

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Spencer, Nash, win contested races

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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HARDWICK – Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos announced the official results of the annual town election held last Saturday.

A total of 380 voters participated in the election, which is 17.3% of the town's 2,199 registered voters.

Newcomer Zachary E. Spencer secured a three-year term to the Select Board with 317 votes over Elizabeth V. Cyran, who received 57 votes.

Lisa J. Nash received 242 votes to win a three-year term on the Board of Health over Heidi Johnson, 106 votes.

Colin R. Brown was elected to represent the town on the Quabbin Regional School Committee for a three-year term, with 325 votes.

Barry P. Koch received 285 votes and was elected to fill one

Please see **RACES**, page 2



Close to 200 people joined in the third annual Out of the Darkness Campus Walk to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention held at Grenville Park this past Saturday.



Annual walk focuses on suicide prevention

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – About 200 community members joining together to bring awareness to suicide prevention at the annual Out of the Darkness Campus Walk held at Grenville Park.

May 2 marked the third year

this walk has been held in memory of Ethan Donnelly, who died by suicide in 2023 at the age of 24. It was also the second year without walk founder and Ethan's mother, Kristen Murphy, after her death from a rare and aggressive form of bone cancer early last year.

Please see **WALK**, page 6



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Family and friends of Bobby Williams walked in his memory.

SB, FinCom discuss ATM, budget

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Select Board held another joint meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss warrant articles, the fiscal 2027 budget and to weigh options on potential cuts for next fiscal year.

At the April 30 meeting, the boards discussed that there are a couple one time revenues built into the FY 27 budget, including \$100,000 from Kearsarge Solar, and at least \$100,000 from the selling of gravel.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said she is projecting the gravel to generate up to \$300,000, but conservatively budgeted the revenue at \$100,000 for the budget.

There were concerns among the board about using at least \$200,000 to fund the budget, as Finance Committee Chair Christopher Culross explained that will lead to a \$200,000 deficit in

Please see **BUDGET**, page 3

Vollheim recognized for years of service

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – State Sen. Peter Durant recognized Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim for his years of services to the town.

At the April 27 meeting, Durant presented a citation from the Senate, which highlighted Vollheim's various contributions to the town over the last 30 years. Vollheim has served on various committees and boards, including a total of 15 years on the Select Board and the Planning Board.

He has also served as the Energy Management Director, and as a volunteer firefighter.

Durant described

Vollheim as a person who "put their life into the town." The citation is signed by the President of the Massachusetts State Senate, Karen E. Spilka, Clerk of the Senate, Michael Hurley and by Durant.

Vollheim thanked Durant for the recognition as his fellow Select Board members, Town Administrator Justine Caggiano and the public present during the meeting congratulated him.

"This town is my lifeboat," Vollheim said.

Earmarks

Durant spoke about some earmarks that are currently being negotiated to help benefit the town. Durant said earmarks are typically negotiated ahead of time.

Please see **VOLLHEIM**, page 2

School Committee welcomes new member

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – The School Committee welcomed new member Kevin Slattery and reorganized at its first meeting following the annual town election.

At the April 29 meeting, Brian Winslow was elected to continue serving as chair and Michael DuBois as vice-chair.

Winslow said subcommittee representatives will be discussed at the next meeting.

Superintendent's report

Interim Superintendent Michael Wood said they posted for teacher vacancies

Please see **NEW MEMBERS**, page 5

Inaugural Color Run held in Warren

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The inaugural Color Run took place this past weekend, put together by the Parks & Recreation.

The Color Run featured two routes with a 5K and a one-mile fun run.

Parks & Recreation Commission Chair Sue Ramsey said they had over 100 runners signed up, consisting of adults, teens and children. The Color Run is also supported by Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Runners brought their own white T-shirts as well as sunglasses and masks as they were about to embark on a colorful experience.

Members of the Warren Community

Please see **COLOR RUN**, page 8



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Amanda, Miles and River of the Bouvier family after completing the Color Run.





CELEBRITY BARTENDER AND SERVICE NIGHT AT HANNA'S ON MAIN

 Tuesday, May 12th, 5:30-7:30 p.m. ~ Open to the Public

COME DRESSED UP AS YOUR FAVORITE 80'S TV-SHOW CHARACTER ~ PRIZES

 All tips will go towards the Town of Ware Fireworks Display. Please attend and show your support!



Turley Staff Photo

Fieldcrest Brewing Company owners Adam and Shannon Field (center) cut the ribbon at their grand opening celebration for their Ware location.

Fieldcrest Brewing Company opens new Ware location

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Fieldcrest Brewing Company opened its new location at the former Narutowicz Club (Gabe’s) at 11 East Main St.

Fieldcrest Brewing Company was established in 2019 and is proudly owned and operated by Adam Field and Shannon Field.

Seven years ago, the Field family established the first location of Fieldcrest Brewery at 2343 Boston Road in Wilbraham. Adam got his wife Shannon into the business while she was working as a first-grade teacher at the time.

Around 2010-2011, Adam’s friend was diagnosed with Celiac disease and was unable to drink beer. Adam wanted to get involved in the brewing business and went through many years of learning and perfecting some of his recipes.

During this time, he fell in love with the process and science of it all and would soon focus his attention on brewing beer.

After countless hours of brewing, Adam felt it was time to share his love and knowledge of the brewing business. Shannon said she wanted to help out more and soon left her teaching job to focus more on the brewery.

The name Fieldcrest was inspired by the last name Field and the word “crest,” which is the peak of the

mountain.

At the start, business was fantastic as Fieldcrest was busy every night. The taproom opened in 2019, roughly nine-10 months before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic slowed down business for a while, but Fieldcrest Brewing Company was able to adjust.

Fieldcrest Brewing offers a variety of beers including ales, lagers and hard seltzer. Overall, there are over 30 different beers in total brewed by Fieldcrest.

The Ware location will also be featuring hard cider.

Adams said the Fieldcrest ESB was a hit. The ESB is a traditional British style pub ale and is still well known and liked by Fieldcrest customers.

Adam said the flagship for Fieldcrest was the F-Bomb New England IPA. The F-Bomb features Citra and El Dorado hops with a 6.1% ABV.

Adam said Fieldcrest Brewing Company has wonderful staff in both locations and they’ve brought new staff on board to work in the Ware location, which will also feature a prep kitchen.

When Adam and Shannon approached the town of Ware, they felt it was missing a hub in the community.

In Wilbraham, Fieldcrest became a hub where people come together and get to know each other. Fieldcrest wanted to have a place where the community can come and

hang out, as well as love the beer they make.

Adam said, “Beer brings people together”.

The owners were looking around the area and noticed the Gabe’s property, which matched their vision for a place to socialize.

The new additions to the two-level building were a new bar, prep kitchen and bathrooms. Fieldcrest in Ware also has two golf and multi-sport simulators. These simulators feature multiple sports to switch to such as soccer, footgolf, bowling, cornhole, disc golf and slap shot.

In the winter, Fieldcrest will be starting simulated golf leagues.

Both Adam and Shannon had a good feeling about the bar becoming something special in the community.

“We did the right thing coming to Ware,” Adam said.

The Fieldcrest owners have heard stories about the history of the building through old stories guests share when they visit Fieldcrest.

With a new location, Fieldcrest has future events in the works for both the Wilbraham and Ware locations. The brewery wants to host trivia nights, music bingo, a pitch league and a cribbage league.

New merchandise will hit the Ware location with Ware location themed Fieldcrest

Please see **FIELDCREST**, page 5

Are You Old News?

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



File Photo
Last week’s photo from 2023 showed third graders Emma Bonnayer and Yssabella Piche facing off during a game of chess at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School’s afterschool chess club.

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

RACES from page 1

of two, three-year terms on the Paige Memorial Library Trustees. Incumbent Lisa M. Gaskill was re-elected to the other seat with 301 votes.

The following incumbents were re-elected to

their positions: Ryan J. Witkos, Town Clerk for a three-year term, 364 votes; Jennifer S. Kolenda, Board of Assessors for a three-year term, 351 votes; Stanley D. White, Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee for a five-year term, 340 votes; Ryan

J. Witkos, Moderator for a three-year term, 357 votes; Harry T. Comerford, Planning Board for a three-year term, 314 votes; and Jennifer E. Garvey, Planning Board for a three-year term, 292 votes.

VOLLHEIM from page 1

Durant was also asked about supplementals and responded that some are going forward to try and get Rural Aid money to come through for these rural communities, including Hardwick.

“Make sure we’re available to get you the opportunity to get some of these projects out of the way,” Durant said.

Town Administrator’s report

Caggiano shared a special report with a focus on thanking Vollheim for his years of service.

Caggiano thanked Vollheim and said she appreciated his time and knowledge. Select Board Vice Chair William Tinker also recognized Vollheim’s years of service and contributions to the town.

“A lot of families in this town remember the time you gave, and that matters,” Tinker said.

Vollheim expressed his thanks for the compliments.

RFP for 179 Main St.

Caggiano drafted a request for proposal for the Select Board to review for property at 179 Main St., Gilbertville.

Select Board Clerk Jeff Schaaf said he would like to be able to look through this before making any kind of

decision.

Elizabeth Cyran asked if it was possible for the Historical Commission to review the RFP draft, which was noted by the board members.

In continuation of the discussion, Planning Board Chair William Cole asked if the Planning Board could also review the draft of the RFP. It is only a draft at this point, and some adjustments will be made as it’s being discussed and ultimately will have a final version.

Tinker said the RFP draft showed no appraisal or minimum value of the property. There is also the matter of the condition of the building and any known issues.

He said a potential buyer of the building may want to know those details.

The Select Board will review the RFP draft further and will come back to it on a later date.

Annual Town Meeting

The Select Board voted to schedule the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, June 6 at 9 a.m., at Hardwick Elementary School, 76 School House Drive, Gilbertville.

The Annual Town Meeting warrant will be posted on the town’s website, www.hardwick-ma.gov and in the town’s Post Offices.

Caggiano and the Select Board members reviewed

the 26 warrant articles.

One of the questions the public had for the Select Board was about the article regarding short-term rentals.

Article 21, “To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 64G, Section 3A to impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short-term rental or motel located within the Town at the rate of 6%, or take any other action relative thereto.”

This article is sponsored by the Select Board and is basically being applied to accessory dwelling units and short-term rentals.

A citizen’s petition, article 25, asks voters, “To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to acquire, on behalf of the Town, by gift, for library purposes, the parcel of land with the building thereon known as the Gilbertville Public Library, located at 259 Main St., described in a deed recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 1766, Page 347 and shown on Assessors’ Map 59, Lot 8.”

The Select Board continues to hold joint meetings with the Finance Committee to discuss and go over the fiscal year 2027 budget prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

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USDA INSP. FRESH COOKS 1/2 SPIRAL HAM **\$1.19** lb

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USDA INSP. BONELESS STOREMADE ITALIAN MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST **\$2.99** lb

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USDA INSP. STOREMADE FROZEN HAMBURGER PATTIES 80% LEAN 20 CT BOX **\$17.50** ea

3 OZ **\$2.99** ea

4 OZ **\$2.29** ea

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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, May 11

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch

Tuesday, May 12

- 9 a.m. Exercise Class at Valley View Housing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:20 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking, \$3 per class.
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, May 13

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

Thursday, May 14

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Walking Club

- (weather permitting)
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
 - 10 a.m. Line Dancing
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 12:15 p.m. Art Class

Friday, May 15

- 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, May 11

Spaghetti with Meatballs, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, May 12

Mississippi Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, May 13

Cheese Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, May 14

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

Friday, May 15

Tuna Melt Sandwich, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

McQuaid discusses summer annual flowers

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Ware Grange kicked off the 2026 season with the adult gardening workshop on summer annual flowers.

Returning to the Grange was presenter Roberta McQuaid, who is a seasoned horticulturist with a lot of gardening expertise. Throughout the workshop, McQuaid shared tips on hands on gardening for summer annual flowers.

Guests got to try seed starting as McQuaid provided seeds, soil and trays during the workshop. After a busy winter, McQuaid feels that focusing on summer flowers is a great way to begin spring. “Get spring going,” McQuaid said.

McQuaid began by talking about indoor seed sowing with heat and light. These are for flowers that need a longer growing period.

Heat mats are a good tool and McQuaid shared she has used them since graduating

college. Supplemental light is also needed as well as one transplant and fertilization.

In her presentation, McQuaid shared pictures of various flowers that fall in this summer annual category for indoor seed sowing. One of her favorites is the Globe Amaranth.

Larkspur is a pretty flower but is poisonous. Other summer flowers include Ageratum, Amaranthus, Celosias, Lemon Beebalm, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Snapdragon and Strawflowers.

The next set of flowers are for indoor seed sowing and for getting a head start. These tips are for fast growing flowers that need less than four weeks to be big enough to plant outside.

Helpful tools include individual pots or cell packs. For growing, you can use a windowsill, hobby greenhouse, cold frame or a protected area outside.

There is no transplanting or fertilization needed. Hardening off is necessary depending on where the

plants are growing.

McQuaid first talked about Alyssum, which is considered a border plant and has a wonderful smell.

The next flower brought up was the Bachelor Button, which McQuaid said was one of the first plants she grew as a kid. The Bachelor Button has colorful flowers and is a plant that likes the cold weather.

Cosmos are also beautiful summer flowers that come in varieties. Some Cosmos are small, some are tall.

Then the familiar Marigolds came up during the workshop.

“You either love or hate marigolds,” McQuaid said.

Marigolds are known to have the smell of summer and come in various types such as signet marigolds. Another popular summer flower is the Sunflower and its various sizes.

McQuaid mentioned the Mammoth Grey Stripe Sunflower, known for its massive size. Other sunflowers that are fun to grow are Autumn Beauty and Italian

White.

Zinnias are also popular summer flowers to start growing in the spring. This is also a large flower with some small varieties. There were seed packets of various flowers McQuaid went over in the workshop.

Guests began lining up to try seed starting for some of these summer annual flowers. McQuaid stuck around to answer any questions guests had.

The next adult gardening workshop will be on Herbal Revival, where gardeners learn to grow, use and preserve a variety of herbs. McQuaid will be the presenter for this workshop on Friday, June 12 at 7 p.m. at the Ware Grange, 297 Belchertown Road.

The first Kids Corner Workshop with Jen McNally will take place on Saturday, May 9 at 10 a.m. and is about farm tools and planting.

For more information, follow the Ware Grange on Facebook, “Ware Grange #164,” or go to www.ware-grange.org.

Library hosts annual book sale

WARE – The Ware Library, 37 Main St., will be holding its annual Book Sale from May 11-23, during regular library hours.

There is a great selection of book and DVDs for adults and children,

with great prices. Library hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Please call the library at 413-967-5491 with any questions.

Library hosts Mother's Day Tea this Saturday

HARDWICK – Enjoy a Mother's Day Tea at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, on Saturday, May 9 from 11 a.m.-noon.

Enjoy tea, lemonade and art making with your favorite motherly person.

On Tuesday, May 12 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, May 16 at 11 a.m. join Mindful Mandalas: Art & Creativity – and get centered while creating drawn mandala art. Relax in a rhythm of pattern and color. Materials provided.

Ongoing library activities include Story Time with an activity every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.-noon, the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers, the 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 Facebook page and website www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/ and www.paigelibrary.com/

C4R hosts birding paddle

BROOKFIELD – Join C4R for a special Birding on the Quaboag paddle on Saturday, May 16 from 8:30-11 a.m.

The Quaboag Marsh offers a special habitat for spring birds. Participants will listen for and perhaps see the American Bittern.

Meet at the Route 148 state boat launch, then park nearby. Limit is 15 paddlers.

RSVP required by emailing chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

C4R is also seeking volunteers to conduct water quality sampling at sites

in Wilbraham and Palmer twice a month on Thursday mornings in June, July and August and once in September.



BUDGET from page 1

FY 28. Culross said one-time revenues should be used for things like funding articles, capital projects and snow and ice.

He said they should not be used to fund the operating budget, and the Finance Committee would not support it.

Culross also suggested a new article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant to designate the capital stabilization to pay for a truck used by the Highway Department, which was originally being paid out of the operating budget.

Caggiano said with that article being put on the warrant, the FY 27 budget is officially balanced.

Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker said it is not balanced, because it is being funded by these one-time revenues. Caggiano said the budget has been historically funded by one-time revenues, but Finance Committee

member Mark Korzec said this year's one-time revenues are up over 20% from last year.

Because of this discrepancy, the boards discussed that there may be cuts necessary from the operating budget of \$200,000 to balance the budget. They discussed that there are vacancies in the Highway Department and Recycling Center.

The board discussed putting a hold on all hiring not funded by the state.

Caggiano said for example, the IT budget is at \$38,000 but it pays for nine different items, but the IT services costs almost \$38,000 and is over budgeted every year. Tinker said there should be an IT services audit to make sure they are not charging every time they come out for recurring problems they are failing to address.

The Select Board voted to conduct an audit in FY 27, and to cap the cost at \$2,000 if there is one.

Caggiano said the town is also cutting costs by implementing 100% direct deposit for paystubs, saving \$45 a month.

Select Board member Jeff Schaaf said the town needs to look at water rates, since water is costing the town more than what they are getting in revenue. Schaaf said he is the chair of the Wheelwright Water District, and they are continuing to raise rates.

Discussion on cuts

The Treasurer Collector expense, which was budgeted at \$19,500 at the last meeting, was reduced to \$9,500 by the Select Board.

At the April 30 meeting, the line item was back at \$19,500. Caggiano said this is because treasurer expense, collector expense, and payroll added up and combined into one line item. The boards calculated the expenses, and found that it does not add up to \$19,500, rather about \$16,000.

The Select Board voted to reduce the budget to \$16,000.

The board said it would be advisable to ask the department heads if they can cut their budgets by 10%, and review their findings at a meeting on May 21. Caggiano and Tinker said they would meet with department heads the week of May 11.

Warrant article discussion

Caggiano said there is an article on the ATM warrant about adjusting snow and ice deficits. She said the state is in the process of negotiating a winter relief package to go out to towns to assist with overdrawn snow and ice budgets because of the last harsh winter.

She said the town is about \$224,000 over budget for

snow and ice, and they have about \$74,000 in free cash.

Caggiano also presented two article requests made by Tinker. Article 16 would have been to have the town pay a portion of the principal on the fire truck this year, but the other Select Board members said it was “unnecessary.”

Article 24 would have been for the recording of all board meetings when practical. Schaaf said it was premature to ask for this because only the Select Board meeting room is set up with a camera, and there are many boards that meet in various places in town.

Tinker said the language makes it subject to available resources, and it is not meant to be a mandate.

Tinker said the article is

about transparency. Schaaf said it's an “admirable goal,” but it is too early.

Tinker said that there are five days in a work week, and the Select Board only uses the room once a week. He said other boards and committees could book the room. Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim said it was not a good idea since it was not brought up to boards. The motion made by Tinker to include this on the annual town meeting warrant was not seconded.

Water abatements

The Select Board approved water abatements for 18-20 Duhamel Court in the amount of \$500.08, and 1820-1822 Barre Road in the amount of \$1,199.75.

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Highway Dept. Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver

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

Highway Dept. Seasonal Laborer

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

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

A.A./E.O.E.

viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I want to do everything right when I claim Social Security

Dear Rusty:

I will be 62 in two years. I plan on signing up for SS at age 62, but I have heard there are details that are important when signing up. When it comes time, I want to make sure I do everything right. Can you help me understand?

Signed:
Claiming Soon

Dear Claiming Soon:

Deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit is a decision you should make only after careful consideration of your personal circumstances. And details are, indeed, important. For example, if you claim at age 62 (when you first become eligible), your monthly SS benefit will be only 70% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. And there are other considerations as well, including:

If you are still working and claim at 62, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn from working while collecting early SS benefits. The earnings limit changes each year, and for 2026 it is \$24,480. If the annual limit after you claim early is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, if your work earnings substantially exceed the annual limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible for early SS benefits (until you either stop working full time or reach your SS full retirement age). FYI, the AET lasts until you reach your FRA (age 67).

The benefit reduction for claiming SS early is permanent. After you claim, you will only get increases for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) which occur annually according to inflation. FYI, the average annual COLA adjustment is about 2.5%.

If you are married, the reduced benefit you get by claiming early will potentially be the basis of your spouse's survivor benefit if you pass first. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount you are receiving at your death, thus waiting longer for a higher personal ben-

efit may also provide your spouse with a larger survivor benefit as your widow.

If you wait longer than age 62, your monthly benefit will continue to increase (by approximately 6% per year) until you reach your FRA, when you get 100% of the amount you are entitled to from a lifetime of working. FYI, you can even wait longer - up to age 70 - to claim an even higher monthly amount (8% more for each year of delay after FRA). At age 70, your SS benefit would be about 75% more than your age 62 benefit amount.

If you haven't already done so, I suggest setting up your personal online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to see what your SS benefits are estimated to be at various ages. Then, when you are closer to age 62, contact us again to talk about your specific personal circumstances at the time, and we can provide you with everything you need to know about applying for Social Security.

In the end, when claiming your Social Security benefits, you should consider your financial need, your health and life expectancy, your plans for working, and your marital status. We commend you for exploring this well in advance of becoming eligible and we will be here to assist when it is time for you to apply.

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

The Garden Lady takes on spring bulb woes

Debi, who gardens in Hardwick, reached out to the Garden Lady with concerns over her daffodils.

They didn't bloom well this year, and she wonders if they need fertilizer.

"Dear Garden Lady, sorry to bother you in this busy season but our daffodils aren't doing well. I'm guessing they need food. What would you suggest?"

I am happy to answer your question! There are typically four reasons why daffodils don't bloom.

Probably the first mistake gardeners make is removing the foliage too soon after the flowers go by. Foliage needs about six-eight weeks of ripening before it can be removed.

While it is still green, it is photosynthesizing and making energy for next year's flowers.

It can get unsightly as it starts to yellow and finally turn brown and dry up, but we must be patient.

It is ready when it comes off with a gentle tug. Some gardeners get strategic with nearby plants so that the eye moves away from the foliage and to another plant taking the stage in full bloom.

Another reason why daffodils may be stingy with their flowers is that the clumps are overgrown and need to be divided. Wait until the foliage has turned brown, then dig up the bulbs, pry them apart and replant them twice their width from one another and about two to three times their height deep.

I recommend using a pointed shovel, not a trowel. Sometimes they can be down deep and you want to make sure you get the bulb out intact.

Do this while the brown foliage is there so that you can find them. While it may feel "off" to be replanting in early summer, it is a perfectly fine time to do it.

Dappled sunlight is fine.

Planting under deciduous trees is also fine. If you think shade is the culprit, wait until the foliage ripens and move them using the guidelines I provided for bulbs that are overcrowded.

I sure hope one of these suggestions will help your daffodils regain their former glory!

Rose, who reads the column in the Ware River News, was concerned that a number of her hyacinths were broken off at ground level when just buds, and she wondered what or who could be the culprit.

"This is so disheartening, I don't want to even grow them any more."

I was astounded to hear this, because the same thing happened to me in one of my gardens at Old Sturbridge Village where I have a multi red, white and blue planting of hyacinths and tulips. Grooming last week yielded at least 10 hyacinth buds that looked as if they were but off at ground level.

Although the experts say rodents could be the cause, the cut was almost perfect, not gnawed in any way, plus hyacinths contain natural deterrents making them rodent proof, typically. I did cultivate the bed awhile back, my thought being that I may have cut a few of them off under ground.

As the stems elongated, they could have forced the bud above ground even though it was already dislodged, but the mystery remains. I'm sorry this happened, Rose, and I wish I had a definite answer for you, but at least know you are in good company with your hyacinth woes.

If anyone has any answers I would love to hear them!



in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

These yellow-rumped warblers, also known as Myrtle warblers, flitted around the edges of Lake Wallace in Belchertown, on April 22.

A Belchertown resident sent an email reporting he saw two yellow-rumped. He attached the above photos. The second photo a rear view of the warbler clearly shows the yellow rump of this aptly named warbler.

These warblers are about the size of black-capped chickadee and have a long bill and narrow tail

They are gray with yellow



Photos by Doug Moore

on their sides, a small patch on the head and of course, the large patch on the rump. They have white on wings, throat and underneath. They have black and white streaking on

This photo shows a side view of a yellow-rumped warbler.

LEFT: This is a back view of a yellow-rumped warbler recently seen in Belchertown.

the breast Males have a large black patch around the eye. The female is duller.

In summer, yellow-rumped warblers inhabit open coniferous forests and edges and not as often deciduous forests. They primarily feed on insects in the summer. On migration and winter they eat fruit and berries particularly bayberry

and wax myrtle. Their song is a series of high-pitched notes often described as "chewy" or "chip-chip."

When males court females, they fluff their feathers, raise their wings and the feathers of the crown and hop from perch to perch, chipping. They may also make display flights in which they glide back and forth or fly slowly with exaggerated wingbeats. The yellow-rumped Warbler's flight is agile and swift and the birds often call as they change direction.

The female builds the nest and sometimes uses material the male brings to her. The nest is a cup of twigs, pine needles, grasses and rootlets. The female also may use moose, horse and deer hair, moss and lichens. The nest takes about ten days to complete. She lays a clutch of one to six eggs speckled with brown or reddish gray.

Bluebirds

A Rutland couple say two

bluebirds in their yard on April 25. They hope they will nest in the yard.

Great blue heron

I finally saw a great blue heron perched in a tree at the beaver pond, which abuts my hayfield. Every year, one or two are frequent visitors and even nested there.

Purple martins

A purple martin watcher spotted the first purple martins in Massachusetts for 2026 in Rehoboth on April 4. The largest species of swallow in North America, they wintered in Brazil and flew 7,000 miles to the United States and Canada.

Hummingbirds

Soon the ruby-throated hummingbirds will be back. It is time to get out the nectar feeders. Instead of purchasing

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 6

WARE RIVER NEWS

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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

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

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

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America's Forgotten Conflict

Renowned author presents lecture on King Philip's War

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – New York Times Bestselling Author Michael J. Tougias will present a free slide lecture about King Philip's War at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St., on Sunday, May 24 at 1 p.m.

This lecture is sponsored by the Quaboag Historical Society.

Named after "King Philip," who was also known as Metacom, a Wampanoag chief, the war was fought between the colonies and many of the Native American tribes from 1675-1676.

"Per capita basis, it had the highest casualty rate of any war America was involved in," Tougias said. "It was a major, major event."

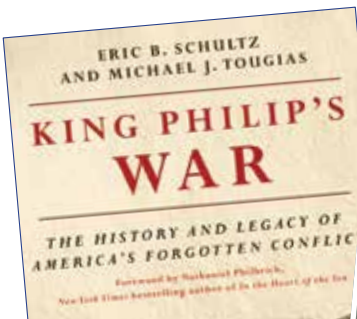
One of the most brutal battles that occurred during King Philip's War took place at a Native American village along the Ware River, in the area now known as the Winnimuset Wildlife Management Area, near the Hardwick/New Braintree line.

"The action there is known as Wheeler's Surprise," Tougias said.

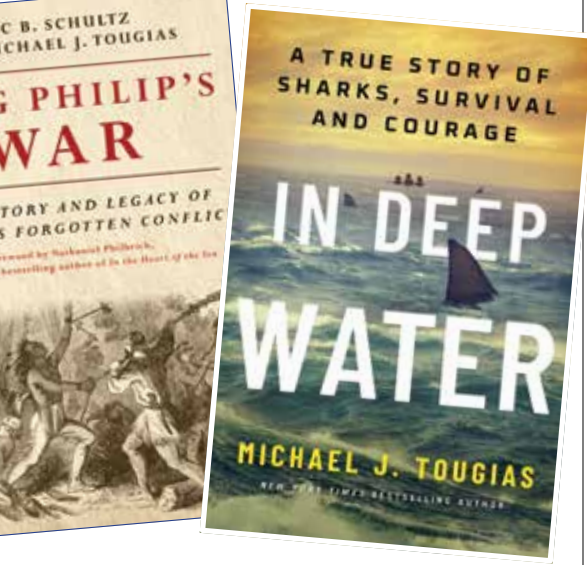
Captain Thomas Wheeler was instructed to go and meet with the local Nipmuck tribe and force them to sign a peace treaty, where he was met with an ambush.

"Wheeler was shot off his horse, but rescued by his son and taken back to the garrison at Foster Hill Road in West Brookfield," he said. "He survived and wrote an account of it."

Tougias said after the ambush, the Native Americans followed Wheeler and his men back to the garrison and burned all of Brookfield down. He said they could not get the garrison to burn, because as noted in Wheeler's memoir, "God made it rain," and it



Michael J. Tougias



wouldn't ignite. Wheeler later died as a result of his injuries received during the battle of Brookfield.

Tougias has written two books about King Philip's War; "Until I Have No Country" and "King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict", which he co-authored with Eric Schultz.

Growing up in Longmeadow, Tougias developed an interest in King Philip's War, and he learned a lot about it from his father, who was a history buff.

"Where I grew up there's a King Philip's stockade," he said. "Once you know a little bit, you just start craving more and more."

Tougias said meeting fellow author Schultz was a blessing and that they shared the same passion.

"He went to all the sites across New England," Tougias said.

King Philip's War is known as America's Forgotten Conflict, as it is something that few people know about.

"I've spoken at almost every town in Massachusetts. People don't know much about this war," Tougias said.

During the lecture on May 24, Tougias will share maps and show where the battles happened, and what they look like today. He said his lecture will be like watching a documentary and will captivate audience members of any age; even

children. "If people want to bring their kids, they're welcome as well," he said. "Kids are fascinated by it all."

Tougias has authored a total of 38 books over the course of his career, including "The Finest Hours", which was made into a Disney movie starring Chris Pine and Casey Affleck.

His latest book, "In Deep Water: A Story of Sharks, Survival, and Courage" tells the story of three recreation fishermen whose boat sinks off New Orleans in the Gulf of Mexico.

"The Coast Guard gave them a 1% chance of ever being found," Tougias said. "All they had time to grab is a couple coolers to hang on to. They make a vow to stay together and not talk about why the boat sank."

Tougias said the fishermen thought they would be rescued within a few hours, but there were no other boats on the water.

"Instead of just surviving three hours, they have to survive 28 hours treading water through the night," he said.

The fishermen faced the elements, dehydration, jellyfish stings and a shark attack.

"They wanted the story to be told," Tougias said. "It's an absolute off-the-charts survival story and rescue too. They should not be alive."

For more information about Tougias and his books, visit www.michaeltougias.com.

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 traditional 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.

FIELDCREST

from page 2

merchandise such as T-shirts, hats and sweatshirts. Fieldcrest glassware will also be for sale.

The current hours for Fieldcrest Brewing Company in Ware are Friday 3-9 p.m., Saturday noon-9 p.m., and Sunday noon-7 p.m., with more days and hours coming soon.

Fieldcrest is excited to have customers come in and talk about how much they love the bar in this familiar Ware building. It takes a lot of time and work to operate a business, and the Fields are looking forward to the future with a new location in Ware.

"No matter what tomorrow brings, we have built such a strong community within Fieldcrest," Shannon said.

For more information, go to www.fieldcrestbrewing.com. Fieldcrest Brewing Company is also on Instagram and Facebook.

NEW MEMBERS

from page 1

that will occur next year due to retirements.

"We really wanted to get out in advance," he said. "This is just to get candidates in the pool."

Wood said after interviewing and selecting candidates, contracts will not be signed until after the fiscal year 2027 budget is approved at the annual town meeting on June 8. He said they are also hiring paraprofessionals.

A full-day Professional Development training will be held for staff on May 8. Wood said staff will be trained on how to use the new information software for the 2026-2027 school year.

Wood said the school district will be using ParentSquare (formerly Remind) for communication between staff and families. Both schools will be using ParentSquare and the elementary school will no longer use ClassDojo.

"There will be some online parent training as well," he said. "It's just to get parents and families all on the same tool so they're not having to learn two different software."

Wood said the school district received the final report

for the Integrated Monitoring Review for civil rights and special education. He said this is held every three years and is part of a six-year review cycle.

Wood said the school district had two findings, both for civil rights standards.

"We've already begun our work on addressing that," he said. "Both of them tied directly to work that we need to pay more attention to in the terms of our work with general ed. classrooms, general ed. teachers, with identifying and supporting students in the classroom for success...and what our process is for explaining that to parent...assessing students, what data we collect."

Wood said they also want to ensure that data is being collected the same way through all of the grade levels.

State budget

Wood said the House of Representatives has passed its version of the proposed budget, which shows a potential increase in Chapter 70 funds from \$75 to \$160.

"Which is good news for us," he said.

Wood said this version of the budget also shows a slight increase in Circuit

Breaker funding, which is used to reimburse school districts for certain special education costs.

He said this version of the budget also has a reduction in Rural Aid, and this is the first year that the school district would have qualified to receive aid. He said there is also a reduction in preschool grants.

The budget will now go before the Senate and eventually to the Governor for final changes. He said it is usually announced by June 30.

End of year attendance

Wood said the final months of school are a crucial time of learning for students and he emphasized the importance of attendance.

Legal counsel contract

The School Committee voted to approve the retainer agreement with Dupere Law Offices. Winslow said there is no change in the cost of the agreement over the prior contract.

Important dates

The Ware Jr./Sr. High School graduation ceremony for the Class of 2026 will be held on Saturday, June 6. The last day of school is June 17.

NOTICE

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

BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

The Belchertown Public School District is now accepting applications for the following School Choice openings for the 2026-2027 school year:

Grade	Openings	Grade	Openings
Grade K	3	Grade 6	1
Grade 1	3	Grade 7	7
Grade 2	3	Grade 8	7
Grade 3	1	Grade 9	14
Grade 4	2	Grade 10	14
Grade 5	1		

The Belchertown Public Schools combine innovation and tradition to provide positive educational experiences for all of our students through quality programs, dynamic teaching and healthy relationships

The deadline for submitting a complete application is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2026.

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place on May 29, 2026, and in the event of unexpected additional openings, a second drawing will be conducted on August 15, 2026.

The application and guidelines can be downloaded at www.belchertownps.org or picked up at 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

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AT COLD SPRING COUNTRY CLUB, BELCHERTOWN MA



Community members came together to prevent suicide and bring awareness to it.

WALK from page 1

Murphy started the walk along with School Resource Officer Jeannine Bonnayer, who welcomed participants to this year's event. Bonnayer thanked the students and staff of Ware Public Schools, Quabbin Regional High School and Eagle Hill School for creating teams.

Bonnayer talked about the loss of Murphy, and the loss of her and Shawn Donnelly's son, Ethan.

"We lost our friend Kristen," Bonnayer said. "Lost our friend's son... Shawn's son...some of you wear shirts with his name."

This type of loss is profound and life changing, and it's something that many people face in silence.

"Lots of us have had losses in our lives, or we have people that we worry about," Bonnayer said.

Bonnayer read some inspiring words shared with her by Ware Public School educator Jacqui Flamand:

"I can welcome joy. I can ask for help. I can celebrate myself. I can set boundaries. I can give myself grace. I can

do hard things."

Karen Carreira of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention spoke on behalf of the organization, which she also used for help following the loss of her own son.

"I am a loss survivor," she said.

She thanked the walk participants for their continued support, and for the impact their donations will have to prevent suicide.

"This group has raised probably \$10,000 today," she said. "Which is pretty incredible."

Carreira talked about some of the initiatives the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has accomplished with money raised, including adding 988 on all student identification cards, offering teens access to suicide prevention resources and help.

She said the walk not only helps to raise money for suicide prevention, it also helps to unite loss survivors, or those struggling with suicidal thoughts.

"Connecting to one another saves lives," she said. "Talking to one another saves

HOPE WALKS HERE

lives."

Carreira announced the top individual fundraisers for this year's walk, with Lynn Park raising \$1,675; Ronnie Theriault, \$550; Logan Burgess Hess, \$500; Elizabeth Niquette, \$325; and Grace Powers, \$200. As of May 5, Stephanie McCaffrey was also a top fundraiser with \$300.

The top team fundraisers were Eagle Hill School with \$2,621; Mustang Walks Together, \$1,475; Quabbin Community, \$800; Sculpt Well Co., \$590; and Walmart Family, \$480. Team Walk for Ethan raised \$415.

Before and after the walk, participants enjoyed free hot dogs courtesy of the Ware Knights of Columbus, snacks from Big Y and ice cream from Ice Cream Emergency. There were also lawn games, raffles and booths.

Bands The Lose Knit Wits and Lyle's Leftovers performed throughout the afternoon.



Eagle Hill School students participated in the walk.



A young walk participant joined in on his scooter.



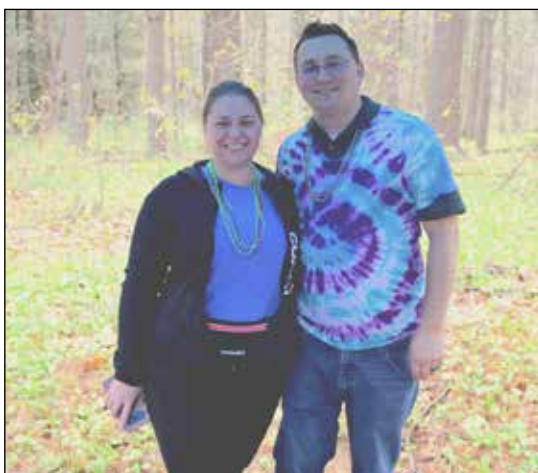
Amy Jacques, Angel Acebedo, David Jacques and Hector Acebedo stopped for a photo at the Ware River.



Students from Ware Jr./Sr. High School, Quabbin Regional High School and Eagle Hill School participated in the walk.



Educators and students walked together.



Walmart manager Brian Bissonnette and his wife Angelina Bissonnette gave out bracelets and other items.



Karen Carreira of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention named the top fundraising teams and individuals for this year's walk.

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BACKYARD from page 4

prepared nectar in powder or liquid form, avoid the harmful dyes and boil a one to four ration of sugar to water. I preferred to mix small batches, ¼ cup white sugar to 1 cup water on a more frequent basis to avoid spoilage. It can be stored in the refrigerator for about one week if making larger amounts.

Tom turkeys

In my travelers, I spotted in three different locations Tom turkeys displaying their tail feathers for one or more hen turkeys. I noticed one Tom with two hens strutting about as the females kept on eating near him.

Bird fact

Annually, over 50 million Americans purchased more than one billion pounds of bird seed and suet.

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



Lee Gauthier and Maggie Sullivan of Country Bank handed out snacks and drinks.



Family and friends of Bobby Williams walked in his memory.



Quabbin Regional High School students Juliana Tweedell, Cambria Burns, Isabella Vega and Devonte Smith joined this year's Out of the Darkness Campus Walk.



The Loose Knit Wits performed after the walk.



A couple walked together at Grenville Park.



Families and friends joined together to support the annual walk.

HOPE WALKS HERE



Ryan Donnelly walked in memory of his brother, Ethan Donnelly.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Ware Fire Department participated in the walk.

Ware Police Officer and School Resource Officer Jeannine Bonnayer talked about the history of the Out of the Darkness Campus Walk, and its founder Kristen Murphy.



Ware Jr./Sr. High School and Eagle Hill School students joined together to bring awareness to suicide prevention.

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COLOR RUN from page 1

Elementary School staff were either runners or throwers during the Color Run. The throwers were stationed throughout the course of the Color Run and their responsibility was to throw cups full of colored powder at the runners as they pass by.

The 5K began at the traffic circle of Warren Community Elementary School. All the runners began by tossing some colorful powder in the air before starting the 5K.

As the runners began to run they were ambushed by the Color Run throwers, including Ramsey, Superintendent Stephen Duff, WCES Dean of Students Brian Guimond, Administrative Assistant Amanda McDermott, Grade Three Teacher Molly Miarecki, Grade Four Teacher Kylee Julian, Art Teacher Kelly Mundell, Gym Teacher Andrew Sweet and many others.

The fun run was a mile long and began at the Shepard Municipal Building.

All the runners made their way down Main Street to the common.

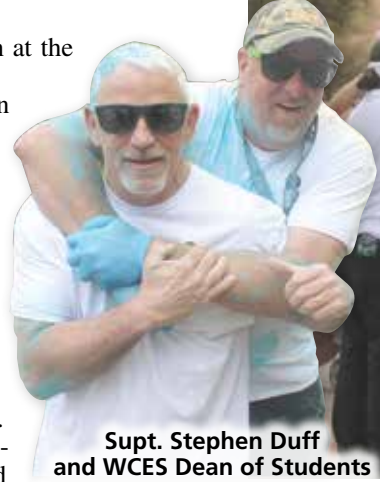
After crossing the finish line, runners grabbed some snacks and beverages and got to explore the Farmer's Market that was happening. It was an exciting community event that Parks & Recreation members hope to continue offering in future years.

For more information about the Parks & Recreation, visit them on Facebook, "Warren Parks Department," or go to www.warren-ma.gov/251/Parks-Recreation-Commission and select their Activities and Events link.

COLOR RUN



The inaugural Color Run in Warren took place this past weekend. Runners of the Fun Run splashed some colored powder in the air at the Shepard Building.



Supt. Stephen Duff and WCES Dean of Students Brian Guimond were throwers during the Color Run.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



Runners make their way to the finish line but have one final color splash to run through.



Warren Community Elementary School staff Molly Miarecki (left), Kylee Julian and Amanda McDermott prepare for the 5K which started at the elementary school.



Amanda McDermott, center, next to Freya and Harper after being splashed by yellow powder.



Brian Guimond throwing some pink powder at Nikki Pappas during the Color Run.



The runners of the 5K exiting Warren Community Elementary School with blue and yellow powder in their paths.



Warren Community Elementary School staff were throwers of the "Color Run Powder" during the Color Run. Brian Guimond and Andrew Sweet splashed runners with pink powder on Main Street.



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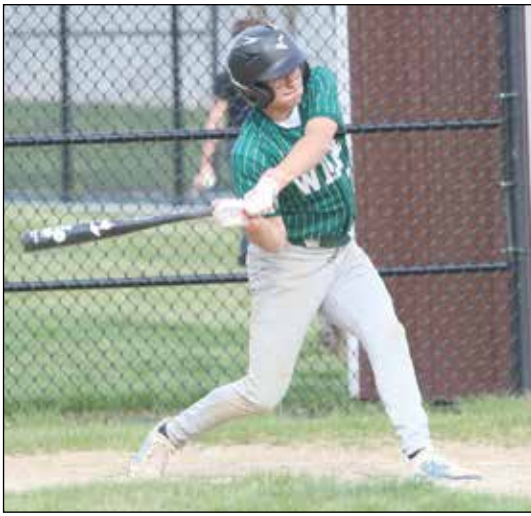
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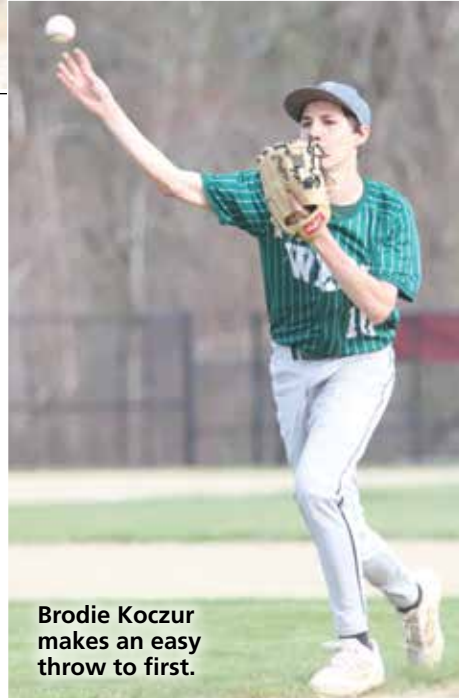
Quaboag falls to neighbor Ware, 4-1



Jack Gaudreau tags out a runner at second base.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Ware faced rival Quaboag last Tuesday afternoon.



Brodie Koczur makes an easy throw to first.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN – Just like during the last two seasons, senior righthander Brady Guimond was Ware’s starting pitcher in the annual meeting on the baseball diamond against the Quaboag Cougars, who are coached by his father, Brian.

Brady Guimond improved his record to a perfect 3-0 against the Cougars, as the Indians celebrated a 4-1 non-league road victory, last Tuesday afternoon.

“It has always been a lot of fun playing against my father’s team,” said the younger Guimond. “Today’s game is a little more special for me because it was my final time playing against him.”

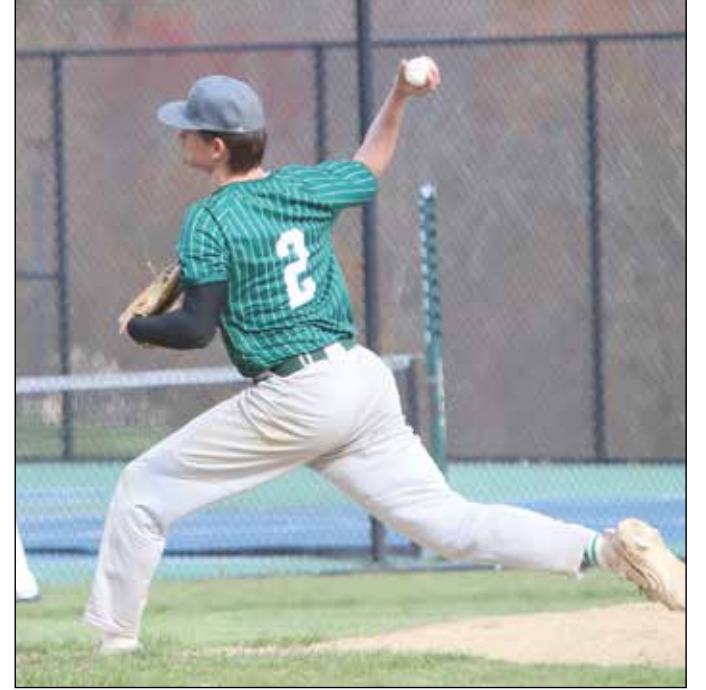
Brady Guimond and his teammates have won four of the past five games in the rivalry series.

“Brady is an outstanding pitcher, but it would’ve been nice if we could’ve beaten him at least once during the past couple of years,” Brian Guimond said. “We had our opportunities in today’s game, but we just made a couple of costly mistakes.”

Quaboag’s last victory on the diamond against Ware was a 5-0 shutout at home on May 15, 2022.

Brady Guimond was an eighth grader that season and he was a reserve player for the varsity team.

The following year, Guimond started at shortstop and the Indians posted an 8-3



Brady Guimond sends a pitch home.

victory at Memorial Field in Ware.

As a sophomore, Guimond was the starting pitcher against the Cougars for the first time at Polar Park in Worcester. The Indians squeaked out a 4-2 win at the homefield of the WooSox.

“My favorite game against Quaboag was when we beat them at Polar Park two years ago,” Brady Guimond said. “It was a lot of fun to play a baseball game at a minor league stadium.”

Guimond allowed two runs on eight hits in his start at Polar Park.

Please see **WARE**, page 10



Connor Burgess makes an easy catch.

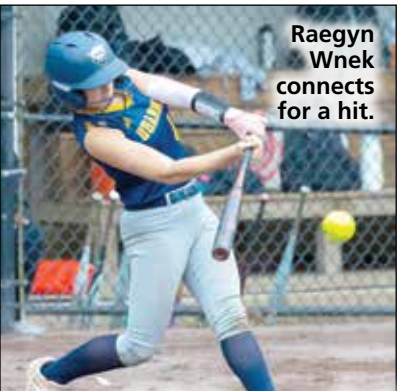


Aubrey Pope launches herself forward to deliver a pitch.



Josie Castell makes a dash for third base.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes



Raegyn Wnek connects for a hit.



Jenna Roseberry slides safely into home plate.

Quabbin softball falls to Oakmont



Abby Rogowski stretches out for a line drive hit.



Kelsey Allen makes the catch on a pop fly to center field.

BARRE – Last Thursday afternoon, Quabbin Regional High School softball beat the rain and hosted Oakmont Regional. It was a spirited battle between the two schools, and Quabbin was not able to come out on top, falling 12-7. The Panthers are now 3-5 on the regular season.



Addy Harmon tracks the ball as she readies her backhand in doubles.



Madelyn Stauder fires a backhand return from the baseline in doubles.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes
Elizabeth Matheson hits into her serve in singles.



Farrah Wojcik rushes forward for a forehand return in singles.



Addison Surprenant scrambles to hit the return in doubles.

Clean sweep for Panthers girls tennis



Kalina Dyer leaves her feet to return a shot in singles.

BARRE – Last Friday afternoon, it was a perfect match for the Quabbin Regional High School girls tennis team, who swept Tyngsborough 5-0 and improved to a perfect 10-0 on the regular season. Farrah

Wojcik, Kalina Dyer, and Elizabeth Matheson all had sweeps of their matches. Dyer and Matheson both won straight sets of 6-0, 6-0. Both doubles teams were also successful, sweeping their matches.

sports



Addison Doktor sends a grounder to the infield.



Emily Forcier takes a swing.



Ellisyn Gelinias makes a throw to first.

Pioneers suffer shutout loss

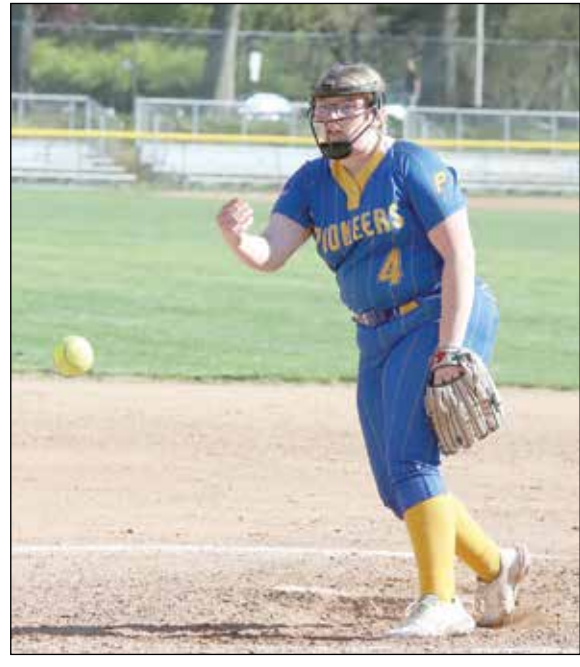
CHICOPEE – Last Friday afternoon, Pathfinder softball was shut out on the road by host Chicopee High School at Szot Park 12-0. The game ended in the fifth inning due to the mercy rule. Sam Prouty and Addison Doktor had hits for the Pioneers while Adeline Olbrych had three hits for the Pacers. Raelyn Loud pitched a five-inning shutout for the Pacers. Pathfinder fell to 1-10 for the season while Chicopee High is a perfect 13-0 on the season.



Emily McNeaney makes solid contact.



Julieta Tweedell takes a lead off first base.



Taylor Thorton sends a pitch away.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

T-Birds defeated in series opener with Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds and Providence Bruins fought tooth and nail in another stingy contest, with the Bruins prevailing 2-1 in Game 2 of the Atlantic Division Semifinals on Sunday night inside Amica Mutual Pavilion. With that, the series shifts back to Springfield tied at one game apiece in the best-of-five set.

All of the scoring in the game came in a window of less than six minutes' time in the opening period. For a fifth straight game in these playoffs, Springfield succumbed to a 1-0 deficit within the opening half of period one. Frederic Brunet geared a slapper toward Georgi Romanov, who made the initial save. However, the rebound bounced over to a waiting Matej Blumel on the right wing, and the 2024-25 AHL goal scoring leader rifled it into an empty cage to make it a 1-0 game at 8:34 of the opening period.

The T-Birds were granted a power play and an opportunity to tie the score quickly, and at 11:30, Dillon Dube did just that, parking himself along the left post and guiding a Hugh McGing pass behind Michael DiPietro to even the slate, 1-1. Alek Kaskimaki picked up his second assist in as many games to round out the scoring play.

The Bruins showed they, too, could answer in a hurry, as Brunet gathered a rolling puck along the right wing and geared a backhand pass across the slot to Georgii Merkulov, who beat Romanov with a quick release to put Providence ahead, 2-1, at 14:02.

Providence outshot the T-Birds 25-14 over the first 40 minutes of the game, but both DiPietro and Romanov were taxed with special teams work in a second period that featured 10 minor penalties and eight combined power plays of varying lengths.

The T-Birds finally were able to give DiPietro a steady diet of scoring chances in the third, but the Springfield power play left two more opportunities on the table, going 0-for-6 in the final two frames after connecting on their first man advantage of the evening.

Springfield's netminding and penalty killing did everything in its power to buy the offense time for an equalizer. Romanov, for a fourth straight contest, kept his opposition to two goals or less. The T-Birds' backstop has now stopped 116 of 123 shots for a .943 save percentage in the Calder Cup Playoffs.

WARE from page 9

"Even though we lost the game, we played very well against Ware at Polar Park," Brian Guimond said. "That was a fun baseball game."

Brady Guimond also allowed only two base hits in last year's game against Quabog at Memorial Field, as the Indians coasted to a 10-0 victory in five innings.

In his final appearance on the mound against the Cougars, Guimond allowed one run on five base hits. He recorded nine strikeouts and issued only two walks in the complete game performance.

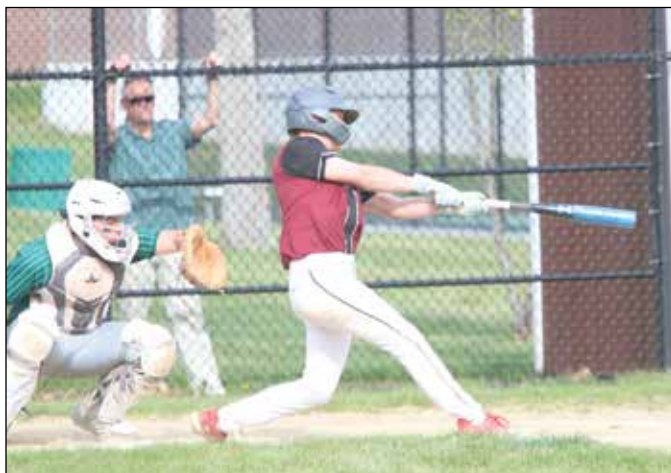
"It was another outstanding pitching performance by Brady," said Ware interim varsity coach Shawn Clark. "He just kept dotting the corners the entire game. His curveball was also amazing. The defense made the plays behind him. We really wanted to win today's game."

Brian Guimond and Clark were teammates on the 1991 Ware baseball team, which defeated Frontier Regional in the Western Mass. Division 3 championship game.

"Shawn was the j.v. baseball coach at Ware High School for several years and I'm very glad that he had the opportunity to coach the varsity team this year," coach Guimond said. "He knows the game of baseball very well."

At the end of last week, the Indians (8-5) were the 12th ranked team in the Division 5 state tournament power rankings.

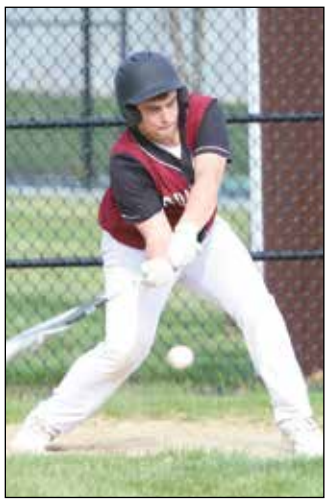
The Cougars (3-5), who are first year members of the Central Mass. Athletic



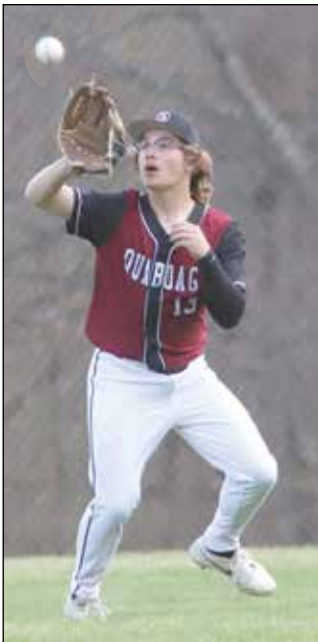
Thomas Bellizzi fouls off a pitch.



Liam McGrath sends a pitch home.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Braiden Bradley swings and puts the ball in play.



Connor Burke makes the catch in right.

Conference E Division were ranked 61st in the Division 4 power rankings. They'll most likely need to finish the regular season with a .500 or better record to qualify for the postseason tournament.

"I'm very glad that we moved into a new division," Brian Guimond said. "We're a small school and we had trouble competing against the larger schools like Millbury,

Uxbridge, Oxford, and Tantasqua. Ware is one of the best teams on our schedule and we lost to them 4-1."

It didn't take the Indians very long to take a 1-0 lead against junior righthander Liam McGrath, who's the Cougars ace

who committed six errors behind him. The Indians scored an unearned run in the fifth inning, and they left the bases loaded in the sixth.

The Cougars ended their scoreless drought against Brady Guimond when sophomore third baseman Connor Burgess grounded a single into left field scoring senior centerfielder Connor Burke (walk) with two outs in the sixth inning.

Just like in the second inning, Gaudreau led off the final frame with a double to right field before scoring on a wild pitch."

Junior catcher Braiden Bradley singled into left field leading off the bottom of the seventh. The next batter hit a line-drive caught by senior second baseman Brodie Koczur, who then tossed the ball to senior first baseman Alex Orszulak completing the double play.

Guimond then recorded his ninth strikeout for the final out of the ballgame.

McGrath allowed four runs on nine base hits. He didn't receive very much support from the defense,




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Annual plant, bake, craft and tag sale next weekend

HARDWICK – The Tri Parish Community Church welcomes the public to its 20th annual plant, bake, craft and tag sale Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17 from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. on the beautiful Hardwick common.

The sale will feature traditional, favorite, and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants and herbs. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman's Farm and Howe's Farm & Garden both of New Braintree, and "homegrown lovelies" from private gardens.

A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold.

The church will be holding a drawing featuring the "best" of the plant sale. No purchase is necessary to win.

Several outdoor activities and games will be available for children.

A number of craft vendors have rented space on the common for the event. The Friends of the Stone Church will also be on hand, highlighting their preservation of the Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville, as well as the upcoming programs that are offered at the center.

The Tri Parish Community Church's Pastor, Duncan

Washburn, will lead a brief prayer service Sunday morning on the common in lieu of the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service.

The proceeds from the plant and bake sale support the operational expenses of the church. Come spend the day enjoying all that Hardwick has to offer while supporting the fund-raising efforts of the church.

Browse the plants and vendor booths, connect with old friends, visit the Hardwick Historical Society, open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. both days, and the 1906 Paige Memorial library which will be open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. Both buildings are located near the common, a short walk from the plant sale venue.

Bring your bicycle and tour some of the great riding routes in the east-Quabbin area and scenic vistas preserved through the East Quabbin Land Trust such as the Mandell Hill property located just one mile east of the Hardwick common (the church will hold your plants for you), and top it all off with a bite to eat at Mimi's Coffee House overlooking the common.

All are welcome. This is a rain or shine event.

BOH discusses two proposed regulations

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Health held public hearings on two proposed regulations during their April 29 meeting.

The first public hearing was about well regulations. The board will vote to adopt this regulation, which would regulate the construction, location, use, maintenance and decommissioning of private wells within the town for the protection of public health and safety.

Board of Health Chair Dan Thibodeau said this regulation is pretty straightforward and is focused on decommissioning wells and testing water quality.

The purpose of the regulation is to provide for the protection of the public health, safety, welfare and the environment by requiring proper siting, constructing and testing of private wells.

Thibodeau asked Regional Health Inspector Tessa Obuchowski if this regulation packet has an area where it addresses an addition to an existing structure. For example, an addition would be another bed-

room, kitchen or bathroom. "This is going to increase the load on the well," Thibodeau said.

Obuchowski didn't see any description of additions in the regulation.

Board of Health member Travis Baker said if there were additions to an existing structure, the owner would still have to pull permits for any addition. The board agreed a description of additions to an existing structure should be a part of this regulation.

The board closed the public hearing on well regulations and will continue discussions after edits have been made.

A second public hearing was held for the regulation of body art establishments.

The board will vote to regulate the permitting and operation of body art establishments, including tattooing, piercing and related practices, and to establish health and safety standards for such operations.

Obuchowski said she has inspected a few body art establishments in the past and there are various requirements. A practitioner is an identified individual who has been granted a permit by the board to perform

body art in an establishment.

Body art includes tattoos, piercings, braiding and branding.

The board reviewed the requirements of a practitioner and what appropriate tools are needed in running a body art establishment. Hand sinks are mentioned in the regulations with surfac-

es in the establishments that have to be cleanable. All non-disposable instruments used for body art which have come in contact with human skin shall be cleaned thoroughly by scrubbing with an appropriate soap or disinfectant solution and hot water.

The Regional Health Inspector said sharps disposals is also necessary for body art establishments. Certain trash has to be identified for special transfer material.

There are also sections in this regulation for various reports, including complaints, injury and exposure incidents.

The board also talked about establishments maintaining their records. According to regulation, the establishment shall maintain records in a secure place for a minimum of five years from the date of the act

described in the record, and such records shall be made available to the board upon request.

Establishment information includes name of business, hours of operation, owner's name and address, description of all body art procedures performed, inventory, material safety data sheet, copies of waste hauler manifests, copies of commercial biological monitoring tests, exposure incident reports and copies of regulations.

The board closed the public hearing and will go over the body art regulations at their next meeting.

Earth Day Clean Up review

Board of Health Vice-Chair James McKeon shared a review about the Earth Day Clean Up that took place this month in Warren. Various volunteers showed up including church groups, town officials and staff putting in some time to clean up the roadside trash on many Warren and West Warren streets.

There were roughly 60 yellow trash bags filled and picked up. McKeon thanked the transfer station staff for their support.

WB&CA Celebrity bartender fundraiser to be held May 12

WARE – On Tuesday, May 12, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond, with be hosting a benefit evening, a celebrity bartender and server evening, at Hanna's on Main, 91 Main St.

All tips and gratuities collected that evening will be donated towards the Town of Ware Fireworks display, being held on Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Ware Public Schools campus. Local business owners and local individuals, will work as celebrity bartenders and servers.

A bar menu is available and musical entertainment will be provided.

The evening has an 80s theme so attendees are encouraged to dress as an

80s character. Prizes will be awarded.

Attendees are not required to have a costume to attend. The public is welcomed to attend.

"The Town of Ware fireworks committee works hard to put on the best show possible each year. But costs go up. With participation and support from events like this night, the committee can deal with the increased show costs and provide the quality show our town deserves," said Dustin Pennington, committee member.

Any questions about the event or supporting the fireworks display, please contact Dan Flynn at 413-297-5886 or Dustin Pennington at 413-813-7328.

Robbins presents history of capitalism in Warren

WARREN – "A History of Local Capitalism in Warren" will be held on Thursday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Warren Public Library, 934 Main St.

Many New England towns, over a century ago, boasted specialized personnel and manufacturing knowledge that created a local workforce that fueled a dynamic economy. This was particularly true for the town of Warren in the late 1800s, where a robust textile industry spurred growth and innovation.

This "golden era" of

manufacturing would set the town's structure and appearance for many years to come.

Please join the Warren Public Library for a presentation of the town's economic history with Jeff Robbins, former History teacher at Quaboag Regional Middle High School and Board Member of the Quaboag Historical Society. This program is free and open to everyone, and it continues the celebration of the library's 150th anniversary.

'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 Edgcomb 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.

Edgcomb, 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.

Asparagus chowder returns to First Congregational Church

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Saturday, May 16 during the town of West Brookfield's Asparagus, Heritage and Flower Festival on the town common, (10 a.m.-3 p.m.), the First Congregational Church, UCC, 36 North Main St., will offer their famous asparagus chowder from their Chowder Tent

located on the church lawn.

Hot chowder by the cup, cold chowder by the quart to take home, yummy brownies and cold drinks will be available from 10 a.m. until it runs out. Inside and outside dining is available.

Call the church for more information at 508-867-7078.

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.

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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of April 22-28, the Ware Police Department responded to 20 miscellaneous calls, 22 administrative calls, 10 traffic violations, 10 emergency 911 calls, four harassments/stalks/threats, one trespass, three thefts/larcenies, nine disturbances, four damage/vandalisms, two fire complaints, one brush fire, one breaking and entering, two animal calls and 16 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Wednesday, April 22
6:20 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Dispatch Handled
8:10 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Howard Road, Advised
5:44 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Palmer Road, Advised
9:38 p.m. Fire Complaint, South Street, Investigated
10:40 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Highland Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, April 23
10:30 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Coffey Hill Road, Assist Given
3:44 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, East Main Street, Services Rendered
4:18 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Berkshire Drive, Dispatch Handled
5:49 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Main Street, Report Made
6:31 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Pulaski Street, Arrest Made
11:14 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pulaski Street, Could Not Locate

Friday, April 24
6:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued
7:30 a.m. Damage/

Vandalism, North Street, Services Rendered
9:21 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Main Street, Services Rendered
4:17 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Main Street, Protective Custody
10:46 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Highland Village, Advised

Saturday, April 25
11:32 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Union Street, Dispatch Handled
12:01 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Greenway Avenue, Services Rendered
2:24 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated
2:46 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated
5:53 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Main Street, Services Rendered
7:35 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Street, Investigated

Sunday, April 26
2:52 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Wrin Street, Advised
6:55 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, North Street, Services Rendered
9:25 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Church Street, Services Rendered

Monday, April 27
8:51 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Main Street, Services Rendered
9:16 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
9:53 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, Highland Village, Advised
10:26 a.m. Brush Fire, Westbrook Avenue, Extinguished
10:45 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Parker Street,

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.

Services Rendered
12:18 p.m. Outside Fire, Crescent Street, Extinguished
5:05 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Street, Services Rendered
5:27 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered
7:20 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Main Street, Services Rendered
8:29 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered
11:33 p.m. Assault, Otis Avenue, Report Made
11:57 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Smith Avenue, Services Rendered

Tuesday, April 28
12 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Doane Road, Services Rendered
12:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
2:12 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pulaski Street, Services Rendered
6:17 a.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Church Street, Investigated
7:33 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Buckley Court, Assist Given
10:10 a.m. Theft/Larceny, West Main Street, Services Rendered

Warren Police Log

During the week of April 12-18, the Warren Police Department responded to 215 building/property checks, four community policings, nine emergency 911 calls, two complaints, three safety hazards, three larcenies/thefts, one structure fire, one smoke investigation, three motor vehicle accidents, four animal calls and 48 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, April 12
2:01 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
7:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Village Point Plaza, Criminal Complaint
8:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
8:29 a.m. Falls, Winthrop Terrace, Ambulance Signed Refusal
9:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Central Street, Written Warning
12:53 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Yankee Drummer Drive, Mutual Aid Transport
2:01 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Report Filed
3:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Keys Road, Vehicle Towed
6:17 p.m. Smoke Investigation, Curtis Avenue, Fire Extinguished
7 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, South Street, Transported to Hospital

Monday, April 13
10:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Brookfield Road, Criminal Complaint
3:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Brimfield Road, Removed From Scene
4:25 p.m. Suspicious Person, Southbridge Road, Officer Spoke to Party
5:22 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Bacon Street, Officer Spoke to Party
5:59 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, New Reed Street, Officer Spoke to Party
7:40 p.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Gone on

Arrival
Tuesday, April 14
7:01 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Old Douglas Road, Officer/Chief Advised
2:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
3:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Bemis Road, Transported to Hospital
4:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
4:23 p.m. Safety Concern, Old West Brookfield Road, Checked/Secured
4:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, All Town, Citation Issued
5:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
5:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
5:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
8:49 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Richardson Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, April 17
4:25 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Comins Pond Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
9:44 a.m. Welfare Check, Shamrock Drive, Report Filed
11:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
12:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
12:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
12:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:11 p.m. Abandoned Vehicles, Main Street, Report Filed

Wednesday, April 15
7:21 a.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Crescent Street, Report Filed
9:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
10:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:06 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Crescent Street, Report Filed
2:12 p.m. Stroke (CVA), School Street, Mutual Aid Transport
8:05 p.m. Welfare Check, Maple Street, Report Filed
11:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
Thursday, April 16
7:58 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
9:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

STOW – Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is this weekend, and Massachusetts fire service leaders are providing residents with guidance on projects to protect their homes and neighborhoods while reducing the risk posed by wildland fires.

“Wildfire Community Preparedness Day promotes awareness of the wildland fire risk to people, property, and the environment, and how we can defend against it,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “Clearing flammable debris, creating an evacuation plan, and committing to outdoor fire safety can reduce the risk of a wildland fire damaging your home.”

“Wildland fires not only pose a risk to our open spaces but also to Massachusetts homes, businesses, and residents,” said Department of Conservation & Recreation Chief Fire Warden David Celino. “We see more than 1,000 of these fires in an average year, and late spring is usually the peak season. Some thoughtful yard work and planning this weekend can reduce the hazard to lives and property.”

Over 50% of Massachusetts homes are within the Wildland-Urban Interface zone, where development adjoins and mingles with the natural environment. Wildland fires in these areas can easily extend to homes, and residential fires can spark wildland fires that spread to hundreds of acres and tax regional fire resources.

Massachusetts experienced more than 1,100 wildland fires in an average year, in addition to hundreds of outdoor vegetation fires that can also spread to nearby structures. In the fall of 2024, wildland fires



Submitted Photo

A Department of Conservation & Recreation wildland firefighter is shown directing a handline at an outdoor fire.

destroyed more than 30 homes, outbuildings, and other structures and placed hundreds more at risk.

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is a chance to protect yourself and loved ones from these hazards by reducing flammable fuels from the area around your house.

Wildland fires most often spread to homes via small flames or embers, and clearing the home and surrounding area – also known as the Home Ignition Zone – of dead vegetation, mulch, firewood, low branches, and other fuels can reduce that risk. A manageable one-day project could include: cleaning gutters and porches, removing debris from under porches and stairs, raking leaves and pine needles at least five feet from the foundation and moving wood piles further from the structure.

Residents should also know what to do if evacuation from the neighborhood becomes necessary.

Pack an emergency kit with three days' worth of supplies for your family members. You can learn more about emergency supply kits from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

Plan two ways out of your house and identify two alternate travel routes out of the area in case your usual route is impassable. Be sure to let family members, guests, babysitters, and others know your home escape and evacuation plans.

Finally, almost all outdoor fires start with human activity – so everyone can also play a part in reducing the occurrence of wildland fires: never toss cigarette butts or other smoking materials in dry vegetation, mulch, or debris; before setting up a campfire, be sure it is permitted by checking with the local fire department, and once lit attend to them at all times; always have a hose, bucket of water, or shovel

Please see **FIRES**, page 13

Negative Contact
Main Street, Officer Handled

Tuesday, April 28
11:16 a.m. Threat, Prospect Street, Report Taken
12:56 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
1:38 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Officer Handled
1:45 p.m. Assist Citizen, High Street, Officer Handled
2 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Report Taken
6 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, School Street, Patient Refusal

Wednesday, April 29
12:59 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled
9:17 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, School Street, Death/Unattended
9:29 p.m. Scam, Main Street, Officer Handled

Thursday, April 30
5:23 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Old Petersham Road, Officer Handled
7:34 a.m. Scam, Broad Street, Services Rendered
3:45 p.m. Assist Citizen,

Friday, May 1
12:06 a.m. Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Report Taken
2:36 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled
2:48 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Services Rendered
3:47 p.m. Alarm, Church Street, Merge
6:09 p.m. Fire/Brush, Barre Road, Extinguished
7:55 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, No Action Required

Saturday, May 2
2:37 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
11:07 p.m. 911 Gunshots, Barre Road, Negative Contact
11:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Sunday, May 3
4:29 p.m. 911 Fire/Illegal Burn, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of April 27-May 4, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 61 building/property checks, 37 directed/area patrols, 15 radar assignments, five traffic controls, seven emergency 911 calls, seven citizen assists, five assist other agencies, one brush fire, one fire/illegal burn, three investigations, two scams, one threat and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, April 27
8:50 a.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
9:08 a.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
11:06 a.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
11:25 a.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
11:57 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled
8:42 p.m. 911 Neighbor Dispute, Main Street,

Negative Contact
Main Street, Officer Handled

Circle of Song to hold spring concert May 16

BARRE – Circle of Song will complete its 25th anniversary season with an eclectic concert on Saturday, May 16 at the Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., at 7 p.m.

On the docket this concert are the following songs – “Down By the Riverside”, a traditional African-American spiritual,

“No One is Alone from Into the Woods”, “The Promise of Living from The Tender Land”, “Les Miserables” medley from the musical of the same name, “Make Our Garden Grow” from “Candide”, “Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day” from the “Mikado”, “Solitude” by Duke Ellington, “Waltzing

Matilda” traditional Australian, “Total Praise” by Richard Smallwood, “And Till There Was You” from “The Music Man”.

This is a free concert and refreshments will be served. For more information contact Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net; 978-257-1192.

Dorothy A. (Saletnik) Gagne, 86

GILBERTVILLE – Dorothy “Dottie” A. (Saletnik) Gagne, age 86, passed away peacefully on April 6, 2026.

She was born on Sept. 19, 1939, in Ware, daughter of the late Theodore and Stasia (Chmura) Saletnik. Dorothy spent most of her life in Gilbertville, where she built a life centered around family, friendship and joy.

She was a vivacious and loving daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who will be deeply missed. Dottie will be remembered for her vibrant spirit, her love of fashion and beauty, and her signature sense of style—she never went anywhere without her “face on.”

She had a passion for craft fairs, loved to shop and found joy in traveling, whether throughout New England, to Florida, on cruises, or visiting Erica and Joe in Colorado. A proud major-ette at Ware High School in her teenage years, Dottie carried the same lively energy and love for life with her always. She never missed a party and cherished every opportunity to gather with family and friends.

In her work life, she was a familiar and friendly face while working locally, managing greeting card displays at American Greetings for a number of years. Dottie dedicated much of her life to caring for others, she later found a new calling as a CNA at Applewood at Amherst. There she found purpose in supporting and caring for those around her, which brought her immense fulfillment.

Affectionately known as “Grammy Meow” by some of her grandchildren, a nickname inspired by her love of cats and animals, Dorothy shared that same warmth and affection with everyone around her.

Above all, Dorothy will be remembered for her love of family, her warmth and joy she brought to those around her. She will be deeply missed and forever loved.

Her spirit will live on in the laughter, love and sparkle she brought to those around her. Dorothy was predeceased by her beloved husband, Joseph Gagne in 2018, they were married on Nov. 26, 1959. She is survived by her loving children: Gary Gagne and his partner, Brenda Boltz; Danielle LaTulippe and her partner, James Bumpus, and Erica Glaze and her husband Joe Glaze. She was a proud and devoted grandmother to six grandchildren: Kayla and her husband Scott Bedard, Ethan Gagne, Vyper LaTulippe, Wylde LaTulippe, Glamour LaTulippe-Bumpus and Starlette LaTulippe-Bumpus, as well as a cherished great-grandmother to Oakley, daughter of Wylde. She also leaves behind her two younger sisters; Jean Fijal and Kathy O’Kane, along with their families, all of whom she loved dearly.

A Visitation will take place on Saturday, May 23, 2026, from 1-2 p.m. in Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. A Catholic Prayer Service will be held at 2 p.m. in the funeral home. Fr. Don Ouellette will preside.

A Celebration of Dorothy’s life will follow at 3 p.m., to be announced at the conclusion of the service. Inurnment will take place at the convenience of her family in St. Aloysius Cemetery, Gilbertville.

Cebula Funeral Home of Ware is in charge of the arrangements. For more information and an online guestbook, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

In lieu of floral offerings, please make Memorial Donations to the Second Chance Animal Services, 372 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535.



Grace V. Reidy, 94

WARE – Grace V. Reidy, 94, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 24 in Ware.

She was born on Dec. 6, 1931 in South Barre, to Margaret (Tomasello) Valardi and John Joseph Valardi.

Grace was predeceased in 2014 by the love of her life, John James Reidy, whom she married on July 18, 1953. They raised their family in the wonderful village of Wheelwright, a community they loved and participated in fully with several generations of family and so many special friends.

Grace was predeceased by older siblings Mary Murphy of West Roxbury and Joseph Valardi of Wheelwright. She is survived by her five children: Mary Catherine Salo (Steve) of Boynton Beach, Florida; Rosemary Osann (Rick) of Bar Harbor, Maine; Francis Reidy (Deborah) of Land O Lakes, Florida; John Reidy (Mary) of Southwest Harbor, Maine and Margaret Reidy (Cynthia) of Palmer; six grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Upon graduating from Hardwick High School in 1949 where she was a stand-out academic, star athlete and accomplished musician, Grace was accepted to the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She graduated as the salutatorian of her class in the spring of 1953 with a Bachelor of Music Degree.

For 10 years while raising her five children, Grace taught elementary through high school music in the towns of Ware, Hardwick, Hubbardston, North Brookfield and Sterling.

In 1968 Grace became the Choral Director at Quabbin Regional High School in Barre. While there she created the select vocal group the Quabbin Singers. This superior ensemble became the foundation of Grace’s professional pattern of excellence, benefitting all students who experienced her as a teacher and conduc-

tor. She, along with Quabbin band director John Hansen founded the Quabbin Valley Music Educators Association, a professional teacher’s group, which is still active in hosting a yearly music festival for students, now in its 54th year.

In 1972 Grace became the director of choral music at Wachusett Regional High School in Holden, introducing a choral program that did not previously exist and developing it into a nationally recognized standard over her 22-year tenure.

A very special lasting legacy for Grace at Wachusett was her creation of the annual Madrigal Dinner. Begun in 1982, the current music faculty (led now by a former student of Grace) celebrated its 44th production this past January.

Another hallmark of Grace’s career was her volunteerism. Grace served as Central District Chairperson and later as President of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association. She was also the first woman to become President of the New England Music Festival Association, an organization she herself participated in as a student, with a certificate signed by John Philip Sousa.

She was a dedicated member of the American Choral Directors Association, Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity, and served as an officer to the Quabbin Valley festival for the entirety of her high school teaching career.

Upon retirement in 1993 Grace was named a recipient of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Lowell Mason Award, and in 1999 she was presented with the state’s highest individual award, the MMEA Distinguished Service Award.

Impressively, even before she retired, in 1988 Grace founded the United States Youth Ensembles European



Concert Tour, with great support and assistance from her husband Jack. The chorale, wind and string ensembles were made up of talented high

school students from across the USA, gathered via audition each summer to travel throughout Europe, presenting concerts and touring cultural landmarks.

Grace and Jack retired from running the tour in 1998 and fully enjoyed becoming “snow birds” living half the year in Tampa, Florida and the other half in Wheelwright and later spent summers at Summer Hill in Wells, Maine.

Grace and Jack loved traveling in their retirement years, enjoying many cruises and literally traveling around the world.

After Jack’s passing, Grace moved to Saco, Maine where she lived at Atlantic Heights. In 2020 she returned to Ware, moving into Cedarbrook Village, a senior living community built on the site of the former elementary school where Grace began her career.

The Reidy family would like to thank the compassionate and caring staff at Cedarbrook Village as well as Brookhaven Hospice.

There will be a memorial Mass at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2026 at St. Augustine’s Church in Wheelwright.

Because Grace was such an active member of St. Augustine Church in Wheelwright and served as organist and choir director at St. Aloysius in Gilbertville for many years, in lieu of flowers donations may be sent to the St. Augustine Mission, Care of St. Aloysius Church, P.O. Box 542, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

Arrangements by Cebula Funeral Home, Inc., 66 South St., Ware, MA, 01082. For more information, please go to cebulafuneralhome.com.

Death notices

Gagne, Dorothy “Dottie” A. (Saletnik)
Died April 6, 2026
Services May 23, 2026

Kokoski, Elaine
Died April 29, 2026
Services May 13, 2026

Reidy, Grace V.
Died April 24, 2026
Services June 13, 2026

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.

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Elaine Kokoski

WARE – Elaine Kokoski passed away on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at the Elaine Center in Hadley.

Born in Hardwick, Elaine was the daughter of the late Williams Homans and Irene (Clark) Homans.

Elaine worked at the former Dorman Mills in Ware and later devoted herself to caring for others as a home health aide, providing compassionate care to those in need.

In 1970, Elaine moved to Ware after marrying Frank, where they built a life and raised their family. She

found joy in flowers, country music, gardening, baking cakes, and animals.

She especially cherished time spent on the family farm and enjoyed trips to the drive-in movies.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 55 years, Frank Kokoski, Jr., who died in October

2025. Elaine is survived by her sons, Frank Kokoski III and his wife Jennifer of Palmer, William Kokoski and his wife Angela of Monson, and Tim Kokoski of Palmer; and her daughter, Lisa Kokoski of Palmer. She also leaves her siblings, Linda,

Maryann, Rosemarie, BJ, Steven and John.

Elaine will be dearly missed by her grandchildren: Jeffrey, Katlyn, Bridgette, Jacob, Samuel, Thomas, Spencer and Benjamin, as well as many loving nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, from 2-4 p.m. at Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., Ware. A funeral service will take place the following morning, Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Quabbin Park Cemetery. Please visit her online tribute page at charbonneaufh.com for expressions of sympathy.



FIRES from page 12

and dirt or sand nearby to put out the fire, and be sure the fire is out cold before leaving; and keep grills at least 10 feet from the house and away from low branches and shrubs

If using an ATV, dirt bike, or other off-road vehicle, be sure the spark arrestor is properly installed, as required by Massachusetts law. Don’t park an ATV, dirt bike, or other off-road vehicle on or near dry vegetation, and turn the engine off when stopped for an extended period of time

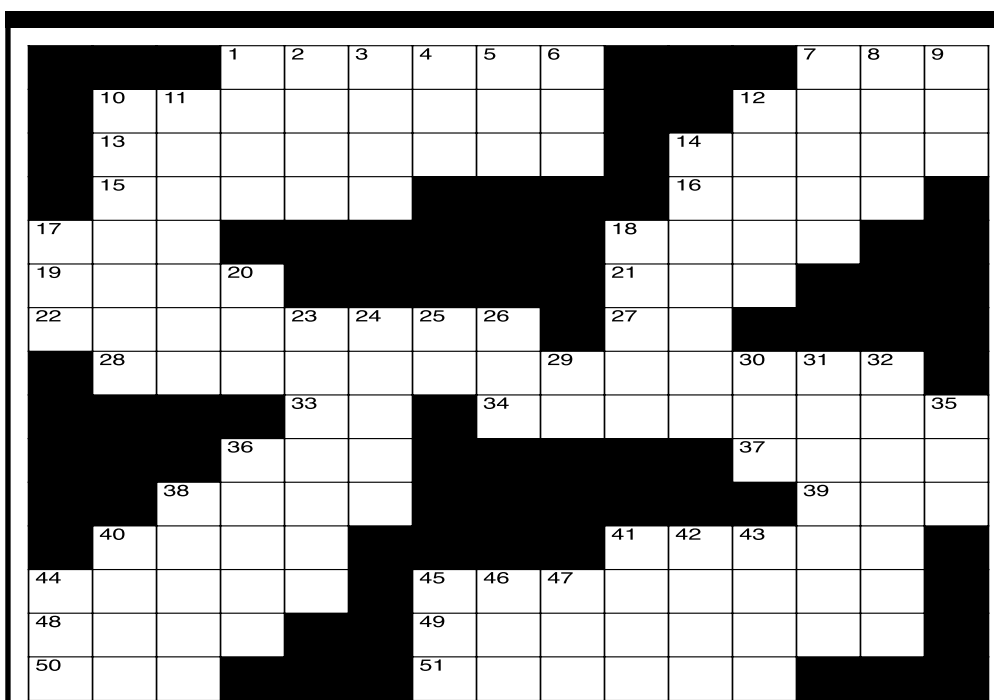
You can learn more about Wildfire Community Preparedness Day from the National Fire Protection Association, and more about wildland fire prevention from NFPA’s Firewise USA program at nfpa.org.

Gone but never forgotten!



Jesse L. Aldridge, CMSgt, USAF
12/27/1940-5/2/2020

Loving wife Pat, daughters Kimberly, Lynn, Tammy and son Jesse Jr. and their families



- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| CLUES ACROSS | 33. 12th letter of the Greek alphabet | 4. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo! | 26. Habitual twitching |
| 1. Large dung beetle | 34. More impudent | 5. Consumed | 29. A place where checks are exchanged (abbr.) |
| 7. Gambling game -lo | 36. Indicates center | 6. A place to sleep | 30. Decimeter |
| 10. Further along | 37. Young woman (French) | 7. Small seeds | 31. Hinged surface in a wing |
| 12. Type of tobacco | 38. A cause of distress | 8. Legendary law man Wyatt | 32. Shouting |
| 13. Looked for | 39. Santa’s helper | 9. Female sheep | 35. Sports official |
| 14. Silk fabric | 40. Hillside | 10. Indigenous peoples of eastern Siberia | 36. Volcanic craters |
| 15. Computer method to solve equations | 41. Many wombs | 11. A place ships dock | 38. Supportive device |
| 16. As fast as can be done (abbr.) | 44. Is afraid of | 12. Reciprocal of sine | 40. It’s part of a rosary |
| 17. Tear | 45. Popular baked goods ingredient | 14. Discomfort | 41. Two-toed sloth |
| 18. Brews | 48. Popular computers | 17. British Air Aces | 42. Body art |
| 19. “Famous” cookie baker | 49. Conceiving of | 18. Exit sleep | 43. Let out |
| 21. Women’s Army Corps | 50. Google certification (abbr.) | 20. Solar energetic particle | 44. Foreign medical graduate |
| 22. Front parts of an animal | 51. Sturdy | 23. Plagues characterized by starvation | 45. Nonprofit journalism organization (abbr.) |
| 27. It’s causing quite a stir | CLUES DOWN | 24. Short musical composition | 46. Couples say it |
| 28. Beloved March holiday | 1. Peruse quickly | 25. Trauma center | 47. Bird’s beak |
| | 2. Automobiles | | |
| | 3. Razorbill genus | | |

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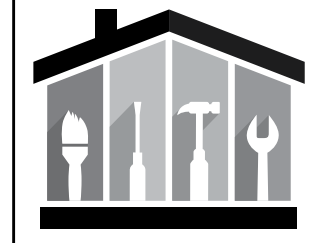
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TOWN OF HARDWICK PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Hardwick Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM** at the **Hardwick Town House, Hardwick, Massachusetts**, to consider the following proposed additions to and amendments of the Hardwick Zoning Bylaw:

Article 1 – Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

Adoption of a new bylaw establishing by-right ADU permitting as mandated by state law, and incorporating local options for more than one ADU; ADUs of greater size than the state minimum; and phased development of ADUs. This article also eliminates the existing bylaw section on Accessory Apartments, which is superseded by the new ADU provisions. Approval requires a simple majority vote.

Article 2 – Associate Planning Board Member

Adoption of a new bylaw authorizing the appointment of an Associate Member of the Planning Board pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 6A, to serve in the absence or disqualification of a regular member.

Article 3 – Gender-Neutral Terminology

Adoption of a new bylaw amending the Hardwick Zoning Bylaw throughout to replace gendered language with gender-neutral terminology, consistent with amendments previously adopted in the Hardwick General Bylaws.

Article 4 – Earth Removal and Importation

Amendment of the existing Hardwick Zoning Bylaw governing Earth Removal to: extend the scope of the bylaw to include earth importation as a regulated activity; increase the maximum duration of a Special Permit issued under this section; and specify allowable waivers from the bylaw's requirements.

Article 5 – Farm Animals

Amendment of Zoning Bylaw Section 3.2.1 (Use Regulations – Agricultural Uses) to: specify and expand allowable farm animals kept for personal use on parcels greater than 1.5 acres; allow for the keeping of waterfowl and poultry on parcels between .5 and 1.5 acres; and revise related definitions and Use Regulation tables accordingly.

Copies of the full text of all proposed bylaws and amendments are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the **Hardwick Town Clerk's Office, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA**, and on the Town of Hardwick website at hardwick-ma.gov. All persons interested in or wishing to be heard on any of the above proposed bylaw changes are invited to attend. Written comments may be submitted to the Planning Board prior to the hearing at planningboard@hardwick-ma.gov

This notice is published pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5. The hearing may be continued to a date and time announced at the hearing without further published notice.

Hardwick Planning Board
William Cole, Chair
04/30, 05/07/2026

**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.
HS26P0266EA
Estate of:
Mary Frances Combs
Also known as:
M. Frances Combs,
Mary F. Combs
Date of Death: 02/26/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

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

The Petitioner requests that **Walter Combs of Ware, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve

Without Surety on the bond in **unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 28, 2026

Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
05/07/2026

Town of Warren Public Hearing Sewer Rate Hearing Fiscal Year 2027

The Warren Board of Sewer Commissioners will be holding a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.**, for the purpose of setting the FY2027 sewer rates for both residential and commercial users. The hearing will be held at the Town of Warren Senior Center, located at 2252 Main Street in West Warren, MA 01092. The public is welcome to attend the rate hearing in person or to submit written comments prior to the hearing to the Board of Sewer Commissioners P.O. Box 1537 Warren, MA 01083.
04/30, 05/07/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No.
HS26P0234EA
Estate of:
Elena Iverson
Date of Death:
January 28, 2026
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jessica Monahan of New Braintree, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Jessica Monahan of New Braintree, 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, including 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.
05/07/2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDDERS Transportation and Transfer of Liquid Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Town of Warren, Massachusetts

The Town of Warren is soliciting sealed bids for the Transportation and Transfer of Liquid Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge between the periods of November 1, 2026, to June 30, 2029. Bids will be received at the Office of the Town Administrator (second floor), 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609 Warren, MA 01083, until **June 30, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.** The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time. Proposals must be made upon forms included herein. Proposals must be delivered in a sealed envelope plainly marked for the appropriate bids. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

The Proposal Form, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be obtained electronically by emailing Jim Ferrera at townadministrator@warren-ma.gov or can be found on the Town's website at www.warren-ma.gov.

Questions regarding this solicitation must be directed in writing to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera at townadministrator@warren-ma.gov.

A performance bond with a Surety Company or Sureties satisfactory to the Town will be required of the successful bidder for the complete and faithful performance of the Contract.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid deposit in the form of a Bid Bond, Certified Check, or a Treasurer's or Cashier's Check issued by a responsible Bank or Trust Company, payable to the Town of Warren in the amount of five (5) percent of the minimum total bid (plus FY28 & FY29). Said bid deposit shall become the property of the Town of Warren should the bidder fail to execute the contract and provide a satisfactory bond within fourteen (14) days after they have been officially notified.

Bids are subject to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30.

Award is contingent upon the appropriation of funds. Bidders may be requested to waive the right to the 90-day withdrawal period.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, to waive irregularities and/or informalities in any Proposal, and to make an award in any manner, consistent with law, deemed in the best interest of the Town.

Town of Warren
James J. Ferrera,
Town Administrator
05/07, 05/14/2026

Ware Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

The Ware Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 6:30 PM** pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. 131 c40. The hearing will include consideration of a **Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)** by Massachusetts Electric Company, for a new mid-span pole installation in

the previously disturbed shoulder adjacent to the public roadway of Belchertown Road. Said hearing will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082. To view application and related plans, contact the Conservation office at 413.967.9648.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a copy of this legal notice can be found on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website: <http://masspublicnotices.org>
05/07/2026

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 .

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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

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
Docket No.
HS26P0271GD
In the interests of
Kensley A Smith
of Ware, MA
Minor**

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **04/28/2026** by **Ursula A Nowak of Ware, MA**

Todd A Nowak of Ware, MA will be held **05/12/2026 at 08:30 AM Motion**. Located: **15 Atwood Drive, Northampton, MA 01060.**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to

you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: April 28, 2026

Mark S. Ames
Register of Probate
05/07/2026

Town of Hardwick Conservation Commission

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Meeting will be held for a **Request for Determination of Applicability on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville.** All interested parties are urged to attend.

Applicant: TEC Associates for Mass Central Railroad

Description of Proposed Work: Vegetation management on railroad right-of-way between Ware and Barre town lines

Location: **Hardwick**
Town: **Hardwick**

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>
05/07/2026

Ware Housing Authority
Parking Lot Replacement
Project #316101

Section 00 11 13

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID MGL c.30 §39M Over \$50K

THE WARE HOUSING AUTHORITY, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Parking Lot Replacement at State Aided Development: Valley View Annex (667-2) in Ware, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **PARE CORPORATION**.

The Project consists of but not limited to:

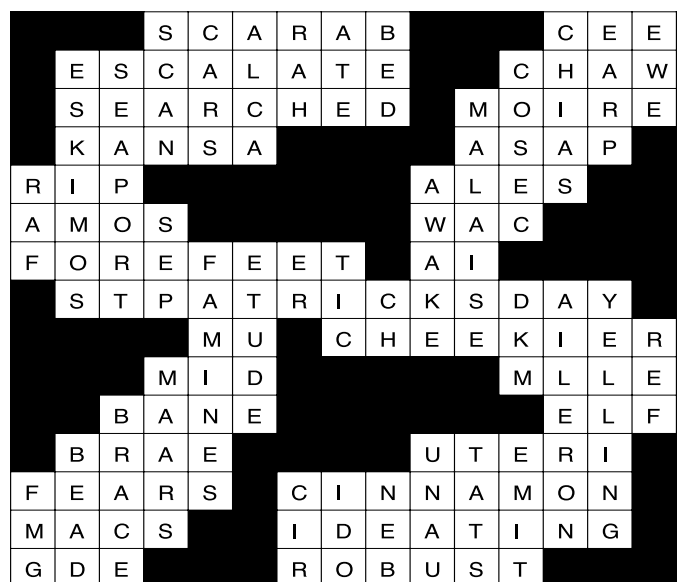
The Valley View Annex parking lot replacement project consists of a new Annex parking lot, connecting sidewalks, cement concrete dumpster pad, and three additional parking stalls to the limits and locations shown on the plan. The construction effort includes the excavation, removal, and disposal of existing bituminous and cement concrete, curbing, unsuitable gravel subbase, and import of processed gravel for subbase and all required materials for the proper construction of the new vehicle travel ways, parking areas, sidewalks, curbing, dumpster pad, etc. to the

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visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



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