

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 138 No. 15

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

QHMA hosted 2025 Choice Awards

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce hosted its 2025 Choice Awards this past week at Teresa's Restaurant.

This dinner honored the finalists and winners of six awards. The table sponsors for this awards dinner include J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Inc. and Superior Plus Propane.

Chamber CEO James Przypek said the Chamber's Board of Directors helped appoint the nominees and the six winners out of the 36 finalists.

The participation was excellent as the Chamber received an overwhelming response with 22,682 total votes. This dinner and award ceremony highlighted the businesses and individuals in the region.

With an impressive number of votes, Przypek said it shows how passionate and how grateful the chamber and the community is for these individuals and organizations.

"Tonight, we recognize those who make the Quaboag Hills region so special," Przypek said.

Przypek also thanked the table sponsors and the underwriters for the year. The six



Jillian Smith, center, was the winner of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's Community Hero of the Year award. Standing with Smith, left to right, is Chamber President Renee Niedziela, state Rep. Todd Smola, Kim Mongeau from state Sen. Peter Durant's Office and State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume.

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

awards are for Community Hero of the Year, Educator of the Year, Food & Drink Establishment of the Year, Retail Establishment of the Year, QHMA Business of the Year and QHMA Volunteer of the Year.

The 2025 Underwriters were Country Bank, J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Inc, Monson Savings, SERVPRO of Hampshire County,

Superior Plus Propane, Westfield Bank, Christopher Heights of Belchertown, and Behavioral Health Network.

Presenting the certificates was Chamber President Renee Niedziela of J. Stolar Insurance Agency.

Przypek began the ceremony by announcing the nominees for each award. The six finalists for Educator of the Year were Casey Kibbe,

Swift River Elementary (Belchertown), Gregory Devine, Quabbin Regional School District (Barre), Heather Weirbrick, Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School (Ware), Marcie Fusco, Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School (West Brookfield), Stephen Duff, Quaboag Regional School

Please see **AWARDS**, page 8



Submitted Photos

Police Sergeant Scott Lawrence welcomes and pins Fire Department Chaplain Joesph Vecchione.

Firefighters recognized for 25 years of service

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Fire Chief Jim Martinez recognized three call firefighters for 25 years of service to the department: Lieutenants Eric Swett, Paul Russell and Ned Russell.

At the May 6 Selectboard meeting, Martinez pinned each of the lieutenants and thanked them for their time and service.

He also recognized the Fire Department's Chaplain, Joe Vecchione, who received his pin by Police Sergeant Scott Lawrence.

Selectboard Chair Nancy

Talbot thanked all of the firefighters and chaplain for their dedication to their respective positions in the department.

Police Department appointment

Police Chief Shawn Crevier said he would like to appoint Damion Shanley to the part-time special police officer list. He said Shanley is currently serving as a sergeant at Amherst College and has about 25 years in law enforcement with the majority serving with the Ware Police Department.

Please see **SERVICE**, page 3

School Committee discusses ballfield usage

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – School Committee member Melissa Whitham said she was contacted by a member of the community about a fence at

the softball field, which had previously been identified as a need.

At the May 7 School Committee meeting, Whitham said she had previously reached out to the Athletic Director about the need for the fence,

and he referred her to Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovato. She was then notified by the person who originally contacted her that the fence was due to arrive either at the end of April or early May.

Whitham said she wasn't sure why the arrival of the

fence was delayed, or when it was ordered, but asked when it would be installed.

Lovato said the Athletic Director notified him about the delay of the fence's arrival, and he is not sure if it has been shipped yet or not.

Don Swarts, booster club

president, said the club was asked to pay for the removable fence in late March and they voted to pay for it on April 1. He said the cost of the fence and its shipping

Please see **BALLFIELD**, page 12

Kopacko secures Planning Board seat

Veliz reelected to BOS over Kondrat, 176-111

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Raymond Kopacko received 221 votes to secure a five-year term on the Planning Board over incumbent David Dufresne who received 79 votes at the annual town election held on May 6.

At a candidate's night hosted by eighth grade civics students Olivia McAnuff, Stella Paquette, Julie Queiroga and teacher Joe Salvadore held on April 30 at Quaboag Regional Middle High School, Kopacko said he wanted to be "an agent for improvement in the town," which is why he ran for the Planning Board.

Kopacko said, "I feel like I could do a good job," he said.

Kopacko said he believed that Selectmen should not serve on the Planning Board, and he vowed to impartially rep-

Please see **RESULTS**, page 6

Select Board has joint meeting with FinCom

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board had a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the fiscal year 2026 budget.

Members of the Finance Committee joined the Select Board on May 12 to discuss what to incorporate in the budget. According to the Finance Committee, if the budget stands as it is, there could be a significant gap that could appear in the following year, 2027.

There are funds that could help, including the Capital Stabilization account and how critical it is to have for the town. Other contributions to having a gap in the budget is the maintenance for equipment and operating bills within the town.

According to both Finance Committee members and the Select Board, state funding could go up or down. The Finance Committee believes the future years could be much worse.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano reminded

the Select Board that they have made a commitment to find ways to bring in revenue for the town. The Town Administrator is also working on a five-year plan but wants the town to get through this year's budget.

The board is looking to get their numbers reconciled and be able to have the town live within their means.

"The cost of everything is growing and we're not," Caggiano said.

Having capital funds is good to reserve, but the Finance Committee isn't sure on how much free cash they'll have for next year.

The board did bring up some cost savings ideas, including the town waiting to hire full-time staff until Jan. 1. One of those positions is the position of Town Clerk, Ryan J. Witkos, looking to be full-time.

The Highway Department is also looking to fill a full-time position. William Tinker, who is now Vice-Chair of the Select Board, believes the board should wait to appoint those

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 5



The crafters got to decorating and adding miniatures to their teacup fairy gardens.

Teacup fairy gardens made at the library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Ware Library continues to host fun adult evening crafts, including the most recent teacup fairy gardens.

Regina Diemand was the instructor for this fun adult evening craft, which had a great turnout this past

Thursday evening. Diemand, in a previous evening craft, admitted she enjoys miniature items, and these teacup fairy gardens had plenty of miniatures to go around.

The teacups were provided by Diemand's cousin,

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
This teacup fairy garden was made by Regina Diemand and was the craft for the Ware Library's recent adult evening craft.

and some items were found at Goodwill. Donations are Please see **GARDEN**, page 6



Ware celebrates Microenterprise Month with QVBAC

WARE – What do a fiber company, a nutrition business, a human resources firm, and a farm and forest school have in common? They are all microenterprises featured during Ware's Microenterprise Month – a new initiative dedicated to supporting and showcasing local small businesses.

As part of the celebration, microenterprises will set up displays at various "host" businesses throughout Ware. Community members are encouraged to stop by, view the displays, pick up flyers, enter free drawings, and join mailing lists for more information.

The initiative is supported by the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation Advisory Board. A kickoff event was held on April 15 at E2E, where a spirited discussion took place about the challenges and needs of start-up businesses in the area.

The QVBAC Advisory Board, which meets quarterly, has made mentoring small businesses a top priority. This particular initiative was proposed by Jim Metcalf, who has written extensively on how small business incubators can help grow microenterprises in rural regions. The Board hopes to expand this



Submitted Photo

Christian Lowell owner of the Gain Train is shown with an information table about his business located at the North Brookfield Savings Bank in Ware.

type of event throughout the Quaboag Region in the coming years.

To support local entrepreneurs, be sure to visit Monson Savings Bank, North Brookfield Savings Bank, Ware Public Library, and Wilton Children's Store during the month of May.

You'll find displays from microenterprises such as The Gain Train, Wildwood Acres Farm and Forest School, Breed's Hill Human Resources Solutions, and Through the Ferns Fiber Company.

For more information please visit qvcdc.org.

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.

Friends of Ware Town Hall announce lotto winners

WARE – Patricia Skutnik, President of Friends of Ware Town Hall, happily announced the winners of the group's second annual Lotto Calendar fundraiser.

"We are so thankful to all who purchased or sold calendars for us. This year we had quite a few people who previously lived in town but now live in other parts of the country, saw the articles in the Ware River News and sent checks to purchase calendars. The support has been tremendous," she said.

Skutnik went on to say that these calendars are a fun fundraiser for the group.

"People were happy to buy one or more, it's really a win-win," she said. "Winner's names go right back into the drawing, and, in fact, this year we actually had two duplicate winners."

Winners names are as follows: John Lasota, Laurie Sokol, Donna Dwight, Cindy Haddock, Amy Avakian, Frank Gervais, Rich Morin, Nancy Dunn, Alice Bonasio, Kenneth Willette, Lynn Park, Jim Kenyon, Becky

Desjardins, Lori Dwyer, Lila Burke, Nancy Dunn, Sue Piche, Lynn Lam, Jane Desjardins, Dillon and Abby McDonald, Miranda LaCoste, Alice Bonasio, Scott Flamand, Dan Trzpit, Donald Kivior, Janice Ouimette, Hillarie Shea, Beth Imbier, Cheryl DeSantis and Jesse Devanski.

"It was fun to call the winners," Skutnik said. "We definitely plan on doing this again next year."

Skutnik said the Friends' current goal is to restore the beautiful large windows in the great hall.

"The walls have been painted, the bells have been repaired, bricks have been repointed, painting of the smaller windows has begun, and the great hall floor has been refinished, and we feel this is the next step," she said. "All the work done so far is very noticeable".

Anyone wishing to donate to the group can mail a check payable to Friends of Ware Town Hall to Friends of Ware Town Hall, P.O. Box 692, Ware, MA 01082.

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 showed class officers of Ware High School's Class of 1989. Shown from left are President Jenniger Rymarski, Vice-President Jacqueline Dulak, Secretary Rebecca Seveney, Treasurer Lori Guimond and Historian Susan Judd.

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

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.

Pantry at Grenville Park
• 1 p.m. Cornhole
• 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
• 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, May 21
• 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 22
• 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 23
• 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.)

ACTIVITIES
Monday, May 19
• 9 a.m. Tai Chi
• 10 a.m. Scat
• 11:30 a.m. Lunch
• Birthday Party
• Music by Stephen Goerge. Must call the front desk by Friday, May 16 before noon to be put on the lunch list.

Tuesday, May 20
• 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
• 11:30 a.m. Lunch
• 1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Mobile Food

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 19
• Birthday Party
• BBQ Pork, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Veggie of the Day. Dessert and entertainment provided by the Friends of Ware Seniors Inc. Call front desk by noon on Friday, May 16 to be put on the lunch list.

Tuesday, May 20
• Breakfast Burger with Fried Egg, Lettuce and Tomato, Dessert of the Day
Wednesday, May 21
• Memorial Day Luncheon
• Beef Stew, Tangy Coleslaw, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, May 22
• Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Potato Chips, Caesar Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, May 23
• Baked Fish, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Free jazz concert on the lawn is June 1

HARDWICK – Weir River Jazz will present Classical Jazz for Summer Daze, a big band concert, on the grounds of the Stone Church Cultural Center on Sunday, June 1, at 2 p.m. Come join the musicians

"under the tent" to hear the great sounds of a traditional Big Band. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and relax to some great sounds.

This concert is open to the public and there is no charge for admission. In case of inclement weather,

the concert will be held in the sanctuary section of the church building.

This concert is sponsored in part by the Mass Cultural Council and Country Bank for Savings.

Our advertisers make this publication possible.
Let them know you saw their ad in the Ware River News

The Mermaid & the Mariner

PRESENT A SPRING CRAFT EVENT

Dragonfly Wings & Fairy Blooms

245 Palmer Rd Monson Ma
2 DAY TENT SALE!!
10-5 both days May 24 and 25

handcrafts/jewelry/fabric
glass/wood/quilts/shells

Refreshments
RAFFLE Prizes!
Upcycled. Repurposed. Recycled

Clean Out Solutions

Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts
Shed, Pool & Hot Tub Removals

Arthur "Skip" Gervais
(774)397-6500

"Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!"

Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!

Call or text 774-200-6762 or email jobs@mccarthybus.com to apply

J.P. McCarthy & Sons
WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

SERVICE from page 1

“He’d be a good addition to start my part-timer list,” Crevier said. “He’ll mostly be able to help out with the parades and cover trainings.”

The Selectboard approved Shanley’s appointment, effective July 1.

Police Department report

Crevier said two police officers will graduate from the Police Academy on June 20 and he said they are “doing very well.”

Selectboard Vice-Chair Josh Kusnierz asked if the department would ever have a K-9 again, following K-9 Sampson’s retirement in 2023. Crevier said he would like to have a K-9 on the department again, but his staffing issues would need to be resolved first, as well as addressing complaints from the community about speeding drivers.

Kusnierz also brought concerns about E-bike riders not following the rules of the road.

“They’re becoming more and more popular, but they’re also becoming more and more brazen, right through downtown especially,” Kusnierz said.

Crevier said a lot of bicyclists don’t know that they also have to follow the rules of the road, including obeying traffic signals. He said most bicyclists are respectful of motorists and that it’s a select few who are not.

He said one of his officers held a bike safety program a few years ago with youth in town, sharing information about traffic laws and safety.

Selectboard member Jack Cascio thanked the chief and his department for their actions during a recent storm that took down trees and utility wires across town.

Town meeting rescheduled

Talbot said the Selectboard and the Moderator had concerns about safety due to the large number of voters expected to attend the annual town meeting. She said they have the right to change the date of the meeting and find a larger meeting location.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the gymnasium at the high school would accommodate a larger crowd, but it is not available on the May 12 meeting date and would need to be rescheduled in order to use that space.

The Selectboard voted to postpone the annual town meeting from the May 12 date. The meeting will now be held on Monday, June 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

ADA Commission report

Americans with Disabilities Act Commission Chair Ruth McGrath said they are hosting a large event at the Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, on July 26. She said there will be vendors, miniature support horses and hopefully seeing eye dogs and puppies looking for foster homes.

McGrath said the Police and Fire departments have also been invited.



Submitted Photo
Fire Chief Jim Martinez recognized call firefighters Eric Swett, Paul Russell and Ned Russell for 25 years of service to the department at the May 6 Selectboard meeting.

The event will have free flags to be displayed on disabled devices such as wheelchairs and walkers to give the device’s user more visibility.

McGrath said the commission will review blueprints for the new Tractor Supply store on West Street. She invited the Selectboard to join the meeting as well.

“They’re going to setup a Zoom with us,” she said.

Selectboard vacancy

Talbot said town counsel’s opinion to move forward with the vacancy on the Selectboard, is that the remaining members are not required to call a special election unless a petition is filed. She said town counsel said the Selectboard members could still call a special election if they decided to.

Cascio spoke of the need to have five members on the board, in the event of a split vote, or a member needing to recuse themselves.

“If we’re shy a person, let’s take care of it and get another person in there to take their place,” he said.

Selectboard member John Desmond said at this time, their board is functioning well, and he doesn’t know how the addition of the fifth member will impact that.

Kusnierz said he agree with Cascio about the need for a fifth board member, but he could understand Desmond’s perspective.

“We have a great team now...but at the same time, I think the five is an important number...I do think that it’s important that we have the full staff,” he said.

Talbot said if they decide to call for a special election, they will need to think about election timelines. She believes the earliest it could be held would be in early July.

Kusnierz said this vacancy offers a good opportunity to younger residents to serve their town on the Selectboard.

“I just really want to encourage the younger generation to come out and at least give this a shot,” he said. “Do yourselves the favor and get involved.”

The Selectboard tabled the discussion to be continued at a later meeting.

Town Manager’s report

Beckley said the town has closed the purchase of the Pelski property and now the Selectboard members need to sign and accept the deed.

He commended all town staff who responded to the May 3 storm, as well as tree and line workers from the utility companies. He said in talking to National Grid staff, drone footage showed the storm created a straight line of damage through town, from Palmer to Hardwick.

Beckley said the Department of Public Works will have an additional brush and yard waste drop-off on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Robbins Road.

He said he recorded a program with members of the Finance Committee explaining the fiscal year 2026 budget, which is available to view on Ware Community Television.

Beckley said the Three Mile Bridge on Palmer Road

is scheduled to be closed for a couple of weeks starting on Wednesday, May 28.

He said the DPW’s first major paving project of the season will take place on Greenwich Road, starting after Memorial Day.

Beckley said all of the town’s \$2.9 million American Rescue Plan Act funds have been fully obligated. He will provide an update about the use of the funds at the next Selectboard meeting.

Beckley said the Police Department looked at parking spaces on Pine Street to recommend for a two-hour parking limit.

He said the annual town report is now available on www.townofware.com.

Reorganization

Cascio nominated Kusnierz to serve as chair of the Selectboard, but Kusnierz respectfully declined. Desmond nominated Talbot to continue to serve as chair, which she accepted.

Talbot nominated Kusnierz to continue to serve as vice-chair, which he accepted. Desmond was appointed to serve as the board’s clerk.

Sewer abatement

The Selectboard reviewed a request to abate sewer fees at 40 Church St. in the amount of \$267.23. Faulty plumbing caused a major leak that flooded the property’s basement.

The Selectboard voted to table action on the abatement until more information is received.

Ware Remembers to be held on May 25

Flag sponsorship forms available online and at businesses

WARE – On Sunday, May 25 at 6 p.m. the Ware Historical Society is presenting the 15th Annual Ware Remembers Ceremony in front of the Ware Center Meetinghouse and Museum, on what was the original town common.

Please come and bring a lawn chair.

With the help of the Boy Scouts, a field of flags will be created in front of the Ware Center Meetinghouse and Museum. It was here that citizens prepared to take part in the American Revolution.

The flags will remain until Flag Day, June 14.

The very special ceremony in honor of Memorial Day is a combined effort of veterans, Boy Scouts,

historical groups, Ware Community Television, and very supportive volunteers.

People are invited to dedicate a flag to a loved one. Forms are available online on Facebook, at the Ware River News, 80 Main St., the U.S. Post Office Lobby Bulletin Board, Ware Library, and the Ware Senior Center.

One form, one flag, one name per \$5 donation for living, deceased, military, civilian, Ware resident or nonresident. Anonymous donors are welcome but must provide a phone number.

Multiple forms with donations can be submitted. Please print clearly

Make checks payable to the Ware Historical Society. Drop off or mail donations to Ware Historical Society - Ware Remembers 2025, 67 West Main St., Ware, MA 01082. For more information or questions, leave a message and a call back number at 413-967-4528.

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 this Saturday

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will hold its “name your own price” tag sale on Saturday, May 17 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.



RC

Local ingredients
Fresh creations

(413) 323-6175
178 Federal St.
Belchertown, MA

[theroadhousecafe](https://www.facebook.com/theroadhousecafe)
[theroadhousecafe.belchertownma](https://www.instagram.com/theroadhousecafe.belchertownma)

The Roadhouse Cafe is Now Open
Monday through Sunday
7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Enjoy your old favorites with some new touches

Check our Facebook and Instagram pages for updates

175 years.



175 gifts.

For our 175th year, we’re giving back to the community that got us here. We’ve always had a heart for investing in our community, but our 175th anniversary called for something special. Throughout the year, we’ll be giving 175 gifts to community members, nonprofits, charities, and local folks in need. Consider it a celebration of appreciation.

To learn more visit countrybank.com/175.



Member FDIC | Member DIF
Made to make a difference.



Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

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

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

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

viewpoints

Durant 'outraged' over city officials' treatment of ICE agents, police

WORCESTER – State Sen. Peter Durant, R-Spencer, said he is “appalled and outraged” by the actions of Worcester city leaders including one who physically tried to prevent ICE agents from taking custody of an illegal immigrant charged with violent crimes against a pregnant woman, according to a press release.

“We cannot tolerate local elected officials interfering with law enforcement officers, escalating already perilous situations and placing the community at risk,” Durant said in a Facebook post Saturday.

The comments came in response to several videos recorded on Friday morning which show ICE agents attempting to take a woman into custody as a large crowd began surrounding them and a city counselor held onto the woman.

“ICE agents and Worcester Police showed restraint in dealing with a hostile crowd that was whipped up by city politicians who tried to help this wanted person to escape. I applaud the law enforcement agencies involved and I stand with them,” Durant said, adding that he stands with Worcester Police and ICE.

As new information came to light on Saturday,

Durant said he learned from media reports that agents were arresting Ferreira de Oliveira because she is alleged to have come into the country illegally nearly three years ago and is now charged with assaulting and battering a pregnant woman and committing an armed assault and battery in the city.

“It is a privilege to come to America. We expect those here awaiting citizenship to be on their best behavior and if they are being arrested on criminal charges, that should be a roadblock for their quest to become citizens,” Durant said.

Durant said he has heard from many constituents who agree with his historically tough stance on illegal immigration and noted that they are usually quieter than those who support illegal immigration.

“I understand that my role as a legislator is to represent all of my constituents at the state level and I want those who feel silenced by the boisterous, ostentatious crowd to know: I hear you and I will work to keep you safe,” he said.

Durant said his staff is continuing to gather details about Friday’s incident and he will release any new information as it becomes available.

A little of this and a little of that

I went outside yesterday to assess the damage after nearly five inches of rain fell from last Thursday night through Saturday mid day.

To say that I was mortified was an understatement. My pea seedlings were underwater, there was a river flowing into the trenches that my newly planted potatoes were in, and the floor of my greenhouse literally had an empty bucket floating in it.

Although the water table has fallen in the last 24 hours, I still wonder when, if ever, I will be able to plant the parts of my garden still covered in winter rye, as tilling it in might not happen until July, and that’s if we don’t get anymore rain. I was mad about it all day, because this was the year I was going to have the best garden ever.

My transplants look fantastic, and I have all sorts of seedlings going in succession, so that, for example, my broccoli and cauliflower don’t ripen all at once. How will I ever plant them, I thought?

The day ended and a new day came, and with it joy in the morning. The standing water was gone, at least, and so was my desire to pack it all up and move to a condominium. Maybe there is hope.

I spent Mother’s Day gardening after all, in higher parts of the yard, and it was a good day.

While I was working among the plants I made note that the lily leaf beetle has arrived. Handpicking and destroying the bright red

insects over the last couple of years has thankfully inspired a resurgence in my patch of tiger lilies. It can in yours



too! Search out adults early in the season, beginning in mid April, when they are hanging around looking for a mate or in the process of mating. Pick them up and drop them into soapy water.

Well seasoned and especially fed-up gardeners can simply squish the bug. That’s me.

Chances are you won’t be able to get every adult before some eggs are laid. Find them on the undersides of the leaves; they are brownish-red in color, and are easily “done in” by running your thumb along the vein of the leaf.

If you miss some eggs, dealing with the larva is your final option before real damage ensues. Squishing the slug-like, poop-covered larvae deserves a “bravest gardener of the year” award hard to do even by this “well-seasoned and especially fed-up” gardener’s standards!

If you just can’t bring yourself to handle the buggers, try an insecticide made from neem extract. Although neem is a botanical, it is not to be sprayed when bees are out. Using it in the evening is a good option.

My peony plants have put on some nice buds. All but one of my plants had already been staked, and the one that wasn’t is on the small side, perfect to be put in one of those circular tomato cages.

I was sprinkling fertilizers as I weeded and groomed, but I left the fertilizer out when I came to these old-timers. Too much nitrogen for peonies can be a no-no; instead of making more flowers, it can actually cause them to abort, or just develop lots of leaves at the expense of flowers.

I just got word from a friend that there is a frost warning for tonight. Although I didn’t see frost in my area, I did see that temperatures may fall to around 37 degrees.

Alas, peppers and tomato transplants would revolt in an unheated greenhouse at those temperatures. Out I go, trucking them in to the kitchen, tray by tray. At least I am not up to my ankles in water tonight.

I guess it is all part of the wonderful ups and downs of gardening in New England, or anywhere else for that matter!

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.

WARE RIVER NEWS TEAM



EDITOR
Paula Duimette
pouimette@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Ryan Drago
rdrago@turley.com

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.



@Ware River News



www.warivernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



www.turley.com

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



Must I take Medicare Part A even if I have VA or Medicaid coverage?

Dear Rusty:
Does everyone need to sign up for Medicare part A, even if you are ex-military? Or only on Medicaid, regardless of whether you are eligible for Social Security or not? Also is there a cost for just part A?
Signed: Confused Senior

Dear Confused:
For Your Information, there is no cost for Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage for those who are also eligible for Social Security benefits. And it is mandatory to enroll in Medicare Part A if you are age 65 or over and are collecting Social Security benefits. If you are ex-military and get all your healthcare services from the VA, you must still enroll in Medicare Part A, which is free, to collect Social Security benefits after age 65.

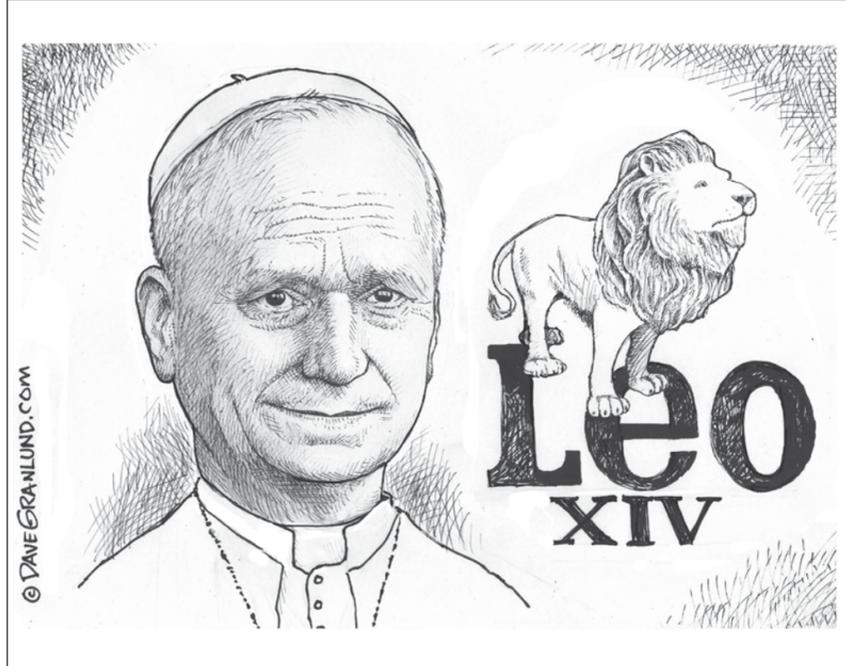
Enrollment in Medicare Part B, which is healthcare coverage for outpatient services, is always optional because there is a premium associated with Part B. But if you receive all of your healthcare services from the VA, you can, if you wish, decline Medicare Part B and, thus, save the monthly Part B premium. Enrolling in Medicare Part B when you get all your healthcare services from the VA is a matter of having the convenience to choose any healthcare provider you wish versus using only VA healthcare services.

If you receive Medicaid benefits and are also eligible for Medicare, you should probably enroll in both Medicare Part A and Part B (Medicare would be primary payor and Medicaid the second-

ary payor). You would be considered “dually eligible” and likely exempt from most healthcare costs with coverage from both programs. That said, it is sometimes not mandatory to enroll in Medicare Part B to get Medicaid benefits, but each state has separate Medicaid eligibility rules. Thus, you should check with your state’s Medicaid office to see if it is mandatory to take Medicare Part B to keep your Medicaid benefits. FYI, in most instances, Medicaid will pay your Medicare Part B costs, so there is little reason not to enroll in Medicare Part B while on Medicaid. Regardless, enrollment in Medicare Part A is required to collect Social Security benefits after age 65.

I would like to thank you for your service to our country and also assure you that we are always here for you if you have any further questions.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Covered Bridges of Massachusetts

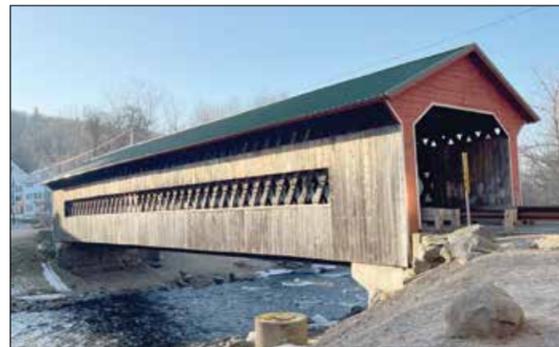
By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Sturbridge Historical Society welcomed Rich Paradise to present “The Covered Bridges of Massachusetts” at the Publick House.

Paradise is from Sturbridge and is a member of the Sturbridge Trail Committee and is also a part of the Sturbridge Historical Society. Paradise has traveled to quite a few areas with covered bridges. One of his favorite ones is The Middle Bridge or Union Street Bridge in Vermont.

Paradis describes this bridge as “very nicely done.” 19th century New England covered bridges are those iconic wooden structures that feature a roof and siding to protect the bridge’s wooden beams from harsh weather, and are considered a testament to early American engineering.

Once seen everywhere, today there are only about a



File Photo
The Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge is one of 12 covered bridges in the commonwealth and spans 137 feet across the Ware River.

dozen covered bridges left in Massachusetts and some of them are on private property.

Paradise’s passion for covered bridges began 25 years ago when he bought a copy of a book “The Last of the Covered Bridge Builders” by Wilton Graton. Paradise recalled being contacted by Walter, Milton’s son, and learned that the Graton family built the first covered bridge in the 20th century.

Inspiration from Graton’s book sparked the idea of giving this covered bridge presentation and the event at the Publick House was his first time talking about the subject.

Previously, Paradise had done a presentation about stone walls with the Sturbridge Historical Society.

The presentation focused on covered bridges in

Please see **BRIDGES**, page 5

OPINION POLICY

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

Send opinions to:
Ware River News
Letter to the Editor
80 Main Street,
Ware, MA 01082
or via email to:
pouimette@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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



Submitted Photo

The Rotary Club of the Brookfields is celebrating 70 years of service to its communities this year.

Rotary Club prepares to mark 70 years of service

On June 2, the Rotary Club of the Brookfields will be celebrating its 70th anniversary of service.

The Rotary Club keeps very busy from April to December with many commu-

nity service projects, public image, events, social events, regular meetings and partnering with Planet Aid and the schools on projects and just having fun with our neighboring Rotary clubs. The club

serves seven towns and sometimes extend its projects when needed to other neighboring towns to help.

Rotary members are ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things and they

are always looking for new members so if you need more information about joining, you can email rotaryclubofthbrookfields@gmail.com.

HARDWICK from page 1

full-time positions until Jan. 1 and the board would have six months of planning to find other avenues to help set the budget.

The board does view their Town Clerk as an asset to the town, but also wants to be fiscally responsible.

"We have to be fiscally responsible," Tinker said.

The Finance Committee is recommending cuts in the amount of \$98,355. With these cuts, the Finance Committee would be adding back approximately \$40,000 going into next year.

"Cutting expenses could include firing somebody," said Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim.

The board did mention the possibility of the town having a "spending problem,"

but the Finance Committee reworded the issue as the town inheriting years of decisions that have led to the point they're at now. It's not only spending, but there could be income issues as well.

"It's just the cost to operate," Caggiano stated when mentioning what are contributing factors to having an unsteady budget.

The cost of operating the town is expensive and is getting more expensive, year to year. The board believes the town has a fixed amount of revenue.

According to Caggiano, the town may get unpaid bills from prior years and could come across another bad winter, leading to unforeseen emergencies. Free cash is a source to helping with paying for prior year bills and a

snow and ice deficit.

The board will continue to work well with the Finance Committee and will continue to run an analysis on savings. The board mentioned streetlights that are not on all the time. If the town is paying for them, then maybe they could save money and see what areas where the lights are necessary and see which ones are not on all the time.

The Select Board and Finance Committee agreed to have \$42,000 put into the Capital Stabilization account and \$20,000 can stay in free cash. The board would approve the FY 26 budget changes, including the full-time positions to be moved to Jan. 1.

Both the Select Board and Finance Committee agreed on the approval during their joint meeting.

Select Board goals

The Select Board had new business on their agenda regarding a discussion about Select Board goals. Caggiano brought up this discussion to let the board know that they can discuss what they want to see in 2026 while going into the next fiscal year.

One of the discussions the board will want to have is to discuss ideas to seek more revenue for the town. The Select Board is dedicated to working together and finding paths that will benefit Hardwick.

"Work as a board for the greater good of Hardwick," Tinker said.

The Select Board will talk about their goals more after finalizing the budget and after the annual town meeting.

Community Food Access Assessment released

Submitted Article

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council, Healthy Quaboag, and the town of Ware are excited to announce the release of the Community Food Access Assessment, a report that sheds light on the challenges and opportunities surrounding food access in the region.

This comprehensive report, developed with the support of the Collaborative for Educational Services, synthesizes data collected through interviews and community events held in the spring of 2024.

Over six weeks, trained local residents conducted 22 individual interviews and hosted two community drop-in events and four smaller group interviews. The findings from these conversations provide invaluable insights into the experiences of Quaboag Valley residents and their access to food, particularly in a rural area with unique challenges and assets.

The report breaks down its findings into four key categories: Community Assets, Access Barriers, Priority Needs, and Opportunities.

Community Assets

One of the most notable takeaways from the assessment is the strong appreciation of the region's agricultural landscape. Many respondents expressed how much they value the abundance of locally grown food and the integral role that local farms play in their communities.

The region's rural character and small-town values emerged as clear assets that shape the way residents experience food access. Many locals emphasized the importance of supporting and maintaining these agricultural traditions, highlighting the interconnectedness between the farms and the people they serve.

Access Barriers

Food access continues to remain a challenge for many residents. A significant portion of the interviewees noted barriers to effectively utilizing benefit programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), school lunch programs, and Meals on Wheels. Although many people are familiar with these programs, accessing them is often more difficult than it seems.

The Healthy Incentives Program, a matching initiative for SNAP recipients to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, was also mentioned as a program that many find confusing or difficult to navigate.

While HIP is available across Massachusetts, only certain farm stands, farmer's markets, and mobile markets are eligible to accept these benefits. This creates a gap in availability for those who do not have access to HIP vendors nearby.

Additionally, interviewees shared concerns about the income eligibility threshold for SNAP, which many feel is too low to cover those who are just above the qualifying line but still struggle to afford healthy food.

Priority Needs

One of the most pressing needs identified by the community is the establishment of more public growing spaces, including community gardens. Many residents voiced a desire for accessible spaces where they could grow their own fresh produce.

In response to this need, the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council has formed a task force dedicated to expanding community garden initiatives.

Please see **POLICY**, page 7

BRIDGES from page 4

Massachusetts, but Paradise also shared ones in other New England states. Vermont has several covered bridges including the Winter Bridge in Windsor.

There are a total of 12 bridges in Massachusetts, but there is a 13th bridge that is part of a restaurant, located in Shirley.

Patterns of these bridges were patented by several familiar family businesses, but Paradise also talked about the Graton family business in New Hampshire. Part of the presentation had Paradise explaining the different methods of bridge construction.

During the flood control of the 1950s, Graton Associates was hired to remove covered bridges from the rivers that were in the floodplain. This process started their unique career of restoring and building new covered bridges.

Paradise brought a signed copy of Graton's book and had it on display at the Public House during his presentation.

"It's important when they

build a bridge out of wood," Paradise said. "The hole they drill for the pegs, called trunnions, must be made right."

Berkshire Bridge in Sheffield, is the original covered bridge in Massachusetts, built in 1837. The bridge was rebuilt in 1998.

If you get a chance to visit Sturbridge, as you walk through Old Sturbridge Village you will come across a covered bridge called the Hamant Brook Bridge.

Another Massachusetts covered bridge in the region is the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge in Hardwick. It is 137 feet long and is above the Ware River.

Since moving to Sturbridge in 2002, Paradise has been an avid hiker of our local trails. For the past 14 years he has been a member of the town's Trails Committee. He has volunteered his chainsaw skills to the committee, and at numerous places around town following the 2011 tornado.

He is also a recent member of the Historical Society and has worked to help develop programs and presentations for the group.

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/>



McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing • Storm work
- Furnace Wood
- Firewood \$275/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted



H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

Quaboag seniors make prom night memories

WARREN – The Quaboag Regional High School Class of 2025's seniors met inside the high school auditorium to pose for photos with friends and family, before heading out to their prom at the Delaney House in Holyoke.

This year, photos were taken inside instead of on the West Brookfield common, due to the rain, which didn't dampen the students' spirits. The stage was set as students lined up, sharply dressed, and posed for the camera as their prom night officially began.



The final picture before heading to prom as Quaboag students join together.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



Shown from left to right are Nora Pennington-Russell, Erin McGrath, Isabelle Aberle, Skylar Cook, Lilah Broadley, Abby Long, Nora Schwenker and Hayssa Freitas.



Seniors Falon and Haylee were ready for prom.

LEFT: Aviendha Andreoli had a mask to go with her prom dress.



Shown from left to right are Reilly Comptois, Jacob Toomey, Kaleb Vankleef, Jacoby Labillois, Jack Morgan, and Hart Waz looking sharp for prom.



Colin, Parker, Sebastian, Joseph, Dante and Aviendha were all smiles as they prepared to attend their prom at the Delaney House in Holyoke.



Gnomes were featured in the teacup fairy gardens.



A teacup fairy garden crafted by Celeste Voudren featured ladybugs.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

GARDEN from page 1

always welcome for great events such as the Adult Evening Craft at the Ware Library.

Diemand made her own teacup fairy garden and used it as a sample to give the guests some ideas on how to craft their own. Flowers and moss were provided to help with the framework of designing the inside of the fairy gardens.

When it came time to decorate and add all the miniatures to the teacup fairy gardens, Diemand was amazed by the creativity the crafters put into their teacups.

"You guys are so crafty," Diemand said.

Many crafters added gnomes to their gardens and used one of the miniature fences as a staircase. One of the guests, Celeste Voudren, added miniature ladybugs to her teacup fairy garden. This crafting event of making teacup fairy gardens showed a lot of creative expressions where guests got to express their own creative imagination and create a miniature world.

Hot glue was used to help the guests keep their chosen items stay together on the top of the teacups. Placing the flowers and moss was part of the framework of putting together the garden element of the teacup fairy gardens. Soon the miniatures were added from fairies, gnomes, bridges and

other whimsical items.

After completing the teacup fairy gardens, guests brought their crafts home. Diemand thanked all the crafters for joining her at the library and looks forward to hosting the next Adult Evening Craft. The next event will be in June and guests will be crafting sun catchers. More information can be found at warelibrary.org.

The Children's Room of the Ware Library at 37 Main St. will be hosting a Saturday Morning Craft on May 31 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This is a drop in event and is for kids ages three and up. The kids will be crafting their own string spinner.

RESULTS from page 1

resent residents in that role and encourage the other board members to do the same.

"It's too much of a concentration of power and a potential conflict of interest," he said. "There's no need for a Selectman to run when a qualified candidate is running for Planning Board."

For the Board of Selectmen, incumbent Derick Veliz retained his seat with 176 votes against Joseph Kondrat Jr., who received 111 votes.

At the candidate's forum, Veliz said he and his family moved to town 16 years ago and first became involved with local government when he joined the Planning Board. He later ran for a seat on the Board of Selectmen and won.

"It's been a pleasure to work in the Selectmen," Veliz said. "These last three years have been a very good experience for me and the town."

Kondrat said he has lived in town for 74 years and was a graduate of the last class of Warren High School in 1968. A historian, he has done a lot of research on the town, and has seen many changes in its growth and industry.

He has been actively attending Board of Selectmen meetings over the years and has served on the Board of Health for the past eight months.

Being a Selectmen, he said, is a job where you need to have the time in order to

do it.

"I have an open mind, I do research," Kondrat said. "Your voice can be heard."

Travis Baker ran for positions on several boards and committees, including the Sewer Commission for a three-year term; the Board of Health for a one-year term and the Housing Authority for a three-year term. Baker received the majority of votes for the Sewer Commission and Board of Health and candidate Mark Carron secured the seat on the Housing Authority.

Baker said he has lived in town for about 10 years, and he first became involved with local government when he joined Warren Community Access Television. He has then approached to join the Board of Health, which he said is an important job.

"A strong board is important for the health and safety of our residents," Baker said.

While recording various meetings for WCAT, Baker also saw needs on the Sewer Commission and Housing Authority. He said a big concern with the Sewer is mismanagement with the department.

He said on the Housing Authority it's important that the town provide safe housing for people.

Carron was a small business owner before moving to town with his partner six years ago. He has served with Baker on the Housing Authority for the past few months and he said the residents there appreciate the

input they provide.

"I'd love to continue on," Carron said.

Anne Norton received 20 write-in votes for a one-year term as Park Commissioner. Jessie Sweeney received 226 votes to secure a three-year term on the commission.

John Feeney received 10 write-in votes for a one-year term as Assessor and Christian Wood received 228 votes for a three-year term.

Wood moved to town last year and learned of the need for Assessors when he attended the special town meeting. While he hasn't served in this role before, Wood said he has been doing research about it and looking up resources about the position through the state.

For a one-year term on the Housing Authority, Laura Fitzpatrick received 143 votes and Kenneth Clinton received 91 votes.

Other results are as follows: Town Clerk, Laura Stockley, 272 votes; Treasurer, Dawn Swistak, 269 votes; Collector of Taxes, Kerry Schmidt, 270 votes; Highway Surveyor, Jeremy Olson, 243 votes; Board of Health (three-year term), Daniel Thibodeau, 233 votes; Cemetery Commissioner, Cynthia Baxter, 228 votes; Constable, Marci Dineen, 196 votes; Constable, James Dusty, 185 votes; Constable, David Johnson, 191 votes; Constable, Karen Dusty, 177 votes; and Quaboag Regional District School Committee, Megan Sears, 209 votes.

Board hears update on common project

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board began by hearing an update from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission regarding the town common redesign project.

Sharing the update with the board was CMRPC's Principal Planner John O'Leary. The update began with a recap from O'Leary discussing the background of the project including receiving funds through the Community Development Block Grant program from fiscal years 2022-2023.

Weston & Sampson had a proposal for the town's Town Common Improvement Project. A consultant has completed two proposed conceptual designs that the Planning Board will review. O'Leary shared his screen and showed the anticipated schedule for this improvement project.

The project kicked off in December 2024, with a concept development featuring a working group, public meeting and an online survey and now the schedule has reached a final concept development discussion.

O'Leary talked about the key design considerations and recommendations. The biggest consideration is honoring the history and preserving character of the town common.

The character of the town common includes the tree canopy, natural minerals and gentle slopes.

The design would also explore selective tree removal when necessary and new tree planting to ensure ongoing canopy renewal. The design also wants to renovate or possibly replace the gazebo on the town common.

Another historical feature is to incorporate the four historic 1938 bridge lights into the new path lighting design.

The proposed conceptual design would also enhance functionality and accessibility. The town common could have accessible pathways and placed benches to enhance comfort.

On-going parking chal-

lenges can be addressed in the town center through an improved layout and additional options. The plan could also feature fencing to enhance safety while blending in with overall design aesthetic.

O'Leary did bring up the public survey and mentioned the participation has been low and wanted to know if there is a way to spread it out more and get more of the public interested in the project.

The board mentioned the survey is available online and is available in hard copy form. O'Leary brought up the next Warren Town Common Improvement Project Committee and how critical it will be on trying to finalize and narrow down to one desired concept. The meeting will be held virtually and will be on Monday, May 19 at 5 p.m.

"Focus on one concept," O'Leary said. "Leave the town with actual design plans."

O'Leary talked about another concept where the town common could be a multipurpose space with accessories such as an amphitheater and a seat wall on the lawn. The Planning Board would then ask their questions after reviewing a map provided by O'Leary.

Please see **WARREN**, page 11

Selectmen approve Highway Surveyor's request

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen revisited their discussion of a request made by the town's Highway Surveyor, Jeremy Olson.

The Highway Surveyor is looking to hire temporary part-time staff to assist with upcoming road construction projects. Olson said he has conducted more research into the concern the Selectmen had about recruiting part-time workers that may exceed a certain number of hours and possibly may be entitled to health insurance and other benefits.

According to Olson, "everything I'm asking is within the rules of the state."

Olson also stated its relatively encouraged due to the reality that some towns in the state struggle with hiring workers for road construction and experiencing staff shortages.

The current staff Olson has are retired workers and are currently signed as on-call employees who are willing to help the Highway Department. Olson feels there is no reason to deny these actions and not doing this would be a disservice to the town.

"It would be a disservice to the town if we didn't allow this," Olson said.

There is coverage in place for these employees and Olson reminded the Selectmen that they are aware of not getting the ben-

efits and they are part-time, on-call employees. Town Administrator James Ferrera shared some information with the Selectmen and had checked in with town counsel with some questions.

According to the response Ferrera got from KP Law, there was clarification on the number of hours of work an employee would have to work for the town to possibly have to provide health insurance. If a staff member were to work 20 or more hours per week in six consecutive weeks, the town would be obligated to offer health insurance.

In other words, if staff begins to go into working regular hours, they would have to be given health insurance.

The hours would have to be inconsistent, and Olson believes his number hours for his staff is fluid. Olson explained the projects he has to get done in the summer and his on-call staff know there is no guarantee to them.

"They know that and accept that," Olson said. "We're so lucky to have them."

Olson clarified with the board that his staff are retired staff willing to work part time and were aware of the agreement when they originally signed on as on-call employees. The Selectmen talked about wanting to put a policy in place to make sure the staff isn't exceeding 20 hours or more over the course of six consecutive weeks. Ferrera mentioned to the board that it would be good to have awareness of this policy due

to the fact in the past the town did have an employee who worked six straight months for the town and averaged more than 19 hours a week.

The Selectmen made a motion to approve the Highway Surveyor's request to hire the on-call, part-time staff and to not exceed 20 plus hours per week over a six-week consecutive period. Olson thanked the board for their approval and will be busy this summer with upcoming road construction projects.

Heavy equipment operator

Jeremy Olson spoke with the board about appointing Jacob Provost as a full-time Heavy Equipment Operator for the Highway Department. Provost came from the Monson Highway Department and brings in licenses, experience and qualifications.

"I'm looking for a change and looking forward to start the position," Provost said.

Olson was satisfied with the applicant and said "he's got a lot of potential".

The board appointed Provost as a full-time Heavy Equipment Operator starting with the step of grade PW-2.

Reorganization of the board

The Board of Selectmen voted to be reorganized before continuing with their meeting on May 8. Richard Eichacker will now be the Chairmen of the Selectmen, Derick Veliz will be the Vice-Chairman and David

Dufresne will serve as Clerk to the Selectmen.

Town Administrator's report

Ferrera shared his report with the Selectmen, starting with his recent meeting with CEO & President of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, Tim Murray. Ferrera had discussions with Murray about economic development ideas for the town.

Ferrera did mention some of the vacant storefronts in the center of Warren, including the vacant bank building, which was formerly Cornerstone Bank. Ferrera wants to see if any banking branch may be interested in adding a location in Warren.

Ferrera said Murray also got to tour the Wrights Mill site and heard all the needs for growth within the site as well as some challenged Warren is currency facing while trying to reach that growth.

Ferrera described the meeting as a productive meeting and described it as a "first step to establishing a long-term relationship with a bigger chamber of commerce to try to attract some attention to Warren."

Ferrera would shared a thanks to all the volunteers and election workers for helping during the recent Town Elections on May 6. He said the elections went smoothly and he thanked the candidates for putting their names forward in the election.




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.**

POLICY from page 5

"We are excited to work with the community to support residents in growing their own fresh produce," Sawyer Blake said. "This is a fantastic opportunity to empower people to take control of their food access."

Opportunities for Improvement

The assessment also highlighted several opportunities for enhancing food access in the region. These included increasing outreach and education about available benefit programs, expanding access to HIP vendors, and raising awareness about local food assistance resources.

Furthermore, community members expressed a desire for more initiatives that support local farmers and promote the region's agricultural heritage.

Next Steps

The full results of the Community Food Access Assessment are now available online. To view the comprehensive report and learn more about the findings, visit healthyquaboag.org/food-policycouncil.

Community members interested in joining the QVFC can email Sawyer at sblake@townofware.com.

AWARDS from page 1

District (Warren), and Tina Young, Palmer Public Schools (Palmer).

The winner of the Educator of the Year Award went to Quaboag Regional School District Superintendent, Stephen Duff. Prior to the announcement, Przypek talked about how educators are important role models in the region's communities.

After receiving the plaque, Duff spoke briefly and talked about how much it meant to him winning in award for doing something he enjoys so much.

"Winning an award for doing something you love is remarkable," Duff said.

Duff would then talk about many great things currently happening at Quaboag Regional School District and how everyone contributes in a small way to give kids opportunities. Duff mentioned a lot of students are getting an opportunity to turn their education into careers through the school district's Fire Academy and CNA program where they can learn early work experience in respective careers.

The finalists for Food & Drink Establishment of the Year were Arcpoint Brewing Company (Belchertown), Brimfield Winery (Brimfield), Figlio (Palmer), The Grapevine Grille (Belchertown), Hardwick Vineyard & Winery (Hardwick) and Steaming Tender (Palmer). The winner for this award was the Steaming Tender in Palmer. One of the owners was proud to accept the award and were proud to announce they will soon be going into their 21st year in business.

The finalists for Retail Establishment of the Year were Don's Auto Sales & Service (Belchertown), Hardwick Farmers Co-op (Hardwick), Life's Memories & More (Three Rivers), Monson Thrift Store & Community Center (Monson), The Spirit Shoppe (West Brookfield) and Tina Marie's Hair & Boutique (Belchertown). The winner was the Hardwick Farmers Co-Op in Hardwick. Accepting the award on behalf of the Hardwick Farmers Co-Op is Store Manager Steven Gould.

As part of the presentation of the awards, state Rep. Todd Smola, state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, and Kim Mongeau, Communications Director in the office of state Sen. Peter Durant attended the awards dinner and congratulated the recipients of these six awards.



Joe Ferrentino, center, represented Teresa's Restaurant who won Chamber Business of the Year.



Quaboag Regional School District Superintendent Stephen Duff won Educator of the Year and was joined by Renee Niedziela, state Rep. Todd Smola, Kim Mongeau and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume.



The Hardwick Farmers Co-Op in Hardwick won Retail Establishment of the Year. Store Manager Steven Gould, center, attended the awards dinner and accepted the award for Hardick Farmers Co-Op.



Lorna Stone, center, won Volunteer of the Year.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

lated the recipients of these six awards.

The Business of the Year Award went to Teresa's Restaurant in Ware. To accept the award on behalf of Teresa's Restaurant was Joe Ferrentino, who was keeping busy at the restaurant while the awards dinner took place.

Ferrentino came out to the banquet hall to accept the award and wanted to acknowledge all the customers who have been kind to the restaurant over the years.

"We have customers supporting us for 45 years," Ferrentino said.

After that statement the audience gave Teresa's a well-deserved round of applause.

The Volunteer of the Year went to Lorna Stone of Christopher Heights of Belchertown. Stone thanked everyone for the award and talked about her experience working with seniors and helping with assisted living communities.

The Community Hero of the Year award went to Jillian Smith of Wales, house fire savior to neighbors Andre and Madeline Bouchard. Smith was applauded for her heroic act by putting her own safety on the line by entering a



The winners of the 2025 Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce Choice Awards, in the center, joined by State Rep Donnie Berthiaume, Renee Niedziela, Kim Mongeau, State Rep. Todd Smole and Chamber CEO James Przypek.

burning house to help save her neighbors.

For more information and events about the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, visit www.qhmc.com.



RIGHT: WBCA & Beyond President Dan Flynn, left, is shown alongside state Rep. Todd Smola, Quaboag Regional School District Superintendent Stephen Duff, and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume.



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine

2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and LedgeWood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

207-607-9333



NOTICE

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

FOR RENT

Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

Accepting applications for wait list. The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and "Barrier Free" accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
413-477-6496
TDD (800)439-2379




LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

INFLATION

PRICE BUSTERS

PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORKLOIN RIBEND or LOINEND ROAST.....</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$1.88</p> <p>lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIBEYE</p> <p>CUT FREE</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$10.29</p> <p>lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN THIGHS 10 LB BAG.....</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$1.35</p> <p>lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE DUCKS.....</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$3.99</p> <p>lb</p>
<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORKLOIN CHOPS or ROAST.....</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$2.77</p> <p>lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER LONDON BROIL</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$4.99</p> <p>lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FROZEN HASH BROWN PATTIES 15 CT.....</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$3.99</p> <p>ea</p>	<p>USDA INSP. SUPERIOR ON MAIN MINI ECLAIRS JUMBO PAK 15 CT</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$9.99</p> <p>ea</p>
<p>USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI DOMESTIC HAM.....</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$3.99</p> <p>lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$4.99</p> <p>5 LB BAG</p>	<p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 21/25 COUNT 2 LB BAG</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$15.99</p> <p>ea</p>	
<p>GREAT ON THE GRILL</p> <p>USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS.....</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$3.69</p> <p>lb</p>			

90 MEAT'S SPRING BOX FAMILY BUNDLE \$60

Check Our Website For Details

SALE DATES: 5/15/25-5/21/25

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

90 Meat Outlet

90 Avocado St. Springfield
413-737-1288
www.90meat.com

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

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

www.turley.com

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

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Ware scores sweep of Monson with win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Because six of the players with Monson and Ware varsity baseball were teammates on the Monson Legion Post 241 baseball team last summer, it's become a friendly rivalry game.

The Ware Indians swept the season series against the Monson Mustangs for the third consecutive year with a 7-5 senior night victory at Memorial Field in Ware, last Wednesday.

"We've been playing baseball with and against the Monson players since we were kids," said senior Nathan



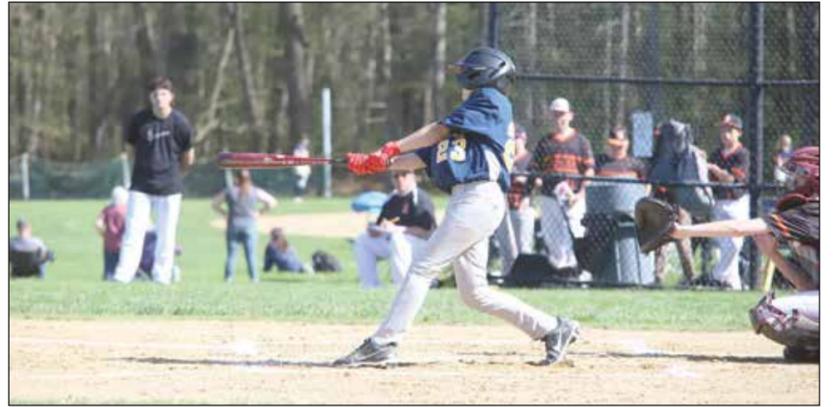
Trevor Millet grabs this shot off the grass.

Nathan Kaczuwka fires one into the plate.

Please see **WARE**, page 10



Troy Dufresne is in full stretch as this Monson runner is out by a step.



Quabbin Middle School baseball is on the road at Murdock May 15.

Middle school baseball in action

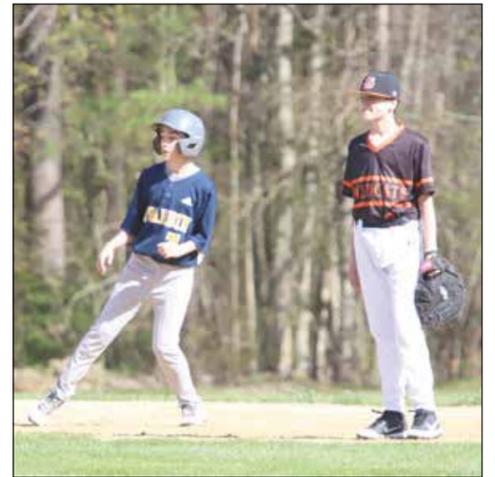
BARRE – The Quabbin Regional Middle School baseball team faced Narragansett Regional

on Thursday, May 8. The Panthers were next scheduled to be back in action on Thursday, May 15 at

Murdock High School, followed by a home matchup on Monday, May 19 against Tahanto at 3:45 p.m.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
The middle school baseball team faced Narragansett on May 8.



Quabbin Middle School home games are located at the middle school diamond adjacent to the varsity softball field.



The Panthers are still a growing team with some young talent.



The Panthers were getting plenty of base runners in the matchup.

Quabbin golf hold home finale



Submitted photos
The 2025 Quabbin Regional High School girls golf team.

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School girls golf team had its home finale on Monday, May 12 against Hopkinton. The Panthers were defeated 33.5-14.5 in the matchup. The Panthers are 3-3-2 on the season and have three more matches remaining and are hoping to qualify for league meet scheduled for May 28.



Makenzie Casey takes a swing during a match.



Ava Brady works during a match on Monday.

Rain hampers schedule, leads to extension of cutoff date for playoffs

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Rainouts are a part of every spring, especially for baseball and softball. But some seasons are more excessive than others.

As it stands, the spring season is the shortest regular season during the school year, starting in the first week of April and only last until the third or fourth week of May. The new state playoff system implemented in 2021 further shortened the spring season, as the sectional playoffs now take place a week earlier.

While there has already been a lot of rain this spring, this past week has been the worst of it, with some areas of Western and Central Mass. getting between four and six inches of rain combined throughout the week.

While sports like lacrosse, which is played on artificial turf in many places, and boys volleyball which is played

indoors, have been largely unaffected, other sports have not been so lucky. Baseball, softball, tennis, and track have taken big hits, with lots of games, meets, and matches needing to be rescheduled. And time is running out.

Andy Rogers, who has the tall task of scheduling umpires for high school baseball in Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties, said while he has a lot of games to get rescheduled, experience matters, and he is ready to through the task of getting umpires to all the needed games.

"There are a lot of moving pieces with umpires. One of the big challenges is I have over 10 college umpires on staff, and they are in their playoffs now," Rogers said. "They get their games the day before for college, and come off of high school games and they are working very competitive games

Please see **RAIN**, page 10

sports

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – The bi-weekly Bogey Doubles League on Monday nights concluded as of May 5.

The final round was successfully won by the team of Tom Clauson & Gary Santora, who also were the victors of round one earlier in the season. The team had a total of 44 wins in the final round. Finishing in second place was the team of Lonny Murphy & Trever Kenneson with 42 victories.

During the last set of matches of the season, Clauson & Santora bowled against Sandman & Marvin. In game one, Clauson & Santora won by a score of 285-278. Gary Santora bowled 131 to begin the match. Travis Sandman bowled a 117 in a losing effort.

In game two, Sandman & Marvin bounced back and won the game 284-253. Luke Marvin bowled a 132 to help his team take the lead. In game three, Clauson & Santora won the last game by a score of 279-253.

Santora had a series of 354 to finish the season. The final score was 817-815 in favor of Clauson & Santora.

Renaud & Ward bowled against Gauthier & Clough in the final match of the season. Gauthier & Clough were the victors of game one by a score of 284-276. Tina Ward bowled 122 and Phil Clough bowled 119.

In game two, Renaud & Ward won by a score of 275-269. Steve Renaud Sr.

bowled 119 to go with his teammate's 110.

In game three, Renaud & Ward won by a score of 268-260. Ward finished with 128 and a series of 360. The final score was 819-813 in favor of Renaud & Ward.

The team of Murphy & Kenneson bowled against Talamini & Gravel. Games one and two were won by Murphy & Kenneson, who scored 279 and 281. Kenneson had scores of 126 and 110.

Talamini & Gravel won the last game by a score of 272-260. The final score was 820-791 in favor of Murphy & Kenneson. The team finished in second place this season during two separate rounds, including the last one.

Mondor & Brayton bowled against Halbedel & Fontaine. In game one, Halbedel & Fontaine were the victors by a score of 289-253. Aaron Fontaine started off strong with a 141 game. Halbedel started the match with 114.

In game two, Halbedel & Fontaine won again by a score of 291-265. Fontaine continued with a strong bowling performance with a 135. Halbedel bested his first game score with a 122.

In game three, Mondor & Brayton won the last game by a score of 294-281. Tim Brayton finished the match with a 124. Fontaine finished with a 122 and a series of 398. Halbedel finished with a 125 and a series of 361.

The final score was 861-812 in favor of Fontaine & Halbedel. Aaron Fontaine bowled the highest series of the season with a 432.

The high single game of the season was bowled by Luke Marvin which was 183.

Pioneers release 2025 schedule

LUDLOW – For several years, the Western Mass. Pioneers have been a mainstay in spring-summer soccer and have entertained the early on many Fridays and Saturday nights with great semi-pro action.

The Pioneers will return to the field at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow for another round of games in 2025.

One thing missing from the Pioneers schedule is an appearance in the Open Cup. The Pioneers have done that in late March or April the past two seasons, but it does not appear on their schedule this season.

The season opener for the Pioneers is against Boston City on the road on Thursday, May 15 at 7 p.m. They will play the Albany Rush on Monday, May 19 after that, then gear up for their home opener on Friday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m. against league rival Seacoast United Phantoms. The Pioneers have a total of seven home games on their slate.

They also usually schedule a "friendly" game prior to the start of the season, though that has not been scheduled as of press time.

For more information on the 2025 Pioneers, go to www.wmpioneers.com

RAIN from page 9

for me. Youth leagues are also fully going, so when I take an umpire to work a high school game, the youth assigners then struggle to cover their games. It's all connected. Same with the adult leagues that are out there. With the rain, I just continue to adjust and do the best I can. I want to credit our umpire staff for staying on top of so many changes. With the geography that I cover (Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin), I have to look at how far I send umpires, how many times they see the same teams, etc."

The state tournament has had a minimal impact on Rogers' ability to schedule, but said there have had to be some adjustments.

"The state tournament really hasn't impacted me that much," Rogers said. "What is tough is the Western Mass tournament week, you have a lot of games scheduled the day before that I have to cover including the non-playoff matchups which can still be important for teams trying



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Many fields like this one at Shea Park in Agawam reached a saturation point after this week's rainfall.

While this week was likely the worse, rain has been an issue all spring.

school semifinals. Knowing the matchups is very important during those times."

One help for the tournament is that the cutoff date for baseball and softball has been moved from May 15 to May 19, which will give teams more time to make up games. Several teams were preparing to play 4-5 games this week and next in order to catch up with their schedule.

WARE from page 9

Kaczuwka, who was Ware's starting pitcher. "We put our friendships aside for a couple of hours, but we're friends again after the game."

Kaczuwka is also a member of the Post 241 squad, along with his younger brother, Kyle, who's a junior catcher, and senior centerfielder Jason Mumper.

The three Legion players on the Mustangs varsity roster are junior Austin Meacham, who was Monson's starting pitcher,

junior catcher Shane Szado, and sophomore second baseman Niko Mattieu.

Nathan Kaczuwka has been a member of the Indians varsity baseball team since he was a freshman.

He and Monson junior shortstop Jake Beaupre have been teammates on a travel baseball team in the past.

Kaczuwka, who's a righthander, won his third game of the season by allowing four runs on nine base hits with three walks and four strikeouts in six innings. He was replaced on the mound by junior righty Jack Gaudreau after allowing a single and a walk in the top of the seventh inning.

Kaczuwka and Mumper were honored during a pre-game ceremony by long-time Ware head coach Scott Slattery, along with classmates Josh Dulak, Owen McKeever, and Trevor Millet.

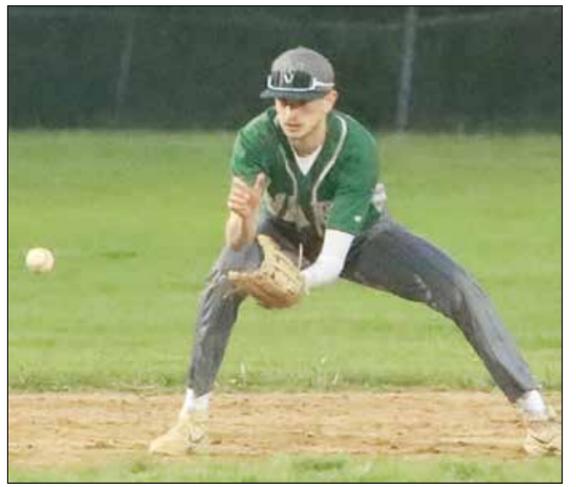
"The five seniors are outstanding baseball players, but they're even better human beings, which is the most important thing," Slattery said. "They're respectful, kind, and hardworking. They've meant a lot to our baseball program during the past couple of years and we're really going to miss them a lot next year."

Ware (13-1,9-0) also captured the Suburban Central League title for the third consecutive year. The Indians were league co-champions the past two seasons with South Hadley and Southwick. They were able to win the league title outright this spring.

"It feels awesome to win the league title again and not having to share it with anybody," Nathan Kaczuwka said. "This is the first time that we've won it outright during my high school career."

Entering last Wednesday night's game, Monson (8-7, 7-3) still had an opportunity to be league co-champs with Ware. Had the Mustangs won the game; the Indians would've needed to beat Ludlow on Tuesday afternoon to capture the league title outright.

"We did have a chance to tie Ware for the league title, but they're a very good baseball team," said Monson head coach Curtis Orlik. "This



Brady Guimond is all set to grab this hot shot.

was one of the better games that we've played all season. We kept hitting the ball hard in each inning, but we couldn't come up with the clutch hit."

Ware defeated Monson, 14-3, in the first meeting of the season, which was held at Dunkin' Park in Hartford on April 23. The Indians took control of that contest by scoring six runs in the first inning.

The Indians held a 3-0 lead after the first inning in last Wednesday's contest.

With two outs in the opening frame, Kyle Kaczuwka began the rally with a walk. Then his older brother hit a line-drive single to the gap in left center. Millet (2-for-3), who started the game at third base, drove home the game's first run with a ground ball single into left field. Another run crossed the plate on the play following a throwing error and Millet wound up at third base. He scored on a wild pitch.

The Mustangs answered right back in the top of the second inning.

Senior right fielder Tyler Labonte drew a leadoff walk and advanced to third base on a double to left field by junior centerfielder Ben Pignone, who led the Mustangs attack with three base hits.

"Ben swung the bat really well," Orlik said. "This was his best game at the plate all season and we've been waiting for it."

Following a strikeout, sophomore left fielder Lucas Pignone (2-for-3) hit a chop-

per into left for a base hit scoring Labonte, who's the Mustangs only senior.

The home team took a 4-1 lead in the third inning when Nathan Kaczuwka hit a sacrifice fly scoring his younger brother, who blasted a double to left center with one-out before advancing to third on a wild pitch. Kyle Kaczuwka collected three base hits in the ball game.

An RBI single by Ben Pignone cut the Mustangs deficit to 4-2 with two outs in the fifth inning.

The Indians, who left two runners in scoring position in the bottom of the fifth inning scored what turned out to be three big insurance runs in the following frame.

Mumper drove home the first two runs of the sixth inning with a single that deflected off third base. Then Kyle Kaczuwka gave his team a 7-2 lead with a single to center which scored another run.

The Mustangs didn't go down quietly in their final at-bats.

Szado greeted Gaudreau by hitting a triple to right field scoring two runs. After the next batter struck out, Szado crossed the plate on a ground ball out by Ben Pignone.

Then Gaudreau ended the Mustangs comeback hopes and the game with another strikeout.

The two rivals could possibly meet twice more this spring in the Western Mass. Class D tournament and in the Division 5 state tournament.

\$12.50 Each Digital Photos
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

Parents, Grandparents & Friends **SPECIAL!**
HONOR YOUR GRADUATE
SPECIAL \$55
~~Regular Price \$76~~
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION MAY 21st
EMAIL YOUR AD TO: dflynn@turley.com
MAIL YOUR AD WITH PAYMENT TO: Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
Pay by check or credit card: Checks Payable to: Turley Publications
Credit Cards be sure to include:
Paper, Name, Address, Phone, Credit Card Number, Exp. Date & CVV
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS • 413.283.8393 24 WATER STREET, PALMER, MA 01069

Congratulations Class of 2025
We are offering a great deal for you to CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATE in your community graduation issue. Submit a photo and a brief message.
HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE
2x3 Black & White Advertisement
Congratulations Karly Smith! We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College!
Love Dad. Mom & John

Veterans eat lunch free at Ware Senior Center

WARE – Now through May 31, 2025, veterans of the U.S. armed services can enjoy a homemade lunch for free at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

This meals are provided by the generosity of former Ware Selectboard member John Morrin, the Ware Veteran Fund and the Ware Veterans Carnival.

For veterans to take advantage of this offer they must call the Ware Senior

Center 413-967-9645 by noon the business day before they wish to come for lunch and place their name on the list. Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.-noon.

Menus and more information are available on the Council on Aging page of townofware.com or by stopping by the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

WARREN from page 7

The newly elected member of the Planning Board, Ray Kopacko, had some questions about the additional parking spaces. The plan displays five parking spaces with an additional nine spaces that could be in a closed off section and only be used when there is a demand for them. For example, a special event on the town common.

The board also asked about the fountain and if it could be rehabilitated. Planning Board Chair Richard Eichacker asked about the possibility of having more parking available near the already existing parking lot.

Board member Derick Veliz said they would have

to clarify with the architect to see where the property line is. The board feels there is no focal point for the town common, even in the presented design.

The board began discussing ideas that were described as “outside the box”, to see any possible access points and possible focal points. The board mentioned Maple Street and Parkview Street as having possible access points.

The board will continue to look at areas that are adjacent to the town common. The Planning Board talked about the Civil War statue in the center of town as a possible focal point or have some statue placed on the common.

The next Planning Board meeting will be on June 2 at 7:15 p.m.

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of May 5-12, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 42 building/property checks, 39 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, seven traffic controls, 17 emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, three investigations, one fire, one illegal dumping, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, nine safety hazards, one motor vehicle accident, two animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, May 5
9:17 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Old Petersham Road, No Action Required

Tuesday, May 6
4:16 p.m. Investigation, Jackson Road, Unknown Outcome

Wednesday, May 7
1:46 p.m. 911 Lockout, Church Lane, Services Rendered

7:10 p.m. Investigation, No Location Given, Dispatch Handled
8:17 p.m. Disturbance,

Lower Road, Officer Handled
11:43 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, May 8

10:23 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gate 43-44, Services Rendered

10:46 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital

11:18 a.m. Medical Alarm, Main Street, Call Canceled

12:38 p.m. Medical Emergency, Railroad Lane, Services Rendered

6:28 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Shore Road, Transported to Hospital

10:22 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Main Street, Vehicle Towed

10:56 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, North Street, Investigated

10:56 p.m. Safety Hazard, Out of Town, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Friday, May 9

8:08 a.m. 911 Fire/Other, Main Street, Extinguished

2:43 p.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Officer Handled
9:04 p.m. Investigation, None Given, Officer Handled

Saturday, May 10

4:59 a.m. Medical Emergency, Railroad Lane, Transported to Hospital

6:03 a.m. Safety Hazard, Upper Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

9:52 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hillside View, Transported to Hospital

9:59 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

10:49 a.m. Safety Hazard, Center of Town, Services Rendered

1:05 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Barre Road, Report Taken

1:27 p.m. Safety Hazard, Ridge Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

2:25 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Arrest(s) Made

7:44 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Ridge Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

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.

Sunday, May 11

4:09 p.m. 911 Illegal Dumping, Greenwich Road, Negative Contact

6:04 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Railroad Lane, Spoken To

Monday, May 12

12:13 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Main Street, Transferred Call to C7

7:57 a.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, No Action Required

Read the Ware River News online at www.warerivernews.turley.com

CALL YOUR TURLEY REP TODAY! 283-8393



**YOUR LOCAL
TRUSTED
RELIABLE
DEPENDABLE**

HOMIE PROs

1 SWIMMING POOLS

J.C. POOLS INC. 108 Main St. (Rt. 32) South Barre
508-882-3913
978-355-6465

50th Anniversary 1974-2024

VACATION IN YOUR BACKYARD
Two Types of In-Ground/Above Ground Pools
In-Ground Liner Replacements • Heaters
Service • Chemicals & Supplies • Water Testing

2 INSURANCE

www.moultoninsurance.com
Moulton Insurance Agency
BUSINESS • AUTO • HOME • LIFE

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

ARBELLA INSURANCE	Ware 143 West Street 413-967-3327	Belchertown 45 N. Main Street 413-323-7229
--------------------------	--	---

3 PAINTING & PAPERING

SABLACK
PAINTING & PAPERING
Professional Workmanship

Interior & Exterior • Residential & Commercial
PAPER HANGING • DRYWALL SERVICE • CERAMIC TILE
FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED
Warren, MA (508) 868-7312

4 HEATING OIL & A/C

SHERMAN OIL
Ensuring Comfort and Service Since 1962

• FUEL • SERVICE 24/7
• INSTALLATION • AIR CONDITIONING
508.867.7447 • ShermanOil.com
CHECK YOUR A/C TODAY & BEAT THE HEAT!

5 PLUMBING & HEATING

Residential • Commercial • Industrial

BECA
Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

**FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING & HEATING NEEDS
SIZEABLE REBATES MAY BE AVAILABLE TO YOU
CALL US TO DISCUSS HEATING EQUIPMENT UPGRADES**
www.becplumbing.com
Warren, MA 413-436-0076 Ware, MA 413-967-0076

6 HOME, YARD, GARAGE

ESTABLISHED 1914
HARDWICK FARMERS CO-OP

Rt. 32, 444 Lower Road, Gilbertville, MA 01031
413-477-6913 • www.hardwickfarmers.net
Open: Mon-Fri 8AM-5PM; Sat 8AM-4PM, Sun 9AM-3PM
**For All Your Yard, Garden & Garage Needs
Become A Member & Save Money!**

7 LOGGING

Park Saw Shop
LOGGING • ARBORIST • SAFETY
Shipping Can Be Arranged • Rentals Available
413-544-9027 • 1-800-232-6132
1292 Park Street, Palmer, MA 01069
Mon.-Fri. 6:30am-4pm • Sat. 7am-Noon
STIHL Husqvarna

Ware Library hosts Book Sale through May 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.



Circle of Song members are shown rehearsing for their May 17 concert to be held in the Barre Town Hall at 7 p.m.

Circle of Song Spring Concert this Saturday

BARRE – Circle of Song will be celebrating the arrival of spring at their concert on Saturday, May 17 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall at 2 Exchange St., on the corner of Exchange and Mechanic streets.

The chorus has always been of modest size, but of late numbers have swelled to the low 20s, which necessitated the purchase of a set of risers, and sadly, a move away from the signature semi-circle performance

style. As usual, there will be a potpourri of music with the spiritual “Go Down Moses”, show tunes like “June Is Bustin’ Out All Over” and “Ol’ Man River”, and “I Won’t Say I’m in Love”. There will be a Pentatonix favorite, Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah”, Ticheli’s “Earth Song”, Rutter’s “For the Beauty of the Earth”, along with the madrigal “Fair Phyllis”, the “Lion Sleeps Tonight”, and a gorgeous

contemporary song, “Sing Gently” by Eric Whitacre. Finally, Bobby McFerrin takes a different approach to the 23rd Psalm.

The chorus will also perform the all-time favorite, “Oh, Shenandoah”.

The concert is free and refreshments will be served. Donations are graciously accepted.

Interested in joining? Contact Julie Rawson by emailing julie@mhof.net or calling 978-257-1192.

Submitted Photo

Tri-Parish Community Church hosts 19th annual event

Plant, bake, craft and tag sale scheduled for May 17 and 18

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church is pleased to announce they will be holding its 19th Annual Plant, Bake Sale, Craft & Tag Sale on the Hardwick Common Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each day.

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

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

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

The Church is also seeking vendors for their annual Tag and Craft sale to coincide with the Plant and Bake Sale. Spaces on the Hardwick Common will be offered for \$35 each. Applications may be obtained by contacting Marguerite by emailing mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6942.

Please reserve your space early. All are welcome.

Get ready because asparagus chowder is back

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Saturday, May 17 during the town of West Brookfield’s Asparagus, Heritage and Flower Festival on the town common, the First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St., will offer their famous Asparagus Chowder from the church

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

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

BALLFIELD from page 1

was about \$2,250.

He said the fence is designed to be removed after the softball season ends.

Lovato said once the fence arrives, the school district’s staff will be able to install it.

Lovato also discussed the need for work on the school’s baseball field with the closure of Memorial Field next year.

Swarts, whose wife serves on the Parks Commission which oversees the use of Memorial Field, said representatives from the school had offered the commission \$10,000 to purchase sod to help the conditions of Memorial Field’s infield.

Lovato, who was not in attendance at the Parks Commission meeting, said money had never been offered to pay for field improvements.

Swarts said many people at the Parks Commission meeting heard the offer to help the town purchase sod to be installed this fall.

“The offer of sod was presented,” Swarts said. “A lot of baseball parents that were there heard it and a lot of kids heard it.”

Lovato said when he met with Parks Manager John Piechota and others prior to the Parks Commission meeting in question, he had agreed to work with Piechota and the commission and be a team player as best as he can. He said no offer to purchase sod was made.

Piechota said Principal Scott Slattery attended the Parks Commission meeting and said that \$10,000 would be contributed to purchase sod for Memorial Field. He also said it was at this meeting that it was brought to

his attention that the baseball field behind Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School was “unplayable.”

Piechota questioned why the scoreboard wasn’t powered and why money wasn’t invested in this field.

Piechota said every game played at Memorial Field is a double header, with the junior varsity team playing before the varsity team. He said he had been told a shortage of umpires is the reason both teams played on the same field back to back.

Both Piechota and Swarts said the field by the elementary school is in better condition than Memorial Field is right now due to heavy overuse.

Piechota said extensive discussion was had at the Parks Commission meeting about purchasing and laying sod on the infield of Memorial Field in attempts to keep it open for this year.

Lovato said the offer of \$10,000 is a surprise to him and he is not sure where that number even came from.

Whitham said it appears that Slattery spoke “with some liberties” at the Parks Commission meeting and made a promise to spend money on sod. She said it needs to be clearly communicated to the baseball team and families that this offer was made when it shouldn’t have been.

Special education action plan

Lovato said a meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15 at 5 p.m. to discuss the special education action plan with a newly formed subcommittee of parents, educators and administration.

He said participants will review the special education

audit results and talk about the overall improvements that have taken place over the past three years.

“We’re going to get snapshots of today. Snapshots of where we are in regard to IEP completion and reevaluations, evaluations and a number of factors like that,” he said.

Lovato said they will also discuss identified areas of need in terms of training.

“We have identified a number of areas where we need training, a number of areas that we need communication,” he said.

Lovato said he has been in contact with over 70 parents of special education students about the meeting at this point and will contact all 226 of them prior to May 15. He said a number of teachers and parents have signed up to attend the meeting.

Lovato said information and ideas gathering from this new subcommittee will help the school district finalize its action plan to present to the School Committee. He said he is hopeful that parents of special education students will be willing to present to the School Committee as well.

Lovato said one of his concerns is the number of meeting cancellations. He said as of last month, there were over 400 cancellations in the school district.

He said this is partly because of parents not showing up for meetings, or rescheduling due to multiple cases being reviewed at once on campus.

“400 and some to this date is extremely disturbing and it’s something that we cannot allow,” he said.

Whitham will act as a liaison between the com-

mittee and the subcommittee. Lovato said the school district’s administrators are expected to be a part of the meetings as well.

“Everybody has a piece to play in special education,” he said.

Members of the School Committee discussed concerns about the special education audit findings and the number of canceled meetings.

Director of Student Services Dr. Ginger Coleman said the school district is entering into its tier-focused monitoring with the state. She said these reports are coming at a great time to clear up any misinformation that is out there.

Coleman said tier-focused monitoring occurs every few years and looks at prior indicators, special education indicators, Civil Rights indicators and more. She said it is basically a more in-depth audit of the school district’s special education department.

Coleman said she is also working on organizing and digitizing paper copies of special education files.

Review of existing policies

School Committee Chair Brian Winslow presented some proposed changes to existing school policies for the School Committee members to review.

One of the policies he would like to amend relates to Budget Transfer Authority, which states that “transfers between line item with a major account must be reported to the School Committee as part of the Director of Business and Finance’s quarterly report at the business meetings of the School Committee.” Winslow said he would like to change

“quarterly” to “monthly.”

Winslow said he would also to change “members of its professional staff” to “all employees” in terms of being familiar with the code of ethics. Another change in language he proposed was “no employee of the committee will engage in or have a financial interest” to “no employee including the School Committee will engage in or have a financial interest.”

He also proposed a change to procurement requirements, adding the sentence “all contracts for vendor services above \$10,000 should be reported to the School Committee.” He also wants all invoices from vendors to have the date of service for the work performed, the school that was worked in and a brief description of what the work was.

“To break down actually what was done so it can be verified by the school and/or the district,” Winslow said.

His last proposed change was related to social media policy. He said language should include all employees, not just teachers.

The committee members will review the changes with legal counsel, and vote on them at the next meeting.

Title IX discussion

School Committee member Aaron Sawabi brought up the need to hire a separate attorney to review changes to the school district’s Title IX policy. Committee members discussed whether changes needed to be made to the policy or not.

“We need some legal backing, and we also need empathy, and we need to know what our constituents are...because that will dictate the policies and the direction that we go,” he said.

Winslow questioned why the committee needed to hire a separate attorney, and why its legal counsel wasn’t included in the review of this

policy. He will reach out to legal counsel and insist that the attorney attend a future meeting to continue this discussion.

High School Principal contract

Winslow said the committee needs to re-vote the High School Principal’s approved contract due to legal counsel’s recommendation to split it rather than have the contract remain at a four-year length.

He said the contract was split into two with one covering the remainder of this year and a second to cover three years.

Lovato said it is still a legally binding contract, whether it is split into two or not.

The committee voted in favor of the split contracts, with Whitham opposed and member Julie Slattery abstaining.

Superintendent’s report

Lovato presented training compiled for the school district’s substitutes. He said the training was created to address the needs outlined by a survey given to the current regular substitutes.

He proposed that substitutes would take the six-hour training prior to being added to the call list.

“We would make sure that no matter who it is, they’re coming in as prepared as possible,” Lovato said.

Lovato said he hopes the training will help the school district prepare and retain substitutes. He said this approach is very common in other school districts.

School Committee goals

Winslow said it has been many years since the School Committee set goals and that Sawabi presented a list of potential goals.

The committee tabled discussion of adopting the goals pending review by legal counsel.

H	E	C	H	T		H	R	S		D	B	M	S		
A	P	E	A	K		D	A	Y	E		E	L	E	A	
R	E	I	D		S	A	K	A	I		S	A	T	I	
D	E	L	E	G	A	T	E	S		C	U	B	A	N	
			S	A	L	E	S		P	O	L		L	T	
K	P	H		D	A	L		I	R	A	T	E			
W	O	A	D		M	I	N	N	E	S	O	T	A		
H	O	L	E	S		N	O	D		T	R	Y	S	T	
		R	E	C	O	V	E	R	E	D		Y	M	C	A
		S	A	R	O	S		C	A	R		A	I	M	
S	B		M	A	W		S	O	R	E	S				
H	A	M	E	S		B	A	R	E	F	A	C	E	D	
A	B	E	T		C	E	B	U	S		B	O	R	A	
N	E	N	E		N	E	E	M		V	I	D	I	N	
S	L	U	R		S	S	R		S	N	A	C	K		

EARLY DEADLINES

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

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON**

Thursday, May 22

Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

Maureen Rizza Brown, 77

LABELLE, FL – It is with great sorrow that family and friends of Maureen Rizza Brown announce her unexpected passing on Jan. 22, 2025, in LaBelle, Florida where she had lived for more than two years.



Daughter of Paul J. and Kathryn F. Rizza, Maureen grew up in Hartford, Connecticut where she attended St. Augustine Grammar School and South Catholic High School. She received a Bachelor's degree from St. Elizabeth University in Morristown, New Jersey and a Master's degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Professionally, she developed a specialty in childhood Autism.

Maureen had a passion for the Catholic faith of her youth and for having gone through a profound spiritual re-awakening while living in Carlisle where she made lifelong friends. After moving to the Ware area in the early 1990s, she helped organize religious retreats and a prayer group.

She also served as Director of Religious Education (DRE) at various Catholic Parishes throughout Massachusetts. In Ware, she formed "Jubilee Ministries" where she helped those people in need of a place of safety when they came to her for help.

After moving to Florida, she became Co-Director of Pro-Life of Southwest Florida. In addition, she participated in her Parish's RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program and, with her husband, delivered food to the needy. Maureen was especially devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary and always had her Rosary Beads at hand.

She never knew a stranger. With a warm and friendly personality, she drew many people to herself and maintained good friendships from college, throughout work locales in Massachusetts, LaBelle and wherever she stopped over for a few hours.

Maureen was preceded in death by her parents.

She leaves behind her husband, Andrew, of LaBelle, Florida; sister, Teresa R. Curry of West Hartford, Connecticut; brother, John N. (Jennifer) Rizza of Marlborough, Connecticut; son, Ford J. Ivey of North Adams; daughter, Kathryn I. (Tristan) Burns of Palmyra, Virginia; son, Brian J. (Caitlin) Ivey of Gainesville, Virginia; grandsons, Lucas Ivey and Aiden Ivey; nephews Sean P. (Reed) Curry, Brendan F. Rizza and Jack B. Rizza; niece Avery J. Rizza; Grandniece, Elizabeth R. Curry, members of the extended Brown family and numerous friends and prayer partners.

A Mass of remembrance for Maureen will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., Ware, MA at 11 a.m. Reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Knights of Columbus, Council #18242, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish, 355 South Bridge St., P.O. Box 357, LaBelle, FL 33935, reference: "Maureen."

Ruth M. Mattson, 89

WEST BROOKFIELD – Ruth M. (Secker) Mattson, 89, a former long-time resident of Gilbertville, died on Tuesday evening, April 29, 2025, in Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care where she was a resident.



Insurance Company prior to retirement.

Ruth was a long-time member of St. Aloysius Church in Gilbertville. A graveside service for Ruth will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 11 a.m. in St. Aloysius Cemetery, Church St., in Gilbertville. A memorial mass will be held at a later date.

Ezra would like to thank the nurses and staff at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care for the kind and caring compassion they provided for Ruth.

Mary L. Meshlovitz, 86

WARE – Mary Louise "Mary Lou" Meshlovitz, age 86, was called safely home on April 29, 2025, at Baystate Hospital in Springfield, after a brief illness.



Mary Lou was born in Ware on April 19, 1939. She is the daughter of the late Walter and Genevieve (Szczepanek) Sinkoski.

She worked in Palmer and Ware School systems as an English and Title 1 teacher for many years. She also worked at Ware Co-Operative Bank until she retired. Mary Lou had an extraordinary gift for leaving an impact on everyone she encountered. Mary Lou was known for her unwavering love and support for her family, who were the center of her world.

She leaves her husband Jacob "Butch", whom she was married to for 63 years. She also leaves her children, Lynn Bracey and her husband Joseph of North Carolina, Keith Meshlovitz and his

wife Lisa of South Carolina and Lisa Saletnik and her husband David of Ware. She was a devoted "Gram" to her grandchildren, whom her legacy will continue, Kurt Meshlovitz, Nicole Meshlovitz, Lance Bracey, Megan Johnson, Ethan Johnson, Jacob Bracey, Morgan and Genna Saletnik. She instilled in them the values of kindness, resilience, and the importance of family bonds. She also leaves her sister Nancy Hubert and her husband Donald of New York and their children Michael and Jennifer.

Her nurturing spirit extended beyond her immediate family, touching the lives of many who were fortunate enough to know her. She had a remarkable ability to make everyone feel special and cherished, always ready with an encouraging word or a warm embrace.

Mary Lou loved spending time with her family, whether it was a large family vacation, traveling to see her children or just enjoying celebrations

Death notices

Brown, Maureen Rizza
Died Jan. 22, 2025
Services May 24, 2025

Kapinos, Jennie S.
Died May 9, 2025
Services May 15, 2025

Mattson, Ruth M. (Secker)
Died April 29, 2025
Services May 14, 2025

Meshlovitz, Mary L.
Died April 29, 2025
Services May 31, 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.

Jennie S. Kapinos, 104

WARE – Jennie S. (Sekula) Kapinos, age 104, Ware's oldest resident, passed away peacefully with her family by her side, on Friday afternoon, May 9, 2025, at her residence.



Jennie was born in 1921 in West Warren, a daughter of the late Jozef Sekula and Marya (Matuszczak) Sekula.

She grew up on a dairy farm in West Warren. Jennie labored with her family on the farm after school and after work for many years.

She married Joseph Zwirecki and remained in West Warren raising their daughter, Janet. Jennie remained in West Warren after Joe's death in 1950.

In 1954 she married Theodore Kapinos of Ware and moved with him and Janet to Ware and remained here for the rest of her long life. Jennie raised her daughters, Janet and Carol with Ted, until his passing in 1984.

She moved to Cedarbrook Village in Ware in 2020 and remained there until her passing.

Jennie loved being outdoors her whole life. She spent countless hours in her vegetable and flower gardens, often giving away most of what she grew. She enjoyed going to Cape Cod on vacation, riding around the Quabbin Reservoir, and

quilting with her church ladies.

Jennie especially enjoyed going to lunch and shopping with her daughter Carol. She loved her evening rides, scouting for deer and turkeys with her grandson, Rob. Family was the most important thing to Jennie, always taking care of all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jennie worked many jobs throughout her long life, the longest being a cafeteria worker in the Ware Public Schools. She retired in 1993 but went back for several years to assist with serving breakfast to the students. Jennie finally retired at the age of 92, to take care of her older sister, Sophie, when she became ill.

Jennie's faith was always important to her. She was a devoted communicant of St. Mary's Church in Ware. Jennie volunteered countless hours at St. Mary's Carnival. She was a member of the Ware Historical Society and the Women's Quilting Club.

Jennie leaves behind her loving family, her daughters; Janet Nicoson and her husband David, and Carol Stefaniak and her husband Victor, her grandchildren: Robert Nicoson, David Nicoson, Travis Nicoson, Timothy Nicoson,

Christopher Stefaniak and Sarah Widgren. Jennie also leaves behind her great-grandchildren: Hunter, Ryan, Zofie and Seren. Sadly, Jennie was predeceased by her first husband, Joseph "Joe" Zwirecki in 1950, her second husband Theodore "Ted" Kapinos in 1984 and her five siblings.

Her family would like to thank the dedicated staff at Cedarbrook Village for the wonderful care that they gave to Jennie over the past five years. They would also like to thank the compassionate caregivers from Overlook Hospice and her caregivers, Laura, Jen and Laurie, that were with her during her final days.

A Visitation Period will take place on Thursday, May 15, 2025, from 9-10:30 a.m. in Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. A Funeral Mass will be offered at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., Ware. Jennie will be laid to rest following the funeral mass in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ware.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the All Saints/St. Mary's Parish Food Pantry, 60 South St., Ware, MA 01082. Cebula Funeral Home of Ware is directing the funeral arrangements. For more information and an online guestbook, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14				15			
16				17					18			
19				20				21				
			22				23			24		
25	26	27		28			29			30		
31			32		33		34				35	
36				37		38			39		40	
	41				42			43		44		
			45				46		47		48	
49	50		51			52			53			
54		55			56					57	58	59
60					61					62		
63					64				65			
66					67				68			

CLUES ACROSS

- Two-person German submarine
- 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
- Database management system
- Vertical position
- American jazz singer Irene
- Ancient Greek City
- Former Senate Majority Leader Harry
- Japanese seaport
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Assigns tasks
- Beloved type of cigar
- Discounts
- Cambodian communist leader Pot
- Important football position
- Kilometers per hour
- Lentil
- Extremely angry
- Yellow-flowered

CLUES DOWN

- Not soft
- Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- Line a roof
- Greek god of the underworld
- Software
- Large-headed elongated fishes
- Shag rugs
- Type of whale
- Lacking a plan
- Spill the beans
- Some is "heavy"
- One who has been canonized
- Indicate times
- Greeting
- Broadway actor Josh
- Seashore
- Indicates before

- European plant
- American state
- Some are made by rabbits
- Express with a head movement
- Affair
- Cured
- Youth organization
- 18-year astronomical period
- Automobile
- Focus a shot
- The NFL's big game (abbr.)
- Mouth
- Infections
- Curved pieces of a horse collar
- Shameless
- Assist in escaping
- Capuchin monkey genus
- Cold wind
- Retired Brazilian NBAer
- Tropical Old World tree
- Bulgarian city

- Speak indistinctly
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Between-meal sustenance
- Electrical power unit
- Destitute
- Drags forcibly
- Impropriety
- Word forms
- Equal to 10 meters
- Neither
- Computer language
- Practice of aging film or TV characters (abbr.)
- A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- A promise
- Challenges
- Official
- People living in Myanmar
- Notable tower
- Type of sword
- Vaccine developer
55. Listing
- Summertime insects
- Concluding passage
- Guitarist Clapton
- Damp and musty
- Central nervous system
- Against

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of

DEBORAH PERRON OLEARCEK

May 7, 1962 - May 15, 2015

Never far from our hearts.

WE LOVE AND MISS YOU.

Mom & Family ♥♥♥

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

JUNK REMOVAL

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

SERVICES

WALKER HOME IMPROVEMENT
INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR
Finish carpentry, framing, window & door replacement, drywall, painting and decks. Competitive pricing. Insured.
Call Brendan at **413-687-5552**.

SERVICES

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service. Call **(508)867-2550**.

SERVICES

STUMP GRINDING

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

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

TAG SALE

LARGE INDOOR TAG SALE. Apple Storage, 1207 So. Main St., Palmer. **Saturday, May 17 & Sunday, May 18; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.** Vintage furniture, antiques, decorations, home goods! All proceeds donated.

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

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

LANDSCAPING

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

PLUMBING

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

SAW STUMP GRINDING
413-213-5470

SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate,
Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM
413-213-5470

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

MOVING SALE: May 25 & 26, 9am-3pm. Everything must go. Dishes, furniture, small appliances. **134 Rutland Road, Oakham.**

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

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob **(413)537-5789, (413)538-7954**.

PRESSURE WASHING

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

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**
Call **1-413-283-8393**

WANTED

ELECTRICIAN

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING
Weekly Mowing
Landscape design and installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit **mattguertinlandscaping.com**
Call or text **413-266-9975**
Insured - Commercial - Residential

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

4 ROOMS, 2 BEDROOMS, 1.5/baths, appliances included. \$1500/mo. No utilities. 1st/last/security. References and proof of income required. Call **413-589-0401**.

OLD CARPENTER TOOLS wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware, advertising, motorcycles, clothing. Call Ken **(413)433-2195**.

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?
Look no further!
PJ's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate!
(413) 366-1703
LICENSED & INSURED

T & S LANDSCAPING Highest quality, lowest price. Serving the Pioneer Valley. Weekly, bi-weekly mowing, Spring, Fall and Gutter clean-ups. **(413)330-3917**

TREE WORK

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

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, banware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

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

LAWN & GARDEN

A.A.A. ROTOTILLING Yes time to till gardens and flower beds too. Be safe grow your own. Call for appointment, fair and reasonable rates. Suburban residential only. **413-626-1927**.

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

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

COZY QUIET 1 BEDROOM \$990/MONTH. 2ND FLOOR UNIT, EFFICIENCY KITCHEN. NEAR MASS PIKE. PARKING, LAUNDRY ON SITE. NO SMOKING, NO PETS. GOOD CREDIT. **413-543-3062**

JUNK REMOVAL

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

EXCAVATING

ELIOT STARBARD EXCAVATION
35+ yrs of happy customers.
508-882-0140

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

TUNE-UPS

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

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

Find archives of this local newspaper at **www.newspapers.turley.com**

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

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

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

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

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

TARGETED MARKETING LOCAL RESULTS

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.newspapers.turley.com

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS
BARRE GAZETTE
COUNTRY JOURNAL
CHICOPEE REGISTER
THE JOURNAL REGISTER
THE LUDLOW REGISTER
QUABOAG CURRENT
THE SENTINEL
THE SUN
WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
TOWN REMINDER
WARE RIVER NEWS

turleynews
TurleyPublications

public notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 89 Church Street, Ware, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Isis Anadon, unmarried to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Network, Inc. its successors and assigns and now held by AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC, said mortgage dated May 18, 2021, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14105, Page 323, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated May 31, 2022, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14568, Page 294, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **June 12, 2025 at 10:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract or parcel of land situate on the Easterly side of Church Street, in said Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin on the Easterly side of Church Street, said iron pin marking the Southwesterly corner of land of William O. Barrett;

thence Southwesterly along the Easterly side of Church Street 78.3 feet to an iron pin at the corner of land of Cora M. Gilmore;

thence South 52° 11' East 220 feet along line of land of Cora M. Gilmore to an iron pin in line of land of Grenville Park;

thence North 43° 4' East 79 feet along line of Grenville Park at an iron pin at corner of land of William O. Barrett;

thence North 52° 22' West 220 feet along line of said Barrett to the place of beginning, more or less.

Subject to and together with the rights and easements in the common driveway which runs between locus and the premises now or formerly of John F. Slattery and Mary E. Slattery

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated May 17, 2021, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14105, Page 319.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles,

municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road,
Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for
AmeriHome
Mortgage Company, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 23-03451
05/15, 05/22, 05/29/2025

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS TOWN OF WARREN CONSULTING SERVICES CUTTER PARK DESIGN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Town of Warren invites responses for consulting services to develop concepts for site improvements, design and prepare plans and specifications for proposed improvements to Cutter Park. Funding for this project is provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the FY 2024 Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Community Development Block Grant Program.

A more detailed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is available at the Central Massachusetts Planning Commission, 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520, Worcester, MA 01608, (508) 459-3331, from 9 AM to 5 PM. The RFQ will be available from the time of this notice until the due date specified below in digital format by request from John O'Leary, joleary@cmrpc.org. The Town of Warren, awarding and contracting authority, reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if it is deemed in the best interests of the Town to do so.

Completed proposals are to be submitted in accordance with the RFQ's submission procedures no later than 3:00 PM, Friday, June 6, 2025, at the Central Massachusetts Planning Commission, 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520, Worcester, MA 01608.
05/15/2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Mandolyn M. Piscioneri to Monson Savings Bank, said mortgage being dated May 18, 2022, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14560, Page 30, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, June 10, 2025**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely 4 School Street, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Beginning at the Southeasterly corner of land formerly of Phillis H. Provençal on the Northerly side of School Street in said Ware;

Thence Northerly on land formerly of said Provençal about seventy-five (75) feet to a corner land to land formerly of said Provençal;

Thence Easterly on line of land formerly of said Provençal and on land formerly of Joseph Dumas, Jr., in line parallel with the brick foundation wall of a barn now or formerly standing, partly on land formerly of said Provençal and partly on land formerly of said Dumas and two (2) feet southerly from said wall, fifty (50) feet;

Thence Southerly on other land formerly of said Dumas about seventy-five (75) feet to a point in the Northerly line of said School Street;

Thence westerly on said School Street, fifty (50) feet to the place of beginning containing more or less.

Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagor herein by deed dated June 6, 2016 and recorded at the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 12343, Page 70.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

No representations, express or implied, are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold "as is".

The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing costs and all recording fees.

TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder in the sale shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer's check or certified check in the amount of **TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00)** at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The successful bidder will also be required to deposit an additional sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid less the \$10,000.00 deposit (but no less than \$10,000) with the Mortgagee's auctioneer, Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc., 31 Capital Drive, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089 or the Mortgagee's attorney as may be directed within five (5) days of the date of the sale to be held by the Mortgagee, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer's check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder at the sale shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee's Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel or any portion thereof separately, or in any order that Mortgagee may choose and/or postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

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

Monson Savings Bank, Present Holder of said Mortgage By:

David A. Lavenburg,
Its Attorney
BACON WILSON, P.C.
33 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
413-781-0560
05/15, 05/22, 05/29/2025

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. Regin Dated 4/24/2025
05/01, 05/08, 05/15/2025

TOWN OF WARREN, MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the "Town of Warren, Warren WPCF - Scum Pump Replacement" will be received

by the Board of Sewer Commissioners at the office of the Town Administrator at the Warren Town Hall, 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083 until **11:00 a.m. local time on June 4, 2025** at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. Sealed Bids must have outer envelope marked as "**Town of Warren, Warren WPCF - Scum Pump Replacement**".

The work consists of removal of the existing two scum pumps and replacement with two new progressive cavity scum pumps with new electric drives and associated piping. **Bids shall be on a lump sum basis as indicated in the Bid Form.**

All Bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30, Section 39M as amended.

Bidding Documents may be obtained electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php

Prospective bidders must complete a one-time registration process on the web site in order to receive log-in credentials. Bidders must log in to the web site to download bidding documents for the project. Bidders will be added to the "planholders" or prospective bidders list upon downloading the bidding documents for the project. Bidding documents may also be examined at the office of Tighe & Bond, Inc., 120 Front Street, Suite 7, Worcester, Massachusetts, 01608 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, legal holidays excluded.

A bid deposit shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Workforce Development under the provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid opening, to request, if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract.

A non-mandatory pre-Bid conference will be held at the site on May 14, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

TOWN OF WARREN, MASSACHUSETTS
Consulting Engineer:
Tighe & Bond, Inc.
120 Front Street, Suite #7
Worcester, MA 01608
508-754-2201
05/15, 05/22/2025

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS25P0286EA

Estate of:
Jeffrey William Bothwell
Date of Death: March 10, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Randall P. Bothwell of Ware, MA.**

Randall P. Bothwell of Ware, MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
05/15/2025

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

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

Town of Warren Full-Time Police Officer Vacancy

The Warren Police Department is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the vacant position of FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER. The Warren Police Department is a non-civil service department that is seeking individuals who are motivated, proactive and community oriented. All candidates must be at least 21 years of age, be a U.S. Citizen, have a minimum of a high school diploma, possess a valid driver's license, and currently have, or have the ability to obtain a Class A license to carry firearms in the state of Massachusetts. Candidates must have successfully completed a Massachusetts full-time police academy or the equivalent to be considered for the position.

All applicants who move forward in the hiring process will be subject to a background investigation as well as a medical, physical, and psychological examination. All candidates will also be required to meet all requirements set forth by the Peace Officer and Standards Commission (POST). It is preferred that applicants currently hold an unrestricted certification from POST at the time of applying.

The Town of Warren currently offers full-time employees of the Police Department with an education-based incentive. Officers with the Warren Police Department will be required to work a schedule consisting of four (4) consecutive days on followed by two (2) days off and will be assigned to a shift based on departmental needs. All Officers will also be eligible for vacation time, personal time and holiday pay as outlined in the union contract.

All interested applicants are asked to please submit a cover letter and resume to: Lieutenant Kyle P. Whitcomb, 1 Milton O. Fountain Way, P.O. Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or E-mail to Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov

The deadline for applications is **Friday, May 30, 2025**. Therefore, it is required that the Warren Police Department be in receipt of the candidates resume and cover letter no later than this date to be considered. The Town of Warren is an equal opportunity employer (EOE).

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

'Trees are Treasures' celebration will be held May 18

STURBRIDGE – this year's events with Grassroots Central Mass will continue its tradition of celebrating nature with its fourth "Trees Are Treasures" tree giveaway and nature events on Sunday, May 18 at Wells State Park in Sturbridge from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

GCM, a local affiliate of Indivisible Mass Coalition is again co-sponsoring

this year's events with Brookfields Fight Fear. Both GCM and BFF are local groups dedicated to serving the communities we live in through finding and supporting solutions to issues in our communities, our state, and our nation.

This event includes a short, level walk along the Mill Pond Trail at Wells

State Park, where costumed interpreters are stationed to discuss the importance of wetlands, stone wall history and forest ecosystems, at both child and adult levels. This is a family friendly stroll.

This free event will also include children's crafts under the pavilion, storytelling, and a free tree seed-

ling giveaway. Join GCM to celebrate and appreciate the beauty of our native forest.

For more information about this event, please contact Nancy Tame, by emailing info@grassrootscentral-mass.org or calling 508-335-8742. For more information about GCM, please visit <https://grassrootscentral-mass.org/>

Scarboro art garden hosting open house on June 1

BELCHERTOWN – The Scarboro Art Garden will be hosting an open house on Sunday, June 1, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., featuring local author and historian Michael Carolan, Loren Walker, and Marisa Egerstrom.

The event is inspired by a local 19th-century botanical

attraction, Pansy Park. There will be a history talk and slideshow presentation about Pansy Park with Carolan at 6:15 p.m., and live music by Nectar.

The public is invited to tour the grounds and installations, meet the artists, and enjoy light refreshments and snacks.

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

MEMORIAL DAY SALE!!!
BEAT THE TARIFF!!!
GIANT BIKE SALE!!!
WE REPAIR ALL BIKES!!!
WE SELL E BIKES!!!
SEE FLYER INSIDE!!!!

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

POST ROAD REALTY
 BUYING OR SELLING... WE HAVE THE PERFECT FIT FOR YOU!
www.PostRoadRealty.com
NEW LISTING - \$549,900
67 EAST MAIN ST., WEST BROOKFIELD
OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, MAY 18TH, 11-12:30

Step back in time with this enchanting Historic home, nestled just across from the picturesque West Brookfield Common. Delight in the summer concerts and festivities from your inviting screened porch, the perfect spot to soak in the ambiance. This 9-room treasure boasts 3 cozy bedrooms, 2 full baths, and sits elegantly on .52 acres of scenic beauty. The attached barn beckons with a charming office space upstairs and endless possibilities in the barn area. Gather in the parlor, formal dining room, cozy up in the keeping room with a Rumford cooking fireplace with a bread oven, or just enjoy some time in the den. A laundry area is located on the 1st floor for your convenience. Title V has passed with the Official Inspection Form in hand, this gem is ready to welcome you home.

Cassie Paolucci
774-200-3523

Ready to make your move?
 Spring into action and give me a call or check out my website www.lisacaron.com
OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE!

Lisa Caron Real Estate
 Broker, Owner GRI, ABR, SRS, RENE, C2EX, SRES, MRP, PSA, LMC, CDPE, E-PRO
 42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506
 Call: 508-841-8299
 Search Homes Instantly: <http://www.lisacaron.com>

Now is a Great Time To Sell!
 Buyers are Serious and Come per-qualified for Financing. A property that is priced Right may bring multiple offers. Call me TODAY and Let's Get your Home on the Market!

CENTURY 21
 Century 21 North East
 160 Main St., Spencer
dorrinda@C21Lovett.com
1-978-434-1990

Brookhaven Assisted Care
 19 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585

MANAGEMENT TEAM:
 Erin, Laura and Nancy
 Over 56 years of service.
 24 hour care, Medical Management, Assistance with activities of daily living, Activity Program, well trained, compassionate and caring staff.

Services Available In-House:
 Physician's / Nurse Practitioner services, Pharmacy services, Podiatry services

VNA services:
 Physical, Speech, Occupational Therapy, Hospice, Mobile X-Ray, Geriatric-Psych services
 Transportation available, Hairdresser / Barber
 Manager: Erin Glazier
 508-867-3325 ~ erin.brookhaven@gmail.com

FOUNTAIN
And Sons
Construction Company INCORPORATED

- Excavation Complete Site Work • Demo • New Home Construction
- Screened Loam, Sand, Stone, Gravel, Septic Sand
- Trucking • Backhoe, Dozer, Excavator Work
- Water & Sewer Line Repairs & Replacements

YOUR BUSINESS IS IMPORTANT TO US!
 177 Brimfield Road, Warren, MA 01083
413-436-5705 • www.fountainandsons.com

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!
LANDSCAPE STONE
 White • Blue • Purple • Red
 Lt Gray • Dark Gray • Greige • Rip Rap

SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING
 Construction Stone • Title V & Presby Septic Sand
 Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand
 Pool Liner Sand • Stone Dust • Silt • Crushed Gravel
 Crushed Asphalt • Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch

ASPHALT PLANT OPENING LATE APRIL
Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums
PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

Bond
 98 North Spencer Rd., Spencer
bondsandgravel.com
508-885-6100
508-885-2480

JOHN SHEA'S
Appliance Repair

11 Hayden Ave., Brookfield, MA 01506
508 867 7124

Adventure tours of Warren
 Share the Adventure with us!

Upcoming Getaways!

June 28.....**Boston Harbor Lunch Cruise**..... \$175
 July 12.....**Escape to Rockport**.....\$110
 July 26.....**Perkins Cove for a Day**.....\$110
 Oct. 4.....**Stockbridge - Rockwell Museum** . \$120
 Oct. 18.....**Turkey Train**.....\$175

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

JARS Café & Bakery
 23 Summer Street North Brookfield MA 01535
 508-637-1577
 Tues.-Sat. 8am-2pm
 Sun. 9am-2pm

- COFFEE
- GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS
- BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
- SOUPS
- COOKIES
- MUFFINS
- PASTRIES

Bring in entire ad for one FREE Beverage with purchase of a baked good. Tues.-Thurs. 8am-10am

BUYLINE CONNECTION
3 Ads for 1 Low Price!!!
 Ware River News, Barre Gazette & Quaboag Current
 Over 16,000 copies • Prints every Thursday

Special Ad Size Pricing
 3" x 1" ... **only \$33**
 3" x 1.5" **only \$48**
 3" x 2" ... **only \$66**
 3" x 2.5" **only \$82**
 3" x 3" ... **only \$99**

FULL COLOR INCLUDED!

Contact Dan Flynn
 413-297-5886
dfflynn@turley.com

Cohasse Golf Course
 Semi Private - Join Today!
 Visit Cohasse.com for Times Memberships Available for 2025 Season
 Restaurant and bar not open yet

COHASSE COUNTRY CLUB
 393 Eastford Road
 Southbridge, MA 01550
 Phone: (508) 764-6801

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Cohasse 1918