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Voters approve healthcare zoning for MLH site

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Tuesday night's special town meeting drew a record crowd to take action on six articles, three of which were related to proposed zoning changes.

Approximately 530 voters filled every seat in the auditorium and additional seating had to be added to the stage and floor to accommodate the crowd at Ware High School. Once all voters were seated, the meeting opened just prior to 7 p.m.

Health Care Zoning District

Article 6 asked voters to approve the creation of a Health Care Services District for parcels located at 73 South St., 25 Marjorie St., 85 South St., Marjorie St. and 89 South St., which is the site of the former Mary Lane

Hospital.

The article would restrict the uses allowed at the site to include assisted living residences, charitable institutions/organizations, clinical medical laboratories, continuing care retirement communities, emergency departments, hospitals, intermedi-

ate care facilities, medical clinics or urgent care clinics, medical/dental centers or offices, memory care communities, museums, nursing homes and research and development laboratories.

The purpose of the Health Care Services District as outlined in the article is to "pro-

mote hospital uses, related to health services, clinics and treatment facilities, offices of health practitioners, nursing homes, continuing care retirement facilities, daycare facilities and laboratories for

Please see **ZONING**, page 15



Shown from left are Marilyn "Twiggy" Obrzut, Kathy Holmes, and Ann Clough enjoying a high tea at the Warren Senior Center.

Senior Center hosted first ever 'High Tea' event

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The Warren Senior Center hosted a High Tea this past Monday afternoon and had an exceptional turnout.

This relaxing occasion took place in the Senior Center's Conference Room

and had all the traditional amenities that go with an afternoon tea. This High Tea was made possible thanks to the collaboration of the Warren Senior Center and Meli Entertainment.

Amanda Meli of Meli Entertainment brought classical music to go along with the first High Tea hosted at the Warren Senior Center. Meli

said she always wanted to host a high tea and had tremendous support of making this first one a success.

"It's pretty successful," Meli said. "So much excitement."

Meli would share a brief history of the historical English tradition of afternoon teas. The difference between regular tea and high tea is that

the high tea would have higher tables.

While guests enjoyed tea and a delicious menu of sandwiches and desserts Meli provided some French-inspired classical music to go with the occasion. Meli would also share the historical background of having a traditional

Please see **TEA**, page 8

Ownership of MLH property discussed

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Selectboard Chair Nancy Talbot said the board received a memo with two proposals from Friends of Mary Lane Hospital Chair Cindy Allen Bourcier regarding the repurposing of several buildings at the Mary Lane Hospital property.

At the April 1 meeting, Town Manager Stuart Beckley said there have been several discussions about whether or not the town should have interest in the buildings or property of Mary Lane Hospital. He said the Hospital Review Committee has spent four years reviewing potential uses of the property.

"They're conclusion was...that the property should not be taken due to liability," he said.

Beckley said a study was conducted by HKT Architects and it looked at the costs of renovating and restoring the Wetherby building, which was estimated between \$9-12 million.

"I think from past discussion with the administration at Baystate, it's a discussion that would be con-

sidered but the guidance has to come from the board," Beckley said.

Talbot said she believes this decision is premature and the town is facing "sizeable needs" in terms of infrastructure.

"Knowing the needs of the towns in so many other vital areas, I personally feel, that if we need to take a stand right now, it would be in poor position for us financially, knowing the economics of the town," she said. "We would be doing an injustice to the people, as much as the passion and heart in me tells me we do need some kinds of health-care, it is really not a good decision for us to even think or consider even temporary acquisition of the property."

Selectboard Vice-Chair Josh Kusnierz said the town is "not in the game of real estate."

"Because no matter how much could be in that endowment, we will lose in the end," he said.

Selectboard member John Desmond agreed with Talbot and Kusnierz, and said there is still the ongoing project of replacing the town pool and repairing the

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 11

Independent investigation looks into allegations

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – School Committee Chair Brian Winslow said the independent investigation into the Ware Teachers Association's allegations against Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovato has begun.

At the April 2 meeting, he said committee member Michael DuBois was serving as the point person for interview requests. He said the interviews will be starting soon and most will be conducted through Zoom.

"He is just a facilitator and that's it," Winslow said of DuBois' involvement.

Winslow said DuBois was appointed to serve

because there was no one in the school district who would accept the position due to fear of retaliation.

School Committee Vice-Chair Aaron Sawabi said he had not seen a scope of work for the independent investigation and the cost of the service.

Winslow said the scope of work to be investigated was the list of allegations put forward by the union and the investigator will be providing regular updates about how much money has been expended. He said this was agreed upon at a previous meeting.

Lovato said this information is different than what his attorney had heard from the School Committee's attorney. He said according to the attorneys, the investigation had not begun yet.

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 7



President of National Art Honor Society and Quaboag Regional High School senior Falon Rice is shown alongside some of her artwork at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in West Brookfield.

National Art Honor Society work displayed

By Ryan Drago
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WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library hosted a special opening of the National Art Honor Society artwork created by Quaboag Regional Middle High School students.

The opening of the display took place on April 3

and featured the amazing artwork done by the Quaboag Regional Middle High School chapter of the National Art and Junior Art Honor Society. Over 20 students of Quaboag ranging from grades seven through 12 had their work displayed and many family members, teachers, and classmates came down to witness the opening of the exhibit.

The goal of Quaboag's

National Art Honor Society chapter is to use their artistic talents for the greater good.

The Quaboag NAHS advisors are Heather Gaucher and Nicole Giguere, who attended the opening of the display alongside their students. The students of Quaboag NAHS and NJAHS had their work displayed last year at the Merriam-Gilbert

Please see **ART**, page 6

Committee accepts proposed school budget

By Paula Ouimette
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WARREN – Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff presented the proposed fiscal year 2026 school budget to the School Committee members at the end of last month.

He said the budget subcommittee has been meeting multiple times over the past few months to build the budget, and look at all expenses.

"We've worked extremely hard," Duff said at the March 31 School Committee meeting. "We've turned this budget inside out over the last three months to get to where we are today and it's still a

Please see **QUABOAG**, page 11



Annual town election reminder

WARE – Voting hours for the annual town election will be held on Monday, April 14 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. in the Town Hall, 126 Main St.

Town Clerks to hold voter registration day April 25

WARREN / WEST BROOKFIELD – The Town Clerks of Warren, Laura J. Stockley, and West Brookfield, Klarissa Rose, announce that voter registration will be held in their offices on Friday, April 25 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for the annual town election which will be held on Tuesday, May 6.

Town Clerk lists voting info for town election

HARDWICK – The annual town election will be held on Saturday, May 3 with polling hours from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Hardwick Elementary School 76 School House Drive.

The deadline to register to vote in this election is Wednesday, April 23 at 5 p.m. and the deadline to vote by mail is Monday, April 28 at 5 p.m.

Library hosts Easte bake sale and egg hunt

HARDWICK – The Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., will host an Easter bake sale on Thursday, April 17 from 1-4 p.m., followed by an Easter egg hunt from 4-5 p.m. and more.

Ware Senior Center news

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

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

- ACTIVITIES**
- Monday, April 14**
 - 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11 a.m. Lunch Easter Party
 - Tickets \$5 on sale until April 11. Limited to 100 tickets. No refunds after April 11. Music by Memory Lane.
- Tuesday, April 15**
 - 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
 - 9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class
 - 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Mobile Food Pantry at Grenville Park
 - 1 p.m. Cornhole
 - 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
 - 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)
- Wednesday, April 16**
 - 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
 - 1 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

- Thursday, April 17**
 - 9 a.m. Walking Club. Meet at Senior Center.
 - 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
 - 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
 - 10 a.m. Line Dancing
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 1 p.m. Cornhole
 - 2:30 p.m. Art Class
- Friday, April 18**
 - 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
 - 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

- LUNCHES**
DINE IN 11:30 a.m.
All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted
Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put you name on the lunch list.
- Monday, April 14**
Easter Party
Baked Ham with Raisin Sauce, Potatoes, Carrots, Beans, Dessert of the Day, Music by Memory Lane, Tickets \$5 (limited 100) until April 11
- Tuesday, April 15**
Macaroni and Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day
- Wednesday, April 16**
Chicken Stir Fry over Rice, Dessert of the Day
- Thursday, April 17**
Hamburg Lasagna, Salad, Dessert of the Day
- Friday, April 18**
Baked Fish, Au Gratin Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Brown Bag Sale of winter clothing ongoing until April 14

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

Fill up a brown bag supplied by the senior cen-

ter with men's or women's clothing for only \$10. This sale is presented by the Friends of the Ware Senior Center, Inc.

Store hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. The thrift store is open to the public.

Are You Old News?



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

File Photo
Last week's photo from 1989 showed kindergarten students with Radiologist Technician Cheryl Joubert during a demonstration of how X-rays are taken during Children and Hospitals Week at Mary Lane Hospital.

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

Questions needed for candidate's forum to be held on April 15

HARDWICK – Citizens of Hardwick and the Ware River News will present a candidate's forum on Tuesday, April 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the historic Town House on the common.

All voters and all candidates are invited.

This is an independent event where the voters and citizens can meet candidates for the contested races for: Select Board, Planning Board and Paige Memorial Library Trustee (one year; and the uncontested races for: Assessor, Constable, K-12 Quabbin Regional School Committee (three years), K-12 Quabbin Regional School Committee (two years), Board of Health, Paige

Memorial Library Trustee (three years) and Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee

Each candidate for a contested race will be given a two minute allotment to introduce themselves and inform the citizens why they are the best candidate to be elected to the position they are running for.

A question and answer period will then follow.

Candidates for uncontested races will be given two minutes to give a brief outline of what their office does.

If time allows at the end, general questions will be fielded from the floor. Questions can be emailed ahead of time to: pouimette@turley.com.

Spring town-wide cleanup to be held April 19

WARE – Keep Ware Beautiful will host its annual spring town-wide cleanup on Saturday, April 19 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Meet on the front steps of the United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., and join volunteers as they pick up litter and help to Keep Ware Beautiful. This is a great resume building and a chance to earn community service hours.

Recycling Center offers bulk waste day April 12

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

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


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

Prices are as follows: mattress/waterbed mattress/futon, \$30; couch, \$30; sleeper sofa bed/pullout couch, \$40; love-seat/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.



ACCURACY WATCH

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


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TOWN OF WARE

Keep Ware Beautiful

TOWN WIDE CLEAN UP

April 19, 2025 ~ 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Supplies at 49 Church Street

Clean up Anywhere

YARD WASTE DROP OFF

Saturday, April 12, 2025
Saturday, April 19, 2025
Sunday, April 27, 2025
Saturday, May 3, 2025
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Robbins Road, Ware

Leaves and yard waste only.
No trash will be accepted.
Maximum size of branches is 12-inches.
Limited to two pick-up sized vehicles.
MUST be a WARE resident.

Handbags & Hand Tools BINGO NIGHT

Chamber of Commerce hosts successful fundraiser event

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce hosted its inaugural Handbags & Hand Tools Bingo Night at the AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers on March 21 drawing in a lively crowd for a fun and unique evening of bingo with a twist.

This event was an exciting combination of fashion and practical tools, offering participants a chance to win stylish handbags or high-quality hand tools.

The entry fee covered 10 rounds of bingo, access to a cash bar, and a snack table filled with fruits, vegetables, cheese, crackers, cookies, and brownies. For those seeking additional chances to win, extra game boards were available for purchase for \$1 each, and attendees could also enter raffles for smaller prizes.

Lena Buteau, a member of the Chamber's Event Committee, had suggested the idea for the event after seeing similar bingo nights in other towns. She proposed combining handbags and hand tools to create an event that would appeal to a wide range of people, and the

success of the night suggested that the concept struck a chord with the community.

This marked the first time the Chamber had organized such an event, and the possibility of hosting similar events in the future is being considered based on the positive response.

A dedicated team of volunteers, along with members of the Chamber's Event Committee, worked behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly.

DJ Rich Lapierre, who also owns his own business "Sounds by Rich" provided background music throughout the night, while Will Huber, a financial planner for J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Inc. and former DJ, served as the bingo caller, bringing an energetic vibe to the evening's proceedings. He was assisted by Lapierre, who helped validate the winning bingo cards by calling out the winning numbers.

The event featured 10 rounds of bingo, with various patterns required to win each round. The prizes were split between luxury handbags and useful hand tools, making the competition intense and exciting. Winners were announced after each round, with many walking away with coveted prizes.

In addition to the main bingo prizes, attendees had the chance to win raffle items donated by local businesses. Among the many raffle prizes were a rustic farmhouse bird feeder with bird seed



Winner Angela Lis is shown with her new Kate Spade Dana Saffiano Tote in crystal blue.



Winner Carol Sikorski with her new Craftsman 4-tool Combo Kit with reciprocating saw, drill, impact driver and flashlight.

Turley Photos by Abigail McCoy

from the Hardwick Farmers Co-op, a wine-tasting experience for 10 at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, and a pair of Maui Jim Hookipa Vita sunglasses valued at \$259, donated by Quabbin Valley Eye Care. Other prizes included gift cards to local restaurants and attractions, as well as scratch-off tickets and VIP tickets to a Worcester Red Sox game.

Looking ahead, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce has more events lined up for the coming months. On April 11, they will host a Chamber Chat, offering members a chance to discuss business planning,

insurance, and working with municipalities in a roundtable setting.

The Chamber will also hold its Choice Awards Banquet on May 8, where members and the public will have voted for winners in categories such as Educator of the Year, Community Hero, Retail Establishment, and Food & Drink Establishment.

The success of the Handbags & Hand Tools Bingo Night is just one example of how the Chamber is bringing the community together through innovative events. With positive feedback and strong participation,

it's likely that this event will become a regular fixture in the local calendar.

About QHMA
The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1978 to assist businesses in the Quaboag Hills Region, serving the towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield.

Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the region, to be an advocate for policies that

achieve the development goals of the communities, and to advance the interests of its members.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. It helps the business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations; through trainings, seminars, and more.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is located at 4 Springfield St., Suite 525, Three Rivers. For more information, visit qhma.com, call 413-283-2418 or email info@qhma.com.

Project 351 ambassadors list service sites for donation drive

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

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

In Massachusetts, over one in three children aged 12 and younger live in low-in-

come or homeless situations, highlighting the urgent need for support. The ambassadors will lead the Spring Service campaign, the first of three statewide efforts coordinated by Project 351 for this year.

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

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

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

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

Tri-Parish Community Church hosts 19th annual event

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church is pleased to announce they will be holding its 19th Annual Plant, Bake Sale, Craft & Tag Sale on the Hardwick Common Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18 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.

The Church is also seeking vendors for their annual Tag and Craft sale to coincide with the Plant and Bake Sale. Spaces on the Hardwick Common will be offered for \$35 each. Applications may be obtained by contacting Marguerite by emailing mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6942.


Please reserve your space early. All are welcome.

Tri-Parish Community Church lists Easter services

HARDWICK – Tri-Parish Community Church will hold its Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 20 at 5:45 a.m. at the East Quabbin Land Trust office, 120 Ridge Road.

All are welcome to attend. The Easter Sunrise Service will be led by Deacon Virginia Rich.

The Tri Parish Community Church will also hold an Easter worship service to be led by Pastor Nathan Pederson on Sunday, April 20 at 10 a.m. at the New Braintree Congregational Church, 3 Oakham Road, New Braintree. The church is handicapped accessible and all are welcome



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SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor

When is the best time for me to claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:
I will be 66 ½ in June and would like to discuss when would be the best time for me to start taking my social security benefits. I am still employed full time and don't want to be penalized because of that. Please let me know what I need to do to set up an appointment with you. I got your information from the AMAC website and I look forward to hearing from you.

Signed: Ready to Claim

Dear Ready:
You can certainly call us on 1-888-750-2622 during normal EST business hours for a personal conversation. But to facilitate that conversation, be aware that deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit normally depends on just a few factors, including your financial need, your health and expected longevity, and your marital status. A few things to be aware of: Born in 1958, your "Full Retirement Age" is age 66 years and 8 months. If you were born in October 1958, you will reach you FRA in June 2025, and that is the point you can get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

Once you reach your FRA in June, Social Security's "annual earnings test" no longer applies. Thus, you can continue working after you start your SS benefits and your earnings will not negatively affect your monthly benefit amount. If you claim any earlier than your FRA, you will get a smaller benefit and also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test (which for you this year - your FRA year - is \$62,160, or \$5,180/month after you start your SS benefits). If you decide to claim before your FRA, your benefit will be reduced by .56% for each month early (a permanent reduction).

You can also wait beyond your FRA to claim and earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% per month (8% per year of delay), in order to get an even higher benefit later. If financially feasible, you can delay up to the age of

70 when your monthly benefit will reach maximum - about 27% more than it will be in June of this year.

0-If you are single and will not be eligible for a spousal benefit, then you should make your claiming decision based only on your own needs. If, however, you are married and your spouse's FRA benefit is more than twice your FRA amount, you may be entitled to a "spousal boost" (a supplemental amount added to your own SS benefit).

Your life expectancy should be considered when deciding when to claim your SS retirement benefits. If you expect to enjoy at least "average" longevity (about 87 for a woman your current age), then you might also consider delaying your claim (if financially feasible) and that is often a prudent choice. If you don't expect to achieve a long life, or if you need the money sooner, or if you are entitled to spousal benefits, then claiming at your FRA of 66 years and 8 months is likely your best option.

In the end, only you can decide when you should claim your Social Security, but we're always here to answer any additional questions you may have. You can feel free to call us at any time (1-888-750-2622) during normal EST business hours to discuss your options directly with one of our certified Social Security advisors. Or you can also ask any additional questions via email, which we will be most happy to respond to promptly.

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.

Three new appointees join MHP's board of directors

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Housing Partnership is pleased to welcome three new members to its board of directors.

Mary McGovern is president and CEO of Country Bank for Savings, which is based in Ware. It has \$1.9 billion in total assets and 13 branch locations in Hamden, Hampshire and Worcester counties.

She is the first woman to be named president and CEO in the institution's 174-year history. She brings more than 30 years of experience in the Massachusetts banking industry and previously served as Country Bank's

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and in senior finance and accounting roles at the DanversBank, Capital Crossing, and Boston Private Bank.

She earned her Master of Business Administration from Babson College and her Bachelor of Arts in mathematics from Emmanuel College.

Michael Jones is president and CEO of the Institution for Savings which is based in Newburyport and has 15 branches across the North Shore. With \$5.2 billion in total assets, IFS is the

Please see **MHP**, page 5

viewpoints

Eggplant parmesan anyone?

Just when you think you are done planning your garden you come across something else to grow. What did it for me was a trip to the Dollar Store where I found the seed packs priced at four for \$1.25. What a deal!

While I wouldn't spend \$3.99 for a package of eggplant seeds, I could shell out approximately 32 cents, and if I end up with a half dozen fruit it would be worth the investment.

We grow eggplant at Old Sturbridge Village, but it is the ornamental type, the kind that looks seriously like pure white eggs hanging from a fuzzy gray-green plant! I plan to grow "Black Beauty," the variety that holds promise of parmesan grinders and saucy pasta dishes.

It's been a few years since I have grown eggplant. I stopped growing it because I never seemed to pick it at the right time – either it was too early or too late.

So, why don't we learn together how to grow eggplant successfully and harvest it correctly?

Eggplant is a member of the Solanaceae family, making it cousins with tomatoes and peppers. Like its relatives, eggplant seeds need to be started indoors, eight to 10 weeks prior to the last frost.

By sowing the seed yesterday, I just sneak in to the eight week mark. If the thought of growing eggplant

excites you, don't let the calendar dissuade you. Any head start is still a head start!

The seeds like a warmer germination temperature, with some experts calling for 80 degrees! When the seedlings show their first set of

hardened off for a week or so by gradual exposure to the elements, it's time to get them in the ground. I cut "Xs" in the plastic about 18" apart, and mix some compost into the soil under each X. The seedlings are then installed just slightly lower into the soil than where they were growing in the pot.

If you can cover them with a floating row cover to help modulate the heat and keep flea beetles and Colorado potato beetles at bay, all the better.

I read that northern gardeners can expect to get four to six fruit per plant. Folks with a longer growing season can sometimes gain 12 to 15!

Once the fruit appear glossy, they can be picked, even before they reach their full size. If you wait until the skin is dull, the fruits are seedy and not at their prime any longer.

I am excited to see if my 32 cent investment will be fruitful. Fingers crossed!

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



in my
BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer



Green-winged teal

A Brimfield resident makes regular trips to ponds to look for waterfowl often in Warren.

On March 19 he saw five Canada geese, six mallards (three pairs), three American black ducks, six green-winged teal (three pairs) and one male, hooded merganser at a pond on New Reed Street.

The green-winged teal is the smallest dabbling duck in North America. The male has a cinnamon colored head

and grayish body with a green crescent from the eye to the back of the head. The male has a vertical white strip that extends from the water line to its shoulder. The female is brown.

Both sexes have green wing patches, which are visible in flight. They also have a yellowish stripe along the tail.

They have a blocky body, large head and short bill. They are between 12 and 15 inches in length. There tail is high out of the water.

Spring time is a great time to look for green winged teal. They often land in shallow wetlands and are sometimes seen foraging in puddles of water on agricultural fields. They feed on shallow bodies of water on vegetation. They breed in dense vegetation along river deltas.

The oldest know green-winged teal was at least 20 years and three months. A female, she was banded in Oklahoma in 1941 and recovered by a hunter in Missouri

in 1960.

Great blue heron

The Brimfield resident said in an email dated March 19, "I visited two ponds in Warren yesterday and saw great blue herons for the second time this spring. However this time, they were at the pond where great blue herons have had nest for a couple of years and an osprey was back.

Both sightings were at the pond on South Street." Other birds seen at the pond included one ring-billed gull, three rock pigeon, one blue jay and six red-winged blackbirds.

Last year, there were four heron nests, however one nest fell down during the winter. There were two birds standing in one of the nests for a time before one of the birds flew to a nearby tree.

Osprey

The Brimfield resident said an osprey nest has been at this location in Warren since 2020 and nine young have successfully fledged. here. An adult just arrived in the last day or so. The bird

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

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

Turley Election
Policy

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

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

Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming April events and programs

HARDWICK – On Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library will open their Seed Library and host a bake sale at the library, 87 Petersham Road.

Buy home-baked goodies and choose seeds for your garden. Learn tips on seed starting and growing with special guest Paulina Borrego, UMass Science & Engineering Librarian, Mass Aggie Seed Librarian, and the Common Seed program which teaches gardening and seed saving.

Bring the children to visit with the Easter Bunny and make a craft.

People can also view the “Celebrate Hardwick Quilt” created by students of Paige Library’s “Kids Can Sew” students taught by Pam Hinkley. It was donated to raise money for the Paige Library.

Perhaps you would like to make a donation before May 8 when some lucky person will take it home.

The Paige Memorial Library building is 120 years old, but the love of libraries in Hardwick is older than that. Hardwick is 286 years old, so there are many reasons to celebrate Hardwick. Share your ideas for activities to recall history or embrace Hardwick’s essence.

Your ideas and any level of commitment to help will be greatly appreciated.

Do you play baseball? A team is being formed to oppose the Westfield Wheelmen, a vintage baseball team. Play an old-fashioned baseball game with old rules on June 7 at 1 p.m.

An old Hardwick tradition was a baseball game held around Memorial Day on the Town Common. The opposing teams were single versus

married men.

Try a new hobby or rediscover an old interest. The library has books and workshops: Paige Writers on alternate Tuesdays at 3 p.m., Book Club on the third Wednesday at 2 p.m., Cookbook Club on the last Wednesday at 5 p.m., and FUNdamentals of Art on Tuesdays at 6 p.m.. Try pastels on April 22 or bring your own craft and join with others to socialize and share knowhow. Registration is essential.

There will be no FUNdamentals of Art on April 15 due to a program at the Hardwick Town House where there will be an opportunity to meet the candidates of the annual town election at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call 413-477-6704 or email Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

EQLT to host Hiking 101 class and group hike

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will host a Hiking 101 class and casual group hike on Saturday, April 12 from 1-4 p.m.

The event is tailored to adults and teenagers who are new to day hiking or who want to learn about practical considerations when out in nature. Hiking 101 will comprise an indoor discussion at EQLT’s office, located at 120 Ridge Road, followed by a 1.5-mile hike with both gradual and steeper hills, at EQLT’s Mandell Hill Preserve, which is located a short distance from EQLT’s office.

EQLT Steward, Chris Kiraly-Thomas, a recreational hiker and Adirondack 46er (she has climbed all 46 Adirondack peaks over 4,000 feet) who has also summited over 60 of New England’s 4,000+ footers, will lead the class and the hike.

Participants will learn about: choosing where to hike, appropriate gear and supplies, how to handle basic emergencies, what to do when encountering wildlife, weather preparedness, access to potable water and proper hydration, leave no trace principles and more.

Attendees are encouraged to dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring water.

RSVP to atrevvett@eqlt.org by April 9 if you would like to attend.

About the East Quabbin Land Trust

The East Quabbin Land Trust fosters a meaningful relationship with the natural world by conserving, connecting with and caring for the farmlands, woodlands and waters in the East Quabbin region of Massachusetts. EQLT works closely with community members to foster vibrant communities through engagement with the outdoors.

The work of EQLT is focused on the communities of Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham, Ware and West Brookfield. EQLT began in 1994 motivated by concern for the loss of farmland and wildlife habitat to unplanned sprawl.

By working cooperatively with property owners, government agencies, conservation groups and other land trusts, EQLT has permanently protected 7,000 acres of land. EQLT worked with members of the Petersham community to purchase and lease The Country Store, revitalizing the heart of the town.

Over the past two decades, the East Quabbin Land Trust has also purchased and opened 6.5 miles of former railroad corridor as part of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Hardwick, New Braintree and Ware, with another 1.5-miles of rail trail slated for construction in 2025-26.

Chicken barbecue to benefit St. Aloysius school

WARE – The Knights of Columbus Council #183 will be holding a chicken barbecue at St. Mary’s Church Hall, 57 South St., on Saturday, May 10 from 1-4 p.m. to benefit St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville.

In addition to a delicious lunch that includes a half chicken, baked potato, salad and dessert, there will be music provided by DJ Brian, a grand prize offering, raffles and face painting for the kids. Please consider attending this event to support the school.

Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for children up to age 14 and are available from St. Aloysius students, or online at <https://www.staloysiuscs.com/support/k-of-c-barbecue/> through April 30. You may also call the school at 413-477-1268 to order and pick up your tickets.

If you know of anyone interested in donating to the raffle baskets or becoming an event sponsor, please have them reach out to Roberta McQuaid by emailing rmcquaid@staloysius-catholicschool.com.

MHP from page 4

state’s 12th largest bank and 5th largest mutual bank.

Jones has more than two decades of experience as a Massachusetts bank CEO, originally at the Ipswich Cooperative Bank, and a history of extensive civic engagement, most recently serving as chair of the Ipswich Affordable Housing Trust. He earned a bachelor’s degree in finance from Bryant College and a master’s degree from Bentley University.

Prabal Chakrabarti is executive vice-president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He heads the bank’s Regional and Community Outreach Department, which focuses on revitalizing smaller cities and rural areas, improving household financial stability for all, especially by race and ethnicity, and increasing employment opportunities.

Chakrabarti previously worked at the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, where he led a research effort to measure economic competitiveness in America’s inner cities, and as an economic policy analyst at the U.S. Treasury.

He holds graduate degrees from MIT and Oxford University, where he was a Marshall Scholar, and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Illinois, where he was a Truman Scholar. He serves on the boards of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation and the Conservation Law Foundation and chairs the Marshall Scholar Regional Selection Committee.

As a leader and innovator, MHP expands access to affordable housing and promotes housing equity in communities across the Commonwealth.

“We have exceptional,

seasoned leaders serving on our board of directors,” said Executive Director Clark Ziegler. “Their strategic thinking and their commitment to MHP’s mission will continue to propel us forward as we work expand housing opportunities across the Commonwealth.”

About MHP

MHP is a quasi-public state governed by a seven-member board of directors appointed by the governor. The board includes two cabinet secretaries or their designees, and three nominees of the Massachusetts Bankers Association.

BACKYARD from page 4

flew to the nest carrying a branch and then moved to the bottom of the nest, tilted forward and then began scratching at the bottom of the nest.

He took a picture of this osprey scratching. He said, “In a picture I took, debris can be seen flying over the edge of the nest. A behavior I have never seen before – interesting.”

Worm stealing blue jay



An Oakham resident through his kitchen window an American Robin extract a worm from the ground.

He said, “At that moment, a blue jay landed scaring off the robin and stealing the worm.” He watched the blue jay flit closer and closer in the shrubbery and swoop in when the next worm was extracted by a robin. He said, “I did a quick check of the literature - nothing like this observed before. Jays, crows, ravens and magpies (Corvidae family) are renowned for their instinctual ‘intelligence’ and thievery.”

Sandhill cranes

I have not seen the sandhill cranes in my field lately. I did hear them early in the morning last week when I put my trash bin out. My neighbor said she heard them in the morning as well.

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



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Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
This fruit portrait was created by Persephone Piermarini.



Sunset paintings are shown in different styles. The left one is by Ellamae Floria and the right one was by senior Chloe Smith.



Art was done by Quaboag Regional Middle High School students in grades seven through 12.

ART from page 1

Library and were excited to be back and have their work displayed again.

This year, in addition to the art, the NAHS art exhibit featured bookmarks. The artwork done by many Quaboag students was printed on copies of bookmarks and many guests got to take some bookmarks home with them. The bookmarks also featured the name of the student behind the art.

The exhibit featured multiple mediums with European-inspired watercolor landscapes, detailed pencil drawings, acrylic interpretations, digital photography and much more.

President of Quaboag's National Art Honor Society Falon Rice was at the library alongside fellow classmates and artists. Rice's chosen mediums include watercolor and acrylic paint markers which is her most recent artwork made in AP art with teacher Nicole Giguere.

Rice said the theme behind the art is different places around the world. Rice chose the form of stained glass.

Rice as president of NAHS views the society as "an artistic community and is helping the community around us."

The National Art Honor Society participates in many



The students' artwork was printed on these bookmarks. The names of the artist was featured as well.

community outreach events including the painting of the library book drop by the Warren Public Library and will soon be participating in an art auction during the Casey Handfield Benefit Concert at Quaboag on April 16 at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Casey J. Handfield Memorial Scholarship.

Rice plans to continue working in art and will soon be graduating from Quaboag Regional Middle High

School. Rice will be attending the University of Maine in Orono, Maine this coming fall.

Vice-President of the NAHS is Isabelle Aberle, who had several of her own art pieces displayed as well. At the start of the opening, many students got to check out their

own artwork displayed in the exhibit and loved seeing their work printed on bookmarks.

Another popular medium in the exhibit was digital photography.

Norah Schwenker is a senior at Quaboag and her main medium was digital photography. Schwenker had several of her own photographs displayed in the library and are mostly close-ups of flowers.

The students' art will be displayed in the library, located at 3 West Main St., until the middle of May.

Art will also be displayed at QRMHS during their art fair on May 21 from 6-8 p.m. The students have devoted a lot of their time to not only to create their art, but also to service and make a deep commitment to arts advocacy in both their schools and their communities.



Regional High School senior Parker Chaffee.



Digital photography was displayed at the exhibit. These photos taken by Norah Schwenker.



A flower sketch was created by National Art Honor Society Vice-President Isabelle Aberle.

The dog painting was created by Delaney Merkel and the flower painting was created by Isabella Santos.



These outstanding art pieces were created by senior Nora Pennington-Russell.

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Levee system work reviewed

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Town Levee Safety Compliance Committee met at the end of March to recap the work being done in 2024.

Chair James McKeon said there was a lot of vegetation trimming being done around the bridge near the levee. Anything above four feet had to be cut according to McKeon and the rest of the committee.

The flood gates were also checked and the ones closest to the dam must be cleaned out. While doing some brush trimming the committee discovered there was a bicycle found. There are also logs that need to be cleared from the same area.

The Army Corps of Engineers reached out to the committee and want to get an inspection done some-

time in April. The area the engineers want to observe is off South Street near the Wrights Mill. The inspectors will go along the levee on the parking lot side across from the mill.

The Town Levee committee also wants to clean out the flood gates. McKeon was asking about the camera equipment that can be used to evaluate the piping and gate valves. Someone mentioned the Sewer Department and the camera they have used in the past.

The committee briefly discussed any possible flooding issues that could occur with the levee and the bridges. There was one bad flood back in 1955 where the river would rise almost as high as the bridge.

There has been very little maintenance over the years, but the Town Levee Safety Compliance Committee is focusing on work now in

case of any rising issues with the levee.

The committee is keeping a good routine with vegetation control and keeping the vegetation off the stones. There is some vegetation work that may need to be done by the railroad side of the levee. McKeon said its on the railroad’s property, but they didn’t do as well of a job on the vegetation control.

“We’re going to have to work on the railroad side,” McKeon said.

According to the Town Levee chair, the brush hasn’t been cut for a couple years.

The committee will be waiting for some comments by the Army Corps of Engineers. There are some concerns about cracks by the floodwall of the levee. The property owners were informed that engineers will be coming soon for the inspection on the levee.

Sewer Commission votes on budget, town meeting articles

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Sewer Commissioners met to review their budget with Sewer Chief Operator, Ralph Zebrowski.

The commissioners were curious as to why their budget was less than last year’s and Zebrowski found a line item that changed and made this year’s budget approximately \$35,000 less. The Sewer Commissioners don’t want to run out of funds, but have to present a budget to the Town.

The biggest difference

in this year’s budget that has already been included were chemicals and oil cost increases. This review is according to Zebrowski’s observation. The Sewer Commissioners agreed and accepted the budget.

The commissioners would then discuss a response to the Department of Environmental Protection’s Notice of Noncompliance. This involves the Copper Compliance Assistance Proposal from Tighe & Bond, who are in charge of doing the copper study for the town.

Zebrowski said the cop-

per has been reduced considerably and is in compliance with the temporary specifications.

The Sewer Commissioners voted to sign the proposal from Tighe & Bond.

The commissioners would then vote on a new copper study article for Town Meeting. The article is in the amount of \$44,500. Vice Chair Joan Lavigne asked Zebrowski to hang on to the contract even if the town may vote against it.

“We still need to get it done,” Lavigne said.

Easter egg hunt at Lucy Stone Park on April 19

WARREN – The annual Easter egg hunt will be held at Lucy Stone Park on Saturday, April 19 with a rain date of April 26.

Egg hunts will be orga-

nized by age group with children ages 5-7 starting at 10:30 a.m.; ages 8-10 starting at 10:45 a.m.; and ages 4 and under starting at 11 a.m. Please bring your own Easter

basket.

There will be an Easter raffle, refreshments and a chance to have your photo taken with the Easter Bunny.

SCHOOL from page 1

“We were promised a scope of work that was official from legal counsel, signed and discussed in open session so it would be brought to me, and we could be shared those details,” Lovato said.

Sawabi questioned Winslow as to whether or not Lovato was offered a buyout to resign from his position.

Winslow said he made an inquiry to see if Lovato had any interest in a buyout. He said there has been no response to his inquiry.

Sawabi and School Committee member Julie Slattery both agreed that there should have been a discussion with the committee about the possibility of offering a buyout prior to Winslow asking about it.

“I was looking for options,” Winslow said. “We are not in a good space. And the ones that are going to suffer if we keep pushing things away or we keep avoiding things and we keep playing games, it’s going to be the kids...the kids are the ones that are going to suffer.”

Superintendent’s evaluation

Winslow said Lovato’s evaluation discussion will be delayed until the April 9 School Committee meeting. He said the evaluation was delayed due to a request from the legal teams.

“The delay of a week was thought more than fair and was given,” Winslow said. “We’re back on course.”

Middle school roof project

Lovato said he met with the Selectboard and received approval to move forward with an application for funding to replace the middle school roof through the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

He said the roofs on all three school buildings should be replaced, but the middle and high school ranked with the highest need. He said a lot of patchwork repairs have been done to those roofs.

Lovato said the highest quote they received to replace the middle school roof was close to \$2 million, and the MSBA could reimburse anywhere from 75-81% of the total. He said the town would be responsible for the remaining cost, and the cost of schematic design.

The School Committee approved the submission of a statement of interest for the roof replacement. If the statement of interest is accepted by the MSBA, the school district can then submit an application for grant funding.

Comments and concerns

Resident and parent Frank Bateman asked why the superintendent’s reports and

supporting documents were not submitted electronically to the School Committee prior to meetings or posted to the School Committee page on the school district’s website.

“First, it would allow anyone to review during and after the meeting,” Bateman said. “Second, it locks the information from any post-submission changes and keep the integrity of the information. Once submitted to the School Committee it’s public information.”

Bateman asked the School Committee to consider making this a new procedure for the reports.

Bateman asked if the School Committee had a list of events that must be reported to them within a certain time period, as well as to the parents.

“I would expect that any teacher long-term absence, maybe more than a week, should be reported along with an action plan to ensure no loss of learning and that this should be reported to both parents and School Committee no later than one week after the first absence unless absence is immediately known to be longer,” he said.

Breaches of security, police and fire presence on school property should also be considered reportable events, Bateman said.

“Late or no reporting or notification to the parents prevents transparency and

erodes parental trust,” he said.

Bateman also raised concerns about policies and procedures, including hiring practices, as well as the athletic handbook, which he said doesn’t exist.

“Our students, our student athletes and their parents deserve written guidance,” he said.

Bateman thanked the School Committee for their time and service in their positions, noting Christopher Desjardins’ 20 years and Winslow’s 16 years.

A parent raised concerns about another change in the teacher for grade eight English Language Arts. She said there have been multiple teachers and substitutes covering this class.

Ware Teachers Association President Amber Boucher thanked Desjardins for his dedication to the school district.

Boucher said staff members are unsure about the “reset room” at the high

school. She said staff members are not familiar with it and no announcements have been made.

She also brought up concerns about failing students being placed in a classroom to be taught Edgenuity. She said the person in the classroom with these students is not a certified teacher.

Superintendent’s report

Lovato said interviews are being scheduled for the assistant principal position at the middle school. He said they received about 13 applicants for the position, but most would require a waiver in order to accept the position.

“I am willing to take a chance,” Lovato said on candidates with waivers.

Lovato said if they don’t find the candidate of their choosing, they will wait to find one. He said Principal Kim Thompson is leading the process.

Lovato said Principal Pamela Iwasinski is leading the search to hire an assistant

principal at the elementary school.

Lovato said a special education teacher and ELA teacher were hired at the high school, and Director of Student Services Dr. Ginger Coleman has secured a BCBA. He said a vacancy for the music teacher in the middle school will not be filled at this time.

Lovato said the school district has picked up 15 substitutes now. He said it would be beneficial to hold an orientation with the substitutes over the summer.

Title IX update

Sawabi said the subcommittee met to discuss required changes to the Title IX policy. He said there is only one section regarding nondiscrimination on the basis of gender identity that would need to be changed.

Sawabi said the committee will need to consult with an attorney who has experience with Title IX to do this.

“We do need that expertise and we really can’t move forward until we get it,” he said.

Winslow said he will reach out to the School Committee’s attorney.

Title VI complaint

Winslow said the school district has received a Title VI complaint against a member of the district. He said the person who investigates these complaints for the school district feels there is a conflict of interest and has declined to do so.

“Therefore, we have to vote to fund an outside person to do the Title VI,” Winslow said. “We are required by law to investigate a Title VI.”

Winslow said he does not know what it will cost, but the investigation has to completed.

The committee voted to approve funding for the investigation.



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It's tea time...

TEA from page 1

English tea and would also demonstrate napkin folding.

In addition to black, green and herbal tea, the gathering featured a delicious menu of small sandwiches, scones and shortbread, and desserts. The sweet desserts consisted of mini fruit tarts, mini cupcakes and macaroons. The savories consisted of cucumber, egg salad, cranberry walnut chicken salad and cherry sandwiches.

The design of the menu cards really stood out and the crafter behind the menus, Kathy Banas, helped out during the High Tea.

Meli hopes to make this High Tea activity an annual event and says its fun to have during the spring and summer. The Warren Senior Center may host another High Tea in August.

Also helping during the High Tea was Tracey Mazur from the Cultural Council. Mazur said "tea parties and spring go together." Mazur provided the teacups for the

occasion and also provided the delicious apricot tea cookies.

Director of the Senior Center Sharon Meli, the mother of Amanda Meli, was keeping busy during the High Tea and was excited to see a great turnout at the Senior Center. Many guests chose to dress for the occasion, wearing fancy hats and attire during tea.

Both Sharon and Amanda Meli had beautiful hats on while entertaining the guests in such a relaxing and cozy atmosphere. It was an exquisite high tea experience.

Friends Marilyn "Twiggy" Obrzut, Kathy Holmes and Ann Clough joined together for tea at one of the high tables. All three were wearing beautiful fancy hats while enjoying afternoon tea.

The menu cards had special message in the back acknowledging those special helpers who made the High Tea at the Senior Center a great success. The thanks goes to Kathy Banas, Deb Harnois, Marilyn Obrzut,



Amanda Meli was in charge of the microphone and providing classical music during a cozy afternoon tea.

Ellen Pilch, Linda Wrobel, Tracey Mazur, Karen Dusty, Amanda Meli, Sharon Meli and Juliet.

The high tea was inspired by Maria Matera.

The Warren Senior Center is located at 2252 Main St in West Warren. For more information call 413-436-5662 for more information and upcoming events.

The Senior Center will be hosting an event celebrating the Kentucky Derby on Monday, May 5. A special



Douglas Lappin and Alice Mlynarski enjoyed their tea at their table.

lunch will take place for the occasion. There will be prizes for the most creative hat, which will be crafted during the Senior Center's hat craft on April 18; sign up for event by April 14.

Tea also featured delicious food options from finger sandwiches and pastries. The menu cards on the plates were designed by Kathy Banas.



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Submit stories through an online form (scan QR code or go to: <https://tinyurl.com/HQHousingStory>) or a recorded interview. You have the option of being anonymous for either format.



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For any questions, please contact Nisha Humayun at nhumayun@townofware.com or (413) 207-7698



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Dalton Marquis goes for the low bump.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Brayden Compton starts off a play.



Sean Bernier lunges to keep the ball in play.

Bats break out in season opener for Pioneers

PALMER – Last Monday afternoon, Pathfinder Regional High School baseball scored 13 runs in two innings to be paced to a 15-2 win over the High School of Science and Technology.

The Pioneers took advantage of a lot of free passes to get staked out to the lead. The Pioneers took nine walks and Sci-Tech committed eight errors in the game.

The Cybercats would actually strike first with a run in the top of the first. But Pathfinder scored twice in the bottom of the first to take the lead.

Sci-Tech tied the game in the top of the third before errors and walks led to six runs in the bottom of the third for Pathfinder and seven runs in the fourth.

With the huge lead, the Pioneers were able to finish the game off in the top of the fifth for the mercy-rule win.

Tim Russell had a good first outing with four innings pitched. He allowed two runs on five hits. Zander Auffrey finished the game with a scoreless fifth inning.



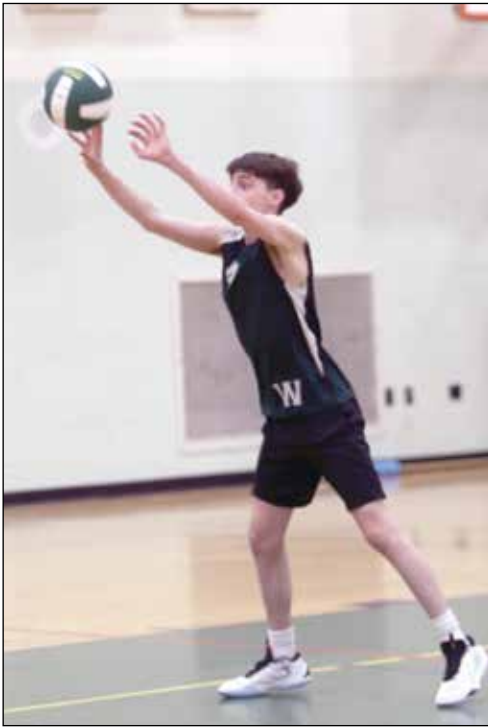
Nathan Harmon goes for a set.

Indians fall to PVCA

WARE – On Monday night, despite grabbing a set win, Ware boys volleyball was not able to keep the momentum and fell to Pioneer Valley Christian Academy 3-1. The loss dropped Ware to a tough 0-5 to start the spring season. Ware still seeks its first win of the season, and is back in action on Friday, April 11 at home against East Longmeadow at 5:15 p.m.



Jonathan Adkins attempts to spike past an opponent.



Aiden Montone sets the ball over the net.

Quaboag falls to Quabbin in opener

Thomas Bellizzi fires a throw home from right-center.



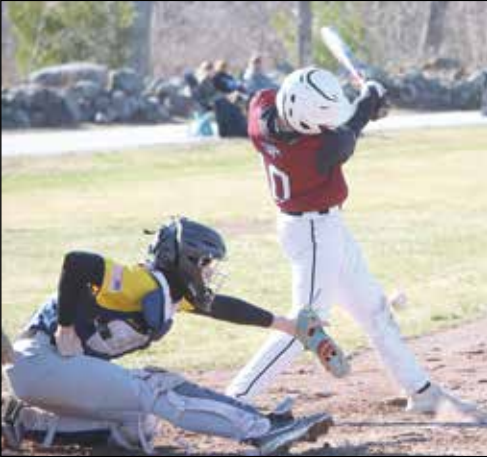
BARRE – Last week, it was a tough start to the season for Quaboag baseball. The Cougars fell 14-1 against Quabbin, followed by a 15-4 loss against David Prouty and a 10-3 loss against Southbridge. The Cougars look for their first win on Friday in a rematch at home with David Prouty at 3:30 p.m.



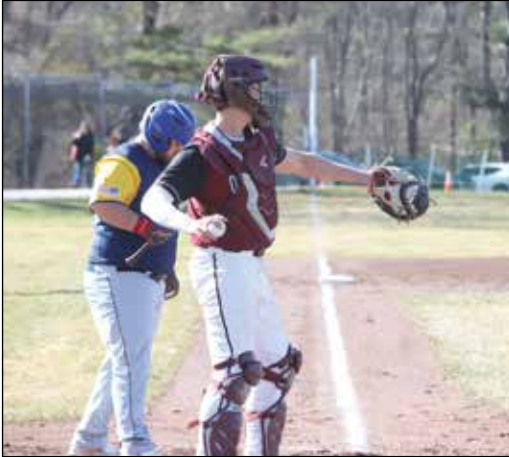
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Braiden Bradley sends a pitch home.



Giovanni Twomey swings and hits a grounder to the infield.



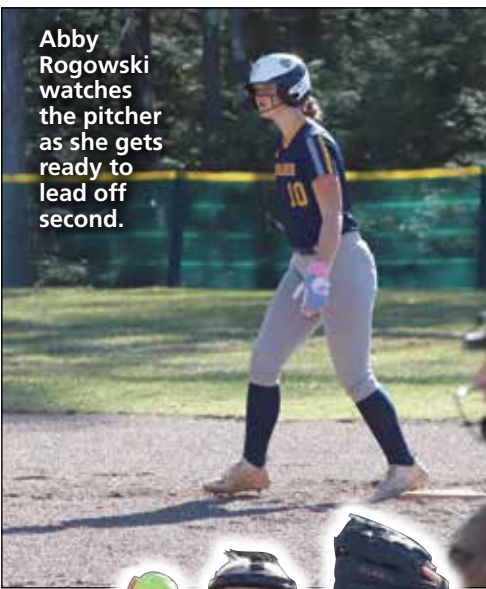
Connor Burgess fouls off a pitch.



Jack Morgan gets ready to fire down to second.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Kelsey Allen moves out of the way of an inside pitch.



Abby Rogowski watches the pitcher as she gets ready to lead off second.



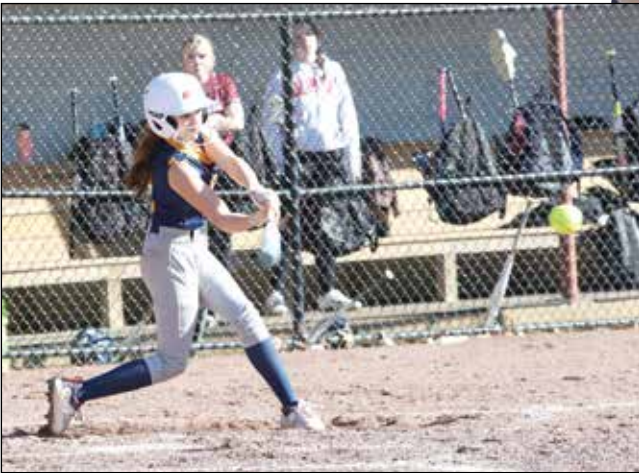
Lianna Leger fouls off a pitch.



Shortstop Jordan Blanchard sends a throw to first.

Quabbin softball falls to Oakmont

BARRE – Last Friday afternoon, Quabbin softball suffered a defeat at home to Oakmont 13-3. The offense could not get much going on a breezy, but sunny afternoon at Quabbin Regional High School. The Panthers beat Quaboag 9-4 to open their season and are 1-1. The Panthers are at Clinton at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 11.



Catcher Ju-Ju Guilderson swings and connects.

sports

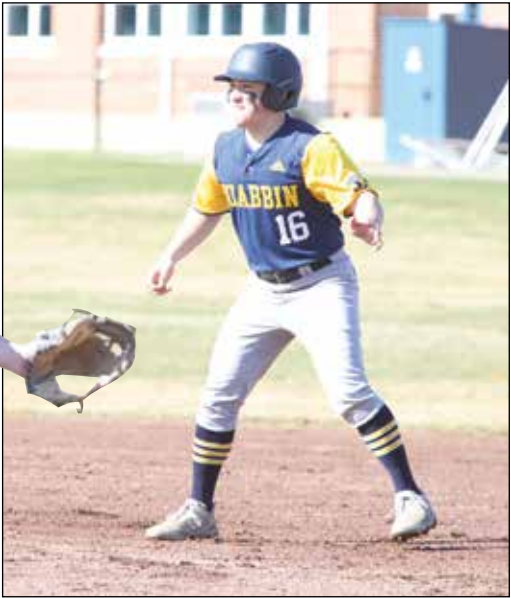


Aiden Lapointe makes an off-balance throw to first.

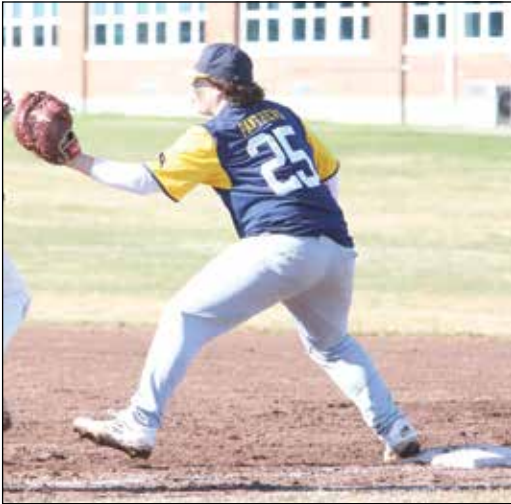
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Panthers fall in second game of the season

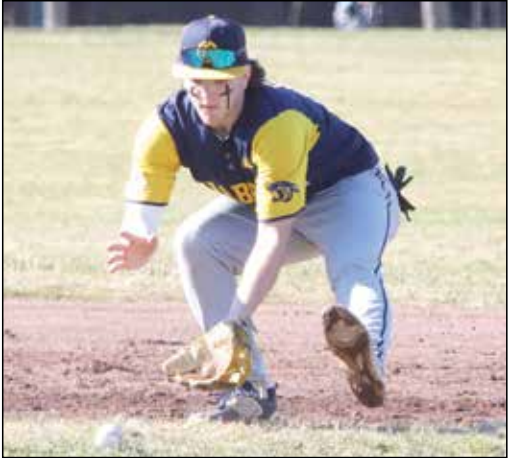
BARRE – After a big win in their season opener, Quabbin Regional baseball was defeated by visiting Oakmont last Friday afternoon 5-1. The Panthers, which had 14 runs in their first matchup, could not get the bats going against Oakmont. The Panthers face Clinton on Friday, April 11 at 4 p.m.



Andrew Warfield leads off first.



Sam Morgan gets an out at first.



Adam Adams collects a grounder to short.

Open practice rescheduled for new Quabbin Valley players

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2025 season. The league is looking for at least six more players to sign up to play in the league this year. The open practice scheduled for Sunday, April 6 was rained out. Players can still register for the season and the next open practice is scheduled for Sunday, April 13 at 10 a.m. at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley. Following that practice, new players will be drafted to teams in the league as the league works to fill its open roster spots. Registration for the 2025 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website

will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season. There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2025 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 27. The league plays most Sunday from late April through mid-August with play-offs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used. The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2025.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Bogey Doubles league on Monday nights have several weeks left of bowling. This past week, the team of Halbedel & Fontaine bowled against Murphy & Kenneson. In game one, Murphy & Kenneson defeated Halbedel & Fontaine by a score of 288-274. Trevor Kenneson began the match with a 128. Aaron Fontaine started the match with a 133 game. In game two, Murphy & Kenneson won by one point, 250-249. Fontaine bowled a 132 in a losing effort. In game three, Halbedel & Fontaine won by a score of 294-253. Fontaine finished the match with a 166 for a series of 431. The final score was 817-791 in favor of Aaron Halbedel & Aaron Fontaine. Each team won four points. Fontaine has the second highest series of the season; he bowled a 432 series earlier. The next match was Clauson & Santora bowling against Rando & MacDougall. Clauson & Santora are currently leading the final round of the season with 18 wins. In game one, Clauson & Santora were the winners by a score of 307-249. Tom Clauson began the match with a 139 and Gary Santora started with a 123. In game two, Rando & MacDougall won by a score of 306-278. Dave Rando carried his

team with a 137 in game two. Gary Santora bowled well following up with a 141. In game three, Clauson & Santora won the last game 289-278. Santora finished with a 134 and a series of 398. The final score was 874-833 in favor of Clauson & Santora. Sandman & Marvin bowled against Talamini & Gravel. In game one, Talamini & Gravel won by a score of 274-269. The high game of 113 was bowled by Travis Sandman. In game two, Jack Talamini bowled a 131 on his team’s way to winning game two, 292-254. In game three, Talamini & Gravel won the last game 268-250 for a three-game sweep over Sandman & Marvin. Talamini & Gravel won eight points and the final score was 834-773. Pellett & Nester bowled against two substitutes for Clough & Gauthier. In game one, Pellett & Nester won by one point, 273-272. The substitutes won again Pellett & Nester in game two, 274-262. In game three, the substitutes won again by a score of 292-274. The Substitutes won six points with a final score of 838-809. Mondor & Brayton bowled against Renaud & Ward. In game one, Mondor & Brayton were victorious by a score of 253-232. In game two, Mondor & Brayton totaled for 253 again to win the game. In game three, Mondor & Brayton defeated Renaud & Ward by a score of 271-261. The Bogey Doubles League has six more rounds to go until the season is complete.

Valley Wheel tryouts begin this weekend

Players looking to join the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League can attend the tryouts beginning Sunday April 13. The first weekend of tryouts was rained out. Tryouts will take place at 2 p.m. at Blunt Park in Springfield. The league, which plays its games in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, makes sure that everyone gets a fair share of the action. Everyone plays a minimum of 4 innings in the field, and everyone bats. The league follows MLB rules with some modified rules adapted with safety in mind. The Valley Wheel stands apart from other leagues across the country for this reason: Their league charter and one of their main goals, is to work toward having a league with teams of equal strength. The league is now seeking new players to fill open roster slots. Enjoy the competition and camaraderie with a great group of guys who enjoy the game as much as you do. Stay in shape and make new friends. Be part of something that happens once a year, and with luck, win a championship that might be once in a lifetime. Grab your glove and cleats and join a team for a great adventure. It’s not too late don’t miss out; opening day is just around the corner. For more information, contact Jim Nason at 413-433-4308 or visit the website www.ValleyWheelBaseball.org

OT goal lifts T-Birds over Lehigh Valley

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (34-28-2-4) received a perfect night from their netminder and outlasted the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (33-27-6-2) in a 1-0 overtime win on Saturday night at the PPL Center. Coupled with Hartford’s overtime loss in Hershey, the T-Birds’ magic number to clinch a playoff berth has fallen to just 1. After being pressured for 16 first-period shots on Friday in Utica, Springfield was far stingier defensively in the opening frame against their division foes, keeping Lehigh Valley to just seven shots in the first period and making things easy for Vadim Zherenko to keep the opponents off the board. Parker Gahagen had a similarly strong start for the Phantoms, turning away the eight Springfield offerings that came his way in the first 20 minutes. Furthermore, neither team could connect on one power-play chance each in the opening stanza. Springfield had its best chance to



break the scoreless deadlock in a mad scramble near the net in the second, but Gahagen managed to turn away both Dalibor Dvorsky and Nikita Alexandrov despite being on his belly while trying to keep the puck out. Lehigh Valley’s closest call came off the stick of veteran Anthony Richard, who scooted to the right side of the slot to punch a quick attack on the net after the puck caromed in front off the end boards. Zherenko, though, had the answer, pushing his left leg across for the pad save, one of his 21 stops through 40 minutes. Gahagen took a 20-save shutout into the third for Lehigh Valley. A tentative third period saw the teams protect the defensive zone. Lehigh Valley’s door of opportunity opened when the Phantoms earned their second power play, but Zherenko and the Springfield penalty kill stiffened. With the game just two seconds away from overtime, the Phantoms nearly won it in the final seconds, but Zherenko flashed out the left leg for a phenomenal in-tight save on Zayde Wisdom to force the game into

overtime. Overtime only further showcased Zherenko’s storybook night, as Lehigh Valley relentlessly fired chances at the Springfield net, but none of their eight tries found their way past the Springfield goaltender. With just a half-minute to play in the extra period, Dvorsky moved back into the Phantoms zone and awaited a trailer. Calen Addison flew in off the Springfield bench, took a drop pass, and snapped a wrist shot through Gahagen to finally break the ice and give the T-Birds the overtime win on the veteran blueliner’s first goal and point as a T-Bird. Springfield gets a break from game action before taking the ice on Friday inside the Thunderdome at 7:05 p.m. against Belleville. The Hartford Wolf Pack and Hershey Bears square off again on Sunday, and any Hershey victory would punch the Thunderbirds’ ticket to the Calder Cup Playoffs. Fans can get their Thunderbirds tickets for the Calder Cup playoff push today by calling (413) 739-GOAL (4625) or by visiting www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE OPENINGS

2025-2026

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 16th.

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Selectmen discuss possible tuition agreement with Quaboag

By **Paula Ouimette**
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis brought up the possibility of entering into a tuition agreement with the Quaboag Regional Middle High School at this past Tuesday night’s meeting. In a recent interview with Petraitis, he stat-

ed that he initiated a Zoom meeting with Quaboag’s Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff last week, along with some of North Brookfield’s committee chairs and Town Accountant. Petraitis said there are still a lot of questions that need to be answered, to determine if this is the right move for the town. “We need to talk about it to answer those questions,”

Petraitis said. “My hope and goal was to have these committee chairs [School, Finance, Selectmen] go back to their respective committees and come up with these questions that need to be answered.” Petraitis said the town spent the past several years exploring a regionalization agreement with the Quaboag Regional School District, which did not continue

after the Quaboag Regional School Committee voted against accepting the amended regionalization agreement in a close vote. “It didn’t come to fruition unfortunately,” Petraitis said. Petraitis said the town has been aware that funding its school district’s budget was going to become increasingly difficult, and even formed a task force to look at ways to address this.

“We knew for over a decade that the course of the school was unsustainable,” he said. “We had to figure out what was going on.” Petraitis said the reports of the task force’s findings are available in the Board of Selectmen’s office. He said entering into a tuition agreement with a larger school system could provide financial relief to the town, as well as opportuni-

ties to support the students. “The whole idea of a tuition agreement makes practical sense because to leave it the way that it is and just pursue an override for something that’s just going to need another override in a couple years, seems pointless,” he said.

Please see **NB SCHOOL**, page 13

WARE BOS from page 1

town’s roadways. Selectboard member Jack Cascio said he visited the Senior Center and spoke with almost all of the senior citizens there. Many said they were tired of having to drive far to seek healthcare. “Number one on their area of concern is healthcare and the hospital,” Cascio said. “A lot of people feel handcuffed by Baystate Medical Center [Baystate Health] being in charge of the property.” Selectboard and Hospital Review Committee member Terrance Smith said there are other properties that could serve the healthcare needs of the town, including a 10-acre parcel near the town’s Fire Department. Smith said he would never recommend the town take any title interest in the Mary Lane Hospital site. He spoke about the dangers of medical waste potentially contaminating the site. “To me, for the town and for the potential liabilities...that property over there, regardless of the ownership of it, is a brownfield site,” Smith said. “It takes special type of redevelopment and people with expertise.” Bourcier said it is time to preserve and protect the buildings at Mary Lane Hospital. “People need to stop talking,” Bourcier said. “Let’s make action plans.” Resident Keith Kruckas said like many who live in town, he was born in that hospital. He said the last thing the town needs is more housing. “We need it here,” Kruckas said of healthcare. The Selectboard voted to table the discussion until a later meeting.

Building Department report
Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer Anna Marques gave her quarterly depart-

ment head report to the Selectboard. Marques met with the property owner of 135 Main St., along with an architect and the Fire Department to discuss a proposed renovation. This building has been vacant due to a previous fire on that block. “The owner approached us with a plan,” Marques said. “A couple years ago they tried to change the use of the building to make it all residential including all the business units on the ground floor. That didn’t pass through the Planning Board, so they went back.” Marques said the property owner was also notified at that time that sprinklers would need to be installed in the building. “Now they came forward to us with an architect with a proposed plan to make the building fully compliant with fire protection,” she said. “We’re finally getting that building taken care of.” Marques said a grant was received by the town to update the electrical service at the Town Hall, which is necessary to upgrade its fire alarm system. During the month of January, Marques conducted 22 building permit inspections and two periodic inspections of restaurants. She said there were three properties in violation and a housing/tenant complaint site visit held jointly with the Health Department. In February there were another 22 building permit inspections, one site visit for a violation and a housing/tenant complaint for structural issues. In March there were 39 building permit inspections, and a joint site visit with the Health, Water and Fire Departments to a property with unsafe conditions. A site visit to a problem vacant property on Pleasant Street was held with a realtor and a contractor of a potential buyer. Marques said every spring this property becomes an issue due to vegetation overgrowth. “There’s a potential buyer for it

and they had requested an inspection of the property,” Marques said. “If they’re going to make a decision to move forward it will be soon and with the full understanding of what’s required.” Marques said there was a recent structure fire at a four-unit property on Maple Street. “They’re hoping to get partial occupancy so at least half of the building could be occupied again while they finish the renovation or the repair work to the one unit that had the fire,” she said. Marques said multiple departments conducted a condemnation board up on a Webb Court property with a court-appointed receiver from the Attorney General’s office along with the Police, Fire, Health and Building departments. She said it was a three-unit structure with both paying and non-paying tenants. The tenants were told they had to vacate the property and there were numerous safety issues as well as debris. Marques said the property owner is not able to pay for repairs to the property in order to bring it into compliance and that’s why receivership was sought through the court. “It was boarded within a couple hours and secured properly,” Marques said. “They’re going to be moving forward with the repair work on that three-family unit.” Marques said there has been ongoing zoning attention to the corner of River Road and Route 9. She said the abutters’ complaint covers many aspects that are being looked at. Beckley said Department of Public Works Director Dennis Morton and himself met with abutters to discuss the drainage issue, which is located on the town’s side of the right-of-ways on River Road. “This summer, the DPW will install some underground basins that will collect the water and take care of the drainage issue,” he said.

Marques said the Tractor Supply store being constructed on West Street is moving forward, and is expected to be completed by early summer. She said Fieldcrest Brewing Co. is constructing a second location at the former Gabe’s on East Main Street. “They’re updating the structure,” Marques said, in order to prepare it for brewing. Marques said the expansion project at Walmart is expected to being on April 20. This expansion will make the shopper pick-up service area more user-friendly.

Middle School roof replacement
Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Lovato requested endorsement from the Selectboard to submit an application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for replacement of the middle school roof. He expects to receive MSBA funding in the amount of 75-80% of the project cost. He said quotes for the project estimate the cost to range anywhere from \$1-1.8 million. He said the town would also need to pay \$50,000-150,000 (per million dollars of the project cost) for the schematic design. The Selectboard approved Lovato’s request.

Town Manager’s report
Beckley said the Quabbin Health District held an online water quality program for private well users. He said 20 free tests are available to residents with private wells, and only four have been claimed so far. “If any residents with private wells are interested in having their water tested for free, just contact the Quabbin Health District,” he said. Sign-ups are available through the Quabbin Health District’s website. The town’s hydrant flushing program will begin on Saturday, April

22. Beckley said the Department of Transportation has notified the town that in early May, the Three Mile Bridge will have a week-long closure to shift the work zone to the other lane. He said Gilbertville Road (Route 32) from Route 9 to the center of Gilbertville will be paved soon.

Comments and concerns
Kruckas said he requested the minutes from a March 2024 Selectboard meeting, but there was some information missing from the approved minutes. He requested the information be included in the minutes and voted on by the Selectboard. Kruckas also shared concerns regarding missing minutes from several months of Hospital Review Committee meetings. “There certainly seems to be a conflict here with meeting minutes and getting them, and getting them in a timely manner,” he said. “There should be meeting minutes taken.” Hospital Review Committee Chair Howard Trietsch said they are missing minutes for three meetings. He said the committee is prepared to dissolve but will meet one more time to approve the remaining meeting minutes. At its last meeting, Talbot (who is also on the Hospital Review Committee) had volunteered to draft the meeting minutes from Beckley’s notes.

Event approval
The Selectboard approved a special event permit for Sculpt Well Co.’s Memorial Day 5K Run/Walk to be held on Saturday, May 24 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in Grenville Park.

Appointment
Irene Orszulak was appointed to serve on the Board of Registrars for a term to run through March 31, 2028.

QUABOAG from page 1

talk ask. It’s a big order.” Duff the school district thrives to form partnerships with the communities it serves. “Our school is built around our community and around our students and I can’t be more proud of the things that we do to keep our district moving in the right direction,” Duff said. Duff said the FY 26 budget will include efforts to be more energy efficient to save on utility costs. This includes the interior building envelope at West Brookfield Elementary School using a Green Communities grant and he has applied for the Massachusetts School Building Authority Accelerated Repair Program for doors and windows. He said he is not sure of the cost of this project, but that the MSBA typically reimburses 70-80% of a project’s total. A \$304,000 IVAQ grant plus \$130,000 in incentives will address a necessary HVAC project in the middle/high school, which will regulate classroom temperatures. “These projects help us drive our budgets down when we’re bring more efficient with oil,” he said. Duff said last year, the school district completed several efficiency projects in the amount of \$1,135,746. Duff said there are many budget drivers that are outside of the school district’s control, including the cost of transportation. He said this year they went out to bid for transportation and saw an 8% increase over last year. Special education tuition has increased by \$286,930

and health insurance for staff and retirees have also seen a significant increase. Duff said the local assessment for the town of Warren is proposed at \$4,993,715 or about a \$600,000 increase over last year. Transportation costs for the town total \$838,482. Duff said the minimum local contribution for Warren is \$3,250,310 and the above minimum local contribution is \$904,923. “The minimum local contribution is what the state requires the town to pay,” Duff said. “The above minimum contribution is what the town’s people would vote on in order to give the district additional funding beyond what the towns are required to pay.” West Brookfield’s total operating assessment for FY 26 is \$5,081,964 or about a \$440,000 increase over last year. Transportation costs for the town are \$557,631. Duff said the minimum local contribution for West Brookfield is \$3,921,051 and the above minimum local contribution is \$603,282. Duff said state aid only increased by \$34,390 for FY 26 and Chapter 70 by \$77,185. He said the school district has also received over \$800,000 in grant funding to offset a number of costs. The total proposed FY 26 operating expense budget is \$22,608,334; a \$1,236,682 increase over last year’s approved budget. “Unfortunately, the state has not adequately funded public schools,” Duff said. “We are at a point in this district where we’re going to continue to ask our towns to fill that gap between what the

state inadequately funds, and what is absolutely the bare minimum we need to operate this district...and that gap every year is getting bigger and bigger.” Duff recommended the School Committee support the budget. The committee voted to accept the proposed budget.

Safety Committee update
Eric Urban, chair of the Safety Committee for the school district, said a reunification training was held during professional development on March 20. “It forced us to identify roles and people who would serve in those roles should we need to do a reunification setting,” Urban said. The Safety Committee is responsible for organizing monthly meetings with public safety agencies, including State Police, local police and fire departments, along with school administrators. At the reunification training, the committee was also joined by the Lee Police Department and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. The training was led by the Western Massachusetts School Safety Task Force, with State Police Trooper Guilbault along with Franklin County Sheriff’s Department Captain Haughey and School Safety Officer Carmichael. “These types of events, you don’t want to learn on the job. You want to learn and plan ahead of time,” Urban said. Accountability and safety are the core tenets of reunification, Urban said. Students must be returned to parents or guardians only. Urban described a num-

ber of incidents which could prompt a reunification setting, including train accidents, natural disasters and more. Urban reminded parents of students to keep their contact information up to date with the school district, and keep custody, probate and restraining orders current also. Parents should always have their photo IDs on them. Parents should not show up to the schools during a crisis, but should follow the directions given through announcements. Urban said the committee will continue with meetings, trainings and working with public safety agencies.

Superintendent’s report
Duff said he presented the proposed school budget to the Warren Board of Selectmen and he said it went well. “They were amicable to where we were at,” Duff said. He will then be presenting the budget to the West Brookfield Advisory Board. Duff said a statement of interest was submitted to the MSBA for doors and windows at West Brookfield Elementary School. He said the school was accepted for the project in 2017, but the timeline was increased from a 25-year replacement to 30-year. Duff said the design plans for the original replacement project were also submitted with the statement of interest. Duff said interviews were held with candidates for the position of principal at Quaboag Regional Middle High School.

Student representatives report
Seniors Nora Pennington-

Russell and Katelynn Swistak gave an update about ongoing events and fundraisers in the middle/high school. Pennington-Russell said the senior class’s Krispy Kreme donut fundraiser was a “huge success.” She said they are finalizing the design for prom tickets which should go on sale soon. Pennington-Russell said the 12th grade is also planning a cornhole tournament for the end of the school year. Swistak said the 11th grade class will have their junior prom on May 17 at Hardwick Crossing. The theme for the prom is “The Great Gatsby”. The 10th grade class raised \$3,000 with a St. Patrick’s Day raffle fundraiser. The ninth grade class held a Valentine’s Day “blind date” with a book fundraiser. An Education Palooza was held for students in grades eight through 11 to learn about available courses for the next school year. “To see what they might be interested in,” Pennington-Russell said. Swistak said the Quaboag Performing Arts performed “Clue” with an “A” and “B” cast. She congratulated all involved with the production. There will be a town-wide Earth Day cleanup on Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. with a rain date of April 13. This event is a good community service opportunity for students to participate in. The Quaboag Regional Wind Ensemble will be joined by Auburn High School Concert Band for a concert to raise money for the Casey J. Handfield Memorial Scholarship on April 16 at 6:30 p.m.

The Fire and EMS programs at the high school had the opportunity to tour the LifeFlight helicopter and speak to flight medics during a recent training on the football field. The Quaboag Art students have an exhibit on display at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in West Brookfield during the months of April and May. Student Lizzy Tetlow won the cover design contest for the yearbook.

MASC Hyannis conference
The Student Council attended the annual conference Massachusetts Association of Student Councils in Hyannis and won the Silver Council Award for a binder that detailed the accomplishments of the council. “This is our first time winning something in 10 years,” Student Council Vice-President Josh said. “We are pretty proud of ourselves.” Josh said this is a trip the council makes each year, joining other councils from across the commonwealth to participate in activities and share ideas. The Student Council also attended a formal dinner at the conference. He said the Polar Plunge is an event that raises money for the Special Olympics, and this year the council participated at an event while in Hyannis. The Student Council raised about \$2,000. Josh said the keynote speakers at the conference were Mike Smith and Cara Filler, who both spoke to empower youth. He said Filler was his favorite speaker, and her talk centered around the power of choice in everyday decisions.

public safety

Regional Dispatch District held informational meeting

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

RUTLAND – The Rutland Public Library hosted a joint meeting regarding a new Regional Emergency Communications District. The towns of Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, Rutland and Warren are exploring a shift to a new Regional Emergency Communications District, a jointly owned and governed approach to emergency dispatch services. Representatives from each of the five towns, including members of each town’s select boards, town administration, police and fire attended the joint meeting to see the informational presentation of this possible new model for a Regional Dispatch District. Giving the presentation was Communications Director at Rutland Regional Emergency Communications Center Mike Moriarty, Rutland Town Administrator Austin Cyganiewicz, Deputy Director of RRECC Elizabeth DeFosse, Thomas Kennedy from the Collins Center, Stephen Foley, and Director of Special Projects for the Massachusetts State 911 Department Peter Kinnas. A PowerPoint presentation was provided and shared the feasibility study update from the Collins Center, a draft district agreement chapter, an operational and technical discussion and soon an open discussion featuring questions, comments and concerns from representatives of the five named towns that could make up this regional dispatch district. The RRECC is a center that provides enhanced 911 services, police, fire protection, and emergency medical services. The RECC is the first point of reception of a 911 call. This center provides services to the communities of Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, Rutland, and Warren. Early in the PowerPoint presentation several repre-

sentatives of the five towns had a series of questions regarding staffing. They asked if dispatch staffing was based on the population that is being served. If there was population increase or if additional communities wanted to be a part of the district along with the five original towns, there would have to be additional staff to cover the call volume. The goal of this district is to have a responsible budget and create a fair district model where each town gets an equal vote. Many representatives across the five towns had questions about the process of how other towns could buy into the district if they wanted to join. According to Cyganiewicz, a district agreement, if formed, may not have a buy in option. One representative mentioned that there has to be operational assessments and capital assessments to look at when considering the needs of each community and that the coverage is their to have dispatch meet the needs of the communities and provide a better service. Moriarty talked about an existing district model that is currently operating in Massachusetts and believe it is a model that this district is considering to adopt. The model is based off the model by the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Emergency Communications Center. According to Moriarty, this model is growing substantially. When staffing was brought up again during questions and answers, Moriarty mentioned that the staffing would be monitored. However, if a district was formed the dispatchers would have to renegotiate contracts. The amount of money being saved for each of the five towns was also a main concern. Moriarty would like to get this process started soon, otherwise it is possible some towns may join another regional center. Moriarty and Cyganiewicz believes that Rutland and the other four

communities want this district. Warren Town Administrator James Ferrera attended the session and explained to other community representatives that this information is an option being presented to all five towns. “It’s an option so that this district model would have access to more state grants, resources,” Ferrera said. “We have to look outside the scope of things and try to attract more communities to fund this particular model.” Back to the PowerPoint, Cyganiewicz explained that the operations committee would consist of each town’s police and fire departments. Potential community savings include having adequate staff already and some overhead costs may happen and fall under contracts and technology. According to Moriarty, hiring more staff is a possibility. As of now, the director said they’re currently maxed out at the current facility. If all five towns do come to an agreement, Moriarty believes they’re going to have to get a new building. Warren Selectmen David Dufresne was wondering what the cost would be for each community for a new building and how would services and costs be distributed amongst the five to possibly six or seven towns, if they were to expand. Cyganiewicz explained the purpose of this informational session is to possibly change governance. To get accurate numbers, the towns have to agree unanimously to become a district first before getting any numbers. In other words, the amounts won’t be known right away. “We can’t do anything without becoming a district first,” Cyganiewicz said. It is ultimately each town’s decision to see if they want to go forward with the regional dispatch district. All five towns (Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, Rutland, and Warren) would have to say yes to move forward.

Pumpkin Carving, will be held on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m.: May 3 - Earth Day Celebrations; June 28 – Rainforests; July 26 - Nocturnal Creatures; Aug. 9 – Pets; Sept. 6 – Weather; and Monday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. - Annual Pumpkin Carving. In addition to the popular workshop series, Ware Grange will be holding its annual agricultural fair on Aug. 22-23. The fair provides all Massachusetts residents with the opportunity to enter things grown in their gardens as well as sewing, arts and crafts, baked goods, and many other items. The full fair schedule of events will be available later this spring. All events are free, open to the public, and will take place at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware. For more information visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org or contact them at waregrange164@gmail.com.

Ware Police Log

During the week of March 30-April 18, the Ware Police Department responded to 35 miscellaneous calls, 13 administrative calls, three traffic violations, 13 emergency 911 calls, four motor vehicle accidents, six harassments, two thefts/larcenies, three damage/vandalisms, three frauds, two breaking and enterings, nine animal calls and 24 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Sunday, March 30
8:12 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, River Road, Dispatch Handled

Monday, March 31
2:37 a.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, West Main Street, Investigated
11 a.m. Safety Hazard, Route 9, Unfounded
12:33 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, Church Street, Investigated
3:11 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Park Avenue, Services Rendered

Tuesday, April 1
5:53 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Dispatch Handled
8:39 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, High Street, Services Rendered
8:43 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
3:57 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Osborne Road, Investigated
5:45 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Morse Avenue, Advised
7:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Citation/Warning Issued
8:20 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Old Belchertown Road, Patient Refusal

Wednesday, April 2
8 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/

Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
8:34 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
10:15 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Berkshire Circle, Dispatch Handled
1:49 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Eddy Street, Services Rendered
5:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Vehicle Towed
5:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Thursday, April 3
3:10 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Belchertown Road, Services Rendered
4:29 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Dale Street, Services Rendered
8:16 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Investigated
8:35 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Investigated

Friday, April 4
2:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Investigated
7:47 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Gilbertville Road, Hazmat Spill Control
11:59 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Babcock Tavern Road, Services Rendered
1:31 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
2:14 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
4:53 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Main Street, Services Rendered
6:47 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, East Main Street, Could Not Locate

Saturday, April 5
2:57 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Pulaski Street, Transport Complete

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.

6:35 a.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Eddy Street, Advised
8:03 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, Barnes Street, Report Made
3:58 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, Highland Village, Report Made
9:27 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Assist Given

Sunday, April 6
2:54 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Convent Hill Road, Report Made
5:40 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Pleasant Street, Services Rendered
5:49 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Services Rendered
6:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vigean Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Monday, April 7
12:23 a.m. Assault, North Street, Advised
10:13 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
10:26 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick, Assist Given
9:15 p.m. Assault, Webb Cout, Advised

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of March 31-April 7, the Hardwick/ New Braintree Police Department responded to 67 building/property checks, 52 directed/area patrols, seven radar assignments, three traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, two assist other agencies, three complaints, one missing person, one safety hazard, one investigation, three motor vehicle investigations, seven animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, March 31
8:22 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Lower Road, Officer Handled
12:09 p.m. Assist Citizen, Police Department, Officer Handled
1:17 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
2:22 p.m. Investigation, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
2:38 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

Tuesday, April 1
3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
4:37 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled

Wednesday, April 2
8:23 a.m. Missing Person, Jackson Road, Investigated
4:51 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Broad Street, Investigated
6:49 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Gilbertville, Unfounded

Thursday, April 3
9:05 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
11:33 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
2:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, High Street, Officer Handled
7:16 p.m. Complaint, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Services Rendered

Friday, April 4
6:56 a.m. Medical

Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
7:05 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Merge
10:12 a.m. 911 Hang-up/ Abandoned, Hardwick Road, Spoken To
4:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Bridge Street, Officer Handled
11:27 p.m. Complaint, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled

Saturday, April 5
12:22 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Greenwich Road, Transferred Call to C7

Sunday, April 6
1:57 a.m. Safety Hazard, Taylor Street, Officer Handled
4:10 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
10:20 a.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Brook Road, Services Rendered
5:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Out of Town, Officer Handled

Ware Grange announces 2025 events

WARE – Ware Grange has announced its event schedule for 2025. Since 2016, Ware Grange has hosted free workshops to help members of the community improve their gardens and grow healthy plants. This year’s workshop series features many great topics relating to vegetable gardening, chickens, and growing flowers, with most of the workshops focusing on topics relating to growing and preserving your own food. Learning to grow some of your own food is a great way to reduce your grocery bills. Workshops will be held monthly from April through September. Last year, Ware Grange launched a series of children’s workshops called Kids’ Corner at Ware Grange. Kids’ Corner is back again this year. These workshops are designed for preschool and elementary school aged children and feature top-

ics relating to nature, animals and the environment. Kids’ Corner workshops include crafts, songs, stories, activities and snacks, and are led by Jen McNally, preschool teacher at St. Aloysius Catholic School in Hardwick. Kids’ Corner workshops will be held monthly from May until October, ending with the annual Pumpkin Carving event. This year’s workshop series for adults will include the following dates and topics. All workshops are at 7 p.m.: Monday, April 28 - Peas, Peppers, Potatoes and Pumpkins; Monday, May 12 - Chickens in the Garden; Wednesday, June 18 - Succession Planting; Friday, July 25 - Spring Flowering Bulbs; Thursday, Aug. 7 - Gardening in Small Spaces; and Thursday, September 18 - Seed Saving and Food Preservation. Kids’ Corner at Ware Grange will be held as follows. All Kids’ Corner workshops, except the

Open burning season now open through May 1

WARE – Open burning season is now open by permit and runs through May 1. Permits will be available online only at ware.firepermits.com. If you are already registered for the site from last year’s open burning season, you only need to log in and apply for a 2025 burn permit. Please make sure you link your bank account for UniPay for a smoother process. The bank requires time to process your payment and

your permit will be inactive until payment is approved. Cash will not be accepted at the fire station for a burn permit. All processing fees are required through the online website.

Veterans eat lunch free at Ware Senior Center

WARE – Now through May 31, 2025, veterans of the U.S. armed services can enjoy a homemade lunch for free at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road. This meals are provided by the generosity of former Ware Selectboard member John Morrin, the Ware Veteran Fund and the Ware Veterans Carnival. For veterans to take advantage of this offer they must call the Ware Senior Center 413-967-9645 by noon the business day before they wish to come for lunch and place their name on the list. Meals are served daily,

Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.-noon. Menus and more information are available on the Council on Aging page of townofware.com or by stopping by the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Martha W. Giguere, 80

WARREN – Martha Wright Giguere of Warren, died suddenly, but peacefully at her home on Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

Her unexpected departure leaves an immense void in the lives of those who knew and loved her.

She leaves behind her seven children, William and Barbara of Charlton, Marie-Louise Marco of Belgium, Joseph and Elizabeth Giguere of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Lise-Anne and Frederic Marsal of Paris, France, Angela Einstein and Shane Brooks of Burnham, Maine, Thomas Dooley and Jacqueline Giguere of Sturbridge, and Monique Giguere and Dustin Lima of Charlestown, Rhode Island. Martha was one of five children of William R. and Ruth G. Wright, both of whom are deceased. She is survived by her sister and brothers, Susan Hight, David Wright, Peter Wright and Seth Wright; as well as fifteen grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of fifty years, Dr. Leandre W. Giguere, just this past February.

Martha graduated from Bancroft School in Worcester, and then went on to study at Cazenovia College in New York. She also had the opportunity to

study at the University of Guadalajara in Mexico and the University of Madrid in Spain.



Martha was never one to sit still and was extremely active. She was an accomplished equestrian, sailor, and gardener; and loved the satisfaction of a well-tended lawn.

She also loved her visits to China Lake in Maine and regularly traveled to the Bahamas and Paris. But most of all she enjoyed the times she spent with her family and friends.

A funeral service to honor and celebrate Martha's life will be held on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 11 a.m. in the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St., in West Brookfield, Massachusetts. Prior to the service, a reception will be held at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that memorial donations be made to The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, P.O. Box 371, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online tribute page is available at www.varnum-funeralhome.com for those who wish to share their condolences and memories of Martha.

William E. Munsell Sr., 86

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved father, William Ellsworth Munsell Sr.

He peacefully departed life on March 29, 2025, at the age of 86. Born on June 4, 1938, in Hampden, Bill was the son of predeceased Lester and Olive Munsell.

Bill was a devoted husband for 52 years, predeceased by his wife, Patricia. He was a loving father to Debbie Duperrault, Teresa Munsell, William E. Munsell Jr. wife Jeanne, Philip Roberts, David Roberts wife, Jackie, and Lori Fontenot husband, Bill.



In addition, he was a caring brother to the late Frank and David Munsell.

Bill is survived by his sister Susan Burt. He treasured his time with 15 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Bill's life was defined by his unwavering commitment to his family. Whether he was embarking on adventurous pursuits such as rattlesnake hunting and hiking, teaching his grandchildren the art of fishing, or enjoying playful afternoons in the park, his presence brought joy and warmth to every gathering.

Known for his good humor and practical jokes,



Bill consistently created memorable moments that will be cherished by all who knew him.

In later years, Bill made Epworth Villa his home a place where his kind spirit and generosity were well known. Beyond his role as a family man, he proudly served his country as an Army supply clerk in Munich, Germany, and enjoyed a distinguished career as a truck driver spanning more than 50 years.

His legacy of love, laughter, and resilience lives on in the hearts of his family and friends.

The family will be hosting a celebration of life for Bill, place and time to be determined at a later date.

Robert F. Smith, Jr., 72

HARDWICK – Robert F. Smith, Jr. age 72 passed away peacefully with his loving family at his side on Monday, April 7, 2025, after a brief illness.

Bob was born in Ware on Feb. 21, 1953, son of Carol A. (Berthiaume) Smith and the late Robert F. Smith, Sr. He was raised and educated in Hardwick and was a graduate of Quabbin Regional High School and Worcester Junior College.

Bob co-owned and operated Magnet Wave Products Inc. for many years before becoming employed for Kanzaki Specialty Paper as a machine operator.

Bob was an active member of The Hardwick Rod and Gun Club and Weir River Club. He spent many years as a member of Dunroamin Country Club where he spent the majority of time golfing with friends and family.

Bob enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing and spending time on Cape Cod every

summer with his family. Bob was a die hard New York Yankees and Dallas Cowboys fan and had a genuine love for all sports.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, son and brother. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Sally F. (Belcher) Smith, his loving daughters, Jennifer Moryl and her husband Bill, and Kristy Smith, and two loving granddaughters Juliana and Victoria Moryl. Bob is also survived by his mother, Carol A. Smith, and two sisters, Karen Valley and Cheryl Moscato. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews and his best girl Roxie Rose! Sadly, Bob was predeceased by his daughter, Carolyn, his father, and two siblings, Michael Smith and Allyson Marie Smith. Bob was also predeceased by his long-time friend Butch Patakonis and brother-in-law, Daniel Moscato.

A Calling Period will

be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 9-11 a.m. in Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. A Prayer Service will begin at 11 a.m. in the funeral home. Bob will be laid to rest in Hardwick Cemetery following the prayer service.

Cebula Funeral Home of Ware is in charge of the final arrangements. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneral-home.com.

Death notices

Giguere, Martha W.
Died March 26, 2025
Services April 25, 2025

Munsell Sr., William Ellsworth
Died March 29, 2025

Smith Jr., Robert F.
Died April 7, 2025
Services April 12, 2025

Ware River News
OBITUARY
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries

should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

NB SCHOOL from page 11

Petratis said in order to move forward with a tuition agreement, the School Committee would need to make the initiative. He said there wouldn't be enough time to move forward for the upcoming school year unless everything moved quickly.

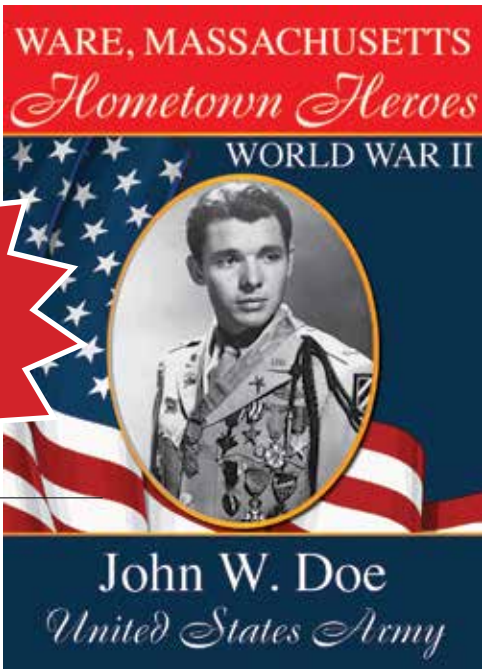
"We need to address all the questions, and we need to address all the money and weigh the costs," he said. "At the end of the day we need

to make sure the town could afford whichever route we go in."

Petratis said talking about the options is something that falls under the responsibility of the school department.

"We need to have meetings and talk about them, and that's the job of the school department," he said. "In order to maintain our budget, they're forcing the Finance Committee and Selectmen and other people in town to do their job for them."

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to Honor Ware Veterans



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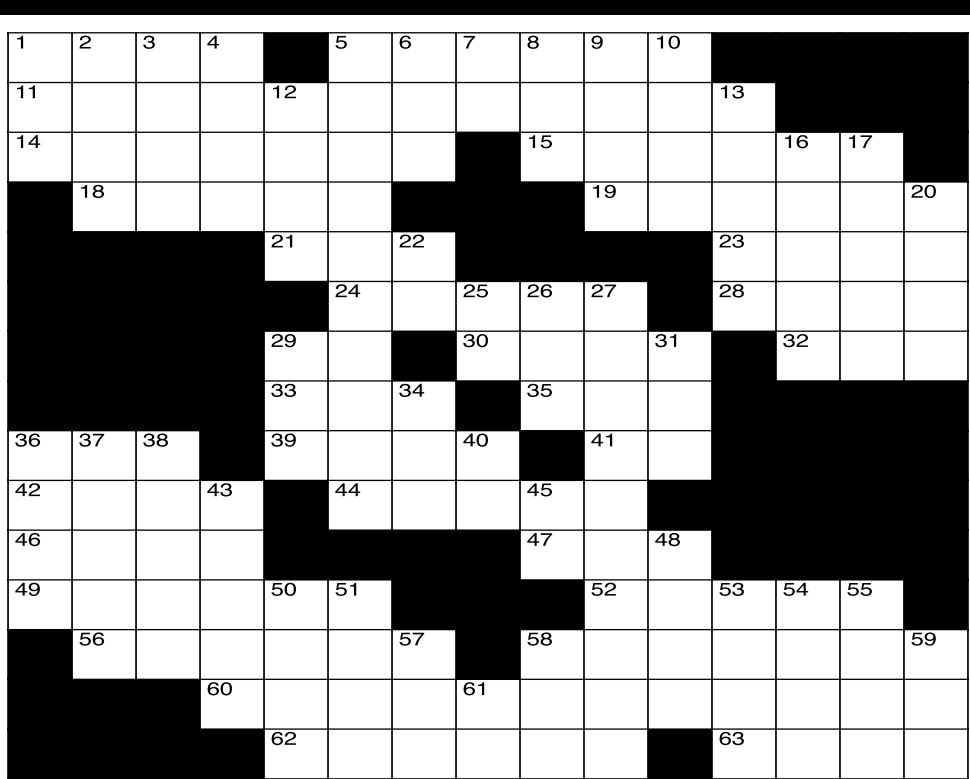
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413-297-5886 • email: dflynn@turley.com



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Garden tool
- 5. A way to preserve
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. Domestic sheep
- 15. Simpler
- 18. Cavities containing liquid
- 19. Large fish-eating bird
- 21. Ocular protection index
- 23. Phil __, former CIA
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. Device
- 30. Actor Rudd
- 32. A pituitary hormone
- 33. Focus on an object
- 35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 36. Young women's association
- 39. Not shallow
- 41. Doctor
- 42. Furniture
- 44. Hindu male religious teacher
- 46. Highly spiced stew
- 47. A way to communicate
- 49. Almost last
- 52. Astronomer Carl
- 56. Small horses
- 58. A slender tower with balconies
- 60. A disrespectful quality
- 62. Fully shaded inner regions
- 63. Short convulsive intake of breath

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Popular Sunday dinner option
- 2. Oil cartel
- 3. Agile
- 4. Greek goddess of discord
- 5. Genetically distinct variety
- 6. Indicates badly
- 7. Popular Mr. T character
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL great Randy
- 12. Within
- 13. Palm trees
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. A passport is one
- 25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)
- 26. Swiss river
- 27. Deferential
- 29. Where a bachelor lives
- 31. Portable computer screen material

- 34. A crying noise of a bird
- 36. Sticky, amorphous substance
- 37. Starchy dish of dried tubers
- 38. Type of acid
- 40. Partner to "Ma"
- 43. 16 ounces
- 45. The Bay State
- 48. A well-defined track or path
- 50. Substitution
- 51. Defined period
- 53. Group of toughs
- 54. Region
- 55. Famed Scottish Loch
- 57. Blood relation
- 58. Not around
- 59. Recipe measurement
- 61. Father to Junior

ZONING

from page 1

research and development.

Planning Board member Chris DiMarzio said this bylaw change was originally drafted by board member Elizabeth Hancock on behalf of the Friends of the Mary Lane Hospital. He said this article came about after Baystate Health closed the South Street hospital and began taking action to demolish its buildings.

DiMarzio said it's currently zoned for many uses, including healthcare, but this does not prevent it from being developed for another use besides a healthcare facility.

"It's not protected for healthcare," he said.

DiMarzio said healthcare use may not happen at the site right away, but it will be protected in the meantime.

"Healthcare use may not come back right away or at all, but if that happens, it can be rezoned," he said.

Friends of Mary Lane Hospital Chair Cindy Allen Bourcier said many are still suffering from the closure of the hospital, which was in operation for close to a cen-

tury.

She said other developments such as housing should not go on that site.

"That type of economic development does not belong on Mary Lane," she said.

Bourcier said the town and its residents need to work toward the "big picture," and start by restricting the use of the property.

"We have nothing to lose by voting yes," she said.

Hardwick resident Stephen Granlund said the communities need to protect Mary Lane Hospital for its second century of meeting the healthcare needs of residents, which he said will be more difficult due to the damage to the buildings.

"I look beyond the damage...to provide services we desperately need," Granlund said. "This is about the future, but we have to think about the past. We lost something we shouldn't have."

Elena Palladino, a member of the Hospital Review Committee and the Historical Commission, said she has been part of efforts to find healthcare for the Mary Lane Hospital site.

"No one is interested in

that site and those buildings," she said.

Palladino said the current zoning already allows for medical uses and that "if they wanted to come, they could."

She said the change in zoning for the site will not change the lack of interest from healthcare entities.

Kevin O'Regan said there is a lot of emotion tied into this zoning proposal, and he respects the history of Mary Lane Hospital.

"It was a wonderful part of this town, but it is part of this town's past," O'Regan said.

He cited the "enormous cost" to reuse the current buildings or construct new ones, and noted that many healthcare entities are not financially capable of taking on such a large project.

"Look at this through clear eyes, not just passion," O'Regan said.

A Church Street resident agreed that limiting the uses through the proposed zoning would not make fiscal sense.

A motion to move the question passed, and voters approved of the creation of the Health Care Services District by a vote of 357 in

favor to 129 opposed. The article passed by the required two-thirds majority required for zoning amendments.

Warehousing zoning

Articles 5 and 6 were both related to allowing the use of "warehousing," with article 5 asking voters to allow it as a permitted use in the Highway Commercial District.

DiMarzio said this article would not approve warehousing by right, but would allow businesses to apply for it through the special permitting process.

"In this instance, all we're doing is creating a pathway," he said.

Residents of Glendale Circle and Demond Avenue shared concerns for safety in their small neighborhood, if warehousing were allowed. Concerns raised included fires and truck traffic.

Gary Buelow, owner of the old lumber yard between Mechanic and Maple streets, said he has been working to improve conditions at the property, which he said in its current state is unsafe. He said a new metal building with a fire suppression system would greatly reduce the

risk of fires and secure the property.

Buelow said he is working with the railroad system to create a stop at this site, but would need warehousing to be allowed in the current zoning.

"We're looking to store paper products, dry goods," he said.

He said traffic concerns would also be alleviated due to the arrival and departure of goods via the railroad, rather than by truck.

DiMarzio said allowing warehousing by permit under the current zoning would be clearer than changing the zoning to Commercial Industrial zoning as proposed in article 5.

"We decided to bring both into consideration," he said.

Article 4 failed to reach a two-thirds majority vote, with 289 in favor and 213 opposed.

Article 5 would change the Highway Commercial zoning to Commercial Industrial, which would allow for warehousing by right, not special permit approval.

Buelow said his proposal with the railroad builds on

the town's industrial roots, and would provide many job opportunities for residents.

A resident spoke in support of the article, adding that businesses and jobs are needed for economic development.

"It's important to me that my town grows," he said.

Article 5 also failed to reach a two-thirds majority vote, with 266 in favor and 211 opposed.

Other articles

Article 1, 2 and 3 all passed by simple majority, with article 1 amending line item increases for the fiscal year 2025 budget in the amount of \$147,368. These increases will be taken from free cash, water reserves and Selectboard salaries.

Article 2 approved the transfer of \$505,159 from free cash to the Stabilization Fund and article 3 approved the transfer of \$319,835 from free cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

notices

Hardwick Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board per Hardwick Zoning Bylaw, Sections 3.2.6.1.3 and 5.0 will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 7:45PM** at the **Town House, 32 Common Street, Hardwick, MA.**

This Hearing is regarding the application for Site Plan Approval by **Ware Solar II LLC** to install a commercial ground-mounted 2.03 MW solar energy facility on 7.4 acres on **Osborn Road (map 94, lot 14), Hardwick.** A complete copy of the application can be inspected at the Municipal Offices in the Town Clerk's office during posted business hours. All interested parties are asked to attend.

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

Hardwick Planning Board
Jenna Garvey, Chair
04/10, 04/17/2025

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. **HS20P0227PM**
Estate of: **Verna Murphy**
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Darryl Parker of Saratoga Springs, NY** requesting that the court enter a formal

Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 05/01/2025.

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.

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 01, 2025

Mark S. Ames,
Register of Probate
04/11/2025

Hardwick Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board per Hardwick Zoning Bylaw, Sections 3.2.6.L.3 and 5.0 will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 6:45PM** at the **Town House at 32 Common Street, Hardwick MA.**

This Hearing is regarding the application for Site Plan Approval by **Old Greenwich Plains Road Solar LLC** to install a commercial ground-mounted

2.96 MW solar energy facility on **37 acres on Old Greenwich Plains Road, Hardwick (map 91, lot 21, 23).** A complete copy of the application can be inspected at the Municipal Offices in the Town Clerk's office during posted business hours. All interested parties are asked to attend.

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

Hardwick Planning Board
Jenna Garvey, Chair
04/10, 04/17/2025

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. **HS25P0228EA**
Estate of: **James Anthony Pawlowski**
Date of Death: **01/28/2004**
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lori-Ann Reitsma of Laconia, NH** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Lori-Ann Reitsma of Laconia, NH** 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 05/08/2025. 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 administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 07, 2025

Mark S. Ames,
Register of Probate
04/10/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. **HS25P0198GD**
In the matter of: **Jerralee H. Velez**
Of: **Ware, MA**
RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Patricia Lopez of Ware, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Jerralee H. Velez** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Patricia Lopez of Ware, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 05/01/2025. This day is NOT

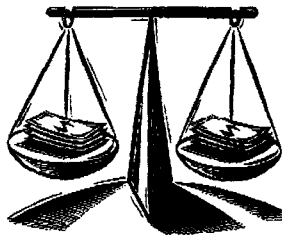
a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 28, 2025

Mark S. Ames
Register of Probate
04/10/2025



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M-F 6:00am – 2:00pm, - Dec. 1 – March 31

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

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

For a complete job description please visit the Town's website www.warren-ma.gov.

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.

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.

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EQLT hosts Earth Day Children’s Activity Workshop on April 22

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will celebrate Earth Day with a free Children’s Activity Workshop during school vacation week, on April 22 from 3-5 p.m., at EQLT’s office, 120 Ridge Road. Children and their parents/caregivers are welcome. Activities are unscheduled, and attendees can participate at their own pace. Activities will include: a gathering fire, painting Kindness Rocks, exploring the Children’s Play Trail and building bluebird birdhouses (one for each child to take home) Most activities will be held outdoors on the hillside next to the EQLT office in both wooded and open

grassy areas. Children should be dressed for the weather and outdoor fun. Please RSVP to atrevvett@eqtl.org by April 18. About the East Quabbin Land Trust The East Quabbin Land Trust fosters a meaningful relationship with the natural world by conserving, connecting with and caring for the farmlands, woodlands and waters in the East Quabbin region of Massachusetts. EQLT works closely with community members to foster vibrant communities through engagement with the outdoors.

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