

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 140 No. 10

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

Mill-Health District

Walking tour highlighted redevelopment opportunities

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – A group of community members joined representatives from the BSC Group and MassDevelopment for a walking tour of the Mill-Health District, to highlight areas that could be

redeveloped.

The Saturday morning tour was led by BSC Group Senior Planners Adam Duchesneau and Aqsa Butt; along with MassDevelopment's Vice President of Real Estate, Ben Murphy; the town's Director of Planning & Community Development, Paralee Smith; and Town Manager Stuart Beckley.

Duchesneau said the purpose of the tour was to look at what should be preserved, and what should be changed. He said walking through the district gives people a bet-

Please see **MILL-HEALTH DISTRICT**, page 6



Aqsa Butt, BSC Group senior planner, spoke with residents about needs in the neighborhood.

Public hearing held on Stormwater Management Plan

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – A public hearing was held at the Warren Senior Center to address the Stormwater Management Plan.

This plan was put together through the collaboration between the town, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and Weston & Sampson.

Speaking during the introduction was Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson, who talked about the town's plan for a flood resilient future.

The town has been working through a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program, which is used to prepare communities for possible vulnerabilities in the future. Olson said the one of the biggest vulnerabilities the town has is flooding.

Part of this plan is to look at the infrastructure in the town and see "where are we vulnerable," he said.

"We need to be prepared. We don't know where all our vulnerabilities are," Olson said.

The Stormwater Management Plan will help identify and assess the flood



WE NEED TO BE PREPARED. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE ALL OUR VULNERABILITIES ARE."

JEREMY OLSON
HIGHWAY SURVEYOR

prone areas in Warren. The overview of this project includes public involvement and community engagement, inventory of current and anticipated future flooding events, identification of a watershed resilience project and a watershed resilience plan.

The plan will help residents understand what the future risks are. With spring being a rainy time of the season, flooding is common in areas in Warren and West Warren.

Speaking about the components that make up this plan was Community Development Planner for CMRPC, Shannon Sullivan.

Please see **STORMWATER**, page 7

PB OK'd special permit for shared driveway

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Planning Board had a public hearing regarding the special permit application of Daniel Strum of Strums Construction Services LLC.

The applicant is looking to construct a common driveway from West Main Street on Lot 3. A common driveway seems ideal because of the access to other lots.

Director of Planning & Community Development, Paralee Smith read a comment that was made by an abutter located across the street from the property. The abutter had a concern regarding drivers being able to see the pitch of the driveway and not having the line of sight.

"Concerns are duly noted," Planning Board

Please see **SPECIAL PERMIT**, page 11

Tax classification hearing held at joint meeting

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

WARE – The Selectboard held a joint meeting with the Board of Assessors to discuss the tax rate for fiscal year 2027, and hold a public hearing as to whether it should be a single rate or a split rate.

According to the boards, a single tax rate would mean every property gets charged the same rate, while a split tax rate puts the burden on commercial businesses in the town, lowering the cost for residential properties.

They mentioned that there is not a large commercial presence in the town, and a

single tax rate usually makes the most sense when commercial properties are lacking.

The Assessors noted that 86% of properties are residential, and it would take a large increase for commercial taxes to make a difference for residential.

According to the Assessors, the total assessed

value of all properties in Ware totals about a billion dollars, and the proposition 2.5 makes it so the tax rate cannot be raised by any more than 2.5% of that assessed value.

They said the maximum levy for this year is \$18 million, and they plan on raising it by nearly the maximum, leaving only a \$7,000 buffer.

The tax rate was estimated to be about \$14.49 per thousand dollars the residence is worth, and that tax bills for the fourth quarter of FY 26 are expected to come out on May 1, and due 30 days from that date, where taxpayers will likely see an increase, but the effect should lower in the first quarter tax bills for FY 27.



Dick Whipple is the Treasurer and Tracy LaRosa is the Secretary of the Friends Group of the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center.

Information Fair held at Barre/Hardwick Sr. Center

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE – The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center hosted an Information Fair for seniors this past week.

This was the fifth time an information fair has been held at the Senior Center.

During the event, Senior Center Director, Betty-Jo O'Brien shared that it was her two-year anniversary as Director.

The Information Fair consisted of 22 vendors in total, with new vendors featured. National Grid was

Please see **INFO FAIR**, page 5

Quaboag Theater performed 'THE LION KING JR.'

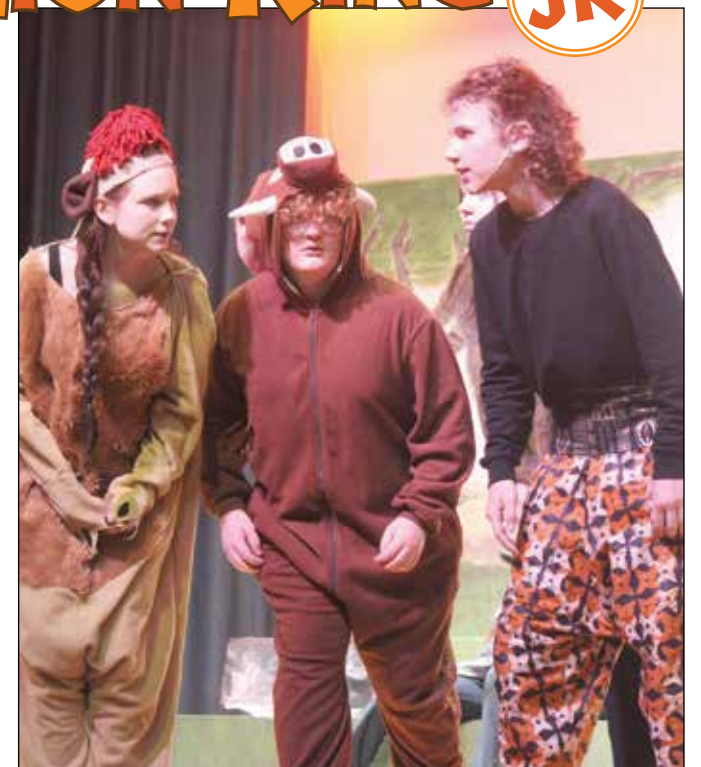
By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The cast of "The Lion King Jr." brought the "Circle of Life" to the Quaboag stage this past weekend.

This production was based off the Broadway production as well as some influence from the timeless Disney film. "The Lion King Jr" was directed by James Joinville with Christine Taylor as Assistant Director.

Several students had the opportunity to be Blocking Directors and Choreographers for the show and both Joinville and Taylor agreed they have worked so hard to make this show possible. The cast gave the crew of Juniors and Seniors

Please see **LION KING**, page 7



Timon, Pumbaa, Simba and Nala planned to get by the hyenas.



04879131816

Ware Senior Center offers fun spring events

WARE – On April 17 the Baystate New England Orthopedic Surgery Center did a presentation on fall prevention at the Ware Senior Center with 40 people attending.

The presentation was well received because anyone could benefit who is concerned about falling, and how to control it, making changes to reduce fall risks at home and how to prevent future falls.

Everyone who attended, received a \$15 gift card from the Friends of Ware Seniors, Inc.

Monday, April 27 is the Ladies Afternoon Tea Party, wear your wide brim hats and win a door prize for the best decorated hat, along with other door prizes and everyone goes home with a little goodie bag.

This event is free and is provided by the Friends of Ware Seniors. To attend, contact Sue LaBarge 413-544-1574 to sign up.

The May Birthday/Mother's Day party to take place at the center will be on Monday, May 18.

Donna Lee will be per-



Submitted Photo
Gabby, left, and Shaina from Baystate New England Orthopedic Surgery Center led a presentation on fall prevention at the Ware Senior Center.

forming dedicating to Connie Francis songs. Connie Francis passed away on July 6, 2025 at the age of 87.

Movie day will be Thursday, May 28 at 12:30 p.m. With "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel", starring Judi Dench, Maggie Smith and Bill Nighy. It involves retirees who go to this hotel and learn about aging, sec-

ond chances, love, letting go of the past and finding new purpose.

Movies are free with free popcorn and candy.

The thrift store at the center is now stocked with spring and summer clothing. Open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-noon.

The public is invited to all events.

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 2022 showed members of the Tri-Parish Community Church serving a baked potato to a shopper during the annual Plant, Bake Sale, Craft & Tag Sale held each spring on the Hardwick common. Serving potatoes from left were Bonnie St. Cyr, Tammi Chisholm, and Katie Tyler.

Ware Senior Center NEWS

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, 413-967-9645, located at 1 Robbins Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

- Monday, April 27**
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- Tuesday, April 28**
- 9 a.m. Exercise Class at Valley View Housing
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class.
 - 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)
- Wednesday, April 29**
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi

- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Knit, Crochet, Laugh
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

Thursday, April 30

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Walking Club (weather permitting)
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Art Class
- 12:30-2:30 p.m. Movie Matinee "Song Sung Blue" with Kate Hudson and Hugh Jackman

Friday, May 1

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

LUNCHES DINE IN

11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

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

Monday, April 27

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

Tuesday, April 28

Swiss Burger with Lettuce and Tomato, French Fries, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, April 29

Chicken Cacciatore over Noodles, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, April 30

Mac & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, May 1

Grilled BLT Sandwich, Potato Salad, Onion Rings, Dessert of the Day

Hardwick Town Clerk shared upcoming Annual Town Election information

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

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

Elizabeth V. Cyran of Hardwick Pond Road, and Zachary E. Spencer of Barre Road will face off for a three-year term on the Select Board. The incumbent, Eric

Vollheim is not seeking re-election.

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

Those running unopposed are as follows: Ryan J. Witkos*, Town Clerk, three years; Jennifer S. Kolenda*, Assessor, three years; Colin R. Brown, K-12 Quabbin Regional School Committee Member, three years; Lisa

Gaskill*, Barry P. Koch, Paige Memorial Library Trustee (two positions); Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee, Stanley D. White*, five years; Ryan J. Witkos*, Moderator, three years; Harry T. Comerford*, Jennifer E. Garvey*, Planning Board (two positions.) *denotes incumbent.

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

The Valley family would like to have you join us in **CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF**

Tony Valley

September 3, 1970 - January 5, 2026

His smile, laughter, kindness, and love touched all of us who knew him. We invite you to share your memories as we honor him together.

Saturday, June 27, 2026
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Brimfield Winery
35 Main Street
Brimfield, MA

Let us all gather to remember Tony and his beautiful music that we will always cherish in our hearts.

Anthony & Mikayla,
Matt & Phyllis,
Christina & Vincent

Junk & Bulk Trash Removal

Clean Out Solutions

Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts

Shed, Pool & Hot Tub Removals Arthur "Skip" Gervais
(774)397-6500

TOP DOLLAR PAID CARS, TRUCKS & SUVs

GOOD OR JUNK
"WE COME WITH THE CASH"

Nate (413) 636-2929

D AND M AUTO
1422 Park St.
Palmer, MA 01069

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS.....	\$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF T'BONE or PORTERHOUSE STEAKS	\$10.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN THIGHS 10 LB BAG.....	\$1.22 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIP	\$2.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS	\$8.77 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH WHOLE CHICKEN TWIN PAK.....	\$1.59 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.....	\$2.19 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG	\$4.28 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN POPEYE'S PIEROGIES POTATO & CHEESE or POTATO & SOUR CREAM 13 OZ	\$2.49 ea
SLICED IN OUR DELI		USDA INSP. DOMESTIC HAM	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN COAST TO COAST KITCHEN MINI EMPANADAS PIZZA, HAM, CHEESE, CHEESEBURGER	\$2.99 ea
USDA INSP. FRESH GOAT MEAT.....	\$6.99 lb	USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE.....	\$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN SNOW CRAB CLUSTERS.....	\$9.99 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF OXTAILS	\$9.99 lb				

SALE DATES: 4/23/26-4/29/26 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

90 Meat Outlet
90 Avocado St. Springfield
413-737-1288
www.90meat.com
We reserve the right to limit quantities.

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

Parents, Grandparents & Friends **SPECIAL!**

Congratulate YOUR Graduate

Class of 2026 We are offering a great deal for you to **CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATE** in your community graduation issue. Submit a photo and a brief message.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION MAY 29th

EMAIL YOUR AD TO: dflynn@turley.com

SPECIAL! \$55.00

MAIL YOUR AD WITH PAYMENT TO:
Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
Pay by check or credit card: Checks Payable to Turley Publications, Credit Cards be sure to include: Paper, Name, Address, Phone, Credit Card Number, Exp. Date & CVV

2x3 Black & White Grad Ad

Congratulations Karly Smith! We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College!

Love, Mom & Dad

Ware Cultural Council awarded \$11,900 to promote culture and arts

WARE – The Ware Cultural Council received \$11,900 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to promote cultural programs in the Town of Ware.

The funding is made possible by the efforts of our legislators, state Sen. Peter J. Durant, state Reps. Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr., and Todd M. Smola.

Last fall the Ware Cultural Council received 26 grant applications from artists for funding performing arts and culture.

The following 14 recipients received funding grants to be used during 2026 calendar year:

- Collaborative Educ: Springfield Symphony "Musical Petting Zoo" (Ware Public Library), \$375
- East Quabbin Land Trust: Story Walk (Ware River Rail Trail), \$275
- Grumpytime Club Family Music Concert (Ware Public Library), \$450
- George, Stephen: Annual Halloween Party (Senior Center), \$400
- Hole in the Wall Studio: Third Annual CountryFest (Lost Town Brewery), \$1,000
- Kochanski, Tracy: The

Art of Needle Felting (Senior Center), \$575

- Meli, Amanda: Singer Songwriter Showcase Contest (Workshop13), \$2,291
- Murphy, Chris: Ware Comedy Show 2026 (Workshop 13), \$1,900
- Neill, David: Patriotic Concert Fanfare Brass Ensemble (Trinity Episcopal Church), \$925
- P i t i T h e a t r e Company: Valley Playwright Mentoring (Workshop13), \$1,000
- The Athol Historical Society: Uniquely Quabbin magazine, \$275
- 8th Annual Northeast Fine Arts Exhibition (Workshop13), \$2,000
- R.I. Pirate Guy's Pirate Adventure! (Ware Public Library), \$450
- New England Ghosts (Ware Public Library), \$275

The Mass Cultural Council will be accepting applications for the 2027 grant cycle beginning in September. For information on how to apply for a grant during the 2027 grant cycle year please contact Aileen O'Regan at wareculturalcouncil@yahoo.com or visit: massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program.

Hardwick libraries celebrate National Library week

HARDWICK – April 19-25 is National Library week and April 21 is National Library Workers' Day.

Hardwick has two libraries, the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, and the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville, and you can celebrate by visiting both.

On Thursday, April 23 at 1 p.m. at the Paige Memorial Library, listen to the story "Aliens Love Underpants!" by Claire Freedman, an out-of-the-world funny story, then make your own funny art using wax-resist and watercolors. For all ages.

On Saturday, April 25 at 10:30 a.m. at the Paige Memorial Library, come to meet with people who keep your libraries open and busy. Bring your own enthusiasm for libraries.

Visit with staff, trustees, volunteers, and more to learn about how your libraries function. Ask questions, register for a program, borrow a book or have a cup of tea.

On Tuesday, April 28 at 2 p.m. at the Paige Memorial Library there will be a Poetry Slam.

Read a poem by you or your favorite author.

This is a time to share poetry in honor of Poetry Month. All are welcome.

Story Time is held every Wednesday, from 10:30 a.m.-noon, with an activity. This is a fun time which promotes early literacy skills through storytelling, encourages a love for reading and books among young children, fosters social skills by providing a group learning environment, enhances listening and comprehension abilities through interactive sessions, builds community connections between families and local libraries, supports language development through exposure to diverse vocabulary.

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

Come join a group or suggest a new one. More events are coming. Check the library's Facebook page and website at www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/ or www.paigelibrary.com/

ClayWorks community donates bowls

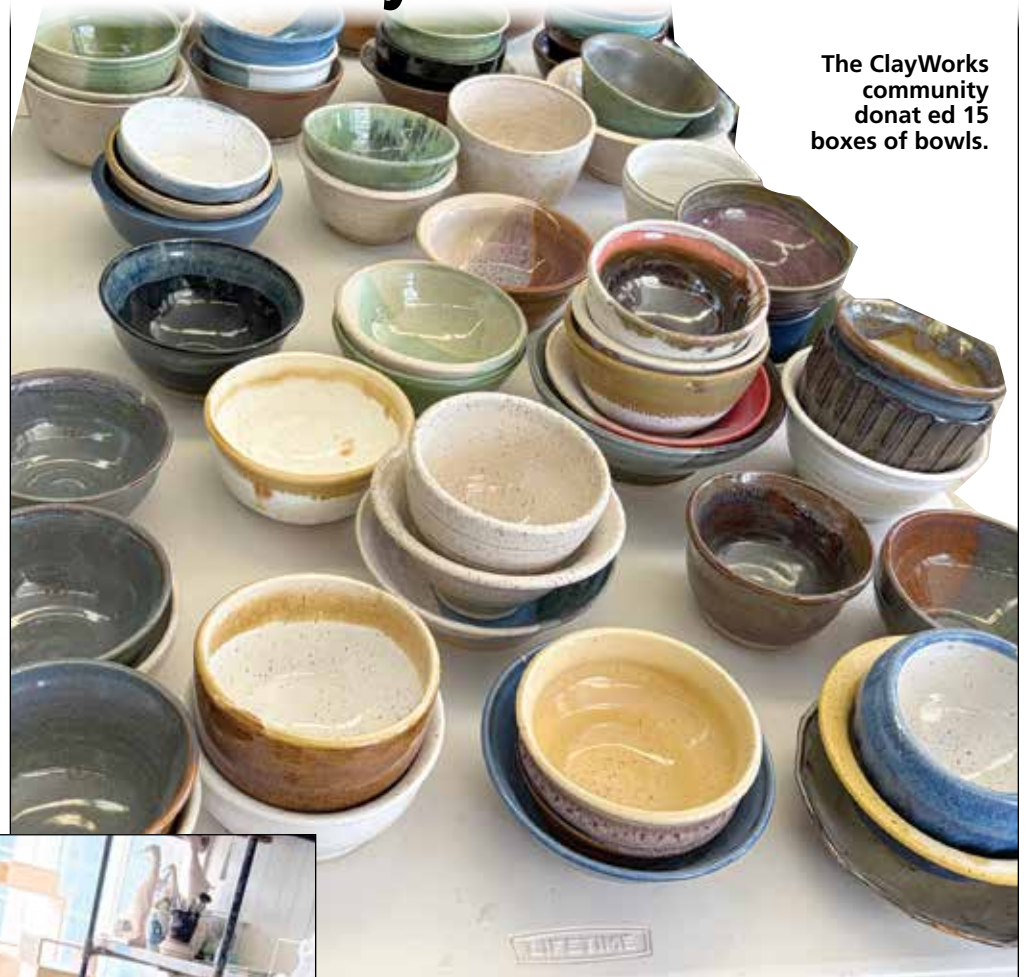
Amherst Survival Center receives 15 boxes of bowls

WARE – Members of ClayWorks recently donated 15 boxes of bowls to the Amherst Survival Center's annual Empty Bowls fundraiser.

On Tuesday, April 14, Dale Rice from ASC picked up 177 bowls, the largest collection they have ever received.

A community ceramics studio, ClayWorks is a part of Workshop 13, a cultural arts and learning center located in Ware.

The hand built and wheel thrown bowls were fashioned by a group of over 20 studio artists, students, instructors



The ClayWorks community donated 15 boxes of bowls.



and volunteers. This collaborative project differed from the typical format of one person completing all phases of creating pottery, including preparing the clay, forming and trimming the bowl, and applying the glaze.

As an artistic community, individuals performed each step of the process when necessary and often trimmed or glazed pieces they did not make themselves. This was inspirational creativity in action.

Empty Bowls was held on Saturday, April 18 at the ASC. The event features soup, salad and bread with the option to purchase the meal alone or along with a handcrafted bowl.

Rice reported that the event typically serves 500 people and is a very successful fundraiser for the organization. The ClayWorks community plans to continue the tradition and contribute again in 2027.

The Amherst Survival Center offers community meals, a food pantry, and other services to residents of thirteen towns, including Ware. You can learn more about these free programs at amherstsurvival.org.

Submitted Photos
Local artists created 177 bowls that were donated to the Amherst Survival Center's Empty Bowls fundraiser.

Suicide awareness walk returns to Grenville Park

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

The 5K walk will be held at Grenville Park, 73 Church

St., on Saturday, May 2, with check-in starting at 9 a.m. and the walk at 10 a.m. People can register at afsp.org/ware or scan the QR code.



This event was established in 2024 by School Resource Officer Jeannine Bonnayer and Ware Public Schools Food Service Manager Kristen Murphy, to help to bring awareness

to and start a conversation about suicide. In March of 2023, Murphy's son Ethan Donnelly died by suicide at the age of 24.

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

Towns host voter registration day

WARREN / WEST BROOKFIELD – Town Clerks of Warren (Laura J. Stockley) and West Brookfield (Klarrisa Rose) announce that a Voter Registration will be held in their offices, on Friday, April 24, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for the Annual Town Elections, which will be held on Tuesday, May 5.



Operating Since 1965

1130 S Main Street
Palmer, MA 01069
(413) 267-4555

Sat., April 4th
CLOSED

Sat., April 11th ~ 9am-1pm
WORK DAY & KIDS ON TRACK

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

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

Interested in more information
amherstrail.org

STIHL Husqvarna

PARK SAW SHOP

LOGGING • ARBORIST • SAFETY

1292 PARK ST. PALMER, MA 01069

1-800-232-6132
(413) 544-9027

Mon-Fri 6:30am-4pm • Sat 7am-Noon

Shipping Can Be Arranged

RENTALS AVAILABLE

McNeely Tree Service
Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing
- Emergency Services
- Firewood \$265/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted
- 100% Workers Compensation

H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693





Saturday, April 25th
7pm-11pm

Caboodle

EVERY FRIDAY
Karaoke

EVERY SUNDAY
DARTS
LUCK OF THE DRAW
5:30pm • All Welcome

Upcoming
Events

Saturday, May 2nd
7pm-11pm

**Uncle
Country**

948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Gratitude for a community that shows up for pets

Dear Editor,

On behalf of everyone at Second Chance Animal Services, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the incredible community that made our 27th Annual Auction Gala such a success.

This special evening is always more than a fundraiser. It is an example of what is possible when people come together to help pets and the people who love them.

We are so grateful to everyone who attended, bid in our online auction, volunteered their time, and donated items to make the event so meaningful and fun.

We are especially thankful for the generous support of our sponsors, including Herlihy Insurance, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Andrea Castinetti, Joe Campisi, MWI, Cornerstone Bank, Davis Advertising, Embie

Industries, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, and Idexx. Their commitment to our mission helps ensure that pets in our community have access to the care they need.

Because of this collective support, Second Chance can continue providing affordable veterinary care, pet food assistance, and adoption services to more than 64,000 pets each year. Every ticket purchased, every item donated, and every bid placed helps keep pets healthy and with the families who love them.

We are so fortunate to be part of a community that shows up in such a compassionate and generous way. Thank you for helping us create more second chances.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Doray
Chief Development Officer
Second Chance Animal Services

Grassroots Central Mass hosts skill share and seed swap

To the Editor:

The time is right to join Grassroots Central Mass in a skill share and seed swap. It will be held on Sunday, April 26 at 1:30 p.m. in the gazebo on the Southbridge Common rain or shine.

Join us for an afternoon skill sharing event, a kick-off for our newly formed skills sharing group, and watch for announcements about our monthly skills share, alternating between Southbridge and Brookfield

locations.

On April 26, bring your extra seeds (if you have any), your questions and knowledge, and learn about starting seeds in a container or in the ground. Learn about garden upcycling and gardening on a budget along with your neighbors and community.

Please RSVP to sherryzitter@icloud.com by April 23.

Sherry Zitter
Brookfield

Resident shares concerns about utility rate increases

To the Editor,

Massachusetts residents need to look beyond the "rate hike" headlines and investigate D.P.U. 26-50.

National Grid is not just asking for more money; they are petitioning for a "Performance-Based Ratemaking" (PBR) plan.

If approved, this formula allows the company to raise our rates annually without a public hearing. This "blank check" is being used to fund massive infrastructure projects, like the A1/B2 Transmission Rebuild, which will replace our historic landscape with 110-foot steel towers designed for high-voltage industrial capacity—far beyond what our local homes require.

Furthermore, as a community, we must demand transparency regarding the "Stardust Solutions" atmo-

spheric trials beginning this month. While marketed as "climate help," these proprietary reflective particles create a "Ghost Sun" effect that impacts our health and mood. When combined with the high-voltage grid expansion, we are looking at a fundamental change to our environment and our biology without public consent.

The DPU has opened an investigation into Docket 26-50. I urge every neighbor to email dpu.efiling@mass.gov before the April 30 deadline.

Do not let "confidential industrial load" projects be built in our backyard while we are forced to pay for the privilege.

Sincerely,

Angela Marie Cusson
West Brookfield

In honor of Mother Earth

This week, we celebrate Earth Day. Lots of towns host bulk waste days or a town-wide clean up as ways to note the day.

While most of us garden with great intentions such as beautifying our yards or producing home grown vegetables, it is important to note that the gardening/greenhouse industry hasn't always been what you'd call "earth-friendly." From mountains of plastic pots not rotting away in our landfills to story after story of chemical misuse, we inadvertently hurt the very source of our pleasure.

So, in honor of Earth Day, read from the archives eight easy things we can do as gardeners to tread a bit more lightly on 'ole Mother.

Feed the soil, not the plant

Have your soil tested and ask for organic recommendations to correct nutrient deficiencies. Replenishing your garden with amendments like rock phosphate and greensand will help to create long-lasting nutrient storehouses.

Healthy soil will produce plants that are less prone to insect and disease problems.

Start a compost pile

Layer your vegetable and yard waste, keep it moist and give it a turn. After a short time it will decompose, leaving behind a great source of organic matter.

No matter how you garden, be it vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruits or even shrubs, each benefit from a yearly top dressing of "black gold."

Make compost tea

Are your transplants looking a little pale? Rather than sprinkling them with "blue water," perk them up with home-brewed compost tea. Mix one part well-rotted

compost or manure to five parts water and allow it to sit for a week or more. Strain before foliar feeding your plants.

ommendations. Assuming that more is better is outdated and dangerous thinking!

Conserve water

We all know that watering during the heat of the day results in lots of moisture lost to evaporation while watering in the evening can make plants more prone to disease. What to do?

For happy, hydrated plants water in the early morning hours instead. Hand watering at the base of each plant or using soaker hoses or drip irrigation is far better than overhead sprinklers when it comes to conservation and disease prevention.

Extend the harvest

Do you know how far most fruits and vegetables have to travel to reach the local supermarket? Probably far more than the average American travels in a year's time. Frustrated? Then read up on various methods of extending the use of your own garden bounty past the growing season.

This could mean growing a few veggies like winter squash, onions or garlic – all of which store well. It could also mean trying your hand at freezing or drying some of your produce for use in the off-season.

Few of us can feed ourselves entirely, but whatever we can grow offsets the rest.

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



Shop Mom and Pop

Buying local, directly from the grower usually means a knowledgeable sales team! Form relationships and learn from their expertise.

Ask them to carry organic seeds, potting soils and pest control options.

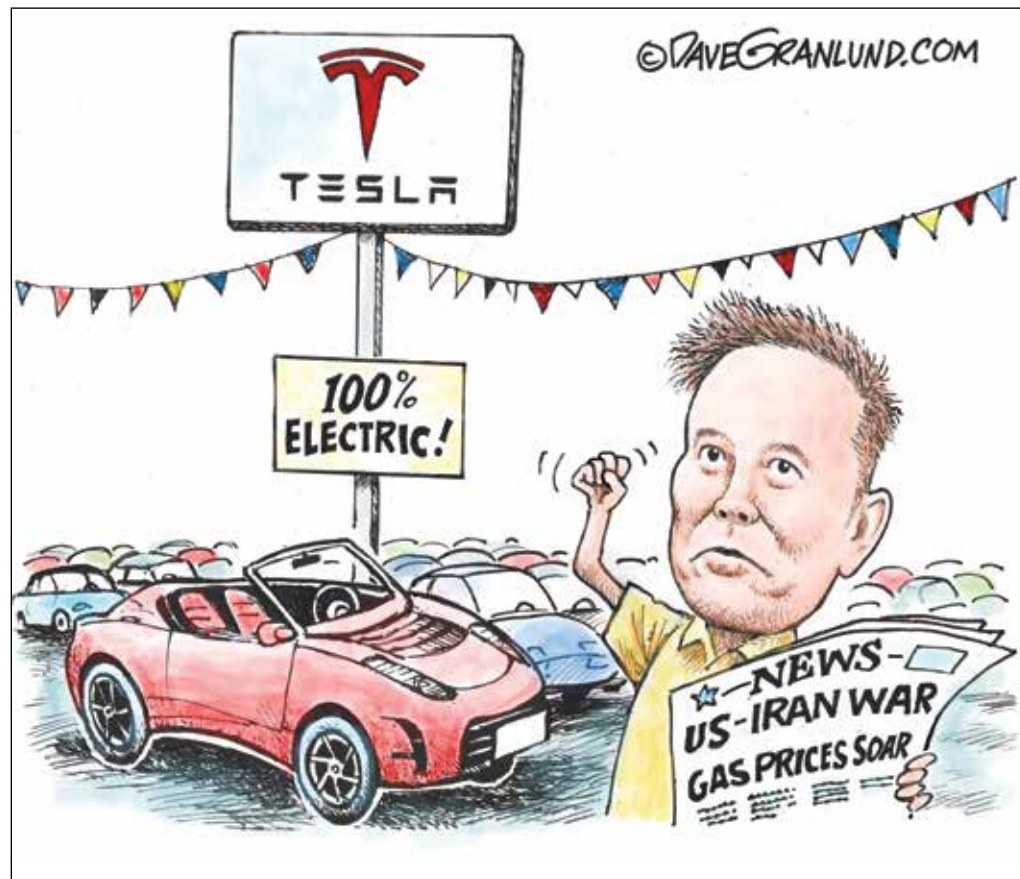
Reduce, reuse, recycle!

I first became familiar with this catch phrase back in 1990, when Earth Day celebrations went global. In the context of plastic pots and other containers used to grow or move plants, I'd like to think that the local Mom and Pop shop would take back the pots you bought their plants in and use them to grow next year's crop.

If not, maybe you could reuse them to start some homegrown seedlings and recycle the rest. An even better solution for earth conscious growers would be to replace plastic with fiber (stronger than peat and made from recycled materials to boot).

Use least toxic measures to control bugs and other garden thugs

Beer to trap slugs, and baking soda for black spot – the list of remedies to fight garden maladies is numerous and not always a stretch of the imagination. If you must choose a chemical option follow the manufacturer's rec-



Red-breasted nuthatch

Last Wednesday, April 8 while waiting at the bus stop for my grandson, I saw two red-breasted nuthatches in a small grove of pine trees near the road.

They were going up and down several pine trees most likely in search of insects. The red-breasted nuthatch is about 4.3 to 4.7 inches long and exhibits the typical head-down nuthatch behavior of its larger cousin, the

white-breasted nuthatch. Male and females are similar with a black eye stripe, white eyebrow and buff orange underparts. It has a blue-gray

back. They inhabit conifer forests and in winter may be found in other trees. They nest mostly in conifers such

as spruce, fir, hemlock.

Both sexes excavate a nest cavity in a rotten stub or snag, usually five to 40 feet about the ground. Sticky pitch is smeared around the entrance of the nest hole possibly to prevent other creatures from entering. Adults avoid getting stuck in the pitch by flying straight into the hole. Sometimes they are seen with pitch on their feathers.

The female lays five to six white, spotted eggs. The female incubates the eggs and the male brings food to her. Both parents feed the nestlings. Young nuthatches leave the nest about two to three weeks after hatching.

They have a soft, musical song used especially in

courtship by the male. These nuthatches eat insects, spiders and seeds in summer. In winter they eat many seeds especially those of conifers.

Nesting bluebirds

On Saturday, April 11 I received an email from a Hampden resident. She said, "Our bluebirds are back and have completed their nest. We are awaiting the first egg. I'm surprised they use mostly pine needles constructing the nest."

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident said he saw a female brown-headed cowbird in his yard. He

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

WARE RIVER NEWS

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

The Ware River News (USPS 666100) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.



WEB
warerivernews.turley.com



PHONE
(413) 283-8393



ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

OPINION POLICY

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

Send opinions to:
Ware River News
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer, MA 01069
or via email to:
pouimette@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

Visit us on the web
www.turley.com

NEWS BRIEFS

Amateur radio club to meet April 28

WEST BROOK-FIELD – Local amateur radio operators and the public are invited to the next Quabog Valley Amateur Radio Club meeting, Tuesday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

This month's program features Greg, WA1JXR on the topic of Antenna Tuners; what they are, how they work, why you might need one, and how to use them.

Greg Algieri, WA1JXR, began his ham radio journey at the age of 15 in 1967 by asking his dad for a Gillette Blue Razor Blade to make this first receiver, leading to amateur radio licenses, higher electronics education, and an entire career with Raytheon, where he worked in radio and antenna design. WA1JXR is active in his amateur radio community as a teacher of new and existing hams, restoring boat anchor vintage radios, getting on the air, and as the Trustee of the WIBIM repeater in Paxton.

All are welcome to attend. For more information about the club, upcoming events, or licensing opportunities, visit www.QVARC.com.

St. Aloysius celebrates 10th year with chicken BBQ fundraiser

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville is celebrating 10 years. Please join them on Saturday, June 6 at St. Mary's Church Hall in Ware, from 1-4 p.m., for a chicken barbecue, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #183. There will be a DJ, all sorts of fun for the kids, basket raffles, a 50/50 and more. Tickets are \$25 for a chicken dinner or \$5 for a hot dog and chips.

Purchase tickets by calling the school at 413-477-1268 or by reaching out to Megan Morrison by phone or text 978-751-1211.

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Must I set up a Social Security account to enroll in Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I turn 65 this November 2026. Someone told me I need to set up a Social Security account at least three months ahead of time before applying for Medicare for the first time. I do not intend to take any Social Security benefits until, perhaps, age 67 or later. Please advise and thank you.

Signed: Looking Ahead

Dear Looking Ahead:

You don't technically need to "set up" an online SSA account to enroll in Medicare, but it would be more efficient to do so. We always recommend creating your online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount well before you are ready to claim your Social Security benefits. That's because you can monitor your projected Social Security benefits to help you decide when to claim, but it also facilitates other things you might need to do at the Social Security Administration such as claiming your SS retirement benefits online and enrolling in Medicare online.

As for Medicare, you can enroll in Medicare up to three months before the month you turn 65, and you can contact the Social Security Administration by phone up to three months prior in order to schedule an appointment to enroll over the phone (call 1-800-772-1213 to make the appointment). You can enroll via telephone, even if you don't have your "my Social Security" online account set up.

However, an advantage to creating your personal online Social Security account is that you could then enroll in Medicare online as described at this link: www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up. And you can, as you wish to do, enroll only in Medicare without also taking your Social Security benefits at this

time.

I want to also make you aware that if you are still working and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is an employer group plan with at least 20 participants), then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends (thus saving the usual Medicare Part B monthly premium). When your employer's healthcare coverage ends, you will enter a Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Finally, please be aware that whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services). Since there is a monthly premium associated with Medicare Part B (but not with Part A), you can choose to decline Part B if you are still working and covered by your employer's creditable healthcare plan, until your employer's healthcare coverage ends.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

INFO FAIR from page 1

a vendor offering utility bill screenings for savings.

The Elder Services of Worcester had an information booth and is a provider of the meals for the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center. Other information booths were set up and represented town departments such as Barre Fire Department and Barre Police Department.

The Information Fair was busy as a lot of seniors from Barre, Hardwick, and other neighboring communities arrived and explored what the fair had to offer.

"All the vendors are amazing," O'Brien said.

The fair also featured the debut appearance of young Barry, an 8-week-old black Labrador retriever from the Barre Police Department who attended alongside Sgt. Russel Davidson.

Barry is going to training once a week and will receive his certification in about a year and a half. He will be a full-time comfort dog and will be visiting schools, senior centers and will be a part of the crisis response team.

The Friends of the Stone Church members Cheryl Wolfe and Judy Knight shared information about the Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville. The Friends of the Stone Church is a public charitable corporation and community group, which started back in 2015.

The mission of the group is to preserve the historic church and use the space for events that can be enjoyed by the community. Both Wolfe and Knight were sharing information about upcoming events that are happening at the Stone Church Cultural Center, including spring concerts.

The Friends of the Stone Church are engaged to finding new members to continue to live up to its mission.

Barre Veteran's Agent Garrett Skinner was at the Information Fair and shared information on local property tax exemptions for veterans and talked about the newsletter which can be found on the town website.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Cheryl Wolfe and Judy Knight of the Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville, who shared information about the church and upcoming concerts and cultural events.



Barry the comfort dog from the Barre Police Department visited the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center during the Information Fair.

Skinner also talked about the coffee hour event for veterans, which is held the third Friday of the month from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center.

RightSized Living, represented by Kathy Yeulemski, helps

declutter, organize, downsize and assist elderly people with moving and setting up in their new home. RightSized Living also assists in scheduling and overseeing insured movers and storage providers, developing an overall move or "age in place" plan, cleaning and waste removal and working with realtor on home staging and sale preparation.

Abi Walters and Emily Manzano of Community Legal Aid shared information about the services they offer. Community Legal Aid assists seniors aged 60 or older, regardless of income, in civil services, government benefits, food stamps, issues with Medicare and help with obtaining needed services.

Community Legal Aid operates in central and western Massachusetts, including the counties of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester.

The Friends Group of the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center were also at the Information Fair. The Friends Group is a nonprofit, which raises funds for activities at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center.

The group puts on var-

ious events such as dinners, tag sales, shows and recently a polar plunge. The Friends Group raised about \$4,000 during the polar plunge.

Becky Caranci serves as president of the Friends Group, Dick Whipee as treasurer, and Tracy LaRosa as secretary.

Jerry Mallet from the Worcester Registry of Deeds attended the Information Fair, and shared information on dealing with deed fraud. Handouts on how to enroll in consumer notification service were provided.

Mallet was excited to be a part of the Information Fair and said the "Senior Center has done an unbelievable job."

Board members of the Council on Aging were doing some activity sharing during the Information Fair. The board consists of members representing both Barre and Hardwick.

Member David Flick said the Council on Aging assists wherever they can and tries to stay in tune with the senior community.

"We assist where we can," Flick said. "Let people know what is happening."

The Council on Aging reaches out by sharing flyers at the Senior Center, post offices, and the town halls. Flick described this Information Fair and the senior center as a place that offers a wonderful gathering of people. There are billiards, exercise programs, and other activities that can be enjoyed at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center.

"Continue to foster community," Flick said.

Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

BACKYARD from page 4

said it was unusual as he usually sees the male before the female.

He said, "On Sunday I did a tour of local ponds. There was a pair of ring-necked ducks on Sherman Pond in Brimfield and several on a pond in Warren. Also in Warren I saw an osprey at the pond where they have nested for several years. I've been checking the pond since early March and this is the first sighting of an osprey this year. I hope its partner shows up soon."

He also said, in Warren, there was a bald eagle at a pond on New Reed Street. There has been one or two there frequently during March. A pair of eastern bluebirds was seen perched on two different trees with holes possibly suitable for a nest. I often see bluebirds using nesting boxes, but have never seen them using a natural cavity. I'll keep checking to see if they nest in either tree."

Non-bird sighting

The Brimfield resident reported a non-bird sighting. He said "while driving out of the driveway yesterday I saw a small frog hopping off of the driveway. Probably a spring peeper. I'll have to check a nearby small pond in the woods nearby to see if there are peepers there. The frog could have been a pick-

erel frog, we see those every year in the yard. They come in three sizes; small, medium and large. I try to be careful when I mow or weed whack to avoid them."

Raven

My granddaughter while walking her dogs on Saturday, April 11 heard the croaking sound of a raven. It startled both the dogs and her.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edownear@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448,

DON'T BUY UNTIL YOU SEE US!

Spring SALE! GAS GRILL SALE!

HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES

- 32" HD Smart TV.....\$99.99 (Regularly \$149.99)
- 43" Smart TV.....\$199.99 (Regularly \$249.99)
- 50" HDTV Television...\$229.99 (Regularly \$269.99)
- 55" 4K HDTV Television...\$249.99 (Regularly \$349.99)
- 65" HDTV Television...\$329.99 (Regularly \$599.99)
- 75" HDTV.....\$499.99 (Regularly \$699.99)

MATTRESS SALE!

TWIN: \$199 (REGULARLY \$299)

FULL: \$269 (REGULARLY \$499)

QUEEN: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599)

PRE-SEASON SAVINGS! A/C's
Great Selection!

BIKE SALE!
1000's IN STOCK!
E-BIKES IN STOCK!
WE REPAIR BIKES!
SPRING BIKE TUNE-UP: \$49.99!

DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE Reg. \$699.99 \$749.99	FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER Reg. \$399.99 \$299.99	21 CUBIC FOOT FREEZER Reg. \$999.99 \$799.99	G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1999.99 \$1399.99	5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER Reg. \$249.99 \$189.99	AMANA WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$599.99 \$489.99
FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$699.99 \$599.99	FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE Reg. \$249.99 \$229.99	LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 \$1399.99	MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$699.99 \$549.99	WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE Reg. \$1499.99 \$1199.99	

WE INSTALL TELEVISIONS, MICROWAVES & DISHWASHERS!

2025 THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY'S CHOICE AWARDS
Best of Central Mass

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343
SEE WHITCOSALES.COM

Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri: 10am-8:30pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm **FOR 100's OF DEALS!**

Mill-Health District

MILL-HEALTH DISTRICT from page 1

ter understanding of what the area is like.

"It really gives you a different feel," he said.

Duchesneau and Butt said this tour was part of the Mill-Health District Plan development, which is set to be completed by the end of June.

The tour was divided into two loops, starting at Nenamesek Park and traveling up Church Street to Otis Avenue.

Along the tour, participants were able to share their ideas to revitalize and improve the areas, including better parking and accessibility. Many noted that sidewalks were difficult to travel in wheelchairs or other accessibility devices or strollers, due to being blocked by utility poles, trash bins, or parked cars.

The tour then came down Park Street, before turning onto East Main Street and then entering the millyard.

Residents Jim Bourcier and Cindy Allen Bourcier spoke about creating safe passage from a proposed extension of the Mass Central Rail Trail from South Street, to connect to Grenville Park. The millyard could potentially be accessed to allow walkers and cyclists to avoid the busy downtown traffic and the steep incline of Church Street, by directing trail users to Park Street (which has direct access to Grenville Park).

Smith brought attention to the Stone Mill in the millyard, which now houses a variety of businesses, including the newly opened location for Lost Towns Brewing. She said the town owns a building on the other side of



Resident Cindy Allen Bourcier spoke with MassDevelopment's Ben Murphy during the walking tour.

the Stone Mill, abutting the Ware River.

The ownership of this building came as a "surprise" to the town, Beckley said, after they were notified that the town had won its court case to claim the property.

The building itself is in poor condition, with the roof completed caved in. The site does have a walkway that crosses the Ware River, connecting to the Maple Street area.

Smith said the building could become a re-patio site, and possible provide outside dining for a potential restaurant.

The walking tour then returned to East Main Street and crossed the bridge over the Ware River. This bridge had been partially closed in previous years, in order for the state to make repairs.

Beckley said the repairs occurred underneath the sidewalk, and that the town is in the process of replacing the water main and fixing the

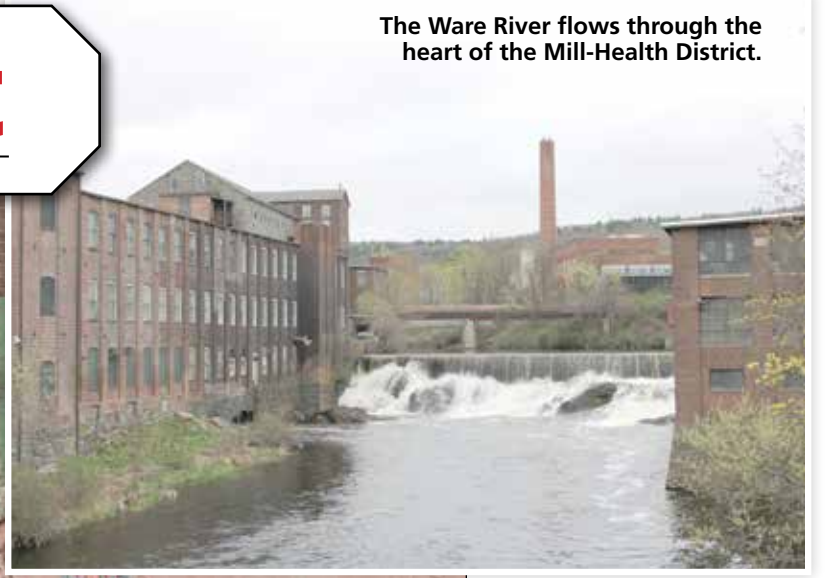


sidewalks themselves.

Participants pointed out that the fence between the sidewalk and the road could be painted to match the outer fence, which is green.

The tour then stopped at the corner of Knox Avenue, and discussed the need for landscaping on the green, and artwork to the Route 9 underpass bridge. Signage could also be installed to promote tourism in town.

Allen Bourcier suggested working with the town's art community to install metal art or murals on the bridge.



The Ware River flows through the heart of the Mill-Health District.



A turkey vulture sits on the chimney of the Wetherby Building at Mary Lane Hospital.

AT LEFT: BSC Group Senior Planner Adam Duchesneau and resident Jim Bourcier are shown next to the cleared area where hospital's emergency department used to be.



Walking tour participants shared ideas to improve the Route 9 underpass through artwork and landscaping.

As the tour continued, participants suggested that a buffer fence be installed along Knox Avenue/Maple Street to conceal views to the back of a business.

The second loop of the tour started at Gilbert Court, moving to Memorial Field.

Beckley said there are plans for parking to be added at the Monroe Street entrance to the field. He said Memorial Field is the site of a former mill.

Allen Bourcier said a Blue Trail access point to the Ware River could potential be included near that parking area. She also noted that the Mass Central Rail Trail could connect through this location in "keeping that linear park."

The tour continued to South Street, passing in front of Cedarbrook Village of Ware, which repurposed the site of a former school to create an aging-in-place community.

Beckley said the town had tried to sell the property for a long time before it was purchased by Cedarbrook.

Participants then walked to the site of the former Baystate Mary Lane Hospital, which recent-



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

A walkway crosses the Ware River from the vacant town-owned building to the Maple Street area.

ly became part of a zoning overlay district through town meeting vote.

Beckley said Baystate Health, the owner of the property, will be loaming and reseeding the lawn, and taking down the security fence. He said this is expected to occur at the end of May.

Smith said this will help make the property more attractive to potential buyers.

"There's a lot of opportunity here," Duchesneau said.

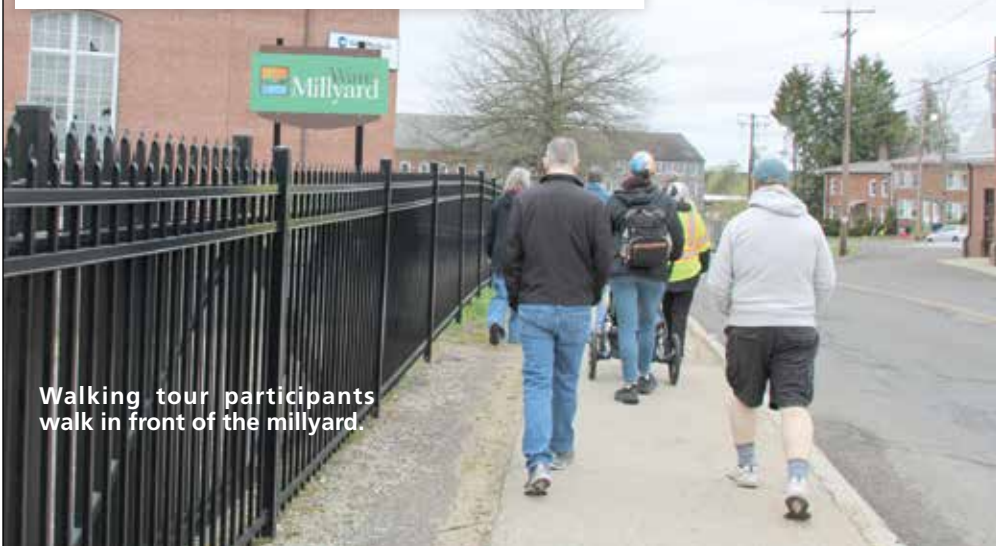
The tour continued to Chestnut Street, Union

Street, back to South Street, and then to Charles Street, to look at the former St. Mary's School. Smith said the building could make a good community center.

At the conclusion of the tour, Duchesneau and Butt said the Crowdsourcemap is still available for community members to provide their input on the Mill-Health District. It can be accessed by visiting tinyurl.com/WareCrowdsourcemap.



This vacant building located next to the Stone Mill is owned by the town.



Walking tour participants walk in front of the millyard.



Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

NESCO SALES INC.
COMPLETE AUTO BODY CENTER



We Make It Easy For You!

RS #1688

- Collision Specialists
- Free Estimates (By Appointment)
- We Help with Insurance Claims!
- Expert Color Matching

89 1/2 State Street, Bondsville, MA 01009
www.nescoautobody.com

413-283-6403

'THE LION KING JR'

LION KING from page 1

a round of applause for their hard work and leadership.

"We're proud of all of you," Joinville said.

The show began with the grand entrance with the ensemble singing and dancing to "The Circle of Life". There were zebras, giraffes, monkeys, elephants, wildebeests, and lions awaiting the presentation of the next King of Pride Rock.

Rafiki was played by Quaboag sophomore Natalia Veliz-Baldizon. She enjoyed learning the African language for the show and portraying Rafiki.

Kai Menard gave an unforgettable performance as the evil Scar. Throughout the play, Menard executed the antagonistic role well and was stone cold mean.

The performance of "Be Prepared" was done well with amazing lighting, which added more evil to Scar's performance. The performance featured the ensemble as an army of hyenas, including Shenzi, Banzai and Ed, played by Annabelle Bloom, Kennah Martino and Rolando Galvan.

Young Simba was played by Ceres Martino, a seventh grader at Quaboag. In her role, she performed in the musical number "I Just Can't Wait to Be King" alongside

Ellie LeClair as Young Nala and Emery Faubert as Zazu.

Making his theater debut in "The Lion King Jr" was Simone Grutti as adult Simba.

Grutti as Simba arrived on stage during the amazing performance of "Hakuna Matata" alongside Jessica Waddell as Timon, and Caden Charron as Pumbaa. Charron also got to do Pumbaa's hilarious solo of "When I was a Young Warthog".

Karl Prosser played Mufasa and Payton Schreier played Sarabi and first took the stage during the introduction of Simba and the performance of "Circle of Life". Abigail Landine played adult Nala in the show and was excited to be a part of a show that is based on a movie she grew up loving.

The performance of "The



The cast and ensemble of "The Lion King Jr." sang "Circle of Life". Payton Schreier (left) as Sarabi, and Karl Prosser as Mufasa during the presentation of Simba.



Zazu, played by Emery Faubert, confronted Young Simba before being approached by danger.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Lion King Jr." brought back memories of those who grew up watching the Lion King when they were children. It is a timeless story that can be performed on screen and in theater.



The dreaded hyenas from left, Banzai played by Kennah Martino, Ed by Rolando Galvan and Shenzi by Annabelle Bloom.



Quaboag Regional Theater and 21st CCLC presented "The Lion King Jr." this past weekend. The young Lion King was held up high on stage with Simba, Nala, Rafiki and Zazu looking on.



Ellie LeClair as Nala and Ceres Martino (Young Simba) are shown alongside the ensemble during the performance of "I Just Can't Wait to Be King".



Young Simba was trapped during the stampede of wildebeests.

STORMWATER from page 1

CMRPC has helped Warren with various projects, such as grants and the Master Plan.

The resiliency planning efforts began about five years ago when Warren experienced a lot of rain in the summer of 2021. In this time frame, the Highway Department have made drainage improvements to help mitigate the flooding, but the rising of flooding prompted the idea of a plan to mitigate flooding in the future.

A summary of findings was presented during the

public hearing and identified parts of town that flood frequently. Areas such as the downtown culverts at Southbridge Street and Maple Street are high flood areas which lead to the plan wanting to prioritize culvert improvements.

After these findings, the plan will then pursue community outreach and emergency preparedness education. A QR code for a survey was provided for residents to take.

The public hearing also explained the importance of a watershed. A watershed is a piece of land that drains all streams and rainfall to a com-

mon outlet, such as a river, lake, or ocean.

In Warren's case, the nearest outlet is the Quaboag River.

Warren has two major watersheds and has 109 town-owned culverts. With rain events becoming more frequent and more intense, this plan will explain why resiliency matters.

The culverts serve as managing small streams or storm drainage but are not as effective as they could deteriorate over the course of time.

From what the stormwater management plan identified is that some culverts in town

are either in need of restoration or replacement. Aging culverts could cave in, have rusted pipes, clogs and any structural concerns.

The plan has identified three priority culverts in

need of repair including the downtown culvert off Maple Street, a culvert off Old West Brookfield Road at Sullivan Brook where there is a beaver dam, and a second culvert off Old West Brookfield Road

closer to the town line. The next steps include modeling these culverts by looking at their existing conditions and then completing design concepts for each culvert.



Waterwheel Realty
We Keep Things Turning!
Paul Varney Sr.
Realtor / Broker / Veteran
Ph. 978-355-4438
paulraymondvarney@gmail.com

12 Nichewaugh Rd.
P.O. Box 339
Barre, MA 01005



Abby Montalto
Real Estate Agent
508-579-9897
abby@cmscllc.com



Brendan McDonald
Real Estate Agent
978-549-4582
brendan.wwr@gmail.com



Paul R. Varney Jr.
Real Estate Agent
978-771-3492
paulvarney73@gmail.com

Another family operated business ... **978-355-3454**

Waterwheel Village
A unique 55 & Better
Mobile Home Community in Barre

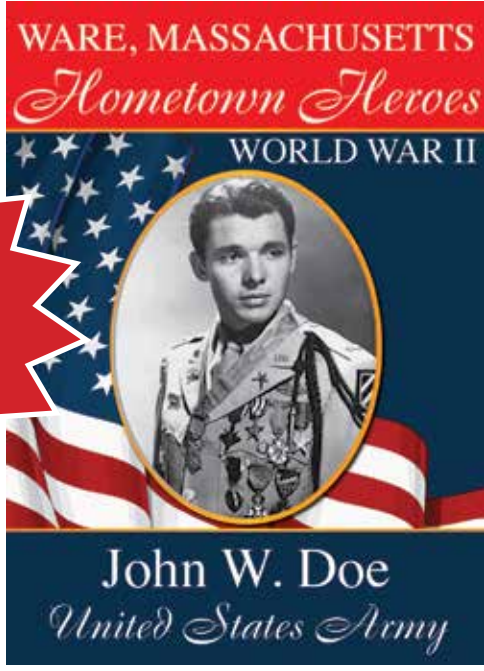


HOME TOWN HERO

Pole Banners

to Honor Ware Veterans

If You Want
To Rehang
A Banner,
Suggested \$30
Donation



John W. Doe
United States Army

Name of Veteran _____

Branch of Service _____

Cost is \$75 per side • Limited Quantity
Make Checks payable to Biztek Printing

Sponsor Information

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

For more information contact Dan Flynn
413-297-5886 • email:dflynn@turley.com

Town Charter updates reviewed

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Charter Review Committee met on April 14 to review potential updates to the town charter.

Members of the Charter Review Committee had packets featuring updates to various sections of the charter. The overall changes throughout the document are changes to all gender specific pronouns to neutral pronouns or simply the name of the position. For example, “Board of Selectmen” changed to “Selectboard” or “Selectmen” changed to “Selectboard member”.

Chair of the Charter Review Committee, Josh Kusnierz, said he wanted to make sure the whole committee is on the same page before accepting the updates to the charter, which will be brought forward to voters during the annual meeting.

The committee did have a discussion regarding Section 5-3 in the Charter. This section was created for the Facilities Management Department to be separated from the Department of Public Works. This is due to there now being a Facilities Management Director to streamline maintenance and repairs of all town buildings, except schools and parks.

There was a search for clarity as to what this position entails or if this is an already pre-existing position already in place. The committee agreed that a department head is ultimately in charge of their facility and maintenance of town buildings is important to have.

The committee said there needs to be a clearer definition of the job, but Vice-Chair Mel Whitham said that is a job description discussion.

“We’re making the charter reflect reality,” Whitham

said.

The Charter Review Committee is figuring out what adjustments to the document need to be made to reflect reality. These updates are what match the reality of what the town is practicing and providing a clear picture of how the local government operates.

The Charter Review Committee agreed that one of the members could explain what the committee does at the town meeting, so there is no confusion between updates and changes.

An adjustment could be argued later and be brought to the Selectboard and provide a reason to why it wasn’t the best decision. Kusnierz believes if it’s more about what the job responsibilities are, then it should be kept as a job description discussion. The committee is only focusing on what adjustments are

needed in the charter.

For years, the town didn’t have a human resources department. A new addition to the charter is Section 5.8: Human Resources Department. This department will be under the director of the Town Manager.

This department is responsible for supporting the Town Manager and employees in the areas of recruitment, hiring, compensation, classification, training and development, labor relations, workers’ compensation and unemployment. The Town Manager will appoint the Director of Human Resources who is a person suited by education, training and previous experience to perform the duties of the office.

The committee voted unanimously to move the updated charter forward to the town meeting.

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

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

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

There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through several local vendors including Stillman’s Farm and Howe’s Farm and Garden of New Braintree, Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, and “home-grown lovelies” from private gardens.

A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The event is held rain or shine. All are welcome.

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

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



Quaboag Hills

CHIP GENERAL BODY MEETING

Open to the General Public!

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

FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED!

MAY 1, 2026
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**E2E Center,
79 Main St.,
Ware, MA 01082**

**RSVP BY
APRIL 24**

Scan QR Code or Use Link:
<https://forms.gle/Bq8VtsUvLs2yan8V6> to Register



CONTACT US

413-807-0901
sblake@townofware.com

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

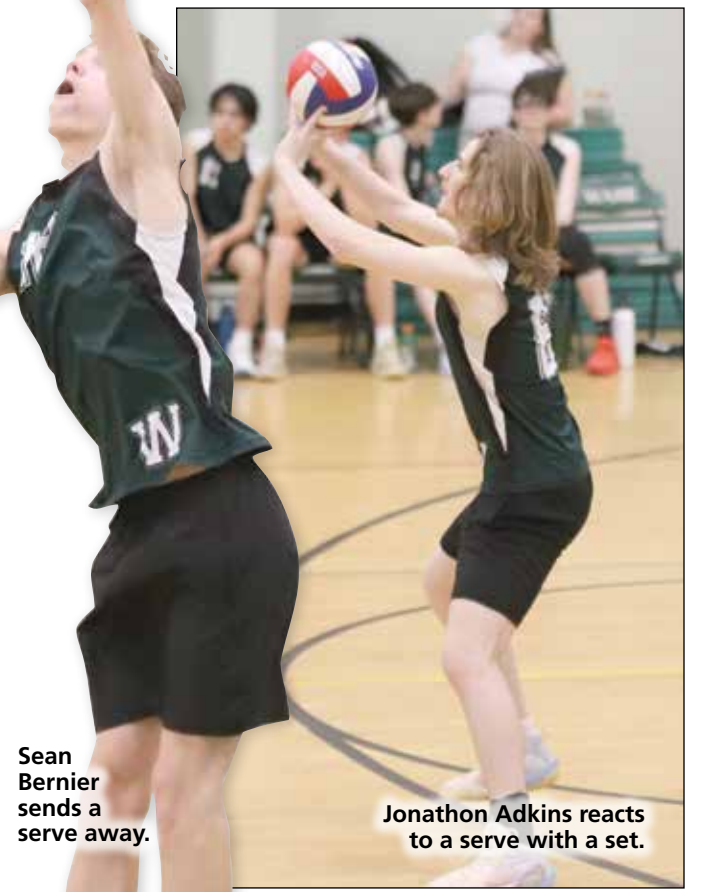
Indians beat Veritas Prep



Ryder Cahalan tips the ball over the net.



Brayden Compton gets the block for the Indians

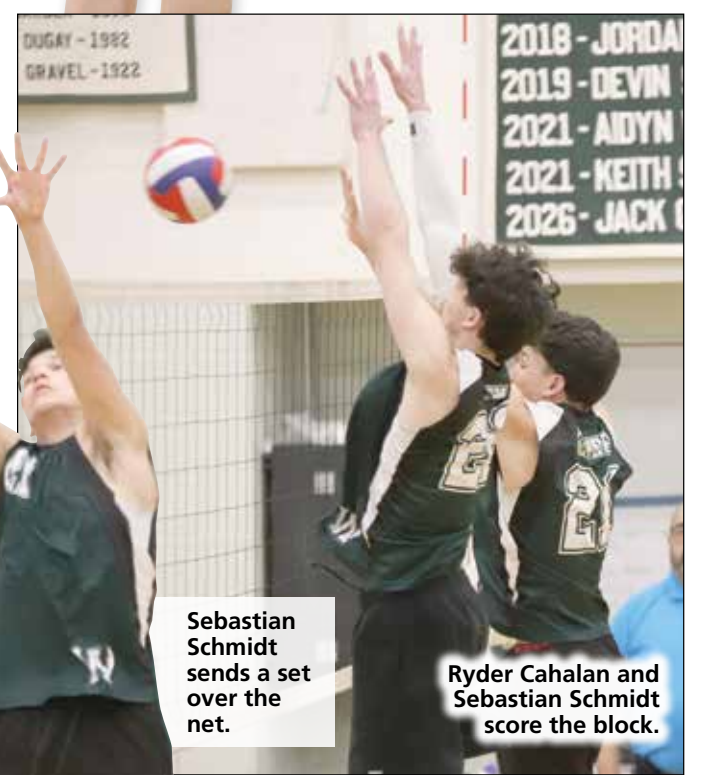


Sean Bernier sends a serve away.

Jonathon Adkins reacts to a serve with a set.



Dalton Marquis gets the spike away.



Sebastian Schmidt sends a set over the net.

Ryder Cahalan and Sebastian Schmidt score the block.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

WARE – On Friday, Apr. 17, the Indians boys volleyball team picked up another win, defeating Veritas Prep 3-1 and improving to 7-1 on the regular season. The Indians lost the first set, then finished the next three sets off to get the win. Ryder Cahalan had a great game with 17 kills and 12 digs. Sean Bernier had 31 assists. After losing to Granby in their season opener, Ware has won seven straight games. They are in action at Southwick on Thursday, Apr. 23 at 1 p.m.

Ware grabs walkoff win over Hampshire Regional

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE — Trailing by a run entering the bottom of the seventh inning, the Ware Indians put-together a one-out rally in a Suburban West Division contest against Hampshire Regional. The rally was capped off with a two-run double to right field by senior Kyle Kaczuwka giving the Indians a dramatic 6-5 walkoff win over the Raiders at St. Joe's Field in Thorndike.

"We were down by a run in our last at-bats and we battled back," said Kaczuwka, who was the Indians starting pitcher in the second game against the Raiders in a span of 48 hours. "This is a huge win for us because we really didn't want to lose to them again."

The Indians, who had a 5-3 overall record following the walkoff victory, traveled to Westhampton two nights earlier. They were trailing, 3-0, after the

Please see **WARE**, page 10

Pioneers still searching for first win

PALMER – Last Thursday afternoon, Pathfinder fell to host Palmer 8-3 at Palmer High School. For Pathfinder, Taylor Thorton and Addison Doktor had two hits each. Doktor drove in two of Pathfinder's runs. Hannah Roy, Kylee Lukas and Amhia McElreavy had three hits each. Jaclyn Swiatowski had three RBI. Jill Holbrook pitched a complete game, allowing three runs and eight hits, striking out five. The Pioneers are 0-7 while Palmer improved to 2-5 for the year.



Addison Doktor winds back for a swing.



Taylor Thorton throws a strike over home plate.

Turley photos by Maddox Baer



Taylor Thorton sets to swing.



Ellisyn Gelinas pulls back for the throw.



Elisyn Gelinas pressures the runner.

Panthers fall to St. Bernard's

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE — Things didn't exactly go Quabbin Regional's way in their non-league home baseball game against St. Bernard's of Fitchburg.

The Panthers had runners in scoring position in each inning that they batted but only scored five runs. They also struggled defensively, allowing five unearned runs, which helped the Bernardian's secure a 10-5 victory last Thursday afternoon.

"We left five guys on base in the first three innings. The defense also made four costly errors," said Quabbin head coach Mark Battista. "We just didn't play clean baseball today and it's very frustrating."

The Panthers, who posted an 8-0 victory at St. Bernard's last April, entered the home contest with a 3-2 overall record. They were hoping to move two games above the .500 mark for the first time this season.

"We just need to start playing better baseball," Battista added. "We now have a week off before

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 10

sports

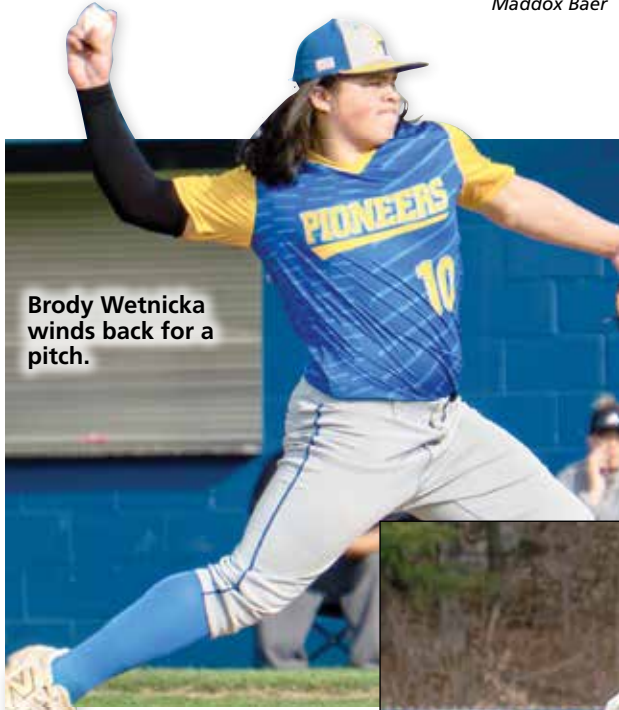


Jake Kokoski catches a strike.

Turley photos by Maddox Baer



Emerson Boronski catches a pop fly.



Brody Wetnicka winds back for a pitch.



Zack Smith hits a grounder into play.

Tough start for Pathfinder baseball

PALMER – Last Monday afternoon, Pathfinder baseball fell to 0-5 on the season with a 15-1 loss against visiting St. Mary's. The Saints scored 10 times in the first inning to pace win. Pathfinder just managed two hits, including a Brody Wetnicka RBI hit. The Pioneers are now 0-6 on the season.

Thunderbirds defeat Wolf Pack, await playoff opponent

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds (32-32-6-2) overcame another hard charge from the Hartford Wolf Pack (26-38-5-3) to emerge with a 4-3 win on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

After a disheartening third period on Friday, the T-Birds came out with a clear purpose to their game in the opening 20 minutes, outpacing Hartford on the shot board, 18-4. Despite that disparity, it took until the 14:14 mark and the club's 16th shot of the period to find the back of the net. Dillon Dube did just that, deflecting an Alek Kaskimaki shot past Callum

Tung's glove to make it a 1-0 lead for Springfield.

Dube's work was not done, either, as the veteran forward cranked a one-timer through Tung at 19:07 off a pass into the high slot from Calle Rosen, giving him 20 goals in just 46 games this season and joining Chris Wagner and Kaskimaki as 20-goal scorers for this season's T-Birds squad.

Juraj Pekarcik helped buoy the lead further when he stole a puck from two defenders and quickly chipped a forehand shot past Tung at 5:45 of the second to make it a 3-0 lead for the home team.

However, for a second straight night, the Wolf Pack



refused to go away quietly, as Brendan Brisson's second goal in two nights got Hartford on the board at 7:56 of the second. Then Aidan Thompson stole a puck off the right wing wall and quickly funneled a forehand shot through Will Cranley on the stick side to cut it to 3-2 at 12:48 of the period.

From there on, though, the T-Birds' rookie netminder was monstrous, as Cranley

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 12

WARE from page 9

first inning and suffered a 6-3 loss to the Raiders (5-2).

In last Friday night's game, Ware interim head coach Shawn Clark replaced Kaczuwka on the mound with two outs in the top of the seventh inning because he had reached the 115 pitch limit.

With a runner standing on third base, freshman righthander Joe Cygan, who started the game at third base, struck out the only batter that he faced on three fastballs. Cygan, who made a couple of appearances last year, earned his first career varsity win.

"Joey came in and did his job in a big spot," said Kaczuwka, who moved behind the plate as a catcher after being replaced by

Cygan. "We were able to comeback and win the game, which is the most important thing to me. It's always a lot of fun playing in close games."

Kaczuwka, who's a righty, won his first game of the season against the Monson Mustangs at Dunkin Park in Hartford six days earlier. He also collected his 100th career base hit in that game.

In his second start of the season, Kaczuwka allowed five runs (3 earned) on six hits with six strikeouts and just one walk in 6 2/3 innings. He threw a total of 119 pitches.

After Hampshire senior righty Colin Hogan struck out the first batter in the bottom of the seventh inning, Ware sophomore second baseman

Logan Millet sprayed a single into left field. Senior Troy Dufresne then hit a ground ball to the third baseman. His throw to second base pulled the fielder off the bag and both runners were safe. Then Kaczuwka belted a fastball into right field for a walkoff double.

"I was thinking of having Troy bunt to advance the runner, but I didn't. He hit a ground ball, and they committed a throwing error," Clark said. "We had two fast runners on base with Kyle at the plate. Kyle is one of the best hitters in our league and I wouldn't want anybody else up in that situation."

Hogan only allowed four base hits, but his defense committed a total of five errors behind him.

[@turleysports](https://twitter.com/turleysports) www.turleysports.com facebook.com/turleysports

Turleysports

Athlete of the Month

RYDER CAHALAN

Ware High School

Cahalán led Ware with 17 kills and 12 digs in Ware's win over Veritas Prep last Friday night at home.

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

MOULTON

Insurance Agency

HOME – AUTO – BUSINESS – LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETE!

Very Competitive Rates • Experienced Professional Staff
99% Claim Satisfaction Rate • On-site Registry Processing

143 West Street
Ware, MA 01082

45 North Main Street
Belchertown, MA 01007

www.moultoninsurance.com

413-967-3327

Safety Insurance
AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS

PANTHERS from page 9

playing at Bromfield."

The Bernardian's (5-2) also stranded runners in scoring position in the first two innings against Quabbin senior righthander Adam Adams, who allowed eight runs (four earned) on seven hits in 3 2/3 innings. He recorded seven strikeouts and issued four walks.

With one-out in the top of the first inning, Adams, who threw 86 pitches, walked both junior third baseman Caden Laverdiere and senior Austin Gibbons, who was the Bernardian's starting pitcher.

Gibbons led his team offensively with three singles and a double. He also scored a pair of runs.

Adams, who's hoping to play college baseball at Worcester State University next year, escaped the first inning jam with a strikeout and groundball out.

The Panthers, who had six base hits, put together a one-out rally in the bottom half of the frame.

Senior right fielder Andrew Warfield (2-for-4) lined a one out single into left field before advancing to second base on a wild pitch. Adams followed with a walk, but Gibbons retired the next two batters on a strikeout and ground out.

In the following inning, freshman second baseman JR Falconi and senior left fielder Jordyn Guilderson drew back-to-back walks, but the Panthers failed to take the lead.

The Bernardian's scored an unearned run with two outs in the third. Laverdiere, who served a single into left field, crossed the plate following a fielding error by the shortstop on a groundball hit by sophomore shortstop Justin Little.

Warfield poked a single into left field leading off the third inning. After Warfield stole second base, Adams drew his second walk of the game. Then Warfield was thrown out trying to steal third base by sophomore catcher Ryan Bouchard before the next two batters struck out.

Gibbons recorded a total of ten strikeouts before being replaced on the mound by freshman righty Yaniel Zapata during the sixth inning.

St. Bernard's built an 8-0 lead after scoring seven runs on five hits in the fourth, as they sent a total of 13 batters to the plate.

In the middle of that inning, Adams switched positions with sophomore third baseman Abe Brown, who worked the final 3 1/3

innings. Brown gave up two runs (one earned) on five hits.

Brown, who walked leading off the bottom of the fifth, scored the Panthers' first run when Adams hit a double to left field.

After St. Bernard's scored a run in the top of the sixth, the Panthers clawed back with two runs in the home half of the inning.

Senior centerfielder Chase Talbot led off with a walk and scored on a wild pitch. Warfield also reached first base following a fielding error which scored another run. The Panthers had runners on second and third with two outs when Adams hit a line drive to center field. A base hit would've sliced Quabbin's deficit to 9-5, but senior centerfielder Angelo Barry made a leaping catch for the third out of the inning.

Trailing 10-3 entering the bottom of the seventh inning, the Panthers scored two more runs in their final at-bats of the game.

An infield hit by sophomore Jake Doty, who had replaced Falconi at second base, scored junior catcher Alijah Flint (single). A groundout to the pitcher by senior shortstop Aiden Lapointe plated the Panthers final run.

Four of the six runs that Hogan gave up were unearned.

Because senior second baseman Brodie Koczur suffered an injury during batting practice, Clark was forced to make a couple of changes to his starting line-up.

Millet, who was originally in the cleanup spot, was moved up to the leadoff position. He also switched from left field to second base.

"I believe this was the first time Logan played second base in a varsity game and he made a couple of nice plays," Clark said. "He's just an outstanding athlete."

Junior Mekhai Johnson made his first varsity start in right field and senior shortstop Brady Guimond also batted for the first time this

season. Junior Samuel Torres moved from right to left field.

Just like they did in the first meeting, the Raiders took the lead in first inning on a two-out double to left by junior first baseman Thomas Moore (2-for-4).

The Indians took a 2-1 lead in the bottom half of the opening frame with a little bit of help from the Raiders defense.

Millet, who had two of the Indians six hits, began the bottom of the first with an infield hit.

Following a strikeout and a pop-up, senior first baseman Alex Orszulak was safe at first base following a fielding error by the third baseman. Then starting catcher Matt Skutnik was hit-by-a-pitch, which loaded the bases.

Torres continued the inning by hitting a groundball which was misplayed by the second baseman allowing two runs to score.

The Raiders retook the lead with a three-run fourth inning. The visitors added another run with two outs in the sixth inning following an RBI single to left field by freshman catcher Braydon Billups.

The Indians answered back with two outs in the bottom half of the inning. Torres grounded a single up the middle into center field scoring Skutnik, who reached first base when the right fielder dropped a flyball.

Then Kaczuwka became the hero of the game in the following inning.

Quabbin District offers budget information

**From the desk of
Quabbin Regional School
District Superintendent
Colleen Mucha**

BARRE – Quabbin Regional School District's goal was to develop a budget for school year 2026-2027 that improves student achievement, is operationally efficient, ensures financial stability and fosters a safe, inclusive and positive culture for students and staff.

In working to develop that budget, the district wanted to ensure that the communities understand how schools were funded, the budget process and the resulting budget being proposed at Annual Town Meetings. During this time of year, many questions arose about how the Quabbin Regional School District funding and why it seemed that there was an increased burden on the communities and the school district to be able to maintain services to support students and communities.

This article and several coming later will attempt to explain some of these factors over the course of the next few weeks as towns prepare for their Annual Town Meetings. Hopefully, community member will find these articles helpful and informative.

K-12 public school districts received funds from both local contributions and state aid. Additionally, federal funds came to schools for specific purposes such as supporting students with disabilities and students from low-income families. The allocation of these federal funds was uncertain in recent years and they declined. Opportunities for competitive grants decreased and programs like Title I, which funds intervention programs for students in K-6, experienced cuts in funding.

Massachusetts K-12 schools received state aid funding using the Chapter 70 Aid formula which determined a foundation budget. This complex formula calculation was on the foundation enrollment of the district, with students being classified into nine categories then multiplied by rates as assigned to 11 expense categories. By definition, this was the minimum "target spending level" to provide an adequate education. However, over the years there were several reports, which identified the Chapter 70 Aid formula, as it exists, as flawed, did not adequately fund today's costs and did not support school funding in an equitable manner.

Quabbin, as many of the neighboring districts, experienced a decline in foundation enrollment consistently since the 2004/2005 school year. This was due to declining birth rates, high housing and cost of living and an increased desire for alternative education including private school and homeschooling since the COVID 19 pandemic.

When a K-12 public school had declining foundation enrollment from one year to the next, they were deemed in Hold Harmless status. What this meant was the school district received at least the same amount of Chapter 70 Aid funding as it did the year before. If a district continues to lose foundation enrollment, over time, they accrue "Hold Harmless Debt."

"Minimum Aid" was a component of the Chapter 70 Aid formula since the Education Reform Act of 1993. Reforms to Minimum Aid occurred in Fiscal Year 2007 and again with the Implementation of the 2010 Student Opportunity Act. Minimum Aid ensured every district received an increase in Chapter 70 Aid, even districts that experience a decline in foundation enrollment. This aid created Hold Harmless Debt, meaning that the amount of Chapter 70 Aid the district received is greater

than the calculated aid for that district.

This year, of the 319 school districts, 236 had declined foundation enrollment, two had no change and 81 increased enrollment. The number of districts in Hold Harmless Debt increased dramatically in the past two years to 272 school districts. Quabbin was in Hold Harmless status since FY 06.

Minimum Aid was not a set amount but rather was decided through the legislative process. In 2024, it was \$60 per student and last year it was at its highest of \$150 per student. The amount anticipated for next school year, as outlined in the Governor's budget, is \$75 per student. While this additional amount of aid did help, it was minimal. At \$75 per student that equated to \$141,975 in new funds here at Quabbin. Minimum Aid did not keep pace with increased costs.

Any questions in regards to this article or anything else school or school budget related email cmucha@qrsd.org. District resident's questions will help inform future articles. Quabbin Regional School District is committed to partnering with families and communities to provide students with a wonderful educational experience.

Stone Church hosts free Concerts on the Lawn

HARDWICK – On Saturday, May 31 at 2 p.m., The Weir River Concert Band is preparing to "Celebrate America Through Music" on the lawn of the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

The concert will include traditional and contemporary music that is part of America's musical history to celebrate our country's 250th celebration.

Music by Aaron Copeland, John Williams and John Phillip Sousa along with many other pieces will be featured. The band will also be joined by vocalist Karen Guertin and guest conductor Ian Wykes for an afternoon of great

music. The Weir River Concert Band is celebrating its 21st year of performing for the local communities.

The band is 40+ members strong with musicians from several surrounding communities including Ware, Palmer, Monson, Gilbertville, Hardwick, Rutland, the Brookfields and Spencer. They have members of all ages and playing abilities.

On Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m., Weir River Jazz is preparing to "Celebrate Jazz in June"

Weir River Jazz is a group based on the tradi-

Please see **CONCERTS**, page 16

Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship applications now available

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

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

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

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

SPECIAL PERMIT

from page 1

member Chris Dimarzio said.

The board voted in favor of the special permit for the common driveway.

Planning and Community Department update

Smith shared an update for the Planning Board during the April 16 meeting. Fieldcrest Brewing is now open and a ribbon cutting ceremony was planned.

Lost Towns Brewing has officially secured permission to open at their new location at the millyard and will be opening soon.

Smith said the department is applying for a grant to try to build a community space near Veterans Park. The board said they still

want to respect the nature of Veteran's Park.

There was a Mill-Health District tour around the millyard, which also included a walk around the Mary Lane Hospital site. Smith explained that this event was an opportunity to gain feedback from the public to hear what is desired for development in the Mill-Health District.

ANR reviews

The Planning Board had several approval not required applications to review and discuss.

The first ANR was for 45 Walker Road, creating Lot 1 from the Walker Road property. Surveyor Jeremy Croteau of DC Engineering & Survey Incorporated said the location of the property is on the easterly side of Walker

Road.

There is no house on the proposed lot and no other structures that would encroach other lot lines. The Planning Board reviewed the plans in front of them and there is sufficient frontage. The board approved the ANR for Walker Road property.

The next ANR also listed Croteau as the surveyor and it is for the creation of Lot 4 at Upper Church Street. The board members said there was adequate frontage and approved the ANR.

The third ANR was for 5 Second Ave. and 201 West St. with conveying a five-foot encroachment strip. The proposal is to have Parcel A-1 being deeded from Lemaitre to Lamb to create new parcels A & B as shown on the plan.

According to the Planning

Board the property is lacking adequate frontage.

Planning Board Chair Ken Crosby said, "If you have a lot that is undersized you can't change the size of the lot and keep your grandfathering."

Members of the Board mentioned that the applicant could file a variance with the Zoning Board of Appeals. However, some members of the Planning Board believe that it may not be appropriate for the applicant to do.

This property met the existing zoning requirements at the time, but now regulations are tightening up. The Board wants to go over and identify what the proper process should be. As of now, they're not sure if they can approve this ANR if there is a law to follow.

Alex Bergeron of the

Planning Board said there is a process to reduce dimensional frontage requirements. The Planning Board asked the applicant, represented by Daryl Johnson, about why they're adding the strip of land.

Johnson explained that this proposal is to resolve an encroachment of a retaining wall and a portion of the driveway. This property was part of a court settlement to give a little piece or a five-foot section of land over to the neighbor.

Bergeron recently read an ANR handbook and it does talk about the process of approving building lots that lack adequate frontage. The ANR handbook is a state reference, not a town document.

From what they understand, the Planning Board thinks this ANR is about the

driveway and the retaining wall.

Further research seems to be needed before making a decision on this particular ANR.

From the Planning Board's standpoint, frontage appears to be more of an issue. The Board wonders if ANR is approved, does Parcel A-1 will create an issue on the property later. The Board is still figuring out to see if a variance could be made.

Crosby thinks none of these lots are going to meet current zoning. It was also noted that a variance may be hard to prove a hardship on.

The Planning Board decided to put this ANR on the agenda of their next meeting.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11				12		13			14				
15						16			17				
	18				19		20		21				
					22	23			24				
25	26	27	28	29									
30							31						
32								33	34	35	36	37	
					38	39	40		41	42			
					43				44				
	45	46	47										
48					49				50	51	52	53	54
55					56					57			58
59					60					61			
62					63					64			

CLUES ACROSS

- Egyptian bull-god
- Romanian monetary unit
- Will Ferrell holiday film
- "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" actor
- Error-related negativity
- Volcanic crater
- Boston Herald columnist Margery
- True market value
- Italian term for exchange rate
- Informal loan clubs
- Men's fashion accessory
- Children's craft supply
- Extra benefits
- In an early way
- A judge has one
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Tractor unit
- Defunct supercomputer developer
- Promotional materials
- A forgetful state
- One who beheads
- Photographers
- Small, rich sponge cake
- Clergy's vestment
- Expressed pleasure
- Abba ____, Israeli politician
- Zero
- Ancient Greek word for "earless"
- Nigerian governmental area
- Mild expression of surprise
- Places to hang things
- Keyboard key
- Make a mistake
- One-time president of Republic of Korea

CLUES DOWN

- Bridge building degree
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Large, stocky lizard
- Romanian river
- Communication
- Stoats
- Showcases
- Bird of prey
- King of Thebes
- Cleaving tool
- Large African antelope
- Three are particularly notable
- Meet one's needs
- C. European river
- Dictator
- Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
- The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- Consume food
- Woman (French)
- Scrape a surface
- Green vegetable
- Pacific Standard Time
- Capital of Brazilian city
- Paddle
- Cause to become insane
- Drier and flakier
- Mimic
- ESPN personality
- Kimes
- One who moves slowly
- Secret political clique
- Behind the stern of a ship
- Supernatural force
- Sanctuary
- Swiss river
- Grayish white
- Engrave by coating
- North Carolina university
- Midway between south and southeast



TUTORING AVAILABLE

Meet Your Professional & Educational Goals

Tutors Needed

For English Language Learners, HiSet English, Writing & Math Computer/Tech

April Showers Bring MAY BASKETS!

The May Basket Raffle begins May 1st
Baskets displayed in the Palmer Public Library
Tickets on sale in the Library,
Top Floor Learning's office, and in your mailbox
\$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20
Drawing June 1st LIVE at Top Floor Learning

- Basic Computer Use
- Resumé Building & Updating
- English Language Learning
- GED/HiSET Preparation
- Reading, Writing, Math
- Citizenship Exam
- SAT, TOEFL, etc. Test Prep

Starting April 8, tutors will be available from 1:30 to 6:30 pm on Wednesdays

Contact Us For More Information
NEW PHONE NUMBER **413-544-6600**
email: director@topfloorlearning.org
<https://topfloorlearning.org/>



public safety

Warren Police Log

During the week of March 29-April 4, the Warren Police Department responded to 44 building/property checks, five community policings, eight emergency 911 calls, one trespasser/proowler, one fraud/forgery, two thefts/larcenies, three parking issues, one complaint, two safety hazards, three animal calls and 28 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, March 29

7:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 7:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:38 p.m. Suspicious Activity, O'Neil Road, Report Filed
 4:07 p.m. Parking Issues, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:44 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Brimfield Road, Report Filed
 7:42 p.m. Complaint, North Street, Unfounded

Monday, March 30

7:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 11:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:38 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, South Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:20 p.m. Fire Investigation, Brimfield Road, Investigated
 4:58 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Brimfield Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 5 p.m. High Angle Rescue, Main Street, Rescued
 5:26 p.m. Smoke Investigation, Main Street, Fire Extinguished
 6:04 p.m. Bleeding, O'Neil Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:50 p.m. Unwanted

Party, Winthrop Terrace, Party Departed Without Incident

11:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Tuesday, March 31

9:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Criminal Complaint
 11:48 a.m. Bleeding, Quaboag Street, Transported to Hospital
 12:06 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Main Street, Report Filed
 5:39 p.m. Falls, Old West Warren Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:41 p.m. Bleeding, Yankee Drummer Drive, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, April 1

3:16 p.m. Landlord/Tenant Dispute, Pine Street, Report Filed
 3:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Chapel Street, Citation Issued
 4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 6:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 6:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 6:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
 6:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Thursday, April 2

2:52 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Spring Street, Report Filed
 6:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle

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.

Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 6:59 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Presidential Circle, Transported to Hospital

Friday, April 3

9:12 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 11 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 3:47 p.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 3:52 p.m. Unwanted Party, Crescent Street, Report Filed
 4:51 p.m. Parking Issues, Comins Pond Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, April 4

10:35 a.m. Falls, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:03 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Little Rest Road, Report Filed
 1:16 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Report Filed
 5:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:43 p.m. Safety Concern, Ware Road, Report Filed
 7:59 p.m. Parking Issues, River Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued



Submitted Photo

Left to right, State Police Sgt. Daniel Riopel and K9 Benji, Trooper Nicholas Latino and K9 O'Lana, Trooper Joshua Lemay and K9 Spencer, Trooper Jose Cabrera and K9 Corby, and Sgt. Gregory Spahl and K9 Ember were recently certified as ignitable liquid or explosive detection K9 teams. Benji, O'Lana, and Ember will join their handlers on the Fire Investigation Unit assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office, while Corby and Spencer are headed to the Bomb Squad.

Nine new K9 teams certified in accelerant, explosive detection

BRIDGEWATER – Nine Labrador retrievers and their handlers were certified as explosive detection or ignitable liquid detection K9 teams following an intensive State Police training program based at the Department of Fire Services' Bridgewater campus.

Two of the dogs – Corby and Spencer, who also goes by "Ancho" – will join Massachusetts State Police Troopers Jose Cabrera and Joshua Lemay on the Statewide Bomb Squad. K9s Ember, O'Lana, and Benji, who is also known as "Indy," will take their place on the Fire Investigation Unit with Sgt. Gregory Spahl, Trooper Nicholas Latino, and Sgt. Daniel Riopel.

Four more explosive detection K9 teams from the Falmouth Police Department, Hudson Police Department, UMass Amherst Police Department, and the Springfield Arson & Bomb Squad were also certified.

All nine teams underwent more than three months of training by State Police personnel assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office. That

process included imprinting on the odors of ignitable liquids such as gasoline or explosive substances such as black powder and then using a food reward system that motivates them to seek it out.

To date, 28 classes of K9 teams have graduated from the program, which trains local teams in addition to those on the State Police Bomb Squad and Fire Investigation Unit.

The nine teams took their final Odor Recognition Tests under the supervision of State Police chemists. After successfully completing the tests, each team was certified as an explosive detection or ignitable liquid detection K9 team by the New England State Police Administrators Conference.

They received their certification at a ceremony crowded with local and state public safety officials.

Also on hand for the ceremony was Dr. Mary Labato, a veterinarian who worked closely with the program and its canine graduates for years prior to her recent retirement. Detective Lieutenant Marc Reidy, commander

of the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit, and members of the training program presented her with a certificate of appreciation and a mounted photo of State Police K9s and handlers in gratitude for her service.

Officials also thanked the Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Association, which generously sponsored K9s Ancho and Indy in addition to many other dogs who have worked with troopers assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office through the decades.

On their own, the K9s can't solve an arson crime or determine the nature of an explosive substance.

Their handlers, who are experienced State Police investigators, must use their skills and training to evaluate all the facts and circumstances of an incident in partnership with local police and fire personnel. But the dogs' powerful noses can identify trace amounts of evidence that can be sent for testing at the State Police Crime Laboratory and provide additional direction for an investigation.

National Drug Take Back Day returns April 25

NORTHAMPTON – People in 12 area communities will have an opportunity to safely dispose of unneeded medication and drugs during the 29th National Drug Take Back Day set for Saturday, April 25.

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office, local police departments, the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office, and the county-based TRIAD initiative are once again partnering to organize and host the event.

"Drug Take Back Day is about looking out for one another," said Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan. "By taking a few minutes to safely dispose of unused medications, we can reduce the risk of misuse, protect our loved ones, and make our communities safer."

Communities in Hampshire and Franklin counties will participate in coordination with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. This nationwide, twice-yearly initiative encourages residents to safely dispose of unused or expired prescrip-

tion and over-the-counter medications for both humans and pets.

Proper disposal helps prevent prescription drug misuse and accidental ingestion, while also keeping medications out of water systems and landfills, protecting wildlife and the environment.

Collections are scheduled from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at police departments or public safety complexes in Deerfield, Easthampton, Hadley, Leverett, Pelham, South Hadley, Sunderland and Williamsburg. Other drop-off sites are at Wildwood Elementary School on Strong Avenue in Amherst; the Town Common in Belchertown; Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School on Locust Street in Northampton; and the Fire Station at 51 Huntington Road in Worthington.

Since 2011, more than 81,981 pounds of medications have been safely collected and disposed of through Take Back Days and permanent drug collection boxes located at police departments throughout the region.

Open burning permits available online only

Season runs now through April 30

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

Permits will be available online only at ware.firepermits.com. In order to obtain a burning permit, please go to ware.firepermits.com and register for the site.

If you are already registered for the site from last year's season, you only need to log in and apply for a 2026 burn permit.

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

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



Submitted Photo

Eighth grade students in Joe Salvatore's civics classes had a visit from Hardwick-New Braintree Chief of Police Kevin Landine.

Quaboag students learned about their rights

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle School eighth grade students in Joe Salvatore's civics classes are learning about the "Bill of Rights" and how these rights protect them in their everyday lives.

To help them understand their rights and interactions with police, the Chief of

Police for the Hardwick-New Braintree Police Department, Kevin Landine, came in for a class visit.

Landine spoke to the students about the 4th Amendment – protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, due process and the Miranda Rights.

Landine presented the stu-

dents with several scenarios and then had the students explain if the police actions were legal based on their knowledge of their rights. Students also asked many thoughtful questions and learned about the role of the local police in protecting our communities and our rights.

T-BIRDS from page 10

would make 37 saves by the time his night was done.

Just 33 seconds after Thompson's goal, Springfield got a much-needed response when Hugh McGing put a shot off a defenseman's stick and past Tung's shoulder,

giving the T-Birds a two-goal cushion heading into the third.

Controversy made an appearance 3:46 into the third when Brisson poked a puck, along with Cranley's pad, across the line on a power play to make it a 4-3 game. The T-Birds argued

heavily, but the officials stayed with the goal call on the ice, and the margin was down to one heading down the stretch.

McGing appeared to have Springfield's fifth goal of the night moments later, but after video replay, he was deemed to have kicked the puck over

the line, so the 4-3 score was upheld.

Despite a furious push of 36 shots over the final 40 minutes of play, the Wolf Pack wound up finishing one goal short.

By virtue of their win and Hershey's regulation loss to the Islanders, Springfield

now awaits the final outcome of the Bears' Sunday contest with the Rochester Americans to determine who their first-round opponent will be.

If Rochester defeats the Bears, Springfield will secure the 5-seed and face the Bridgeport Islanders, who

locked in the 4-seed with their win over Hershey on Saturday.

If the Bears defeat the Americans, Springfield will be the 6-seed and face the Charlotte Checkers, the 3-seed who would host all three games of the best-of-three series.

public notices

SEE MORE PUBLIC NOTICES ON PAGE 15

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Sarah L. Bouthellier to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Network, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated April 30, 2013 and recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 11299, Page 184, subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Mortgage Network, Incorporated, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 14142, Page 183 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **2:00 PM on May 7, 2026** at 126 Eagle Street, Ware, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: A certain lot of land, with all the improvements thereon, laid out and designated as Lot number twenty-two (22) on a plat of land entitled, "Mountain View Plat," Ware, Mass., owned by Eagle Realty Company, Central Falls, Rhode Island, April, 1925, W.H. and H. W. Brainard, Engineers, Palmer, Mass., which said plat is duly recorded in the records of land evidence in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, said lot being bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING on the North by Chester Avenue, one hundred (100) feet;

THENCE on the East by Eagle Street, fifty (50) feet;

THENCE on the South by Lot No. 23 as shown on said plat, one hundred (100) feet;

THENCE on the West by Lot No. 44 as shown on said plat, fifty (50) feet.

BEING the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagor by deed recorded immediately prior hereto.

BEING known as tax parcel ID number 62-84.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful ex-

emption.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
22-007927
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026

Community Outreach

Telluric Energy LLC, an outdoors cannabis cultivation company, is giving notice of a Community Outreach Meeting to be held on **Tuesday, May 19th, 2026 at 1pm**, in the meeting room at the Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St., Ware, MA. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions or, email ezra@blueskiescan.com, their consultant.

The meeting will be an opportunity for community members to learn and ask questions about Telluric Energy LLC, and outdoors cannabis cultivation company that is to be established at 0 Greenwich Plains Rd., Ware MA, or lot 34-4-4 on GIS
04/23/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lily M. Lunani to Bank of America, N.A., dated January 4, 2008 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 9363, Page 302, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Bank of America, N.A. to ABS Loan Trust V, recorded on December 24, 2018, in Book No. 13166, at Page 244 ABS Loan Trust V to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-JR2 Trust, recorded on March 21, 2024, in Book No. 15093, at Page 133 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-JR2 Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association as trustee for BP-JR2 Loan Trust, recorded on June 12, 2025, in Book No. 15444, at Page 342 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-JR2 Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee on behalf of and for the benefit of BP-JR 2 Loan Trust, recorded on June 24, 2025, in Book No. 15456, at Page 90 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **3:00 PM on May 14, 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at 76 Aspen Street, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

Parcel 1

A certain parcel of land situated on the Westerly side of Aspen Street in said Ware and bounded as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin driven in the ground at the northeast corner of lot conveyed on West line of street;

Thence Southerly on said street seventy-five (75) feet to an iron pin;

Thence Westerly on land formerly of Samuel H. Giguere ninety-five (95) feet to an iron pin;

Thence Northerly seventy-five (75) feet to land formerly of J.H. Storrs, at an iron pin; and,

Thence Easterly ninety-five and one half (95-1/2) feet to

place of beginning, containing more or less.

Parcel 2

The land in said Ware off the Westerly side of Aspen Street, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin at the Northwesterly corner of other land now or formerly of Wdowiak, said iron pin being set North 66° 16' 52" West ninety-six and 04/100 (96.04) feet from the iron pin in the Westerly line of Aspen Street marking the Northeasterly corner of said other land;

THENCE North 66° 16' 52" West along remaining land now or formerly of Laurette C. Smith one hundred sixteen and 87/100 (116.87) feet to an iron pin at Aspen Grove Cemetery;

THENCE South 19° 11' 20" West fourteen and 34/100 (14.34) feet to a stone bound;

THENCE South 18° 47' 29" West fifty-five and 96/100 (55.96) feet to an iron pin at the Northwesterly corner of land to be conveyed by Laurette C. Smith to Laura Demers; the last two (2) courses being along land of Aspen Grove Cemetery;

THENCE South 63° 46' 18" East along said land now or formerly of Laura Demers one hundred twelve and 72/100 (112.72) feet to an iron pin at the Southwesterly corner of other land of Wdowiak;

THENCE North 22° 25' 55" East along said land of Wdowiak seventy-five (75) feet to the point of beginning. Containing 8,314 square feet and being Parcel "B" on a Plan of Land in Ware, Mass., surveyed for Laurette C. Smith by Robert H. LeMaitre dated September 15, 1979 and recorded in Hampshire County Deeds, Plan Book 112, Page 74. SUBJECT TO rights reserved by Laurette C. Smith a/k/a Laurette C. Smith in a deed given by her to Louis G. and Marguerite Wdowiak recorded at Hampshire County Deeds, Book 2128 Page 107, if still in force and effect.

BOTH PARCELS are the same as were conveyed to us by deed of Louis C. and Marguerite Wdowiak dated Sept. 23, 2004 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 7997 Page 307. Subject to a first mortgage dated January 4, 2008 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 9363, Page 285 in the original principal amount of \$110,400.00. For mortgagor's(s) title see deed recorded with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 9363, Page 281.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of **Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars** by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the

event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF BP-JR 2 LOAN TRUST
Present holder of said mortgage
By Its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES,
P.C. 150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
24920
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT MAIN STREET STAIR REPLACEMENTS THIS PROJECT IS BEING BID ELECTRONICALLY AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the Bid Documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. See www.biddocs.com for bidding instructions.

The Town of Warren invites sealed Bids for the Main Street Stair Replacements project. The project includes replacement or repair of four cement concrete staircases, cement concrete sidewalk repairs, handrail removal and resetting, continuous management of building access, and associated work. This project is being administered by the town of Warren and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) and funded by the MA Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Warren Community Development Block Grant Program FY22/23 and the MassDOT Chapter 90 Program. The Engineer's opinion of probable construction costs for the Base Bid is \$96,325.

Electronic bids for the construction of the Main Street Stair Replacements for the Town of Warren, Massachusetts, shall be prepared and received electronically by www.biddocs.com until **10:00 a.m. prevailing time, on May 13, 2026**, at which time said bids will be publicly opened, forthwith online.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available at www.biddocs.com (may be viewed electronically and downloaded at no cost) or hard copies may be purchased online at www.biddocs.com or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount.

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §26 to 27H, inclusive, or by the federal Davis-Bacon wage rates, whichever hourly rate is higher. Bidders shall make a good faith effort to achieve the goals of the Federal Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) policy regarding utilization of MBEs and WBEs in order to be deemed a responsible bidder.

MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, Highway – Sidewalk and Curbing, for the Main Street Stair Replacements project with an estimated value of \$96,325, will be required.

The lowest qualified responsible bidder shall be awarded the contract subject to availability of funds under the DHCD Block Grant program. The Town of Warren, the Awarding and Contracting Authority, may cancel this Invitation for Bid (IFB), in whole or in part, at any time that such an act is deemed in its best interest, reserves the right

to waive any informality in the bidding or to reject any and all bids in total or in part as may be deemed to serve the best interest of the Town, and will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a bidder in preparing and submitting a bid in response to this IFB.

Questions regarding the bid specifications should be directed in writing to Bill Storti at Weston & Sampson, at storti@wseinc.com. Contract documents may be viewed at the CMRPC, 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520, Worcester, MA 01608, Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High Street, Warren, MA 01083, or Weston & Sampson, 712 Brook Street, Suite 103, Rocky Hill, CT, 06067.
04/23/2026

WARREN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Paquette Bros. Contracting LLC – Cemetery Road

Pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40A, notice is hereby given that the Warren Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM** on the application of Paquette Bros. Contracting LLC. The hearing will be held at the Warren Senior Center located at 2252 Main Street in West Warren.

The Applicant, Paquette Bros. Contracting LLC, is requesting Site Plan Approval (SPR #73) under Section 5.32.1 of the zoning bylaws to allow construction of six two-family dwellings served by a single driveway at Cemetery Road (Assessor's Map 23, Lots 54, 57.1, and 58) in the Village district

A complete copy of the application may be inspected in the Office of the Planning Board or the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated
04/23, 04/30/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 58 Church Street, Ware, MA 01082

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For current title see deed recorded herewith.

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

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

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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

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

Notice is hereby given by REGIN'S REPAIR, 19 CHURCH ST GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on **5/8/2026 at 10:00AM** at: Regin's Repair, 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keepers lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle .

2008 JEEP CHEROKEE
Registration#/State: FW969X/MA
VIN: 1J8GR48K48C147443
Name and address of owner:
Zachary Freeman
5 South Main St .
North Brookfield, MA 01535
By: James M. Regin
Dated: 4/14/2026

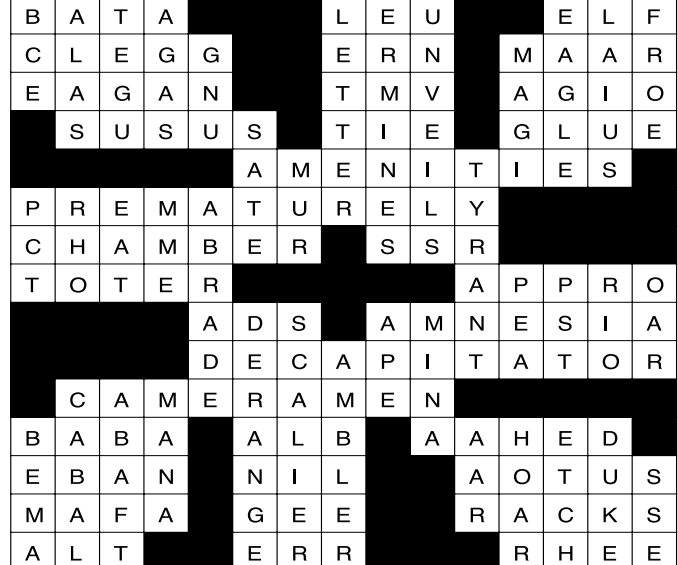
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A
04/23, 04/30, 05/07/2026

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

Ware River News
OBITUARY POLICY

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

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



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$240.00
Seasoned cut & split \$375.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**
New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MISCELLANEOUS

ST. JUDE THANK YOU FOR answering my prayers. **P.F.**

TAG SALE

MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE.
MAY 2 AND MAY 3, 9AM-3PM.
63 Charon Terrace, South Hadley.

WANTED

WANTED!
CASH for:
• Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
• Electronics & Audio Equipment.
• Sports Cards.
• 70s/80s/90s Toys.
• Antiques & Collectibles.
Much, much more!
Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.
BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:
Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.
Call Paul 413-206-8688

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL
Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Fully insured.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service
2*****A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*****

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured.
Master Elec. #20773A.
Text/call Luis 413-218-3301.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.
Call John at (413)206-6509

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Walker Home Improvement
Handyman Services
Licensed & Insured
Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!
(413) 687-5552

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST
Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor.
Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS, REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

LANDSCAPING

A- ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property? Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789.

DAVE MAZ LANDSCAPING
Lawn mowing, Spring thru Fall clean-ups, mulching, pruning. Serving parts of Hampden and Hampshire counties.
Call 413-536-3697.

SERVICES

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING
Landscape Design and Installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text 413-266-9975
Insured - Commercial - Residential

LAWN & GARDEN

"RANDY and RICKY Spring Cleanup, Call Paul Amherst"

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PAINTING

PRO PAINTING
Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. 413-310-5099.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

PRESSURE WASHING

HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHING. We use brushes and state of the art equipment. We remove grime and mold from homes, patios, fences, walkways, all decks, concrete & driveways. Senior Discounts. For free estimates call Bill (413)519-9800.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

BUY LOCALLY
support our community!

SERVICES

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

H & H TREE SERVICE All phases of tree care. Call Dave 413-668-6560 day/night.

TUNE-UPS

LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

AUTO CAMPERS

2011 KEYSTONE MONTANA MOUNTAINEER MODEL RKD LENGTH 33'; 2 SLIDE-OUTS, REAR KITCHEN, SLEEPS 4, LOTS OF STORAGE. \$8000. BRIMFIELD (413)374-1880

PETS

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS. Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F. Ready, w/shots. Now \$1,200. 413-218-2321

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

HELP WANTED

The Town Oakham is seeking an experienced **LABORER/TRUCK DRIVER** to join the Highway department. Pay rate is \$26.26 - \$28.28/hr depending on experience.
For a full job description and job application please visit: ma-oakham.civicplus.com/ 216/Highway-Department or email admin@oakham-ma.gov

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

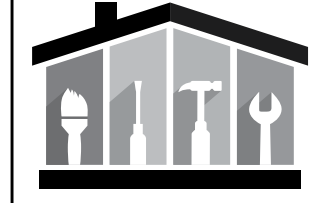
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**
Call 413-283-8393



STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
Subscribe Today!

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
Make checks payable to Turley Publications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

public notices

SEE MORE PUBLIC NOTICES ON PAGE 13

Student Transportation Services Joint Bid Belchertown – Granby – Ware July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029

The public school districts of Belchertown, Granby, and Ware ("DISTRICTS") request sealed proposals from qualified school transportation providers licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The term of the contract will be for three (3) years for the fiscal years from 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027 (FY27), 7/1/2027 to 6/30/2028 (FY28) and 7/1/2028 to 6/30/2029 (FY29).

The Request for Proposal will be available via email as of April 27, 2026, 10:00AM. Sealed proposals are due in Ware Public School's superintendent's office no later than **10:00 AM on May 20, 2026**. Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered. Envelopes must be clearly marked on the outside with:

- Company Name
- Address
- Contact Name
- Telephone Number
- Email

Proposals must be in an envelope clearly marked "School Transportation Bid #2026-001- Collective School Districts Award". Proposals are to be delivered to:

Ware Public Schools, Superintendent's Office
239 West Street
Ware, MA 01082

Attn. Andrew Paquette
All questions should be addressed to Andrew Paquette at the following email address:

apaquette@ware.k12.ma.us.
No questions will be answered after May 11, 2025, at 4:00PM. All official addenda will be sent via email to all vendors who have received specifications.

Proposals will be evaluated and interviews will be scheduled with Bidders, if determined to be needed. Contracts will be awarded by individual school districts within sixty (60) days of bid opening.

The award of the contract shall be subject to a vote of approval by the respective School Committees pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30B, Section 12 and is subject to cancellation by each District pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, Section 12, if funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available for continuation or performance in any fiscal year succeeding the first year.
04/23, 04/30/2026

Ware Housing Authority Window Replacement Project #316086
Section 00 11 13

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID MGL c.149 Over \$150K

The WARE HOUSING AUTHORITY, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Window Replacement at State Aided Development: 161 West Street (705-2) in Ware, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by TRICIA KENDALL, ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN.

The Project consists of but not limited to:

Replace existing windows with insert double-hung windows and full-frame sliding windows at four 2-story residential buildings.

The work is estimated to cost **\$178,000.00**.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 05/04/2026 at 10:00AM EDT for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and

Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **General Building Construction**, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **8 May 2026 at 2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **WARE HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

General bidders must agree to contract with minority, women and veteran-owned business enterprises as certified by the

Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). The participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 8.6% MBE, 7.3% WBE and 3% VBE for all state and state-assisted construction projects over \$150,000. **Request for waivers must be sent to EOHLC (Chad.Howard@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED.**

The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at **6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities**. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a statutory requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled
Date and Time: 04/29/2026 at 10:00AM EDT
Address: 161 West Street, Ware, MA 01082
Instructions: Meet in front of Building 1 (Units 6-11).
The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:
Nashoba Blue Inc.
433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167
04/23/2026



Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

School Nutrition Team Member Openings IN MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

Part time, multiple shifts available,
Monday-Friday
Great schedule & benefits
\$18-\$20/hr

Contact info:
schoolmeals@qrds.org
can apply via email inquiry
978-355-4668x8512

Accepting paper applications at
872 South St. Barre, MA 01005

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

www.turley.com

TOWN OF WARE JOB OPENINGS

► **Part-Time Administrative Assistant**

Part-time Administrative Assistant in the Treasurer/Collector's Office. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to performing a variety of administrative and financial support functions for the Collector's Office, including processing payments, issuing receipts, preparing and reconciling daily deposits, and maintaining records. Provides customer service by responding to inquiries and resolving account issues. Part-time, non-benefited, non-union, \$22.80-\$23.49 per hour, 18 hours per week.

► **Assistant Treasurer/Collector**

Assistant Treasurer/Collector. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to a variety of accounting and administrative functions to assist the Treasurer/Collector in all financial operations of the office. The Assistant provides skilled accounting and computer banking support, including billing and collection activities, account reconciliation, cash management, reporting, and research, as well as other municipal procedures and functions as required. Full-time, benefited, union position, \$25.53-\$26.29 per hour, 35 hours per week

► **Equipment Operator/Truck Driver**

Equipment Operator/Truck Driver in the Department of Public Works. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to Operating various types of motorized vehicles, trucks, dump trucks, sweepers, excavators, snow and ice removal equipment and other miscellaneous equipment, such as loaders, mowers, and chippers; Participating in emergency operations including but not limited to snowplowing, road sanding, snow and ice removal, hazardous materials mitigation, and natural disasters; Assisting with preparation of trucks and other equipment for different seasonal jobs including repairing and maintaining sanders and snow plows; Repairing roadways, sidewalks, pavements, and other surface areas and drainage structures, including excavating trenches, and chain saw operation. Full-time, 40 hours per week average, union position, \$23.32-\$25.26. Applicants are required to have a Class B CDL License with Air Brake endorsement endorsements.

For full job descriptions visit- <https://www.townofware.com/> Interested applicants please send resume to: Human Resources Department, Town of Ware, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 or e-mail resumes@townofware.com. AA/EOE

Send Us Your Summer Event Information

Turley Publications will print your summer calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our SUMMERFEST Supplement which publishes June 3.

Deadline for submissions is May 6.

Community Summer Events
Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

CLIP OUT AND MAIL TO:
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
***Be sure to indicate "Summer" in the subject line of your email.**



Submitted Photo

Quaboag Regional hosted first responders luncheon

WARREN – As a way of saying thank you for helping keep students, staff, and schools safe, Quaboag Regional Middle High School held a first responders luncheon.

Members of the Warren and West Brookfield Police, Fire and EMS attended. Parents of Quaboag students who are also first responders

attended and members of the Citizens Emergency Response Team or CERT.

Students in Joe Salvatore's civics classes and Stephanie Beauregard's classes put on the event with support from Superintendent Stephen Duff and sponsorship from Hannaford Supermarket. Students also made "thank you" place

mats and Barbara Fellmeth's students made thank you cards that many of the first responders took home with them.

After the lunch, Duff thanked and recognized the first responders to all the students in the high school cafeteria lunches to a round of applause. Several of the first responders who attend-

ed were once Quaboag students in the "Fire and EMS Academy" at the school and now have joined the local departments.

Quaboag Regional is grateful for the local first responders and the close working and supportive relationship they share together which helps keep school's safe.

Town of Warren Candidate Night to be held April 30

WARREN – A Candidate Night will be held for the town of Warren on Thursday, April 30 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Quaboag Regional Middle High School auditorium, 284 Old West Brookfield Road.

All candidates running for the available positions in the May 5 town election

will have a chance to make a statement and answer questions. Audience members will be able to direct questions to a particular candidate through the moderator of the event.

This event is being hosted by Quaboag Regional Middle High School and Joe Salvatore's honors civics class.

CONCERTS from page 11

tional Jazz Ensemble and Big Band formats directed by John Sacco.

Weir River Jazz grew out of the concert band to focus on jazz and improvisation. This June vocalist Donna-Lee DePrille will join the concert.

Since 2020, both groups have made the Gilbertville Stone Church Cultural

Center their rehearsal home.

A career veteran, John P. Sacco was awarded the Silver Star for his actions in Vietnam in October of 1969. He trained at Boston Conservatory and taught music in the public schools.

The public is invited to bring lawn chairs. Tents, refreshments and accessible facilities will be provided.

'Fun with Fairy Tales!' will be held May 9

WARREN – Join the Warren Public Library at the Warren Senior Center as the library continues celebrating its 150th anniversary with "Fun with Fairy Tales!" on Saturday, May 9 at 3:30 p.m. at the Warren Senior Center, 2252 Main St., West Warren.

Award-winning storyteller Diane Edgecomb will entertain patrons of all ages with a delightful re-telling of unusual fairy tales. From enchanted bears, to determined princesses, to a wild ride with a fairy-band, Once Upon a Time has never been this fun.

There's even a chance for the audience to join in

on one of our most beloved tales. This program is free and open to everyone.

Edgecomb, a Parent's Choice award winner, transforms into the characters in her tales, bringing stories to vibrant life. Her warmth and invitation to participate brings audiences right into the tale.

She has been featured on NPR and is the winner of the ORACLE award for Storytelling Excellence in the Northeast as well as five Storytelling World awards.

This program is sponsored by the Warren Public Library with a grant from the Quaboag Historical Society.

Earth Day community cleanup to be held April 25

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

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

Pick up your bags and street assignment at Warren

Community Elementary School's circle parking lot the day of the event at 8:45 a.m. Volunteers can register at <https://forms.office.com/r/puDFQSQ0mf> or by scanning the QR code. Registration is also available at warren-ma.gov under "Parks & Recreation Commission."

This cleanup is sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Commission.



Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

DON'T BUY 'TIL YOU SEE US!!!!
PRE-SEASON A/C SALE!!!
GIANT APPLIANCE REBATES!!!
MATTRESS SALE!!!
BIKES, E-BIKES!!!
WE REPAIR BIKES!!!
SEE AD INSIDE!

WHITCO
 12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING
 140 Main St., Spencer
www.whitcosales.com
 508-885-9343
 Open: Mon.-Fri. 10am-8:30pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 12pm-7pm

JUST LISTED - MONSON, MA
 Well-maintained 3-unit mixed-use property on a high-visibility corner lot in Wales. This unique opportunity features a 1-bedroom unit with a long-term tenant at will, a vacant 2-bedroom unit, and an established post office with a long-term lease, offering a diverse and stable income stream. Set on .45 acres with ample off-street parking. The building is in great condition and offers a convenient location with easy access to surrounding towns and local amenities. Ideal for investors or owner-occupants seeking flexibility and long-term value. Located in the Tantasqua School District! Available for \$450,000.

YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
 We Do More So You Will Make More!!!
exp REALTY
 Michelle Terry Broker
michelleterryteam.com
 130 W. Main Street
 Spencer, MA 01562
GIVE US A CALL TODAY! 508-202-0008

The Optical Shop
 at Kelly & Velazquez Eye Center
 "The Finest Quality at Reasonable Prices"

The Most Advanced Lens Designs Available
 Frames to Fit Any Budget
 Large Selection of Designer Frames For All Ages
SUNGLASSES
 Maui Jim • Ray Ban

1504 N. Main St., Palmer, MA 413-283-3511
 362 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA 413-589-1806
 Expert guidance in selecting the right frame with the best fit & lenses for every lifestyle.

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!
LANDSCAPE STONE
 White • Blue • Purple • Red
 Lt Gray • Dark Gray • Beige • Rip Rap
SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING
 Construction Stone • Title V & Presby Septic Sand
 Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand
 Pool Liner Sand • Stone Dust • Silt • Crushed Gravel
 Crushed Asphalt • Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch
Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums
PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!
Bond
 Sand, Gravel & Asphalt
 98 North Spencer Rd., Spencer
bondsandandgravel.com
 508-885-6100
 508-885-2480

Are you ready to buy or sell?

Lisa Caron Realtor®
 Broker, Owner GRI, ABR, SRS, RENE, C2EX, SRES, MRP, PSA, LMC, COPE, E-PRO
 Call today to get started!
 508.341.8299

Flint Signs
 149 Broad St., Barre, MA
 Tel. 978-355-3080
www.FlintSigns.com
Quality Handcrafted Signs Since 1973

MS + NN PAINTING AND HOME MAINTENANCE
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Home Painting & Maintenance
 Residential/Commercial – Deck Specialists
 NO JOB IS TOO SMALL – FREE ESTIMATES
 Fully Insured – HIC License Holders
 81 Jackson Lane, Barre, MA 01005
 774-321-4509
 Mmguzman.2011@yahoo.com

Adventure tours of Warren
 Share the Adventure with us!

Boothbay Harbor Vacation

June 9-12 4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation\$899
 June 27....Lake George Cruise & Lunch\$185
 July 11.....Provincetown by Fast Ferry.....\$220
 July 19.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
 Aug 30.....8-Day Nova Scotia Cruisefrom \$1699

Share the Adventure with us soon!
 For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

CHECK OUT ALL THE
Turley Publications
www.turley.com

JARS Café & Bakery

In-House Fresh Bakery
 All Occasion Cake
 Cupcakes and Cookies
See website for specials
JARSCafe.com

Future Events
 Contact us to plan your next private event.
 508-637-1577

TEA FOR TWO
 1st Sunday Every Month
 Reservations Required

508-637-1577
OPEN NOW
7 DAY A WEEK!
 8am-2pm
 Mon-Fri
 8am-3pm
 Sat. & Sun.

BRING IN ENTIRE AD FOR \$5 OFF
 with \$10 minimum purchase.