

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Select Board, FinCom go over budgets

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Select Board and Finance Committee met for another joint meeting on April 6.

This meeting went over the fiscal year 2027 budgets for the Highway Department and for the Fire Department.

Mark Korzec of the Finance Committee began with giving a recap from the previous joint meeting. The budget sheet given last week has not changed.

There are certain elements of the budget that are still not confirmed including the school budget, senior center, numbers from the towns of Barre and New Braintree, and state and local receipts.

The Finance Committee wanted to know if the Select Board wanted to discuss putting

Please see **BUDGETS**, page 3

Credit for Life



Students participated in financial literacy fair

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Over 250 students from Ware, Palmer and Belchertown high schools participated in Country Bank's annual financial literacy fair, Credit for Life.

This event was held in the gymnasium of Ware Jr./Sr. High School last Thursday morning, giving seniors valuable tools and information to make healthy financial choices in early adulthood.

Jodie Gerulaitis, First Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank,

Ware High School seniors Sophia Rheume and Maia Lamothe participated in Country Bank's Credit for Life last Thursday.

welcomed the students to Credit for Life, and explained what each booth at the fair represented, and how the students could benefit from the experience. Each booth is manned by Country Bank employees and other commu-

Please see **CREDIT**, page 7

BOS reviewed articles for ATM

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The Board of Selectmen met on April 2 and reviewed a second draft of the warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting on June 11.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said there will be a third draft of the warrant coming soon as the Selectmen are currently reviewing the second draft. As of April 2, there are 22 articles on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

Ferrera anticipates there will be future meetings held with the Finance Committee to discuss the warrant.

The Finance Committee has endorsements on some of the articles already. As of this Selectmen's meeting, the school numbers are still fluid and could be until after the election.

Article 6 is a recommended article for the town to consider and involves the Warren based non-profit, the Clowning for Kidz Foundation.

Ferrera described this local nonprofit as "the heart of what Warren is about," as their nonprofit is a focus on supporting children. This article is a goodwill gesture to help a local nonprofit.

Article 20 is for a property survey at the Warren

Senior Center. The town wants to make sure where the property lines are between the Senior Center and an abutting property.

As Ferrera described, this is a standard warrant for the Annual Town Meeting in June.

The Selectmen did have questions regarding the process of how the school budget is being figured out. The school did bring a budget forward; however, a lot is being factored into what the final numbers will be. One of the deciding factors is the town of West Brookfield's vote on their Proposition 2 1/2 Override ballot question during the Town Election on May 5.

According to Ferrera, the town's total budget increase is just over 12% if they go with a level funded budget for the schools. One of the three options the Quaboag Regional School Committee is considering is the closing of West Brookfield Elementary School. With this third option, the town of Warren's total budget increase from last year's budget would be 4.29%.

Selectmen Vice-Chair David Dufresne described this as a difficult situation for not only the schools but for both towns. The board is unsure if this would put

Please see **WARREN ATM**, page 5

Joint CDBG application signed

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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WEST BROOKFIELD – The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting on March 31 to hold a public hearing regarding the joint application for the Community Development Block Grant.

The towns on the application include West Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, and Barre.

John O'Leary, a Principal Planner from CMRPC said the CDBG program is designed to fund projects for low to moderate income communities, address slum

and blight, or in some cases address urgent needs. He said the maximum amount a municipality can apply for is \$950,000, but in joint applications such as this one, towns can apply for up to \$1.35 million.

O'Leary also went over the project selection process. According to a handout provided by O'Leary, CMRPC has held community development strategy forums, and met with town officials. He said in East Brookfield, they held playground committee meetings, and in Hardwick they held team meetings and a public presentation regarding Memorial Park.

Projects and costs

According to O'Leary, there are four projects planned for this year's application: The Depot Neighborhood Infrastructure Planning Study in West

Brookfield, with an approximate budget of \$150,000; Memorial Park Design Improvement Project in Hardwick, with an approximate budget of \$117,000; Barre Senior Center Improvement Project in Barre, with an approximate cost of \$90,000; and East Brookfield Town Complex Playground, with an approximate budget of \$70,000.

O'Leary said there is also a grant administration cost that CMRPC charges, which is about \$75,000, and the total budget including administration is about \$502,000.

Project details

According to the handout, the Depot Neighborhood project is to "assess the existing conditions of all subsurface and surface infrastructure" in the area.

Please see **CDBG**, page 6



Isla is shown with her Easter Bunny basket at Lucy Stone Park.

Easter hopped into Lucy Stone Park

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – Lucy Stone Park was the place to be this past weekend as the annual Easter Egg Hunt was held.

This was the fifth time Lucy Stone Park has been hosting an egg hunt around Easter Sunday and it is a fun event for kids in various age groups. Tim O'Brien is one of many dedicated volunteers

Please see **EASTER**, page 14

BULKY WASTE DISPOSAL DAY

7am-12pm

- ✓ **ITEMS FREE FOR DISPOSAL**
- Loveseats, Chairs & Couches
 - Box Springs & Mattresses
 - Power Equipment
 - (Must be drained of all fluids)
 - Washers & Dryers
 - No Trailer Loads



Saturday, April 18, 2026
at ReSource Waste
198 East Street, Ware

- 💰 **ITEMS WITH FEE**
- Truck Tires \$75
 - Loader/Tractor Tires \$500
 - Passenger Tires \$30
 - Freon Units (Air Conditioners, Refrigerators, Etc.) \$22
 - Television, Computer Monitors \$40

WARE RESIDENTS ONLY



HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

9am-1pm

- ✗ **HAZARDOUS ITEMS**
- Liquids, Fluids
 - Paints and Oils
 - Hazardous Waste
 - Pesticides, Antifreeze,
 - Lightbulbs, Batteries



Made possible by a partnership between ReSource Waste Services and the Town of Ware.

Hardwick/Gilbertville libraries list upcoming April events

HARDWICK – April is a busy month at the libraries in Hardwick.

Ellie Shea, Youth Education Coordinator from the East Quabbin Land Trust, brings a quick lesson on birding and a bird feeder craft for young learners to the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road on Saturday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m. This program is best suited for ages 8 to 12, younger kids are welcome but may require help from parents.

Please bring binoculars if you have them for outside birding.

A Celtic Knot Drawing Workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 14 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Learn the basics of drawing Celtic knots and spirals with artist Elizabeth Buck, including some tips and tricks. Materials will be provided for this drop-in program. Participants will cover different knots starting at 5:30 p.m.

Drop-in the Paige Memorial Library for

Quabbin Regional School District's Early Release Day on Wednesday, April 15 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. All ages are welcome to enjoy and explore an art activity.

Local author Lisa Cohen shares "Self-Publishing Without Tears," a workshop co-sponsored by the Paige and Gilbertville libraries at the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville on Saturday, April 18 at 2 p.m. Please call the Paige Memorial Library at 413-477-6704 to reserve a spot.

James DaRosa and Lindsay Aucoin of the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and Business Assistance Corporation will present a workshop designed to be practical, empowering, and immediately useful for small business owners at any stage on Tuesday, April 21 at 6 p.m. They will address business loans and readiness, how to start a business, how to write a business plan, and access to computer program

training.

For more information, contact the Paige Memorial Library at 413-477-6704 or paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com or QVDC at 413-497-4405.

Every Wednesday Story Time is held at the Paige Memorial Library with an activity, 10:30 a.m.-noon. This is a fun time for young patrons to experience the library and a nice place to make friends.

Other ongoing library activities include the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers, Paige's Page to Screen book to movie discussion group, and the Movie Festival Committee. Come join a group or suggest a new one.

More events are coming. Check out the Paige Memorial Library's Facebook page and website at www.facebook.com/paigelibrary or www.paigelibrary.com.

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 2022 showed volunteers at the Lucy Stone Park Easter egg hunt. Shown from left were, Tim O'Brien, Glenn Bastion, Diane Banfield (kneeling), Harriet O'Brien, Cindy Baxter, and Town Administrator Jim Ferrera. Two unidentified members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints are shown standing behind Banfield.

Ware Senior Center NEWS

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, 413-967-9645, 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, April 13
 • 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 • 10 a.m. Scat
 • 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 • 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lisa

Tuesday, April 14
 • 9 a.m. Exercise Class at Valley View Housing
 • 10 a.m. Scat
 • 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 • 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class.
 • 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, April 15
 • 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 • 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
 • 10 a.m. Scat
 • 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 • 12:30 p.m. Knit, Crochet, Laugh
 • 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

Thursday, April 16
 • 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
 • 9 a.m. Walking Club (weather permitting)
 • 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for

Beginners
 • 10 a.m. Line Dancing
 • 10 a.m. Scat
 • 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 • 12:15 p.m. Art Class

Friday, April 17

• 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 • 10 a.m. Scat
 • 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 • Noon Bay State New England Orthopedic Surgery Center free fall prevention presentation
 • 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
 • 6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

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

Monday, April 13

Shepherd's Pie, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, April 14

BBQ Chicken, Candied Yams, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, April 15

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

Thursday, April 16

Cheesy Sloppy Joe over Texas Toast, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

Friday, April 17

Baked Fish, Onion Rings, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Deslauriers scholarship applications available

WARE – Applications for the Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship are now available at your high school's guidance office.

The committee will award the Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship to a graduating senior residing in the town of Ware, regardless of the school district they attend.

To apply for this scholarship, a copy of your school transcript and a completed application, which is available at your school's guidance office, must be submitted by May 1.

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

Ware launches Mill-Health District Plan and invites input

WARE – The Town of Ware is launching a new planning initiative aimed at shaping the future of one of the community's most important redevelopment areas.

The Ware Mill-Health District Plan will focus on the area stretching from the historic Millyard along East Main Street to the former Mary Lane Hospital site on South Street, two key properties with significant potential for revitalization.

Working with planning consultants from BSC Group, the town will develop a conceptual district redevelopment plan to identify opportunities for revitalization, economic development, and improved community connections within the district. The project is supported through a technical assistance grant administered by MassDevelopment through the Commonwealth's Community One-Stop for Growth program.

The planning effort will explore strategies for

redeveloping underutilized sites, including opportunities for housing, commercial activity, and mixed-use development that could help strengthen Ware's downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. The study will also analyze existing conditions, infrastructure, environmental considerations, and market potential to guide future investment in the district.

Crowdsourcing Map and district tour

A key component of the project is community engagement. Town officials and the project team are inviting residents, businesses, property owners, and other stakeholders to share their ideas about how the area should evolve.

The project team has launched an interactive Crowdsourcing Map where community members can submit ideas, comments, and suggestions directly tied to locations within the District.

Stakeholders can participate by visiting: tinyurl.com/WareCrowdsourcingMap

The map allows users to highlight areas where improvements are needed, identify redevelopment opportunities, and share ideas for how the district could better serve the community.

Additionally, a walking tour of the district with staff from the town and BSC Group has been scheduled for Saturday morning, April 18. Please stay tuned for additional details to come regarding this public engagement event.

Planning for the future

The Ware Mill-Health District Plan will culminate in a conceptual redevelopment plan and implementation strategies that provide the town with a roadmap for revitalizing the area. The plan will outline potential development opportunities, infrastructure improve-

Please see **HEALTH**, page 3



Submitted Photo

A look back on winter's past

This past winter was one of the coldest and snowiest on record in recent years, and brought back memories of the winter 15 years ago, which started with an intense and debilitating snowstorm around Halloween. The area was plagued by downed tree limbs and lengthy power outages. The accumulation of snow over the winter also caused many homeowners to experience the threat of ice dams, an accumulation of ice that forms along the edge of the roof, blocking the melting snow from draining properly, and leading to water damage inside the home. Ware resident Gladys Boss shared a photo taken of her holding a piece of a massive ice dam that formed on her house during the winter 15 years ago, after it was chopped off by a roofing company. Boss said the ice dam resembled a column of the Roman Forum.

The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to pouimette@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069/



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'Silents are Golden' returns to Stone Church April 11

HARDWICK – The 9th “Silents Are Golden” concert featuring Charlie Chaplin’s “The Gold Rush” (1925) with live improvised accompaniment by organist Peter Krasinski will be held on Saturday, April 11 at 7 p.m. on the Gilbertville Johnson & Son pipe organ at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

This performance is sponsored by the Friends of the Stone Church.

Organist, conductor and music educator Krasinski is broadly recognized for his imaginative and energetic performances. Winner of First Prize in Improvisation from the American Guild of Organists National Competition, he is known worldwide for his unique accompaniment to classic silent films.

The “Gold Rush” takes viewers to the Klondike, Alaska where a comedy unfolds amid harsh conditions. Writer, producer, director and leading actor Charlie Chaplin plays his “Little Tramp.”

The film also stars Georgia Hale, Mack Swain, Tom Murray, Henry Bergman and Malcolm Waite. It is the fifth-highest grossing silent film in cinema history.

Variety called “The

Gold Rush” “the greatest and most elaborate comedy ever filmed.” The New York Times called it “the outstanding gem of all of Chaplin’s pictures, as it has more thought and originality than even such masterpieces of mirth as ‘The Kid’ and ‘Shoulder Arms.’”

Krasinski is House Organist of the Providence Performing Arts Center, Principal Organist at Mechanics Hall, Organist of the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Boston, Organist at First Church of Christ, Scientist in Providence, Rhode Island, and accompanist at Beth El Temple Center in Belmont.

All concerts at the Stone Church are free to those under 18.

Tickets are \$20 per person and holders of the Massachusetts Card to Culture may request up to two free tickets at the box office for any ticketed concert on the concert day, or may make a reservation by email to events@FriendsOfTheStoneChurch.org.

Partial support for the 2025-2026 concert season has been provided by the Mass Cultural Council. Support for spring concerts, including free community concerts, has been received.

'People, Pets, and Prized Possessions'

Ware artist featured at gallery show

By Paula Ouimette
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pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – Ware artist John Collins will have his debut show “People, Pets, and Prized Possessions” at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, 10 East Main St., this month, with an opening reception on Friday, April 17 from 5-7 p.m.

The reception will include wine, cheese, and friendly fellowship. All are welcome to attend.

Collins said he joined the gallery, owned by Rebecca Fay, a year ago and that he was excited to display his work in this solo show.

Collins is relatively new to the art world, deciding to pursue his childhood passion and see where he could go with it. In a short time, he has already been recognized for his talent in some prestigious shows.

“It’s like my retirement purpose. When you retire you should have something to do with your time,” he said.

Collins started taking oil painting classes with his mentor Roc Goudreau at Workshop13 in Ware. He has also been taking virtual classes with painter Victor Wang. “Roc has shepherded me



Submitted Photo

Ware artists John Collins is shown working on a portrait of his dog.

along the path,” Collins said.

Both of these teachers have taught him different techniques with oil painting, which Collins has put to use to create stunning portraits of the things that inspire him. These subjects are primarily people, pets and prized possessions.

“It’s got to be something that gets my juices flowing,” he said. “People, pets...a lot of pets.”

Collins is currently working on a painting by incorporating Wang’s techniques, which is a portrait of his Golden Retriever exiting the waters of Beaver Lake.

Collins’ other focus for his artwork is cars.

“I’ve always liked cars,” he said. “My dad was the one that got me into cars.”

Collins has created about 30 portraits of cars, mainly on commission. His own

Porsche is the subject of many of his paintings, including his largest one featuring his car on Turn 14 at Palmer Motorsports Park.

“One of my muses is my car,” he said.

His first portrait of his Porsche was awarded the Porsche Family Award for Excellence by the designer of his car.

“He chose my piece, which was kind of a moment,” Collins said.

At the show, Collins will also feature his series of paintings of cars featured in movies, including “Back to the Future”, “Transformers” and “Thelma & Louise”. He is planning to continue adding to the series by painting the cars from “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” and “Smokey and the Bandit”.

Collins will also display his 3D work in the form of bronze sculptures.

Collins has captured the likeness of some well-known local figures, including Goudreau and Chris DiMarzio, two of the founders of Workshop13, and the late Dr. PJ McDonald, who was the long-time headmaster of Eagle Hill School.

The busts of Goudreau and DiMarzio both received awards at recent shows.

“I’m very proud of those two pieces,” he said.

Please see **GALLERY SHOWS**, page 11

BUDGETS from page 1

the principal back in for the fire truck.

Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker wanted to discuss the terms of the truck regarding the lending portion.

The board wanted to make a decision for this coming fiscal year. According to Korzec, the decision is “do you wish top pay down any of the principal.”

Tinker believes the loan itself is around seven to eight years long. Both the Select Board and Finance Committee moved forward by discussing the Highway Department budget and the Fire Department budget.

Both groups began going over the Highway Department and were joined by Highway Superintendent, Martin Gryszowka. While going over a line of highway department items, it was

noted that the superintendent salary is a contracted position.

Gryszowka talked about various items that make up his department’s budget, including budgets for laborers, mowing, seasonal help, and overtime. The Highway Superintendent had his mower budgeted at a lower amount that what was shown on the sheets provided to the Select Board and Finance Committee.

Both boards, the Highway Superintendent, and the Town Administrator went over what was requested and what has been recommended. Gryszowka read that the mower/laborer position is listed as a full-time position, 40 hours a week, and at the amount of \$43,915.08. This amount is \$15,000 less than what was originally said.

The Highway Department is going up to \$20,000 for

overtime, \$35,000 for expenses, and snow and ice labor is budgeted at \$12,000. Gryszowka talked about how busy the town was this past winter and maintaining the roads while handling snow and ice. The numbers for next winter are unknown, according to Gryszowka.

“You don’t know what you’re going to pay next year”, Gryszowka said when it comes to doing these budgets.

The amount of \$55,000 was mentioned and seemed to be a decent amount according to the Select Board and the Finance Committee.

The Highway Department has also seen increases in fuel, road and machinery maintenance, and parts. It is a big expense, but the Highway Department needs to fuel for operations. The Select Board and the Finance Committee want to put

a good placeholder for the department, so they don’t go over budget.

Parts are expensive and the Highway Superintendent mentioned prices for hydraulics, water pumps, and tires. Gryszowka did discuss Chapter 90 money being used to help with the roads. The town can use those funds to buy equipment, but the funds are based on miles and population.

The next line of items discussed is for the Fire Department. Joining the Select Board and the Finance Committee is Acting Fire Chief, Nick Gaumond. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano mentioned these budgeted items were done by the previous Fire Chief before he left.

To date, the Fire Department is at 70% with

the budget. Gaumond said there are no salaries listed for lieutenant and captains. There is also no deputy fire chief as well. The Fire Equipment Maintenance budget is at 92% as of April 6.

There was a discussion about fire hydrants and how there are some that should be replaced as they’re from the 1960s. The town did receive a grant for hydrants. Gaumond said that the hydrant repairs already completed came out of the fire equipment maintenance budget.

Before wrapping up the discussion on the Fire Department, the Select Board and Finance Committee asked the Fire Chief if the department had any capital needs. Gaumond said there aren’t any capital projects in the coming year, but one that

could be done in the next five years.

The Fire Department is looking into a new vehicle, due to one truck getting up there in age. The Chief also received quotes for replacing the flooring at the fire station. Select Board Clerk Jeffrey Schaaf wanted to make sure the figures for the budget are realistic going forward.

“Make sure we have realistic figures here,” Schaaf said.

Gaumond also thought it’d be best to enroll funds for fire labor for some flexibility just in case any projects come up and the Chief can pay for the labor.

The next Select Board meeting will be on Monday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m.

HEALTH from page 2

ments, and next steps to help position the district for long-term growth and investment.

Town officials encourage residents, business owners,

property owners, and community organizations to participate and help shape the future of this important area.

Questions or comments
Contact Paralee Smith,

Director of Planning & Community Development for the Town of Ware by emailing psmith@townofware.com or calling 413-967-9648 extension 118.

HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE OPENINGS 2026-2027

Hadley Public Schools grades PK-12 is now accepting School Choice Applications.

They can be found at www.hadleyschools.org.

The cut-off date for applications is April 15th.

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- Travel Opportunities

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By Ellenor Downer



I saw an Eastern Phoebe on March 28, my first sighting of 2026.

The Eastern Phoebe is a plump songbird with a medium-length tail. It appears large-headed for a bird of its size. The head often appears flat on top, but phoebes sometimes raise the feathers up into a peak. Like most small flycatchers, they have short, thin bills used for catching insects. The Eastern Phoebe slightly larger than a tufted titmouse.

The Eastern Phoebe is brownish-gray above and off-white below, with a dusky wash to the sides of the breast. The head is typically the darkest part of the upper parts. Birds in fresh fall plumage show faint yellow on the belly and whitish edging on the folded wing feathers.

The Eastern Phoebe generally perches low in trees or on fence lines. Phoebes are very active, making short flights to capture insects and very often returning to the same perch. They make sharp "peep" calls in addition to their familiar "Phoebe" vocalizations. When perched, Eastern Phoebes wag their tails down and up frequently.

These birds favor open woods such as yards, parks, woodlands and woodland edges. Phoebes usually breed around buildings or bridges on which they construct their nests under the protection of an eave or ledge.

Bring in bird feeders

The Allen Bird Club of Springfield reminds area residents that early spring means hungry bears. If people enjoy feeding birds during the winter, it's now time to bring feeders in at night or to put them away entirely until next December. Black bears have an excellent memory and will return to feeders where they find easy meals. When that happens, bears can become a nuisance. FYI, over 50 million Americans purchase more than one billion pounds of bird seed and suet annually.

An excellent way to feed birds year-round is by planting native fruit and seed bearing plants that provide food for wildlife. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's new citizen science initiative, Garden for Birds, offers regionally-tailored tips on the best plants to choose to help struggling wildlife thrive. This program is free and participation can be cancelled at any time. Information on how to turn a yard into a bird-supporting habitat can be found by visiting gardenforbirds.org.

Common mergansers

My husband and I saw the male and female Common Merganser diving in cedar Lake Sturbridge in between the ice on Thursday, March 19. They were beautiful.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "In my last email I had reported a broad-winged hawk seen in the yard. I later was looking at some photographs I had taken of the bird and discovered I was wrong, the bird was a red-shouldered hawk. Also it would have been very early for a broad-wing."

He saw crows, blue jays and a red-shouldered hawk on his trail camera as well as raccoons and an opossum.

He also has eight goldfinch visiting regularly. He said, "For most of the winter we have only seen one or two at the feeders. One was starting to show some yellow plumage."

He puts out a coffee can of whole peanuts every day in a tray. He said, "Blue jays, titmice and an occasional red-bellied woodpecker take the peanuts that are usually gone within a couple of hours. Lately the peanuts have been lasting two or three days and I haven't seen any blue jays." He also noted it is "A sign of spring, the chipmunks are out and about and the daffodil leaves have started to emerge, hooray."

Goldfinches

I received an email from a Worthington resident. He said, "Around mid-February each year my bird feeders are inundated by a flock or maybe flocks of goldfinches in their drab winter colorations. It's amazing how many flit in and out of my feeders. And, when the goldfinches come, they are joined by an equally large flock of pine siskins. They must travel together and they look somewhat similar since the goldfinches aren't yet sporting their bright yellow colors. They usually hang around for a month or so and then move on further North." He said, "I enjoy watching them at the feeders, the few who decide to spend the summer in Western Massachusetts."

Bluebirds

I received an email from a Hampden resident, who shared video from a blink camera she installed inside her bluebird house in 2025. She placed the camera in the birdhouse to keep track of activity and this resulted in two broods of bluebirds successfully hatching and fledging a total of eight young. She said, "The camera helped to keep the sparrows from establishing a nest and gave us close ups of the bluebird families." She also said, "Once September rolled around, it was time to clean and sanitize the birdhouse. However, a downy woodpecker found it was a fine place to spend the night. He has continued arriving at sundown and leaving at sunrise the next day. The bluebirds sometimes stop by during the day possibly checking it out for their future nest." She said, "Our hope is the bluebirds return this spring and don't have issues with the woodpecker as well as the sparrows."

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

The ins and outs of forsythia

Each year as forsythia burst into bloom, I am reminded of my dad.

You see, this spring har-binger always blooms right around his birthday. This year would've been a monumental one, as he would have celebrated 100 years!

Although most landscape professionals aren't all that fond of forsythia, it holds a special place in my heart. When it is in full bloom our eyes are lifted away from the still drab lawn and the bare borders to bask at its branches of yellow flowers.

If you are lucky enough to have forsythia growing in your yard, perhaps you will find the following facts interesting, straight from the archives.

Forsythia can be forced into bloom indoors. While it is a little late in the season to fully appreciate this technique, it can easily be achieved now.

As long as temperatures are above freezing, you can harvest the branches. Simply prepare them as you would any other cut flower by removing side shoots that would be under water in the vase. Fill the vase with hot water and just prior to insertion recut the end of the stem on a 45 degree angle to expose as much surface area as possible.

We use hot water because it will move through the plant's vascular system quickly, hydrating it fully.

Place the vase in indirect, bright light, and change the water a couple of times a week. Expect blooms in a

matter of days this time of year; if you harvest stems in early March it will take a bit longer to enjoy the flowers.

Forsythia buds are tender. While the shrub itself is hardy to Zone 4, the buds are

of years to recover from that approach.

Sometimes you see forsythia pruned into balls or stiff hedges. While some homeowners consider this look appealing, I like to see the bush a little less tame. It's also hard to guarantee flowers throughout such a manicured shape; sometimes part will bloom and the rest will be just foliage. Kind of a weird look.

Propagating forsythias is easy! Do you want more of a good thing?

Try layering your forsythias. Take a long, pliable branch and bend it to the ground a foot or so from the main plant. Cover the bend with soil and secure it with a brick or heavy stone. In a few months' time it will root, and by the following spring the new plant can easily be separated from its mother.

Forsythia is easily grown. Perhaps this is why we see so many forsythias in the landscape.

While it will undoubtedly bloom best in full sun, once established, it can tolerate all but the driest of soils and adapts to a range in pH. Also, it is bothered by few pests or diseases.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

reliably hardy to only Zone 5.

After an especially cold winter you may see forsythia in half-bloom! The tops of the shrub may be devoid of blossoms, but the bottom chock-full. This generally happens because the lower portion of the shrub was insulated under a snow bank or leaf mound.

Likewise, the blossoms are also tender – sometimes reduced to mush the morning after a hard freeze.

Forsythia flowers are borne on the previous year's wood. With that in mind, prune as soon as possible after flowering.

Simply cut the oldest stems all the way down to the ground. You can safely remove up to one-third of the bush in a single pruning session. New growth will emerge over the summer and provide blossoms for next season.

While some books recommend cutting overgrown forsythias down to the ground completely, in my experience, this advice is drastic. The plant will need a couple



HOW ASTRONAUTS WILL TRAIN FOR RETURN TO MOON...



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'll be 65 soon and am working. Must I enroll in Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I will be 65 in October and I am working full-time. My goal is to work until age 67, which is my Full Retirement Age or until age 70.

I heard I have to apply for Medicare Part A only. Is this true or will I be penalized? And do I have to go to the Social Security office to do this or can I do it online? And then will they be still giving me my Medicare through the next five years of working or do I have to pay for something? I will have my own healthcare insurance. Thank you for your help.

Signed: Confused

Dear Confused:

There are two things you should be aware of:

You do not need to claim Social Security benefits when you enroll in Medicare

You do not need to enroll in Medicare at age 65 if you have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, "creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants.

Thus, it is perfectly okay for you to delay taking your Social Security benefits until age 67 (your SS full retirement age) or even until age 70 when you will get the maximum SS benefit you are entitled to. And if you now have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, you can delay enrolling in Medicare until such time as your employer's healthcare coverage ends. When you stop working, you will enter a Medicare Special Enrollment Period, during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Whenever you decide to enroll in Medicare or Social

Security, you will not need to visit your local SSA office to do so. You can enroll in Medicare either online at www.ssa.gov/medicare/ sign-up or you can call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to enroll in Medicare on the telephone.

Similarly, when you are ready to claim Social Security, you can do so online at www.ssa.gov/apply/ or you can call 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply for SS over the phone. To apply online, however, you should first create your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Creating your online SS account now at age 65 will facilitate later online enrollment and will also provide you with an estimate of your SS benefit amounts at various

Please see **SSI**, page 6

WARE RIVER NEWS

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

Send opinions to:
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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

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www.turley.com

Quaboag students enjoyed visit to Washington D.C.

WARREN – Recently the majority of the eighth grade class and 20 ninth graders, for a total of about 100 Quaboag Regional Middle High School students, attended the Washington D.C. trip.

The group left on coach buses from Quaboag early Tuesday morning and returned to Quaboag late Friday night. In between the long bus rides were lots of educational tours, sight seeing, fun, and creating lasting memories with their friends in our nation's capital.

The trip included visits to the Smithsonian Museums, the White House, a ghost walk in Alexandria, the Holocaust Museum, the Capitol Tour, and the National Archives. After the tour of the Capitol, Quaboag students were met on the steps by Representative Richard Neal (D) First Congressional District which includes Warren and West Brookfield. Neal spoke about how those serving in government should be in it for the common good and stressed the need for unity as a country.

Students then asked many thoughtful questions and took a group photo with their Congressman.

In the National Archives the students got to see up close, in their protective cases, the original big three documents of America – the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The tour also included visits and walks around all



Submitted Photos
Quaboag Regional Middle High School students posed for a photo outside the capital building in Washington D.C.

the major memorials and statues, such as the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, MLK Jr statue, Vietnam Wall, and the Korean War Memorial.

A highlight for the students was the evening dinner cruise on the Potomac, which included dinner and dancing. Two other school groups were also on this large boat with Quaboag, yet it

was the students from the 'Boag that dominated the dance floor and had the best time.

After a final morning at the Smithsonian Zoo, which included seeing the famous pandas, the students boarded the buses for the trip back to Quaboag tired but with lasting memories of a fun, safe, and successful trip.

Sewer Commission reviewed capital projects, ATM articles

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Sewer Commission discussed capital projects and articles for the Annual Town Meeting during their March 24 meeting.

Sewer Chief Operator, Scott Urban, had some potential projects in mind, including one for Capital Planning.

One of the plans is to replace a pickup truck with a crane on it. This crane truck's age is anywhere from 2009-2011 and has over 68,000 miles on it.

The Sewer Commissioners and Town Administrator James Ferrera believe this could be a potential project for Capital Planning that can be reviewed again sometime in the next couple of years. Urban currently uses a truck from 2017.

The other project is a bar rack or bar screen. This was a proposal made by Tighe & Bond.

Urban said he is waiting on another quote for this project. Ferrera asked the Chief Operator if he could get a ballpark quote for the labor for the bar rack. Urban agreed to investigate that further.

Ferrera believes he can possibly get these projects in, but believes the truck may already be on a Capital Planning list. According to the Town Administrator there hasn't been a clear clarification

to use some capital planning funds for sewer.

Ferrera suggested that the Sewer Commission may want to establish a capital stabilization account. The Sewer Commissioners are also waiting until their retained earnings are clear and certified. The best time to set up an account would be at the fall special town meeting.

Sewer Commission Chair Travis Baker asked his fellow commissioners if there are "any directed projects we definitely need to get done." After discussing their retained earnings, the Commissioners want to know if they have to cover any gaps and see if there are any critical needs regarding sewer projects.

According to Urban, nothing seems to stand out.

The Sewer Commission used approximately \$90,000 from retained earnings last year. This also prompted the Sewer Commission to also discuss whether or not they need to go up in billing for fees.

The Sewer Commission know they don't want to pull funds from retained earnings to make their budget work. Ferrera will draft an article for the Sewer Commission but he wants to confirm numbers for the article before the warrant goes to print. The Annual Town Meeting for Warren is on June 11.

Town Election to be held May 5

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

Appearing on the ballot will be the following:

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

term; and Housing Authority, two-year term.

The Quaboag Regional School District positions will also be incorporated on the Town Ballot. Two members from the Town of Warren for a three-year term and two members from the Town of West Brookfield for a three-year term.

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

Earth Day community cleanup to be held April 25

WARREN – The annual Warren-West Warren Earth Day Community Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., with a rain date of April 26.

Volunteers are needed, from adults to teens and supervised children. Help to keep your town clean and beautiful.

Pick up your bags and street assignment

at Warren Community Elementary School's circle parking lot the day of the event at 8:45 a.m. Volunteers can register at <https://forms.office.com/r/puDfQSQ0mf>. Registration is also available at warren-ma.gov under "Parks & Recreation Commission."

This cleanup is sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Commission.



Scan this QR Code to register for Warren Community Earth Day Cleanup

WARREN from page 1

Warren in a position where the town would have to do an override in the future.

Option Two is reconfiguring the elementary schools. This would have WBES host grades kindergarten, first, second, and third grade and Warren Community Elementary School hosting grades four, five, and six. This would bring Warren's total budget to an 8.89% increase from last year's budget.

A lot of difficult decisions are being considered. When it comes to voting on what to do, Dufresne mentioned that "people tend to vote with emotion."

West Brookfield is in a difficult situation from a financial standpoint, but many residents, during the budget informational meeting at Quaboag on March 23, spoke highly of the elementary school and how it has served the community.

There is a lot to consider regarding the school. There have been concerns raised about an increase in classroom sizes and for Warren there is a consideration of tax rates. There are a lot of residents in town that are on fixed incomes.

Enrollment is also a factor regarding the school budget. Enrollment in the schools has gone down over the years. Fire Chief Adam Lavoie commented that there were about

600 students from when he first started working in the town.

The Selectmen agreed that Option One, the level service budget, would hurt both towns financially. For Two and Three, the Selectmen want to understand the outcomes of each option. Both Warren and West Brookfield share the school district, and the board feels Warren has financed the town wisely in recent years.

A decision can be made once Warren knows the outcome of the May 5 West

Brookfield Town Election.

"Know what they're going to vote for," said Selectmen Chair Richard Eichacker.

The Selectmen would like to see if the school or the superintendent could provide a detailed budget that resulted in the numbers that were provided to them. From the board's standpoint, they can make recommendations as they review the numbers for the budget presented to them.

The warrant will be closed soon as the Annual Town Meeting will be held on June 11.

Executive Assistant position

The Board of Selectmen began their April 2 meeting by discussing the potential appointment of Christina Havens to the position of Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen. Havens attended the meeting in person and is one of five candidates that were interviewed

for the job.

Ferrera said this has been a "very competitive process" to fill the Executive Assistant position and all candidates were impressive. Havens appeared to be the best candidate for the position and was brought forward for consideration.

Havens has a degree from Elms College and was working for a law firm based out

of Connecticut. Havens is based out of Brookfield, but is originally from Warren and lived in town for 10 years.

The Selectmen moved to vote and appointed Havens to the Executive Assistant position and to authorize a wage at Step 2, Grace C on the wage scale.



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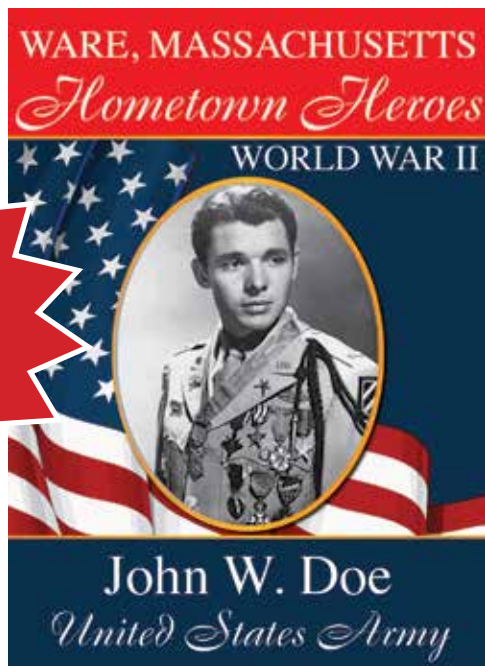
**Sat., April 11th ~ 9am-noon
SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE
West Hartford, CT**

**Sat., April 18th & 25th ~ 9am-1pm
WORK DAYS**

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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of April 1-7, the Ware Police Department responded to 17 miscellaneous calls, 26 administrative calls, 11 traffic violations, nine emergency 911 calls, seven harassments/stalks/threats, one trespass, four thefts/larcenies, one disturbance, three assist other agencies, five motor vehicle accidents, two animal calls and 34 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Wednesday, April 1
10:40 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Webster Road, Dispatch Handled
4:23 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
4:30 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Street, Assist Given
6:08 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Fisherdick Road, Investigated

Thursday, April 2
1:39 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Assist Given
2:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, North Street, Advised
3:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, West Street, Investigated
10:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Crescent Street, Citation/Warning Issued
10:14 p.m. Theft/

Larceny, West Street, Report Made

Friday, April 3
11:05 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, West Street, Advised
1:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
3:14 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Monson Turnpike Road, No Action Required
4:45 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, River Road, Investigated
5:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Arrest Made
6:41 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, East Main Street, Investigated

Saturday, April 4
2:12 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Palmer Road, Advised
3:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
10:26 a.m. Suspicious Package, Osborne Road, Investigated
12:19 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
12:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, North Street, Services Rendered
3:03 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Old Belchertown Road, Advised
3:56 p.m. Harassment/

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.

Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
4:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, North Street, Services Rendered
7:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Sunday, April 5
1:20 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Main Street, Assist Given
1:55 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
4:39 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Street, Investigated
9:29 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Investigated

Monday, April 6
2:59 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Otis Avenue, Unfounded
6:55 a.m. Theft/Larceny, South Street, Report Made
8:04 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Services Rendered
10:54 a.m. Assault, Pleasant Street, Services Rendered
12:02 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
1:14 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Valley View, Services Rendered
5:47 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Advised

Tuesday, April 7
1:55 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Street, Services Rendered
2:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasant Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Open burning permits available online only

WARE – Open burning season is open now through April 30, during the hours of 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Permits will be available online only at ware.firepermits.com. In order to obtain a burning permit, please go to ware.firepermits.com and register for the site. If you are already registered for the site from last year's season, you only need to log in and

apply for a 2026 burn permit. Please make sure you link your bank account for UniPay for a smoother process. The bank requires time to process your payment and your permit will be inactive until payment is approved. Cash will not be accepted at the fire station for a burn permit. All processing fees are required through the online website.

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of March 30-April 6, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 56 building/property checks, 34 directed/area patrols, 24 radar assignments, two traffic controls, 11 emergency 911 calls, 10 citizen assists, one assist other agency, five complaints, one safety hazard, one fire, one motor vehicle investigation, one larceny/theft, one fraud, one vandalism, two scams, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and 13 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, March 30
10:40 a.m. 911 Fire/Other, Hardwick Road, Removed Hazard
11:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
1:37 p.m. Parking Complaint, Ruggles Hill Road, Spoken To
6:06 p.m. 911 Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Barre Road, Officer Handled

Tuesday, March 31
12:23 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
7:55 a.m. Vandalism, Main Street, Report Taken
8:49 a.m. Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
10:13 a.m. 911 Welfare Check, Jackson Road, Transported to Hospital
12:36 p.m. Complaint, Off Ruggles Street, Officer Handled

3:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning

Wednesday, April 1
9 a.m. Investigation, Pine Street, Services Rendered
10:50 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Mechanic Street, Unfounded
1:48 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Spoken To
3:21 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered
5:06 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
7 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
7:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, Joslyn Road, Negative Contact
9:07 p.m. Safety Hazard, Turkey Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, April 2
1:55 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Telephone, Officer Handled
3:05 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
3:59 p.m. Fraud, Sullivan Avenue, Services Rendered
7:04 p.m. Scam, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered
10:38 p.m. Disturbance, Main Street, Peace Restored

Friday, April 3
12:06 a.m. 911 Disturbance, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
6:28 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
9:57 a.m. Complaint,

Hardwick Road, Spoken To
10:41 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Spoken To
1:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

3:54 p.m. Scam, Barre Road, Investigated
4:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
6:02 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
8:05 p.m. Assist Citizen, Greenwich Road, Spoken To

Saturday, April 4
12:17 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled
8 a.m. Assist Citizen, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled
10:42 a.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, No Action Required
12:38 p.m. Assist Citizen, Mechanic Street, Referred to Other Agency
2:43 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
4:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
11:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

Sunday, April 5
4:46 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Old Petersham Road, Officer Handled

Monday, April 6
6:20 a.m. Complaint, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled

Warren Police Log

During the week of March 15-21, the Warren Police Department responded to 122 building/property checks, 23 community policings, eight emergency 911 calls, two safety concerns, one fraud/forgery, three complaints, one smoke investigation, one illegal dumping, one larceny/theft, one motor vehicle accident, five animal calls and 24 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, March 15
11:13 a.m. Safety Concern, Coy Hill Road, Prisoner Bailed
1:33 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Mutual Aid Transport
3:11 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
5:05 p.m. Smoke Investigation, Dunham Road, Investigated
5:18 p.m. Complaint, Little Rest Road, Negative Contact

Monday, March 16
9:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
10:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
12:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Brookfield Road, Written Warning
4:23 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Crescent Street, Report Filed
6:41 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Old West Brookfield Road, Report Filed

Tuesday, March 17
1:37 a.m. Power Lines,

Keys Road, Investigated
1:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:10 a.m. Power Lines, Southbridge Road, Investigated
2:15 a.m. Power Lines, Brimfield Road, Investigated
2:19 a.m. Power Lines, Southbridge Road, Investigated
3:11 a.m. Power Lines, Reed Street, Investigated
9:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Citation Issued
10:08 a.m. Assist Citizen, Keys Road, Report Filed
6:08 p.m. Odor, Chapel Street, Investigated
7:26 p.m. Suspicious Person, Southbridge Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, March 18
6:48 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Reed Street, Unfounded
9:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
10:09 a.m. Falls, Manning Road, Transported to Hospital
1:42 p.m. Complaint, North Street, Officer/Chief Advised
2:46 p.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Report Filed
4:18 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Quaboag Street, Report Filed
8:04 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Nelligan Terrace, Transported to Hospital
11:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

Thursday, March 19
12:29 a.m. Falls, Mechanic Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
6:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Crouch Road, Criminal Complaint
7:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Report Filed
1:45 p.m. Unwanted Party, Main Street, Report Filed
3:46 p.m. Falls, Quaboag Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
4:54 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Grove Street, Report Filed

Friday, March 20
7:46 a.m. Overdose/Poisoning, Old West Warren Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
10:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
10:50 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Pulaski Street, Officer/Chief Advised
12:13 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Main Street, Report Filed
3:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Criminal Complaint
4:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
4:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Santos Road, Criminal Complaint
5:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
6:36 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Main Street, Mutual Aid Assist

Saturday, March 21
3:02 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
7:33 p.m. Noise Complaint, Old West Warren Road, Report Filed
11:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Recycling Center offers bulk waste day April 18

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Recycling Center, 2011 Barre Road, will hold a Bulk Waste Collection Event on Saturday, April 18 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/pullout 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 or stop by the Hardwick Recycling Center during open hours. Volunteers are also needed during the Bulk Waste Collection Event.

SSI from page 4

Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling after age 65. If you claim Social Security benefits at any time prior to your FRA and are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The AET lasts until you reach your FRA (67), after which you can earn as much as you like without your SS benefits being affected. Whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be required to take Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Medicare Part A is free because you are also eligible for Social Security. But you don't need to enroll in Part A at age 65 unless you also claim Social Security. Medicare Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is optional if you have creditable employer coverage as

CDBG from page 1

The Memorial Park project is going to evaluate the current conditions, and look at "opportunities to improve safety, accessibility, functionality, and overall user experience." The Barre Senior Center Project will involve a design study for building improvements and construction, with up to \$25,000 allocated for addressing accessibility. The East Brookfield Town Complex Playground project will evaluate the current conditions, look at alternative designs, and prepare "bid-ready plans for improvements." The Selectmen signed and approved the submission of the application, which O'Leary said is due April 21, with award announcement dates coming in the late summer or early fall.

SSI from page 4

explained above. You do not need to enroll in Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium of \$202.90 in 2026 until your employer's creditable healthcare coverage ends, even if you claim Social Security earlier. The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



The "Fun, Fun, Fun" booth tempted students to spend money on fun purchases.



Volunteers Amie Mirecki, Kathy Radisic and Donna Holden helped staff the Clothing booth.

Credit for Life

CREDIT from page 1

ity volunteers. "Take the opportunity to talk to the volunteers and get the most out of this," she said.

Gerulaitis has been a strong supporter in teaching financial literacy through her role at Country Bank, especially to young people. She has been active in supporting a bill that would make financial literacy a mandatory graduation requirement for high school students.

After receiving their careers, salaries and student loan debt, the students visited the Credit booth to get their randomly assigned credit scores. A low credit score can prevent the students from qualifying for purchases at the other booths.

"You're going to see the challenges and some of the restrictions," Gerulaitis said.

Luckily, at Credit for Life, students can visit a booth to answer financial literacy

questions to help raise their credit score.

Belchertown High School seniors Evan Perkins, Adam O'Rourke and Thomas Normandeau learned that a good credit score can help when financing the purchase of a car, or finding a place to live.

"Credit score mattered more than I thought," Perkins said.

After finding housing, transportation and insurance, Perkins realized his salary left him with a small budget to purchase other essentials, such as clothing.

"I should spend less money on clothes," he said.

Perkins selected a career as a video production editor, which is something he already has experience with in real life, working with a friend to shoot and edit music videos.

O'Rourke and Normandeau also chose careers similar to what they will be pursuing after grad-

uation, as a linesmen and plumber, respectively.

"You've got to really figure out your expenses," O'Rourke said. "Try to save as much money as you can."

O'Rourke added that food cost a lot of money, and was a greater expense than he expected.

Normandeau said his budget was impacted by the vehicle he chose to purchase, which was a less cost-efficient truck.

Students were given opportunities for "Fun, Fun, Fun," where they could spend their money on "wants" versus "needs," allowing them the chance to budget for the exciting extras in life, while still maintaining their financial health.

The "Reality Check" wheel of fortune had students spinning to receive an unexpected financial burden, or blessing. They also had chances to work part-time jobs to help boost their income and pay for their



Ware High School seniors Damian Brace and Daniel Ramirez worked together to make living more affordable.



Jodie Gerulaitis, First Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank, welcomed students to Credit for Life.



Country Bank volunteer Caroline Awebwa assisted students at the Credit booth.

debts and expenses.

Other booths handled housing, transportation, insurance, furniture, utilities, savings and retirement, food and nutrition and clothing.

Ware High School seniors Sophia Rheume, Damian Brace and Daniel Ramirez all selected careers in health-care, with Rheume as a psychologist, Brace as an occupational therapist and Ramirez as a pharmacist.

Brace and Ramirez decided to become roommates in order to share living expenses.

Ware High School senior Maia Lamothe selected a career as an electrical engineer, as it was the closest to her future career as a chemical engineer.

Palmer High School seniors Dylan Doherty, Matthew Kirby and Gavin Smola all selected careers as accountants.

Smola said food and housing were both large

expenses in his budget, and Doherty said having a roommate saved him a lot of money.

Kirby put his financial literacy to the test to raise his 575 credit score up to over 700.

This marks the 15th year Country Bank has offered Credit for Life to area seniors, and the first year for interim Superintendent Michael Wood.

"It's really important," Wood said.

Wood said the temptation of spending can have a negative impact on many young people, especially those on their own for the first time.

"We have to understand what they [the temptations] are and how they impact our credit for life," he said.

About Country Bank

Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking

customers through financial solutions with FDIC and DIF insurance for added security.

Country Bank is a full-service \$2.2 billion mutual community bank serving Central and Western Massachusetts with 16 banking centers and two business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge and Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services.

Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

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SALE DATES: 4/9/26-4/15/26

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Voting for Annual Town Election is April 13

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

Offices which will appear on the ballot are: Selectboard, three-year term, (vote for two), Nancy J. Talbot, Valerie E. Granger and Steven M. Hawk; School Committee, three-year term, Kevin Paul Slattery; Board of Assessors, three-year term, James E. Niquette; Board of Assessors, one year unexpired term, Michael Joseph Vadnais;

Board of Health, three-year term, Michael Francis Juda; Park Commissioner, three-year term, William Randolph Imbier; Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term, no candidates; Planning Board, five-year term, Richard Albert Starodoj; Ware Housing Authority, five-year term, no candidates.

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

Town Clerk shared Annual Town Election information

HARDWICK – Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos announced there will be two contested races on the ballot at Hardwick's Annual Town Election on Saturday, May 2.

Polling hours will be from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Hardwick Elementary School, 76 School House Drive.

Elizabeth V. Cyran of Hardwick Pond Road, and

Zachary E. Spencer of Barre Road will face off for a three-year term on the Select Board. The incumbent, Eric Vollheim is not seeking re-election.

Heidi Johnson of Lyman Road, and Lisa J. Nash of Charity Hill Road, will face off for a three-year term on the Board of Health. The incumbent, Paul Mailhot is not seeking re-election.

Those running unopposed are as follows: Ryan J. Witkos*, Town Clerk, three years; Jennifer S. Kolenda*, Assessor, three years; Colin R. Brown, K-12 Quabbin Regional School Committee Member, three years; Lisa Gaskill*, Barry P. Koch, Paige Memorial Library Trustee (two positions); Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee, Stanley D. White*, five years; Ryan J. Witkos*, Moderator, three years; Harry T. Comerford*, Jennifer E. Garvey*, Planning Board (two posi-

tions.) *denotes incumbent. The last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Election is 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 22.

The vote by mail application deadline is Monday, April 27 at 5 p.m. Those voters qualified to vote absentee should contact the Town Clerk's office.

Voter registration will be held at the Myron E. Richardson Building, 307 Main St. on Wednesday, April 22 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Massachusetts State Button Show to be held April 11

THREE RIVERS – Massachusetts State Button Society's spring meeting will be hosted by the Metropolitan and Monson Button Clubs on Saturday, April 11 at the AMVETS Post 74, 2159 Main St. in Three Rivers from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the day's activities and to purchase buttons and button related items from 9 a.m.-noon, and from 1:30-3 p.m. There will be no button sales during the break from noon-1:30 p.m. as lunch, a business meeting, and auction will take

place. Morning visitors will be treated to coffee and refreshments provided by the hosting club; bring your own brown bag lunch, and dessert will be provided. There is no admission fee, and all are welcome.

Beaver Lake Club Corporation offers scholarship

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

These scholarships will be presented to deserving high school seniors or current college students who

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

The scholarship is given in the memory of Louis Healy a long time and well-respected member of the Beaver Lake community

and the town of Ware. Lou was an active leader and participant in both town and community matters and his family and friends continue to celebrate his thoughts.

Please see **SCHOLARSHIP**, page 11



Quaboag Hills

CHIP GENERAL BODY MEETING

Open to the General Public!

Join us to review progress, hear updates, and discuss next steps for the CHIP initiative.

FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED!

MAY 1, 2026

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

E2E Center,
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Offense breaks out in Ware's first win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE—After losing their first seven baseball games of the 2022 regular season, the Ware Indians celebrated a 17-6 non-league victory over the Pathfinder Tech Pioneers at St. Joe's Field in Thorndike.

Because Memorial Field is being refurbished, the Indians will be playing their home games this spring at St. Joe's Field.

Jack Gaudreau, Kyle Kaczuwka, and Brady Guimond, who were eighth graders in 2022, are the only remaining Indians players from that team.

The senior trio helped the Indians post a 3-0 shutout victory over the Greenfield Green Wave in the season opening game held at St. Joe's, last Tuesday night.

It was the first meeting between the two varsity baseball teams since Greenfield defeated Ware, 3-1, in a 2023 Division 5 state tournament game played at Memorial Field.

Guimond was the Indians starting pitcher in this year's season opener and he nearly tossed a no-hitter.

"I was in the eighth grade the last time that we played a game at this field," Guimond

said. "It just feels great to play a big part in tonight's season opening victory. I've pitched a lot of games during my varsity career, and I wasn't very nervous out there."

Guimond, who's a righthander, only faced 21 batters, which is the minimum for a seven inning game.

The only base hit that Guimond allowed was a line-drive single to center by freshman shortstop Conner Bergeron with one-out in the top of the first inning.

Bergeron's father, Peter, also played baseball for long-time Greenfield head coach Tom Suchanek before being drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the fourth round of the 1996 MLB draft. The elder Bergeron was traded to Montreal, and he made his MLB debut on September 7, 1999, for the Expos. He wound up playing in 308 MLB games before retiring in 2004.

After Conner Bergeron stole second base, senior center fielder Malik Moore hit a flyball which was caught by Gaudreau in right field. Gaudreau threw a bullet to sophomore third baseman Matt Skutnik, who tagged out Bergeron completing the

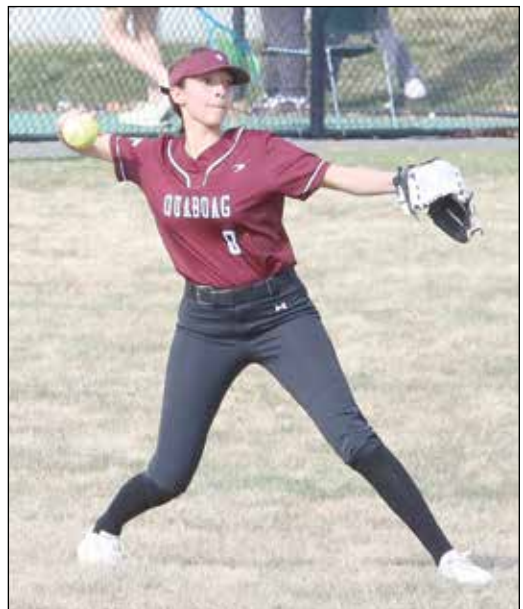
Please see **WARE**, page 10

Quabbin gets big win over Quaboag



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Makayla Savoie makes a throw to first.



Anna Costa makes a throw back to the infield.



Raegyn Wnek lays down a bunt for the Panthers.



Ali Jones reaches out to catch a pop-up.



Abby Rogowski sends a base hit to the outfield.



Aubrey Pope lines up a base hit.



Emma Hvac looks to make a catch at home.

BARRE – In the season-opener for both teams, Quabbin Regional High School softball handily defeated host Quaboag 21-2. The independent matchup between the two teams will be the only team they meet this season. Quabbin was off until earlier this week with a matchup against Tahanto. Coming up, the Panthers face Narragansett. Quaboag has already played three games this season. Thought they loss to Quabbin, the Cougars did defeat South High and Keefe Tech and are 2-1 to start the season. They next face North Brookfield on Monday, Apr. 13 at 3:30 p.m.



Josie Castell comes up throwing to first.

Pioneers, Monson face off in rain

MONSON – Last Wednesday afternoon, rains started falling at game time, as Monson and Pathfinder got their game underway. The rains persisted, however, and the game had to be stopped. The two teams are scheduled to make up the game on Friday, May 8.

Zachary Smith sends a pitch home.

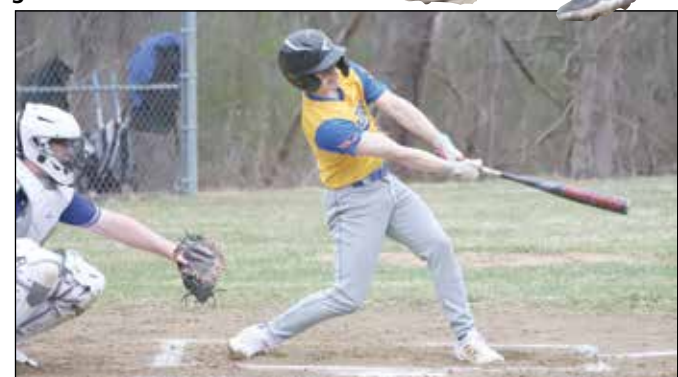


Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Joseph Szostek takes a lead off first.

Brody Welnicka lunges to field a grounder.



Edward Szostek fouls off a pitch.

Panthers take down Cougars in season opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN—The seven seniors listed on the 2026 Quabbin Regional baseball roster have been members of the varsity team since they were freshmen.

The seniors, along with the Panthers underclassmen, have two primary objectives for this season. Their first goal is to contend for Mid-Wach D league title. They're also hoping to secure a berth in the Division 4 state tournament for the first time.

The Panthers began the regular season with a 12-1 road win over the Quaboag Cougars, last Tuesday afternoon. The non-league contest ended after sixth innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Liam McGrath delivers a pitch for the Cougars.

"We're in a different league this year, so we're not playing teams like Oakmont or Clinton anymore," said Quabbin head coach Mark

Battista. "Our expectation is to compete for the league title and hopefully qualify for the state tournament."

The Panthers seniors

are Aiden Lapointe, Chase Talbot, Adam Adams, Andrew Warfield, Jordyn Guilderson, Finn Leander, and Ian Haupt.

Adams, who's a righthander, was the Panthers starting pitcher in the season opener. He didn't allow any runs and gave up just one base hit during the first three innings before being replaced on the mound by sophomore righty Abe Brown, who started the game at second base.

Adams, who threw 54 pitches, did issue three walks and recorded seven strikeouts.

"Adam is our best pitcher and he pitched very well,"

Please see **COUGARS**, page 10

sports

Candlepin League NEWS

Bondsville League crowns league champions

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The league finals have arrived as the Bondsville League closes the door on another season.

The league bowlers at Roll-A-Way Lanes had their attention focused on the championship match between Sandri and Fire Mountain. Representing Sandri are Brandon Lane, Rich Picotte, Ron Gouin, and Sue Horton. Representing Fire Mountain are Shawn Ross, Scott Brewster, Gary Delisle and Rick Trott.

In game one, Sandri won by a score of 466-464 to take an early lead in the match. Three out of four members of Sandri broke 100 with Gouin scoring the highest at 110.

In game two, Fire Mountain ignited the flame and defeated Sandri 491-465. Trott threw a double strike on his way to a 134 game. Horton of Sandri had a good game of 121, but it wasn't enough to keep up with Trott.

In game three, Fire Mountain kept the pressure on by taking the last game with a score of 485-468. Trott finished with 116 and a three-game series of 358. Ross, who started the season with a 70 average and worked his way up to an 85, exceeded the expectations by bowling over his average every game with scores of 96, 92, and 103.

Gouin had a strong show-



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Shown from left to right are Shawn Ross, Scott Brewster, Rick Trott and Gary Delisle of Fire Mountain, the 2025-2026 Bondsville League champions.

ing with 125 in the final game and a series of 331. Picotte had scores of 97, 114, and 107 for 318 in total. Horton had scores of 103, 121, and 89 for 313 in total.

The final score was 1440-1399 in favor of Fire Mountain, who are the 2025-2026 Bondsville League champions. Fire Mountain was leading in first place for the majority of the season but lost that top seed to Sandri for only a few weeks until the championship match. Fire Mountain finished the season with a record of 124.5-78.5. Sandri finished with 123-80.

Final league matches

Cannonballs defeated Zeke's Freaks with a final score of 1396-1377. Sally Czarnecki of Cannonballs started strong with 115 in game one. Tony Burke of Zeke's Freaks began with 114.

Slow Burners defeated P&J Meats with a final score of 1397-1382. Nate Orszulak of Slow Burners had the highest score of 110 and Paige Stabach of P&J Meats had the highest score of 111.

Snappers defeated Ironmen with a final score of 1431-1353. Kevin "Kras" Krasnecky of Snappers had score of 114, 122, and 122 for a series of 358 to finish the season. Billy Brunk of Ironmen finished with 124 and a series of 332.

Team UMass defeated Night Hawks with a final score of 1433-1417. Keith Ferenz of Team UMass had the highest score of 113. Gavin Sinclair of Night Hawks had the highest score of 126.

Spare Parts Bud defeated Flaming Bowling Balls with a final score of 1384-1379. Madison Jebb of Spare Parts Bud bowled 117 and Ryan McCarthy of FBB had 114.



Brennan Peterson reaches for a ground ball as an opponent closes in.



Noah Latulippe takes contact while advancing with the ball.

Lacrosse co-op gets second win

MONSON – Last Friday afternoon on a sun-splashed back field at Monson High School, Monson boys lacrosse defeated Belchertown. The Mustangs, which has a co-op program with Pathfinder Tech, defeated the Orioles 7-5 to improve to 2-1 on the season. The Mustangs also defeated Pittsfield 12-6 and also record a loss against Wahconah 10-9. Monson's co-op is back in action at Lenox on Thursday, Apr. 9 at 4:30 p.m.



Turley photos by Maddox Baer

Jared Perry carries the ball upfield while a defender pressures him.

WARE from page 9

inning ending double play.

"That was a very big play early in the game," said Guimond, who walked just one batter and struck out nine. "It gave us the momentum."

Gaudreau, who's also a pitcher, normally started at first base when he wasn't on the mound last season.

Ware interim head coach Shawn Clark decided to move

Gaudreau to right field and start senior Alex Orszulak at first base.

"Alex's primary's position is at first base and Jack is the type of an athlete who can play right field," said Clark, who coached the Indians j.v. baseball team the past eight years. "Jack made a heck of a throw in the first inning."

The other three Ware seniors are Troy Dufresne, Marek Luongo, and Brodie Koczur.

Greenfield senior righthander Arthur Fitzpatrick gave up two runs in the second inning.

Sophomore shortstop Logan Millet, who's the Indians only lefthanded batter, hit an opposite field double leading off the frame. After stealing third base, Millet scored on a wild pitch.

Orszulak and Skutnik followed with back-to-back walks. A wild pitch moved both runners into scoring

COUGARS from page 9

Battista said. "It's our first game of the season and I really didn't want him to throw that many pitches."

The Panthers also defeated the Cougars, 14-1, in last year's season opener, which took place on their home-field.

Quaboag entered the 2026 campaign looking to celebrate a victory for the first time since they defeated Southbridge, 6-2, at home on May 17, 2024.

"We did have a couple of scoring opportunities in today's game," said Quaboag head coach Brian Guimond. "I was really hoping for a much better outcome. It's just another disappointing loss for us."

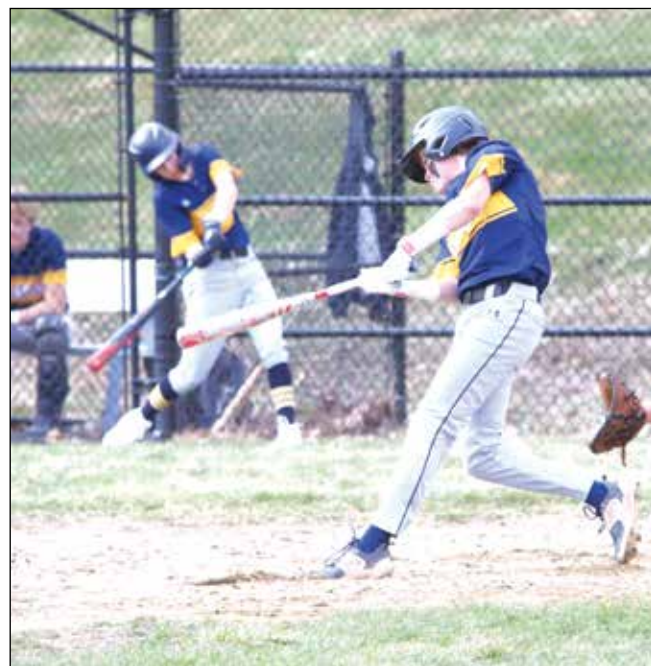
Quaboag junior righty Liam McGrath gave up four runs on three hits in 42/3 innings, but only one of those runs were earned. He threw a total of 99 pitches and recorded a total of 13 strikeouts.

"Liam is a very good pitcher," Guimond said. "We didn't give him very much support defensively."

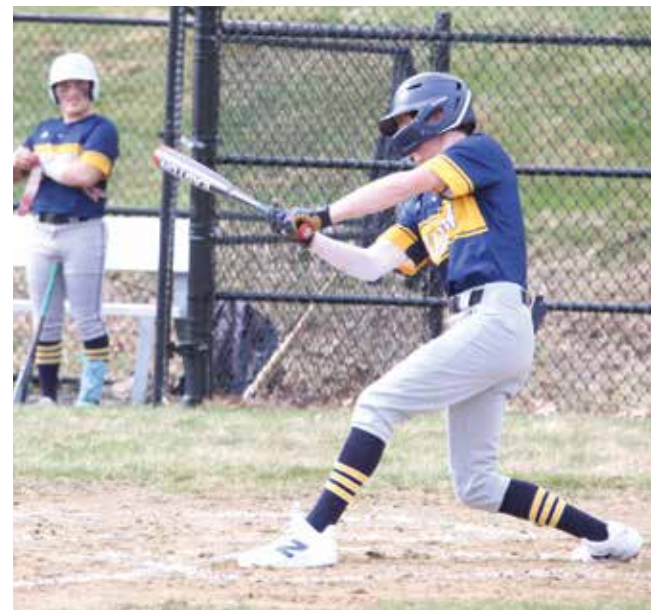
Lapointe, who's the Panthers starting shortstop, hit a groundball to the third baseman leading off the top of the first inning. Lapointe wound up standing on second base following a throwing error. Lapointe scored after another throwing error by the second baseman.

Quaboag junior leftfielder Thomas Bellizzi lined a double to left leading off the bottom half of the opening frame. Both eighth grade shortstop Zach Deremian and McGrath walked, which loaded the bases with no outs.

The Cougars failed to capitalize, as Adams, who's hoping to play college baseball, got himself out of that



Aiden Lapointe swings and hits a soft grounder.



Abe Brown tries to check his swing.

jam with the help of two strikeouts and a pop-up.

The Panthers, who only had four base hits in the game, stranded a runner at third base in the second inning. The visitors from Barre added two more runs in the third with the aid of a fielding error and wild

pitch.

After McGrath struck out the side in the fourth, Quabbin junior catcher Alijah Flint delivered an RBI single into right field making the score 4-0 with two outs in the fifth inning.

The Cougars battled back in the bottom half of the frame.

Eighth grade first baseman Landon Kelly drew a leadoff walk. After the next batter struck out, Deremian lined a single to center. Kelly crossed the plate when McGrath doubled to left field.

The Cougars had runners on second and third base with no outs, but Brown worked out of the jam by retiring the next two batters with the help of a strikeout and a comebacker.

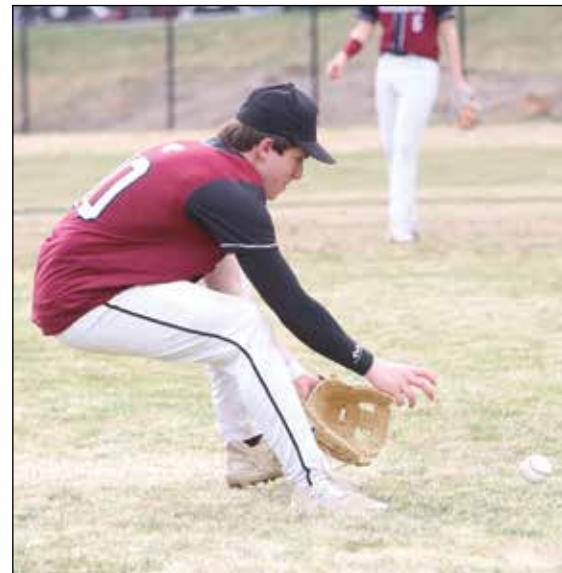
The two Panthers pitchers received plenty of support defensively.

Quabbin put the game out of reach by scoring eight runs against a couple of relief pitchers in the sixth inning.

Brown set down the side in order in the bottom of the sixth inning, which ended the ball game.

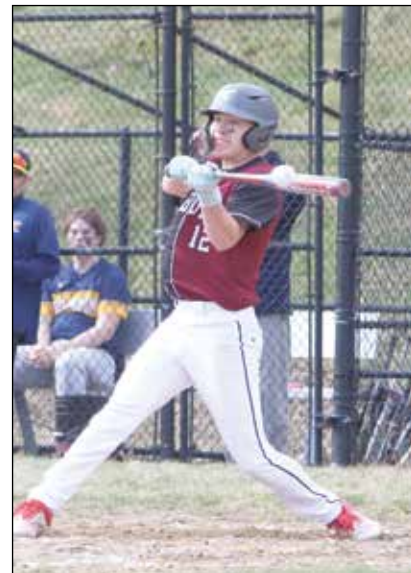


Jordyn Guilderson makes a throw from deep left field.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Connor Burgess fields a grounder inside third.



Thomas Bellizzi leads off with a double down the left field line.

leading off the fourth inning. Then Bergeron grounded into a 1-4-3 double play.

Guimond, who only threw 88 pitches in his complete game masterpiece, struck out the next batter before setting down the final nine batters that he faced without very much trouble.

The Indians loaded the bases with one out in the sixth inning following singles by Orszulak and junior left fielder Samuel Torres, which

was sandwiched around a walk to Skutnik.

Bergeron, who took over on the mound at the start of the sixth inning, struck out the next two batters ending the threat.

The Indians will be the home team when they face rival Monson for the only time during the regular season on Saturday night, but the non-league game will be played at Dunkin Park in Hartford.

Nancy Joyce Brown, 82

WARE – Nancy Joyce Brown, age 82, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 9, 2026, surrounded by her loved ones.

Nancy was born on July 12, 1943, in Ware, to Joseph and Ann (Wojtowicz) Mack. She attended St. Mary's High School in Worcester.

She then had a job at Wm. E. Wrights, she worked as a hairdresser, she worked for her husband in telecommunications, after which she then worked as an Executive Director at Warren Housing Authority, Granby Housing Authority,



and Ware Housing Authority. When she retired from housing, she had worked there for over 35 years and continued on the board of Ware Housing Authority.

Nancy is survived by her daughter: Sheila Niemiec and husband Gene of Kissimmee Florida; her brother David Mack of West Warren; and her grandchildren: Zakari and Camdyn Niemiec. She was predeceased by her husband Ralph Brown, father Joseph Mack, her mother Ann (Wojtowicz) Mack, her sister Judy Mack, and many

aunts and uncles.

A wake will be held on Monday, April 13 from 4-6 p.m. at Cebula Funeral Home, Ware. Her funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, April 14 at 11 a.m. in All Saints Church, Ware. Everyone will meet directly in church on Tuesday. Family and friends are welcome to attend to honor and celebrate Nancy's life and legacy.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made in Nancy's name to Second Chance Animal Shelter, 111 Young Road, East Brookfield, MA 01515 as Nancy loved her cats.

Forever In Our Hearts

Jane L. Fountain, 95

WARREN – Jane L. Fountain, 95, of Warren passed away on Friday, April 3, 2026, at Baystate Wing hospital in Palmer, with her loving family by her side.

Jane was born in Ware to the late Morton and Marjorie (Adams) Sampson. Jane graduated from Warren High School in 1948, and attended Springfield Community College where she earned a degree in business.

She then worked for over 34 years at Warren Pumps as an administrative assistant in the sales department. She was also a proud member of the Professional Secretaries of Springfield for many years.

She was an active member of the First Congregational Church in West Brookfield and served as a deacon, as well as contributing to many commit-

tees over the years. She and her husband Alfred owned and operated Quaboag Tours in Warren for over 25 years, and enjoyed traveling to many countries across Europe. She and her husband made a lasting impact in their community by giving residence of Warren the opportunity to see the world.

Jane is predeceased by her husband and best friend of 64 years Alfred A. Fountain, and her sister Lois M. Shephard of Warren. She is survived by her sister Carolyn Herrin of Yulee, Florida, and many nieces and nephews.

Calling hours for Jane will be held on Tuesday, April 14, from 5-7 p.m. in the Varnum Funeral Home, 43 E Main St., West Brookfield. A funeral service will be held the following day, Wednesday, April 15, at 9:30 a.m. in the First

Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St., West Brookfield. Burial will take place immediately following the service at Pine Grove Cemetery in Warren, 26 Pine Grove Drive, Warren. Following the burial, all are welcome to a Celebration of life for Jane back at the First Congregational Church.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating in honor of Jane to the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St., West Brookfield, MA 01585.

Varnum Funeral Home is honored to serve the Fountain Family, 43 E Main St., West Brookfield, MA 01083.

An online tribute page for Jane can be found at varnumfuneralhome.com.

Anthony F. Staiti, Sr., 84

GILBERTVILLE – Anthony F. "Tony" Staiti, Sr., 84, passed away peacefully on April 1, 2026, at Jewish Healthcare Center in Worcester.



Anthony is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Patricia A. (Lazarick) Staiti. He leaves his two children: his daughter Christine Palmer and her husband Darren of Ware and his son Tony Staiti, Jr., and his wife Kathy of Gilbertville.

He is also survived by two brothers Gary Staiti and his wife Barbara of Ware, and George Staiti and his wife Anna of Ware and his sister-in-law Ann Robinson. Anthony leaves four treasured grandchildren, Curtis, Jacob and his wife Claire, Jillian, and Adam; as well as one great-grandchild Landon, and another great-grandchild on the way.

Anthony was born in 1941 to the late Frank and Antoinette (Poirier) Staiti, in Ware.

He proudly built and operated Dunroamin Country Club in Gilbertville for most of his life. The golf course brought him many life-long friends who will remember him as kind, generous and always happy.

If someone needed help, he never said, "No."

Despite the long hours he spent working during golf

season, he was able to provide his family with many great memories including spending time together on rainy day outings when the course was slow.

In his free time he enjoyed visits to casinos, watching old movies with family and taking long road trips.

Calling hours for Anthony will be held from 2-6 p.m., Sunday, April 12, in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St. in Ware.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m., Monday, April 13, in St. Aloysius Church, 52 Church St., in Gilbertville. Friends are asked to gather directly at the church.

Burial will follow at St. Aloysius Cemetery, 212 Upper Church St., Gilbertville. After the burial a Celebration of Life for Anthony will be held at Hardwick Crossing (The former Dunroamin Country Club), 262 Lower Road, Gilbertville.

Donations in Anthony's memory can be made to Jewish Healthcare Center, 646 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609

Charbonneau Funeral Home is honored to serve the Staiti Family, and online tribute page can be found at charbonneaufuneralhome.com.

Annual plant, bake, craft and tag sale is May 16-17

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church is pleased to announce they will be holding their 20th Annual Plant, Bake Sale, Craft & Tag Sale on the Hardwick Common Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each day.

This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite, and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants, and herbs in time for spring planting.

There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through several local vendors including Stillman's Farm and Howe's Farm and Garden of New Braintree, Inishowen

Farms of North Brookfield, and "home-grown lovelies" from private gardens. A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold.

The event is held rain or shine. All are welcome.

The Church is also seeking vendors for their annual Tag and Craft sale to coincide with the Plant and Bake Sale. Please reserve your space on the Hardwick Common early. Spaces will be offered for \$35 each.

Applications may be obtained by contacting Marguerite at: mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com or 413-477-6942.

Workshop13 launches campaign to install vertical platform lift

WARE – Workshop13 Cultural Arts & Learning Center announced the launch of a community fundraising campaign to install a vertical platform lift, a critical accessibility improvement that will allow community members of all abilities to access events, exhibitions, and performances in Workshop13's Grand Hall.

Workshop13 has secured \$100,000 toward the project through a grant awarded by the National Park Service under the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program, with local administration support provided through the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

The full project cost is

\$150,000, and Workshop13 is now raising the remaining \$50,000 to stay on schedule and move forward with construction.

Workshop13 is a nonprofit cultural arts and learning center in Ware offering live music, exhibitions, classes, and community events. The organization welcomes hundreds of visitors each month and serves as a key cultural destination for Ware and the surrounding towns.

The new lift will provide

Death notices

Brown, Nancy Joyce
Died March 9, 2026
Services April 14, 2026

Fountain, Jane L.
Died April 3, 2026
Services April 15, 2026

Staiti, Sr., Anthony F. "Tony"
Died April 1, 2026
Services April 13, 2026

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

SCHOLARSHIP

from page 8
ideals, and memory by awarding this yearly academic scholarship.

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

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

GALLERY SHOWS

from page 3

Collins has two of his paintings featured at local establishments, including the Roadhouse Café in Belchertown, and the newly opened location of Fieldcrest Brewing in Ware.

The café's painting features a classic car pulling into its parking lot, and the brewery's has a werewolf on the street outside its entrance.

"Those are both kind of consignment pieces that are also there for decoration," he said. "The owners of those two establishments are supporting local artists."

Following his "People, Pets, and Prized Possessions" show at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, Collins will display his paintings at Rapsallion in Sturbridge from May through July.

"I'll be featuring mostly the vehicles," he said.

Collins will also be giving a live portrait sculpture demonstration at West Brookfield Art & Frame on Saturday, April 25 from 1-5 p.m. People can stop in anytime and watch him bring his art to life.

Upcoming events at the gallery

Upcoming shows and events at the gallery include Cosmos & The Cosmos on Thursday, May 14 from 4-7 p.m. with Tarot readings by gallery artist Cheryl O'Donnell accompanied by cosmopolitan beverages. This event is \$20 for 20 minutes.

Space is limited and reservations are recommended.



Submitted Photos

Artist John Collins painted a portrait of his Porsche on Turn 14 at Palmer Motorsports Park.

A bronze sculpture of an otter created by artist John Collins will be featured in the "People, Pets, and Prized Possessions" show at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery with an opening reception on Friday, April 17 from 5-7 p.m.



A Plein Air Paint Out and Wet Paint Sale will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 15-17. Join gallery artists painting around town on May 15 and 16 (including during the Asparagus Festival), then stop by the gallery to purchase these pieces on May 17 from noon-2 p.m.

The annual Summer Solstice Outdoor Party will be held on Saturday, June 20 from 6-9 p.m. in conjunction with the Joy of Beans. This neighborhood block party is hosted by two women-owned, small businesses and will feature music, fine art, food, coffee and sweet treats.

This fall, a special "The State of our Union" show will be held and is open to

anyone. An opening reception will be held on Friday, Nov. 6 from 5-7 p.m.

The public is encouraged to submit a piece of work. All entries will be hung unless they are inappropriate for children.

Artwork must meet the following requirements: the theme of the art is "The State of our Union;" the format is six inches by six inches; and the artwork must be mailed to West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, P.O. Box 102, West Brookfield, MA 01585 or dropped off at the gallery during open hours before Oct. 30.

Artists can use any medium of their choosing.

Gallery owner Fay said, "You don't have to be an 'artist' or an adult to participate, and it doesn't matter what you like or don't like. All work submitted will be respected."

About the gallery

For more information and a complete listing of gallery happenings, call the gallery at 508-753-8604, email yafacceber@hotmail.com, visit westbrookfieldartandframe.com or stop by the gallery during open hours, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

NOTICE

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

As I approach my 69th birthday, I find this moment both meaningful and bittersweet as I step into retirement from Varnum & Charbonneau Funeral Homes, now an entity of Milestone Funeral Partners.

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Serving in this second career as a Funeral Director has truly been an honor.

Thank you to everyone who trusted me to support you and your loved ones—it means more than words can express. Wishing you all health, peace, and well-being.

Live long and be well.

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Peter N. Masuzzo

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Interested candidates should email **hol yokewilds9@gmail.com** with their contact information and brief work history.
Holyoke Wilds is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

SEASONAL FACILITIES CREW wanted at Norcross Wildlife Foundation. For a full job description, please visit **www.norcrosswildlife.org** or email **info@norcrosswildlife.org**

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535;** or by email to **selectmen@northbrookfield.net.**

WANT TO WORK THIS SUMMER part or full-time? Help wanted for assisting in landscape maintenance and installation projects. Liberty Orchards Landscape, **413-283-6408.**

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public notices

Ware Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing

A-2026-01
NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Zoning Board of Appeals, per the powers given under M.G.L. Chapter 40A, will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 29th 2026 at 4:00PM** on the application of Beverly Allard, for an Administrative Appeal (A-2026-01) on the decision to deny a building permit made by the Building Commissioner & Zoning Enforcement Officer, per Section 4.8.7 of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Zoning Board of Appeals as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 267 Osborne Rd, Ware MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 15488, Page 139. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 40-0-14. Zoned: Rural Residential (RR).

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

WARE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
04/09, 04/16/2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE BOARD OF HEALTH TOWN OF WARREN MASSACHUSETTS

The Town of Warren Board of Health will hold a public hearing in person on **Wednesday, April 29th, 2026, 3 PM** located at **2252 Main St. West Warren MA 01092** to consider the adoption of the following regulations pursuant to its authority under M.G.L. c.111, s.31:

Body Art Regulations – to regulate the permitting and operation of body art establishments, including tattooing, piercing, and related practices, and to establish health and safety standards for such operations.

Copies of the proposed regulations are available for public review at the Board of Health Office, 48 High St. Warren MA 01083, during regular business hours Monday – Wednesday 8:30-4pm, and may also be ac-

cessed at <https://www.warren-ma.gov>

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the proposed regulations should appear at the time and place designated above or submit written comments prior to the hearing to: Jessica Clarke, Board of Health Administrator, PO Box 478, Warren MA 01083 or boh@warren-ma.gov

The Board of Health reserves the right to amend or revise the proposed regulations as a result of comments received at the hearing.

Daniel Thibodeau, Chair
Board of Health
Town of Warren
04/02, 04/09/2026

Town of Warren Board of Selectmen Liquor License

Notice of Public Hearing
Pursuant to MGL Chapter 138, the Warren Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing for a new on premises all alcoholic beverages restaurant liquor license for Sizedog Enterprises, LLC DBA Countryside Tavern, petitioner Brian K. Sizer, located at 83 Mechanic Street, Warren, MA 01083. An in person hearing on the above application will be held at the Warren Senior Center located at 2252 Main Street, West Warren, MA on **Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 6:00pm.** Written comments can be sent to the Board of Selectmen at 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083 or via email to selectmen@warren-ma.gov.

Per Order of the Board of Selectmen Licensing Authority Chair, Richard J. Eichacker
04/09, 04/16/2026

WARREN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT

Pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40A, §5, notice is hereby given that the Warren Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM** to consider a proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendment. The Hearing will be held at the Warren Senior Center located at 2252 Main Street in West Warren.

The Board is proposing to see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws by amending Section 10 – Flood Plain District.

The proposed Zoning Bylaw amendments are available for review at the Office of the Planning Board or the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.
04/09, 04/16/2026

TOWN OF HARDWICK BOARD OF HEALTH PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Hardwick Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 7:00 PM** at the **Hardwick Elementary School Cafeteria, 76 School House Dr., Gilbertville, MA 01031.**

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed Groundwater Protection Regulation for the Muddy Brook Valley Aquifer and Well-head Protection Areas. A copy of the draft regulation is available at the Board of Health office during regular business hours and on the Town's website. Written comments may be submitted to boh@hardwick-ma.gov
04/09, 04/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS26P0157EA Estate of: Mary E. Healey Also known as: Mary Evelyn Healey Date of Death: 11/11/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Dennis M. Healey of West Warren, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Dennis M. Healey of West Warren, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/06/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of admin-

istration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 02, 2026
Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
04/09/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 58 Church Street, Ware, MA 01082

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by George H. Plouffe to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, and now held by PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, said mortgage dated January 21, 2020 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13519, Page 182, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for PennyMac Loan Services, LLC to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC by assignment dated July 22, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 14625, Page 323; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **May 7, 2026 at 01:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

That tract or parcel of land situated on the corner of Church and Cottage Streets in Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, described as follows:

BEGINNING at the Northeast corner of land now or formerly of John W. Lambert, same being the Southeast corner of the tract herein conveyed and on the Westerly line of said Church Street;

Thence Northerly along the Westerly line of said Church Street, one hundred ten and one-half (110 and 50/100) feet to the corner of Church and Cottage Streets;

Thence Westerly along the Southerly line of said Cottage Street about one hundred fifty-two (152) feet to a stone bound at the corner of land now or formerly of John F. Robinson and Jane M. Utley;

Thence Southerly on a line of land now or formerly of said Robinson to a stone bound at the corner of land now or formerly of said Robinson and Utley and to land now or formerly of said Lambert;

Thence Easterly about one hundred fifty-two (152) feet to the place of BEGINNING.

For current title see deed recorded herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a

typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated January 15, 2020 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13519, Page 178.

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

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
04/09, 04/16, 04/23/2026

STORAGE AUCTION

The contents of Daniel Fournier will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 31 Southbridge Rd., Warren, MA on **4/18/26 at 9:00 a.m.**

The contents of Jose Sanchez, Jessalyn Hughes, Amanda Harris and Zachary Freeman will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, MA on **4/18/26 at 9:45 a.m.**

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.
04/02, 04/09/2026

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE SP-2026-02

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting and Site Plan Review Authority, will hold a Public Hearing during the scheduled meeting on **THURSDAY, April 16th, 2026 at 7:00pm**, on the application of Daniel Strum, for a common driveway, under Zoning Bylaw Section 6.6.2, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Board of Select-

man's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: Corner of West Main Street & Gould Rd. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 13647 Page 246. Properties are also identified as Assessor's Parcels 55-54-2 & 55-54-3. Zoned: Suburban Residential (SR).

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

WARE PLANNING BOARD
04/02, 04/09/2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE BOARD OF HEALTH TOWN OF WARREN MASSACHUSETTS

The Town of Warren Board of Health will hold a public hearing in person on **Wednesday April 29th, 2026, 3 PM** located at **2252 Main St. West Warren MA 01092** to consider the adoption of the following regulations pursuant to its authority under M.G.L. c.111, s.31:

Well Regulations – to regulate the construction, location, use, maintenance, and decommissioning of private wells within the Town of Warren for the protection of public health and safety.

Copies of the proposed regulations are available for public review at the Board of Health Office, 48 High St. Warren MA 01083, during regular business hours Monday–Wednesday 8:30-4pm, and may also be accessed at <https://www.warren-ma.gov>

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the proposed regulations should appear at the time and place designated above or submit written comments prior to the hearing to: Jessica Clarke, Board of Health Administrator, PO Box 478, Warren MA 01083 or boh@warren-ma.gov

The Board of Health reserves the right to amend or revise the proposed regulations as a result of comments received at the hearing.

Daniel Thibodeau, Chair
Board of Health
Town of Warren
04/02, 04/09/2026

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to 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

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

Highway Dept. Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver

The Town of New Braintree Highway Dept. is seeking qualified applicants for the immediate full-time position of Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License, Class B (CDL) with DOT Medical Examination Certification and a Hoisting Engineer License Class 2B with DOT Medical Examination Certification. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and an employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

Highway Dept. Seasonal Laborer

The Town of New Braintree is seeking a qualified candidate to perform seasonal work in the maintenance of town commons, roadways, grounds and cemeteries. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License (Class D). This is a seasonal position for 20 hours per week with a flexible schedule, May through October. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

For further information, please contact Richard Ayer, Highway Superintendent, at 508-867-2451, or via email at Highway@newbraintree.gov.

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Jaylianni took a picture with the Easter Bunny.



The 8-10 age group of kids made their way to the big field at Lucy Stone Park to hunt for Easter eggs.



The children in the up to 4 years age group got ready for the Easter Egg Hunt.



Photographer Derick Veliz is shown alongside the Easter Bunny.



Diane Banfield led children and their families to the pollinator garden for one of the egg hunts.



Miley, left, and Lovell stood next to the Easter Bunny during the Easter Egg Hunt at Lucy Stone Park in Warren.

EASTER from page 1

for the Warren Conservation Commission and part of the Friends of Lucy Stone Park.

O'Brien said, "it's the start of the growing season" as the park has a lot in store this year. The park is looking to expand its pollinator garden and there will be a new trail being worked on along the riverbank. There is plenty to do with plenty of volunteers needed to make these projects possible.

As for this past Saturday, Lucy Stone Park was the home of the annual Easter Egg Hunt, with over 200 eggs in each area. The children were organized by age group and took turns collecting eggs throughout the park.

Making the announcements during the egg hunt was Diane Banfield of the Friends of Lucy Stone Park and the Warren Cultural Council. Banfield has been involved with the annual egg hunt ever since it started at Lucy Stone Park.

Inside the eggs were various prizes such as stickers, glitter tattoos, candy, and

some golden tickets. There were three eggs with three golden tickets per age group. The children who find these tickets could exchange them for a special prize at the prize counter.

There were also raffles being held to help support the upkeep of the park.

Lucy Stone Park also had a photo booth where kids and their families could take pictures with the Easter Bunny. Taking photos during the Egg Hunt was Derick Veliz. Officer Mike Shea of the Warren Police Department took a break from traffic duty to get some pictures with the Easter Bunny.

The Bunny was having a great time and was interviewed by the local newspaper. Unfortunately, the Easter Bunny wouldn't tell the reporter the secret to quickly leaving hundreds of Easter eggs throughout the park.

O'Brien described the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Lucy Stone Park as a fun event for kids and for the community.

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