronin, and Elizabeth Woytowicz, Mahar's Hayden Comeau, and Agawam's Isabella Laprise.

And in the Boys A and B game, participants include: Holyoke's Jordan King-Perilli, Chicopee's Dominic Garcia, Belchertown's Jake Pacunas, Minnechaug's Miles Fergus, Chicopee Comprehensive's Brody Fay, and South Hadley's Isiah James.

## Registration now underway for Quaboag Valley Baseball

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

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

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

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

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026

season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

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

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

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

# SUMMER CAMP

Check Out These Great Camps!

## 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 myriad ways. Recognition of the many advantages of attending summer camp can serve as a great reminder of just how fun it can be for children to spend their time away from school at a camp of their choosing.

• 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. Indeed, the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University notes that summer camp may be the first time children spend substantial amounts of time with people whose backgrounds differ from their own.

• 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. A 2025 study from researchers at the University of Michigan published in the journal Health and Place found that efforts to reduce kids' screen time are more successful when children are given a chance to play outside. 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. That can add an aimlessness to summer days. Camp can provide the structure kids are accustomed to but still offer a break from responsibilities like homework or the commitments required of extracurricular activities.

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.

## summer@HCC

### Holyoke Community College Summer Youth Programs for Ages 8-16

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- August 3-7, Python Programmers (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- July 20-24, Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- July 13-17, ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- July 6-10 and 13-17, Fun Bites with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
- July 20-24 and 27-31, Around the world with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
- July 6-10 and 13-17, Cooking without Borders with Chez Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)
- July 20-24 and 27-31, Passport to Flavors with Chef Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)

Check out our adult enrichment courses, too! [hcc.edu/bcs](http://hcc.edu/bcs)

**HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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WEEK #2: July 13 - 17  
WEEK #3: July 20 - 24

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## BEMENT SUMMER CAMP

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FOR CHILDREN ENTERING GRADES K-9  
Campers participate in a wide variety of fun activities including arts & crafts, swimming, nature programs, hiking, and 18 enrichment themes! Lunch is included and before and after care is available!

WEEK	DATE	ACTIVITIES	TUITION
WEEK 1	JUNE 15-19	Studio Arts & Crafts	Weekly Tuition \$350-\$500
WEEK 2	JUNE 22-26	Speech & Debate	
WEEK 3	JULY 6-10	Broadway at Bement	
WEEK 4	JULY 13-17	Magic: Behind the Music	
WEEK 5	JULY 20-24	Graphic Novel Camp	
WEEK 6	JULY 27-31	Little Explorers Camp	
WEEK 7	AUGUST 3-7	Movie Magic Camp	

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14 Old Main Street  
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Registration Link: [bement.org/summer](http://bement.org/summer)




# public safety

## Ware Police Log

During the week of Feb. 24-March 3, the Ware Police Department responded to 25 miscellaneous calls, 30 administrative calls, 10 traffic violations, 14 emergency 911 calls, four thefts/larcenies, two harassments/stalks/threats, three motor vehicle accidents, two fires, two trespasses, two assist other agencies, one fraud/deception, two damage/vandalisms, three animal calls and 18 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

**Tuesday, Feb. 24**  
 2:19 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 8:39 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Pleasant Street, Vehicle Towed  
 9:25 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Pleasant Street, Vehicle Towed  
 9:46 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Monson Turnpike Road, Vehicle Towed  
 10 a.m. Traffic Collision, Monson Turnpike Road, Report Made  
 11:33 a.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Arrest Made  
 12:50 p.m. Structure Fire, Hillside Village, Investigated  
 2:34 p.m. Home Invasion, Old Poor Farm Road, Investigated  
 5:17 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, West Street, Investigated  
 5:24 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Highland Village, Advised  
 6:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**  
 3:06 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered  
 8:16 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Hazmat

Spill Control  
 6:27 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Old Belchertown Road, Investigated

**Thursday, Feb. 26**  
 2:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 10:23 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cummings Street, Dispatch Handled  
 6:36 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated  
 7:09 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Barnes Street, Dispatch Handled  
 9:16 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, Services Rendered

**Friday, Feb. 27**  
 2:49 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Vigeant Street, Parking Ticket Issued  
 9:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, East Main Street, Report Made  
 11:50 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered  
 2:15 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Services Rendered  
 4:28 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Shoreline Drive, Services Rendered  
 7:52 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cottage Street, Dispatch Handled  
 8:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
 8:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gould Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
 10:16 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Main Street, Dispatch Handled

**Saturday, Feb. 28**  
 2:57 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Cottage Street, Parking Ticket Issued  
 12 p.m. Damage/

*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.*

Vandalism, Cottage Street, Services Rendered  
 5:41 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, Eddy Street, Could Not Locate

**Sunday, March 1**  
 3:53 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Walnut Street, Services Rendered  
 6 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Walnut Street, Investigated  
 2:11 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Report Made  
 9:41 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, North Street, Investigated

**Monday, March 2**  
 11:50 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered  
 11:51 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, Investigated  
 8:25 p.m. Structure Fire, Pleasant Street, Extinguished  
 10 p.m. Assault, Church Street, Advised

**Tuesday, March 3**  
 2:45 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 11:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, West Street, Report Made

## Warren Police Log

During the week of Feb. 15-21, the Warren Police Department responded to 213 building/property checks, 27 community policings, 15 emergency 911 calls, one harassment, one vandalism, three safety concerns, two assist other agencies, three parking issues, one vehicle fire, one larceny/theft, two motor vehicle accidents, three animal calls and 13 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

**Sunday, Feb. 15**  
 8:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 8:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 12:51 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Crescent Street, Transported to Hospital  
 12:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 1:14 p.m. Safety Concern, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 2:22 p.m. Welfare Check, Chapel Street, Transported to Hospital  
 9:40 p.m. Harassment, Main Street, Report Filed

**Monday, Feb. 16**  
 9:33 a.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Old West Warren Road, Mutual Aid Transport  
 10:43 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Cottage Street, Mutual Aid Transport  
 11:01 a.m. Vandalism, Presidential Circle, Report Filed  
 1:14 p.m. Parking Issues, Comins Pond Road, Investigated  
 2:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

4:29 p.m. Wires Down, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency  
 6:27 p.m. Vehicle Fire, Cutler Road, Fire Extinguished

**Tuesday, Feb. 17**  
 5:28 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Quaboag Street, Canceled  
 9:07 a.m. Alarm Activation, School House Drive, Investigated  
 11:58 a.m. Suspicious Person, Carpenter Street, Report Filed  
 2:15 p.m. Alarm Activation, Reed Street, Investigated  
 3:09 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Winthrop Terrace, Confirmed Accidental/Misdial  
 4:18 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Shamrock Drive, Mutual Aid Transport  
 5:31 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle, Old West Warren Road, Report Filed  
 6:05 p.m. Animal Bites, Sarty Road, Transported to Hospital  
 7:38 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Quaboag Street, Report Filed  
 8:28 p.m. Parking Issues, Carpenter Street, Report Filed

10:53 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Yankee Drummer Drive, Transported to Hospital

**Wednesday, Feb. 18**  
 4:01 a.m. Safety Concern, Pleasant Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 8:42 a.m. Erratic Operator, Old West Warren Road, Written Warning  
 9:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Washington Street, Criminal Complaint  
 9:41 a.m. Headache, Main Street, Transported to

Hospital  
 11:28 a.m. Unwanted Party, Crescent Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 3:31 p.m. Erratic Operator, Cross Street, Report Filed  
 7:01 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

**Thursday, Feb. 19**  
 5:28 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
 7:53 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Crescent Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 11:07 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Investigated

**Friday, Feb. 20**  
 5:06 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Constitution Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
 11:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 12:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridges Avenue, Written Warning  
 1:02 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital  
 2:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Vehicle Towed  
 8:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Vehicle Towed

**Saturday, Feb. 21**  
 7:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning  
 8:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 6:37 p.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Report Filed

## Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of Feb. 23-March 9, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 120 building/property checks, 71 directed/area patrols, 25 radar assignments, nine traffic controls, 16 emergency 911 calls, eight citizen assists, two assist other agencies, three complaints, seven safety hazards, four scams, one threat, two fires, one motor vehicle investigation, one animal call and 30 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.



**Monday, Feb. 23**  
 9:10 a.m. Safety Hazard, Thayer Road, Referred to Other Agency

**Tuesday, Feb. 24**  
 3:27 a.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital  
 9:59 a.m. Safety Hazard, Goddard Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 1:23 p.m. Safety Hazard, New Braintree Road, Services Rendered  
 1:30 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Prospect Street, Officer Handled  
 1:42 p.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Services Rendered  
 8:33 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**  
 2:01 p.m. Scam, Sullivan Avenue, Officer Handled  
 7:28 p.m. Threat, Petersham Road, Report Taken

**Thursday, Feb. 26**  
 1:36 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Patrill Hollow Road, Officer Handled  
 10:19 a.m. Serve Warrant, Petersham Road, Arrest(s) Made  
 10:30 a.m. Complaint, Breen Road, Services Rendered  
 12:48 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Services

Rendered  
 6:13 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Officer Handled  
 11:10 p.m. 911 Misdial, Main Street, Spoken To

**Friday, Feb. 27**  
 10:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning

**Saturday, Feb. 28**  
 11:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning  
 2:23 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Old Petersham Road, Officer Handled  
 3:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
 3:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
 4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
 5:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

5:47 p.m. Investigation, Petersham Road, Officer Handled  
 6:26 p.m. Medical Alarm, Delargy Road, Transported to Hospital  
 8:58 p.m. Assist Citizen, Police Station, Spoken To

**Monday, March 2**  
 9:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Petersham Road, Citation Issued  
 11:45 a.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Officer Handled  
 1:24 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 2 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency  
 5:27 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prouty Road, Patient Refusal

**Tuesday, March 3**  
 1:20 p.m. Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Officer Handled  
 1:37 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Petersham Road, Vehicle Towed  
 3:32 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, March 4**  
 1:52 a.m. Fire/Other, Maple Street, Services Rendered  
 12:05 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital  
 4:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 5:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Written Warning

**Thursday, March 5**  
 9:19 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Petersham Road, Referred to

Other Agency  
 9:30 a.m. Complaint, Hardwick Center, Officer Handled  
 10:38 a.m. Scam, Gaudet Road, Report Taken  
 4:58 p.m. Safety Hazard, High Street, Services Rendered

**Friday, March 6**  
 12:50 a.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Services Rendered  
 10:14 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital  
 4:22 p.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, Spoken To  
 5:17 p.m. 911 Scam, Hardwick Road, Report Taken  
 6:37 p.m. Scam, Main Street, Report Taken  
 9:40 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Lucas Road, Officer Handled  
 11:48 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

**Saturday, March 7**  
 7:46 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Charity Hill Road, Transported to Hospital  
 3:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
 4:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 5:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Dispatch Handled  
 5:46 p.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, Barre Road, Extinguished  
 6:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Street, Officer Handled  
 11:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Church Lane, Negative Contact

**Monday, March 9**  
 2:07 a.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

## Second Pleasant Street fire under investigation

WARE – On the night of March 2 at approximately 8:25 p.m., Westcomm Regional Dispatch received a call from a reporting party for smoke coming from a building in the area of Church street and Pleasant Street.

Engine 2 was dispatched to investigate and upgraded the response to a second alarm. Engine 2 arrived on scene at 21-23 Pleasant St. to find a large wood frame constructed building under renovations with active fire in multiple areas of the building.

The fire was quickly knocked down by the first alarm response and the building checked for extension. No injuries were reported.

Fire Chief James Martinez thanked all mutual aid departments and other professional entities that responded, including

Belchertown Fire, Granby Fire/EMS, Monson Fire, Palmer Fire, Warren Fire, Wilbraham Fire and West Brookfield Fire/EMS.

The incident is under investigation by the State Fire Marshal's Office along with Ware Fire and Police investigation team.

The State Fire Marshal's office and local authorities are investigating two suspicious fires in the Pleasant Street area of the town. They are encouraging town residents to remain vigilant and keep an eye on one another so everyone stays safe.

If you have any information, captured anything suspicious on your home security cameras, heard anything from neighbors or locals that you'd like to report, call 1-800-682-9229 or call the Ware Police or Ware Fire departments. All calls are strictly confidential.

## Open burning permits available online only

Season runs through April 30

WARE – Open burning season is open now through April 30, during the hours of 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Permits will be available online only at [ware.firepermits.com](http://ware.firepermits.com). In order to obtain a burning permit, please go to [ware.firepermits.com](http://ware.firepermits.com) and register for the site.

If you are already registered for the site from last

year's season, you only need to log in and apply for a 2026 burn permit.

Please make sure you link your bank account for UniPay for a smoother process. The bank requires time to process your payment and your permit will be inactive until payment is approved.

Cash will not be accepted at the fire station for a burn permit. All processing fees are required through the online website.

### NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

## Joshua Charles Holden, 51

BATH, ME – Joshua Charles Holden 51, born Aug. 18, 1974, passed away in Portland, Maine on Jan. 24, 2026.



Josh grew up in Hardwick, along with his three siblings, Glen, Jason, and Amber Holden. Hardwick, the home of America's oldest country fair, is situated next to the Quabbin Reservoir, a place of remarkable natural beauty.

Josh's parents, Charles and Lillian Holden, encouraged a love of the outdoors in all their children. Josh grew up fishing, hunting, and camping with his parents, siblings, cousins, and beloved grandparents, Ellen and Paul Champagne, or as he called them, Mem and Pep.

At Quabbin Regional High School, Josh was a standout on the wrestling team and a gifted artist, painting large colorful portraits. He furthered his art studies at Springfield College, the alma mater of his paternal grand-

father, Lester Holden. While at college, he studied abroad in England and had many memorable adventures, including a 100-mile hike with friends along South Downs Way.

After graduation, he worked for Viacom in New York City as a graphic designer and animator for television channels including MTV and Nick at Nite. He later worked as a sought-after freelancer in the industry, which allowed him time to continue his personal painting projects.

The love of art came at a young age fostered by his paternal Grandmother Shirley (Randlett) Holden.

Josh, who never lost his love of the outdoors, moved to Maine in the early 2000s, working remotely in television production while living in the Mid Coast area.

When he wasn't working, he enjoyed hiking, spending time at the beaches on Bailey Island, and painting

landscapes. He had an art studio in Bath, which he shared with the public during monthly art walks.

He was the proud father of Hudson, Bryce, and Jemma. Josh was predeceased by his parents, Charles G. Holden and Lillian (Champagne) Holden, as well as his brother Glen. He is survived by his three children Hudson, Bryce and Jemma. His brother Jason and his wife Donna, and their son Ty, Josh's godson. His sister Amber and her daughter Jade; his sister-in-law Renee and his niece and nephew, Rachel and Ben. His lifelong friends Josh Sinkoski, Kenny Ruggles and David Fleming.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Josh's memory to The Art Walk Via: Visitbath.com or The Hardwick Community Fair, P.O. Box 1. Hardwick MA 01037. A Private Burial will be held at the family's convenience at a later date.

To share memories of Joshua or to leave the family an online condolence, please visit [www.athutchins.com](http://www.athutchins.com).

## Richard E. Tuttle, 67

WARREN – It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Richard "Rick" Tuttle on Feb. 27, 2026, at the age of 67.



Rick was born to Ann & Robert "Bob" Tuttle of Warren, on Jan. 23, 1959, and was the youngest of three boys.

Throughout his life, Rick was a man of many passions including: fishing on his boat, riding his motorcycles, and driving his Triumph car. He was also an avid collector of vintage toys, whistles, and Jack Daniel's memorabilia.

You could point him out in a crowd by his boisterous laugh and large personality. Rick made friends wherever he went and you could generally find him turning a stranger into a new acquaintance.

It didn't matter who you were, he would always offer

a helping hand to anyone who needed it.

A filial son, he spent his life working on his family farm, Breezelands Orchards, with a dog ever by his side.

Rick is preceded in death by his mother, Ann, and is survived by his father, Bob, his brothers Mark and Brad, and his two children, Tyler and Arianna.

Rick's family would like to welcome everyone to a celebration of life at Cebula Funeral Home in Ware on May 2 from noon-2 p.m. We encourage everybody to come and share their best Rick story. We wish for those who attend to celebrate Rick and his lasting impact on our lives.

Cebula Funeral Home of Ware is assisting his family with the final arrangements. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: [www.cebulafuneralhome.com](http://www.cebulafuneralhome.com).

## Death notices

**Tuttle, Richard E.**  
Died Feb. 27, 2026  
Services May 2, 2026

**Holden, Joshua Charles**  
Died Jan. 24, 2026

## Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

## Ware Town Clerk releases 2026 dog licensing information

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

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

If you are licensing in person the Town Clerk's Office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week during business hours. Town Hall is now closed to the public on Wednesdays. If you are licensing by U.S. Mail, the licenses must be purchased prior to March 31, and your envelope must also be post-marked by March 31 or there will be a late fee.

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

On April 1 there will be a late fee of \$15 per dog in

addition to the licensing fee.

Rabies Certificates for each dog must be presented at the time of licensing as in the past.

If your dog was licensed in 2025, check the license to see if the Rabies Certificate is current (the information is on your 2025 license); it is current, simply come into the office to license in person or license by U.S. Mail. If licensing by mail, you must provide a self-addressed, postage paid envelope in order for us to return the license and tag to you.

If licensing more than one dog, be sure to add sufficient postage to your envelope to insure delivery.

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

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

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

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

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

## MEETING from page 1

police department presented was fuel. Landine said there is \$25,000 marked for fuel, and \$21,000 marked for repair. He said since 2020, the average cost of fuel per year is \$18,000.

The discussion then turned to staffing. Landine said the budget funds five full-time police officers, and that there is 24/7 coverage in town. Additionally, the budget covers two matrons and a part-time officer.

There is a line item in the budget for "pensionable income" which Landine said is simply his salary, which accounts for \$109,000.

Other line items discussed include police expense, which \$28,000 is being requested for FY 27, which covers in part software for reports, fingerprint machines, and body

worn cameras. He said those costs are split with the New Braintree Police Department.

Other line items that Landine said he did not expect to be an issue for this upcoming fiscal year include cruiser replacement, server replacement, and laptop replacement. Landine said cruisers are replaced every two-three years, the server is on a grant list, and the laptops are new, but in a few years will have one replaced a year.

Landine said the clerk salary is up 2% from last year, and they work 19 hour weeks.

## School budget

The board and committee held a short discussion on the school budget, which has not been presented by the school district yet. They noted that the minimum funding per

student from the town is \$10,500, and Hardwick has had a net increase of 17 students, while the district as a whole has had a net decrease of 7 students.

Korzec said he noticed in the last town report that there were 20 births in the town of Hardwick last year, and said they will need to start thinking about a five year budgeting plan should those 20 children go to school in the district.

The boards are scheduled to have another joint meeting on March 16.

## Town Clerk lists Vote by Mail information

WARE – The Town of Ware will hold its Annual Town Election on Monday, April 13, at Town Hall, 126 Main St.

While voters may cast their ballots in person on election day, there is also a Vote by Mail option for those who may be interested.

The Vote by Mail application is available in the Town Clerk's Office to be com-

pleted in person, or it is also available online on the Town of Ware website, [www.townofware.com](http://www.townofware.com). See Town Clerk page – Elections and Voting, or News and Notices.

Applications may be dropped off in person at the Town Clerk's Office, in the U.S. Mail or in the blue drop box outside the lower-level offices at Town Hall, 126 Main St.

An online portal is also available under [www.ma.gov](http://www.ma.gov) – Secretary of State – Elections and Voting.

The deadline to apply for or forward your application is Monday April 6 at 5 p.m.

Questions may be directed to the Town Clerk – Nancy J. Talbot at 413-967-9648 extension 103.

## UPDATE from page 1

Because of this, Duff said Quaboag Regional School District's estimate for services was much lower than that projected by North Brookfield Public Schools.

"Our special education numbers and our special education costs I think were very spot-on," he said.

## WBES playground

Duff said the West Brookfield Elementary School PTO has been working to replace the old kindergarten playground that was removed last year due to safety concerns.

"The PTO has raised just about enough funds to complete the project," he said. "We have purchased all of the playground equipment and it's already at the school."

Duff said the PTO does not have enough funds to

purchase the entire rubberized mat to cover the playground surface, but they are able to move forward with installation this summer.

"When kids return to school in the fall, we'll have a new kindergarten/first grade playground," he said.

## Superintendent's report

Duff said the Washington, D.C. trip will be held March 17-20 for eighth and ninth grade students. He said this trip was approved by the School Committee last year.

Duff said many community members sponsored students to ensure that all students who wanted to attend the trip would be able to go. He said 100 students and 10 chaperones are attending.

Duff said they are looking at adding additional solar panels to some of the school district's buildings.

"We will look at that over time," he said.

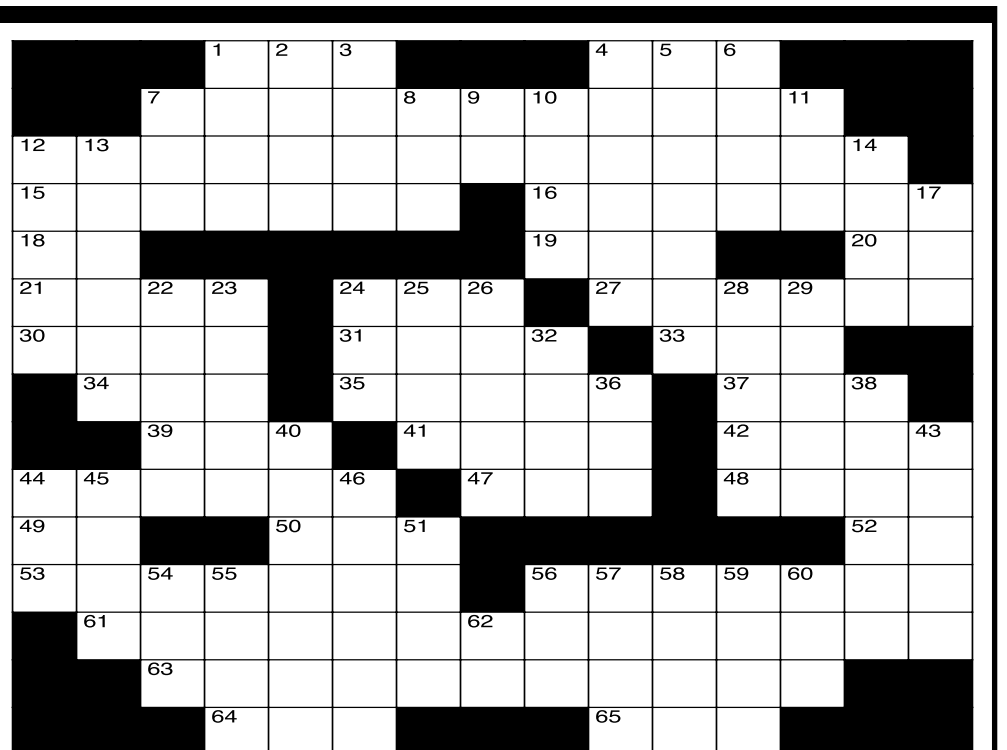
Duff said they will also look at solar credits to help offset the cost.

Duff said they are also looking into a grant that would allow the school district to purchase electric landscaping equipment, heat pumps in some of the offices, as well as a new electric stove for the kitchen. He said this is not a matching grant and would be a cost-savings to the school district.

Duff said the grade six leadership, Project 351 ambassadors, Student Advisory Council and High School Principal's Council will present at the March 12 School Committee meeting.

## Visitor's comments

Ray Kopacko said the Warren Finance Committee will be meeting on March 12 at 2:30 p.m. to continue discussion about the fiscal year 2027 budget.



## CLUES ACROSS

1. Blockchain-based entity
4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
7. Painted with glue
12. Legendary crooner
15. Structure made with strips of wood
16. Tropical fruits
18. Commercial
19. Comedienne Gasteyer
20. The Ocean State
21. Ancient Scot
24. Basics
27. Stated propositions
30. Scottish island group
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Large tree
34. Engine additive
35. Conspiracy
37. Drunkard

39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
41. Ancient Syrian city
42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
44. Carry (slang)
47. Sweet potato
48. European river
49. The Golden State
50. Windy City ballplayer
52. New Testament
53. Possess spiritually
56. A treeless grassy plain
61. Popular historical novel
63. In a law-abiding way
64. A place to sleep
65. Criticize
4. Occupant
5. Member of Great Plains people
6. Social media firm
7. Digital audiotape
8. Midway between east and southeast
9. Chronic, progressive disease
10. Chinese lute
11. Not wet
12. Moves wings up and down
13. Communication devices
14. Swiss river
17. Female sibling
22. Receive
23. Relating to a type
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Steep bank
26. Taxi driver
28. Moves into without

- difficulty
29. Bicycle manufacturer
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on it
38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
40. Die
43. Matched
44. Literary genre \_\_\_-fi
45. Cannot
46. Pounded
51. British rock group
54. Debt relief order
55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
56. Green vegetable
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Ailments
60. Famed singer Charles
62. Camper

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# public notices

# warren

## Nominations needed for historical society awards

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – The Quaboag Historical Society requests nominations for the annual Lucy Stone Achievement Award and the Irving and Jane England Award.

Each year, the historical society recognizes its most impressive community leaders and volunteers with these two awards. The Lucy Stone Achievement Award is given annually in observance of the commonwealth's designation of Lucy Stone Day on March 8.

Born on Coy Hill in West Brookfield, Stone worked tirelessly throughout her life to get equal rights for all individuals. She was a lecturer for abolitionist and equal rights groups and the founder and editor of The Woman's Journal.

For the Lucy Stone Award, the Quaboag Historical Society requests nomination letters for any-

one living in one of the six Quaboag Plantation area towns (the four Brookfields, New Braintree, and Warren). Residents are asked to nominate individuals whose volunteer efforts have helped make their communities better places to live.

The nominating letters should briefly explain why the writer believes the nominee is deserving of the award. The name, address, and phone number of both the nominator and the nominee must be included in the letter.

"For this award, we are seeking nominees who have done an exemplary job of giving back through community service," said QHS Co-President Amy Dugas, who described the motto of the Lucy Stone Award as honoring residents who make the world a better place.

The Irving and Jane England Award, also pre-

sented annually by the QHS, is given each year to a resident of West Brookfield who has helped better the community through community service. Nomination regulations for this award are the same as those for the Lucy Stone Award.

Dugas and other QHS leaders feel it's important to take a few moments each year to honor those who contribute countless hours to improving their communities.

"Those people willing to put in the time and get involved and make a significant contribution to the community should be recognized," Dugas added.

All award nomination entries should be submitted to the QHS by Monday, April 13.

Nomination letters should be mailed to The Quaboag Historical Society, P.O. Box 635, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

## Town Election to be held May 5

**WARREN** – Town Clerk, Laura J. Stockley said the Town Election will be held on Tuesday, May 5.

Appearing on the ballot will be the following:

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

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

The Quaboag Regional School District positions will also be incorporated on the Town Ballot. Two members from the Town of Warren for a three-year term and two members from the Town of West Brookfield for a three-year term. Deadline for returning nomination papers is Friday, March 20 by 4 p.m.

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

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### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 89 Church Street, Ware, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Isis Anadon, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Network, Inc. its successors and assigns and now held by AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC, said mortgage dated May 18, 2021, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14105, Page 323, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated May 31, 2022, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14568, Page 294, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on April 9, 2026 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract or parcel of land situate on the Easterly side of Church Street, in said Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin on the Easterly side of Church Street, said iron pin marking the Southwesterly corner of land of William O. Barrett;

thence Southwesterly along the Easterly side of Church Street 78.3 feet to an iron pin at the corner of land of Cora M. Gilmore; thence South 52° 11' East 220 feet along line of land of Cora M. Gilmore to an iron pin in line of land of Grenville Park;

thence North 43° 4' East 79 feet along line of Grenville Park at an iron pin at corner of land of William O. Barrett;

thence North 52° 22' West 220 feet along line of said Barrett to the place of beginning, more or less.

Subject to and together with the rights and easements in the common driveway which runs between locus and the premises now or formerly of John F. Slattery and Mary E. Slattery The

description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated May 17, 2021, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14105, Page 319.

**TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

**TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00)** Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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MLG File No.: 23-03451  
03/12, 03/19, 03/26/2026

### LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, for the purpose of satisfying the liens of Sunny Side Storage LLC, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of the following storage units will be sold for non-payment on **Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 9 a.m.** on the premises of Sunny Side Storage LLC, 313 & 319 Palmer Rd., Ware, MA (413)967-5888.

Sara Reardon F-40 & F-58  
Cathleen Tuttle F-10  
Tammy George C-38  
Jeremy Hines F-3  
Beth Makara C-46  
Tekowa Olander A-19  
Zachary Chrabaszcz C-45  
03/12, 03/19/2026

## Friends of Ware Town Hall offer Spring Lotto Calendars to raise money

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

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

The cost of each calendar is \$10 and there are multiple chances to win

since winning stubs will be put back into the drawing. Cash prizes range from \$25 to one \$500 prize on the final day of drawing, April 30.

Calendars may be purchased from members of Friends of Ware Town Hall, as well as the following locations in town: Ware Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office; It's Wine O'clock; Crystal Springs Dairy Bar; Ware River Club; Ware Senior Center; Changes

Hair Design; Ware Library; Moulton Insurance Agency; Nat Falk; Otto Florist; and Silhouettes on Main.

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

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### Hardwick Crossing Country Club

**GILBERTVILLE** – The former "Dorchester Country Club, a 9-hole golf course, reopened at 262 Lower Road, known as "Hardwick Crossing" and has a five-star quality restaurant without the price tag.

Hardwick Crossing golf course opened in July 2022 with a maintained course while offering a variety of memberships packages to suit a range of guests and family needs. This endeavor fulfilled owner Kenneth Utavio's dream of reopening the former golf course.

The newly renovated restaurant, known by regulars as "The Clubhouse," opened in September 2022 and provides a full-service bar and gourmet food. Choices include: saute dishes, clam chowder, prime rib, fish and chips, Buffalo chicken dip, Buffalo tenders, Gnocchi, Roastbeef, steak tips and salmon.

The executive chef is Thomas Simons. He was at Enrico Brick Oven Pizzeria for eight years as well as Tower Hill Botanical Gardens for many years. Their Sous Chef Nicola Anderson took over that position when Simons got promoted to executive chef. Anderson comes from Sherbridge Hotel and Enrico's and been at Hardwick Crossing from the beginning.

A 1,600 square foot hangar venue, which seats 170 people is open for special events and weddings. It has a panoramic view of the golf course. Chef Jeff Nicholas assists in the regular kitchen and runs the events and weddings kitchen. They also have outdoor seating for 125 overlooking the golf course.

The motto they follow at Hardwick Crossing is ingredients are "from the vine, from the table" and "from the family," so fresh and local products are a top priority. General Manager Courtney Lenderer said the restaurant has food delivered six days a week. Alex Symons is Assistant Manager and Cassandra Hobbs, Bar Manager. They offer products and produce from Gibson Farms, Meadows Meats, West Boylston Seafood, local farm stands, Frost Yield Farms.

The restaurant is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. People may follow them on Facebook and Instagram at [hardwickcrossing.com](https://www.facebook.com/hardwickcrossing).

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