

WARE RIVER NEWS



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School budget fails to pass

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Voters made decisions on 34 articles at the annual town meeting last Tuesday night, including the town’s assessment for the Quaboag Regional School District budget.

Article 10, which was presented by the Board of Selectmen, asked voters to approve an above minimum contribution of \$110,000, which would bring the town’s assessment to \$4,045,809.

The School Committee had requested \$1.2 million above minimum in order to continue funding the programs and services the

school district offers.

At the May 9 meeting, interim Superintendent Maureen Binienda questioned why the school district’s budget wasn’t included in the omnibus budget as it typically is.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said an email was sent to both Binienda and Principal Stephen Duff.

School Committee member and Budget Subcommittee Chair Jason Morgan asked the Finance Committee if they supported the article, and member John Nason said the Committee couldn’t vote on whether or not to support the article, because they didn’t have it in time to discuss.



WE CANNOT AFFORD A \$1.2 MILLION INCREASE.”

DAVID DUFRESNE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
CHAIR

Binienda described the school district as a “jewel,” and cautioned against approving the budget proposed in Article 10.

“You don’t want to lose what you’ve got here,” she said.

Binienda said 20-25 teaching positions would have to be cut with this proposed budget.

She said there are six factors that have increased the school district’s budget, including salaries, Medicaid, transportation, special education transportation and tuition and electricity. These drivers have increased the school district’s budget by \$1.9 million.

“We’re going to be in trouble here,” she said, if Article 10 were to pass.

Binienda said the school district doesn’t have any administration to cut with a shared principal for both middle and high school,

Please see **BUDGET**, page 6



(Turley Publications Photos by Dallas Gagnon) Grandfather Wally Plouffe and grandson Nicholas Barkoskie are shown taking a break from helping at the Remax vendor table and enjoying a moment with the Springfield Thunderbird mascot.

‘A Stranger in Town’

Local screenwriter lands first screenplay production

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
Dgagnon@turley.com

WARREN – Local screenwriter Ryan Drago landed his first produced screenplay “A Stranger In Town”, a small-town thriller set in New England.

The first day of filming took place in Monson, featuring local business Antiques and Uniques.

The film also features scenes at Snow’s Garage in West Warren and other local settings.

“A Stranger In Town” is based on an unidentified man who “makes his way into a small New England town where he is in conflict with a local gang.”

Drago said the idea manifested from “some fears of moving to a small town” he experienced after relocating from the Boston area in 2007.

He said creating a movie “starts from an instance and extends from that.”

“It begins with what you know in your everyday life - positive experiences, negative experienc-



(Turley Publications Photo by Dallas Gagnon) Shown is cast and crew for the upcoming screenplay “A Stranger in Town”. Back row from left to right, is Joseph Pierrro, Joe McGee, Ryan Drago, Hunter Compton, Mauricio Viteri; front row from left is Brandon Whitney and Autumn Dickson.

es, new experiences... Hang on to what people want to see,” said Drago.

He added when people think of New England, they may not necessarily think of “the small towns...

you think of Boston,” though there

Please see **STRANGER**, page 5

St. Aloysius hosts second annual 5K fundraiser

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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WARE – Friends and family gathered at Grenville Park this weekend to support St. Aloysius Catholic School’s second annual 5K run in an effort to raise money for a school playground.

Saturday’s event raised \$4,466.66 towards the cause, with 104 runners registered and about 80 volunteers helping make the fundraiser possible.

A majority of the money raised came from sponsors, registration fees and raffle tickets.

Baskets were donated from a variety of local businesses including Workshop13 of Ware donating an activity and art basket and North Brookfield Savings Bank donating a scratch ticket basket.

Administrative Assistant Kayla Casiello said runners completed three laps throughout the park, though it was “a little bit more” than the 3.1-miles required in a 5K.

While St. Aloysius Catholic

School has been open for seven years, students do not have a playground to play on.

Casiello said the school has been trying to raise money for years, but because they are in the private sector, they do not qualify for many grants or state aid.

Casiello said, “People don’t realize how much more expensive school playgrounds are compared to backyard playgrounds.” Schools are also required to meet several safety and American Disabilities Act requirements, increasing the costs.

She added the school is also located on a watershed and needs an underlay as well as fencing.

“It puts up a lot of walls,” said Casiello.

She added the school needs about \$80,000 for the playground.

If people would like to donate to the cause, they can go on the St. Aloysius Catholic School website, stalouisuscs.com.

Parent Lisa Barkoskie said the

Please see **5K FUNDRAISER**, page 5



West Brookfield’s oldest resident receives Boston Post Cane

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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WEST BROOKFIELD/WARE – West Brookfield’s oldest resident, Camille Koss, 99, was honored in a presentation of the Boston Cane last Wednesday at Cedarbrook Village in Ware.

The presentation of the Boston Post Cane is a century-long tradition which honors a town’s oldest resident and has roots in Boston, dating back to the early 1900’s.

While the tradition originally honored recipients with the presentation of a cane made of ebony fixed with a 14 carat gold head, today, West Brookfield’s original cane is kept in the display case in the Town Hall.

Please see **KOSS**, page 15

Reparations long overdue for Quabbin

Legislators pitch five bills to the state

By Christal Whelan
cwhelan@turley.com

The Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources convened at the Massachusetts State House last month to consider the testimonies in regard to 34 bills related to waterways, wetlands, water resources and oceans in Massachusetts.

Justice for the towns around the Quabbin Reservoir was high on the agenda with five bills, more than four legislators, and several citizens all testifying in support of some kind of compensation to the communities in western Massachusetts who have lost rather than gained by sharing one of their greatest natural

resources – water – with the commonwealth. Collectively, the tone of the legislators was one of moral outrage for the annexation of land, the human cost of flooding a vast and populated plain to build the Quabbin Reservoir, and the continued one-way gain for eastern Massachusetts.

In a swift three-minute pitch, the time allotted to all the speakers, state Rep. Aaron Saunders addressed the uncomfortable issue of regional equity, and recommended a closer examination of how the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority has been operating for decades since the towns of Enfield, Prescott, Greenwich and Dana were first disincorporated and then completely submerged to make this enormous, life-sustaining Quabbin Reservoir.

The bills aim to offer some kind of consideration to the communities that continue to steward the

Quabbin watershed. At present, a section of the bill prohibits any consideration of the water.

Said Saunders, “The communities that steward this land, that owned this incredibly valuable resource receive absolutely nothing for the water that has fundamentally built Boston and the surrounding area.”

Although the resounding word of the meeting was equity, the actual proposal was quite modest. The bill would see that the municipal government be charged 5 cents in excise per 1,000 gallons of the water.

“This would create an estimated \$3.5 million for the communities, living in the Quabbin watershed area,” said Saunders, who described how desperately in need they are of support. He elaborat-

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POLICY**

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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 \$100, 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.

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Main Street banners honor 'Hometown Heroes' for Memorial Day

Staff Report

WARE – With Memorial Day approaching, the Downtown Improvement Committee will again offer a new way to honor those who have served in the military, by having veterans photos and names on a Hometown Heroes banner.

These banners will be hung from the lampposts that line Main Street, which were installed near the completion of the Downtown Improvement project earlier this year. The lampposts have arms included on their frames, which can be utilized for promotional banners.

The Downtown Improvement Committee has set up an annual plan for seasonally themed banners.

"The banner program was originally funded through a Massachusetts Office of Tourism procured by the Planning Department to highlight Ware businesses and compliment the improved downtown infrastructure, particularly the sidewalks and decorative streetlights," Town Manager Stuart Beckley said.

"The overall purpose is to attract visitors and residents. The banners add color, attention and important messages to the downtown in support of businesses and history," he said.

The Town of Ware has always recognized the sacrifice veterans make, Committee member and President of the Ware Business and Civic Association Dan Flynn said. "Ware is a veterans community, and it was important to demonstrate to our community the appreciation for their dedication and service. We are honored to start the Hometown Heroes Banners for Memorial Day."

"There is a limit of 30 banner locations, so our hope is to provide 30 sponsored veterans banners," Flynn said. "These locations will sell out fast so please contact as soon as possible."

Each banner will consist of a veteran's head shot with the branch of service, formatted on a patriotic background.

"The Committee focuses, as the name implies, on improving the downtown area, which includes increas-



Chief Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force (retired) Daniel C. Witt Jr. proudly places his great uncle, John "Jack" McQuaid's banner.



(File Photos)

Banners will be placed on Main Street to honor the town's veterans.

ing parking areas, using open spaces to benefit both businesses and citizens and initiating and participating in great programs such as the Hometown Hero Banner program," said Dennis Craig, owner of Biztek Printing and Hanna Devine's Restaurant. "It is a rewarding feeling participating in this program that honors our veterans."

Beckley went on to add, "With continued improvements such as the banners, parking, lighting and shared open spaces, the Ware Downtown will attract business and customer growth."

For more information, contact Flynn at the Ware River News office on 80 Main St., call 413-297-5886 or email dflynn@turley.com. The cost of a banner is \$75, with check payable to Town of Ware.

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 1959 showed members of the Ware Brownies troops front row from left, Michelle Couture, Theresa Dubuque, Dot Albrecht, Pamela Buxton, Jayne Portier, Nancy Lapierre, Peggy Baxter and Mary St. Germaine. Back row from left, Paula Young, Suzanne Baldyga, Susan Lagrant, Eileen Laurinitis, Julie Bullock, June Chartier, Gail Szczygiel and Diane Chartier. The Brownies were graduating to intermediate Girl Scouting at a program at the Youth Center.

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

Notice of destruction of student records in Ware

WARE – According to a press release from Director of Special Education at Ware Public Schools, Jessica R. Bolduc, the Massachusetts Student Record Regulations authorize public school districts to destroy student records within seven years of a student's graduation, transfer or withdrawal from the school district.

In addition, building principals are authorized to periodically review student records and to destroy misleading, outdated, or irrelevant information contained within a student's temporary record (603 CMR 23.06).

In accordance with applicable state and federal regulations, the Ware Public Schools do hereby notify you of the intent to destroy student records relating to your

child/you within 30 to 45 days of the date of this notice. The records to be destroyed include, but are not limited to, documentation contained within your child's/your temporary student record.

A copy of your child's/your student transcript will, however, be maintained by the District for at least 60 years following your child's/your graduation, transfer, or withdrawal from the District.

Massachusetts regulations require that the District provide you with prior written notice of its intent to destroy temporary student records and that you be given an opportunity to obtain copies of all records to be destroyed.

If you would like to be provided with copies of the records to be destroyed, please contact

Jessica Bolduc at the Office of Special Education by calling 413-967-4271, or the principal of your child's school, within the next thirty 30 days.

Records of students who graduated, withdrew or transferred from Ware Public Schools prior to July 1, 2016, will be destroyed beginning June 20, 2023.

For additional information regarding your child's/your rights in regard to student records, you may contact: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 75 Pleasant St., Malden, MA 02050, 781-338-3300; or The Family Police Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20202-5920.

Parade participants wanted for Memorial Day

WARE – Plans are underway for this year's Memorial Day parade and ceremony, to be held on Monday, May 29, rain or shine.

Veterans are needed to march or ride in the parade, as well as other participants including community organizations. Cars and floats are welcome.

The parade will line-up at 12:30 p.m. at the American Legion hall, 45 Maple St., and step-off at 1 p.m. The parade will proceed to Veterans' Park on Main Street for a ceremony.

The featured speaker this year is Gold Star mother, Pat Boynton. Following the ceremony, parade

participants are invited to return to the American Legion for a luncheon of American chop suey and salad.

For more information or to participate in the parade, please contact the American Legion by calling 413-967-9762.

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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 at 413-544-1574.

ACTIVITIES

Monday, May 22
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
6-8 p.m. Whist Party (\$3 donation)

Tuesday, May 23
9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9-10 a.m. Council on Aging meeting
9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1-2 p.m. Mobile Food Pantry at Greenville Park
5:30 p.m. Scrapbook Class
6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, May 24
9 a.m. Tai-Chi
10 a.m. Scat
10-11 a.m. Lucas McDiarmid, District Director for state Sen. Anne Gobi
10:11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Regional Public Health Nurse will host a Safe Aging presentation with Rachel Senecal, Northwestern District Attorney's Office
11:30 a.m. Lunch

Thursday, May 25
9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing Beginners
10 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
2:30 p.m. Art Class
Friday, May 26
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Chair Yoga
6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES – DINE IN
All Meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

Monday, May 22
BBQ chicken, sweet potatoes, corn, dessert of the day
Tuesday, May 23
Breakfast burger with fried egg, lettuce and tomato, French fries, dessert of the day
Wednesday, May 24
Meatloaf with gravy, mashed potatoes, veggie of the day, dessert of the day
Thursday, May 25
Stuffed peppers, tossed salad, beets, dessert of the day
Friday, May 26
Tuna melt sandwich, potato chips, green and gold salad, dessert of the day.

Selectboard appoints full-time police officer

By Paula Ouimette
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pouimette@turley.com

WARE – At Tuesday night's meeting the Selectboard appointed Officer Derek Ames to the Police Department full-time, effective June 4.

Police Chief Shawn Crevier said Ames will bring the department up to 17 members, but there are still four openings. He said the town's officer-to-citizen ratio is still lower than the average.

Ames previously served on the Police Department before transferring to Sturbridge.

Crevier said, "He was a great asset before, and I'd love to have him back."

Selectboard member Keith Kruckas agreed with Crevier, and welcomed Ames back to the Department.

"It's a win for the town," Kruckas said.

The selectboard voted in favor of appointing Ames to a full-time position with the Police Department, with Selectboard member Nancy Talbot abstaining.

Other new hires

Town Manager Stuart Beckley announced other new hires in town, including Sean Flynn to the Fire Department, Daniel Perron to Cemetery, Derek Dineen to Highway and Andy Tombor to Water.

Dineen was also appointed to the Youth Committee.

Sewer abatement

The Selectboard approved an abatement for a sewer user at 40 Gould Road in the amount of \$96.08. The abatement was issued due to a water leak.

Park updates

Beckley said the installation of the security cameras at Greenville Park was completed. They will be wired and operational soon.

He credited Parks Manager John Piechota and contractors with making this happen.

New playground equipment arrived at the park last Monday morning and installation should begin June 1.

Beckley said the Parks Commission will be looking for volunteers to help spread wood fiber after the installation.

Chapter 61A land

The Selectboard waived their right of first refusal for two parcels of land that are in Chapter 61A agricultural use classification on Webster Road.

Board and committee openings

Beckley said the town's website, www.townofware.com, has been updated to show all vacancies on boards and committees.

Currently, there are vacancies on the Community Development Authority, Conservation Commission, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, Youth Committee, Agricultural Commission, Disability Awareness Committee, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, Open Space Committee, Cultural Council and Planning & Community Development Advisory Committee.

Upcoming events

On Saturday, June 24 from 5-10 p.m. the Lions Club will host their annual fireworks with music, food and activities.

Ware Remembers will be held at the Ware Center Meeting House on Sunday, May 28 at 6 p.m. and the Memorial Day parade will be held on Monday, May 29 at 1 p.m., starting at the American Legion and commencing to Veterans Park.

Beckley said The Literacy Project will hold a graduation ceremony for adult learners at Greenville Park on Saturday, May 27.

Deadline to order flags for 'Ware Remembers' is May 22

WARE – The Ware Historical Society will present the 13th Annual Ware Remembers Ceremony on Sunday, May 28 at 6 p.m. at the Ware Center Meeting House.

This lovely and moving ceremony, at the first town hall and the first church in Ware, will be held on Memorial Day weekend to honor loved ones, military and civilian, residents from Ware and elsewhere, living and deceased.

Forms are available at the Ware River News, All Saints Church, Ware Post Office Lobby Bulletin Board, the Young Men's Library Association, or call Polli at 413-967-6882 for more information.

Please join the event to honor a loved one with a flag, then join the Society for an in-person ceremony.

One form, one flag, one name and one \$5 donation will guarantee an American flag will be placed on the historic Meeting House green through Flag Day.

Multiple forms and donations are welcome. Anonymous donors must provide a phone number. Please make checks payable to the Ware Historical Society.

Drop off or mail donations to Ware Remembers 2023, 67 West Main St., Ware, MA 01082. All completed forms and donations must be received by Monday, May 22.

School Committee hears 100-day plan; technology updates

By Paula Ouimette
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pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Incoming Superintendent Michael Lovato presented his 100-day plan to the School Committee at their meeting last week.

Lovato said Superintendent Dr. Marlene DiLeo has been working with him to make a schedule and meet different administrators.

Lovato said he has six operating principles he will follow, including delivering high-value results, communicating with observable precision, enacting personal and organizational accountability, improving with intentional tenacity, offering loyalty to the absent and embracing diversity of thought.

"It's really about being focused," he said.

Lovato said it's important that the school district is operational and that data from the school district's goals is measurable.

"We're not going to do anything if it can't be measured," he said.

Lovato said he is going to push the school district's principals to have no more than three goals a year, because "they know their schools, I don't."

Principals are key to what's happening in the school, Lovato said. He wants to have one-on-one meetings with principals and learn where they think they're successful and where they need support.

"I'm very happy with the three principals we have in place," Lovato said.

Lovato said accountability in the school district starts with him.

"Everything is about accountability. We will make sure everybody knows who's responsible for what, starting with myself," he said. "The most effective teams can only thrive when leaders empower every person across every level of any organization to hold themselves accountable for their specific roles."

Lovato said open communication is essential for building a strong team and working well together.

"We have to be able to talk about the things not going well... we all make mistakes," he said. "What you say behind doors about somebody, you need to be able to

say in front of them."

He said it's also important that team members feel comfortable.

Lovato said it's okay to disagree with each other, and that as a leader he needs to recognize that a good decision can come from anyone on the team, not just administrators.

"We can have professional discord...we have to listen to each other's thoughts," he said.

Lovato said the team should, "allow ourselves to disagree and allow ourselves to have a conversation."

Lovato said he has seven goals to reach in his first 100 days, and they are focused on school committee superintendent governance; organizational effectiveness; district leadership team; instructional and support staff; student achievement and schoolwide effectiveness; school safety, culture and climate; and public trust and community support.

Lovato said he would like to schedule a retreat with the School Committee, and that his top priority is being in each individual classroom.

He will be attending school district sporting events, art and music events and working to build relationships with members of the community.

Technology report

Director of Technology Michael Brown updated the School Committee about progress the school district has made with technology this year.

Brown said they were able to complete a Wi-Fi upgrade without tapping into the local budget. The upgrade was paid for using E-Rate, which is a federal program that provides technology discounts for schools, and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds.

In addition to expanded Wi-Fi coverage, 125 access points across campus were replaced.

There is now increased Wi-Fi in the Junior Senior High School and the Middle School gym. Public guest Wi-Fi was also added to the High School gym.

Brown said he has been working with Directory of Accountability Jan Yardley to set up and load data on EdInsight. He said their goal is to "go live" with teachers next year.

With EdInsight, staff will be able to access assessments and other data to help identify students in need.

Brown said equipment needed for sound system upgrades has arrived and is ready to be installed in the press box, Middle School cafeteria and Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School gym.

He said the upgrades to the press box should be completed in time for graduation.

Brown said they have reviewed the Student Information Systems and the transition is expected to take multiple years.

"[It] will be a major transition...there's going to be a lot involved and a lot of training," Brown said.

Brown said the SMK playgrounds will have four security cameras. Some of the cameras are multi-lens and there will be 13 views total throughout both playgrounds.

Other projects in the coming years include possibly replacing short-throw projectors at the Middle School with ViewBoards. Both the High School and SMK have ViewBoards already.

Brown said there is a benefit to having the same technology throughout the campus.

He said the phone systems at SMK and the Middle School will be 10 years old and the one at the High School will be 13 years old.

The phone systems may need to be switched during the security system upgrade in order to meet emergency 911 requirements and address issues with the SMK phone lines.

Brown said Chromebooks have a four-year replacement plan to make sure the devices are in good working order for students to use.

He said the school district will also need to decide if they will upgrade teacher laptops, which were purchased with ESSER funds. This expense is not built into the local budget.

The subscription to Canvas, a web-based learning management system, will be up in fiscal year 2025 and they will need to decide whether to continue using it, or switch to something else.

Brown said there are free options available, but the teachers using Canvas would have to throw

Please see **UPDATES**, page 10

Ware's town wide tag sale is June 17

WARE – Getting ready for spring? Time to clean out the garage and have a tag sale!

You can do it and help raise funds to support the restoration of the Ware Center Meeting House at the same time by calling Marty at 413-512-9258.

To get your address on the

map, write a check for \$15, payable to the Ware Center Meeting House and send it by June 14 to P.O. Box 1401 in Ware, MA 01082.

They will make a map with all the addresses on it, advertise, and tack up critical signs on

the day of the event. You will just need to set up and get ready for the customers.

The tag sale will be held on Saturday, June 17 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cub Scouts hold car wash on Saturday

WARE – Cub Scouts from Ware Family Pack 520 will hold their car wash fundraiser at NAPA Auto Parts, 175 West St., on Saturday, May 20 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.



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

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50" Hisense.....\$279.99 (Regularly \$349.99) 55" Hisense.....\$299.99 (Regularly \$359.99) 65" Hisense.....\$399.99 (Regularly \$649.99) 55" Samsung.....\$399.99 (Regularly \$449.99) 75" Samsung.....\$679.99 (Regularly \$799.99) 85" Samsung.....\$1399.99 (Regularly \$1599.99)	MAYTAG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. #FED4659W \$749.99 WAS \$899.99	AMANA GAS RANGE #AGF5530SAB • Stainless Steel \$599.99 WAS \$699.99	GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWS30SNNW \$799.99 WAS \$899.99	20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER #FED4659W \$899.99 WAS \$1,099.99

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viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Should octogenarians tell Social Security they married?

Dear Rusty: We were married two years ago at age 78 and 81. Do we need to do anything with Social Security? *Signed: Blissfully Happy*

Dear Blissfully Happy: Congratulations on your fairly recent marriage and, yes, there are some things you should do. Specifically, you should contact Social Security to inform them of your marriage, see whether any additional benefits are available and to make any changes needed to your contact information.

Here are some things to consider: If a name change has occurred for one of you, that person should contact Social Security to report the change. A copy of your marriage certificate and other ID will be required, and a new Social Security card will be issued.

If a change of address has also occurred for one or both of you, that must be reported. It's important that Social Security has the correct mailing address, email and contact phone number for every beneficiary.

If there are any other changes to the contact information on file with the Social Security Administration for either of you (e.g., your banking information), the affected person should inform Social Security of the changes needed.

Social Security will evaluate whether any benefit increase is available as a result of your marriage, which may be the case if one of you is entitled to a "spousal boost," an additional amount from the other now that you're married. A spousal boost may be available if one has a monthly Social Security payment which is more than twice the other's benefit.

Social Security can answer that question for you when you call.

You can call either your local Social Security office (find the number by visiting www.ssa.gov/locator) or call the national number at 1-800-772-1213 and tell them you need to inform them of your marriage and update your contact information. If you have or if you create an online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount, you can initiate changes to your contact information online, but you will need to call Social Security directly via phone to record your marriage and see if any changes to monthly benefits are available.

All of this can likely be done without requiring a visit to your local Social Security office.

It is very important that Social Security be made aware of your new marital status and to ensure that they have the correct contact information for both of you. Even if the contact information is unchanged for one of you, the other should contact Social Security as described above to update their contact information and to determine if any changes to monthly benefits are appropriate as a result of your marriage.

Doing so now will avoid future issues and will make sure you are both getting the correct monthly Social Security payments as a married couple. If one of you is entitled to a higher spousal amount, you should ask for the increase to be applied retroactively (Social Security will pay up to six months retroactively).

I suggest you call Social Security as soon as possible to inform them of your marriage and make any necessary changes to your contact information.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

Flowering problems you may encounter this spring

My mom called up last night, disappointed that there is only one bud in her entire clump of Bearded Iris.

I am always one to turn a question into a column, so why don't we get to the bottom of my mother's sparse irises and also delve into why some flowers haven't given us the wow factor this spring.

If once upon a time your irises bloomed strong and now there is barely a blossom to be seen, chances are they are overcrowded. It's time to divide them and replenish their soil.

In our climate, this should be accomplished every three or four years.

Surprisingly, and unlike most other perennials, division of irises should take place in July or August. This will give them ample time to take hold in their new location prior to the ground freezing.

If you have no blooms, feel free to get the job done now!

At first glance the act of dividing irises may appear to be difficult. An overgrown iris

patch does look like a maze of thick roots, but take heart, the rhizomes are shallow rooted and come out of the ground with relative ease.

Start digging at the outer edge of the clump, lifting as you go. Once the entire clump is removed, rhizomes can be pried apart by hand.

The healthiest "fans" of foliage are those the furthest from the center. Leave about 2 inches of rhizome attached to each fan for replanting.

If you are changing your site altogether, keep in mind that irises need at least six hours of full sun a day for optimal flowering. They despise "wet feet," so plant where drainage is good.

If your soil is lean, compost can be added to richen it up. While you're at it, add a sprinkling of lime as well; irises prefer a soil near neutral.

Dig a shallow hole wide enough to fit the rhizome. Make a ridge of soil in the hole for it to sit on so that its fibrous roots can hang down.

The top of the rhizome should be level with the soil surface and exposed, not buried. This goes for bark mulch as well; keep it clear or blooms may be sacrificed.

If your irises hardly flower but aren't overcrowded and are planted where they receive enough sun, assess your planting depth and adjust if necessary.

Many gardeners remarked that their Forsythia didn't usher in spring last month as usual. Very few blossoms but lots of green foliage.

Presently, my Japanese Rose (*Kerria japonica*), usually a showstopper, looks just about

the same and I hear so do some types of Azaleas.

Why? I am guessing that the buds were killed by the one really cold, minus 17 night. Sometimes, if we have a few inches of snow when temperatures dip, you will see blossoms on the forsythia down low, where the snow insulated the buds on those low branches.

Lots of folks are sad when a tulip patch that bloomed prolifically the year before, doesn't do so well the year after. Why is that?

Tulips are bred more for their flowers and less for longevity in the garden. Some species are more apt to return than others, namely Darwin Hybrids, Emperor, and the more diminutive wildflower tulips, Greigii and Kaufmanniana among other, less known species.

Planting at the proper depth (for tulips usually 3 times the height of the bulb) in a sunny location with good drainage will get you off to a good start, and then we leave it up to Mother Nature to ensure adequate moisture in late winter/early spring, followed by a dry summer.

Fingers crossed for repeat blooming in year two and beyond. Hoping early flower woe will give way to a summer's worth of flowers.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

LIFE TOGETHER

Breathe. Take a walk. Meditate. Pray. Be still.

We live in the "age of anxiety". Uncertainty, fear, violence, death and destruction in vivid color from the media, and a divided country.

Youth nervously bounce their leg while on their phone or in a conversation. Adults self-medicate to relieve the stress.

Sleepless nights, living paycheck to paycheck. God forbid sickness comes when there is little or no health insurance.

The temptation is to go backwards, wishing it were like the "good old days". Others want to rush ahead into the unknown future to get out of the present moment.

But all we have is now. We learn from the past and focus on hope for the future, but when the sun sets, we are here, now, in the moment.

No one taught us how to live in the moment. Most of us were reminded of the past and encouraged to hang in for the future we all hoped would change things.

But, then the reality hits us and all we have is the moment.

It is about relationships. We find our peace and hope in the relationships we share with loved ones.

We hope we all have connections and are not alone. New studies tell us the core issue of today's mental health is loneliness.

Imagine, experiencing anxiety alone. It is a desperate time for many.

May the power of community bring life-giving relationships. May those who suffer domestic violence, poverty, and fear of eviction, find support so they are able to endure.

May we overcome our anxiety and hold on to each other. As Ram Dass said years ago,



"We are all just walking each other home." The good news is, we are not alone. Whatever your faith or no faith, breathe, take a walk, be still, reach out for another, and receive the blessing of knowing you are not alone.

Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn of Trinity Episcopal

Church in Ware. With 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope. To contact Wilburn, email rkeithw42@gmail.com.

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Ovenbird

The ovenbird gets its name from the type of nest it builds, which looks like a Dutch oven.

They place the nest on the ground and it has a domed roof over the nest of grasses and rootlets. The entrance is a small slit.

The female lays three to six white eggs with brown and gray marks. They inhabit mature deciduous or mixed forests.

They eat insects, worms and spiders and they walk on the ground and fallen branches and poke under leaves looking for food.

An Oakham resident has ovenbirds in her yard. She hears them making a sharp "chip" call.

The ovenbird is six inches long and has an olive-brown back. Its breast and belly with white with heavy dark stripes. The ovenbird

crown is orange bordered by two dark brown stripes.

Barred owl



An Oakham resident saw a barred owl in her yard on April 28.

She said in an email, "I had a surprise visitor this evening, a beautiful barred owl sat on my deck railing for quite a while. He looked all around before flying up to a maple tree. He sat in the tree for several minutes before going into the woods at the edge of my yard. I finally saw what he was after. He was tracking a squirrel." The owl and squirrel went tree to tree.

Other birds

The same resident sent me an email on May 3 to say she got her first hummingbird on May 2. A friend in Barre told her that her neighbors already had hummingbirds so the Oakham resident put out feeders.

She was glad she already had her feeder up when the first hummingbird appeared. She said, "For the first time in 31 years of living here, I got my first bluebirds. I bought mealworms and set up my first tray feeder ever. I cannot get over all the birds who have gone to the tray feeder who have been ground eaters, morning doves, juncos and even a robin.

Leucistic rose breasted grosbeak

A Palmer resident sent a photo of a Leucistic rose breasted grosbeak at her feeder. The grosbeak, a male had a lot of white feathers, but it did have the rose-colored splash on its breast.

This phenomenon causes the partial loss of

all types of pigmentation and causes white coloration, white patches, spots or splotches.

Baltimore orioles

An Oakham couple had Baltimore orioles at their suet feeder this week. They were going to get some oranges to put out for the orioles as well. I put out an orange this week.

The next morning I found one half of the orange on the ground and another on a rock about ten feet from the holder where I put the orange halves. I think it was the work of a grey squirrel or squirrels as I have lots of them.

Wood stork

I received a note in the mail from a Palmer resident, who saw a wood stork.

She wrote, "Two mornings in a row, I saw a wood stork fly and land in some bushes on the cove at Lake Thompson in Palmer. Imagine my surprise - white bird with black wing tips - wood stock is from Florida." She said she opened her "Journal" to the who the bird person was and there was a picture of a heron and my address.

Other birds

The Oakham resident, who has the oven birds, saw two hooded mergansers on Long Pond a few weeks ago.

Originally, I planed to put out my hummingbird feeder the weekend of April 29 and 30, but it was so cold I decided to wait. Instead, I put the feeder out this past Saturday and I spotted hummingbirds on Sunday.

This Monday I saw a catbird. I also have not seen any dark-eyed juncos lately. I think they have all headed north to their nesting grounds.

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

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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.

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(Courtesy Photo)

Shown is a behind the scenes photo of cast and crew on set, filming inside Snow's Garage in West Warren.

STRANGER from page 1 are many small towns.

"It's a very antique, nostalgic feel... We are fortunate to live here," said Drago.

He added the film started as a college project which he wrote 30 pages of script for.

However, the assignment was only supposed to be 12 pages long and resulted in cutting a significant amount of content to meet that requirement.

About three years after graduating from Southern New Hampshire University, where he studied creative writing with an emphasis on screenwriting, Drago pitched his story idea to a producer.

Producer, actor, writer and director Joseph "Joe" McGee of Hawk Studios in Connecticut believed in Drago's vision and initiated production.

Drago thanks McGee for "investing in [his] work," and being part of the journey to make following his dream possible.

Drago said seeing his first screenplay production come to life is a "heartwarming" experience.

"I'm following my passion and not a lot of people follow their passion," said Drago.

While "A Stranger In Town"

will land Drago his first screenwriting credit, he also has experience acting in produced films.

In April 2023, Drago attended his first movie premiere for the short film "The Last Stop", with McGee as the film's writer, director, and producer.

Drago plays Officer Barnes in the short film thriller and said his experience as an actor has helped him gain more perspective as a writer - especially relating to script formatting.

"It helped me learn about what I wanted for dialogue and action scenes," said Drago.

Although Drago said acting positively impacted his experience as a writer, his "biggest passion" is screenwriting.

Drago attended Holyoke Community College after graduating from high school in 2014 with full intentions of pursuing creative writing.

While he briefly broadened his field of study to include broadcast-

ing and communications, Drago said he "always kept writing in [his] back pocket," and ultimately decided to focus on creative and screenwriting.



Scan the QR code to see Drago's blog and follow updates for "A Stranger in Town".

Drago said he has "a lot of ideas" and an important aspect of writing is remembering "to write it all down."

"My process tends to be concrete... If what I envisioned will work, I'll write it all down," said Drago.

He added moving forward in his career he is "looking forward to meeting people," as he has met so many "kind and inspirational people" throughout his journey.

Drago said his friends and family have always been supportive of his goals.

"My friends were always rooting for me... They would say 'do what you love doing.'"

For updates on the film or to follow Drago's personal blog, "Ryan Drago: Screenwriter," scan the QR code or follow ryandrago_95 on Instagram.

Planning Board continues public hearing for special permit

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
Dgagon@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board voted to continue the public hearing for special permit 307 to May 22, under the condition the applicant presents an updated sign plan.

This plan would include suggestions made by the Board at the May 8 meeting.

The applicant is seeking a permit for earth removal and materials on Brimfield Road.

The operation may take place in a three-phase plan, with phase one removing five acres of earth material and a total of 17 acres at the project's completion.

The first phase of the project would clear five acres of earth material, while phase two would require Conservation Commission approval to continue forward with the project and address concerns regarding nearby wetlands.

Fountain and Sons Construction owner Jim Fountain said the operations carried out on the property would be "pretty much the same" system as they are currently running on the lot.

The earth removal would make room for another or an expanding gravel pit. The need arises from a difference in material from the other materials already on the site.

"What would be filled in this particular area is Title V septic sand," said Fountain.

He added if someone needed this kind of material, currently he would have to go out of the district to get it.

"This material is just completely different than the two places I currently have... This bit has got a lot of filling sand, good fill material... the other ones got some real course stuff," said Fountain.

The Board addressed concerns

with the project regarding potential consequences of earth removal in relation to water issues as well as how excavation may undermine public ways.

One member of the requesting party suggested that there wouldn't be water issues because there aren't water issues in a gravel pit.

"There are trees [there] and they work like a sponge - you take those trees out [and] that water is going to go somewhere [else]," said Planning Board Chair Derick Veliz.

Another member of the applicant's party suggested that in this case, the excavation is higher than the road so there wouldn't be any issues undermining a road.

The Board requested that the applicant include sections of the site drawn out for the May 22 hearing, displaying the elevations and cross sections of the site.

The Board also requested the updated site plans also show nearby houses, properties, and watersheds.

Board Vice-Chair David Dufresne said the current site plan requests approval to begin earth removal 25 feet from the property line whereas the zoning bylaws in accordance to the rural district state it should be 200 feet from public ways.

The bylaws also state there should be 250 feet from other neighboring houses or construction whereas the site plan shows there is only 200 feet from the proposed plan and the nearest house.

Veliz said he believes "this is one of the most beautiful roads coming into town," and "having a view to something like that is probably not going to help bring in new business into town."

A member from the applicant's party suggested putting strong buffers from the road with 100 feet of trees.

cant provide an updated site plan including marked watersheds, natural property buffers and ensure the site operations are 200 feet from public ways and 250 feet from any other buildings or construction.

The plan is scheduled for review at the May 22 hearing.

Approvals

The Board unanimously approved an approval not required as requested by Fountain and Sons Construction for property on Carl Street.

Fountain said the request is regarding a property "off another lot on Carl Street for a house we are currently building."

The property has 101.7 feet in frontage and is between 31-32,000 square feet.

"It's just breaking off the lot that the house is on now," said Fountain.

There are six acres or so remaining on the lot following the Board's approval.

Fountain said the lot will be "left alone for the time being," as there are some conservation issues regarding portions of the lot.

Veliz said the design is "quite a unique shape."

Fountain said the reason for the "unique shape" is the result of "the way of the frontage."

"There is a little brook that runs along the water," said Fountain. He added the frontage is narrow and, in an attempt, to avoid conservation issues the property design is "weird."

Veliz said he could not "see issues with neighbors or anything."

Testing protocols

The Board motioned to adopt modifications to the testing protocols to the solar and wind energy as discussed at the previous meeting.



(Turley Publications Photos by Dallas Gagnon)

Kayla Casiello and Scott Mosso smile as they sport their sponsorship T-shirts and support the students at St. Aloysius Catholic School.

5K FUNDRAISER from page 1

event was "great" and a lot of people showed up.

Some attendees eagerly awaited an opportunity to try out a hot air balloon ride, though the rides were canceled as it was too windy.

Donna Plouffe, Remax staff member and grandmother to a St. Aloysius student, said the hot air balloon rides usually draw attention from "a good amount of people."

Remax hosts about one event a year, depending on the year, said Plouffe.

Casiello said, "We're hoping to have more vendors this year and more activities... The food trucks were a great addition."

Jill LaRochelle, a St. Aloysius parent, said "it's amazing the way the community comes together... and they give."

Thanks to Pioneer Valley Environmental, water tables were accessible in various spots in the park for runners to stop and keep hydrated.

Several local food vendors were also available, selling anything from friend dough and corn dogs to cupcakes or barbeque.

Casiello thanked all the race sponsors, food truck vendors, raffle basket donors, DJ Brian LaRochelle and PVE for their contributions.



North Brookfield Savings Bank donated the top selling raffle ticket basket, loaded with scratch tickets and topped with a bow.



Shown is St. Aloysius mom, Jill LaRochelle, selling tickets at the raffle table.

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Article to pay prior year's bill fails twice

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Voters passed all but one of 11 articles on the special town meeting warrant last week, failing Article 10, which sought approval to pay a bill from a previous fiscal year.

Newly elected Moderator Dario Nardi thanked the former Moderator Vincent McCaughey for his many years of service to the town.

"I'm proud to serve after him," Nardi said at the May 9 meeting.

Article 10 asked voters to transfer \$2,488.89 from workman's compensation insurance to pay an invoice from Civicplus for website hosting services.

Administrative Assistant Karen Dusty said Civicplus sent the invoice to the wrong email address, and she did not receive the bill from fiscal year 2022 until this past March.

Because the expense occurred in a prior fiscal year, the article needed to pass by 9/10's majority vote. The article failed to pass, with 86 in favor and 22 opposed.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Richard Eichacker moved to reconsider the vote on Article 10, but the re-vote still failed to reach 9/10's majority with 102 in favor and 22 opposed.

Article 1 asked voters to transfer \$3,703.28 from free cash to pay invoices to Axon Enterprise Inc. for taser equipment and an annual subscription.

Police Chief Gerald Millette said the invoices were sent to the former chief's email address

instead of his. One invoice from was 2021 and the other was from 2022.

This article also needed to pass by 9/10's vote, which it did by unanimous voice vote.

Two of the articles on the warrant would provide needed equipment for the town's Fire Department, including new turnout gear, helmets, boots and self-contained breathing apparatus packs and bottles.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie said the \$50,000 from free cash would cover the third and final payment for the SCBA packs and bottles.

Voters transferred \$29,852.77 from free cash to fund the snow and ice deficit and also transferred \$3,500 from cemetery salaries to cover the cost of sealing cracks in the cemetery roads and purchase new signage.

Voters also approved a transfer of \$11,400 from the Assessors clerk salary to purchase software updates, in addition to a transfer of \$1,000 from the same account to cover training expenses for the new Assistant Assessor.

Other transfers include \$2,000 from workman's compensation insurance to the boiler maintenance account; \$9,000 from free cash to replace and install a new server for the Police Department and \$3,800 from free cash to replace and install a new firewall and switch for the computers at the Police Department.

Voters also agreed to reduce the fiscal year 2023 Quaboag Regional School District assessment by \$50,299.57 for FY 22 State Aid Transportation excess reimbursement.

Preliminary FY 24 budget increases aid to regional schools

BOSTON – The preliminary state budget of \$56 billion-plus for fiscal year 2024 was approved by members of the House of Representatives on a vote of 156-0 on April 26, following three days of debate on 1,566 amendments that were filed by members.

During floor debate, state Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) successfully advocated for the inclusion of local initiatives for his regional school districts, including \$7,455,148 in direct education aid to Quaboag Regional. As well as \$10,338,129 in direct education aid to Quaboag Regional, and \$10,943,768 in direct education aid to Tantasqua Regional.

According to a press release, the seven municipalities located inside of Smola's district (Brimfield, Holland, Palmer, Sturbridge, Wales, Ware, and Warren) will receive a combined total of \$33,776,310 in direct education aid and \$7,343,296 in unrestricted state aid.

This excludes the three regional school districts located in the same area, which will receive a combined total of \$28,737,045 in direct education aid.

Early education

In addition to the \$40 million in Millionaires Tax revenues earmarked for the C3 Stabilization Grants, the House budget allocates another \$450 million in non-surtax funding for this program, for a total of \$490 million in Fiscal Year 2024.

The budget requires the Department of Early Education and Care to report on the current C3 grant formula by Oct. 15, 2023, with recommendations to ensure the formula is producing optimal results for families and communities with the greatest needs.

The budget also includes \$100 million for childcare provider rate increases, along with \$17.5 million in Head Start grants, \$20 million for childcare resource and referral agencies, \$10 million for EEC provider opportunities, and \$5 million for early childhood mental health grants.

It also provides for \$328.2 million for childcare for children involved with the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Transitional Assistance, along with \$385.6 million for childcare for low-income families.

Massachusetts School Building Authority

The House budget increases the limit on the amount of grants the Massachusetts School Building Authority provides to municipalities to assist with school building construction and renovation projects. For fiscal year 2024, the cap will increase more than \$300 million, from \$800 million to \$1.1 billion.

Higher education

The House budget invests in higher education by providing \$327.3 million for the Commonwealth's state universities, \$337.7 million for community colleges, and \$691.9 million for the UMass system. It also commits \$175 million for scholarship funding.

Housing

The House budget allocates \$180.6 million for the Rental Assistance for Families in Transition program and would offer \$7,000 in assistance per household per year, along with \$173 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program.

It also allocates \$110.8 million

for programs for homeless individuals, \$10 million for shelter workforce assistance, and \$102 million in subsidies for public housing authorities.

Eviction protection

Under the House spending plan, permanent eviction protections would be put in place for renters who have applications pending for emergency rental assistance and are facing an action for summary process for nonpayment of rent.

In such cases, language included in the budget would prohibit the courts from entering a judgement or issuing an execution until the emergency rental assistance application has been approved or denied.

Another \$50,000 has been earmarked for direct legal assistance for tenants' rights through the University of Massachusetts School of Law.

Human services

The House budget invests \$173 million for health and human service workers' Chapter 257 rates, along with \$112 million for nursing facilities base rate increases. Another \$26 million is set aside for rate increases to targeted providers, including non-emergent ambulance services and substance use disorder treatment.

Public health/mental health

The Bureau of Substance Abuse Services is funded at \$208.2 million in the House budget, which also provides for \$42.9 million for the early intervention program and \$1.25 million for prostate cancer awareness, education and research.

Children's mental health services are funded at \$117.9 million, while \$584.9 million is provided for adult support services and \$5 million is allocated for a loan forgiveness pro-

gram for mental health professionals.

Brownfields tax credit

In its budget, the House includes language extending the expiring Brownfields tax credit program through 2028, so that eligible taxpayers may claim a credit for certain costs related to the cleanup of contaminated properties to prepare them for redevelopment opportunities.

The current sunset date would be extended from Aug. 5, 2023, to Aug. 5, 2028, and allow for the credit to be applied to costs incurred on eligible projects between Aug. 1, 1998, and Jan. 1, 2029.

Stabilization fund

The House budget proposes transferring \$525 million in excess capital gains proceeds to the state's stabilization fund, also known as the Rainy-Day Fund, which is designed to protect vital state programs and services from being cut during economic downturns.

The fund is expected to have a balance of \$8.5 billion this year, and the proposed transfer would push the balance to over \$9 billion in the new fiscal year.

The budget now moves to the Senate, which is scheduled to begin debating its own spending proposal prior to Memorial Day. The differences between the House and Senate budgets will then be resolved by a joint conference committee, which will produce a final spending plan to send to Governor Maura Healey.

For additional information please contact Smola by emailing Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or calling 617-722-2100.

Gospel choir performs at Trinity church Sunday

WARE – On Sunday, May 21, at 4 p.m., the Amherst Area Gospel Choir will present a free concert at Trinity Episcopal Church in Ware, corner of Park and Pleasant streets.

A Mission Offering will be received for the Springfield Rescue Mission. This is another uplifting musical event of Music at Trinity.

BUDGET from page 1

noting that the Superintendent's office is the only one in the commonwealth without an administrative assistant.

Ferrera said if Article 10 passed, the average household (valued at \$250,000) would see an increase of about \$43 a year in taxes, versus about \$552 at the \$1.2 million above minimum contribution.

Board of Selectmen Chair David Dufresne said every other board and town department has to live within its budget.

"We cannot afford a \$1.2 million increase," he said.

Dufresne said the \$110,000 over minimum contribution is equivalent

to a 3% increase over last year's budget.

Christopher Desjardins of TMS, Inc., said this amount did not equal a 3% increase, but rather a \$325,000 decrease from last year's budget.

"We're actually getting less next year, not an increase," he said. "We're not getting a 3% increase in our budget next year, no matter what you've been told."

Duff, who is also the incoming Superintendent, said the \$110,000 above minimum contribution "doesn't even cover electricity" and asked voters not to put students in the pathway of the disagreement over the budget.

One resident said, "We don't

pretend the schools don't need more money," but questioned how taxpayers could afford the increase. "There has to be a better way."

Article 10 failed to pass with 102 opposed and 77 in favor. The school district's budget will be revisited at a special town meeting.

A motion to reconsider Article 10 also failed.

Management assessment study A nonbinding question was put forth by the Board of Selectmen to see if voters would be in favor of commissioning a management assessment study for the Quaboag Regional School District.

Morgan said the school district conducts an audit each summer, and the last three years have been presented to the Board of Selectmen for review.

Finance Committee Chair Madeline Wisaszek clarified that this is not an audit, but rather an assessment of how the school operates.

Article 20 passed 50-38.

Petition articles

Two petition articles presented by Electrical Inspector Scot Mansfield asked voters to move the position of Planning Board secretary and Building Department secretary, to that of an administrative assistant.

Both positions are held by Jill Chalifoux.

If passed, this change would bring Chalifoux's salary closer to the average amount her position earns in other towns, Mansfield said.

He said it's important to have good staff that can answer phone calls and questions from residents.

Residents who have gone through the permitting process in town credited Chalifoux for her promptness and professionalism in helping them.

"It's money well spent," one resident said, in terms of shifting the positions to a higher pay grade.

Article 4 would increase the salary of the Planning Board position by \$2,865 and Article 5 would increase the Building Department's by \$3,174.

Ferrera said using town meeting articles to make this shift, set a "dangerous precedence." He said the town has a Personnel Board that is responsible for reviewing these requests.

"This is circumventing what the process is in place for," he said.

Chalifoux spoke on her own behalf, and said this request did go before the Personnel Board, and was deferred to Ferrera, who said no.

Dufresne said the Board has a lot of respect for Chalifoux, but that her supervisors did not support the change in positions.

Wisaszek said if these articles were to pass, it could open the door for any town employee to come back and petition for more money at any time.

Both articles failed to pass, 92-102 and 81-106, respectively.

Facilities Maintenance position

Article 6 asked voters to approve the creation of a Facilities Maintenance position with a salary of \$50,918. Wisaszek said the Finance Committee does not recommend this article.

Last year, an article on the town meeting warrant for this same position was voted down.

Voters again failed to approve the new position, with 27 in favor and 160 opposed.

FY 24 budget

Voters approved the fiscal year 2024 omnibus budget of \$6,705,586. This includes the Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School assessment of \$441,706 (an approximately \$11,000 increase over last year); \$58,776 for vocational education; and \$6,205,104 for total government.

New firefighter/EMT

Voters agreed 159-29 to fund a new full-time firefighter/EMT position at a salary of \$46,071.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie said the Department's call volume has increased by 10% with the same level of staffing. The new position will help them keep up with the increased need for service.

Lavoie credited the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee for their hard work to adjust the budget to fund this position.

Creation of DPW

Article 11 asked voters to consider combining the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Parks and Recreation Department, Cemetery Commission, Highway Department and Transfer Station into a Department of Public Works.

Moderator Dario Nardi said that this article is a nonbinding question put forward by the Board of Selectmen, and the outcome of the vote will not change any boards, committees or departments.

Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson said this move would affect him more than any other department in town.

"It would be in the town's best interest to do this, simply financial-

ly," he said. "These other departments are paying outside vendors to do repairs and work that we can actually do in house. It also allows the staff from other departments to work together."

Olson said the town should investigate the feasibility of this move, and see if it is right for the town.

Parks Commissioner Sue Ramsey said her Department wasn't consulted or informed about this potential change.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Richard Eichacker said the Board wanted to get an opinion from voters now, before researching the creation of a DPW.

"We're asking to pursue the study of this, to figure out what's involved," Eichacker said. "It doesn't mean we're going to do it."

Voters were in favor, 58-42.

Building improvements

Voters approved the transfer of \$30,000 from free cash to pay for office/building improvements to the Shepard Municipal Building and the Senior Center. This includes the costs of flooring, upgraded furniture, painting and more.

Town meeting date

Article 21 asked voters to approve moving the annual town meeting date from the second Tuesday in May to the first Thursday in June.

Residents voiced concerns about the meeting conflicting with graduation and other end-of-the-year events at the school.

Dufresne said they are trying to align Warren's town meeting with West Brookfield's, to have better numbers for the school district assessments.

Morgan made an amendment from the floor to move the annual town meeting to the second Thursday in June, instead of the first.

The amended motion passed 80-7.

Other articles

All other articles passed, with the exception of Article 29, which asked voters to amend general bylaws for building/house numbers by replacing section 14 (C).

The new section, which failed to pass, would have included house numbers being put under lighting and requiring them to have a contrasting background.

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Cristin Kaminski, owner of C's Kreations, sold crocheted items.



Two young attendees proudly show their purchases from C's Kreations.



ClayWorks had a variety of cups, bowls and platters.



Keith Chouinard, owner of Talk of the Town.

Spring Shop Hop

Main Street is 'Ware it's at' for shopping

WARE – Spring weather returned just in time for the Ware Business & Civic Association's annual Shop Hop held this past Saturday.

Small businesses along Main Street offered specials for shoppers, just in time for Mother's Day. Dozens of local crafters and vendors set up in Veterans Park.

Lori Brooks provided musical entertainment while shoppers enjoyed a pancake breakfast prepared by the Ware Lions Club to benefit their scholarship fund.

(Turley Publications Photos by Single Shot Photo)



Sparkling Creations had many beautiful items to buy.



Renee, owner and creator at ChicStone Designs, custom stone art.



Shoppers of all ages stopped by the Ware Lions Club pancake breakfast to fuel up before searching for sales.



Donna Miesch stands at her booth, Dazzling Resin Designs.



Linda, owner of Wreaths and Crafty Creations.



This and That 2, located on Main Street.



Emily Jasmin, owner of I'D Craft That, is shown laughing with a local resident.



Phil Hamel and Frank Bateman of VFW Post 2577 collected donations for the poppy drive.



Shoppers could also take their chances on gift baskets.

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Ware's Main Street will be blooming once again

Staff Report

WARE – Back in 2015, Shelley Regin, Senior Vice President of Marketing for Country Bank, had championed a new initiative to benefit the Downtown of Ware, Ware in Bloom.

Assisted by fellow Ware Business & Civic Association members Tracy Opalinski and Carol Zins as well as others, the Ware in Bloom committee was established. The purpose of the Committee was to place hanging baskets and planters down the sidewalks of Main Street.

"The initial round of donations was beyond what we expected, and it allowed us to purchase hanging baskets and a watering unit to water them. We also ordered dog waste stations for Main Street," said Regin.

The Ware in Bloom effort has continued annually except for one summer due to the downtown project.

This year, the program has restarted and been renamed Ware is Blooming under the leadership of Carol Blackmer and Janice Ouimette.

"We wanted to continue this program as it gives a fresh look to all that Ware has to offer those in town and those who come to our town," said Blackmer. "With the downtown project complete, it was right time to let the flowers arrive and give a look of blooming garden. I am looking forward to walking down Main Street after the project is all set up. A fresh and vibrant look for our Main Street of Ware."

Sixteen planters as well as six hanging baskets will line Main Street and the bridge on South

Street.

"The first stage is to plant flowers and before Labor Day, we will replace with the flowers with mums and seasonal decorations like gourds," said Blackmer. "This is a huge task, and we are grateful to the Ware Parks Department and the Department of Public Works for their continued support."

The Parks Department stores all the materials over the winter then assists along with the DPW with the placement and removal of the planters and baskets.

"We need watering buddies over the summer to help keep the plants thriving. Many businesses have contributed to the cost of the plants. We see this as an investment in our downtown. If you have time to help water, please let myself or Janice know," said Blackmer. "We have several businesses who will water the plants near them but there are many others that still need attention."

Ouimette has been a mainstay of the Committee for years, assisting with all aspects of the program.

"It's a great feeling to see all the hard work pay off for our community," she said.

"It is so really so great to see the continued progress of this committee and how beautiful Main Street looks with blooms adorning so many areas of the town. Thank you to those who continue to make a difference for our community by supporting and maintaining the flowers throughout the summer," said Regin.

Individuals or businesses looking to contribute to the program may send a check payable to WBCA and mail to the Ware Business and Civic Association, P.O. Box 602, Ware, MA, 01082.

Breakfast is served



Shown from left are Rosemary Robidoux, Becky Sullivan and Jane Saletnik buying tickets to the community breakfast fundraiser to benefit the sophomore class at Ware High School from students Kyla Campbell and Shelby Hogan. These three ladies haven't missed breakfast since classes began holding this fundraiser in 2009.



The Desjardins family enjoyed their breakfast.

(Turley Publications Staff Photos)

Community breakfast benefits sophomore class

WARE – Sophomores at Ware High School hosted their annual community breakfast at Gabe's last Saturday, helping to raise money for the class.

The meal of eggs, potatoes, ham, muffins and drinks was

enjoyed by a steady crowd of hungry diners.

"We are very fortunate to have so much support from our community for these events," said Dan Orszulak, class advisor. "Everyone at Gabe's was just focused on this

being successful. This venue was perfect for us and anybody who wants to use it."

The fundraiser netted over \$1,000. The proceeds will be used toward the class's senior events and senior yearbooks.



The breakfast had plenty of support from the community.



Kenyce Crump, Nate Luxon, Taylor Jansen, Dan Orszulak, Kylee Slattery and Philip Orszulak help serve breakfast.

Tri-Parish Community Church Annual plant, bake, tag and craft sale May 20 and 21

HARDWICK – Tri-Parish Community Church is hosting its annual plant, bake, tag, and craft sale on Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 from 10 a.m. to 3

p.m. on the Common.

There will be flowering plants, vegetable plants, homemade baked goods, home crafted goods, and tag sale treasures. Plants include

perennials and annuals from a variety of vendors including Inishowen Farm, Chicken Feather Farm, Howe's Farm & Garden, Tracie's Greenhouse, and the Hardwick

Farmers Co-Op, along with the ever-popular "home grown love-lies," and vegetable plants from Stillman's Farm.

Homemade cookies, cakes,

bread and a baked potato bar will also be available both days.

There will be a brief prayer service Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on the Common in lieu of the 10 a.m.

Sunday worship service at the Gilbertville Stone Church. All are welcome.

This is a rain or shine event.

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Ware makes state tournament



John Mumper delivers a pitch for Ware.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Whenever the varsity teams from Palmer and Ware High Schools face each other between September and June, it's always a very intense battle. The rivalry does take a little bit of a break during the summertime.

A couple of the players on the Palmer and Ware varsity baseball teams will be teammates on the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team this summer. The Post 241 squad will be playing their home games at Legion Field in Palmer after not fielding a team a year ago.

"We didn't have a legion team last year and I'm very excited about being a member of this year's team," said Palmer senior catcher Dom Allen. "Ware is one of our biggest rivals during the school year, but we're teammates during the legion season. You quickly form bonds with the players from the other high schools. It's going to be a lot of fun."

The Monson Legion team, which is managed by Steve Tripp, will also have players from Pathfinder Tech and Monson High School.

"The Legion baseball coaches have always treated my players great," said longtime Ware varsity baseball coach Scott Slattery. "The Palmer and Ware players will become good friends during the legion season, which is a great thing. I'm very glad that the legion



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Jack McKeever fields a ground ball.



Infielder Nathan Kaczuwka fields a soft grounder.

Please see **WARE**, page 10

Indians hang tough in loss to Ludlow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—The second meeting of the regular season between the Ludlow and Ware varsity softball teams turned into an old fashion pitcher's duel following the top of the first inning.

The Lady Lions scored four runs in their first at-bats of the Suburban East contest en route to a 5-0 road victory over the Lady Indians, last Friday afternoon. The Lady Lions swept the season series with the Lady Indians for the second consecutive year.

"I thought that I pitched very well in today's game, especially since it was our third game of the week," said Ludlow senior righthander Madison Sunderland, who's quickly approaching 500 career strikeouts. "We scored four runs in the first inning, which was huge. The defense also made a couple of incredible plays behind me."

Sunderland, who nearly tossed her first perfect game of the regular season, allowed only one infield hit and recorded eleven strikeouts. She outdueled Ware sophomore righty Abby McQuaid.

After giving up the four runs on four base hits in the top of the first inning, McQuaid only allowed one run on six hits during the final six innings of the ballgame. She finished the

contest with two walks and six strikeouts.

"Abby doesn't throw the ball very fast, and I thought the Ludlow batters had a little bit of trouble against her after the first inning," said Ware head coach Charlene Valle. "While we made all the plays in the field, we just didn't hit the ball hard enough. If you don't get base hits, you're not going to win."

The Lady Lions (15-2, 11-2), who are the defending league champions, outscored the Lady Indians (1-12, 1-11), 43-5, in the three previous meetings on the softball diamond. It includes a 17-3 home victory in the first meeting of this season between the two teams on April 20.

The Lady Lions came out swinging in the top of the first inning.

With one-out in the opening frame, sophomore left fielder Ava Peczka was hit-by-a-pitch, which jump started the Lady Lions rally. After stealing second base, Peczka advanced to third base on a single into left field by junior Juliana Coelho (2-for-4). Peczka scored the game's first run on a wild pitch.

The visiting team, who arrived at Ware High School about 15 minutes prior to the start of the game, took a 2-0 lead when Sunderland smashed a run

Please see **SOFTBALL**, page 11

Quaboag evens record with win



Brasen Sauriol cracks this shot towards short.

WARREN – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quaboag baseball evens its record at 6-6 with a 6-5 win against Leicester. In the win, Drew Martinez pitched into the fifth inning before giving way to Ryan Fernandez. Quaboag scored in each of the final three innings to come from behind for the win. Nate Church had three hits and three run



Ryan Fernandez keeps his eyes glued to the ball as he puts away this ball in short right.



Photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com
Drew Martinez fires this one to the plate.



Matt Tiberii dives back safely on this pick-off attempt at first. s batted in for the Cougars.

Clinton defeats Quabbin softball

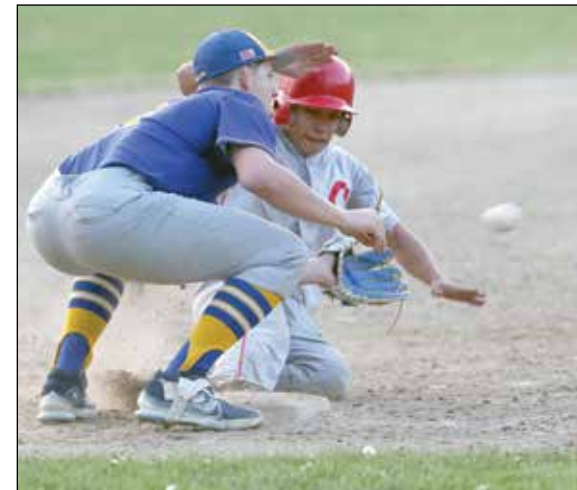


Hannah Baxter gets a tag on a runner.

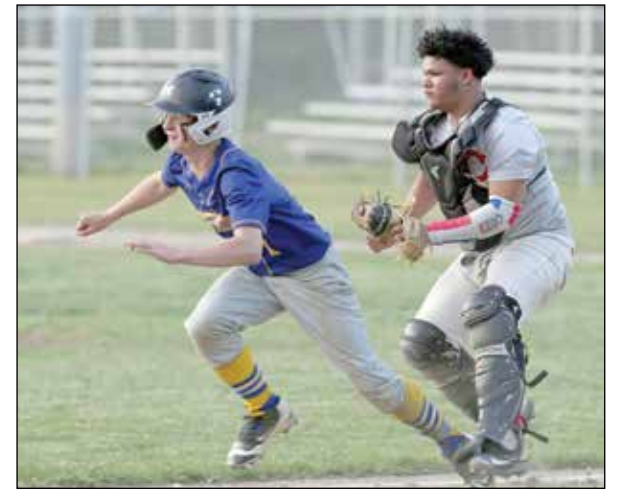
BARRE – Last Thursday afternoon, Clinton put up eight runs in the first inning, and Quabbin softball could not overcome the early deficit in a 19-6 loss in six innings. Quabbin had a bit of a comeback in the third inning with four runs, but Clinton countered with five runs in the top of the fourth. Meaghan Doyle had two hits and drove in a run for the Panthers. Sydney Giorgi had a big game with a pair of home runs and three RBI.



Jordan Blanchard makes a quick out.



Trevor Millet fields a throw to third.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Brayden Mega tries to avoid a tag.



Meaghan Doyle races a throw home.

Photos by Ray Duffy



Sydney Giorgi keeps a runner close to first.

PIONEERS LIKELY TO MAKE TOURNAMENT

PALMER – With an 11-3 record entering the week, Pathfinder baseball is looking making tournament in Division 5 this season. The Pioneers are currently ranked No. 23 and have a few games this week to close out the regular season. The Pioneers could also qualify for the Western Mass. tournament as well, which gets underway next week.

LEFT: Jesse Cygan pitches for the Pioneers.

RIGHT: Edward Szosyek makes the catch in left.



sports

Girls track in action



BARRE – The Quabbin Regional girls track team hosted Groton-Dunstable last Wednesday afternoon at home. It was the fourth meet of the season for the Panthers. The score and event winners were not reported or available at press time.

Ruby Gatulis has room to spare during the pole vault.

RIGHT: Brooke Austin passes the baton to Marilyn Giese on the anchor leg of the 4 by 100 relay.



Photos by Ray Duffy



Brady Guimond slings a throw over to first.

WARE from page 9

team is back this year."

Allen will be one of the oldest players on the legion baseball team, along with his classmate, Ty Miller, who's a member of the Panthers pitching staff. Palmer freshman Brendan Hess will also be a pitcher on the legion team.

One of the Ware players who'll be playing for the legion team is junior catcher Dylan Sutkaitis.

"I already know Dylan and I have a lot of respect for him," Allen said. "It's going to be awesome having two catchers on the legion baseball team. I won't have to catch every game. I can be the DH when Dylan is catching."

Ware junior righthander John Mumper, who was the winning pitcher in both games against Palmer this spring, is also planning to play for the legion baseball team.

The Indians swept the season series for the second consecutive year with a 13-5 win over the Panthers at Memorial Field, last Monday night, May 8.

Mumper, who went the distance, allowed five runs (3 earned) on six base hits in his second start of the regular season against Palmer. He struck out 15 batters and issued only two walks. He also struck out 15 batters in his first start of the rivalry series, which was a 4-2 win at Legion Field.

"It's always nice to beat Palmer twice in a season," Slattery said. "I think we're now beaten three times in a row."

Allen will finish his outstanding varsity career without celebrating a victory against Ware on either the baseball diamond or the gridiron.

"It's very frustrating losing to Ware for the second time during the baseball season," Allen said. "Most of the players on our varsity baseball team are either freshmen or eighth graders. They just need some time to develop. When they're juniors and seniors, they're going to be a force to be reckoned with."

Two other legion baseball players from Ware High School will be Nathan and Kyle Kaczuwka.

Nathan Kaczuwka, who's a sophomore, is a member of the Indians pitching staff. He also plays third base. Kyle Kaczuwka, who's a freshman, is the Indians starting first baseman. He had three RBIs and scored two runs in last Monday's game against Palmer. He also walked three times.

Sophomore right fielder Jason Mumper, who is John's younger brother, also contributed offensively with two base hits and three RBIs.

Hess, who's a righty, made his first start at the varsity level against Ware. He pitched four innings and didn't receive very much support from his defense. The Panthers committed a total of eight errors in the game.

"We're a very young baseball team and we always seem to shoot ourselves in the foot," said first-year Palmer head coach Jack Graveline. "We can't afford to give a good baseball team four or five outs in an inning."

Ware took full advantage of the mistakes to build a 6-0 lead during the first two innings.

Palmer battled back in the third inning. Miller, who started at shortstop, blasted a two-run double to deep left field. He scored on Allen's RBI single, which sliced the Panthers deficit to 6-3.

"We made a comeback in the third inning, which was huge for us," Graveline said. "Ty drove in two runs with a double and Dom followed with an RBI single."

It didn't remain a close game for very long. The home team scored a pair of runs in the bottom of the third. Their first run of the frame scored on a double by Nathan Kaczuwka. Then a bases loaded walk by Kyle Kaczuwka brought home the other run.

Ware took a 9-3 lead with an unearned run in the bottom of the fourth against freshman relief pitcher Sebastian Mayberry.

The Panthers (3-12) did take advantage of a couple of Indians errors to score two unearned runs in the top of the fifth inning.

Once again, the home team responded with three runs in the bottom half of the inning before adding another run in their final at-bats.

The Indians (10-4) clinched a berth in the Division 5 state tournament following a 3-0 home win against South Hadley, last Wednesday night. Nathan Kaczuwka, who defeated the Tigers for the second time this spring, tossed a four hitter in six innings. Freshman righty Brady Guimond earned the save.



Kaylee Shaw flies through the air on the long jump.



Reagan Lapranda clears the last hurdle in the 400 meter hurdles.



Libby Osowsk rounds the final bend for the 800 meter.

Run for Rice's 5K Road Race set for June 3

WILBRAHAM – The 11th annual "Run for Rice's 5K Road Race" will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 9 a.m. This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neigh-

borhoods, ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25. Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration. The first 150 registered runners by May 20 will receive our famous race t-shirt

featuring the "Running Apple" logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Rice Nature Preserve maintenance fund of the Minnechaug Land

Trust. Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. On-line registration now available at RunSignUp.com, and paper registration forms can be downloaded at the Minnechaug Land Trust website www.minnechauglandtrust.org.

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Agawam's Hope Santaniello controls the ball.



Alexis Legowski, of South Hadley, goes after the bouncing ball.



Jenna Kalwa sends a pass forward.

Mutiny offense shines in opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The United Women's Soccer National semifinal and final matches were held at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow last July. This year's U.W.S. championship weekend is scheduled to take place 3,000 miles west in Los Angeles, California.

The New England Mutiny players didn't get to compete for the championship trophy on their home turf last summer. They're hoping to make the six-hour plane ride to the west coast in July.

The Mutiny didn't have very much trouble dispatching Worcester Fuel FC, 7-1, in the season opening match before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"All of the players worked very hard, and we got the result that we wanted," said Hope Santaniello, who graduated from Agawam High School in 2021. "Our hope for the future is to win the championship title this year. We really want to bring home the trophy for Joe (Ferrara)."

Ferrara, who's the Mutiny General Manager, has put together a roster full of talented soccer players. Santaniello is one of 13 players from Western Massachusetts.

Other players from the region include Julia Robak (Chicopee), Brianna Romaniak (Belchertown), Ela Kopec (Ludlow), Alexis Legowski (South Hadley), Avery Klingensmith (Belchertown), Brooke Samborski (Chicopee), Calleigh Foley (Ludlow), and Sophia Syocurka (Ludlow).

Foley and Syocurka will be juniors on the Ludlow girls varsity soccer team in the fall. The duo normally play for the academy team, but they were called up to the U.W.S. team for the season opener.

Laura Gouvin of Monson is also listed on the Mutiny roster. She did not play against Worcester.

Before the start of the regular season, Ferrara named Mauricio "Toto" Coimbra as the Mutiny head coach.

"Everyone is a little bit nervous before the first game of regular season, but we got off to a great start tonight," said Coimbra, who's a former member of the Western Mass. Pioneers. "I've coached at the youth level, but it's very special to win my first game at this level. I think it's going to be a very exciting season."

Coimbra took over the coaching duties from Brian Linnehan, who was hired as an assistant women's soccer coach at Bryant University.

Coimbra is aided by assistant coaches Jill Kochanek, Ciro Viviano, and Federico Molinari, who's also the head coach of the Western Mass. Pioneers.

Santaniello, who's a forward, scored a pair of goals during the first half, which gave her team a 2-



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Laci Lewis breaks away from a defender.

half-time lead. During the 24th minute, Santaniello lined a shot over the head of Worcester Fuel goalie Lilliana Mantoni into the back of the net.

About 15 minutes later, Cat Berry sent a forward pass into the box and Santaniello finished off the play by shooting the ball into the left corner.

"I'm very happy for Hope," Coimbra said. "I think she's a great soccer player, and she has a very bright future. She shoots the ball mainly with her right foot, but she scored one of her goals in tonight's match with her left foot."

After playing soccer for two seasons at the University of Rhode Island, Santaniello has decided to enter the NCAA transfer portal. The portal allows Division 1 athletes the opportunity to transfer to another school without having to sit out a year.

"I decided to leave U.R.I. for personal reasons," Santaniello said. "I just want to keep growing as a soccer player. In order for me to do that, I felt like the best thing was to transfer to another school. I just want to find the right school, which will help me get to the next level."

Berry, who's from Hingham, will be a senior on the University of South Carolina women's soccer team in September. She'll be heading back to Columbia, South Carolina in the middle of June to train with her college soccer team.

"Cat is a great soccer player and she's going to have a successful career in the future," Coimbra said. "We're very lucky to have her on our team. We enjoyed watching her play in tonight's match."

Ferrara is hoping that Berry will be able to return to Ludlow if the Mutiny do make the playoffs.

"The atmosphere at the stadium is always great," Berry said. "I just love playing soccer with this group of girls. It was a great way to start our season."

Berry, who's the fifth all-time leading goal scorer at the University

of South Carolina with 24 career goals, took over the spotlight at the second half. She finished last Saturday's match with a total of four goals. A couple of her goals came on amazing shots that not very many goalies would be able to stop.

"We definitely could've scored a few more goals in the first half," Berry added. "We just wanted to come out at the start of the second half and put the game away. I took advantage of my opportunities. Hearing the roar of the crowd here at Lusitano is very special."

Berry, who has two more years of eligibility remaining at South Carolina, will most likely be drafted by a N.W.S.L. team after she graduates.

"Playing at that level is something that I've dreamed about my whole life," Berry said. "It would be awesome to play for a professional soccer team in the future."

Chandler Pedolczyk also scored a second half goal for the Mutiny. Jenna Kalwa, who's the women's soccer coach at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Connecticut, was credited with the assist.

Down at the other end of the field, Kopec, who was the Mutiny starting goalie, only had to make three saves. She was replaced in goal by Robak with ten minutes remaining in regulation.

The members of the Mutiny defensive unit are Sofia Weber, Laci Lewis, Megan Cunningham, and Kinsman.

"This is just an awesome environment to play a soccer match," said Cunningham, who's the Mutiny captain. "We also have a lot of returning players this year, which is a great thing."

The Mutiny will be playing a couple of road matches before returning home to face the Albany Rush on June 10. Their other two home matches during the regular season will be against Sporting CT (June 24) and CT Rush (July 8).

"Maddy pitched a perfect game against Holyoke a couple of years ago, which was fantastic" Rucker said. "She has come very close to pitching a couple of no-hitters this season. Hopefully, she'll be able to do it sooner or later."

Prior to the hit by Jacobs, Landers made a diving catch on a line drive hit by senior catcher Natalie Silverio. Following the base hit, Coelho made another diving catch, which robbed freshman designated player Madisyn Slattery of a hit.

Sunderland, who's planning to play college softball at Bay Path University, retired the final ten Ware batters that she faced.

The Lady Lions left the bases loaded in the seventh, but Sunderland retired the side in order in the bottom of the seventh inning.

SOFTBALL from page 9

scoring triple to centerfielder. The ball stopped rolling halfway up the hill next to the football field.

"The ball felt so good coming off the bat in today's game," said Sunderland (3-for-4), who needed a home run to complete the cycle. "I probably would've hit a couple of home runs if there was an outfield fence."

The inning continued with an RBI single to left field by senior right fielder Aineliz Garcia-Cruz, who also had three base hits. The fourth run crossed the plate following an RBI double to rightfield by junior first baseman Debora Rosado-Pagan.

"It's always very nice to score some early runs, especially since we didn't have a lot of time to warm

up," said Ludlow head coach Missy Rucker. "We just kept hitting the ball right at their fielders following that inning. We need to adjust to the pitcher when we're at-bat."

The Lady Lions stranded runners at third base in the second and third innings.

With two outs in the fourth inning, senior second baseman Rayah Landers, who hit a pop-up single to left field, scored on an infield hit by Coelho, which gave the Lady Lions a 5-0 advantage.

Sunderland retired the first eleven batters that she faced without very much trouble.

Ware senior third baseman Emma Jacobs ended Sunderland's perfect game bid by hitting bloopers between the shortstop and third baseman for an infield hit with two outs in the bottom of the fourth.

Blewett scores the wins in modified event

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Stafford Speedway hosted the 51st Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler on Saturday, May 13 with feature events for the SK Modified, Late Model, and SK Light divisions along with two 15-lap last chance qualifiers for drivers to earn starting positions in the NAPA Spring Sizzler 100-lap main event. Jimmy Blewett scored the checkered flag in the 40-lap SK Modified feature his second career win at Stafford and first since the 2005 NAPA Fall Final. Tom Fearn was the winner of the 30-lap Late Model feature and the SK Light feature saw a photo finish with Brian Sullivan making a last lap pass on Tyler Chapman and winning the race by inches or .005 seconds. Matt Swanson won the 15-lap Last Chance Qualifier for the NAPA Spring Sizzler.

In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature event, Jimmy Blewett led the field to the green and he began to set the early pace with Michael Christopher, Jr. going around Cory DiMatteo to take second behind Blewett. Chris Jones was fourth in line in the early going with Keith Rocco quickly moving from seventh at the start up to fifth. Christopher made a move to the inside of Blewett on lap-6 but wasn't able to make the pass. Christopher then came under attack from DiMatteo on lap-7 but he was able to hold off that challenge.

With 10 laps complete, the order was Blewett in the lead followed by Christopher, DiMatteo, Stephen Kopicik, and Rocco. Anthony Bello was sixth followed by Jon Puleo, Noah Korner, Mikey Flynn, and Todd Owen. Bello was black flagged on lap-15 and he had to report to pit road for dumping fluid. David Arute was shown the black flag on lap-20 for fluid also while Blewett and



Submitted photo
Jimmy Blewett wins the SK Modified event at Stafford Speedway last weekend.

Christopher were still the tow lead cars with DiMatteo, Rocco, and Kopicik giving chase. Marcello Ruffano was the car on the move in the first half of the race, taking 11th on lap-22 after starting shotgun on the field in 28th. The caution flew with 24 laps complete for a spin by Rich Gautreau that collected Ruffano, who pulled off the track and behind the wall, ending his great run.

Blewett took the lead back under green with Christopher in second. Kopicik and DiMatteo were wheel to wheel for third place with Rocco and Korner right behind them. Kopicik took third on lap-26 with Rocco taking fourth and Korner fifth as DiMatteo slid back to sixth. Christopher's car dropped off the pace on lap-29 and he pulled up to pit road just as the caution flew for spins in turn 4 by Dylan Kopec and Tom Bolles.

Blewett took the lead back under green with Rocco moving up to second, but before a lap could be completed the caution

came out for Rich Gautreau, who hit the wall in turn 4.

Blewett took the elad back under green with Rocco in second. DiMatteo and Kopicik ran wheel to wheel for a lap before DiMatteo got clear into third place. Korner took fourth with Kopicik sliding back to fifth while up front, Rocco was applying heavy pressure to Blewett for the lead.

Korner's car dropped off the pace on lap-37 and he limped back to pit road after running in fourth place. This promoted Kopicik to fourth and Mikey Flynn to fifth as Blewett was still in command over Rocco and DiMatteo. Blewett slowly stretched out his advantage over Rocco in the closing laps and he picked up his second career SK Modified win at Stafford, his first since the 2005 NAPA Fall Final. Rocco came home second with DiMatteo, Kopicik, and Flynn rounding out the top-5.

Pioneers prevail in preseason match

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—With only a handful of returning players, it'll probably take a couple of matches for the Western Mass. Pioneers players to jell.

The Pioneers kicked off the 2023 campaign with a 5-1 victory in a friendly match against KO Elites FC before a large gathering at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, last Friday night.

"We had a lot of turnover from last year's team, so we're in the rebuilding process this year," said Federico Molinari, who's beginning his 12th season as the Pioneers head coach. "We do have some youngers players and a couple of returning players. It's probably going to take us some time to jell."

A year ago, the Pioneers finished in second place in the Northeast Division table with an 11-3 regular season record. They lost to the Seacoast United Phantoms, 1-0, in extra time at home in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

It marked the second year in a row that the Pioneers (11-3) faced Seacoast United, who finished at the top of the Northeast Division table, in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Pioneers were scheduled to play their first regular season match at the Boston Bolts on Tuesday night before hosting the Pathfinder FC in the home opener at 7pm on Saturday night.

The first meeting of the regular season with league rival Seacoast United will take place away from the friendly confines of Lusitano Stadium on May 25. The second meeting between the two squads is slated to take place in Ludlow on June 23.

The Pioneers other home matches this season will be against Black Rock FC (June 3), Boston Bolts (June 7), Albany Rush (June 30), Vermont Green FC (July 7), and AC Connecticut (July 15). All of their home matches are scheduled to start at 7pm.

One of the returning players is Khalid Rose, who has been a member of the Pioneers squad since 2018.

"I have the most service time on this year's team," said Rose before signing some autographs following the match. "I always come back here every year for the

fans. I just love playing this beautiful game."

Rose, who played college soccer at Central Connecticut State University, assisted on the Pioneers first two goals in last Friday's friendly match. Newcomer Alec Hughes scored both goals during the first ten minutes of the first half. Hughes came out of the match with a minor injury during the 25th minute.

"Alec is a new player this year," Molinari said. "Hopefully, he'll be able to play in our first game on Tuesday night."

Hughes, who's a forward from Glastonbury Conn, is also a member of the UMass men's soccer team. He finished his junior season last fall with a total of 10 goals, including a hat-trick in a 4-1 victory at George Washington. He also had two assists and led the A-10 conference with a total of 22 points.

Following the 2022 college season, Hughes was selected to the United Soccer Coaches All-Region Second-Team squad.

Hughes is one of the players looking to replace Braudilio Rodrigues, who led the Pioneers with ten goals last summer. Rodrigues recently signed with the Tacoma Defiance, which compete in the MLS Next Pro league. The Defiance is the reserve team for the Seattle Sounders FC.

The other returning players listed on the Western Mass. Pioneers roster are Chaney Nash-Gibney, Jared Smith, Ignacio Albo, Lucio Berron, Tomas Duben, Nicholas Oberrauch, and Connor Hicks, who graduated from Monson High School six years ago.

Hicks, who graduated from AIC, didn't play in the friendly match because of an injury.

Oberrauch is the Pioneers captain and he assisted on the third goal, which was scored by Duben during the 21st minute.

"It's an honor for me to be the team captain again this year," Oberrauch said. "I really enjoy being the team leader."

Thomas Quiterio, who's wrapping up his



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public safety

Police academy graduate joins Ware PD

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College's police academy held its second graduation ceremony of the academy's extended format program on April 27.

The entire graduating class of 17 officers have all secured employment.

QCC Police Academy 2023 graduate Eric Esteves will join the Ware Police Department.

"We are delivering highly skilled officers to communities across the Commonwealth. I'm

so proud of our graduates and this program," said QCC's Chief of Police and Director of the Police Academy Kevin Ritacco in a press release.

The Academy runs courses during the evenings and weekends. Graduates from the program are eligible for entry-level hiring into a law enforcement agency, pending a department's specific requirements and standards.

Among the speakers and dignitaries at the graduation were Municipal Police Training

Committee Director of Training Andrea Nardone and retired Executive Director Chief Robert J. Ferullo, Jr., Worcester Assistant District Attorney Edward Karcasinas, Jr. and Massachusetts Latino Police Officers Association President Yessenia Gomez.

The Academy is authorized by the Municipal Police Training Committee, under the direction of Chief Ritacco and Academy Deputy Director, Captain Joseph Cecchi.

Ware Police Log

During the week of May 9-16, the Ware Police Department responded to 24 miscellaneous calls, 32 administrative calls, two traffic violations, 26 emergency 911 calls, six animal calls, two harassments, three frauds/deceptions, two thefts/larcenies, two fires, two trespasses, four motor vehicle accidents and 19 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Tuesday, May 9

7:49 a.m. Weapons/Firearms, Pleasant Street, Report Made
7:50 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, North Street, Dispatch Handled
9:11 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised
7:40 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Kingsberry Lane, Advised

Wednesday, May 10

12:51 a.m. Structure Fire, Vigeant Street, Extinguished
12:51 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Vigeant Street, Dispatch Handled
1:45 a.m. Officer Needs Assist, Vigeant Street, Services Rendered
10:36 a.m. Warrant Service, Park Street, Arrest Made
Arrest: John N. Cutrumbes, 28, Ware
Warrant of Apprehension
12:47 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Civil Complaint
4:35 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Coffey Hill Road, Dispatch Handled
6:27 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Greenwich Road, Dispatch Handled
7:04 p.m. DUI/Impaired, Palmer Road, Investigated

Thursday, May 11

2:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Summons: Richard F. Racine, 39, Pittsfield

License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Number Plate Violation; Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit
6:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
10:43 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cummings Street, Dispatch Handled
5:39 p.m. Electrical Hazard, Ragged Hill Road, Services Rendered
5:53 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Pleasant Street, Could Not Located
7:39 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Church Street, Assist Given
10:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Criminal Complaint Requested

Summons: Austin A. Sottile, 32, Chicopee

Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID; Equipment Violation, Miscellaneous Motor Vehicle
11:08 p.m. Police Response, Church Street, Dispatch Handled

Friday, May 12

7:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Citation/Warning Issued
5:01 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Patient Refusal
5:48 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Dispatch Handled
6:21 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Sorel Road, Investigated
6:46 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Gilbert Court, Dispatch Handled
7:43 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Webb Court, Dispatch Handled
9:33 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made

Saturday, May 13

8:19 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call,

West Street, Dispatch Handled
10:13 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Pulaski Street, Report Made
11:30 a.m. Fraud/Deception, Gould Road, Advised
3:46 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Main Street, Investigated
6:30 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Unknown, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
9:30 p.m. Warrant Service, Otis Avenue, Arrest Made
Arrest: Layne M. Kearney, 34, Ware
Warrant
11:37 p.m. Warrant Service, Belchertown Road, Arrest Made
Arrest: Thomas W. Finney, 54, Ware
Warrant

Sunday, May 14

11:46 a.m. Warrant Service, Greenwich Plains Road, Arrest Made
Arrest: Matthew R. Peterson, 37, Ware
Warrant
Arrest: Jessica M. Holmes, 27, Brookfield
Warrant
1:22 p.m. Outside Fire, Church Street, Extinguished
2:36 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Vernon Street, Dispatch Handled
3:40 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made
6:34 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered

Monday, May 15

11:43 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Pleasant Street, Services Rendered
6:53 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, Advised

Tuesday, May 16

12:53 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Dugan Road, Assist Given

Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of May 1-15, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 95 building/property checks, 91 directed/area patrols, 12 traffic controls, 21 emergency 911 calls, 12 radar assignments, seven citizen assists, four assist other agencies, three complaints, one fraud, three fires, one trespass, one unintended death, three investigations, two safety hazards, three motor vehicle investigations, four animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, May 1

1:48 p.m. Assist Citizen, Fleming Road, Spoken To
2:07 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Church Street, Spoken To

Tuesday, May 2

11:21 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Sullivan Avenue, Transported to Hospital
1:38 p.m. Assist Citizen, Cleveland Road, No Action Required
2:39 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
3:45 p.m. Complaint, Ruggles Hill Road, Unknown Outcome
6:30 p.m. Fraud, Muddy Brook Road, Report Taken

Wednesday, May 3

4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Ridge Road, Investigated
5:45 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
7:19 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

Thursday, May 4

1:28 p.m. 911 Medical

Emergency, Sullivan Avenue, Checked/Secured
5:24 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Broad Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, May 5

5:08 p.m. 911 Misdial, Barre Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, May 6

8:21 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
11:10 p.m. Gunshots, Petersham Road, Negative Contact

Sunday, May 7

5:39 a.m. 911 Unattended Death, Lower Road, Investigated
1:48 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
5:51 p.m. Complaint, Grove Street, Officer Handled
10:07 p.m. Fire, Ruggles Hill Road, Negative Contact

Monday, May 8

8:06 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
8:57 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Charity Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
5:12 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, May 9

10:04 a.m. Investigation, North Street, Services Rendered

Wednesday, May 10

12:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Petersham Road, Investigated
10:47 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
1:35 p.m. 911 Medical

Emergency, Church Street, Transported to Hospital
2:26 p.m. Fire, Barre Road, Extinguished

Thursday, May 11

12:27 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Fiske Road, Transported to Hospital
1:11 p.m. 911 Misdial, Barre Road, Dispatch Handled
3:37 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, Prospect Street, Investigated
4:28 p.m. 911 Misdial, Church Lane, Negative Contact
5:49 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Church Street, Negative Contact
6:14 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled

Friday, May 12

4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
5:48 p.m. Investigation, Gaudet Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, May 13

9:48 a.m. Assist Citizen, Police Department, Officer Handled
5:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated
5:33 p.m. Trespass, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, May 14

12:52 p.m. Assist Citizen, Parker Court, Officer Handled
3:53 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Removed Hazard
4:03 p.m. 911 Lockout, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
5:08 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
6:06 p.m. 911 Misdial, Broad Street, Spoken To

Warren Police Log

During the week of April 23-30, the Warren Police Department responded to 68 building/property checks, 111 community policing, 23 traffic enforcements, three radar assignments, 11 emergency 911 calls, one harassment, two fires, one fraud/forgery, one complaint, one property damage, three animal calls and 84 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, April 23

12:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Citation Issued
1:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons: Zachery G. Dreisch, 26, West Warren
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle
2:13 p.m. Confusion/Dementia, Heritage Drive, Transported to Hospital
5:18 p.m. Harassment, Presidential Circle, Report Filed
9:07 p.m. Fire/Explosion, Sarty Road, Fire Extinguished

Monday, April 24

6:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Report Filed
6:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Report Filed
7:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
7:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
7:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
8:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
9:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bemis Road, Written Warning
9:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
10:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
10:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
12:49 p.m. Noise Violation/Party, Ramsdell Street, Officer Spoke to Party
1:14 p.m. Fraud/Forgery, Boston Post Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Tuesday, April 25

4:09 a.m. Falls, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital

6:15 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Bridges Avenue, Transported to Hospital
7:38 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Main Street, Investigated
9:56 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Maple Street, Officer Spoke to Party
3:30 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Advised
5:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
9:20 p.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, Main Street, Investigated

Wednesday, April 26

3:56 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, O'Neil Road, Information Taken
4:10 p.m. Officer Initiated, Bridges Avenue, Vehicle Towed
5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Spring Street, Report Filed
8:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Thursday, April 27

9:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Vehicle Towed
Summons: Kyle M. Evans, 26, Ware
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle
3:21 p.m. Property Damage, North Street, Report Filed
3:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
4:54 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Summer Street, Report Filed
5:07 p.m. Welfare Check, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
5:37 p.m. Assault and Battery, Main Street, Report Filed
Summons: Philip J. Steiger, 39, Warren
Assault and Battery
11:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Friday, April 28

7:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire, Main Street, Report Filed
8:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
9:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:22 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Crouch Road, Transported to Hospital
3:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:34 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Southbridge Road, Report Filed

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.

3:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning
5:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Chapel Street, Written Warning
5:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
6:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
Summons: Alexander S. Tomas, 21, Sturbridge
Uninsured Motor Vehicle
6:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
7 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
9:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:45 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, April 29

12:51 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Brimfield Road, Officer Spoke to Party
3:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
4 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
5:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning
7:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
9:28 p.m. Underage Drinking, Forest Avenue, Report Filed
11:58 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Forest Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party

QUABBIN from page 1

ed on how such funding might be used for non-profits to provide transit services that do not currently exist.

The bill would also set term limits on the MWRA advisory board and provide representation for western Massachusetts in the decisions concerning the watershed.

"The average Boston household goes through 41 gallons of water a day," said Saunders. The actual impact to ratepayers would be equal to 6 cents per month.

State Sen. Anne Gobi added another dimension to the Quabbin story. She cautioned that although there were four towns totally erased to make the reservoir in order to "help quench Boston's thirst," she said that the creation of the Quabbin tends to overshadow other aspects of the region's history such as the Ware River.

Tapping into her earlier life as a history teacher, Gobi relished in the details. She recounted how in 1926 the Ware River Act did not submerge or disincorporate towns, but rather several towns lost huge amounts of land to watershed protection.

"Rutland lost north and west Rutland," said Gobi. "And Oakham lost its main business area which was in the vanquished village of Coldbrook Springs."

All of those towns had post offices, mills, hotels, and businesses. Farmers also lost their land and with lives totally disrupted had to move elsewhere.

In 1995 local people formed an advisory committee to talk about what mattered to them. They started to meet two years later. But some groups quit while others assumed active roles.

Gobi's proposed bill aims to remove groups that no longer exist and add three more active players such as a snowmobile association, a local equestrian group, and the New England Mountain Bike Association.

The most impassioned call

for reparations in the form of fair compensation to the long-suffering communities came from state Sen. Joanne Comerford who encapsulated in an unbelievable three minutes the history of the Quabbin Reservoir.

She explained how in 1893 the Massachusetts Department of Health was concerned for the sustainability of its port and major city, and sought sources of water for Boston. First they considered Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire, Sebago Lake in Maine, and the Merrimack and Nashua rivers, but ultimately decided to take water from the Ware River and create a massive reservoir in what was then known as the Swift River Valley, largely underwater now.

The rest is history and today eastern Massachusetts uses 200 million gallons a day from the Quabbin, and some three million people in the commonwealth drink this pristine water filtered through a watershed of over 100,000 acres.

Comerford explained that the MWRA is now looking to expand its water supply to a dozen communities north of Boston, 10 to the south, and 15 more in MetroWest.

The problem is that the people who do not have access to the water are often those who live closest to it. She cited the children, faculty and staff at the Swift River Elementary School in Salem who drink bottled water because their well is poisoned with polyfluorinated substances while Quabbin's water flows eastward.

What Comerford and Saunders together are filing "is a modest, really modest pivot toward a necessary new day." That new day would consist of four key provisions.

The bill establishes a fee of 5 cents for every 1,000 gallons drawn from the Quabbin. The monies would be placed in a Quabbin community development trust fund that would generate an approximate \$3.5 million fee annually to be distributed to municipalities and nonprofits in

the Quabbin watershed. Secondly, the bill rights a longstanding wrong concerning Payments in Lieu of Taxes known as PILOT payments.

Currently the Watershed PILOT Program reimburses municipalities for property tax revenue lost due to non-taxable state ownership of watershed lands.

What it leaves out is the erasure of the four towns required to create the Quabbin.

Their former land was annexed to surrounding towns: Belchertown, Hardwick, New Salem, Petersham, Pelham and Ware. These municipalities receive the PILOT payments for state-owned annexed lands within their borders.

However, for the Quabbin Reservoir land itself that was flooded and is now underwater, there is no payment. The new bill would remove this exception and require payments for land also underneath the waters of the Quabbin.

Third the bill requires representation of Quabbin-area residents on the MWRA, such that three of the 13 board members would consider western Massachusetts home. The bill would also require the MWRA to explore all expansion options.

Opportunities to serve communities that steward the water need to be fully explored. It calls for similar evaluations of expansion into communities in Westfield River, Chicopee River, Connecticut River, and Millers River valley basins.

State Rep. Mindy Domb offered a climate-awareness perspective when she testified in support of the Quabbin bills. "I know from my work on this committee, that the [water] need is probably going to increase - drought, rivers drying up, towns needing water. The towns may say, 'Oh let's just go to the MWRA; western Massachusetts can't do that.'"

obituaries

Baystate Health announces changes to mask policy

SPRINGFIELD – In conjunction with the end of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Emergency on May 11, which coincides with the end of the Federal Public Health Emergency, Baystate Health is announcing changes regarding masking.

According to a press release, masks will now be optional for visitors and staff which includes in patient care areas at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield and Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer as well as at all medical practices and outpatient services.

However, the use of masks, other personal protective equipment, and isolation precautions for patients who have COVID-19 or other contagious diseases will not change.

While masks are now optional, they will be available for visitors to use at their own discretion.

Also, if patients prefer, they can request that caregivers wear a mask while delivering clinical care.

All visitors must adhere to Baystate Health infection control practices that are in effect throughout the health system, including self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms, using signage at entrances and must be free of any COVID-19 symptoms. If a visitor self-screens positively for symptoms or a diagnosis of COVID-19 infection in the past 10 days, they will not be allowed to enter the facility.

The health and safety of patients, families and staff members is Baystate's top priority.

Care partner visitation guidelines balance preventing the spread of COVID-19 with the needs of our patients and their loved ones. A care partner may be a relative, partner, friend or anyone the patient chooses to have at their side during care.

The number of care partners welcomed will depend on the area of the hospital and patient circumstances.

Baystate Health will continue to monitor public health data alongside their own rate of employee infections regarding COVID-19. To ensure ongoing staff and patient safety, there may be a need to reinstate the mask policy should a surge of cases occur.

Baystate Health is regularly evaluating its visitation policy in accordance with the Governor, CDC, and DPH who are monitoring the constant evolution in our region which guides our updates. Visitation is at the discretion of Baystate Health.

For the latest information on masking and to see all exceptions for visitation, including obstetrics, go to baystatehealth.org/patients/visiting.

Nancy L. Devanski, 78

SARASOTA, FL – Nancy L. (Racine) Devanski, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 5, 2023, after a short illness, at the age of 78.



Nancy was the daughter of the late Wilfred and Madeline Racine.

Born in Winooski, Vermont, she moved to Ware with her family at a young age where she attended Ware Middle School and graduated from Ware High School in 1962. She then went on to work for A&P Company in Springfield.

In 1966 she met her soulmate, John Devanski. They were joined in life together in 1967 and lived in wedded bliss for 55 years until her passing.

Nancy was a self-employed book-

Death notices

Devanski (Racine), Nancy L.
Died May 5, 2023

Harrington, James E.
Died May 7, 2023
Services May 19, 2023

keeper until her retirement in 2000. She moved to Sarasota, Florida with her husband John and enjoyed 23 years of sunshine, beaches, golf, travel, and life in paradise.

Nancy is survived by her husband John, son Gregory Devanski of Ware and daughter Theresa Woodward of Granby. Nancy also leaves behind four grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, a sister, Carol Hutchinson of Palmer, and a brother Randall of Rio Rico, Arizona.

Her wishes for her final resting place were to be at Sarasota National Cemetery where she will be joined forever with her soulmate, John.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

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 \$100, 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.

Chicopee 4Rivers lists upcoming events

Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council has a busy schedule of spring events including paddles and volunteer opportunities.

For more information, visit www.c4rivers.org.

Ribbon cutting and opening day paddle

Saturday, May 27 at 9 a.m. will be the opening day paddle and ribbon cutting to "launch" C4R's new Blue Trail, the Lower Ware River Blue Trail. Paddlers will travel from Robbins Road in Ware to Bennett Street in Palmer

along 8.5 miles of river (about 2.5 hours).

This is quick, smooth water with one minor drop. Bring your own boat.

Please RSVP by email to Keith at chicopeewatershed@gmail.com

Other events

An inaugural paddle of the Upper Ware River Blue Trail will be held Saturday, June 10 at 9 a.m. at Old Furnace, Hardwick to Ware River Park, Gilbertville.

People can also paddle the Upper Chicopee River Blue Trail

on Saturday, June 17.

Volunteer opportunities

C4R is looking for trail stewards. These are folks who would adopt a trail segment or launch site and help keep an eye on it, keep it clean, clear, report any issues, etc.

C4R also needs volunteers to grab river samples for water quality sampling of the Ware River on Thursdays at 7:45 a.m. in June through early September.

If you're interested, email Keith at chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

James E. Harrington, 52

HARDWICK – James E. Harrington, of the Gilbertville section of Hardwick, passed away suddenly at home on Sunday morning, May 7, 2023, at the age of 52.

Jim was born in Stamford, Connecticut, a son of Julia (Williams) Lubelczyk and the late Frank Harrington.

Jim is predeceased by his brothers Thomas Harrington and Patrick Harrington, and sister, Patty Harrington.



Jim grew up in Gilbertville and was a life-long resident. He graduated from Quabbin Regional High School in 1991.

Jim enjoyed playing pool, the outdoors, dirt bikes, four wheelers, and snowmobiles.

Jim is survived by Julia and Ed Lubelczyk, Murial (Harrington) and John Wimbush, Fran Harrington and partner, Aileen Kelly, Mandi (Lubelczyk) and Rich Souza, Joe

Lubelczyk, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. Jim will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Calling Hours will take place on Friday, May 19, 2023, from 4-6 p.m. at Cebula Funeral Home Chapel, 66 South St., Ware. A Private Committal Service will be held in Aspen Grove Cemetery on Pleasant Street, in Ware.

For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Quabbin Visitor Center lists free upcoming events

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free programs this spring.

All ages are welcome. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed. Space is limited.

To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?page=1.

Memorial Day

A Memorial Day commemoration will be held at Quabbin Park Cemetery on Sunday, May 28 from 10 a.m.-noon. Refreshments will be offered at 10 a.m. and the parade and services begin at 11 a.m.

No registration required and

the public is welcome

Like communities across the United States, the towns of the Swift River Valley commemorated their war dead each year on Memorial Day until the towns' demise in 1938. Since 1947, Quabbin Park Cemetery has been the center of Memorial Day services for the four towns.

Please join the Friends of Quabbin, the Swift River Historical Society, the Veterans Council of Belchertown, Chauncey D. Walker Post #239, American Legion and the staff of the DCR Quabbin Reservoir for this annual service.

Quabbin Park Cemetery

On Sunday, May 28 from 2-3 p.m., join DCR staff for "A Scene of Beauty" - The History and Creation of Quabbin Park Cemetery. This walk is easy, but is on uneven ground.

Specifically mentioned in the legislative act that created the

Quabbin Reservoir, the removal and reburial of graves from the Swift River Valley has always been an area of fascination and misunderstanding for many visitors to the area. Discover the history and the process of how the state removed and reburied over 7,500 known graves from the Quabbin Valley.

Tower Trail Habitat Hike

On Thursday, June 1 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. enjoy a 3-mile, moderately difficult Tower Trail Habitat Hike starting at the parking area inside the Middle Entrance off Route 9.

Due to safety issues, participants will not be able to go up to the tower itself, as it is currently closed for renovations. Please wear proper footing and dress prepared for ticks/biting insects.

(<https://goo.gl/maps/f44nbVK4bG7>)

Establishing young forest habitat

On Saturday, June 3 from 10 a.m.-noon, join DCR staff at the Oakham Field Office, 578 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham for a 1-mile moderate hike to explore the young forest habitat of the Ware River Watershed.

(<https://goo.gl/maps/QhLn1AhaYWs4KF16>)

Participants will carpool to the walk site.

Barrens habitat restoration

How can forest management and prescribed fire programs support rare plant and animal habitats? Meet at the intersection of Route 62 and Barre Road in Hubbardston for a 1-mile moderate hike on Saturday, July 15 from 9-11 a.m. exploring barrens habitat restoration on Barre Heathland.

(<https://goo.gl/maps/XgcGPEuf5SP8QK8MA>)

Country Bank appointments Musso to Board of Trustees

WARE — Country Bank President and CEO Paul F. Scully recently announced the appointment of Steven P. Musso to the Board of Trustees at the bank's annual meeting.

The Ware-based bank has 14 branches in the region, including Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton and Worcester.

Musso joins the Board with over 30 years of experience in the banking industry, a press release states. He previously served as the COO for FinPro Inc., leading consulting engagements, running the consulting operation and building the technology divi-

sion. He has extensive experience working with banks on strategic planning, interest rate risk analysis and other consulting and advisory services.

In addition, Musso has worked with various bank boards, and management teams in financial institutions across the country. Steve holds series 63 and 79 financial securities licenses.

"I was attracted to Country Bank by its talented Board, Management Team, and the opportunity to work with a strong and well-performing community

bank," Musso said.

"I am excited to be on the other side of the fence. Joining the Board at Country Bank allows me to bring all of my past experiences to bear in helping the Bank continue to serve its local communities and grow by delivering quality banking



Steven P. Musso

services in a rapidly changing industry." According to Board Chair James Phaneuf, "We are delighted to have Steve join the other talented strategic business professionals on Country Bank's Board as the institution contin-

ues to gain prominence and market diversification in Central and Western Massachusetts. Having been the Bank's strategic partner at FinPro for the past twelve years, Steve understands firsthand Country Bank's depth and financial strength."

The Bank also appointed new corporators from Country Bank: Mary C. McGovern, executive vice president, chief financial and operating officer; G. Thomas Wolcott, first senior vice president, Commercial Banking; Dawn M. Fleury, first senior vice president, chief risk officer; and Miriam J. Siegel, first senior vice president, chief culture and development officer.

UPDATES from page 3

out all that they built using the system.

Brown said many of the teachers are still using Canvas, but not as much as they did during the height of COVID.

Student representative report

Student representative Philip Orszulak said staff and students at SMK are busy planning field trips and end of year events.

The spring music and art event on April 27 was a huge success.

On May 9, SMK held kindergarten orientation for incoming students.

Orszulak said Middle School

students celebrated school staff for Teacher Appreciation Week with a different international theme each day. He said the WMS PTO treated staff to a candy buffet with ice cream.

He said Adjustment Counselor Jacqueline Jock and sixth grade students performed a skit.

High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society recently and Orszulak thanked teacher Jesse Trzpit for organizing the ceremony.

DiLeo said she was proud to report there were 33 students inducted into NHS, and that the first year they had an induction there were only three female students and no males.

"I can proudly say that we've expanded upon that, and the number of both young ladies and gentlemen," she said.

Senior nights will be held for volleyball, baseball and softball over the next week.

Superintendent's report

DiLeo said this is an "extremely busy time of year," for staff and students and they are in the final planning stage for graduation on Saturday, June 3 at 10 a.m.

"There is much excitement in the air," she said.

DiLeo said the Ware, Warren and Palmer police departments will conduct an active shooter

training at the campus on June 23.

Business management bid

School Committee Vice-Chair Brian Winslow said he thinks the Committee should accept the bid received from TMS, Inc. for business management services. He said the increases in the new contract are a little over 3% each year, which he didn't think was bad with the current inflation rate.

All voted in favor of accepting TMS, Inc.'s bid, with School Committee Chair Christopher Desjardins abstaining from both discussion and voting.

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<p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)</p> <p>4. Chinese philosophical principle</p> <p>7. Branch</p> <p>8. Jewish spiritual leader</p> <p>10. Slang for requests</p> <p>12. "So Human An Animal" author</p> <p>13. Rocker Billy</p> <p>14. British Air Aces</p> <p>16. Type of tree</p> <p>17. "Tough Little Boys" singer</p> <p>19. State attorneys</p> <p>20. Goddess of fertility</p> <p>21. Localities</p> <p>25. Beloved singer</p> <p>26. Clue</p>	<p>27. Ridge of jagged rock below sea surface</p> <p>29. Helsinki neighborhood</p> <p>30. Farm resident</p> <p>31. Ocean</p> <p>32. Where ballplayers work</p> <p>39. Unable to hear</p> <p>41. Cool!</p> <p>42. Cape Verde capital</p> <p>43. One point north of due east</p> <p>44. Kilo yard (abbr.)</p> <p>45. Middle Eastern nation</p> <p>46. It yields Manila hemp</p> <p>48. People operate it (abbr.)</p> <p>49. Regenerate</p> <p>50. Not healthy</p> <p>51. Chinese sword</p> <p>52. Mild expression of surprise</p>	<p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Unit of angle</p> <p>2. Headgear to control a horse</p> <p>3. Clots</p> <p>4. Follows sigma</p> <p>5. A woman who is the superior of a group of nuns</p> <p>6. Greek units of weight</p> <p>8. Radio direction finder (abbr.)</p> <p>9. Systems, doctrines, theories</p> <p>11. Stony waste matter</p> <p>14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!</p> <p>15. Hostile to others</p> <p>18. U.S. State</p> <p>19. Not wet</p> <p>20. Something one thinks up</p> <p>22. Where beer is made</p> <p>23. Clumsy person</p> <p>24. Belonging to us</p> <p>27. Canadian flyers</p> <p>28. Greek goddess of the dawn</p> <p>29. Snakelike fish</p> <p>31. Unhappy</p> <p>32. Fruit</p> <p>33. Not good</p> <p>34. Zero degrees Celsius</p> <p>35. Goo Goo Dolls' hit</p> <p>36. Crawls into the head (folklore)</p> <p>37. Legally responsible</p> <p>38. Move in a playful way</p> <p>39. Regarded with deep affection</p> <p>40. Partner to flowed</p> <p>44. Native American tribe</p> <p>47. Head honcho</p>
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Town of Warren Board of Selectmen Notice of Public Hearing
Pursuant to Chapter 140, Section 157 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Warren Board of Selectmen has received Dangerous / Nuisance Dog Complaints regarding Bella, a dog owned by Michael Rucci of 250 Reed St., Warren, MA. A Public Hearing in front of the Board of Selectmen will be held regarding this matter on **May 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Shepard Municipal Building, First Floor, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 48 High Street, Warren, MA 01083. Written comments from the public will be accepted before and during this hearing. Zoom information is provided at Warren-Ma.gov. 05/11, 05/18/2023

Pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. 131 c40. The hearing will include consideration of a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) by the Town of Ware Parks Commission for construction of a playground at Grenville Park, 73 Church Street. Said hearing will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082. To view the application and related plans, contact the Conservation office at 413.967.9648, x 120.

in West Brookfield, Massachusetts.
The objective of this project is to upgrade the existing roadway infrastructure, which includes widening up to 10 +/- feet cumulatively for both sides of road, to extend the service life and improve traffic flow as well as increase safety for all roadway users. Minor impacts to streams and wetlands are proposed. No other special resources occur within the project area. Information for this project will be posted on the Highway Department website at: Highway Department - West Brookfield Massachusetts (wbrookfield.com).

A general project information meeting will be held at West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 E Main Street, on May 24th, 2023, at 6:00 pm. 5/18/2023

TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
The Town of West Brookfield is proposing to rehabilitate and expand the roadway surface along Route 9/West Main Street from the Ware/West Brookfield Town Line east to Pierce Road



Town of Ware Conservation Commission
The Ware Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 6:30 PM** pursuant to Chapter 131A, Section 13A, of the Massachusetts General Laws, regarding the proposed expansion of the Ware Conservation Commission's boundary to include the area bounded by the Ware/West Brookfield Town Line, the Ware/West Brookfield Town Line, and the Ware/West Brookfield Town Line.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

TOWN OF WARREN POLICE DEPARTMENT JOB OPPORTUNITY

Full Time Police Officer and Part Time Police Officer

The Warren Police Department is accepting applications for the position of full time and part time Police Officer. Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights, and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen's contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior experience may also be considered to start at a higher step rate of pay.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than Friday June 2nd, 2023, to the attention of Lt. James Early, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or early@warren-ma.gov.

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SUNSHINE VILLAGE

Come join Our Team!

Sunshine Village, a non-profit organization provides day habilitation and community services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Sunshine Village is an employer of choice and a great place to work!

Job Title: Van Driver

Job Summary: Provide transportation to individuals with Developmental Disabilities to and from our day programs

Route: Palmer, Monson, Ware, Ludlow, Wilbraham area

Hours: Part Time, approximately 20 hours
General hours (may vary): Monday - Friday 7:30am - 9:30am and 2:30pm - 4:30pm

Experience Required: Must have experience driving individuals with disabilities (15 passenger van experience a plus)

Educational Requirements: High School Diploma/ GED/or Equivalent

Other Requirements: Ability to lift 30 lbs comfortably, a valid driver's license and clean driving record. Drug Screen, CORI, SORI and Fingerprint check required.

Salary: \$16.02/hr

Accepting applications: Apply in person at 75 Litwin Lane, Chicopee, MA 01020. AA/EOE. Sunshine Village is a great place to work!

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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
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MORE NOTICES ON PAGE 14

public notices



Camille Koss smiles as she accepts a certificate from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts extending congratulations as signed by state Rep. Donald R. Berthiaume and speaker of the house Ronald Mariano.

KOSS from page 1

Koss was surrounded by second and third generation family members including her two children, Kevin and Nadine, their spouses and several grandchildren.

Koss was emotional as she accepted certificates from the town of West Brookfield and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts honoring her as West Brookfield's oldest resident, where she has lived for 53 years.

West Brookfield Selectmen Ronald Sickenberger presented Koss with a pin made of pink roses and baby's breath, wrapped delicately in white, mesh ribbon.

Koss could be seen admiring and smelling the roses after the ceremony.

Donna Frammer presented Koss with her certificate from the Commonwealth on behalf of state Rep. Donald Berthiaume and state Sen. Anne Gobi, recognizing Koss as West Brookfield's oldest resident.

Koss was born in Ware on Aug. 19, 1923, to Peter and Sophie Imbier.

While she grew up on Pulaski Street in Ware, Koss went to New York City after graduating high school to study photography.

Although she worked at the Ware Cooperative Bank for nearly two decades, Koss's main hobby was photography.

She was a member of the Ware Camera Club for years and is credited for taking photographs of many events in Ware and of neighborhood children.

Koss had several other hobbies, including polka dancing, ceramics and crocheting. Over the years, she has crocheted countless blankets and afghans for family members and "new additions."

Her family also credits her for her "famous" chocolate chip cookies, which they say friends, family and coworkers often ask for.

In 1949, Camille Koss married John Koss, with whom she shares two children.

While Camille and John built a summer home on Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield in 1968, the couple bought a permanent residence on Lakeshore Drive in 1992 where they'd host family gatherings and enjoy lake life.

Though Koss is still a resident of West Brookfield, she has been staying at Cedarbrook Village since late 2021.

Koss has two children, five grandchildren, Jessica, Angela, Jonathan, Daniel, and Michael and seven great-grandchildren.

The ceremony was organized by the West Brookfield Historical Commission, with secretary Anne-Marie Nolan credited for contacting Koss and her family, scheduling meetings, dates and collaborating with other Historical Commission members reaching out to town and state officials.

Co-chair of the Commission, Louise Garwood, read the history of the Boston Post Cane ceremony while Nolan shared Koss's biography.

Koss will be 100 years old this August.



(Courtesy Photos by the Koss Family)

Camille Koss is surrounded by second and third generation families who attended her Boston Post Cane presentation ceremony. Shown are Koss's children and their spouses, alongside her grandchildren.

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 Suntrax LLC, to Stormfield Capital Funding, I, LLC, dated December 23, 2020, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64074, Page 318, 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 **1:00 P.M. on the 7th day of June 2023** at 84 Southbridge Road, West Warren (Warren), MA 01083, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

THENCE South 63° 20' West sixty and eight tenths (60.8) feet to land formerly of Mary W. Shepard;

THENCE Southerly by land formerly of said Shepard twentythree and one-half (23 1/2) feet to a corner of land formerly of John B. Gould;

THENCE Easterly on line of land formerly of John B. Gould sixty-seven and one half (67 1/2) feet to the line of said Southbridge Street;

THENCE Northerly on line of said street twenty-three (23) feet to the first mentioned corner.

Together with the rights of ways contained in Deed recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 4711, Page 112.

Being the same premises conveyed to Mortgagor

the Center Village of Warren and bounded as described as follows:

COMMENCING at the southeasterly corner of land formerly of Charles H. Freeman and on the westerly line of said Southbridge Street;

THENCE South 63° 20' West sixty and eight tenths (60.8) feet to land formerly of Mary W. Shepard;

THENCE Southerly by land formerly of said Shepard twentythree and one-half (23 1/2) feet to a corner of land formerly of John B. Gould;

THENCE Easterly on line of land formerly of John B. Gould sixty-seven and one half (67 1/2) feet to the line of said Southbridge Street;

THENCE Northerly on line of said street twenty-three (23) feet to the first mentioned corner.

Together with the rights of ways contained in Deed recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 4711, Page 112.

Being the same premises conveyed to Mortgagor

by Deed recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds herewith.

The sale is subject to a senior mortgage recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 58995, Page 21.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by

the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to Demerle Hoeger LLP, 10 City Square, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Stormfield Capital Funding I, LLC.
Present holder of said mortgage.
By its Attorneys,
Demerle Hoeger LLP
10 City Square, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02129
(617) 337-4444
05/11, 05/18, 05/25/2023

satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of the following storage units will be auctioned.

The contents of Caryn Bourget, Kaylee Moran, Jeremy Wheeler and Maria Pantoja will be auctioned off at Secure Storage 167 West St Ware, Mass at **9:00am 5/27/2023.**

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.
05/11, 05/18/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to

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.

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 Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

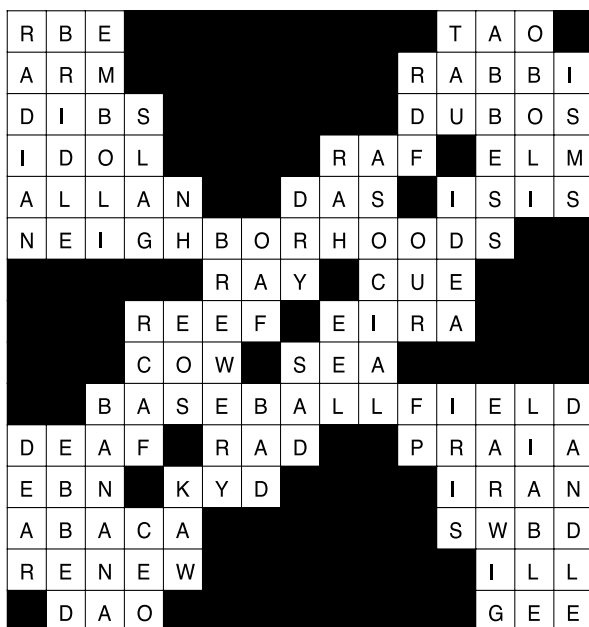
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 May 29, 2023**

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Ad deadline is May 22, 2023

Contact Dan Flynn at:
dflynn@turley.com



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