

STAMP from page 4

and prominent social connections, Wheatley occupied a rare place in Colonial America.

Her poems charmed readers on both sides of the Atlantic and offer subtle commentary on her times, while Wheatley herself has inspired generations of writers.

Born in West Africa and brought to Boston on a slave ship, the child who would become known as Phillis Wheatley was enslaved by merchant John Wheatley and educated in his household.

By age 11, she had already begun to compose her own poems. Her 1773 collection, “Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral,” showcased her mastery of forms ranging from hymns and elegies to philosophical and narrative verse.

As a figure whose life and writing speak to the complexity of her times, Wheatley is especially relevant in 2026 as we reflect on the Revolutionary era as part of our nation’s 250th anniversary celebrations. Wheatley was freed from slavery in 1773, and her later poems reflected growing support for the American Revolution.

In late 1775, while George Washington was encamped near British-

occupied Boston, Wheatley sent him an ode, published the following year, in which she suggests that the nations of the world are closely watching him to see if a new age in human history is dawning. Washington replied with praise for Wheatley’s poetic talents and extended an invitation to meet if she found herself near his headquarters.

Wheatley kept writing but was unable to publish a second book before her death in her early 30s. Her poetry continued to circulate widely, and her book was reprinted several times in the United States. Before the Civil War, abolitionists republished her work as an argument against slavery.

Abolitionists and emancipationists invoked her name and accomplishments to affirm a shared humanity and the intellectual ability of people of African descent.

Her legacy endures

today: schools, libraries, community centers and university buildings across the



The Black Heritage stamp art features a black-and-white ink-on-paper portrait of Phillis Wheatley, the “Mother of African American Literature.”

of African American literature.”

The Forever stamps are available at Post Office locations nationwide and online at usps.com/shopstamps. News about the stamp is being shared on social media using the hashtag #BlackHeritageStamp.

Stamp design

The stamp art features a black-and-white ink-on-paper portrait of Wheatley by Kerry James Marshall, who imagines her later in

life, working on her second, unpublished book of poems.

Marshall’s image draws from the one known portrait of Wheatley made during her lifetime, the engraved frontispiece of her 1773 book. While the 1773 portrait shows Wheatley in profile, Marshall’s stamp art shows her looking directly at the viewer, wearing similar clothing and sitting at the same chair and desk as in the original. Next to Wheatley’s left hand is a copy of the only book she published during her lifetime, “Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral”.

In the stamp art, she has begun to write on a paper that reads “Preface to my second volume,” a reference to the book she was unable to publish.

Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp using Marshall’s artwork.

The Phillis Wheatley stamp will be issued in panes of 20. As a Forever stamp, it will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

A video about the stamps will be posted after today’s event on the Postal Service’s Facebook page at facebook.com/USPS and on X, formerly known as Twitter, at x.com/usps.

Friends of Ware Town Hall offer Spring Lotto Calendars

WARE – The Friends of Ware Town Hall are now selling Spring Lotto Calendars to raise money to restore the beautiful large windows in the Great Room of the Town Hall.

Lotto Calendar sales will continue through March 31. Drawings will be made weekly beginning April 1 and winners will be notified by phone.

The cost of each calendar is \$10 and there are multiple chances to win since winning stubs will be put back into the drawing. Cash prizes range from \$25 to one \$500 prize on the final day of drawing, April 30.

Calendars may be purchased from members of

Friends of Ware Town Hall, as well as the following locations in town: Ware Town Hall, Town Clerk’s Office; It’s Wine O’clock; Crystal Springs Dairy Bar; Ware River Club; Ware Senior Center; Changes Hair Design; Ware Library; Moulton Insurance Agency; Nat Falk; Otto Florist; and Silhouettes on Main.

Anyone who would like to purchase a calendar but is unable to do so locally can mail a check for \$10, payable to Friends of Ware Town Hall, along with their address and phone number to: Friends of Ware Town Hall, P.O. Box 692, Ware, MA 01082. The calendar will be mailed to you.

Deadline for art entries is Feb. 12

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery invites artists of all mediums from throughout the northeastern U.S. to explore the theme of “Winter.”

The deadline for entry is Feb. 12 by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on workshop13.org.

ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. “Winter”

will be on display from March 7 through April 4, opening with a reception on Saturday, March 7, from 3-5 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

The juror for “Winter” is Susan Tilton Pecora. She has been painting the streets, harbors, factories and farms of New England throughout her life.

public notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2026.

The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural, and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid’s IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

National Grid may utilize any of the herbicides noted the MA Sensitive Materials list. Rodeo, and possibly one of the following

herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Cambistat as a tree growth regulator. Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way scheduled for herbicide treatments in 2026:

Ware, Warren

Municipalities that have rights-of-way that were treated in 2025

but may require some touch-up work in 2026:

Ware

TREATMENT PERIODS

Feb 1–May 30, 2026 May 30–Oct 15, 2026 Oct 15–Dec 31, 2026

CST	Foliar	CST
Basal	CST	Basal
Dormant stem	Basal	Dormant stem
	Cut stubble	

*The exact treatment dates are dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon–Fri from 8:00 am-4:00 pm):

Mariclaire Rigby, National Grid, 939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

Telephone: (781) 290-8310 or email: mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com

02/05/2026

Notice of Public Hearing
Planning Board
LEGAL NOTICE

SP-2026-01

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting and Site Plan Review Authority, will hold a Public Hearing during the scheduled meeting on **THURSDAY, February 19, 2026 at 7:00pm**, on the application of **Shawn Crevier**, for a common driveway, under Zoning Bylaw Section 6.6.2, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Board of Selectman’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 275 Malboeuf Road, Ware MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 15005 Page 72. Property is also identified as Assessor’s Parcel 6-0-8. Zoned: Rural Residential (RR).

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

WARE PLANNING BOARD
02/05, 02/12/2026

Storage Auction

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents the contents of Jason Strniste, Tracy Pilch and Brian Tinker will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 70 Boston Post Rd Warren, MA on **February 14, 2026 at 9:00 AM**.

The contents of Kaylee Louvistikis, Adam J. Perez, Kelley Sullivan, Eric Young and Don Aubin will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, MA on **February 14, 2026 at 9:45 AM**.

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.
01/29, 02/5//2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No.
HS26P0014EA**

**Estate of:
Elizabeth M Dembkowski
Date of Death:
October 31, 2025**

**INFORMAL PROBATE
NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Steven E Dembkowski** of Palmer, MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Steven E Dembkowski of Palmer, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, in-

cluding distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
02/05/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS22P0315EA
In the matter of:
George R. Gaudette
Date of Death: 04/16/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT**

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Michael G. Gaudette of Montgomery, MA** requesting allowance of the Special Personal Representative’s Amended First and Final account(s) as Personal

Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on **03/04/2026**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 29, 2026
Mark S Ames
Register of Probate
02/05/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton MA, 01060**



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