

# Historical Commission continues to work on Mary Lane plan

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WARE – The Historical Commission meeting on Feb. 26 focused on figuring out a plan for reviewing the reuse of the Baystate Mary Lane Hospital property during the current demolition delay period.

Mary Lane Hospital, which served the community of Ware and neighboring communities for nearly a century, is currently under a nine-month demolition delay. In this nine-month period, the Historical Commission is to collaborate with Baystate Health to consider alternatives to demolition of the buildings and uses that would be most beneficial for the redevelopment of the site.

Baystate Health plans to demolish the property and possibly sell it to Westmass Development. Westmass manages large-scale development projects, prepares district development strategies, and has successfully developed financing and incentive packages.

Based on company information, Westmass Development has experience in site planning and analysis, green infrastructure and low impact development and historic preservation projects.

The Historical Commission was informed that Baystate Health was planning to sell the Mary Lane Hospital property to Westmass Development for \$1 to redevelop the property for uses beneficial to the community. The Historical Commission questioned if other companies were offered a similar opportunity.

Representing Baystate Health



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Baystate Mary Lane Hospital has been closed since the fall of 2023 and the site is currently under a nine-month demolition delay. This view of the site is from its entrance off Marjorie Street.

on Monday was Attorney Peter Barry of Bulkley, Richardson & Gelinas, LLP alongside President of Baystate Regional Hospitals, Ronald Bryant. In regard to selling the property for a low price, Barry suggested it is part of Baystate's willingness to sell the property for less than the property's fair market value with the intent of it being used to benefit the town of Ware.

"Baystate's purpose is to redevelop the properties for the better of the community," said Barry.

According to residents and Commission members in atten-

dance, while Mary Lane Hospital was operational in 2016, the town of Ware was under the understanding that the hospital was still going to remain open for a good while. Baystate Health would make its initial announcement about the closure of Mary Lane Outpatient Center in January of 2021.

The Historical Commission has a plan in progress during the demolition delay.

"The intention is to save the historic building," said Chair Lynn Lak.

The Historical Commission wants to meet with the Hospital

Review Committee and architects to help devise a plan. The commission is looking to craft a letter to send to potential healthcare companies who may express an interest in the property.

The Historical Commission is still unsure of Baystate's intentions and if they are truly willing to work with the town on the future of the 21-acre property.

Barry said that Baystate Health does want to work with the town of Ware and would consider a plan they'd present.

"Baystate wants what's best for the community," said Barry.

"Provide a plan that makes sense, we'll consider it."

According to the Historical Commission, the front Wetherbee building of Mary Lane Hospital should be saved and as it was stated in previous meetings, the Historical Commission does value the hospital as historically significant.

"We want something great for the town", said Wanda Mysona, Vice-Chair of the Historical Commission.

There is a disagreement between Baystate Health and the Historical Commission in regard to the layout of the buildings. After going over the ages of each part of the building, Barry found out that three building parts are under the age of 75 years and are not considered eligible for demolition delay.

Members of the Historical Commission believe that the buildings are one whole building, since all systems are intertwined making the building one connected entity.

The ownership and use of the Gilbert Trust is also a factor in the discussion and is being reviewed by a local resident. More information about the continued use of the trust will be reviewed by the Historical Commission and the Hospital Review Committee.

Memorializing options are still under advisement and Baystate Health said they would be willing to memorialize the building in some way if it is not preserved.

The Historical Commission also wants to stay in contact with state officials on all aspects of the Baystate Mary Lane work.

Additional meetings will take place between the Historical Commission, the Building Inspector, the Hospital Review Committee and HKT Architects.

## Town Hall

The Historical Commission met with the Friends of Ware Town Hall to go over future repairs of the town hall. Sitting in with the Commission were Friends Treasurer Jane Desjardins and President Pat Skutnik.

The Friends of Ware Town Hall and the Historical Commission agreed to make window repairs the main priority. The two parties discussed how some windows and areas in the Great Hall are in need of updates. The railing on the balcony needs an upgrade as well in order for people to use the balcony space.

## Inventory project

In order to update the Town's inventory of historic homes in the town of Ware, the Historic Commission wants to collect photographs of homes. The streets being reviewed include Church Street, Chestnut Street and South Street.

The Historical Commission is going to start with taking photos of their homes first before beginning photo shoots of other residents' homes. For community outreach, the Commission is asking residents to donate a picture if they live in a historic house.

## Book Hunt

The Historical Commission's annual Book Hunt will occur on May 6. More details will be released after the Commission's March meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 25 at 6 p.m.

## District Attorney's Office receives \$100,000 state grant

WORCESTER – Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. announced his office received a \$100,000 state grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to fight gang-related crime, with a portion of the funds going directly into the community to support programming at the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester.

"The key mission of our office is to prevent crime," said Early. "Gangs are one of the main drivers of violence and drugs in our communities. We want to support our at-risk youth, preventing their introduction to gang life and the inevitability of ending up in the criminal justice system. By supporting these kids, we can prevent crime, keep the numbers down in the jails, and guide our youth to brighter, happier futures."

The grant funding was awarded to the Worcester County District Attorney's Office through the EOPSS' Project Safe Neighborhood Program to support the prosecution of gang crimes. This is the third time the state has awarded funds to this office to support gang intervention.

As part of the grant, a portion of the funds are designated to support prevention and intervention programming through a community organization. The office began partnering with the Boys & Girls Club with these grant funds last year.

"The Boys & Girls Club is doing such amazing work on prevention and intervention in the community, they are a great partner for this grant," Early said.

The Boys & Girls Club offered programming to 250 kids in 2023 thanks to this funding. The funding supported 122 boys participating in a program called Passport to Manhood and 128 girls participating in a program called S.M.A.R.T Girls.

"This grant supported our gender-specific programs that address violence prevention, the building of self-esteem and anti-bullying techniques," said Liz Hamilton, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester. "The curriculum was facilitated by professional Club mentors, which allows our kids to be their authentic selves and discuss issues they may not feel comfortable sharing outside

of our safe space. The post-evaluations indicated that kids who participated in this funded program were better prepared for the future and had the tools they need to make healthy and safe choices."

In the coming year, the Boys & Girls Club plans to offer drivers' education and job training courses with the funding.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration awarded \$1.9 million statewide through the Project Safe Neighborhood Program this year to District Attorney's Offices and State Police to address gun crimes, gang violence and narcotics offenses.

"This new grant program fosters the partnerships and supports the collaborative solutions that make a meaningful difference in our communities," said Governor Maura Healey. "By investing in these efforts, we're empowering community partners to deliver vital services to at-risk youth while promoting safe, thriving communities across Massachusetts. We're grateful to the Legislature for their partnership in making this critical funding available."

## Country Bank announces promotions

Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts announces recent promotions of several key team members, who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and expertise in their respective roles.

These promotions reflect the bank's commitment to recognizing and developing talent within the organization. Shane Elder has been promoted to First Vice President, Business Banking Team Lead. With over 11 years of experience in commercial lending and eight years in commercial lending management, Elder has proven himself as a valuable asset to the Business Banking Department. In addition to his role as Team Leader, he also oversees the Cash Management Sales Department.

Brett LoCicero has been promoted to First Vice President, Facilities and Security. With seven years of service to the bank, LoCicero's expertise in managing facilities and security operations. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Nichols College and is pursuing his Project Management Professional certification.

Justin Calheno has been promoted to Vice President, Retail

Lending Business Development Officer. With an impressive 20 years of lending experience, including the last seven years with Country Bank, Calheno brings a wealth of knowledge to his role. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in business management from Westfield State University and is currently attending the American Banker Association – Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

Antonio Palano has been promoted to Vice President, Retail Lending. Tony's 15-year tenure at Country Bank showcases his commitment and dedication to the organization. Having progressed through various roles, he currently manages the Retail Lending Servicing and Operations Departments. Palano holds an Associate's Degree in business administration from Springfield Technical Community College and is a 2023 graduate from the New England School of Financial Studies.

Cuc Nguyen has been promoted to Retail Banking Officer of the Paxton Banking Center. With over 16 years of banking experience, Cuc brings a wealth of knowledge to her new role. Her previous experience at Commerce Bank, Berkshire Bank and DCU has

equipped her with a deep understanding of frontline management and customer satisfaction. Nguyen holds a Bachelor's Degree in business administration and inance from Southern New Hampshire University.

"We are excited to announce the promotions of Shane, Brett, Tony, Justin, and Cuc," said Miriam Siegel, First Senior Vice President, Chief Culture and Development Officer of Country Bank. "We are thrilled to be able to recognize their hard work, dedication and contribution to the Bank's success. We are proud to support the commitment of all of our team members to their ongoing professional and personal growth leading them down all of the many career paths in community banking today."

Country Bank congratulates these individuals on their well-deserved promotions and looks forward to their continued success in their new roles.

### About Country Bank

Country Bank serves central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton and Worcester.

## Sustainable agriculture grant funding

Two Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant programs are calling for 2024 proposals.

Northeast SARE's Administrative Council has allocated \$750,000 for Partnership Grants and \$500,000 for Graduate Student Research Grants.

Partnership Grants fund researchers, educators and agricultural service providers working in direct partnership with farmers in the Northeast. Funded projects will design and implement innovative solutions to agricultural sustainability challenges, and strengthen connections between farmers and agricultural service providers.

Partnership Grant proposals are capped at \$30,000; about 30 projects will be awarded. Proposals are due April 9 at 5 p.m.

Graduate Student Research

Grants fund students conducting research under the supervision of a faculty advisor on sustainable agriculture topics of importance to Northeast farmers, agricultural researchers, and farm support professionals.

Graduate Student Research Grant proposals are capped at \$15,000; about 30 projects will be awarded. Proposals are due April 16 at 5 p.m.

Northeast SARE – including funding decisions – is guided by its outcome statement:

"Northeast agricultural communities honor the holistic connection among land, water, air, and all living beings. Agriculture in the Northeast is accessible, sustainable, and just, addressing historic and current inequities so all farmers and farm employees can steward resources to ensure sustainability, resilience, econom-

ic viability, and a high quality of life."

Live question and answer sessions for both grant programs will take place throughout March and into April. These sessions are a great opportunity for potential applicants to learn if a Northeast SARE Grant is right for them.

They are also a chance to build understanding around how to successfully write and manage Northeast SARE grants.

Partnership Grant Q&A sessions will take place March 5, 13, 19, and 27 from noon-1 p.m. To register, visit <https://northeast.sare.org/2024PartnershipGrantQA>.

Graduate Student Research Grant Q&A sessions will take place March 12, 20, 26, and April 3 from noon-1 p.m. To register, visit <https://northeast.sare.org/2024GraduateStudentGrantQA>.

## Public Notices

### PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Quabbin Regional School District

QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING: In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 38N, the Quabbin Regional School District School Committee will hold a Public Hearing regarding the FY25 Budget on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Educational Support Center, 872 South Street, Barre, MA 01005. The public is invited to attend in person or via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Please use the link below to join the presentation directly through Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting: bit.ly/QuabbinRSDSC

Meeting ID: 840 3950 2276

Passcode: qNR6R0

A copy of the FY25 budget will be available for review on our website at [www.qrsd.org](http://www.qrsd.org) or at the Educational Support Center, 872 South Street, Barre, MA 01005 after 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024.

\*\*Pursuant to Section 13 of Chapter 4 (enacted by Chapter 174 of the Acts of 2015, entitled An Act Relative to Electronic Publication of Certain Legal Notices), it is stated that the newspaper is to post on their website and on the MNPA website: [masspub.licenotices.org](http://masspub.licenotices.org) 02/29, 03/07/2024

### Sale of Motor Vehicles Under MGL Ch 255 Sec 39A

Notice is hereby given by: Dave's Tow & Transport, Inc pursuant to the provisions of

MGL C.255 sec 39a, that on **March 8, 2024** at 843 Worcester Rd, Barre, MA the following motor vehicle will be sold by private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges and other expenses incurred, including sales costs. 2011 Chevrolet HHR VIN: 3GNBABFW8BS620076 Robert L Goodman 111 Perseverance Mine Ct Nevada City, CA 95959 02/22, 02/29, 03/07/2024

### Town of Barre Public Hearing Notice Transfer of Liquor License Change of Manager

TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on **Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Select Board Meeting Room, Henry

Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA on the following proposed amendments of a Wines & Malt Retail License from Tisha, Inc. DBA Red Tomato Pizza to RHEA, Inc. for premises located at 11 Exchange Street, Barre, MA, and Change of Manager to Anastasios Kyris. Persons wishing to comment may do so at that time. The Board will also consider written comments received prior to the hearing.

For the Select Board: Tammy Martin Town Administrator 03/07, 03/14/2024



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- 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 Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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