

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Vol. 138 No. 14

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

HOPE WALKS HERE

2nd annual suicide prevention walk held at Grenville Park

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – This past Saturday, close to 200 people gathered in Grenville Park to walk in support of suicide prevention for the second annual Out of the Darkness Campus Walk.

This event was organized last year by Kristen Murphy and School Resource Officer Jeannine Bonnayer in memory of Murphy's son, Ethan Donnelly, who died by suicide in 2023 at the age of 24.

This year's walk was bittersweet, as participants also came to honor Murphy's legacy, following her death from a rare and aggressive form of bone cancer this past February. Her family and friends knew how important this walk was to Murphy, and they vowed to continue it each year.

Please see **WALK**, page 5



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Team Walk for Ethan lead the second annual Out of the Darkness Campus Walk to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention held at Grenville Park this past Saturday.



SEE MORE STORM PHOTOS ON PAGE 8.

Turley Staff Photo

A large tree came down on North Street during an intense storm late Saturday afternoon. The storm caused power outages throughout the region and crews spent days removing downed trees and repairing utility lines.

Saturday storm takes out trees, utility lines

WARE – After temperatures reached 80 plus degrees on Saturday, an intense storm hit the area late Saturday afternoon, knocking out power to most of the town.

Trees and utility lines were knocked down in mul-

multiple areas, causing line and tree crews to work continuously until power was able to be restored. Most people received power again by Sunday afternoon, but others were predicted to be back online by Monday due to the extensive damage.

Selectmen hear presentation about website options

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen began their meeting with a discussion of pos-

sible website redesign and update options.

Town Administrator James Ferrera talked to the board at their previous meeting about having a representative from Revize Government Websites

to talk to the board about their services. In last week's meeting, Ferrera presented a proposal to the Selectmen and for the May 1 meeting, a representative from Revize Government Websites was on

Zoom with a presentation.

The representative, Shawn, explained that Revize is a municipal website provider that operates across every State in the United States. Revize provides easy

to use website programs specializing in meeting the needs of municipalities, educational institutions and non-profit organizations.

Please see **OPTIONS**, page 11

Election results

Voters elect Schaaf to Select Board

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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HARDWICK – A total of 338 out of 2,135 registered voters took to the polls this past Saturday for the annual town election.

This represents 15.8% of the town's voting population.

Securing a three-year seat on the Select Board with 241 votes was Jeffrey Schaaf. Candidates Jeffery

Please see **RESULTS**, page 7

Youth program celebrates Earth Day



By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – The Ware Grange is ready for a series of fun events, including Kids' Corner Workshops.

These fun workshops for kids returned to the Ware Grange for the 2025 season and began with an Earth Day Celebration. Returning as the instructor for the Kids' Corner

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Mackenzie helped kids make their own sock puppets and teaching them how to use recycled items.

Please see **EARTH DAY**, page 12

Finance Committee explains budget process

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Members of the Finance Committee gave a special presentation on Ware Community Television, explaining the budget process and its preparation.

The Chair of the Finance Committee, Ken Willette, was joined by fellow Finance Committee member Richard Fly and Town Manager

Stuart Beckley. This presentation explained the process of forming the budget and what is factored in when finalizing the budget prior to the annual town meeting.

Willette mentioned there is a lot of work behind the scenes that goes into forming the budget and reminded residents that the town does their best to make sure "the budget process is approached

Please see **BUDGET**, page 12



Celebrity Bartender & Wait Staff Night!!!
Tuesday, May 13 ~ 5:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
at HANNA'S ON MAIN

All Tips will be going toward the Ware Fireworks Spectacular on August 8th!!!

Help make this year's show even bigger!!! Limited menu.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Come and enjoy a night of KARAOKE

Tracie's Greenhouse celebrates 25th year in business

WARE – Tracie's Greenhouse proudly celebrates a remarkable milestone: 25 years of providing the local community with vibrant flowers, fresh herbs, and hearty vegetables.

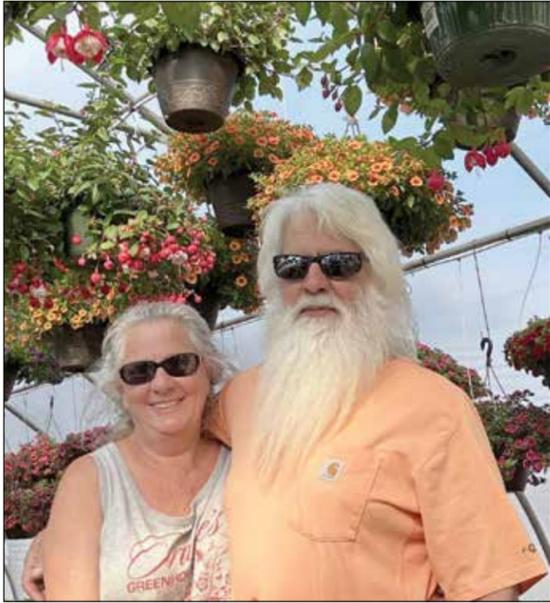
What began as a dream in 2000 for founder Tracie Lukaskiewicz has blossomed into a cherished family-run business known for its quality, dedication, and down-to-earth charm.

Tracie, a lifelong flower enthusiast, opened her first greenhouse in 2000 with a loan from Country Bank, the unwavering support of her husband Mark, and the helping hands of her daughter Shelly and extended family members Tabitha, Marissa and Marcus, Linda, Mindy, and Leslie. Over the years, the family legacy has continued to blossom, with Tracie's granddaughter Kyla, a natural talent with a passion for plants, now helping in the greenhouse.

By 2013, Tracie's Greenhouse had grown to five greenhouses, supported by a tight-knit team that truly feels like family. Their commitment, passion, and deep-rooted connection to the business make this greenhouse more than just a place to buy flowers – it's a labor of love.

Tracie also credits her longtime friend and mentor, Michael Salem, for guiding her early on. A respected greenhouse operator from West Brookfield, Michael's influence remains a cornerstone of her success.

The greenhouse season begins long before the first customer walks through the door.



Submitted Photo
Tracie's Greenhouse, located at 3 Ashley St., in Ware, is celebrating 25 years in business. Shown are owner Tracie Lukaskiewicz and her husband Mark.

In October, Tracie begins placing orders for seeds and materials that arrive in February. The following months are filled with long days of preparing soil, planting, fertilizing, watering, and nurturing thousands of plants.

It's hard work, often stressful, but Tracie embraces the challenge with faith and perseverance, always driven by her passion and purpose.

Over the past 25 years, Tracie's Greenhouse has become a destination for locals and visitors, offering plants and inspiration for gardens and homes. In addition to their popular summer flowers, the team also crafts beautiful memorial boxes and festive wreaths during

the holiday season, keeping the greenhouse buzzing with activity year-round.

Tracie, Mark, and the team extend heartfelt "thank you" to their loyal customers, family, and friends as they mark this special anniversary.

"Your support and appreciation mean the world to us," Tracie shared. "We couldn't have made it this far without you."

Whether you're a long-time customer or a first-time visitor, there's no better time to experience the magic of Tracie's Greenhouse. Stop by 3 Ashley St., across from Big Y, and discover why this local gem has been growing smiles for 25 years – and counting.

Are You Old News?



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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 1989 shows Ware High School Junior Prom Queen Jenn Minalga and her escort Andy Trzpit. The couple was identified by Andy's brother, Jim.

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

Edward Wyzik honored for service

WARE – Edward Wyzik, Commander of the AMVETS Department of Massachusetts was recently honored during a joint testimonial dinner held at the Natick AMVETS Post on April 26.

Along with the President of the Department of Massachusetts Ladies Auxiliary and the Commander of the Sons of AMVETS, Department of Massachusetts, he received numerous plaques and citations honoring his service to the organization.

Wyzik, a life-long resident of Ware is a retired Staff Sergeant, having served over 20 years in the local Army National Guard unit. Since joining local AMVETS Post 2577 in Ware 13 years ago, he has served 11 years as the local Commander, seven years as the District 3 Commander, and his tenure as State Department Commander will be one year.

Wyzik was recognized as the local driving force behind the support to various activities locally, including sponsorship of Scout Troop 281, as well as meals, activities and visits to both the Holyoke Soldiers Home and the VA Hospital at



Submitted Photo
Edward Wyzik, Commander of the AMVETS Department of Massachusetts was honored at a joint testimonial dinner held in Natick on April 26.

Leeds, Northampton. In addition, he has been a Command presence at AMVETS activities state-wide, from the Polar Plunge supporting the Special Olympics, to concerts and outside activities at the VA Hospital in Bedford, as well as state-wide recruiting and support for other AMVETS posts.

Both Mandy Dias, President of the Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of AMVETS State Commander Floyd J. Francis lauded Wyzik for his support to their organizations and programs. Citing his presence, participation and support to them and their mission

goals, as well as personally as they developed their roles in their respective positions.

During his 20 plus years of military service, Wyzik was awarded the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Massachusetts Service Medal with device, The Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, and the Infantry Blue Shoulder Cord.

He resides in Ware along with his wife of 56 years, three children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ware Library hosts Book Sale May 12-24

WARE – As we welcome birds, flowers, and the month of Maying, you may be getting ready for your spring travels and summer reading.

If you are looking at your plethora of books thinking "I could use some new books," you are in luck. The Ware Library, 37 Main St., is hosting a Book Sale happening

from May 12-24 during regular library hours in the Reading Room.

The sale will have a huge selection of books, DVDs, and CDs. And all items are \$1 or less – so bring those shopping bags to carry your many items. The Book Sale is open to the public; just drop in.

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

Follow the library on Facebook for updates, visit www.warelibrary.org call 413-967-4858, or email warelibrary1881@gmail.com with any questions.

Saturday, May 17, 2025
Gates open at 9:00am



Military Appreciation Day

Our mission is to give Veterans an unforgettable track experience.



Veterans are invited to join us for a day of racing fun as we celebrate Military Appreciation Day at PMP. Ride along in amazing race cars with Palmer Club drivers and experience the thrills of racing. There will be food and beverages, static displays, and so much more! Sign in with your valid military ID at 9:00am and let the fun begin.

Location: Palmer Motorsports Park
Address: 58 W Ware Rd, Palmer, MA 01069
Start Time: 9:00am
Event Signup: <https://palmermsp.com/vets/>



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



Sons of AMVETS
Squadron 74
2150 Main Street
Three Rivers, MA 01080



Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 11th, 2025
Serving 8 a.m. to noon

Sponsored by the
Sons of AMVETS Squadron 74
2150 Main Street, Three Rivers

Price: \$10



A giant portrait was being painted during the Art in the Park event at Grenville Park.

Library and Family Center host outdoor event

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – Grenville Park is the place to go when Art in the Park is happening, and the kids get creative.

This fantastic event was presented by the Ware Library and the Ware Family Center. The program was funded by the Department of Early Education and Care and by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant.

Art in the Park experienced a fantastic turnout with over 60 people showing up on the fields of Grenville Park for a fun day of art. There was a total of four different art stations where kids get to learn and craft several projects.

There were volunteers stationed at every art station to help explain the steps to the kids. Children's Room Librarian at the Ware Library, Cathy Goulet, was stationed at the fizzy art station. Kids would learn how to do fizzy paintings and Goulet was using dry vinegar and baking soda to create the fizzy art.

Kids would quickly gather at the fizzy art station to watch Goulet demonstrate the creation of fizzy paintings. Goulet jokingly mentioned this type of art can be messy, because of the ingredients. Despite the mess, the kids were having fun. There were tarps displayed on the grass of Grenville Park for the stations to be set up and have art done in a clean manner.

Laurie Desjardins of the Ware Family Center was over at the bubble painting station. Bubble painting is



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Jared Jones, right, poured mud-like paint for the kids' "bug & mud" art.



This bubble art was designed by Emelinde.



Anne Young helped out at the salad spinner art station.

a fun art technique where you create colorful patterns

Please see **ART**, page 13

Annual town meeting summary

\$38.5 million budget, capital requests highlight warrant

Staff Report

WARE – The annual town meeting will convene to discuss and vote on a 33 article warrant of town business.

Originally scheduled for Monday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m., the Selectboard voted to postpone the meeting to a later date, in order to secure a location that will accommodate the expected large turnout of voters.

The articles include the fiscal year 2026 budgets, capital spending, and Town Charter amendments proposed by the Charter Review committee.

The following is a brief summary of each article. With the exception of article 33 and articles 18 and 22 which will be dismissed, all articles were recommended by the Selectboard and Finance Committee.

Articles 1 and 2

Articles 1 and 2 would provide funding for past years' bills and to amend the current year budget. Past bills total \$871.27 and funds would be added for the inspections and the IT departments.

The total for article 2 will be \$39,500 being transferred from other departments and free cash. Free cash is available funding from reserves generated from previous year's revenues and expenditure savings.

Article 3

Articles 3 transfers \$429,990 to the town's Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund. This reserve fund will be used in future years to pay for retired employee health insurance.

Articles 4-13

Articles 4 through 13 are proposed annually as consent articles and may be passed by a single vote. These articles authorize the application and use of grants, borrowing by the Treasurer, revolving funds and set the salaries of elected town officials.

Article 13 appropriates \$30,000 for the town's compensated balances funds, which funds benefit payouts when employees retire.

Article 14

Article 14 proposes the establishment of a revolving fund for inspectional services. The fund will accept permitting fees from which the electrical, gas and plumbing inspectors are paid.

Article 15

Article 15 proposes the adoption of the Water Enterprise budget. The proposed budget is \$1,323,500 including an addition to the Reserve Funds of \$1,543 and \$150,000 of Capital Improvements for wells and pumps and \$255,000 for the design required to add two replacement wells and bypass the cistern source.

Article 16

Article 16 proposes the adoption of the Sewer Enterprise budget. The proposed budget is \$1,066,000 including an addition to the Reserve Funds of \$91,063.

Article 17

Article 17 funds the town's general budget for fiscal year 2026. The total budget is \$38,543,615. It is funded from several sources, including taxation, Ambulance Reserves, Free Cash, and the Road Stabilization Fund.

Town meeting will review the budget by department to allow for specific questions.

Article 19

Article 19 establishes a Stabilization Fund to be the source of large school capital projects and makes an initial appropriation of \$75,000 to the fund.

Articles 20-26

Articles 20 through 26 seek to fund a variety of capital improvements for the town departments. Article 20 will fund a plan for the equipment and operation needs of the Water distribution system.

A grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection would cover 60%. The town's cash contribution would be 20% or \$45,000.

Article 21 will fund a new six-wheel truck that would replace a 20-year dump truck in the Highway Division. The cost of the truck is \$320,000 which would be funded by a transfer from free cash.

Article 23 will fund the ability to remove or force the removal of the two fire-damaged buildings on Main Street and authorize the

Selectboard to pursue this action. The proposed demolition cost is \$180,000.

Article 24 will appropriate \$40,000 for the removal of the building located at 116 Pleasant St. The town acquired this property for Water supply protection. The building is no longer safe for occupancy or storage.

The funds will demolish the building and remove the debris then provide for a finished grade as required by MassDEP.

Funding for article 25 would address the Town Hall parking lot which is in poor condition and will be repaved utilizing Free Cash funds in the amount of \$65,000.

Following last year's appropriation for the electrical system upgrade at Town Hall, article 26 would provide \$185,000 to be used to design and install a complete fire detection system. Ultimately a suppression system is necessary for the building.

Article 27

Article 27 seeks the authorization for a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for an 8 megawatt solar facility located on Monson Turnpike. A payment in lieu of taxes is negotiated by the town through the Selectboard for the personal property value of a solar project.

Article 28

Article 28 asks town meeting to approve the re-codification of the town's bylaws. Re-number, recaption and codify the General Bylaws of the Town by (a) assigning a chapter number to each of the General Bylaws; (b) renumbering each section and subsection of the Bylaw accordingly; (c) inserting chapter, article and section and subsection titles; (d) updating internal references to reflect the new numbering system; and (e) imposing a consistent style to the text of all chapters.

The recodification of the Town Bylaws included in this article is for organizational, formatting and numerical changes. A future step will remove obsolete language.

Article 29

Article 29 brings forward the proposed recommendations from the Charter Review Committee established by the May 2024 annual town meeting. The

Please see **ATM**, page 13

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Glenda's

Saturday, May 10 ~ 7pm-11pm

Pure Country

Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm

Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes!

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm

Karaoke

Saturday Nights also if no band

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 31
8pm-?

Illegal Zebra

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5:30pm • All Welcome

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GUEST COLUMN

Town cannot afford ownership of MLH

There's a movement in town to have Ware purchase the Mary Lane Hospital property.

I commend the group behind the successful effort to have the zoning changed for those parcels; it was thorough and well organized and led to the zoning being changed to health-care-oriented business only. Unfortunately, I feel that it was a mistake.

The original zoning already allowed all health-care related business, so the restricting of the zoning to only the medical field gained nothing. The backers of the change stated that it would ensure and entice medically related business to come to Ware.

Sadly, that is not the case.

The MLH property has been vacant for four years already and no one has inquired through the town about it. One entity has mentioned building a second Cedarbrook Village style assisted living facility there; that would be great as it is certainly needed.

A zoning change was not required, nor was it even asked for; what was needed was for a site to be available which means knocking the MLH down for room to construct new. As the architects Ware hired have confirmed and what the owners have stated for years, the existing MLH buildings are too inefficient and cost prohibited to reuse.

If nothing was gained by a zoning change, was anything lost? Yes, the ability to construct something non-medically related that would still fit into the neighborhood per the pre-existing zoning.

Some of these opportunities were for small offices, such as for lawyers, accountants, seamstresses and other small business services. These lost abilities to open are called Opportunity Costs, the cost of losing an opportunity that was available, but not taken.

If nothing medically related is ever built, then Ware loses jobs, taxes and other sources of income to diversify the tax base.

If the zoning restriction will not and cannot increase the effort for medically related businesses to locate there, then why bother? I believe the true reason for the zoning restriction was to eliminate the possibility of housing being built there as I heard several backers of the change state.

Good thing too, since we all know that there is no need for housing in this area since it is apparently very plentiful and we wouldn't want housing being built in our residential neighborhoods. Or perhaps it was the wrong perception that if housing is eliminated from the zone (by claiming that it should only be for medical reasons), then low-income cannot be built.

As I explained to an emphatic zoning backer, Massachusetts years ago passed a law called Chapter 40b which states that if a builder proposes a housing project that is the law's definition of low income, and Ware does not meet the current level of 10% of its housing stock as defined low income, which is does not, then it make absolutely no difference what the zoning charges, Massachusetts

says low income housing can be built there by right and Ware can do nothing to stop it.

Now, the same group successful in a misguided effort to restrict the zoning want Ware to purchase the MLH property.

I believe this to be an even bigger mistake than the zoning restriction. First of all, does the current owner of the MLH site even want to sell it and how much?

The group pushing hard for the purchase have no clue.

Their reasoning is that Ware should buy the land to "protect it" regardless of the cost and that we should apply for grants. You can't apply for a grant without knowing several things: how much? Why? What are you going to do with the site?

The State doesn't just hand out blank checks and says have fun; you must have a defined amount and purpose. Different grants are defined by different purposes; my fear is for the need of a brownfield grant to go towards the costs of remediating a contaminated site (empty buildings).

We do not know if there's contamination from coal ash on the 21 acres; subsurface testing was done, but only around the MLH buildings. It was common to dump coal ash on the ground 100 years ago; the entire 21 acres was not tested as it would have been cost prohibitive.

As owner of the site, Ware would be responsible for remediation of this known hazardous contamination which could be bottomless.

Second, is Ware to buy the property as is or after the buildings removed and the site cleaned? If Ware is to remove the buildings, then that cost is added to the price. If the buildings are to be kept, why? The buildings are cleaned of contaminants, but not the steam tunnels.

MLH as an entity will never come back for the aforementioned reasons. So what? A museum? And it costs money to develop a site and it could take many years.

Eminent Domain is mentioned as a possibility; that requires a fight in court to prove that there is a valid public purpose for taking a private party's ownership.

Ware does not have the expertise to develop such a large site, nor the funds to tie up for years. It's been four years since MLH closed; the former South Street school on the abutting property was closed for more than 10 years, costing Ware \$10,000 per year just to keep heated (\$300,000 for the 10 years), not including the cost to maintain the grounds and do repairs for all those years.

The Church Street school was redeveloped for \$7 million; Cedarbrook was \$17 million. The estimate for the Wetherby building alone at the MLH front is over \$10 million. To resurrect the entire complex is pushing \$100 million for the seven inter-connected buildings.

Maybe Boston wouldn't flinch at those numbers; Ware cannot afford this.

Denis R. Ouimette
Ware

Tasks for mid May

Last week's column alluded to the fact that there was a lot to do in the herb garden. But, let me clarify: there is a lot to do everywhere I look.

Here are some of the tasks I will be working on. Maybe you can relate!

The daffodils put on quite a show this year. Now that the flowers have gone by, they will be "deadheaded" and a sprinkling of balanced fertilizer will be spread around the base of each clump of bulbs.

As the foliage "ripens" it will take in all of those nutrients, storing up wonderful energy for next year's flowers. Leave the foliage in place until turns brown. The minor nuisance of old foliage is certainly worth the explosion of gorgeous flowers come spring.

It's time to preheat the soil where your peppers will be planted. Peppers respond best when sunk into warm soil, so laying down black plastic or IRT plastic mulch now will get the soil warm and ready for planting come late May or early June!

Pepper plants should be planted about 12-14 inches apart. I like to unitize a wide row, installing the seedlings in a staggered pattern, so that when full-grown, the leaves of neighboring plants touch one another. They respond well to that, and the close spacing will help to prevent sun scald on ripening fruit.

I also give my pepper plants support by installing tomato cages over each plant, so that the heavy fruit doesn't cause them to fall over in a windy summer storm.

Lilacs are bursting into bloom. Their season is fast and furious.

When the fragrant flowers

I will be harvesting spears for about eight weeks now, and doing my best to keep the bed weed-free, less they take over!

Be on the look-out for asparagus beetles and the horizontal eggs they lay going up the spears. I squish on contact! More squeamish folks may prefer to bring a cup of soapy water out to the garden and knock the bugs into it.

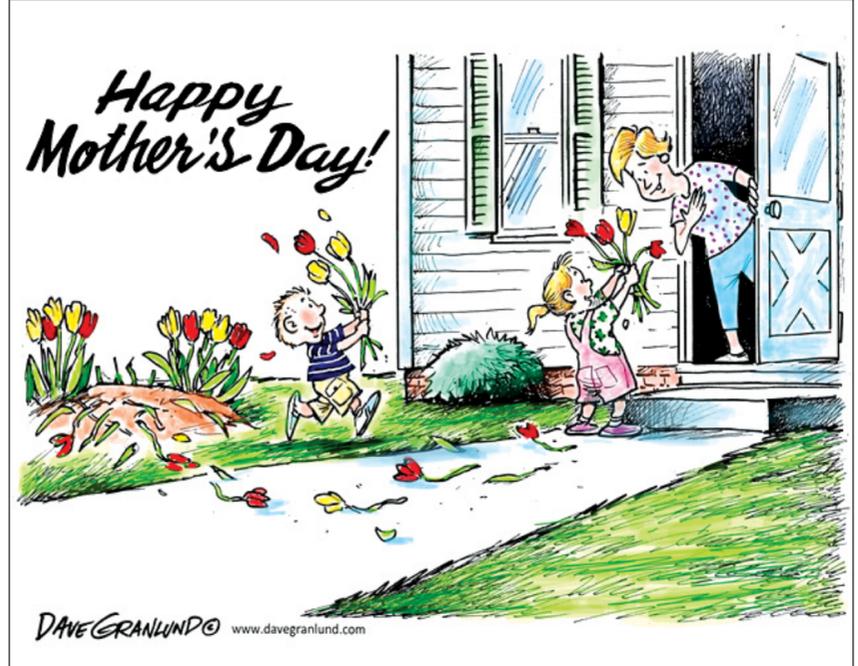
My strawberry patch was going on four years old. I decided turn it under, but I did move a few of the younger plants and started a smaller, new bed.

If you are experimenting with strawberries for the first time, be sure to remove the blossoms of June bearing types so that energy will go into making strong plants, not berries this first year. I know it is a sacrifice, but patience will lead to lots of strawberry shortcake next year.

Have fun doing whatever needs to be done in your garden! I know I will be having fun in mine!

Isn't May just an awesome month?

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



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com



Eastern phoebe

A Worthington resident reported he saw an Eastern phoebe on April 18.

He said it is the first insect eater to show up around his house. He also said he hoped to see swallows and bluebirds soon.

The eastern phoebe is a plump song bird with a medium length tail, which it wags up and down while perched. It is about 5.5 to 6.7 inches long and has a small,

thin beak. Phoebes are brownish gray above with a white breast and belly. The head is the darkest part on the bird.

Phoebes prefer open woods such as yards and parks. They frequently construct nests on buildings or under bridges under the protection of an eave or ledge. They lay two to six white eggs speckled with reddish brown and raise one or two broods.

Flying insects make up the majority of their diet. They occasionally eat seeds and small fruits. They depend on low woody plants for foraging perches were they watch for insects.

Bald eagle
I saw the mature bald eagle at my hayfield again. When I first saw it on Thursday, April 24 he was perched in a dead tree by the beaver pond. Later in the day,

the eagle was sitting in an old great blue heron nest constructed in a nearby tree.

A New Braintree resident saw a bald eagle at a small pond in that town. I wonder if it is the same eagle I've seen at my hayfield. The ponds are not that far apart.

Brimfield bird sightings
I received an email from a Brimfield resident on April 16. He said, "This week we had the first of the year brown-headed cowbird (three, one male and two females and towhee (one male) in the yard." He said, "We hope the towhee isn't the one that previously spent the summer attacking our windows. We had to put glass wax on the windows to reduce the reflection to get the bird to stop." He read a recent newspaper column about a pileated woodpecker attacking and breaking side view mirrors on vehicles, 20 mirrors and one windshield.

This resident makes visits to local ponds to bird watch. He said, "Last week in Monson the rookery at Please see **BACKYARD**, page 6

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

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Ware, MA 01082
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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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



Turley Photos by Paula Quimette
The Ware Knights of Columbus Council 183 provided a free hot dog lunch to all walk participants. Shown from left are Bill Blodgett, Patrick Gallery and Paul Harper.



Lonny Murphy, Kristen's husband, held their grandson, Liam.

HOPE WALKS HERE

Spirits were raised as walkers spread awareness about suicide prevention.



Over 50 Quabbin Regional High School students, staff and administrators signed up for the walk.



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



Community members joined together to spread awareness to prevent suicide.

WALK from page 1

"We are continuing this forever," Bonnayer said. "It's her dream and we will do it for as long as we can."

Bonnayer said she also lost her colleague Tod this past year, and their department formed a team to honor his memory.

"We are walking on his behalf as well," she said.

Murphy's best friend Ronnie Theriault said she knew her friend was at the walk in spirit.

"Kristen's definitely up there jumping up and down," she said.

Theriault spoke about the struggles Murphy faced after losing her son, and how she found comfort and support through the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and talking to people who had also lost their loved ones to suicide.

Theriault said the Out of the Darkness Campus Walk was about healing.

"Let's make this walk pain free and help someone to heal," she said. "Let's walk for everyone."

Theriault thanked the community members and businesses who supported the walk through donations and participations, as well as the Town of Ware, which donated \$5,000.

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 found hope through the connections that we have," she said.

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

"Your efforts today and money raised today go toward continuing that research" Carreira said. "We are brought together this morning through tragedy and struggle, but we stand here together in hope. As you walk today, you can feel it."

Following the walk, live music was provided by Lyle's Leftovers (Ethan's father Shawn's band), AKA Music and She Shed. Hotdog lunches were donated by the Ware Knights of Columbus Council 183.

Various businesses donated dozens of raffles prizes and Country Bank was on hand to pass out snacks and water. Quabbin Regional High School students offered a rock painting activity.

At the time of the walk, over \$7,5000 was raised to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention with the top earning teams being Walk for Ethan, Mopar or No Car Crew and Walmart Family. The individuals were Kristen Murphy, Kym Russell, Laurie Emerson, Terry Smith and Brianna Connor.



School Resource Officer Jeannine Bonnayer stands with Lonny Murphy during the opening ceremony for the walk.



Adam Kettles of AKA Music performed on the guitar.



Ronnie Theriault spoke about her best friend and walk founder, Kristen Murphy. Murphy died from cancer earlier this year.



Walkers raised over \$7.5000 to go to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.



Team Live Sharp walked in support of suicide prevention.



People of all ages participated in the walk.

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GREAT ON THE GRILL	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS \$5.69 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 26/30 COUNT 2 LB BAG \$15.99 ea
USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS ITALIAN MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG \$3.99 lb	
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Wings of Song, a 50-member community chorus, rehearses in St. Joachim Chapel in Fiskdale for its upcoming concerts, "Here Is My Home."



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Chorus members sing Paul Simon's "Homeward Bound".

Here Is My Home



Voices join together to sing songs with a common theme of "home."

Wings of Song community chorus to perform May 17, 18

Submitted Article

STURBRIDGE – Wings of Song, a community chorus drawing its 50 singers from southern Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut, offers two free concerts this month.

On Saturday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m., the chorus will perform in St. Joachim Chapel, part of St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (Sturbridge). The next afternoon at 3 p.m., the singers present their program at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge.

Both concerts are free to the public, with a freewill offering collected at intermission. As at all Wings of Song performances, tasty refreshments (also free) will be served after each concert. Both venues are handicapped accessible.

Wings of Song concerts are popular events and tend to fill up quickly, so people are advised to arrive early to be sure of seats.

This spring's concerts are titled "Here Is My Home"

after the concluding number by Si Kahn (arranged by the Amidons), in which the chorus and audience will unite in song. Another sing-along, "Home Sweet Home," was the most popular song in 19th-century America; its concluding line, "There's no place like home," became a key phrase for little Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz".

These two songs are part of a varied bouquet of musical offerings that explore the many varied meanings and feelings of home. From the rich trove of Black spirituals come the songs "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" ("...coming for to carry me home"), in a new arrangement by Wings of Song Music Director Nym Cooke; the gorgeous "Steal Away" ("Steal away to Jesus... Steal away home"); and the well-known "Deep River" ("...my home is over Jordan"), a huge hit for the famous Black singer Paul Robeson in 1940.

Also from the 19th century are three "shape-note" tunes: the heart-wrenching "Wayfaring Stranger" ("I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home"); "Sweet Prospect" ("On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, And cast a wishful eye To Canaan's fair and happy land, Where my possessions lie"), sung by the chorus's sopranos and altos; and a



The pianist performs during "Take Me Home, Country Roads".



The "dwarves" rehearse for "Misty Mountains" with guest conductor Edward Bradley.

setting of the same text, the electrifying "New Jordan."

Guest conductor Edward Bradley will lead the chorus in three pieces: his own

arrangement of "Misty Mountains" from the popular movie "The Hobbit"

Please see **WINGS**, page 15



The voices of the chorus are accompanied by a string bass.

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BACKYARD from page 4

Conant Brook had five nest, three with birds on or near the nests. In Warren the pond on New Reed Street continues to be a spot to see eagles. I saw two adult bald eagles there yesterday in addition to seven common mergansers, all female and nine ring-necked ducks, one female and eight males."

He continued, "The

osprey in Warren are doing osprey things. I saw a bird bring two branches to the nest yesterday and also mating. There are four great blue heron nest at the pond on South Street in Warren. At least three are occupied. On Sunday we saw a pair of herons on the top of a broken off tree that is near the location where there was a nest last year, but the tree fell over during the winter.

Yesterday the pair was at the same tree and it looks like they are building a nest. I wonder if this is the pair that had the nest in the tree that fell over?"

Other Brimfield report

On Monday, April 21 the Brimfield resident said, "A pair of broad-winged hawks nested between our property and a neighbor's last year. They texted my wife that there was a pair of broad-wings circling over our house recently."

He continued, "In the yard there are still a few junco, but no new arrivals since the towhee and chipping sparrows showed up. Two female turkeys are fairly regular and a male is following them sometimes. Last week in Warren there was a pair of buffle-head ducks and it looks like incubation has begun at the osprey nest. I was there for almost an hour recently and the bird sitting on the nest never left or moved out of the deep part of the nest."

Flying squirrel

The Brimfield resident reported, "When I was cleaning out the nesting boxes the other day I disturbed a flying squirrel. That has happened a couple of times when I clean the boxes in the spring." I had a similar experience years ago when cleaning out a nesting box.

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

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Planning Board reviews site plan for storage facility

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Planning Board met on the first of May to discuss the site plan revisions for Sunnyside Storage.

The board members went out on a site visit on two occasions and wanted revisions done on the worksite of the buildings. Sunnyside Storage has been operating in Ware since 2022, and a representative of the business spoke about the revisions after the Planning Board addressed concerns from the neighbors.

Planning Board member Richard Starodoj mentioned the distance between the facility and the neighbors of Sunnyside Storage. The board members also asked if the owners of Sunnyside Storage were planning on planting trees or some vegetation buffer.

The Planning Board reviewed a map with the storage facility owner and one of the neighbors of the property to see if the site plan revisions were appropriate after two site plan visits.

Vice-Chair Chris Dimarzio, while reviewing the map, originally thought the berm on the construction site was sufficient but then noticed now it is not a natural buffer.

There are two neighbors who are close to the property of Sunnyside Storage and according to the board one of them had concerns about the lighting on one of the buildings. The lights were addressed immediately, and the representative of Sunnyside Storage will adjust the lighting, so it doesn't impact the neighbors.

The board readdressed the vegetation buffer and wanted to know how Sunnyside Storage would handle it. The board recommended the applicant do some sort of maintenance on any bushes or trees they intend to plant.

Starodoj said the applicant doesn't want anything to grow out that could disturb the site or the neighbors.

According to the review of the Planning Board, the tree line they originally pointed out is about even with the eastern building

at Sunnyside Storage. The board members voted to amend the site plan approval and requirements to make the starting point.

Along with the amendments any concerns in the future should be addressed will be revisited. The board unanimously amended the site plan.

The board asked the applicant to do the replanting as soon as possible. The representative from Sunnyside is planning to do the replant sometime in August or September. The board wants to have the replanting done as soon as possible, as does the neighbor who attended the meeting.

"If we get complaints, we have the option to revisit this," said Planning Board Chair Kenneth Crosby.

The board feels it is wise to have vegetation buffers installed prior to construction work. Dimarzio shared that over the years, he has seen projects where the vegetation is always one of the last things to do.

The board will revisit this site plan if any complaints arise.

Ware Senior Center news

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

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

ACTIVITIES

Monday, May 12
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch

Tuesday, May 13
9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing

9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class.

9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
10 a.m. Scat
10-11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Region DPH Nurse office hours

11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Cornhole
5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, May 14
9 a.m. Tai-Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

Thursday, May 15
9 a.m. Walking Club. Meet at Senior Center.

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
10 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Cornhole
2:30 p.m. Art Class
Friday, May 16
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Chair Yoga
6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES

DINE IN 11:30 a.m.
All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

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

Monday, May 12
Salsa Chicken, Spanish Rice, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, May 13
Muffaletta Sandwich, Potato Chips, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, May 14
Chicken Parmigiana with Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, May 15
Steak and Cheese Sub with Peppers and Onions, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

Friday, May 16
Baked Ziti, Chef Salad, Dessert of the Day

Memorial Day 5K Walk/Run to be held May 24

WARE – A Memorial Day 5K Walk/Run will be hosted by Sculpt Well Co. in partnership with the One Call Away Foundation on Saturday, May 24 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in Grenville Park, 73 Church St.

This inspiring event aims to honor and support our veterans, especially those affected by post-traumatic stress disorder.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Run To Home Base organization and help the Sculpt Well Co. team prepare for their upcoming Run To Home Base 5K/9K at Fenway Park in July. Your participation will directly contribute to vital resources and support for veterans in need.

The Memorial Day 5K will take place at Grenville Park in Ware, ensuring a wonderful experience for participants of all ages and fitness levels. Whether you choose to walk or run, every step you take will help make a difference in the lives of those who have served our country.

Registration link: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Ware/SWCMemorialDay5K>

Tag sale at Christ Memorial Episcopal

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will hold its "name your own price" tag sale on Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

This event was rescheduled due to last weekend's weather.

There will be plants, puzzles, books, clothes, kitchen/household/kids items, treasures and more. Rain date is Saturday, May 10.

RESULTS from page 1

Smith and Elizabeth Cyran received 52 and 43 votes, respectively.

Planning Board incumbent John Samek retained his seat for another three-year term, securing 199 votes, with Cyran receiving 128.

Lisa Gaskill earned the majority of the votes for a one-year term as Paige Memorial Library Trustee with 164 votes over Barry Koch who received 116 votes. Both Stacey Hill and Laura Grunweg were reelected to three-year terms as Paige Memorial Library Trustees.

Tina Lindsey-Pease received 221 votes, which earned her a three-year term as Constable, and incumbents Eric Vollheim and Ryan J. Witkos were both reelected to this position with 248 and 276 votes.

Kristyl Kelly was elected to serve on the K-12 Quabbin Regional School Committee for a two-year term and Jennifer Garvey was reelected to a three-year term on that committee.

Nathan Goddard received 261 votes as Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee for a three-year term and Lucinda Childs was reelected to the Board of Assessors for a three-year term.



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Senior Center Thrift Store offers BOGO sale for May

WARE – The Ware Senior Center Thrift Store, 1 Robbins Road, will have a Buy One Get One Sale for the month of May on all summer clothes, shoes and

jeans. The price that is charged will be the higher of the two items. This sale is presented by the Friends of the Ware Senior Center, Inc.

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



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May 2025

Quabbin Health District Public Health Nurse Newsletter

Kirsten L Krieger RN, BSN
Public Health Nurse

Andrea Crete MPH, RS,
Director of Public Health

Email:
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In this month's online issue:

Upcoming Events and happenings in and around the Quabbin Health District!



Save the Date: Blood Donation Drive,
Pelham Public Library, June 2, 2025!

For the full issue
please visit:





WORLD
NO
TOBACCO DAY
MAY 31

STORM DAMAGE



Claudia Kadra is shown by an uprooted tree at Shea's Tree Farm on Osborne Road. *Submitted Photo*



A tree blocking Church Street and Old Gilbertville Road caused damage to this car and caused detours.



Multiple trees came down and took out utility lines on Monson Turnpike Road.

Have you experienced a housing need?

Share your story online or in person

We want to address housing needs in our region with storytelling! If you have a story to share about your current housing situation, challenges with finding housing, or being unhoused, we want to hear your story. Housing stories will be used to build awareness about the housing challenges in the region to bring further change. Stories will be collected through an online form or video interview. Photos or videos will be used with permission, or you may ask to remain anonymous.

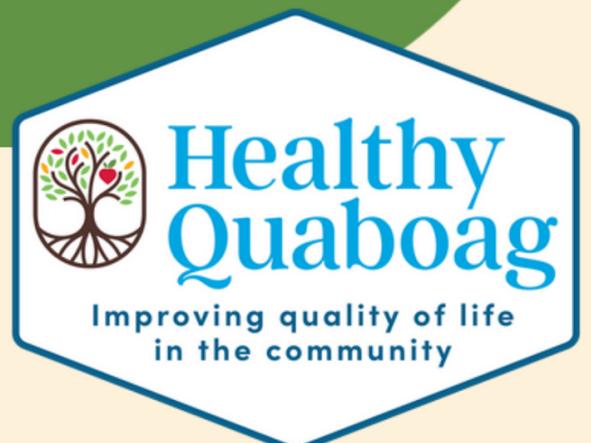


Submit stories through an online form (scan QR code or go to: <https://tinyurl.com/HQHousingStory>) or a recorded interview. You have the option of being anonymous for either format.



\$50 compensation for those who share online or \$100 for recorded interviews

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



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Indians win wild matchup with Knights

WARE – The Ware High School softball team managed to get by Holyoke 15-12 last Monday afternoon. Madisyn Slattery had four hits, including a double and three RBI to lead the Indians. Abigale McQuaid, Reese McKeever, and Isabella Cotaj had two hits each. Kylie Blaha had two hits for the Knights.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com
Naomi Torres is all concentration as she makes solid contact with this shot to left center.



Alexandra Marceau cracks this pitch not short center.



Abigale McQuaid pulls in the pop up as Reese McKeever assures proper back-up.



Smart heads up play by Madisyn Slattery turned this 'tag out' into a run scoring play. Madisyn plows through the Holyoke catcher causing her to drop the ball to eliminate the 'out' call and instead, to score a run in this tight game.



Kai Shuster hustles down the line.



Carly Beaton makes the throw to first.

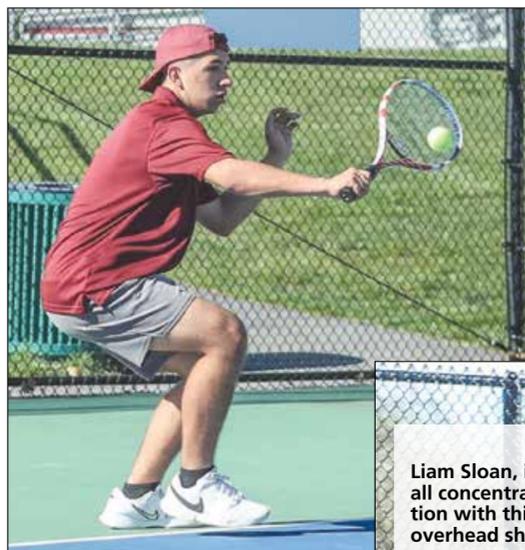


Abby Rogowski sends a pitch to the plate.

Quaboag swept by Uxbridge

WARREN – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quaboag Regional boys tennis was defeated at home by Uxbridge 5-0. The Cougars are now 2-5 on the regular season. They are back in action on Monday, 12 against Auburn at 3:30 p.m.

Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com



LEFT: Cam Olivo, playing first singles returns a solid backhand.



Liam Sloan, is all concentration with this overhead shot.



On second singles, Elijah Wilhelm, returns this shot with a well placed two handed backhand.



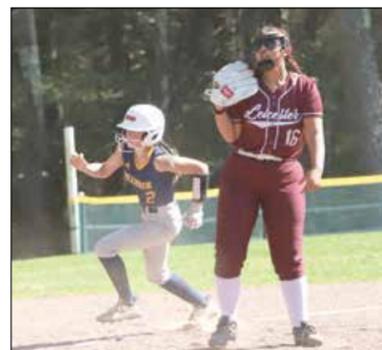
Jordan Blanchard fields a grounder to short.



Jennavicia Roseberry squares up a pitch.

Panthers win wild one with Leicester

BARRE – Last Thursday afternoon, Quabbin Regional softball picked up a 13-11 win over visiting Leicester. Despite a four-run first, Quabbin came back with five runs in the bottom of the inning, and the scoring did not stop from there. The Panthers were also able to hold off Leicester's offense in order to pick up the win. The Panthers were rained out earlier this week and are hoping to play on Thursday, May 8 at Lunenburg at 4 p.m.



Ju-Ju Guilderson rounds third and comes around to score.

Digital Photos \$12.50 Each

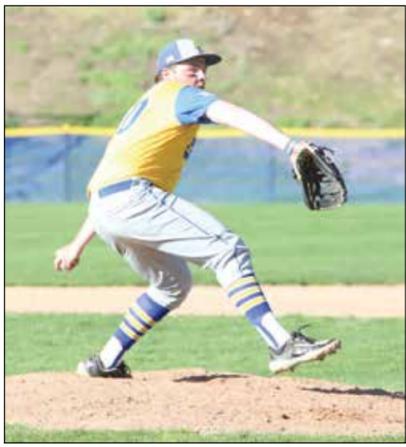
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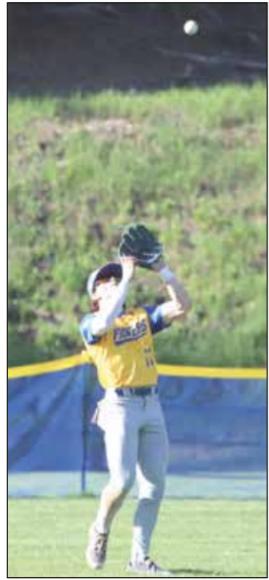
sports



Tim Russell delivers a pitch home.

Five-run third keys win for Pioneers

PALMER – Last Monday afternoon at Legion Field, Pathfinder baseball scored all five of its runs in the top of the third inning, and rode that a 5-1 win over Palmer. Brayden Mega had three hits while Tim Russell turned in a complete game with 12 strikeouts and allowing just a run and four hits. The Pioneers are 9-1 while Palmer fell to 2-11. Brendan Hess also turned in a complete game, striking out nine in his outing. Sebastian Mayberry had two hits, including a triple for the Panthers.



Emerson Boronski makes the catch on a fly ball to left.



Zander Auffrey leads off first base.



The Pioneers scored a big win over Palmer last Monday.



Edward Szostek fields a hit to center.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Unified Track holds first meet



BARRE – Last Thursday afternoon, the Quabbin Regional High School Unified Track team held its first meet of the spring season. The Panthers hosted Narragansett on a sun-splashed day at Quabbin Regional High School.

The Unified Track teams from Quabbin and Narragansett took place last Thursday.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



The Unified Track team typically hosts two meets and travels for two others.



It was a beautiful, warm day for the first track meet of the year.



Narragansett is a regular rival for Quabbin Unified Track.



The teams were split into groups to take part in the long jump, javelin, and shot put.



Following the field events, participants from both team participated in some running events.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – The second round of matches during the Bogey Doubles League on April 28 featured Murphy & Kenneson against Rando & MacDougall.

In game one, Rando & MacDougall won by a score of 260-254. In game two, Rando & MacDougall won again by a score of 259-230.

The team of Rando & MacDougall defeated Murphy & Kenneson for a three-game sweep by a score of 278-259. Duncan MacDougall finished the match by bowling a 131. The final score was 797-743 in favor of Rando &

MacDougall.

Mondor & Brayton bowled against Clauson & Santora during the second match of the evening. In game one, Clauson & Santora won by a score of 264-259. Gary Santora started the match with 118.

In game two, Clauson & Santora won again by a score of 271-258. Santora followed up with a 132. In game three, Mondor & Brayton won 280-229. With a big win in game three, Mondor & Brayton won total pinfall by a final score of 797-764.

Pellett & Nester bowled against Halbedel & Fontaine. In game one, Aaron Fontaine started with a 133 to win for his team, 278-256. Game two was won by Halbedel & Fontaine by a score of 250-

249.

In game three, Pellett & Nester won by a score of 264-236. Fontaine finished with 124 and a series of 376. The final score was 769-764 in favor of Pellett & Nester.

Gauthier & Clough bowled against Sandman & Marvin. Game one was won by Sandman & Marvin by a score of 255-254. Game two was won by Sandman & Marvin by a score of 260-247.

Gauthier & Clough won the last game by a score of 272-245. The third game victory helped Gauthier & Clough win total pinfall, 773-760.

Renaud & Ward bowled against Talamini & Gravel. Renaud & Ward won game one by a score of 263-249. Talamini & Gravel won game two by a score of 276-252. Talamini & Gravel won the last game by a score of 278-251.

The final score was 803-766 in favor of Talamini & Gravel.

Bogey Lanes will be having summer leagues starting soon in the month of May. For more information call the lanes at 508-867-6629 or visit Bogey Lanes at 199 North Brookfield Road.

WMass Baseball Hall of Fame announces Class of 2025 inductees

HOLYOKE – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame Committee is proud to announce the induction of its Class of 2025, recognizing a distinguished group of individuals who have made significant contributions to the sport of baseball in the region. The induction ceremony will take place on June 5 at 6 p.m. at the Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke.

This year's honorees include:

- Pete Fatse: An infielder who played at Minnechaug Regional High School and the University of Connecticut. Fatse was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 24th round of the 2009 MLB draft. He currently serves as the hitting coach for the Boston Red Sox.

- Todd Ezold: A standout catcher for Classical High School in Springfield and the University of Massachusetts

Amherst. While at UMass, Ezold was a finalist for a position on the 1984 US Olympic Baseball team and was later drafted by the New York Yankees in the 18th round of the 1985 Draft.

- Terry Murphy: Former Mayor of Holyoke. A graduate of Holyoke High School, Murphy played for Holyoke Community College and Stonehill College, contributing to the legacy of baseball in the area.

- Tom Sgroi: Coaching Westfield High School from 1983 to 2003, Sgroi achieved an impressive record of 330 wins and five Western Massachusetts championships, earning his place in the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1996.

- Kevin Stannard: Recently retired after over 30 years of coaching at Taconic High School, Stannard led his teams to more than 400

victories and state championships in 2017, 2019, and 2021.

- Rich Tetterer: The Hall of Fame committee is pleased to award the Garry Brown Excellence Award to Rich Tetterer, who has been a prominent figure in local sports media since joining WWLP in April 1988. Rich currently anchors the weekday morning and noon editions of 22News.

“We are thrilled to honor this remarkable group of individuals whose contributions to baseball in Western Massachusetts have left a lasting impact,” said Matt Drury, President, Valley Blue Sox. “Their achievements reflect the rich history and passion for the game in our community.”

The induction ceremony will include remarks from each inductee, celebrating their accomplishments and contributions to the sport.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE** To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, May 22**

– Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Presentation 'Immigrants: The Facts, The Fiction'

STURBRIDGE – On Saturday, May 10 from 3-5 p.m., Grassroots Central Mass will sponsor the presentation "Immigrants: The Facts, The Fiction" in the lower level of the Joshua Hyde Public Library.

This event is free. There is no doubt that immigration is complex and an issue of concern for many of us. This presentation will focus on some of the reasons why people immigrate to the U.S. and many of the myths and misconceptions that surround this process.

Grassroots Central Mass

hopes to foster a fuller understanding of some of the struggles that prompt people to move from their home countries and also to make connections to the journey to the U.S. that many of our own family members made either recently or in the past. They plan to tell this story through music, poetry, and the voices of people who have made the long journey here along with the presentation of some historical facts.

Please see **IMMIGRANTS**, page 12

Board OKs special permit for Brimfield Road site

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board met on April 28 to decide on the special permit application of 727 Brimfield Road, LLC.

The board drafted a list of conditions the applicant must follow while operating. These conditions do address the concerns neighbors made, and the biggest concern was noise levels from stone crushing operations.

The board is still concerned with the neighbors being bothered by the noise

even though they have established operation hours. Though stone crushing might not start immediately, the noise level must be set to a certain number of decibels.

The Planning Board may get the Building Inspector to measure the decibels and then have a standard in place for the applicant not to excel while operating. When the board did a site visit they measured a baseline of 60 decibels. When the inspector comes out to measure, it should not cost too much to have the noise level measured.

Board member Derick Veliz brought up the possi-

bility of a neighbor could possibly file a complaint if the noise level hasn't changed and exceeds the number of decibels. Part of the complaint process would be to provide proof.

The Planning Board continued reviewing the conditions and made necessary edits. The other major concern addressed by the neighbors was dust from the work site. A condition was added for the applicant to mitigate any dust.

There was also a vegetation condition for the entrance way of the worksite.

For blocking of the line

of site, the board applied the condition of either a stockade or solid material fencing. If the fence collapses, it shall be reinstalled within 10 business days. The board also talked about work trucks leaving dirt on the road while they enter or exit the work area. Measures will be in place to make sure no material is left on the public road.

As part of the conditions no vehicles will be idling on the side of the roads. After reviewing the conditions, the Planning Board approved the special permit application as discussed for 727 Brimfield Road, LLC.

OPTIONS from page 1

The site offers full technical support as well for phone, email, online customer portal, and a customer knowledge database. The Revize representative shared his screen to share an example of the Town of Warren webpage and notices that the current one under Civic Plus has limited elements and needs an update as well as fresh look.

Shawn would share some of the redesign options with the Board of Selectmen and started with custom design. This option includes all applications for the website, including job postings.

Option two was worded as "Ready to Use". This custom design is fit to be intuitive. The users would be able to create simple web forms. There are numerous calendar options for event listings and coding options.

The Selectmen described their current website through Civic Plus as difficult for an operator to use. In other words, the current website is not user friendly. With the new system from Revize, departments would be able to control their section of the website.

The new website makes it easy for users to upload files, such as videos and photographs. There are add ins and editing options for external and internal links. Links can be added where the user can go directly to the YouTube page of the town.

Board of Selectmen Chair Derick Veliz talked about the current website and how the town can't put its phone number on the home page. The board also mentioned the limited training Civic Plus has to teach users how to use their site and there hasn't been training posted or sent out in a few years.

It is a basic website, but users are limited on what to do. As a result, the Board believes users get frustrated when they want to add anything to the website. Some reported that its very difficult to do a simple upload.

"There's nothing to catch the eye," David Dufresne said.

Shawn showed the board samples of websites that Revize has done for municipalities in other states. The Board of Selectmen asked if the representative could share the work of websites done for other Massachusetts towns. Revize did a website redesign for the Town of North Adams.

Shawn also explained the payment options and said the town could add an AI chat bot for the website as well. The board appreciated the presentation from Revize and will keep in touch once they discuss and make a final decision.

The board asked Ferrera if he could locate two other possible options and also want to see if Civic Plus wished to approach them with a possible new updated version. As of now, the website is not user friendly and it costs a lot of time for all the departments and town employees.

The Board agrees that Revize presents a very simple, easy to use format.

Board of Health Request

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a request from the town's Board of Health regarding a problem property at 26 Old West Brookfield Road. Ferrera said this topic has roughly 200 pages worth of documentation and is currently a rental property with a lot of trash surrounding the property.

Ferrera explained that it's a situation where the landlord is blaming the tenants and the tenants are blaming the landlord for a lack of maintenance to the property. The dumpster for the property is constantly overflowing and there are several issues with the interior of the building.

The town could possibly take this issue to court if the complaints are not addressed. However, with a possible housing court case, this would be an expense for the town.

The board gave the idea for town counsel to write up a letter to the landowner to put them on notice of these violations. If there is no response in 15 days, then a lawsuit would be filed in housing court.

"We want to live in a nice town," said Selectmen Richard Eichacker.

The board has to enforce on the issue and someone needs to be held accountable.

"We have to give our Board of Health enforcement," Dufresne said.

The board also wanted to find out if the property is zoned as having up to six apartments. The board will get a hold of the building inspector for a clarifying answer.

The board also wanted to know if the landowner has an occupancy permit for that building off Old West Brookfield Road.

Highway Surveyor request

The Board of Selectmen revisited the discussion of reviewing the Highway Surveyor request to hire temporary part time staff to assist with upcoming road construction projects. Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson spoke to the board and said he needs to bring in support for road projects that are happening in town very soon.

The road construction project off Route 19 is about to begin this spring and Olson is responsible for the prep work prior to that project. Olson said this process has been going on throughout his time with the Highway Department.

Olson also reminded the board that every town in the commonwealth has issues with staffing in municipalities and DPWs.

From Olson's point of view, bringing in on-call, part

time help is a big benefit for the town of Warren and can save the town money in the long run.

"This is a process we've been doing for a long time," Olson stated. "This could put us behind on the construction season if we don't have the help."

Olson said his part-time help are not new employees, but both retired staff who are putting in part-time hours. Ferrera talked to the board and Olson about a rule with labor laws stating that an employee is entitled to health insurance if they work over 19 hours per week.

Olson said his part-time workers had signed up for a non-benefit employee position and are both aware of the agreement they made with the Highway Department. The board is still taking precautions and don't want to come across

any labor law issues. They're considering to get clarification from legal to double check the rules prior to granting the Highway Surveyor's request.

Olson believes he and his part-time staff are okay and are entrusted by the town to do the work appropriately but understands that the board must do their review to see if the staff has to get any benefits, even as part-time employees.

The discussion will be moved to next week's Board of Selectmen meeting on Thursday, May 8 and they will check with legal about on call employees and check to see that they do or do not get employee benefits.

Olson reminded the board that the Highway Department has to get roadsides prepared soon for the construction work on Route 19.




PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

PALMER FOR TOMORROW

Gathering

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN!

WHAT IS IT?

Palmer has received funding in a settlement between Massachusetts and pharmaceutical companies, placing them at blame for the current opioid crisis.

Now we must decide how to best use the money to support our community, and we want to hear from YOU!

COME JOIN US TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS AS WE TALK ABOUT:

- Creating a Community Survey
- How to Support Those With Substance Use
- Preventative Measures
- After Care

FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- People with lived experience
- Individuals in recovery
- Family/friends of those with substance use disorder

To Join Our Group!

WHEN & WHERE

The Second Wednesday of Every Month

3:00pm-4:30pm

at The Palmer Public Library

For any questions reach out to:

(413)283-2606 or ngauthier@townofpalmer.com

***You will always be able to stay completely anonymous at Palmer for Tomorrow, we will never ask or share your name or your story.**

public safety

Warren Police Log

During the week of April 20-26, the Warren Police Department responded to 199 building/property checks, 14 community policings, 11 emergency 911 calls, one safety concern, one fire/illegal burn, one property damage, one harassment, one larceny/theft, one missing person, three frauds/forgeries, two motor vehicle accidents, three animal calls and 17 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, April 20

12:15 p.m. Power Lines Down, Brimfield Road, Investigated
1:41 p.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, Yankee Drummer Drive, Fire Extinguished

Monday, April 21

6:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Tuesday, April 22

7:19 a.m. Erratic Operator, Liberty Street, Criminal Complaint
11:56 a.m. Falls, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
5:25 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Comins Pond Road, Mutual Aid Transport
6:29 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
7:16 p.m. Property Damage, Main Street, Report Filed

Wednesday, April 23

8:06 a.m. Falls, Burbank Avenue, Ambulance Signed

Refusal
9 a.m. Stroke, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
9:49 a.m. Harassment, Cottage Street, Officer Spoke to Party
10:10 a.m. Larceny/Theft, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
11:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Cross Street, Vehicle Towed
3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Thursday, April 24

2:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
9:08 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Reed Street, Transported to Hospital
9:19 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Yankee Drummer Drive, Mutual Aid Transport
10:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Parkview Street, Written Warning
10:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Criminal Complaint
11:13 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Bragg Road, Transported to Hospital
1:07 p.m. Fraud/Forgery, Bemis Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Friday, April 25

7:04 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Ware Road, Transported to Hospital
8:33 a.m. Fraud/Forgery, Bemis Road, Report Filed
11:44 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Brimfield Road,

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.

Transported to Hospital
8:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Southbridge Road, Report Filed
9:32 p.m. Assault and Battery, Old West Warren Road, Report Filed
11 p.m. Missing Person, Coy Hill Road, Officer/Chief Advised
11:47 p.m. Falls, Summer Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, April 26

5:28 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Reed Street, Transported to Hospital
9:48 a.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Officer Spoke to Party
12:39 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Main Street, Report Filed
4:51 p.m. Fraud/Forgery, Presidential Circle, Report Filed
7:58 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Washington Street, Transported to Hospital

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of April 28-May 5, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 57 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, three traffic controls, 18 emergency 911 calls, nine citizen assists, one investigation, one illegal dumping, six fire calls, seven safety hazards, one complaint, two utility issues, one motor vehicle accident, five animal calls and seven motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, April 28

9:05 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Patrill Hollow Road, Services Rendered
9:53 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Ridge Road, Services Rendered
3:52 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, April 29

8:11 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Served in Hand
10:53 a.m. 911 Fire/Brush, Barre Road, Extinguished
11:04 a.m. 911 Fire/Brush, Lower Road, Merge
12:29 p.m. Fire Alarm, Barre Road, Services Rendered
12:30 p.m. Fire/Brush, Rail Trail, Merge
4:38 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Officer Handled
10:53 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Main Street, Could Not Locate

Wednesday, April 30

3:44 p.m. Assist Citizen, Pine Street, Services

Rendered
3:47 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Services Rendered
3:56 p.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Services Rendered
9:24 p.m. 911 Disturbance, High Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, May 1

5:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning
6:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning
12:43 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, Jackson Road, No Action Required
12:48 p.m. Fire/Other, Barre Road, No Action Required
4:11 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital
4:38 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Main Street, Officer Handled
5:01 p.m. Fire/Brush, Barre Road, Unfounded
8:07 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, May 2

9:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Officer Handled
4:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Taylor Street, Criminal Complaint
5:16 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Clapp Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, May 3

11:25 a.m. Assist Citizen, Bridge Street, Officer Handled
1:55 p.m. 911

Disturbance, Main Street, Services Rendered
4:36 p.m. Safety Hazard, Taylor Hill Road, Removed Hazard
4:37 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, River Run, Dispatch Handled
4:39 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Removed Hazard
5:16 p.m. Safety Hazard, Creamery Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
5:46 p.m. Fire/Other, Main Street, Unfounded
6:01 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Services Rendered
6:32 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hillside View, Removed Hazard
7:23 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, North Road, No Action Required
11:29 p.m. 911 Misdeal, Greenwich Road, Transported Call to C7

Sunday, May 4

12:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
5:52 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Barre Road, Dispatch Handled
6:37 a.m. 911 Disturbance, Grove Street, Spoken To
6:46 a.m. 911 Utility Issues, Church Street, Dispatch Handled
7:18 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
11:12 a.m. Utility Issues, Ruggles Hill Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
12:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hillside View, Officer Handled
5:23 p.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

Fireworks fundraiser is May 13 at Hanna's on Main

WARE – On Tuesday, May 13, a Celebrity Bartender and Waitstaff fundraiser night will be held at Hanna's on Main, 91 Main St.

The fundraiser will include karaoke for attendees. All tips collected will go towards this year's fireworks show, which is being held on Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Ware

School Campus. The fundraising event is open to the public. The event runs from 5:15-7:30 p.m. Any questions, please contact Dan Flynn at 413-297-5886.

Leave fireworks to the professionals

According to the Department of Fire Services, there have been more than 500 fires and explosions involving illegal fireworks in Massachusetts in the past five years.

Seven firefighters were injured in these incidents, and damages were estimated at more than \$1.5 million.

Between 2019 and 2023, Massachusetts medical facilities treated more than 200 people for burns and other injuries associated with fireworks. Two dozen people were treated for severe burn injuries that covered 5% or more of the victim's body.

Massachusetts law prohibits the possession, use, and sale of fireworks without a permit and certification. The law applies even if you buy them legally in another state.

Leave fireworks to the professionals and see a great professional fireworks display this year.

Fireworks and sparklers are not safe, especially around children. Sparklers burn at temperatures of over 1,800° Fahrenheit. This is hotter than the melting point of aluminum. Children suffer some of the most severe burn injuries caused by sparklers.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said, "there were an estimated 1,600 emergency department-treated injuries associated with firecrackers and 900 with sparklers" in 2020. This accounted for almost 10% of all fireworks-related injuries that year.

Of those 900 injuries from sparklers, 44% were to children under the age of 5.

In addition to causing injuries, sparklers are hot enough to cause fires – even after they've been extinguished. In 2022, the unsafe disposal of sparklers caused a three-alarm fire in Dracut that displaced nine people.

EARTH DAY from page 1

Workshops is Jen McNally, who has over 20 years of experience teaching young children. McNally was excited to return for another year of fun workshops, starting with a celebration of Earth Day.

This workshop will educate children about finding ways to take care of our planet. Kids will learn about the importance of recycling, reusing, and reducing. The big message McNally shared with the kids at the Ware Grange was that everyone should make everyday Earth Day.

Earth Day Celebration is the first workshop of the season and McNally says this year's Kids Corner will feature many different themes. McNally has witnessed a lot of kids who participated in last year's Kids Corner, but also a lot of new kids this year.

Each workshop includes a story and hands-on activity, or craft designed to teach children about nature, farms and the environment. This workshop was all about Earth Day and how to take care of the Earth.

McNally's daughter Mackenzie was helping in one station where kids got to make their own sock puppets and teaching kids how to make something out of recycled items. There was also a scavenger hunt for kids to explore Grange Hall and find all the vocabulary words tied to Earth Day.

President of the Ware Grange, Terry Vaill, is a talented cook and baker who made a lot of goodies for Earth Day. Everything was Earth Day themed, for example, Vaill made sugar cookies that were colorized to look like the planet. There were also vanilla and chocolate cupcakes with colorful frosting to make them look like trees, the



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Jaxon worked on a color wheel that listed all the things kids can do to help the Earth.



Delicious Earth themed cupcakes were baked by Terry Vaill.

earth, and fields of grass.

The snack that was really enjoyed by the kids were the cups of gummy worms sitting on chocolate that looked like dirt. There were also grapes that were advertised as caterpillars.

McNally also had a lot of Earth Day related books laid out for kids and parents to check out. The kids also got to work on their own color wheels that explain how everyone can help the Earth.

McNally also played kid songs that featured Earth Day as the music's theme. Members of the Grange were handing out flyers for the families who attended this past weekend as the Grange has more fun workshops ahead. McNally jok-

ingly referred to these flyers as "homework" as she handed them out.

"I like giving out homework," McNally said.

Visit the Ware Grange #164 at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware. The next Kids' Corner Workshop will be on Saturday, June 28 at 10 a.m. and is about rainforests. Kids will learn about the rainforest habitat as well as many species of plants and animals that live in the rainforests.

More about Kids Corner can be found on www.waregrange.org/kids-corner. Workshops are recommended for preschool and elementary school aged children.

IMMIGRANTS

from page 11

Grassroots Central Mass hopes to change the narrative that too often portrays newcomers to our nation as

somehow a drain upon our resources or a threat to our safety by sharing research on how incorrect these myths are. They welcome you to join them for this interactive presentation.

For more information on Grassroots Central Mass please visit our website: <https://grassrootscentralmass.org> or email us at info@grassrootscentralmass.org.

ATM from page 3

proposed amendments from the Committee update the Charter adopted in 2007.

Article 30

The approval of Article 30 will allow the town to invest its trust funds, including cemetery perpetual care funds under the Prudent Investment Rule. Prudent investing allows for much greater investment diversification opportunities than what is currently allowed under the MA Legal List of Investments.

Article 31

Article 31 seeks local opt

out of The Act Modernizing Firearm Laws. The Act prohibits the carrying of firearms generally within defined public buildings, including local buildings such as the Town Hall, Senior Center and departmental buildings. This article would adopt the local option to exclude local buildings from this prohibition.

Article 32

Article 32 amends and corrects a town meeting vote taken in November that accepts a grant for the accessibility improvements to the Memorial Fieldhouse.

Article 33

Article 33 is presented to town meeting by citizen petition. The article proposes that the town through the Selectboard take a two-year temporary easement of the property located at 85 South St. which is the former site of the Mary Lane Hospital in order to evaluate the property and buildings and to appropriate funds for the costs associated with the taking of the property.

The town meeting packet, which fully describes the articles and the budgets, is available on the town's website, www.townofware.com. Town meeting will use the electronic clicker voting system.

obituaries

Roger Joseph Legare, 91



SAN DIEGO, CA – Roger Joseph Legare passed away in California on March 8, 2025.

He was born in Gilbertville to Edward Legare and Blanche Berthiaume Legare on Sept. 22, 1933. He was predeceased by his sister Francoise Legare Beaudin.

He was a graduate of Ware High School, American International College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Roger served in the Army during the Korean conflict, and was employed for most of his career by the Department of the Navy.

He leaves his brother Gerald Legare and his nieces Simone Beaudin Stephens and Cosette Beaudin Dulmaine and his nephews Edward Charles (Chuck) Beaudin and Denis Beaudin, four great-nephews and one great niece and four great-great-nieces and one great-great-nephew.

Death notices

Keegan, Justin Michael Stanley
Died April 14, 2025
Services May 7, 2025

Legare, Roger Joseph
Died March 8, 2025

Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

be held at 10:30 a.m. on May 7, 2025, at Saint Mary's Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, located at 515 4th Street South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701. Justin's light will continue to shine in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.



Art in the Park

Kids learned how to create fizzy art paintings.

ART from page 3

by blowing bubbles into a mixture of paint and bubble solution and apply it on paper.

Anne Young was volunteering as an instructor for the salad spinner art. This form of art features paint being dripped onto a spinning circular piece of paper or cardboard, creating unique and colorful designs. The kids got to observe the tool Young was using to make the salad spinner art. Young had several cutouts and stencils to help the kids pick a design for their salad spinner artwork.

Jared Jones was another volunteer instructor stationed at the bug station. Kids got to design their own bug art using mud-like paint to create their background. Jones was excited to see the kids having fun at the park during this event.

"This is a really cool event," Jones said.

Jones was handing out the paint to the kids who



Kinsley is shown working on her bug painting.

were painting on the giant tarp and jokingly said "Here's some mud". After applying the mud to their papers, kids began designing all sorts of bugs, including caterpillars and butterflies. Jones also said kids were adding bug hotels to their artwork.

The biggest art project was hanging on the fence of the baseball field. Kids got to paint a big portrait after experiencing the four different art styles during Art in the Park. It was a beautiful day to witness Art in the Park at Grenville Park.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Children's Librarian Cathy Goulet gave instructions at the fizzy art station.

BUDGET from page 1

properly."

It is essential for the residents and taxpayers to be aware of the budget since part of the budget does impact on the needs of the taxpayers.

Fly explained the role of the Finance Committee and explained how preparing the budget is more than just an annual exercise.

The Finance Committee members and Town Manager want the public to also understand what revenue looks like as the town continues to grow. Willette wants to public to look at the process with a broad perspective and encourage folks to attend their committee meetings. Meetings are public and posted with Zoom link access available.

"It is important part on how the town operates," Willette said.

Beckley spoke on how each town department has projects they are working on throughout the year and would propose these projects to see if the town would consider them for funding.

Money is also generated from permits, fees and excise tax from motor vehicles.

Over the years, Beckley said, "Ware has provided a very conservative budget."

The Town Manager meets with the departments

starting in February and reviews their budget reviews prior to submitting them to the Finance Committee.

Budgets do fluctuate year to year and this can be caused by purchases and capital items. For example, police and fire departments could purchase a new cruiser or firetruck, which can be an expensive purchase, but still applies to addressing the needs of the town.

Willette asked Beckley about any new trends of new growth in the town over the last few years and Beckley said growth has been steady and explained what new growth is. This applies to people putting new additions or renovations to their homes, building of new houses, new businesses coming to Ware and several other factors that expands the tax base.

Schools are also a big part of the town's annual budget and Ware is one of the nine towns that offers school choice to Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School. Pathfinder is really good at getting grants and does understand the conservative nature of the town's budget.

For Ware Public Schools, Beckley stated that the school committee, superintendent and staff work really hard on their budget. It is a budget that is reflective of their needs and reflective of

the community's needs.

Willette and his guests would then describe certain funds that help support the town in keeping their budget well structured.

A revolving fund is a tool to better manage costs. There is a set limit on what can be kept in a revolving fund. Any amount above the revolving fund goes into the general fund.

Stabilization funds come in two forms, general and capital. Beckley described these funds that can be used for "rainy days". A capital stabilization fund can be helpful for the schools in Ware, that are aging and the money going into these funds could help offset the cost for future projects.

Free Cash is a very important fund to have for the town.

Willette asked what the difference of this year's budget is compared to last year's. Beckley said there is about a 4% increase over the previous year.

The annual town meeting was originally scheduled for Monday, May 12 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Ware High School auditorium, but due to concerns about safety and space limitations for the expected large turnout of voters, the Selectboard voted to postpone it to a future date to be determined.

Justin Michael Stanley Keegan, 42

SAINT PETERSBURG, FL – Justin Michael Stanley Keegan, 42, of Saint Petersburg, Florida, tragically passed away on April 14, 2025.

Justin was born on July 7, 1982, in Ware, to Elizabeth Windyka Plourde and Kenneth Keegan. He graduated from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island, where he pursued his passion for the culinary arts.

His culinary career took him many places, including working at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, where the Masters Golf Tournament takes place. There he met Chef Bruce Sacino, who had an enormous impact on Justin's career.

His journey also brought him to the beautiful coastal town of Nantucket, and internationally to France, Spain, and many other countries, where he expanded his craft and created unforgettable experiences.

On Oct. 5, 2010, Justin was honored by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, when Governor Steven L. Beshear commissioned him as a Kentucky Colonel, the highest title of honor awarded by the state, recognizing

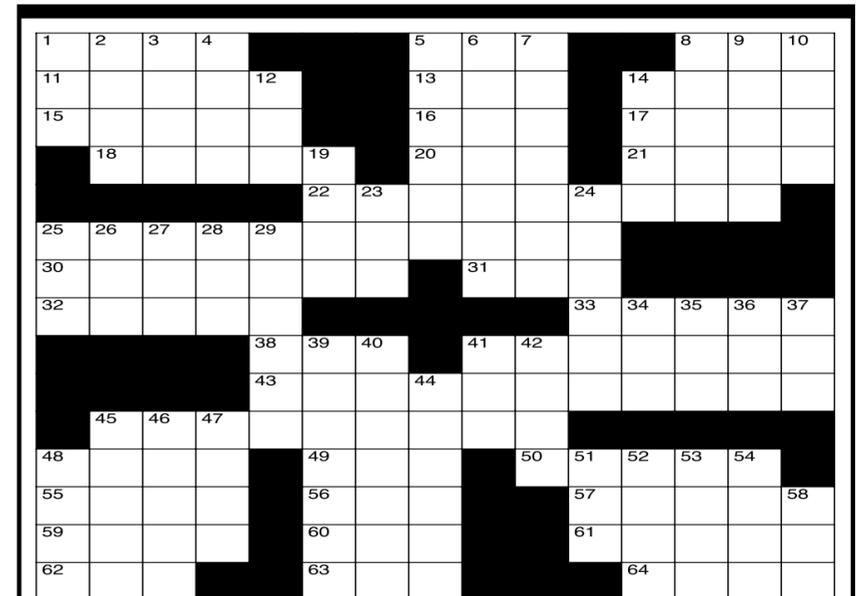
noteworthy accomplishments and outstanding service.

In 2018, Justin fulfilled a dream when he opened his own restaurant, The Union, in Warren, Rhode Island, which he proudly operated until he moved back to Saint Petersburg. After returning, he continued to share his passion for food and his community by volunteering every Saturday at the Saint Petersburg Saturday Morning Market.

Justin was known for his incredible sense of humor, his infectious laughter, and a smile that could light up any room. He had a deep love for cooking and cruising, and he brought joy to every life he touched.

He is survived by his mother, Elizabeth Windyka Plourde; his stepfather, Scott Plourde; his father, Kenneth Keegan; his stepmother, Debi Keegan; his fiancée, Vincent Ebilane Hermogino; his brothers, Matthew Keegan, Jordan (Jill) Keegan, and Andrew Plourde; his sisters, Brittany (Scott) Fleming and Kendall (Jason) Neumann and many aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces and extended family members and friends who loved him dearly.

A funeral Mass will



CLUES ACROSS

1. Herring-like fish
5. Perform on stage
8. Soda
11. Small growth
13. In support of
14. Step taken when walking
15. Hollyhocks
16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
17. Feel pain
18. San Diego ballplayer
20. Inches per minute (abbr.)
21. Fat from a pig's abdomen
22. Create again
25. Honors once more
30. Thin coating of gold
31. Welsh river
32. Japanese novelist Mizumura
33. Husks of corn

38. Green vegetable
41. Showing guilt
43. Soldier
45. Photographers
48. Language spoken in Nigeria
49. Mimic
50. Expressed pleasure
55. Ancient Greek sophist
56. Beverage container
57. Night monkey genus
59. Lace bugs
60. Hoghead (abbr.)
61. Frameworks
62. Keyboard key
63. Greek goddess of the dawn
64. Influential Korean independence figure

2. Helped (archaic)
3. Razorbill genus
4. Bleached
5. Continent
6. Fruit preserved in syrup
7. Impediment to one's freedom
8. Nocturnal rodents
9. Earthy pigment
10. Relieved oneself
12. Golf score
14. Tech hub ___ Alto
19. Sportscaster Andrews
23. Records electric currents
24. Popular Hitchcock film
25. Revolutions per minute
26. NY Giants legend
27. Sports radio host Patrick
28. When you hope to get somewhere
29. French seaport

34. Thai river
35. Rocker's accessory
36. Extra charge
37. Influential American president
39. Pain in the head
40. Great Plains people
41. Consumed
42. Soluble ribonucleic acid
44. Improves
45. Secret clique
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Dough made from corn flour
48. Fallow deer
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. Engrave
54. College's Blue Devils
58. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. A place to unwind

public notices



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

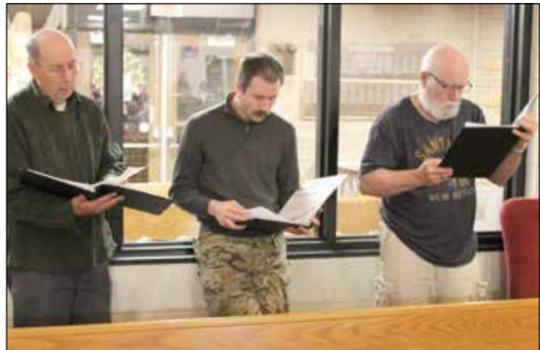
The chorus performs "Take Me Home, Country Roads" by John Denver.

WINGS from page 4

(featuring the chorus's tenors and basses as dwarves on a quest); his original "Open the Doors / Welcome Home!," with a band of guitars, string bass, ukulele, and percussion; and "A Ukrainian Prayer," John Rutter's moving tribute to the valiant people of Ukraine, whose homeland has been under brutal assault for over three years.

Another kind of assault on a people's home – the destruction and removal of four towns and numerous villages in central Massachusetts's Swift River Valley to create the Quabbin Reservoir in the 1920s and 1930s – is referenced in two of the concert's pieces: Valley resident Mollie Burleson's re-texting of the old folk tune "Red River Valley" to produce "Swift River Valley" ("There was Prescott, and Enfield, and Dana, Pelham Hollow and Greenwich besides; Once they lived and their people were happy; now they lie 'neath the great Quabbin's tides"), and Jeanushka Fishell's more domestic "The Valley's Vine."

The richness and variety of the program are further borne out by two classic popular songs which many in the audience will remember well, and probably sing along with: Paul Simon's "Homeward Bound," and "Take Me Home, Country Roads" by John Denver and others. James Taylor and Carly Simon are represented by the concluding section of their "Terra Nova" ("...I've come home to stop yearning"). A song that



Tenors and basses rehearse "Misty Mountains" from the movie "The Hobbit"



Wings of Song Music Director Nym Cooke leads the chorus.

has become widely popular since its first appearance in 1977 is Dougie MacLean's "Caledonia"; the chorus sings this in a moving arrangement by Richard Nickerson.

And the variety continues, with the Scottish "Mingulay Boat Song" ("...sailing home, home to Mingulay"); the South African freedom song "Singababambayo" ("On earth an army is marching, we're going home"); Albert E. Brumley's stirring gospel

march-song "I'll Fly Away" ("...to a home on God's celestial shore"); one of the great home-coming stories of the Bible,

"Prodigal's Return" ("Tis thus the Lord his love reveals, to call poor sinners home"); "This is My Song," with a moving text by Lloyd Stone to Jean Sibelius's great "Finlandia" ("This is my home, the country where my heart is..."); and more.

These concerts will be memorable; and you don't want to miss them.

Public Notice
Lot 3B Crouch Road, Warren Assessors map 75 parcel 48

Public notice of Environmental review project: An application for 401 Water Quality Certification is pending before the Department of Environmental Protection for the On-site Sewage Disposal System with 3 bedrooms located on Crouch Road, Warren, MA assessors map 75 parcel 48 by Dennis Cahalan of 725 Sequoia Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533 to fill 329 sq. ft. of bordering vegetate wetlands to cross an intermittent stream with a residential driveway. Additional information may be obtained from the design engineer Norman G. Hill of Land Planning, Inc. located at 214 Worcester Street, North Grafton MA, 01536 or at phone number (508) 839-9526 within 21 days of this notice. Any group of ten person, any aggrieved person, or any government body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing" 05/08/2025

es being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 15211, Page 228. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel 63-0-81. Zoned: Downtown Residential (DTR).

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

WARE PLANNING BOARD
Kenneth Crosby, Chairman
05/01, 05/08/2025

Town of Hardwick Public Hearing Notice

Under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 166, and any additions or amendments thereto; please be advised that at their meeting on **Tuesday, April 28, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.**, at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01031, the Hardwick Select Board will consider a request to give permission to Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Charity Hill Road- National Grid to install 1 JO pole beginning at a point approximately 470 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Old Peter-sham Road.
05/01, 05/08/2025

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

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 5/16/2025 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 garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle
2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee Registration#/State: 2HTJ81/MA VIN: 1C4RJFBG9HC690035 Name and address of owner: Randy Thomas Kennan 36 Mount Guyot St. North Brookfield, MA 01535
By: James M. ReginDated 4/24/2025
05/01, 05/08, 05/15/2025

Notice of Public Auction

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of the following storage units will be auctioned.

The contents of Dennis Craig will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 31 Southbridge Rd., Warren, MA on 5/31/2025 at 9 AM.

The contents of Tracy Pilch will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 70 Boston Post Rd., Warren, MA on 5/31/2025 at 9:15 AM.

The contents of Gerry Van Pelt, Jessalyn Hughes, Christopher Flood, Adam Perez, and Michael DeRosiers will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, MA on 5/31/2025 at 10 AM.

The contents of Gerry Van Pelt, Jessalyn Hughes, Christopher Flood, Adam Perez, and Michael DeRosiers will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, MA on 5/31/2025 at 10 AM.

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.
05/08, 05/15/2025

Ware Board of Health Legal Notice Public Hearing Notice

Pursuant to MGL C. 111, sec. 31 the Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday May 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM** in the Select Board meeting room Ware Town Hall 126 Main Street and remotely <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84532159402?pwd=DNVfEB9RVnVChgYkG1pMQjoZawk4po.1>

Meeting ID: 845 3215 9402

Passcode: 01082
Phone: 929-205-6099

This public hearing is to amend the regulations pertaining to the Sale of Tobacco and Vape Products within the Town of Ware. Copies of the proposed changes can be obtained at the Board of Health office, Ware Town Hall 126 Main Street Ware MA and on-line at <https://www.townofware.com> All interested parties are encouraged to participate.
05/08, 05/15/2025



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visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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In observance of Memorial Day, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.**

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Thank you!

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