

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Town Hall audit results reviewed

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Lisa Miller from CBIZ, Inc. presented her findings to the Selectboard from an audit recently conducted of Town Hall employee reimbursement records.

At the March 18 meeting, Miller said the audit covered the years 2015-2019 and included all of the employee reimbursements for those years.

“There was approximately 157 items where the employees averaged one or less reimbursements annually,” she said. “They basically averaged one reimbursement or less on an average annual basis.”

Miller said from that population, they looked at a base of 5% of the reimbursement from a random sample.

“We also sampled all reimbursements that were greater than \$1,000 regardless of whether or not they were within the random sample,” she said.

Miller said her staff were on site in the Town Hall to review the financial package and verify the documentation. She said they were able to validate those items.

“What we did notice and observe in the records as we looked at the financial

Please see **AUDIT**, page 3



Close to 50 people braved the frigid water of Beaver Lake this past Saturday for the annual Polar Plunge event to support Special Olympics Massachusetts.

## POLAR PLUNGE

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

## Annual event helped raise money for Special Olympics

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – For the seventh year, Ware Police Officer Jeannine Bonnayer has led the charge into the frigid water of Beaver Lake to help support a cause that is close to her heart.

The Polar Plunge raises money to support Special Olympics Massachusetts, which gives student-athletes of all abilities a chance to participate in Olympic-style events. This year’s Polar Plunge raised over \$5,750 – more than doubling Bonnayer’s goal of \$2,500.

“This is the most people

I’ve ever had,” Bonnayer said of the event held on March 22.

Last year, Bonnayer said she had just over 20 people taking the plunge, and this year, that number was closer to 50.

Joining Bonnayer in support of Special Olympics Massachusetts were members of Monson Police Department, UMass Amherst Police Department’s K-9 Parker and K-9 Officer Ted Bonnayer, Wilbraham Police Department, Westcomm Regional Dispatch and dozens of community members. Members of the Ware Fire

Please see **PLUNGE**, page 8



Dawson Whitham, age 5, enjoyed digging in the sand on the beach.

## Pathfinder Tech proposes budget

By Marcelo Gusmão  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER –Pathfinder Regional Technical Vocational School presented its budget for fiscal year 2026 at an annual dinner.

On March 12, stakeholders from all nine towns serviced by Pathfinder were invited to attend the school’s annual budget presentation dinner. The towns were represented by school board members, finance committees, town administrators and managers, and the budget was presented by Superintendent Eric Duda.

Duda opened the ceremony with highlights from the past year, including competitive grants and improvements to the school, such as the new gym floor, which was funded by the town of Palmer.

“We reviewed the competitive grants we’ve received,” Duda said. “One for \$1.25 million for the complete renovation of our horticulture and electrical programs, which was the largest we ever received.”

In addition to this grant, Duda highlighted a grant for \$100,000 that helped the school upgrade its HVAC program. The school also qualified for two competitive grants, including \$280,000 for the past year, and a grant of \$420,000 that was designed

Please see **BUDGET**, page 7

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

### School Committee candidates share views at forum

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – There is one contested position on the annual town election ballot this year; with four candidates running for two open seats on the School Committee.

On March 21, a candidates forum was hosted by

Ware Community Television and the Ware River News in the Ware High School library, where candidates introduced themselves and answered a series of questions submitted by members of the community.

Brian Winslow has served on the School Committee for 16 years, and is its current chair, is seeking reelection. He is retired and he works as a school bus driver, which he said he loves.

Winslow talked about the challenges the school district has faced, and some of its

accomplishments, which are celebrated monthly at School Committee meetings.

“Ware’s a great place,” he said.

Melissa Whitham, who serves on the town’s Charter Review Committee, said she is running for the School Committee because there are so many important topics to address. She has lived in town since 2013 with her wife and three children.

Whitham is in her 17th year of teaching in

Please see **FORUM**, page 6

## Selectmen held public hearing on CDBG joint application

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing for the fiscal year 2025 Community Development Block Grant joint application between Warren and Millbury.

Speaking on the application between the two towns was Principal Planner from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, John O’Leary. This proposed application helps communities such as Warren and Millbury through supporting community development activities to build stronger and more resilient communities.

To support community development, activities are identified through an ongoing process. Activities may

address needs such as infrastructure, economic development projects, public facilities installation, community centers, housing rehabilitation, public services, clearance/acquisition, micro-enterprise assistance, code enforcement, homeowner assistance and much more.

The Community Development Block Grant is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. O’Leary

Please see **WARREN**, page 5

## Quaboag Drama gets a ‘CLUE’

### Theater club brings classic whodunit comedy to stage

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – This past weekend Quaboag Regional Middle High School performed “Clue: High School Edition”.

This production was presented by the Quaboag Regional Middle High School Drama Club, the Quaboag Regional Theater Department and the 21st CCLC. The show is based on the Paramount Pictures Motion Picture and based on the popular Hasbro Board Game, CLUE.

The play featured many talented students of Quaboag, and some were going to be performing for the last time on the Quaboag stage. The show featured 14 scenes with remarkable stage props, designs and sets. The costumes were designed by Christine Taylor, who also served as the Stage Director.

James Joinville of QRMHS served as produc-



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Quaboag Regional Middle High School performed the high school edition of the play “Clue”. The characters listened through the door after a mysterious murder took place.

er and technical director. Joinville shared a note that was featured in the program for the show.

According to Joinville, the school’s production of “Clue” featured a lot of firsts.

“This is probably the first time that we have tackled a straight play like this and the first time that we have double casted a show,” Joinville said.

The students have worked hard and showed a lot of dedication to put this great show together during the entire weekend.

Joinville acknowledged all of the seniors who will be graduating this year, and that “Clue” was going to be their last show as members of the Quaboag Theater Department.

A total of 11 seniors were a part of the production of “Clue” as Joinville wanted to express how proud he was of all of them.

“You have all grown so much as performers but more importantly, how you have grown into amazing people, and I know that you

Please see **CLUE**, page 11



# EQLT hosts first ever Game Night

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust hosted its first ever game night for guests this past weekend at headquarters located at 120 Ridge Road.

The game night had a great turnout as a total of two teams competed in a series of crossword puzzles and trivia. Putting the game night together was Shari Hanson and Amy Trevvett.

With the weather warming up the land trust was looking for ideas that will engage people in fun activities and conversations. Members of the land trust thought hosting a game night with the theme surrounding areas and history of the region the East Quabbin Land Trust helps preserve.

The East Quabbin Land Trust fosters a meaningful relationship with the natural world by conserving, connecting with and caring for the farmlands, woodlands and waters in the East Quabbin region of Massachusetts.

“This is a good time to hold something like this,” Trevvett said.

The game night began by splitting the guests into groups and each group decided on a team name. One team called themselves “The Rebels.”

The game night began with several rounds of crossword puzzles. The answers to the crosswords featured vocabulary terms related to the areas the East Quabbin Land Trust works in, from open space, farms, woodlands and riverways.



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

The teams began working on several crossword puzzles and the most points went to the team who answered the fastest or had the most correct answers.

During the second round of crosswords, the two teams were tied as the game night would transition into a trivia round. A total of 25 questions were a part of the trivia round. For the crossword puzzles, there was a point system based off which team finished first or has the most correct answers in five minutes.

A lot of the questions were tied to the local history of the towns that are part of the East Quabbin region of Massachusetts. There were some questions tied to the Quabbin Reservoir.

For example, one of the first questions was what four towns were officially discontinued in 1938 for the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir. The four towns were Dana, Prescott, Enfield and Greenwich.

Reading the questions to the teams was former science teacher Becky Bottomley. In between questions, Bottomley and guests on each team would engage

in fun conversations sharing facts and history of areas in the East Quabbin region.

One question involved symbols of Massachusetts, such as the state flower, state bird and state marine mammal. The mayflower is the state flower, a chickadee is the Massachusetts state bird and the right whale is the state’s marine mammal. Bottomley noted that the right whale is currently an endangered species.

The game was very close the entire evening, but the difference between the two teams was only one point. Hanson kept the score and was using a very handy whiteboard.

Members of the EQLT thanked everyone for their attendance during the first game night and got some feedback and comments from the guests. Trevvett said the EQLT will host another game night in the future.

For more about the East Quabbin Land Trust, visit eqlt.org.

# Are You Old News?



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



File Photo  
Last week's photo from 1989 showed four Ware High School students who were presented Student of the Month awards by the WHS Parent Teacher Council, in the first of a continuing series of monthly awards. Recipients are shown from left, Henry Gagnon and Dorothy Pecak, English; Joseph Lavalley and Craig Wojcik, industrial arts, woodshop. PTC President Larry LaBombard, right, made the presentation of the awards, gift certificates to Subway.  
If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to pouimette@turley.com.

## Dog licenses must be purchased by March 31

WARE – Owners of dogs, six months or older, must register their dogs in the city or town they reside in per Massachusetts General Laws each year.

If you live in Ware, your dog must be registered prior to Monday, March 31. To date only 410 dogs have been registered by owners, while there are over 1,100 unregistered dogs needing to be licensed.

If you have moved, no longer have a dog please notify the Town Clerk by calling 413-967-9648 extension 177.

Dog licenses can be purchased in person during

normal business hours – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Town offices are now closed to the public on Wednesdays.

Licenses may also be purchased by U.S. Mail, simply see the instructions located on the Town Clerk page of the town website ([www.townofware.com](http://www.townofware.com)) or under News and Notices. The information on how to license by mail or using the drop box are listed.

Check your current licenses – if the rabies vaccination information is current there is no need to send in the certificate; however,

if your dog's rabies vaccination has expired you will need to get a new vaccination and mail the new certificate with your request.

When licensing other than in person you must make check payable to the Town of Ware, and enclose a self-addressed, postage paid envelope with your request to license.

Be sure to give us your name, address and telephone contact information so we can enter accurate information for the record.

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

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## Dogs must be registered by April 1 to avoid fines

HARDWICK – The Town Clerk would like to remind residents of the April 1 deadline to register their dog(s) or be subject to a \$10 late fine per dog.

A valid rabies is necessary to license any dog and the dog officer receives a list of owners whose dogs are not registered as of April 1. Owners may be subject to fines issued by the animal control officer for dogs that are unregistered, unvaccinated, and/or running at large.

Please also note the Town of Hardwick has a 24-hour leash law.

Dogs spayed or neutered cost \$8 each and those still intact are \$15 each. Cash or checks are accepted.

The Town Clerk will be in the office this Saturday, March 29 from 9 a.m.-noon; Monday, March 31 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and on Tuesday, April 1 from noon-6 p.m.



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



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\* After the initial 6 month introductory period, the interest rate will be Prime Rate as published in the Wall Street Journal minus 0.50%, currently 7.00% as of 3/5/25 with an APR of 7.00%. After 6 months, the rate will be variable and may increase. The maximum APR is 18%. The minimum APR is 3.75%. Rates are for owner-occupied properties only. Maximum loan-to-value (LTV) is 80%. Processing fee of \$199 will apply if line of credit is approved and closed. Borrower-paid drive-by appraisal required for loans between \$250,000-\$399,999. Borrower-paid appraisal required for loans equal to or greater than \$400,000. Other closing costs may vary based on the line of credit amount requested. Property insurance is required. Offer may be rescinded at any time.

# Voter registration deadline for STM is March 28

WARE – The Town of Ware will have a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Ware High School.

The last date to register to vote to participate in this Special Town Meeting is Friday, March 28, at 5 p.m. If you are already registered to vote and have remained at the same address you need not register again.

However, if you have moved and failed to register at the new address you must do so. If you have never registered to vote you can on this date or any date prior to in order to participate in the Special Town Meeting.

You can register in person during normal business hours at the Town Clerk’s Office on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Town Hall is now closed to the public on Wednesdays.

You may also register online at [www.ma.gov](http://www.ma.gov) Elections and Voting. You can also check your voter registration status here.

Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk Nancy Talbot by calling 413-967-9648 extension 177.

# EQLT to hold star gazing evening March 27

HARDWICK – East Quabbin Land Trust will host “Stars, Space Station, Satellites and S’mores” for some stargazing, weather permitting on Thursday, March 27 at 8 p.m. at Mandell Hill Preserve, 660 Barre Road.

The weather currently looks promising for some stargazing later this week. Mark Mattson will share his knowledge of the stars and constellations, and participants will all keep their eyes open for the Space Station and satellites. The Space Station will be overhead at 8:42 p.m. Plan to be there early enough to get settled and allow their eyes to adjust.

This event is entirely weather-dependent. If the East Quabbin land Trust needs to cancel, they need to know who to contact, so make sure to RSVP by emailing [atrevvett@eqlt.org](mailto:atrevvett@eqlt.org). They will also have all the fixings for s’mores for kids and kids at heart. Participants should dress for the weather, bring a small flashlight, and be sure to have a blanket or chair so they can lean back on for optimal viewing comfort.

# Workshop13 offers youths a chance to ‘Spring Into Art’

WARE – Workshop13 is offering a new youth art program during April vacation week, designed to keep children and tweens creatively engaged during their school break.

“Spring Into Art” week runs from April 21-25 daily from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Workshop13’s main building, located at 13 Church St. in downtown Ware. The target age group is 6-12 years.

Thanks to the generosity of the Community Foundation of Western MA, this program is being offered at a discounted rate of \$160 for the entire session.

Workshop13 offers numerous other creative activities for young artists. Fine Art for Kids has 4-week Saturday fine art/art history sessions for youths in March, April, and May. A new Mommy and Me Art Class is being offered one Thursday each month. A special one-day pottery workshop and demonstration with master potter Rick Hamlin will take place on April 5 at Workshop13’s ClayWorks campus (71 Main St., Ware), giving young aspiring potters the chance to make their own ceramic dragon.

The summer is packed with youth programs, including Art in Nature (also discounted thanks to the Community Foundation of Western MA), clay classes for different age groups, and Art Passport: Destination Stations. Thanks to the generosity of the Ware Cultural Council, all Art Passport sessions are being offered free of charge.

Workshop13 has sliding scale pricing and sibling discounts available to ensure that these and other youth programs are accessible to all. Workshop13 also participates in CardToCulture for EBT cardholders. Email [remington@workshop13.org](mailto:remington@workshop13.org) to request financial assistance.

Visit [workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org) to learn more about upcoming classes and workshops and to register.

**About Workshop13**  
Workshop13 Cultural Arts



This student displays her creations at Workshop13. Youth ages 6-12 are invited to “Spring Into Art” during April vacation week, April 21-25.



Students will experience a variety of creative mediums at Workshop13’s “Spring Into Art” week April 21-25. This photos shows some paper quilling made by students of a past workshop.

## AUDIT from page 1

package and the paper documents that somebody submitted for an expense reimbursement, we would see a city form...and we did notice at times where there’s certain city policies on the amount of the reimbursement that’s allowed and there was adjustments on those cases where it exceeded the city amount on those policies, on meals or things like that,” Miller said. “Those were clearly being reviewed; they were being signed off on.”

Miller said reimbursements over \$1,000 were related to specific sensitive expenses.

“We understand why the nature of the documentation is such, because of the sensitive nature of that,” she said. “But we did not find any issues.”

Miller said her team also reviewed former Fire Chief Thomas Coulombe’s reimbursements as well.

“In our review, we felt very comfortable that there were no discrepancies, but

we have made some recommendations to help bolster the documentation process,” Miller said.

## Comments and concerns

Cynthia Allen Bourcier said residents are making new efforts in regard to the Mary Lane Hospital site. She said the request for documents started about a year ago and they are still waiting to receive them.

Bourcier said the residents are now trying to preserve the Storrs and Wetherby buildings saved, possibly by having the town take temporary ownership of them. She said the Finance Committee is going to be looking at the financial impact of this.

“When they’re considering that, it would be good if they thought of both sides,” Bourcier said. “If it were not restricted to healthcare or if it were, because if it were, we need to consider the tax revenue from Cedarbrook, the positive impact of having the rail trail which helps the community, all the jobs that Cedarbrook would bring in

and the other jobs with hopefully the healthcare center.”

Bourcier said the residents are also pushing to continue the Mass Central Rail Trail through the property along with the passage of the new healthcare services district zoning which will be voted on at the Tuesday, April 8 special town meeting held at 6:30 p.m. in Ware High School.

Transportation will be available to and from the meeting through the Quaboag Connector.

“I just hope that we can all work together and get some more cooperation from the town with some of these things like documents, information from the lawyer... those kind of things,” she said.

Bourcier said she has received documents from Stephen Granlund and others, but nothing from the town.

Bourcier said the residents had also asked the town to hire Attorney Patricia Davidson a year ago to help represent them and save some of the Mary Lane Hospital assets.

“We’ve never received anything in writing from her, saying anything about her steps or activities any analysis on different things,” Bourcier said. “The residents have paid over \$30,000 for her services but yet she’s not representing the residents, she’s representing the town, and we haven’t seen anything.”

Bourcier said this has been “very disappointing.”

She also shared concerns about complaints she has filed about violations of the demolition delay.

## Town Manager’s report

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said Principal Assessor Kate Winkler has been certified by the Massachusetts Association of Assessors and that she worked hard to achieve that.

He said himself and the Finance Committee are still working on the budget. He said many towns are facing shortfalls in education funding.

Beckley said the Capital Planning Committee met to hear requests and they will

finalize recommendations for the May annual town meeting.

Bids are coming in the last week of March and early April for fire hydrants, water tanks and asphalt treatments.

He said the Water Department has worked to get the pumps and motors back online for the cistern and well No. 5. He said water pressure and quantity has been restored.

Beckley thanked the Highway Department for demolishing the old restrooms that were damaged by a tree at Grenville Park. The debris has been disposed of by ReSource Waste Services of Ware.

He said a grant for ADA accessibility will provide funding for the construction of new restrooms in the park. The location of these restrooms should be finalized at an upcoming Parks Commission meeting.

Beckley said the costs to utilize Westcomm Regional Dispatch’s service has been paid for through a grant the past few years. He said this year, 50% of the costs are

paid through grants.

He said the town will be receiving radios from Westcomm Regional Dispatch soon. He said the new building for the dispatch located off the Mass Pike should be completed by June.

**Charter Review Committee public forum**

Selectboard Vice-Chair Josh Kusnierz said the Charter Review Committee will host a public forum for residents in the auditorium of Ware High School on Thursday, March 27 at 6 p.m.

He said this is a small review of the town’s charter to bring it up to date.

## Approval of contract

The Selectboard voted to approve Fire Chief Jim Martinez’s contract, which was previously reviewed by its members in executive session.

“He has done a great job leading the department and we wish him all the success in his role,” Kusnierz said.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Will my Medicare premium change because I sold investment property?

**Dear Rusty:**

I have questions concerning the deduction of money from my Social Security benefit amount as relates to the sale of investment property.

I am 66 years old and have been drawing Social Security since I turned 62. My wife is 56 and is a housewife and has no taxable income. Our income comes from our rental property and my Social Security benefit. I have decided to liquidate two of our properties, one was sold in December 2024, and one is in Escrow and is scheduled to close in March 2025.

My normal Adjusted Gross Income has been running about \$30K-\$32K. However, last year with the sale of the property I will receive a long-term capital gain profit of about \$255,000. I did a rough calculation on what my AGI will be for 2024 and it looks to be about \$318,000. How will this affect my Social Security benefit and will it have an effect on the amount I pay for my Part B Medicare Plan going forward? I have a Medicare Advantage plan.

My next question is about 2025, after the next property closes and I file taxes), my AGI with the long-term capital gain profit could be between \$700,000-\$800,000. How will this affect my benefits going forward?

Signed: Prudent Investor

**Dear Prudent Investor:**

Actually, the gross amount of your Social Security benefit will not be affected by these transactions, but the net amount of your SS benefit payment will change due to a provision known as Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount. IRMAA affects the Medicare premiums you pay from your Social Security benefit and a higher Medicare premium will result in a lower net Social Security payment.

Here's how this will work for you: Your Medicare premiums each year, typically for Medicare Part B and Part D are determined by looking at your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income," or "MAGI" from two years prior. MAGI is your normal AGI plus any non-taxable interest you may have had. Since the property you sold in 2024 will be reflected as part of your 2024 income, IRMAA will cause your



Submitted Photo

CHURCH THANKS COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORTING DINNER

Members of Trinity Episcopal Church, located at the corner of Park and Pleasant streets, would like to thank the community for the great response to the church's St. Patrick's Day dinner. The church members look forward to seeing community members at their next event.

viewpoints

Early spring questions for the Garden Lady

Lisa, who gardens in Belchertown, had this question for the Garden Lady: "I saw a video online of someone using a weed whacker to cut down their raspberry plants. Why would they be doing that now? Aren't they cutting off all of the fruiting buds?"

It's sure interesting that you mention this particular topic! My husband and I stared at our raspberry plants and talked about getting out there to prune as well.

Before you grab the weed whacker and head out, though, you have to know your raspberries. Do you have "summer bearing" or "ever-bearing"?

If you have raspberry plants that bear one crop each summer, you would not cut them down to the ground now because you would be removing all of the fruiting buds. The berries grow on canes that are a year old.

All you would do to summer bearing raspberries now is prune out the canes that fruited last year if you haven't already done so. They will look old and the bark will be shedding a bit. Another giveaway is that when you cut into them there is no green "living" tissue.

Very thin canes, or canes that are growing closer than six inches apart can also be cut down to the ground.

Pruning is a bit different for those of us that have "ever-bearing" raspberries. You must decide if you want two smaller crops – one in the summer and one in the

fall or one bumper crop in the fall.

Chances are that the video you saw was of someone



turning their "ever-bearers" into "fall bearers" instead, by cutting the canes that fruited in the fall all the way down to the ground. New canes will grow and in late August-early September they will fruit, in abundance, hopefully.

If you like the idea of two crops, then do not prune away the canes that fruited last fall, but do cut off the tops of these canes. You'll see evidence of old berry clusters. Cut just below that point, leaving the rest of the cane.

New buds will form here, and these will be your first, summer crop. Do also cut away any remaining dead canes, and thin or too close together canes as mentioned above.

Christi wrote in with this question about her Rhododendrons, "I noticed that parts of my rhododendron (as well as others in my neighborhood) are curled and perhaps dead. They normally curl when it gets really cold, but unfurl when it gets warm. Today is 65 degrees and parts have still not unfurled. I was wondering why this happened and what suggestions

you might have."

Rhododendrons curl their leaves in the cold as a defense mechanism to reduce the overall surface area of the leaf in an effort to curb moisture loss. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't work as well.

Take, for example, if the plant was already stressed when it entered winter; then this process may not have the same effect. Perhaps we didn't have sufficient rain and supplemental water wasn't provided, then the plant's efforts of curling their leaves may not get them through the winter unscathed, especially the incredibly windy winter we had.

Once the ground thaws, give the shrubs a drink and if indeed these branches don't respond as spring weather continues, it may be time to do some corrective pruning. Oftentimes, stems that are cut back to well within the shrub respond with new growth that will rejuvenate the rest of the plant, making it look better and better. Good luck!

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



in my

BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Sandhill cranes

I received an email from a Worthington resident, who saw two sandhill cranes on Sunday, March 16.

It most likely was just a coincidence. However, the next day March 17, I spotted a pair of sandhill cranes in my hayfield, a first ever sighting at that location.

Several people reported seeing sandhill cranes at various locations in town last year. There is a breed-

ing pair, who successfully raised young, in nearby Hardwick.

The sandhill crane is a tall, 45," gray, heron like bird. It has a dark red patch on its forehead and a black bill. Some of the feathers on the sandhill crane's back are iron stained due possibly to preening from mud rich in that mineral.

Immature cranes are grayish with more rust stained feathers. They keep this plumage for two years. The female sandhill crane lays one to three olive eggs with dark marks in a mound like nest of weeds, grasses and marsh like plants placed on the ground or in shallow water. They migrate in flocks, feed on agricultural fields and roost in the center of shallow lakes or rivers. They display courtship behavior of jumping off the ground during their migration. They feed on seeds, agricultural grains and small animals.

**Common mergansers**

I received reports of seeing common mergansers. My daughter saw common mergansers in Hardwick. A Hubbardston couple also saw common mergansers. A Brimfield resident, who sends bird reports on a regular basis, saw common mergansers at a pond in Warren last week. There was a large section of open water. He also saw lots of mallard, Canada geese, a few black ducks and a hooded merganser.

**Bald eagles**

The Brimfield resident in an email on March 8 said, "Yesterday in Ludlow I visited an eagle's nest on the bank of the Chicopee River. Eagles have nested in this area for over ten years with four different nest locations. I first found a nest across the Chicopee River in Springfield that was visible from Ludlow. Then the nest was on the Ludlow side of the river for one year. I lost track of the nest for a few years when it was in a tree

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 13

WARE RIVER NEWS

TEAM



**EDITOR**  
Paula Duimette  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Dan Flynn  
[dflynn@turley.com](mailto:dflynn@turley.com)



**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)



**STAFF WRITER**  
Ryan Drago  
[rdrago@turley.com](mailto:rdrago@turley.com)

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[www.warivernews.turley.com](http://www.warivernews.turley.com)

**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President

**DEANNA SLOAT**  
Graphics Manager

**www.turley.com**

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OPINION

POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and "Your Turn" guest column between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

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Ware River News  
Letter to the Editor  
80 Main Street,  
Ware, MA 01082  
or via email to:  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)

**The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.**

Turley Election

Policy

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

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

Planning Board discusses zoning bylaw rewrite

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board met with members of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to discuss a presentation on a kickoff meeting for zoning bylaw rewrite.

Jane Wyrick of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and planning professional Tina Deater attended the March 24 meeting on zoom to discuss the presentation of the zoning bylaw. Deater discussed what has been accomplished to date and what could be accomplished in the future.

“Have a clear and concise modernized bylaw,” Deater said.

The Master Plan was brought up during the presentation and it is currently in process. According to the presentation the town of Warren may want to consider what other areas are potentially

viable PDAs and if there are, then the town should amend zoning accordingly.

Deater said the process should take approximately 18 months and involves the roles of both CMRPC and the Planning Board. The planner asked if the Planning Board was planning on appointing a subcommittee to go over the plans for the zoning bylaw rewrite.

Chairman Rich Eichacker said two people from the board could do the subcommittee and meet and discuss what areas to work on for zoning.

“Look at the chart and get a general idea of what to discuss,” Eichacker said.

One of the goals is to complete a comprehensive review of the existing bylaws, case studies and best practices to help inform the Planning Board’s future revisions. CMRPC wants to assist the Planning Board to organize and prioritize recommended revisions to provide a clear

road map to their zoning goals.

Deater said CMRPC is ready to discuss topics such as ADU bylaw and the model bylaw from the state. For subcommittee meetings, Deater said there is a two-month time frame for each set of chapters.

The Planning Board will discuss more on what to talk about and see how to organize the subcommittee.

**Public hearing continuance**

The Planning Board continued the public hearing for 727 Brimfield Road LLC for a special permit for earth removal and crushing operations. The applicant representing 727 Brimfield Road LLC, Ron Cox, returned to the Planning Board with updated plans on how to better mitigate any noise or any additional concerns the neighbors addressed in the prior public hearing discussion back on the March 10 meeting.

The board reviewed the map provided by Cox to see

where the work is taking place. The board wanted to know the location of the berm.

The board is concerned that there isn’t enough space between the neighbors and the work site. There has to be some sort of sound barrier to help mitigate the sound from the crushing operation.

The board also asked Cox what he would be doing for erosion control in the section of the berm. There are two addresses close to the worksite, 749 and 775 Brimfield Road. Cox said the work will be complete within the year and as for the berm, Cox will terrace it and get everything settled in before any possibility of that earth being eroded.

“A year is reasonable,” Cox said. “Considering the work being done.”

The Planning Board moved to continue the public hearing until the next meeting on April 14.

Cemetery Commission looks to make repairs

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Cemetery Commission met on March 18 to discuss their budget review.

After going over the expenses and final calculations, the Cemetery Commission came up with an amount of just over \$4,000 for their current budget.

The Commission Clerk Cindy Baxter mentioned some additional costs that could be added including new flowers of possibly the planting of a dendrum. There is also the cost of mulch and the cost of new street signs at the cemetery. Another big project is a paving job that may be completed by the Highway Department.

Baxter said she turned in the budget that was voted on at a previous meeting and got some good feedback. According to Baxter, Town Administrator James Ferrera said the Commission’s budget is very reasonable.

The Cemetery Commission would then hear from Jim McKeon for his superintendent report. McKeon said its that time of year when the cemetery will be recruiting their seasonal help again. There is a lot of cleaning to be done as well as removing any leaves or fallen branches off the cemetery grounds.

In the past years, the cemetery has had issues of dumping old soil and plants over an edge near the cemetery. McKeon was looking to either install barrels or some sort of container for those pots. Also, possibly place a sign that says “no dumping” on site.

McKeon wants to get started on this project when April begins.

McKeon provided pictures of some of the gravestones that are in need of restoration. The Cemetery Commission also asked for a list of the street names and placements of where the street signs are and possibly replace them.

The commission is looking for the size of the signs and the plate sizes. The Cemetery Commission will be looking at the previous order to get the accurate sizes of the plates and signs.

While reviewing photographs of the gravestones, the Cemetery Commission looked at possible companies to help supply equipment for gravestone repairs. Baxter had an application from Atlas Preservation out of Connecticut.

Atlas is a masonry, building, and monument restoration supply store that also carries D/2 solution cleaner. The company also sells putty to help set stones as well as kits for smaller stones.

The solution cleaner helps clean the inside of the stones and eats up the debris that builds up overtime. Atlas also does gravestone restoration. Baxter will send the application to Atlas and will look for prices on equipment and shipping.

The Cemetery Commission will be looking to get some tree trimming done soon. Doing the work will be Rusty’s Tree Service. With the weather warming up the Commission believes tree trimming is a good project to complete.

“It’s the proper time of year to do it,” Baxter said.

McKeon wanted to inform the Commission and the public what are the best ways to contact the Cemetery Commission. McKeon says it is best to call and leave a message for 413-436-3213. The commission checks messages daily and guests can also email cemetery@warren-ma.gov.

The Cemetery Commission will discuss cost of new signs at their next meeting and will start looking for other projects.

C4R spring 2025 kickoff meeting this Sunday

PALMER – The Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council will hold its spring kickoff meeting on Sunday, March 30 from 2-4 p.m. at Palmer Historical Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers.

Come and discover details about water quality sampling, river restoration/cleanups, new Blue Trail plans, trail crews and more.

The meeting will include a recap of 2024 and new Blue Trails development work for this year. C4R was awarded a grant to create the Lower Quaboag River Blue Trail beginning along Route 67 down to Three Rivers.

In 2025 C4R will also continue its water sampling program at an expanded level, as well as sponsoring a number of paddling and river events. Volunteers are welcome to help with Blue Trail care.

For more information, email chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

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said the towns have eligible projects from infrastructure improvement, ADA related improvements, road improvements and engineering studies.

For Warren, there is a School Street infrastructure planning study and an improvement project for Hillside Avenue.

O’Leary said for this year’s CDBG, the budget is up to \$632,000.

For the Hillside Avenue improvement project, the town wants to hire a consultant to assess the existing conditions of the road. There could be improvements to water drainage, the street and sidewalks on Hillside Avenue. O’Leary also mentioned the possibility of an infrastructure project for Washington Street.

While working with the town, O’Leary believes it is helpful to help set up the town for future CDBG projects.

“We want to set the town up for years worth of CDBG grants,” O’Leary said.

O’Leary said the town of Millbury is improving the parking lot of the town’s Senior Center.

O’Leary said the total amount of the CDBG application for both communities would be \$1,050,000.

O’Leary said this grant would fund three projects in Warren and only one in Millbury.

CMRPC has worked with the town’s Highway Department and the Community Development Advisory Committee to identify these future projects. The Selectmen voted approve the submission of the joint application for the Fiscal Year 2025 Community Development Block Grant.

**Detective reappointed**

The Selectmen voted to reappoint Detective Mathew Morin for another three-year term for the Police Department. Chief Gerald Millette mentioned Morin’s current term being up soon and is looking to be reappointed and continue to serve the town.

The Selectmen shared their input and believe Morin has done a good job as does Millette.

“I want to continue to do good work here in Warren,” Morin said.

Morin was reappointed for a three-year term.

**FY26 budget request**

The Board of Selectmen moved on to a review of a fiscal year 2026 budget request from Pathfinder Regional

Vocational Technical High School.

Karen Dusty explained to the Selectmen that this was just an informational agenda item for them to review. The Selectmen will review it and get an accurate count on how many students from Warren are enrolled at Pathfinder.

Selectmen Rich Eichacker counted 44 students from town attending Pathfinder.

**Old business**


Selectmen David Dufresne brought up some old business involving more flags installed in the center of Warren. The Selectmen believes it would be a good idea to get more flags and poles added and more patriotic stuff in the area. The Board will look to see if they can get a project going as spring has now begun.

The Selectmen also discussed the possibility of adding another layer to the Christmas tree for more sections of decorating. The board thinks it’s a nice tree and the Parks Department put a lot of effort into decorating every year. It is possible by adding another section the town could add more to the tree at the next tree lighting, which has been a growing community event every year.

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**Please contact:**  
**Jim Daley at (508) 867-1417 or email [jdaley@wbrookfield.com](mailto:jdaley@wbrookfield.com)**

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FORUM from page 1

Springfield, with a background in general and special education. Currently she is teaching science to fourth and fifth graders.

“I’m running for School Committee because somehow this school system that is so beloved by this town, has gotten off track,” she said. “You’d be hard pressed to find someone in town that feels things are going well at Ware Public Schools. The mistrust and dissatisfaction has reached unacceptable levels.”

Lifelong resident Kevin Slattery said his desire to run for the School Committee is motivated by his son, who will be an incoming kindergartener in the school district this fall.

He said despite being a member of a large family in town, he has a mind of his own and a “driven nature to see things through.”

Slattery has worked in Ware Public Schools in the past and has experience as a paraprofessional, a special education teacher, a dean of students, an interventionist, a principal and is now back to his roots in special education.

Diane Reopell said she is running for a seat on the School Committee because she is passionate about ensuring that the schools provide “a supportive, inclusive, and high-quality education for every student.”

“I want to contribute to decisions that prioritize student success, promote community involvement, and support our teachers and staff. I believe accountability and transparency are essential for creating an effective learning environment,” she said.

Reopell, who is a mother of four with two children enrolled in the school district, said she understands the importance of a strong educational foundation.

“It is time to refocus our efforts on what truly matters, supporting our students and teachers. By ensuring clear communication and prioritizing the needs of those in the classroom, we can build a stronger, more unified district that puts education first,” she said.

**What do you believe are the highest needs for Ware’s students? What actions would you take as a member of the School Committee to address these?**

Winslow said behavioral issues are becoming a big problem, and the focus to address this needs to start at the youngest grade levels. He said support needs to be given to prevent disruptions in the classrooms and ensure that students can get the most out of their experience in the school district.

“By the time they’re 12, they’re pretty hardwired, so it’s going to be tough to change them by the time they get to seventh and eighth grade in the high school,” he said.

Whitham said logistical and scheduling needs are the biggest challenges for the students right now, which is feeding the behavioral issues.

“It starts by getting proper scheduling and the right people in the right spots,” she said.

Whitham said they need to make sure the teachers, families and students have the support they need.

Slattery said student-driven data is important in order for the school district to have a continuous cycle of improvement.

“For me, it starts with a district improvement plan... and creating what we call ‘a portrait of a graduate,’” he said. “It looks at students in pre-K all the way to 12th grade. That’s who we serve as teachers, administrators, bus drivers...anyone down the line that’s working with kids on a daily basis.”

He also suggested having an active school council to give parents a voice at the table alongside administrators.

Reopell said her main concern would be to focus on prioritizing transparency, decision-making and accountability. “This lack of transparency is affecting students, teachers, and parents,” she said. “The current situation at the high school is one example of this. Parents were not informed their students were spending their day in the library.”

Reopell said this lack of adequate staffing has led to the behavioral issues, especially with the older students.

**Fostering positive relationships with families and community members is important as a member of the School Committee. What can be done for these key stakeholders to be heard, not just during the three minutes they have to voice a comment or concern during a School Committee meeting?**

Whitham said that families are the foundations of the schools, and the community is “highly vested” in its school system.

“We can only build on that,” she said. “If we can build positive relationships with families, you can start with attendance initiatives... that’s a great way to reach out to families.”

Whitham said attendance is challenging at different age levels, and there is a need to incentivize education for the older students to give them a reason to want to come to school.

Slattery said the school council is one way to give everyone a voice, and allow families to help work on the school improvement plan. He said community events, such as reading day, can also help connect people to their school district.

With attendance, Slattery said it’s important to build relationships and connections with each student and make them want to come to school.

“I am a firm believer in project-based learning... connectivity beyond just a book,” he said.

Reopell said School Committee members should be present at open houses and even events at the school.

“Not everyone has access to the internet or television and I think it’s important that we are more public and accessible to the parents...to the taxpayers, to communicate to us,” she said.

Reopell said School Committee members should also consider holding open forum/town hall-style discussions allowing parents and staff to ask questions, voice concerns and share input.

In addition to speaking at open houses and events at the school, we could possibly hold open forum/town hall discussions where parents and staff can ask questions, voice concerns and provide input on issues.

“Allowing an open line of communication. We are elected officials; it’s not just the time that we’re in front of the television at a meeting,” she said.

Reopell said the three minutes allowed during comments and concerns at School Committee meetings is not enough.

Winslow said the pandemic has changed a lot of things for the school district, including absenteeism rates.

“It’s going to be a long time before we are able to bring those numbers back where they are,” he said.

Winslow said the school district has been trying to find resolutions for the issues, including reaching out to families of absent students and finding out what their needs are.

He said comments and concerns during School

# MEET THE CANDIDATES



Melissa Whitham



Brian Winslow



Diane Reopell



Kevin Slattery

Committee meetings are a way people can share their views according to Massachusetts General Laws guidelines.

**Should meetings be held virtually, in-person or with hybrid format and are biweekly meetings enough? Please explain your opinion about this.**

Slattery said in-person meetings are always better, but he understands the need to have a virtual aspect in order to reach a quorum. He said the frequency of meetings would change throughout the year; with more meetings during budget time, and less during the summer break.

Reopell said she doesn’t agree with having meetings held on Zoom, but said that individuals can utilize it to join an in-person meeting when they are unable to attend.

“If someone on the School Committee is out of town or the superintendent is out of the country, he can be there by Zoom and everyone else can be in person, including the public. We’re done with COVID, so that doesn’t have to be an excuse anymore,” she said.

Winslow said virtual meetings have allowed all people to have access.

“Our record on Zoom was 156 people,” he said.

He said with the committee’s current equipment; it is difficult to hold hybrid meetings, so they have switched between holding both in-person meetings and Zoom.

Winslow said recently there’s been more interest and participation in School Committee meetings, which he said is a good thing. He said that sometimes the attendance at in-person meetings was so large that the meetings had to be shifted to the auditorium.

Winslow talked about the importance of getting everybody’s input at meetings to reach the best decisions for the school district.

Whitham said there should always be an opportunity for people to attend in-person meetings, and the committee needs to have technology to include virtual access as well.

“I feel like there’s an argument for both sides,” she said.

**In the past several months, there has been a clear divide between school administration and teachers and the school community. As a member of the School Committee, how would you bring cohesion to the district?**

Reopell said you can’t immediately bring everyone together, and that patience has to be given.

“You have to address the source of the problem, fix the problem, and then work at unifying the district, the community, everyone,” she said. “It’s not going to happen as soon as one or two new committee members get on.”

She said the solution to the problem has to be found “sooner than latter” in order for the school district to move past this.

Winslow said the easiest way to achieve this is through time. He agreed with Reopell that patience is needed.

“People have to be patient...we are bound by laws,” he said.

He said these laws involve

respecting people’s privacy and personal rights. He said getting all parties to cooperate and get on the same page isn’t an easy task.

“Some trust has been lost by all parties against each other and in a sense, you need to almost pause for a minute and say ‘okay, let’s start to talk more, let’s start to cooperate more and listen to each other,’” Winslow said.

Winslow said it will take time, but the School Committee will fix the problem.

“No matter who’s on the board, we’ll fix the problem because it has to be done,” he said. “It will need everybody’s help and everybody’s opinions and everybody’s input in order to be able to go forward with it.”

Whitham said trust is a tricky thing to maintain.

“You can take a lifetime building trust, but it can take less than five minutes to break it,” she said. “Once it’s broken, it’s really hard to get it glued back together.”

Whitham said one of the ways to rebuild trust with the community is to admit when things have gone wrong, and to stop protecting those who have broken that trust.

She said she feels like there is a wall between the schools and families, despite there being an open door policy in the school district. She expressed the need to reach a compromise.

“You’ve got one side saying, everything’s wrong’ and you’ve got another side saying ‘nothing’s wrong.’ Well, neither one of those things are true. There are good things happening; there are not great things happening,” Whitham said.

Slattery said during conflict, there needs to be a “north star” for people to look to and follow to reach a positive outcome.

“You have to engage in some authentic communication...once you can be heard, you can seek to understand and once you understand you can respond,” he said.

Slattery said the lack of trust didn’t happen overnight and it’s something the School Committee will need to work at to gain back.

“Trust has to be built,” Slattery said.

**Unions play a critical role in advocating for staff rights and working conditions, which in turn can affect the quality of education. However, there are times when union priorities, such as contract negotiations or strikes, may conflict with the immediate interests of students. How would you address situations where union demands could potentially impact student learning or well-being, and what steps would you take to balance these competing interests?**

Winslow said he has served on the negotiating team for the school district during his time on the School Committee, and both sides have their wants and needs.

He said negotiating in good faith is critical, and he said it’s also important to know the financials of the town, and what other school districts are doing.

Winslow said there is a lot of uncertainty with federal and state funding, but he said the union and the School Committee do work together to find solutions.

“It’s a compromise and it’s meeting each other half-

way,” he said. “Sometimes you have to remind everybody in the room, ‘what are we doing for the students?’”

Whitham stressed that “happy teachers make happy students,” and how a poorly managed school

can create a negative impact for everyone.

“When you’re negotiating in good faith with unions... everybody’s going to come out on top,” she said.

Whitham said the union provides “checks and balances” for the school district, and vice versa.

“The union is there for the teachers and the district is there for the families and in the end, everybody wins if the teachers are happy and the families are happy,” she said.

Slattery said the teachers are valuable resources in the school district that need to be celebrated, and it’s not always about money. He said all of the town departments have financial needs that need to be met.

He said it’s important to keep students in the district by looking for pathways and programs that will do that and potentially build financial resources.

“I think you’re going to see an increase in funding,” Slattery said, which can lead to higher pay to teachers.

Slattery said it’s important for all sides to listen to each other and have open and honest dialogue.

“At the end of the conversations, agree to disagree, and finally just to move on successfully because our kids deserve it,” he said.

Reopell said she respects the role of the union and advocates for staff rights and working conditions, as they are crucial to ensuring that educators are supported in order to provide the best education possible for the students.

“Facilitating open communication is a first step to transparent, ongoing communication with all parties,” she said. “Finding common ground, advocating for continued negotiations and if it came to it, a contingency plan to avoid any disruptions that would impact the children’s education.”

**Area towns are experiencing large funding gaps in their education budgets. It seems inevitable that this challenge will affect Ware Public Schools in coming years. How would you set priorities for the school and town, should operating resources be limited?**

Whitham said her experience with the town’s budget is limited, but she knows that it’s almost half of the overall budget.

“Which is a credit to the town for putting the education of its students at such a high priority,” she said.

Whitham said the town values its schools with high regard and cuts to the budget would be met with resistance.

Slattery spoke about the need for funding in rural schools, and how local districts have been hit harder by funding cuts from the federal and state level.

He talked about how the budget is created by the superintendent and administrative teams to be presented by the town to be voted on by taxpayers.

“Most taxpayers are going to say, ‘I want to have a really high performing school district,’” he said. “But we also have to be mindful of the spending for those that are on fixed incomes.”

Reopell said every item on a school district’s budget needs to be looked at by the School Committee and that conversation needs to be had

to the necessity of something and what is a main priority.

“We are not going to be able to fully staff each of the schools where they are lacking, or provide for the students if we continue to bring in consulting,” she said.

Reopell said certain things can be put on the back burner in order to hire teachers and paraprofessionals, and to offer classes to the older students that are going to benefit their education.

“The students and the teachers should be first on the list,” she said.

Winslow said creating the budget is a “balancing act” and agreed with Slattery that there is a big difference between funding for urban schools and rural.

He said the budget subcommittee looks at the budget line by line, and funds are moved to where they are needed most.

“It’s a long process that starts with the superintendent,” he said. “They pretty much build it from the bottom up.”

Winslow said the School Committee is also mindful when making financial requests, so as not to take away from other town needs.

“Budget is probably a difficult thing for us in Ware, we try to be as responsible as we can,” he said.

**What makes the Ware Public Schools special and sets it apart from other school districts?**

Slattery said having lived and attended schools here, he knows it is the people that set the school district apart from others.

“It’s the people, it’s the teachers that show up every day, day in and day out, when their work is not easy,” he said. “Because they care to make connections.”

Reopell said when she looks at the school district now, it’s not same as it was five or 10 years ago, and that is something she would like to get back.

“I don’t feel the sense of camaraderie, I don’t feel the sense of everyone belonging...I’m not going to say it was perfect at any point, but I feel that you were acknowledged. Your concerns were acknowledged and addressed,” she said.

Reopell said there was more strength in leadership and there was more respect to the teachers, to the students and to the parents.

Winslow said an advantage Ware Public School has is that the school district is small and allows for more interaction between students and teachers. He said the families are dedicated and participate in school events.

“There are not too many communities that will have the enthusiasm and participation,” he said.

He spoke about how many rural school are regionalized, but that it is not always the best option for towns like Ware.

“It’s still small, it’s still intimate, and I think that’s what makes Ware unique and makes it special,” Winslow said.

Whitham said the involvement of the community is something that makes Ware special. She noted that there are four candidates running for two seats on the School Committee, which is impressive.

“This town as a whole is recognizing this moment right now as a crossroads to kind of hopefully project this school forward into the future,” she said. “I don’t know very many other towns where you would have this kind of a turnout and this kind of concern for all the people to show up to School Committee meetings, for all the people to show up to town meetings.”

## Election information

The annual town election will be held on Monday, April 14 at Town Hall, 126 Main St., with polling hours from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

# WBCA and Beyond Day



Brandon Midura sends the ball back over the net during a game of pickleball hosted by the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond in Town Hall on March 19.



Micah Hinkley of Pennington Painting Inc. returns the ball to Wishing Well Charities, Inc.'s team.

## Business and civic association hosted pickleball night for members

WARE – The Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond held its monthly meeting last week, followed by an evening of pickleball, food and fun.

“We’ve had a heck of a couple of years,” President Dan Flynn said at the March 19 event. “Tonight will be a fun night.”

The Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond will be having its annual election of officers on Wednesday, April 16 in Town Hall. Flynn said nominations are being accepted for all positions.

About WBCA and Beyond  
The WBCA and Beyond membership consists of businesses and organizations from Ware, Palmer, Belchertown, Hardwick, Warren and West Brookfield. The monthly meetings are open to any business or organization within those towns interested in joining the association.

For information about joining the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond, visit [warebca.com](http://warebca.com), email [warebca@gmail.com](mailto:warebca@gmail.com) or call Flynn at 413-297-5886.



Chris Midura of Wishing Wells Charities, Inc. gets ready to serve the ball.



Melissa Fales of Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation gets ready to serve the ball.

Jan McCoy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Realty Professionals sends the ball back over the net.

Dustin Pennington of Pennington Painting completes his serve.



Chris Murphy (second from left) explains the rules of pickleball.

### BUDGET from page 1

nated for fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

Duda said that these grants have been used toward building up Career Technical Initiatives, the school’s Adult Continuing Education program.

“Those two grants are paying for training opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed and paying for staffing and for the Director of Programing,” Duda said, and mentioned that the program will be starting programs in groundskeeping and carpentry, after previously running courses on electrical and plumbing.

“On top of that, there’s a list of a dozen offerings from puppy training to art classes,” Duda said, describing these short courses as “low-cost, local interest types of classes.”

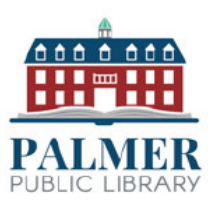
“One of the things of high importance that we shared with the towns was that we’re seeing a five year trend of increased enrollment,” Duda said, and provided graphs showing a 14% increase in in-district students.

The overall budget that Pathfinder proposed will represent a 3.92% increase to the overall budget, though only 2.23% will be municipally funded, after factoring in state aid and other local revenue sources. The proposed budget for 2026 amounts to \$17,302,239.

Duda enumerated a number of costs that schools and municipal districts alike have been facing, including contract increases, rising health insurance costs, and the cost of busing. He said that the proposed budget does not reflect level service funding, and anticipates that some staffing cuts may have to be made to meet the budget.

“There are challenges in many of the nine towns this year that the towns are facing, either with other school districts they belong to or with other budgetary concerns,” said Duda. “We’re dealing with the same challenges.”

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Ware Police Officer Jeannine Bonnayer (shown standing behind K-9 Parker) gathered the Polar Plunge participants for a group photo.



Many community members formed teams for the Polar Plunge.



Jackson Kusnierz was one of the brave plungers who fully submerged into the water.

**PLUNGE** from page 1

Department were on hand to ensure the safety of all plungers.

The Polar Plunge had many students who attend Ware Public Schools, where Bonnayer serves as the School Resource Officer.

Monson Police Officer Paul Mayo said this is the third year the department has participated in the Polar Plunge at Beaver Lake in support of Special Olympics Massachusetts.

“The Monson Police Department is big on helping the Special Olympics,” Mayo said.

In addition to the Polar Plunge, Monson Police Department participates in a number of fundraisers for the cause, including the Cruiser Convoy. On May 2, the Special Olympics will take place at Granite Valley Middle School in Monson, hosting a number of student-athletes from area schools.

Joining Mayo at the Polar Plunge was Police Chief Stephen Kozloski, Lieutenant Nicholas Gasperini, along with Gasperini’s daughter Gwen and nieces Olivia and Evie. The team offered some advice about how to tolerate the frigid water of the lake, which was covered by ice just a few short weeks ago.

“Just go in full bore,” Mayo said. “Don’t hesitate,” Gasperini added.

Gwen Gasperini said this was her second time partici-



Polar Plunge participants raced into Beaver Lake, which was covered in ice just a few weeks ago.

pating in the Polar Plunge and she said she was part of the Special Olympics last year at her high school in East Longmeadow.

“It felt important,” she said.

Olivia Iwaniec, a student at Tantasqua Regional High School, said she attended the Polar Plunge last year, but didn’t actually go in. This year, she made the plunge, alongside her sister and cousin.

“I just figured ‘why not?’” she said.

Evie Iwaniec, a student at Quaboag Regional Middle High School said she is a member of the National Honor Society at her school, and this was her first year attempting the Polar Plunge.

“I’m always looking for

opportunities to help out and do stuff for the community,” she said.

Several of the younger plungers went back into the water to play, including Ware residents August and Dawson Whitham, ages 9 and 5. K-9 Parker went back several times, helping plungers retrieve their lost shoes that came off as they raced from the beach into the lake.

Bonnayer thanked all of the Polar Plunge participants for braving the cold water and supporting Special Olympics Massachusetts, as well as those who generously donated to the cause. All enjoyed a sunny day on the beach complete with food and fellowship.



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# SPORTS

## Indians receive sportsmanship award

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WARE – The seniors on the 2024-25 Ware girls’ varsity basketball roster are Tory Finocchio, Shelby Hogan, and Kyla Campbell.

The tri-captains were invited to play in the annual IAABO 28 Hampshire/Franklin Basketball Senior All Star game at Frontier Regional on March 14.

Hogan and Campbell were members of the West squad, which pulled out a 51-49 overtime victory over the East team on a buzzer-beating shot. Finocchio didn’t play in the All-Star game due to an injury.

“I can’t say enough about our three seniors. Although they didn’t always score the most points, their defense and leadership were instrumental to our success this season,” said Ware girls’ varsity basketball coach Dan Orszulak. “Most importantly they built a culture where every player felt valued. They helped create an environment where underclassmen could thrive. They supported and encouraged the underclassmen to compete, take risks and learn from their mistakes. Although at times it came at the cost of their own playing time, they put the needs of the team in front of their own and they showed them what it takes to be a great team-



Submitted photo  
The Ware girls basketball team were the 2025 recipients of the Jack Leaman Sportsmanship Award.

mate. We will miss them.”

At halftime of the girls’ All-Star game, the Lady Indians received the Jack Leaman Sportsmanship Award.

“I am proud of the way our girls conduct themselves on the court,” Orszulak added. “They are fierce competitors but handle their disappointments with dignity and class. In games that didn’t go our way, the girls always competed very hard. In games where we are way ahead, we treat the other team with dignity and without running up the score. I am happy that other people see the same things in my team that I do.”

It was the first time that the Lady Indians basketball

team received the sportsmanship award, which is given by the referees.

MacDuffie Academy received the boy’s sportsmanship award.

The Ware girls’ hoop team qualified for the Division 5 state tournament for the second consecutive year with an 11-9 record.

The Lady Indians, who finished in first place in the Franklin South league standings, began the regular season with back-to-back victories against Hopkins Academy and Athol.

After losing the next three games, the Lady Indians put-together two four game winning streaks.

They had a 10-4 record following a 36-27 home win

versus Ludlow on January 29. That victory clinched a berth in the Division 5 state tournament.

The Lady Indians also handed Franklin County Tech its first league loss in three years with a 44-26 home victory on January 13.

Another victory came against rival Palmer, 42-39, in a non-playoff home game, which snapped a five game losing streak.

The Lady Indians season came to an end following a 39-38 road loss to Palmer in a preliminary round game on February 26.

“We lost a tough game against Palmer in the play-offs where we needed to make just one more play to advance,” Orszulak said. “I am hoping our returning girls work hard in the off season. These girls exemplified what it means to be a team. They got along better than any team I’ve ever coached.”

The other players on the Lady Indians 2024-25 varsity roster are eighth grader Daisy Laverdiere, eighth grader Naomi Torres, eighth grader Gloria Cotaj, eighth grader Lana Bennington, eighth grader Lucy Hebert, eighth grader Gabrielle Kaczuwka, freshman Amelia Orszulak, freshman Molly McGrail, sophomore Reese McKeever, sophomore Reagan Jacobs, sophomore Emily Jones, and junior Madisyn Slattery.



Travis Wells also will play college football, heading for Assumption College.

## Panthers pair headed for college football

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE— For the first time since they were in elementary school, Quabbin seniors Travis Wells and Luke Salvadore will be playing for different football team’s next fall.

“Luke and I have created a very good bond on and off the field since we began playing football at the youth level in the fourth grade,” said Wells, who lives in Barre. “We’re always hanging out and doing things together.”

Wells will be continuing his football career about 20 miles down Rte.122 at Assumption University in Worcester.

“Assumption isn’t that far away, and I can always come home anytime that I want,” said Wells, who’s planning to study Criminal Justice. “Leaving Luke will definitely be a very difficult thing for me, but we’ll always be best friends.”

The Assumption football head coach is Andy McKenzie.

During his recruiting process, Wells dealt mostly with assistant coach Kyle Ashby.

“Coach Ashby is responsible for recruiting the Worcester County area,” Wells said. “He

Please see **COLLEGE**, page 11



File photos  
Luke Salvadore is headed to play college football at Union College.

## Sun shines bright on 48th Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – For the first time in several years, it was gorgeous weather for the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Road Race last Saturday afternoon the city streets.

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

This year, 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

Please see **RACE**, page 10

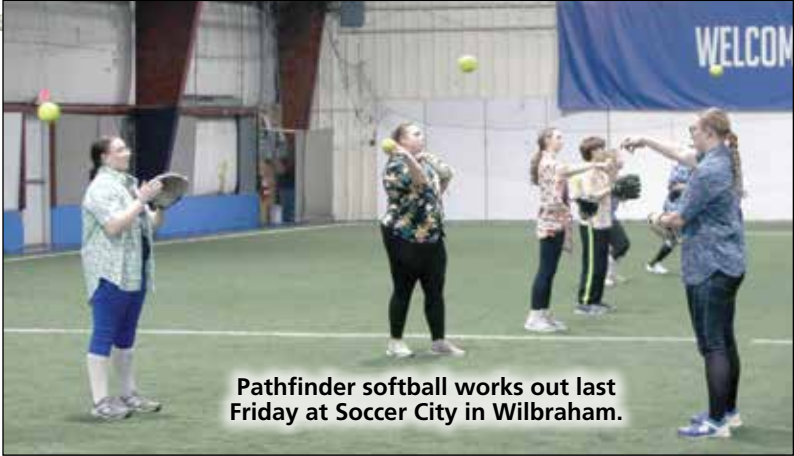
## Spring preseason underway



Pathfinder's Carly Juda plays coach during practice last Friday.

PALMER – The spring season is underway in high school sports with many teams set to open up the season later this week. More teams will get going early next week, weather permitting as well as if baseball and softball fields are ready for play.

Arianna does a swinging drill.



Pathfinder softball works out last Friday at Soccer City in Wilbraham.



LEFT: Zaylee Brodeur works on hitting with the tee.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Suburban League starts new award in honor of late coach

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE— The Pioneer Valley Girls Suburban Basketball League was always very special to Eileen Monaghan.

Growing up in Chicopee, Monaghan played for a Suburban League basketball

team. She then coached her daughter’s Suburban League teams. In recent years, Monaghan was one of the referees in the league.

Monaghan most likely would’ve been back on the basketball court refereeing Suburban League games this winter, but she was tragically killed last April.

Suburban League Commissioner Joe Cieja, who’s from Ware, couldn’t recall another person who played, coached and was a referee in the Suburban League during the past 40 years.

“I believe Eileen is the first person to play, coach, and has been a referee in the Suburban league,” Cieja said. “Eileen

brought an incredible spirit to the Suburban League and the kindness of hearts. Even though her heart has been silenced, we’re not going to let her spirit ever die.”

The inaugural Eileen Monaghan Sportsmanship Award was given to the Gateway 5/6th grade basketball team prior to the start of

the 5/6th grade Division 2 championship game between Easthampton and Hampshire, which took place at Chicopee Comp on March 9.

“I think the sportsmanship award is very special because it shows how many lives that my mom touched,” said Kathleen Brooks, who is Eileen’s youngest daughter.

“She just loved girls sports, especially basketball. She probably would’ve been very proud of this award.”

Brooks, who presented the sportsmanship award to Gateway, graduated from Chicopee Comp in 2019 where she played soccer, bas-

Please see **AWARD**, page 10

sports

Quabbin League holding open practice

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2025 season.

Coming up this Sunday, March 30, and Sunday, April 6. Both practices are scheduled to be held at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley and are weather-permitting. Both practices will begin at 10 a.m. and following the April 6 practice, new players will be drafted to teams in the league as the league works to fill its open roster spots.

Registration for the 2025 season is now open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2025 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 27. The league plays most Sunday from late April

through mid-August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2025.

Valley Wheel tryouts set for next month

Players looking to join the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League can attend the tryouts beginning Sunday April 6. The time and location of the tryout is to be determined.

The league, which plays its games in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, makes sure that everyone gets a fair share of the action. Everyone plays a minimum of 4 innings in the

field, and everyone bats. The league follows MLB rules with some modified rules adapted with safety in mind.

Their league charter and one of their main goals, is to work toward having a league with teams of equal strength.

The league is now seeking new players to fill open roster slots. Enjoy the competition and camaraderie with a great group of guys who enjoy the game as much as you do.

Stay in shape and make new friends. Be part of something that happens once a year, and with luck, win a championship that might be once in a lifetime. Grab your glove and cleats and join a team for a great adventure. It's not too late don't miss out; opening day is just around the corner. For more information, contact Jim Nason at 413-433-4308 or visit the website [www.ValleyWheelBaseball.org](http://www.ValleyWheelBaseball.org)

**AWARD** from page 9

ketball, and lacrosse.

Her older sister, Ashley Rouleau, played two sports at Comp.

The Gateway Suburban League basketball team didn't win any games this season, but the players celebrated small victories and kept a positive attitude on the court.

"Being selected as the first sportsmanship award winner in the Suburban League is very special," said Gateway head coach Peter Sadler. "We didn't have a lot of experienced players this year, but we kept improving throughout the season. We came close to winning a couple of games. We just focused on doing one thing to get better in each game. The girls never gave up and kept a positive attitude."

The members of the Gateway girls' basketball team are Victoria Barnes, Riley Chornyar, Liv Dulude, Lila Castro, Senavieve

Rosseau, Fiona Hallowell, Faith Chretlen, Eveyln Sadler, Abigail Sadler, Emma Johnson, and Alyvia Kaynowski.

The Suburban League referees voted for the Sportsmanship Award.

Unlike her daughters, Monaghan graduated from Chicopee High School. She played soccer and basketball for the Lady Pacers. She was inducted into the Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013. Monaghan also played soccer and basketball at Western New England College. She was inducted into the WNEC Hall of Fame in 2006.

"My mom was always very humble, but she always told us that she loved playing sports," Brooks said. "She didn't score 1,000 career point in high school, but she did at WNEC. She always worked very hard and that's what she wanted everyone else to do."

Monaghan graduated from college with a bach-

elor's degree in management. She was the Chief-of-Staff for Chicopee State Representative Joseph Wagner for twenty-one years. She was also the Executive Assistant to Sheriff Nick Cocchi at the Hampden County Sheriff's Department.

Monaghan was also a summer league soccer coach. Her older brother, John, coached the girls' summer league soccer team at that same time. The two siblings battled against each other several times.

"It was a lot of fun coaching against my sister's summer league soccer team," John Monaghan said. "Having the Suburban League name their sportsmanship award in her honor really means a lot to the family. She put a lot of time and effort into sports. She just wanted to help the kids get better."

A high school girls varsity basketball team will also be receiving the Eileen Monaghan Sportsmanship Award on March 20.

"We had high school Sportsmanship Award for about six or seven years, but then it stopped due to the COVID-19 Pandemic," Ciejska said. "We're going to be bringing the high school sportsmanship award back in Eileen's name at our referee's banquet on March 20."

The Gateway players didn't get to play in the Suburban League finals this year, but it was still a very special day for them.

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# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Month

### Adam Beer

Ware

Beer was among Ware residents participating in the St. Patrick's Road Race in Holyoke. He finished at 45:20.

*To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to [gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com).*

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**RACE** from page 9

year. Those looking for more results from the events can go to [www.presidentialtiming.com](http://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.

The road race once again kicked off an excellent weekend celebrating the St. Patrick's Day holiday and also helped to prepare several participants in this year's event for future races in the coming months, including the Boston Marathon, which will take place on Monday, April 21.

With the weather being much warmer, there were less participants in costumes, though plenty of harriers were wearing the green tutus that are often a part of each year's race.

The city also had excellent cooperation from the Holyoke Police Department, Holyoke Fire Department, the Massachusetts State Police, and Cataldo Ambulance, which provided public safety services for the event this year.

The race was kicked with a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner sung by

**Adam Beer, of Ware, finishes the course at 45:20.**

**Brian Farmer crosses the finish line at 47:57.**

Kate Caligaris and JFK Award winner and celebrity Bridget Moynahan shot the opening gun.

This year, there were four waves of runners followed by the fifth wave, which included walkers on the course.

Among the participants, there were nearly 400 participants in the race who were under 18-years-old.

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The cast and crew featured some of the talented juniors and seniors of Quaboag Regional Middle High School. "Clue" would be the final show for the seniors.

**CLUE** from page 1

will all go so far as you venture off into the next chapter of your lives," Joinville wrote.

Joinville also acknowledged the juniors who were part of the cast and crew and believes the future is bright for Quaboag Theater.

Camden Olivo is a junior at Quaboag and he played Wadsworth during the Saturday night show and the Sunday show. The role as Wadsworth was also played

by Grace Smart during the Friday night show and Saturday morning show. Smart is also a junior at Quaboag and has performed in many of her school's shows including "The Addams Family", "Beauty and the Beast" and "Camp Omigosh".

Colonel Mustard was a funny character in "Clue" played by Parker Chaffee and Haylee Nash. Chaffee is a senior at Quaboag and this production of "Clue" was his last show at the school. He



The characters opened up their gifts featuring potential murder weapons as Mr. Boddy, played by Dante Martino, was being questioned by Wadsworth, portrayed by Camden Olivo, far right.

has been a longtime member of the theater community and is proud of the work he has done alongside his fellow theater comrades.

Chaffee is known for playing numerous roles throughout his time at Quaboag, including Coach Butkus, Uncle Fester and the dramatic leading role as the Beast in "Beauty and the Beast".

Chaffee's classmate Dante Martino was in "Clue" as Mr. Boddy during two shows. Martino has been performing at Quaboag since the

ninth grade. Martino has been a part of school productions such as "The Addams Family", "Beauty and the Beast", and "Freaky Friday".

Abigail Jolin is a senior at Quaboag, and she has been performing in the theater department for six years. Jolin plays Mrs. White for two of the shows of "Clue". Jolin has taken on numerous roles during her time at Quaboag and has been part of the ensemble and has worked behind the scenes for several shows.



The characters entered the mansion and met for the first time as the story of "Clue" began.

Emily Hubbel played Mrs. Peacock in two of the shows of "Clue". Hubbel is a senior at Quaboag and originally worked in the back of the auditorium, managing the spotlight in several shows. This year, Emily would audition for "Clue" and played a hilarious Mrs. Peacock on stage.

Congratulations to all the seniors: Abigail, Josh, Parker, Dante, Avi, Falon, Emily, Blake, Sebastian, Liam and Toby on a great journey through Quaboag's Theater

Department and for performing one amazing final show.

Quaboag will be hosting the Casey Handfield Benefit Concert on Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. The concert will take place in the Quaboag Regional High School gymnasium and will feature the Quaboag Regional Wind Ensemble and the Auburn High School Concert Band.

All proceeds go to the Casey J. Handfield Memorial Scholarship. All donations are encouraged and appreciated.

**COLLEGE** from page 9

would call me every couple of weeks to check in. We built a very good relationship. I've also visited Assumption several times, and I already love the place."

Salvadore, who resides in Oakham, will be playing football at Union College, which is located a little more than two hours away in Schenectady, New York.

"The Union football program has had a lot of success in the past," Salvador said. "I made an overnight visit there back in January. I spent the night with several members of the football team. I also had a meeting with the Union football coach. I told him that I'll work hard and always try my best. I was accepted to Union and coach (Jon) Drach recently emailed me. He told me that I would be a member of the football team. I'm very excited about it."

One of the Union assistant coaches is Erik Karlson. He was an assistant coach at Worcester State University for three seasons before moving to upstate New York. He also knows Quabbin varsity football coach Wayne Page.

Salvadore, who's also a member of the school's NJROTC, is planning to study economics.

One of Luke's teachers this year is his mother, Therese.

"My mom teaches graphic design," he said. "It's the first time that I've had her as a teacher and it's been really cool. It's a project type of a class which is like an internship."

Travis and Luke aren't the first members of their family to wear a Quabbin football uniform and play college football.

Luke's older brother, Danny, graduated from Quabbin in 2016 before playing football at Stonehill College for three seasons.

"My older brother was the main reason why I began playing football," Salvadore said. "I really wish we would've been teammates in high school. He was also a running back. We always talked after my games. I really appreciate all his support."

Travis was able to play football with his older brother, Colton, for one season.

"When I was a sophomore, I was the center and

my brother was the left tackle," Wells said. "It was a great experience being on the same football team with him."

Colton Wells was a member of the Western New England University football team during the past two seasons. He won't be playing football next fall. He has decided to focus on his collegiate wrestling career instead.

When they were in eighth grade, Travis Wells and Luke Salvadore were teammates on the Quabbin Regional junior varsity football team.

"Because of COVID, eighth graders were allowed to play for the Quabbin junior varsity football team," Salvador said. "I also became a fullback for the first time that season. I only played tight end and defense at the youth level."

Salvador, who joined the varsity football team as a freshman, would switch to the running back position. He finished his outstanding high school career with more than 2,100 rushing yards, which is a new school record.

"I broke Colby Smith's school's rushing record,"

Salvadore said. "He was a very good running back several years ago."

Salvador scored his first varsity touchdown as a sophomore in the Panthers 15-12 home victory against Saint Paul Diocesan High School of Worcester.

"I remember being very excited after scoring my first varsity touchdown," Salvadore said. "It just felt awesome."

Wells didn't play in any games as a freshman because of an injury. He became an outstanding offensive lineman during the next three seasons.

"I probably owe 800 of my rushing yards each season to Travis alone," Salvadore added. "He was the best blocker that I've ever had. He would open huge holes for me. A lot of my success as a running back was because of Travis and the other linemen."

Wells enjoyed making Salvador's job as a running back very easy.

"Whichever way that I blocked my guy, Luke would always run the other way," said Wells, who also throws the shot put for the Panthers

indoor and outdoor track teams. "I just loved watching him run into the end zone. Those were special moments for me."

As a senior, Salvadore rushed for a total of 950 yards on 123 carries and scored 12 touchdowns.

"When I was a junior, I had 190 carries and rushed for a total of 1,060 yards and scored 13 touchdowns. "When I was a junior, I was very sore after every game," he said. "We used the spread offense a lot more this past season and I didn't carry the ball as much."

The other Panthers offensive linemen during the 2024 season were senior Cole Wilson, senior Adam Faulha, senior Ryan Wreschinsky, and sophomore Carter Bassett.

Page became the Panthers varsity football coach when Wells and Salvadore were freshmen.

"Travis and Luke both meant a great deal to our

football program over their four years with us," Page said. "They were captains this past season and did a great job, along with the other captains and senior leaders of leading by example both on and off the field. They are great young men."

The duo were selected to the Mid-Wach E All-Star team as seniors.

The Panthers finished the 2024 campaign with a 7-4 overall record.

"We did struggle for a couple of years," Salvadore said. "I think dealing with the growing pains really helped us become a successful team this past season."

Even though Wells and Salvadore will be heading their separate ways following their graduation on June 6, they'll always have fond memories about playing on the same football teams together for the past eight years.

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

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

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**TOWN OF WARE**  
**PUBLIC FORUM NOTICE**  
**CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**

A Public Forum will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the Ware High School Auditorium, 237 West Street, Ware, to hear suggestions on changes to the Town of Ware Charter.

All are welcome & encouraged to attend.

*The Charter, adopted in 2007, outlines the governance method for the Town, including roles, participation and operations.*

*A copy of the Charter can be found on the Town of Ware's website under the Town Clerk's page.*

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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of March 16-25, the Ware Police Department responded to 35 miscellaneous calls, 19 administrative calls, eight traffic violations, 16 emergency 911 calls, five motor vehicle accidents, two harassments, one trespass, four thefts/larcenies, two structure fires, one brush fire, one damage/vandalism, six animal calls and 25 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

**Sunday, March 16**  
4:25 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Belchertown Road, Hazmat Spill Control  
1:31 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Dispatch Handled  
2:55 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Otis Avenue, Report Made  
4:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Investigated  
5:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Babcock Tavern Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
7:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Monday, March 17**  
8:49 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Canal Street, Assist Given  
9:41 a.m. Fire Alarm, Gould Road, Investigated  
10:15 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Services Rendered  
1:28 p.m. Structure Fire, West Street, Investigated  
2:15 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Vernon Street, Services Rendered  
2:21 p.m. Assault, West Street, Services Rendered  
5:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
6:32 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Warren Road, Services Rendered  
10:47 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Church Street, Arrest Made  
Arrest: Heather L.

Lamoureux, 40, Wilbraham OUI-Liquor or .08%; Drug, Possess Class B; Drug, Possess Class E

**Tuesday, March 18**  
9:29 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Buckley Court, Services Rendered  
5:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Vehicle Towed  
8:07 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Church Street, Advised

**Wednesday, March 19**  
11:28 a.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Services Rendered  
1:29 p.m. Drugs, West Street, Investigated  
3:38 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, Valley View, Report Made  
7:23 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Church Street, Advised

**Thursday, March 20**  
11:14 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Vigeant Street, Services Rendered  
4:39 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Anderson Road, Services Rendered  
4:43 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Doane Road, Services Rendered  
9:34 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, North Street, Services Rendered  
0:38 p.m. DUI/Impaired, West Street, Services Rendered

**Friday, March 21**  
6:31 a.m. Administrative, North Street, Services Rendered  
Arrest: Chrystal A. Cali, 43, Ware  
Assault and Battery with Dangerous Weapon; Destruction of Property +\$1,200, Wanton c266 §127; Destruction of Property +\$1,200, Wanton c266 §127  
3:16 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, West Street,

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.

Services Rendered  
11:05 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Belchertown Road, Investigated

**Saturday, March 22**  
6:15 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Investigated  
2:20 p.m. Structure Fire, Palmer Road, Extinguished  
3:34 p.m. Fire Investigation, Church Street, Extinguished  
8:46 p.m. Warrant Service, Aspen Street, Arrest Made  
Arrest: Robert R. Redmond, 22, Ware  
WMS Warrant

**Sunday, March 23**  
2:49 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Church Street, Assist Given  
9:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Monday, March 24**  
7:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Knox Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
7:45 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Doane Road, Dispatch Handled

**Tuesday, March 25**  
1:34 a.m. Wildland/Brush Fire, Beaver Lake Road, Extinguished  
8:36 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Repot Made

Ware Fire responded to structure fire

WARE – On March 22, WestComm Regional Dispatch received a call from a passerby about black smoke coming from a residence at 357 Palmer Road. WestComm toned Ware Fire for a structure fire response. A second alarm was requested while en route to the incident. On arrival firefighters located a fire in the basement of the structure. A

hydrant that was used near the fire was found to be broken. A second hydrant in Walmart parking lot entrance was accessed. This caused Route 32 (Palmer Road) to be shut down for a short time. Ware Fire crews contained the fire to the basement. The entire structure sustained smoke damage throughout. The occupants

have found temporary shelter currently. Ware Fire was assisted by Belchertown Fire, Bondsville Fire, Warren Fire, West Brookfield Fire, Ware Police, and the state Fire Marshals Office. No injuries to the occupants or first responders were reported. Route 32 (Palmer Road) reopened shortly after the fire.

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of March 17-24, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 59 building/property checks, 67 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, one traffic control, 13 emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, two harassments, one complaint, five safety hazards, one fire, one investigation, one burglary, five animal calls and five motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, March 17**  
6:49 p.m. Harassment, Prospect Street, Spoken To  
7:30 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

**Tuesday, March 18**  
2:02 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital  
6:30 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Voice Message Left  
8:07 a.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Dispatch Handled  
1:03 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Church Lane, Services Rendered

**Wednesday, March 19**  
2:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued  
10:50 a.m. 911 Elevator Call/Alarms, Old Petersham Road, No Action Required  
4:29 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Muddy Brook Road, Transported to Hospital  
7:13 p.m. Harassment, Prospect Street, Services Rendered  
7:18 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
10:12 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prouty Road, Transported to Hospital  
11:21 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

**Thursday, March 20**  
10:25 a.m. Fire Alarm, Church Street, Services Rendered  
12:10 p.m. Investigation, Upper Church Street, Services Rendered  
9:04 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Barre Road, Services Rendered  
9:19 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Ridge Road, Services Rendered

**Friday, March 21**  
3:43 a.m. Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Transported to Hospital  
9:19 a.m. 911 Fire/Chimney, Main Street, Extinguished  
2:40 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Broad Street, Transported to Hospital  
3:38 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Handled  
4:04 p.m. Safety Hazard, Brook Road, Services Rendered  
4:49 p.m. Safety Hazard, High Street, Services Rendered  
6:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued  
9:11 p.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Main Street, Report Taken

**Saturday, March 22**  
5:38 p.m. Fire Alarm, Prospect Street, Services Rendered

**Sunday, March 23**  
7:07 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

**Monday, March 24**  
2:53 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Warren Police Log

During the week of March 16-22, the Warren Police Department responded to 210 building/property checks, 12 community policings, 26 emergency 911 calls, one safety concern, one structure fire, one vehicle fire, two frauds/forgeries, one larceny/theft, four motor vehicle accidents, three threats, one property damage, one burglary, two harassments, one illegal dumping, two animal calls and 33 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

**Sunday, March 16**  
12:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
8:49 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Southbridge Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
11:33 a.m. Threats, Lombard Street, Officer Took Call  
11:46 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Main Street,

Canceled  
7:06 p.m. Neurological/Head Injury, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
10:21 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Main Street, Report Filed

**Monday, March 17**  
12:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
8:12 a.m. Property Damage, Reed Street, Report Filed  
1:36 p.m. Structure Fire, Maple Street, Investigated  
2:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
3:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
4:08 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Canada Lane, Report Filed  
5:29 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Heritage Drive,

Transported to Hospital  
6:08 p.m. Welfare Check, Brimfield Road, Report Filed  
6:34 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Main Street, Mutual Aid Transport  
7 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Keyes Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
7:35 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed

**Tuesday, March 18**  
3:59 a.m. Falls, Shamrock Drive, Transported to Hospital  
7:27 a.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Carpenter Street, Transported to Hospital  
9:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
11:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, North Street, Report Filed  
1:13 p.m. Threats, Old West Warren Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
1:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
1:58 p.m. Chest Pain/

Heart Problem, Bemis Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
7 p.m. Threats, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
7:41 p.m. Burglary, Southbridge Road, Investigated  
9:52 p.m. Vehicle Fire, Southbridge Road, Vehicle Towed

**Wednesday, March 19**  
3:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
4:35 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Quaboag Street, Transported to Hospital  
8:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
10:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
2:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Bemis Road, Vehicle Removed  
11:53 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Comins Pond Road, Transported to Hospital

**Thursday, March 20**

7:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
8:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning  
8:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
8:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
8:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
8:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
8:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bemis Road, Criminal Complaint  
9:31 a.m. Stroke, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital  
4:47 p.m. Harassment, Old Douglas Road, Report Filed  
10:56 p.m. Safety Concern, Milton O. Fountain Way, Officer Spoke to Party

**Friday, March 21**  
9:10 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Referred to Other

Agency  
4:24 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Chapel Street, Mutual Aid Transport  
4:50 p.m. Harassment, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
11:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
11:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

**Saturday, March 22**  
12:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
12:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
5:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
5:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning  
5:45 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial, Main Street, Officer Chief Advised  
5:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, East Road, Report Filed

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PROGRAM MEETING  
Wednesday, April 9th, 7 p.m.

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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 31**

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for appointment.

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Scat

11:30 a.m. Lunch

**Tuesday, April 1**

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for appointment.

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing

9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class

9:30 a.m. Quilting Club

10 a.m. Scat

11 a.m. Lunch Birthday Party. Dessert and entertainment provided by the Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.

1 p.m. Cornhole

5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class

6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

**Wednesday, April 2**

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for appointment.

9 a.m. Tai-Chi

10 a.m. Scat

11:30 a.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

**Thursday, April 3**

9 a.m. Walking Club. Meet at Senior Center.

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing

9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners

10 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Scat

11:30 a.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Cornhole

2:30 p.m. Art Class

**Friday, April 4**

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Scat

11:30 a.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Chair Yoga

6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

**LUNCHES**

**DINE IN 11:30 a.m.**

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

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

**Monday, March 31**

Meatloaf, Baked Potato, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

**Tuesday, April 1**

Birthday Party

BBQ Chicken, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day, Dessert and Entertainment provided by the Friends of the Ware Seniors Inc.

**Wednesday, April 2**

Brunch

Blueberry Pancakes, Roasted Eggs, Corned Beef Hash, Dessert of the Day

**Thursday, April 3**

American Chop Suey, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

**Friday, April 4**

Tuna Melt Sandwich, Potato Chips, Tomato Soup, Dessert of the Day

Open House at St. Aloysius Catholic School on April 7

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School located in Gilbertville, is hosting a spring Open House at the school on Monday, April 7 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Prospective parents are cordially invited to visit the classrooms and meet the faculty of the growing school. Administration is also happy to tour families during the school day and provide shadow days for students presently in kindergarten through grade seven.

Please feel free to call the school at 413-477-1268 or reach out to Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, to set up an appointment to visit. Enrollment information and all the necessary paperwork is available on the website ([www.staloysiuscs.com](http://www.staloysiuscs.com)) under the “Join our Family” tab.

Poll, Ferguson perform ‘Voices of Heart’

Rare and masterful collaboration of guitar and flute at Stone Church

HARDWICK – Classical guitarist and conductor Michael Poll and flutist Emi Ferguson will present “Voices of the Heart,” an original collaborative concert at 3 p.m., Sunday, April 6, at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

Each musician a master, this event is a rare second opportunity to hear them perform together. Free to youth under 18 and holders of the Massachusetts Card to Culture. For tickets and more information: [www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofthestonechurch/1256715](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofthestonechurch/1256715)

This concert program features “Suite for Lute” by J.S. Bach; “Songs” by John Dowland; “Sonata in D Major” by Ferdinand Rebay (1851-1914); “Air” for solo flute by Tōru Takemitsu; “Fantasie in e Minor” for solo flute by G.P. Telemann; and “Arpeggione Sonata” by Franz Schubert, arranged for guitar and flute.

The artists first appeared together at the Stone Church Cultural Center in April, 2022. The Boston Music Intelligencer reviewer described their “Pastoral Concert” program as “works that stood out for their power and beauty....interspersed among many small gems,” and their playing as “loving,” “dance-like,” and “with such verve” that the audience burst into applause before the end of the piece they were playing, Astor Piazzola’s “Histoire du Tango”.

As a guitarist, Poll is known for his interpretation of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, heard on his album “7-String Bach,” which was called “masterful” by The Gramophone Magazine, featured on the BBC, and has been streamed over one million times. Poll



Classical guitarist Michael Poll



Flutist Emi Ferguson

has performed across North and South America and in Europe and has entertained five sitting Lord Mayors of the City of London as well as the Speaker of the Parliament.

As a conductor, Poll is Associate Conductor of Central City Opera in Colorado. He has conducted the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at Lancaster House in London, and in the 2024-25 season, he returned to make two recordings with the orchestra. In 2025, he will collaborate for the first time with the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra.

A 2010 Fulbright and a 2012 Marshall Scholar, Poll holds a bachelor’s degree in music summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was concurrently a visiting student at the Curtis Institute of Music. In 2012 he received the Graduate Performance Diploma from the Pederewski Academy of Music in Poland; in 2014, he earned the MPerf degree from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, where he was awarded a doctorate in 2022.

In addition to his conducting and performance career, Poll has been active in the initiative SoundingLab, a charity that uses music to inspire young people to engage with men-

torship and improve their educational outcomes.

Hailed by critics for her “tonal bloom” and “hauntingly beautiful” flute playing, English-American performer, composer and vocal-ist Ferguson has blazed new musical trails in her flute performances, compositions, and vocal artistry.

Winner of a prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2023, Ferguson appears in live concerts and festivals around the world as a flute soloist and with groups including the American Modern Opera Company, Ruckus, the New York New Music Ensemble, the Handel and Haydn Society, and the Manhattan Chamber Players. As the music director of Camerata Pacifica Baroque, she creates innovative live chamber music concerts presenting virtuosic musicians in Southern California.

Ferguson was a featured performer alongside Yo-Yo Ma, Paul Simon and James Taylor at the 10th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony of 9/11 at Ground Zero. Her performance of “Amazing Grace” that day is now part of the permanent collection at the 911 Museum. She is the second Avery Fisher awardee to appear in Gilbertville, the first having been pianist Mackenzie Melemed.

Both Poll and Ferguson

have made waves with their recordings. More information about the artists can be found on their websites: [emiferguson.com](http://emiferguson.com) and [michaelpollguitar.com](http://michaelpollguitar.com).

Concerts at the Stone Church in Spring 2025 are funded in part by a grant from the Mass Cultural Council and by grants from the Cultural Councils of Barre, Hardwick-New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, and Petersham. Local Cultural Councils are local agencies which receive support from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

This concert is sponsored by CAPTRUST, an independent financial advisory firm serving clients of all types.

About FOSC

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. is a public charitable corporation and community group organized in 2015 and open to all. Its mission is to preserve and protect the Gilbertville Stone Church Cultural Center and to make it available as a place of community enrichment.

The Friends welcome donations toward their ongoing preservation project online at [www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org](http://www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org) or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

BACKYARD from page 4

that subsequently fell down. I was told about the fourth and current nest three years ago. If the bird on the nest is the female that has been nesting in this area and had at least one young two years ago she is banded and is 20 years old.”

Two of my grandchildren and I saw a mature bald eagle perched in a tree at the edge of my hayfield on Saturday, March 15. I stopped the car and my granddaughter, Lizzie, got out of the car to take a photo with her cellphone. I said the eagle will probably fly away. As she approached, the eagle turned its head to watch her. As she approached it bent down, opened its tail feathers displaying the white feathers and then took off. She got a photo of its white tail.

The Brimfield resident saw two bald eagles at a pond in Warren, an adult and an immature. The immature eagle flushed up some ducks while flying around the pond. On another day he saw four eagles, two adult and two immature. An Oakham resident also saw a bald eagle recently.

Other birds

The same person saw a great blue heron, hooded mergansers, three ringed bill gulls and a small flock of red-winged blackbirds. Earlier this month, he said, “Two fox sparrows showed in the afternoon, always nice to see them. A pair of blue birds are irregular visitors as are sharp-shinned hawks. Last week an adult chased juncos into a quince bush without success. And this

week an immature sharpie was in the yard for awhile.”

He said he takes in his feeders at night as bears should be out and about. He read an article that the skunk cabbage is up and is a sign that so are the bears. Black bears eat skunk cabbage leaves in the spring when they first emerge from the dens to “kick start” their digestive system. They also return to their favorite feed-

ing grounds, often back yard bird feeders.

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

Town Clerk lists Vote by Mail info for election

WARE – The Town of Ware will hold its Annual Town Election on Monday, April 14 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. at Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St.

In conjunction with in person voting – there is an option for Vote by Mail for those individuals not wishing to vote in person on that

day.

The Vote by Mail Application is available on the Town of Ware website ([www.townofware.com](http://www.townofware.com)) under News & Notices or on the Town Clerk’s page for those individuals who wish to complete the application and either mail it in, drop it off in the outside

“blue” drop box or stop into the Town Clerk’s Office to complete the application to have a ballot mailed to them.

The deadline to apply is Monday, April 7 at 5 p.m.

Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk by calling 413-967-9648 extension 103.



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<b>LG #3400 WASHER &amp; DRYER</b> Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 <b>\$1399.99</b>	<b>MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER</b> Reg. \$699.99 <b>\$549.99</b>	<b>WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE</b> Reg. \$1499.99 <b>\$1099.99</b>
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**Light Equipment Operator /Laborer**  
The Granby Highway Department has a 40 hour per week position available for a Light Equipment Operator/Laborer. This position requires the ability to operate various types of machinery, hand tools and equipment (examples include lawnmowers, plows, sanders, asphalt paving equipment). The position is Grade 3 classification. Steps within this grade range from \$18.72- \$24.42 per hour. A valid Massachusetts class A or B CDL driver's license is required. Special consideration will be given to candidates who possess the higher license class, or additional licenses and/or relevant construction experience that would be determined to be beneficial to the operations of the Highway Department. Please contact the Highway Superintendent at **413-467-7575** at the **Highway Garage (15 Crescent St, Granby MA 01033)** for further information, a copy of the job description and/or an application for employment. Applications will be accepted through May 1, 2025.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a full-time **Highway Truck Driver/Equipment Operator/Laborer**. Applicants must possess a Massachusetts Class B CDL with Air Brake Endorsement and possess or be able to obtain 2B or higher & 4G Hoisting Engineer's licenses within 6 months of hire. \$27.50 to \$28.79 per hour based on qualifications. Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us). Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.


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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

## FOR RENT

  
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and/or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES**  
**FRIDAY AT 2 PM**



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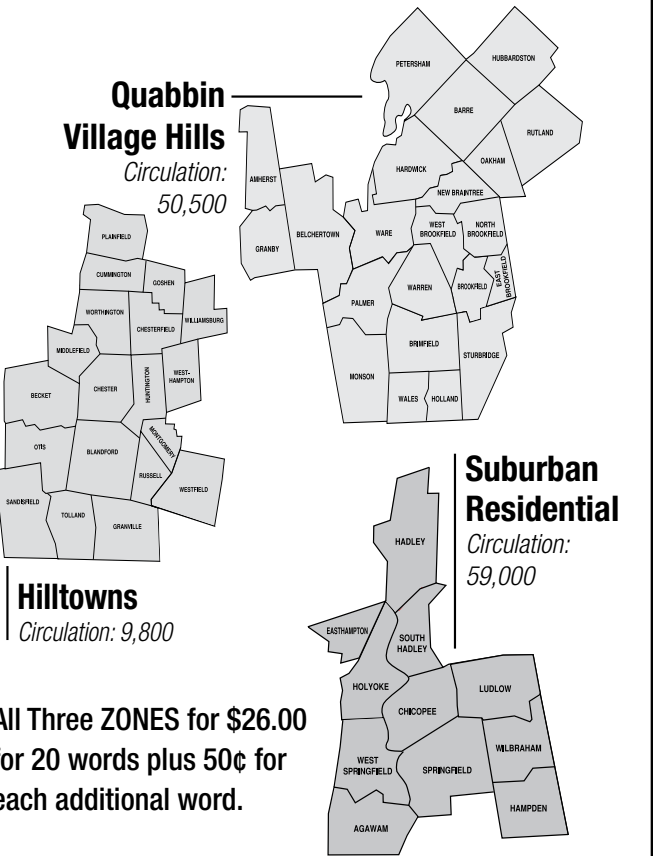
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obituary

Take-out turkey dinner to be held April 7

WARE – The United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., will hold a take-out turkey dinner on Monday, April 7 from 5-6 p.m. or until food runs out.

Drive up to 49 Church St. and a runner will take your order and bring it to your car. Meals are \$15 per person and can be paid by cash or check.

The turkey dinner includes all of the fixings: potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, roll, coffee, tea and dessert.

For more information, people may call the Church Office at 413-967-9981.

Open burning season open through May 1

WARE – Open burning season is now open by permit and runs through May 1.

Permits will be available online only at [ware.firepermits.com](http://ware.firepermits.com). If you are already registered for the site from last year's open burning season, you only need to log in and apply for a 2025 burn permit.

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

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

Recycling Center offers bulk waste day April 12

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Recycling Center, 2011 Barre Road, will hold a Bulk Waste Collection Event on Saturday, April 12 from 8 a.m.-noon.

This event is open to the residents of Hardwick and surrounding towns. A recycling center sticker is not required.

Please note, there are fees per item charged to cover the cost of hauling and processing.

Prices are as follows: mattress/waterbed mattress/futon, \$30; couch, \$30; sleeper sofa bed/pull-out couch, \$40; loveseat/upholstered chair, \$25; pool table, \$25; wall unit cabinets, \$20; large entertainment center, \$20; sink, \$15; ceiling fan/upright fan/box fan, \$10; toilet, \$20; carpeting/foam carpet backing, \$15; kitchen/dining table, \$15; bookcase/bureau, \$15; trash compactor, \$10; wooden chair/end table/coffee table/night stand, \$12; car seat (baby/child), \$7; bulk Styrofoam (bagged), \$5; and suitcases, \$5.

The staff and volunteers reserve the right to price or reject other items not listed above accordingly on site.

For more information, people can email [recycling@townofhardwick.com](mailto:recycling@townofhardwick.com) or stop by the Hardwick Recycling Center during open hours. Volunteers are also needed during the Bulk Waste Collection Event.

Brown Bag Sale of winter clothing ongoing until April 14

WARE – The Ware Senior Center Thrift Store, 1 Robbins Road, will have a Brown Bag Sale now through April 14 for winter clothing only, including hats, gloves and winter coats.

Fill up a brown bag supplied by the senior center

OES to hold designer breakfast

BARRE – Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 5 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St.

People may design their specialty pancake. The menu includes pancakes, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 for children 6 and under. All are welcome.

Betty J. Przypek, 79

WEST BROOKFIELD – Betty J. Przypek, 79, of West Brookfield passed away on March 20, 2025, at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester.



She leaves her sons, Michael Przypek of Woodland Park, Colorado; Steve Przypek and his wife, Kelley, of Sherrills Ford, North Carolina; Mark Przypek and his wife, Robin, of Barre; and James Przypek and his wife, Amy, of Ware. She also leaves her beloved grandchildren; Robyn Ford, Noah Przypek, Marissa Fitzgerald, Joshua Przypek, Kyle Przypek, Tyler Przypek, Evyn Przypek, Megyn Przypek, Jamison Przypek, and Ella Przypek; as well as her great-grandchildren, Makayla, Blake, Oliver, and Natalie, whom she was most proud of. She leaves her siblings, Cathy Beaupre of Wilbraham, and Ronald Marchessault and his wife, Christine, of West Brookfield.

She was born in Ware, daughter of the late Joseph H. Marchessault and Rachel L. (Hibbard) Savoy.

Betty worked as a CNA for over 20 years for UMA,

Overlook of Southbridge and hospice. She served as a board member of FOC/COA,

West Brookfield, she was a past club member of the Social Science Club in Ware, as well as a member of the Mt. Carmel Church of Ware.

She enjoyed painting, arts and crafts, gardening, reading, hosting card parties with friends, and planning get-togethers. Most importantly, she was committed to maintaining her independent living and doing things her way.

A Calling Hour for Betty will be held on Saturday, March 29, from 10-11 a.m. in Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main St., West Brookfield, MA 01585. A Graveside service will be held in Pine Grove Cemetery in West Brookfield immediately following the calling hour. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the West Brookfield Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 540, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

Varnum Funeral Home is honored to serve the Przypek family. An online tribute page is available at <https://www.varnumfuneralhome.com>.

Death notice

**Przypek, Betty J.**  
Died March 20, 2025  
Services March 29, 2025

Ware River News  
OBITUARY  
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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

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

Wishing Well Charities hosts spring lottery raffle fundraiser on April 5

WARE – Wishing Well Charities is hosting its spring lottery ticket raffle fundraiser with a drawing date of April 5.

First prize is \$300 in lottery scratch offs and second

prize is \$200 in lottery scratch offs.

The raffle ticket cost is one for \$10 or three for \$25. Cash, check or Venmo accepted. Call or text either 413-204-0009 or 413-330-4013 or

reach out to any board member to purchase tickets.

Venmo web address is <https://account.venmo.com/u/Chris-Midura>. This fundraiser is sponsored by Safelite AutoGlass.

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TOWN OF WARREN

Job Opening

HIGHWAY HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Do you enjoy working outdoors?

Would you like to be part of a thriving, friendly and dedicated team?

The Town of Warren Highway Department is seeking a qualified candidate for the full-time position of Driver/Laborer/Machine Operator. The Town of Warren is committed to equal opportunity, encourages diversity and inclusion, and believes that a positive culture of inclusion in Town governance contributes to the Town's overall qualities as a great place to live and work. We welcome all to apply.

**Salary:** Starting at \$23.28 per hour with the potential of going to \$24.78 per hour on July 1st.

**Hours:** M-Thurs., 6:00am – 4:00pm, - April 1 – Nov. 30  
M-F 6:00am – 2:00pm, - Dec. 1 – March 31

**Overtime is required for:** emergency calls and including during snow and ice storms. Required Licensing/Certification: Possession of a valid 2B Hoisting License and MA Class B CDL.

**Applicants:** To be considered for this vacancy, please submit a cover letter and resume by no later than **4:00 pm on Thursday April 10th, 2025**. Resumes will be accepted via email to [JeremyOlson@warren-ma.gov](mailto:JeremyOlson@warren-ma.gov), or dropped off to: Town of Warren Highway Department 87 Brimfield Rd, Warren, MA 01083 or mailed to: Warren Highway Department P.O. Box 628, Warren, MA 01083.

For a complete job description please visit the Town's website [www.warren-ma.gov](http://www.warren-ma.gov).

Town of Warren

Full-Time Police Officer Vacancy

The Warren Police Department is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the vacant position of FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER. The Warren Police Department is a non-civil service department that is seeking individuals who are motivated, proactive and community oriented. All candidates must be at least 21 years of age, be a U.S. Citizen, have a minimum of a high school diploma, possess a valid driver's license, and currently have, or have the ability to obtain a Class A license to carry firearms in the state of Massachusetts. Candidates must have successfully completed a Massachusetts full-time police academy or the equivalent to be considered for the position.

All applicants who move forward in the hiring process will be subject to a background investigation as well as a medical, physical, and psychological examination. All candidates will also be required to meet all requirements set forth by the Peace Officer and Standards Commission (POST). It is preferred that applicants currently hold an unrestricted certification from POST at the time of applying.

The Town of Warren currently offers full-time employees of the Police Department with an education-based incentive. Officers with the Warren Police Department will be required to work a schedule consisting of four (4) consecutive days on followed by two (2) days off and will be assigned to a shift based on departmental needs. All Officers will also be eligible for vacation time, personal time and holiday pay as outlined in the union contract.

All interested applicants are asked to please submit a cover letter and resume to:

Lieutenant Kyle P. Whitcomb, 1 Milton O. Fountain Way, P.O. Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or E-mail to [Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov](mailto:Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov)

The deadline for applications is **Friday, April 4, 2025**. Therefore, it is required that the Warren Police Department be in receipt of the candidates resume and cover letter no later than this date to be considered. The Town of Warren is an equal opportunity employer (EOE).

public notices

Town of Hardwick  
Conservation Commission  
Request for Determination  
of Applicability

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Meeting will be held for a **Request for Determination of Applicability on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at the Municipal Office Building, 307Main Street, Gilbertville, in the Select Board Meeting Room. All interested parties are urged to attend.

Applicant: Kate Stillman

Description of Proposed Work: Stream Crossing to restore farm access

Location: **3674 Greenwich Rd**

Town: **Hardwick**

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>.  
03/27/2025

Town of Hardwick  
Conservation Commission  
Request for Determination  
of Applicability

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Applicant: Michelle Talbot

Description of Proposed Work: Remove overmature trees, west side of property and 2 dead trees adjacent to driveway

Location: **1130 Turkey St.**

Town: **Hardwick**

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>.  
03/27/2025

Petruzzi, Jasmine Ledy, William Backus, Amber Beach and Micah Hinckley will be auctioned off at Secure Storage 167 West St., Ware, MA on **April 5, 2025 at 9:30 am**.

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.  
03/20, 03/27/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

**Public Hearing on Ware School Budget Set for April 16, 2025**

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 38N, of the Massachusetts General Laws there will be a Public Hearing on the Ware School Department's Proposed Budget for the 2025-2026 School Year.

**The hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 in the Ware Junior Senior High School Library.**

Public comments can be e-mailed to [sc-comments@ware.k12.ma.us](mailto:sc-comments@ware.k12.ma.us).

All interested residents from the Town of Ware are invited to attend and participate.

A copy of the proposed budget will be available for viewing on the Ware Public School's website ([www.wareps.org](http://www.wareps.org)).

Brian Winslow, Chairperson  
Ware School Committee  
03/27/2025

PUBLIC NOTICES  
ARE NOW ONLINE

1

Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)

2

Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3

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

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

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

Public forum on March 27 seeks feedback on town charter

WARE – The Ware Charter Review Committee is seeking public feedback about the Town’s Charter and will hold a public forum for residents tonight, Thursday, March 27.  
 The forum will begin at 6 p.m. in the Ware High School auditorium.

The Ware Charter was established by a review committee, town meeting and a town-wide vote in 2007. The Charter outlines and details the governance structure for the town. This includes elections, town meetings and the day to day operations of town departments.

The Charter Review Committee was established by Town Meeting in May, 2024. As an advisory committee, its efforts have focused on the update and proposed revisions of the current charter.  
 The committee recognizes the importance of this document as it pertains to the citizens of the Town of Ware and its goal to provide a clear picture of how the local government operates. The committee has been working diligently to make clear changes in the charter and to ultimately make recommendations to the Town Meeting.

A survey prepared by the Committee and made available on the Town website, [www.townofware.com](http://www.townofware.com) and through the annual census had generated feedback from several hundred residents.  
 Recommendations at this level will not offer any major restructuring of the government or the day-to-day operations. The goal is to update the Charter for accuracy and clarity, while looking at places for local efficiency.  
 The Committee also welcomes suggestions that may lead to further changes in the future.

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 For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email [adventuretours@att.net](mailto:adventuretours@att.net) or go to [www.adventuretoursofwarren.com](http://www.adventuretoursofwarren.com)

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