

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Dept. heads discuss budget

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Select Board invited department heads from the Highway Department, Fire Department, Police Department, library and general government to a meeting on May 11 to discuss whether they could make additional cuts to their fiscal year 2027 proposed budgets.

The board spoke first to Martin Gryszowka, who is the highway superintendent. He said there are not many more places the department can cut from, other than various amounts of a few thousand.

He said there have been price increases but no budget increases.

Select Board Chair Jeff Schaaf asked about the open position for a truck driver and laborer, and how it has not been filled for some time. Schaaf asked if the department would be willing to amend that position to part-time.

Gryszowka said having nobody in that position is burning him out, and said he would not be able to

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 15



Ware baseball legend and former MLB player Billy Jo Robidoux threw out the first pitch at Ware Youth Baseball and Softball's opening day ceremony on May 16.

Youth Baseball/Softball holds parade and ceremony

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Ware Youth Baseball and Softball welcomed the arrival of opening day with a parade and ceremony at Grenville Park.

This longstanding tradition took a temporary hiatus after 2019, returning last year with an outpouring of support from the community.

President Shawn Clark thanked everyone for attending the May 16 ceremony, as well as the parents, players

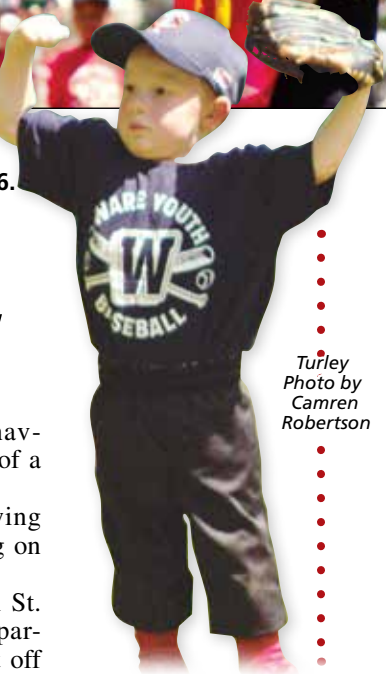
and coaches.

Baseball is about having fun and being a part of a team, Clark said.

"It's just about showing up, lacing up and playing on a team," he said.

Fr. Piotr Pawlus from St. Mary's and All Saints parish gave a prayer to start off the ceremony, saying, "Bless this sport...where friendships will grow and memories be made."

"Sports are not only about winning games, but also about building character," Pawlus said.



Turley Photo by Camren Robertson

A T-baller flexed his arms to show he was ready to play ball.

Clark took the time to recognize and acknowledge the

Please see **BASEBALL**, page 9

School committee votes to close school

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The Quaboag Regional School Committee voted Monday to cease operations at West Brookfield Elementary School following the conclusion of this school year.

At the May 18 meeting, Superintendent Stephen Duff said this follows meetings with the West Brookfield Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee, who say the town cannot afford to put forward the School Committee's approved budget, and the only option the town could afford was the closing of the elementary school.

Duff said this followed the town of West Brookfield already making cuts and finding out they were still \$75,000 short of having a balanced budget to present at town meeting.

Duff said the district estimates that closing the elementary school will lead to 70% of students enrolled through school choice leaving, resulting in a loss of \$350,000 of revenue. He said another consequence of this would be foundation students choosing out.

Duff said if Warren Community Elementary School is the only school, class sizes would average at 21-29.

Many residents came up to speak during the public session, which happened before the vote was taken to

express their concerns with the option of closing the school. One resident named John said closing the elementary school could lead to a lot of loss down the road, saying that nobody is going to send their kids to Warren schools with a 45 minute bus ride or 25 or more children in one classroom.

Jordan Brooks, another resident, said he was ready to "jump ship" and switch over to the North Brookfield district, and thinks Warren will be in trouble with the decision to close the school.

A resident named Maureen asked if there were any amendments to the regional agreement that would require town meeting votes of both towns to cease operations at the school.

The School Committee chair said according to the regional agreement, which is nearing 40 years old, the vote comes down to the committee and requires a ¾ majority.

Richard Eichacker, the chair of the Warren Board of Selectmen said Warren can afford option three, which is closing the school, but would likely need to pass a proposition 2.5 override to afford the level funded budget.

Two students said they understood the concerns of the citizens, but said they attended school in the district and had larger class

Please see **SCHOOL CLOSING**, page 5

A trip through time

Walking tour explores mill village and its history

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – Cheryl Wolfe led a walking tour of the village of Gilbertville this past Sunday, exploring its history through architecture



Cheryl Wolfe pointed out architectural details in the Stone Church Cultural Center (formerly the Trinitarian Congregational Church) during a walking tour of Gilbertville held this past Sunday.

and industry.

This program was sponsored by the Gilbertville Public Library and the Paige Memorial Library and it took participants on a journey to view some of the 75 historic buildings in the village.

Wolfe said she gathered her information for the tour from books by Clair W. Dempsey and Emily Bancroft.

"They spent years studying this," Wolfe said.

Many of the sites toured on May 17 were built by the George H. Gilbert Manufacturing Company starting in the mid-1800s when he bought the tract of land known as "The Gore."

"To encourage workers he built a mill town," she said.

The tour started with a slide presentation in the Gilbertville Public Library, which was constructed for the village's 1,500 mill-workers with money from an endowment from the Gilbert family.

This endowment has since run out after supporting the library for over a century, and efforts are being made to merge the town's two libraries, and have the town take ownership of the building.

"Our future is in jeopardy"

Please see **TOUR**, page 7

Tri-Parish Community Church holds annual sale

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Common was busy this past weekend with the Tri-Parish Community Church's annual Plant, Bake, Craft & Tag Sale taking place.

This was the 20th year the Tri-Parish Community Church has held this annual

sale which is all made possible by a volunteer effort. This event benefits the Tri-Parish Community Church's operating expenses.

Members of Tri-Parish Community Church were hosting a plant sale and a bake sale on the Hardwick Common, and the weather was perfect for the occasion.

Please see **TRI-PARISH**, page 3



Doug Swanson of Dragonfly Wood Arts of Hardwick was one of the craft vendors during the 20th Annual Tri-Parish Community Church Plant, Bake, Craft and Tag Sale.

A decade of faith, learning and community

Catholic school celebrates 10 year anniversary

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – It's been 10 years since St. Aloysius Catholic School opened its doors, and the "little school that could," continues to grow and offer a learning experience that is enhanced with community activism and faith.

Back in the spring of 2016, parents from St. Mary's School in Ware searched for a space to start a new



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

St. Aloysius Catholic School combines traditional and modern learning for students in preschool through eighth grade.

Catholic school, following the announcement that St. Mary's School will be closing.

They soon settled on the vacant St. Aloysius School at 52 Church St. in Gilbertville.

St. Aloysius School provided an education to area children from around 1900 to 1970, before closing. Since that time, it sat mostly unused in the shadow of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, just overlooking the Ware River.

St. Aloysius Catholic School Finance Manager/Enrollment Coordinator Roberta McQuaid and other parents visited the school and knew it would be the right fit

Please see **FAITH**, page 13



Kids' Corner Workshops return to Ware Grange

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Another season of Kids' Corner Workshops have returned to the Ware Grange.

The first workshop in the series held on May 9 focused on teaching kids about farm tools and planting.

Returning to offer these workshops was Jennifer McNally, who shared several stories and crafting stations with a good turnout of children.

McNally shared that this workshop had new kids arriving this year in addition to some returning kids. This was the first Kids' Corner Workshop since last year's season-ending pumpkin carving event.

The workshop began with a story read by McNally. The book was "Little Blue Truck"

Jen McNally returned to the Ware Grange for a new season of Kids' Corner Workshops. McNally is shown holding the book "Little Blue Truck", which she read during story time.



Cupcakes arranged in the shape of a tractor were baked by Terry Vaill.

by Alice Schertle, which is a story about friendship and kindness and features farm animals as some of the characters.

After the story was done, kids explored various stations set up around the Grange.

There was a scavenger hunt for kids to participate in where clues were placed inside the Ware Grange.

There were also crafting stations including ones where kids could draw their own animal masks and tractors. Friends Emily and Delaney decided to decorate rabbit masks.

Another craft station had kids creating their own pig plate faces, with paper plates serving as the base of the face.

The workshop also featured planting and teaching kids how to plant. Randy Vaill was helping kids out with potting and planting seeds for corn, carrots, peas and beans.

"Corn has been the popular one today," Vaill said.

There was also a tactile farm station for kids with farm animals and materials so they could learn about farm animals and farm tools. Another unique station was a sheep shearing station where kids practice shearing with

Please see **KIDS' CORNER**, page 3



Emily and Delaney wore their bunny masks at the Grange.

Are You Old News?



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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 2023 showed Steve Boyko moving a wreath to the Enfield monument with the help of his son Charlie during the Quabbin Park Cemetery's Memorial Day ceremony.

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

Libraries host 'stuff' vet clinic on May 30

HARDWICK – Doctor Rosie Helps the Animals will be held on Saturday, May 30 at 10:30 a.m.

This is an Interactive "Stuff" Vet Clinic for children who will learn to use a stethoscope and take home take a mini vet kit.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library, it will be held at the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville. Children should bring a stuffed animal to be examined. May is National Pet Month dedicated to celebrating the human-animal bond.

Dig into Reading starts June 23 as the first day of the Paige Memorial Library

Summer Reading program. This year readers will search out activities on Archaeology, Paleontology, History and plants. Stay tuned for more details.

Story Time is held every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, with interactive activities to support language development, encourage a love for reading and books and foster social skills.

Ongoing library activities include the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers, Paige's Page to Screen book to movie

discussion group, and the Movie Festival Committee.

Check the Facebook page and website at www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/ or www.paigelibrary.com/

For more information, call 413-477-6704 or email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com.

Voter registration deadline for ATM is May 29

WARE – Residents of Ware not registered to vote must register on or before Friday, May 29 in order to vote in the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for June 8.

If you are registered but have moved within Ware you must also register at your new address on or before this date.

You may check your voter registration status at any time online at www.mass.gov under Elections & Voting.

Library hosts annual book sale through May 23

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

There is a great selection of book and DVDs for adults and children, with great prices. Library hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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



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The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to pouimette@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.

Ware Senior Center NEWS

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, 413-967-9645, located at 1 Robbins Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

- Monday, May 25**
Closed for Memorial Day
- Tuesday, May 26**
- 9 a.m. Exercise Class at Valley View Housing
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 12:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
 - 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class.
 - 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)
- Wednesday, May 27**
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
- Thursday, May 28**
- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
 - 9 a.m. Walking Club (weather permitting)
 - 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
 - 10 a.m. Line Dancing
 - 10 a.m. Scat

- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 12:15 p.m. Art Class
 - 12:30-2:30 p.m. Movie Matinee "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"
- Friday, May 29**
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
 - 6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES DINE IN

- 11:30 a.m.**
All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted
Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.
- Monday, May 25**
Closed for Memorial Day
- Tuesday, May 26**
Breakfast Burger, Onion Rings, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day
- Wednesday, May 27**
Marsala Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day
- Thursday, May 28**
Brunch
French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Dessert of the Day
- Friday, May 29**
Mac & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Kids got to practice shearing sheep with the use of shaving cream and a portrait of a sheep.

KIDS' CORNER

from page 2

the use of shaving cream and a portrait of a sheep.

A snack station was also available with Terry Vaill making all sorts of planting and farming themed treats.

The popular one was a green tractor put together with individual cupcakes. The tractor was slowly disassembled as guests started grabbing cupcakes.

McNally also had several children's books about farming and planting laid out for kids to read. McNally ended the workshop with one final story, "Click, Clack, Moo:

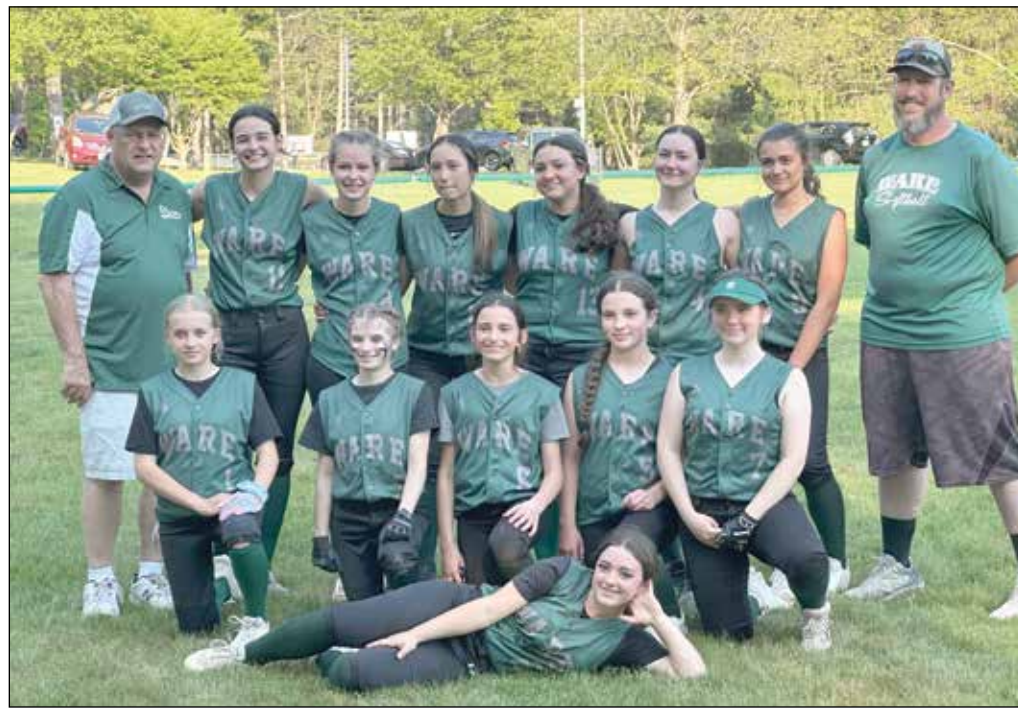
Cows That Type" by Doreen Cronin and illustrated by Betsy Lewin.

The next Kids' Corner Workshop will be held on Saturday, June 13 at 10 a.m. and will be about pollinators and flowers.

Experience the learning and fun of the Kids' Corner Workshops at the Ware Grange, located at 297 Belchertown Road. More information is listed on www.waregrange.org.

The next adult gardening workshop at Ware Grange will be on Friday, June 12 at 7 p.m. and is about herbal revival.

JV softball team finishes season undefeated



Submitted Photo

Shown from left to right are Coach Don Swarts, Lana Bennington, Maddy Mitchell, Daisy Laverdiere, Jazyme Libby, Laila Perron, Claire Murphy, Assistant Coach John McQuaid, Mia Sullivan, Abby Klee, Cindy Cotja, Natalie Finocchio, Madison Boulrice and Emily Koczur.

WARE – The Ware High School Girls Junior Varsity Softball team delivered a season to remember this year, finishing undefeated and proving that hard work, teamwork, and determination can lead to incredible success.

From the first game of the season to the final two runs, the players showed dedication both on and off the field, earning the respect of coaches and fans alike.

Every player contributed in important ways showing that success comes from teamwork rather than individual accomplishments.

As the season comes to an end the Junior Varsity team can proudly celebrate an extraordinary accomplishment. Their undefeated record is more than just a statistic – it's a principle of sportsmanship, commitment and the love of the game.



Celebrate the 250th birthday of America with some decorative patriotic eggs created by Debbie Nichols of Got Eggs.

TRI-PARISH from page 1

Jennifer Pollard, who grew up in Hardwick, had moved back to the area around 2018 was keeping busy with both the plant sale and bake sale taking place.

The plant sale featured pots of annual flowers, herbs, perennials and vegetables. The bake sale featured a variety of home baked cookies, pies and other pastries.

There were also three plant vendors who attended this year's plant sale. There was Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Howe's Farm & Garden of New Braintree and Stillman's Farm of New Braintree.

What makes the annual sale possible are the volunteers who help put this event together.

"It is a team effort," Pollard said.

Members of the Tri-Parish Community Church were thankful to use the space on the Common to host a plant sale, bake sale, craft vendors,

games for kids, and local music. There were also flowerpots for kids.

There were a lot of unique crafters and artisans on the Common. For example, Got Eggs showcases pysanky art, which is egg design. Debbie Nichols is the founder of Got Eggs and has been decorating eggs for the last 15 years.

Nichols uses brown and white eggs to decorate, which also features waxing and dyeing. Got Eggs had America 250th themed patriotic eggs for sale on the Hardwick Common.

Next to Got Eggs was Jean Bears and table full of stuffed teddy bears made from refurbished fur coats. Jean Nichols has been making these bears for 60 years and they come in all colors.

Also featured was Dragonfly Wood Arts, which is based out of Hardwick. Doug Swanson is the owner of Dragonfly Wood Arts and he has seen a lot of organic growth in his business.

Dragonfly Wood Arts has many unique items such as



Betsy is shown watering flowers during the plant sale on Hardwick Common.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

The handcrafted utensils were created by B&D Enterprises.

pens, cutting boards, personalized charcuterie boards, custom cutting boards and unique gifts. Swanson does custom engravings and can put special messages on these unique wood crafted items.

The quality of this craftsmanship looks great in per-

son as Swanson continues to craft and treats his work with care.

"The boards are my kids," Swanson said.

It was a weekend of community fun as the Tri-Parish Community Church Plant, Bake Craft, and Tag Sale had something for everyone.

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AT COLD SPRING COUNTRY CLUB, BELCHERTOWN MA

Baystate Health announces Convenient Care site in Ware

WARE – Baystate Health issued a press release announcing the location of a new convenient care facility in Ware, expanding access to high-quality, accessible care for residents across the region.

Baystate Mary Lane Convenient Care - Ware will be located at 144 West St., in the former Smithland Pet and Garden Center. Conveniently situated near other local amenities and accessible by public transportation, the site is designed to meet patients where they are, making it easier to get the care they need, when they need it.

Expected to open within the next 9 to 12 months, the facility will feature four exam rooms, on-site imaging and a laboratory. Patients can choose between scheduled appointments and walk-in visits, with evening and weekend hours available.

The on-site lab will serve Convenient Care patients as well as other community members with lab orders.

According to the press release, Convenient Care provides treatment for a wide range of non-life-threatening conditions, offering timely, efficient care close to home. In addition to being urgent care, the Convenient Cares offer more to the community serving as a bridge to primary care, supporting patients in managing new or ongoing conditions, connecting those without a primary care provider to ongoing care, and helping guide individuals toward better long-term health.

In the future, the site could expand to add primary care services, hosting a new family medicine residency program, with an anticipated launch in 2028 or 2029, while the organization looks for a potential larger site for the future growth of that program. This program will follow the successful approach used at Baystate Franklin Medical Center, training new family doctors to provide innovative, community-focused, and evidence-based care, with a focus on wellness and prevention.

The potential expansion to primary care and the launch of a family medicine residency program

is dependent on securing support from the Rural Transformation Health Fund. If awarded, the program could begin as early as 2028-2029 and would grow over time, helping to strengthen the local primary care workforce and expand access for the community.

“Expanding access to care in communities like Ware is central to our mission,” said Dr. Seth Gemme, Chair of Emergency Medicine and Interim Advisor to the Chief Physician Executive, Baystate Health. “This new convenient care location is about meeting people where they are, especially when unexpected health needs arise, and ensuring they receive timely care close to home. By strengthening access points across the region, we help patients stay connected to care, improve continuity, and support the overall health and well-being of the communities we serve.”

This expansion reflects Baystate Health’s mission to deliver compassionate, quality, and accessible care while advancing the health of all communities it serves. Rooted in Western Massachusetts for more than 140 years, Baystate Health continues to be a pillar of the community, serving today’s residents and helping future generations thrive.

About Baystate Health

Baystate Health is a not-for-profit, integrated health-care system with hospitals, physician practices, a health plan and more serving over 800,000 people throughout western New England. Baystate Health is the safety net provider in Western Massachusetts.

With roots dating to the founding of Springfield Hospital in 1883, Baystate Health has been providing high-quality, compassionate and accessible care in the Pioneer Valley for more than 140 years and continues to be a pillar of its community – rooted here, serving here, and helping generations thrive here.

With a focus on advancing health for all, Baystate is not only a keystone of the region; it is a national leader in healthcare.

Learn more at BaystateHealth.org.

Why do we wait until Memorial Day to plant?

For as long as I can remember, the “safe date” for planting tender crops was always Memorial Day.

This year in particular the holiday is on the early side, the 25th of May, as opposed to the 30th or 31st. Here in New England, five or six days can make all the difference in the world.

Sure, as I write, the mercury is set to rise well into the high eighties for three or four days, then become more seasonable again. It’s a wonder the plants know what to do.

Anyhow, read on to learn about some tender plants and how they respond better when soil or air temperatures have warmed.

Although cool loving peas and warmth loving beans are both legumes, bean seeds in particular crave seventy to eighty degree soil in which to germinate. This is particularly evident with white seeded bean varieties, since the white seeds reflect the heat instead of holding on to it like dark seeds do.

Oftentimes, white seeds will rot before they sprout if planted too soon. If you are in the mood to gamble and desire an early sowing of beans, use a dark seeded variety.

Untreated corn seeds will not germinate in soil below 60 degrees. We are advised to be patient and trust that seed planted in warm soil will make up for lost time, and they typically will, in no time flat.

Those of us who plant only a small plot have luck starting corn seeds indoors then transplanting the seed-

lings outside. I sowed my corn two seeds per six pack a few days back and have it on heat along with a sowing of winter squash and melons and all are popping up nicely.

I usually pick the best of the two in the cell of the pack and pinch away the slower one so there is no competition, giving the stronger seedling all of the room to grow nicely. Never pull out when thinning; roots may be disturbed.

Speaking of seedlings, it’s also important not to shock our home grown pepper or tomato seedlings by transplanting them into cold soil or cold air. Night temperatures should be a consistent 50 degrees before planting out peppers.

I typically preheat the soil my peppers are to be planted in with black plastic, laying it right down in the garden bed for a week prior to planting. I cut holes into it at transplanting time, amending each hole as I go.

For added warmth, some gardeners looking to get a head start often use a row cover to add a few degrees

of warmth and protect plants from the wind.

Tomatoes are planted outside after all danger of frost has passed. Typically on Memorial Day! In fact, I think the whole “safe date” theory came to be because of tomatoes! When I was just getting started in horticulture I remember all sorts of contraptions people used to use to try and get the first ripe tomato in the neighborhood.

By planting tomatoes transplants earlier you could get earlier fruiting. Cloches or wall-o-waters were popular before the floating row covers became the rage.

I typically wait to transplant my tomatoes. Mine are huge this year.

Remember, if your plants get big and your are still a few weeks away from getting them from the six pack into the ground, “pot them up.” It’s a term for going up a size, say from a cell to a four inch pot, so roots don’t get bound before they get the chance to live happily ever after in the garden.

Soon enough, for sure!

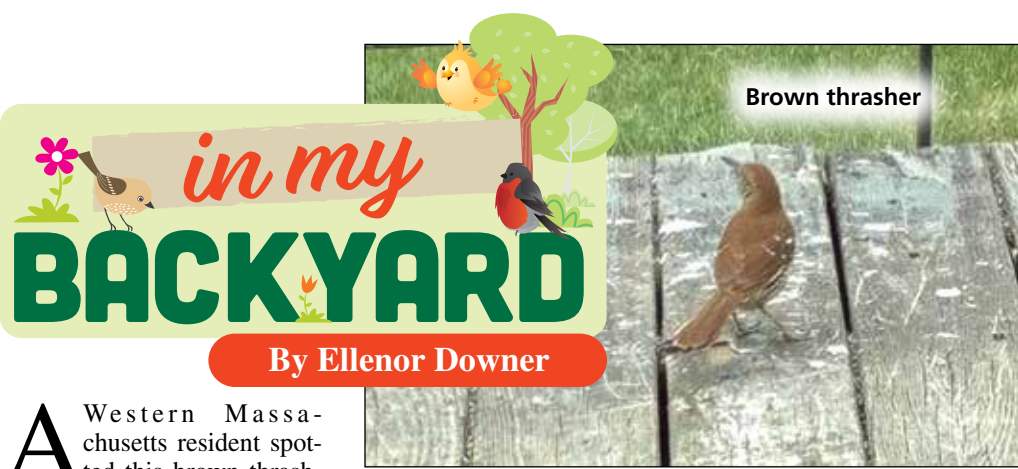
Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



by Roberta McQuaid



DAVE GRANLUND www.davegranlund.com



By Ellenor Downer

A Western Massachusetts resident spotted this brown thrasher in the Berkshire foothills.

Sometimes they visit feeders like the one in the attached photo. Brown thrashers blend in with their surrounding and are tricky to spot.

They are fairly large, slender songbirds with long proportions: the legs are long and sturdy, the bill is long and slightly down curved and the tail is long.

They often cock the tail upward in the manner of wrens. A bright yellow eye, gray brown face and black and white wings bars are other identifying features.

Thrashers are reddish brown on the head, back, tail and wings. They have a white

breast and belly with darker speckling.

They are 9.1 to 11.8 inches long or slightly smaller than a blue jay. The brown thrasher is the only thrasher species found east of Texas.

Thrashers have one of the largest repertoires of any North American songbird over 1,000 different songs. Since they rarely venture far from thick undergrowth, there singing give their location away especially when perched in a treetop or shrubs.

Their songs are a complex string of many musical phrases, many copied from other birds’ songs with each phrase typically sung twice.

They also make a distinctive, harsh “tsuck” note.

They imitate other birds including Chuck-will’s-widows, wood thrushes and northern flickers.

Both males and females incubate the eggs and feed the young. Nestlings sometimes leave the nest fully feathered within nine days of hatching, earlier than either of their smaller relatives, the northern mockingbird and gray catbird.

An aggressive defender of its nest, the Brown Thrasher is known to strike people and dogs hard enough to draw blood.

Shrubby habitats are popular hideouts for nest pred-

ators, which may explain why the thrashers fledge so quickly for birds of their size. Brown Thrashers are the largest common host of parasitic brown-headed cowbirds.

The oldest Brown Thrasher on record was at least 10 years, 11 months old. It was found in Florida in 1978 where it was banded in 1967.

Rose-breasted grosbeak

A Worthington resident saw a rose-breasted grosbeak showed up at his feeder earlier than usual on May 1. He said they always arrive the first week of May. Last year it was not until May 7.

Belchertown birds

A Belchertown resident sent an email reporting birds seen and heard on his property. They included Baltimore oriole, grey catbirds, a Blackburnian warbler in the maple tree, and he heard, but not seen, a northern parula. He also has a pair of eastern phoebes nesting under an eave of the house.

At nearby Lake Wallace, he took photos of yellow warblers and a green heron catching fish.

Red-shouldered hawk

A Montgomery resident saw a red-shouldered hawk recently.

Nesting sparrows

A Belchertown resident said she had sparrows using a nest box in her yard. She found a few of their babies on the ground. At first, I thought something got into the nest, but today a found another one. I think the nestling had died and the parents got them out. She said she may remove the nest box and replace it with a new one in case the sparrows succumbed to disease.

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident said he put up the humming bird feeders in late April when he learned of a ruby-throated hummingbird in Ware. A couple days later he had an adult male ruby-throated hummingbird and a few days later he saw a female.

He said, “One each gray catbirds, male Baltimore oriole and males rose-breasted grosbeak showed up last

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 17

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Capital Planning reviews project requests

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Capital Planning Committee met on May 6 to go over fiscal year 2027 capital project requests.

These requests are made by various departments, and the Capital Planning Committee brought up two requests, one from the Senior Center and from the Police Department.

The first was an HVAC system for the Senior Center. Ex-officio Member and Town Administrator James Ferrera said this project is funded through an article at the last meeting for the study, which was conducted by Tighe & Bond, who also did the work and went out to bid.

There are estimates as of now, but Ferrera said estimates can change over the course of these next four to five months. It may not be ideal to wait and get this project done considering the possibility of an increase in cost.

The HVAC system project is proposed to be funded through Capital Stabilization. The current balance in that account is \$836,000.

“Maybe do sooner rather than later,” Capital Planning Chair James Dusty said.

Ferrera is hopeful that the bid is less than expected but said he can't issue a bid unless they have the money.

When asked about the property sales recovery money during the auctions, Capital Planning learned there is some additional free cash because of the revenue that came through.

The committee made a motion to fund the Senior Center HVAC project by taking \$300,000 out of Capital Stabilization. Once numbers are certified they can put funds back in Capital Stabilization in the fall.

The motion passed with a 4-1 vote.

The next project request was from the Police Department and is for a new police cruiser. The Capital Planning Committee approved spending \$35,000 from free cash to fund the request.

Selectmen continue to review budget and ATM articles

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen continue to discuss the fiscal year 2027 budget and Annual Town Meeting articles.

During the May 14 meeting, Town Administrator James Ferrera said he hopes to have the Annual Town Meeting warrant signed and closed. There were a few articles on the warrant the Board continued to discuss further in addition to a few items on the FY 27 budget.

As for the warrant, Ferrera said the warrant hasn't changed a whole lot, but wanted to draw the board's attention to some articles. First is Article 3 involving the Fire Department and the potential grant they might receive in the fall.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie submitted a letter regarding another potential article with adjustments being made to the department's budget. There is a possible reduction to the budget and the Fire Chief petitioned to go through with an article.

Ferrera said the town has \$273,758.90 in free cash.

If all articles in the Annual Town Meeting were to pass, the town would be spending \$255,853.53, which leaves a rollover of \$17,905.37 for free cash.

After meeting with the Fire Chief, the Town Administrator made some recommendations to the Fire Chief regarding these articles.

One recommendation is to fill the positions until Oct. 1. The other recommendation is to take the reductions in the budget and put them in the budget now, then in November, if the grant does not go through, they can always put the money back.

Where the town is now with the budget, Ferrera calculated that the town is looking at a 3.94% increase from last year without the positions for the Fire Department. With the two new positions, it would be a 4.3% increase from last year.

With a lot of towns in the state being forced to make dramatic cuts, Ferrera said the town has done a good

job maintaining what it has. “I would like to continue to maintain what we're doing here for the long haul,” Ferrera said.

Lavoie spoke briefly during the meeting and said he had met with the Town Administrator and changes to the language in the article for the two full-time positions were made. This is only funded if the grant from the fall is successful.

Lavoie thinks it's best to leave the budget intact and he can change figures in November if they get the grant.

“Leave the budget alone instead of altering for something we may or may not get,” Lavoie said.

Lavoie said he is confident the department has a good shot of getting the grant.

The next item the board discussed was when Ferrera asked for some direction on to do with the omnibus budget.

Board of Selectmen Clerk Raymond Kopacko shared some comments and thinks the board should not pull the above minimum contribution out of the omnibus as a separate article.

If the school sticks with the \$523,000 amount and not push it higher, the Board seems comfortable with that figure. When it comes to the level service budget number, which is over \$1.5 million, that amount could hurt both Warren and West Brookfield if that number is put forward.

Kopacko believes that number would put Warren in the same situation that West Brookfield is in now. There is a lot of emotion involved due to the difficult decision the School Committee is considering, which involves closing West Brookfield Elementary School.

According to Kopacko, closing the school seems to be the viable option.

“The only way to win is to accept the fact that West Brookfield has to be closed,” Kopacko said. “It's the only viable option.”

For the sake of the school district and the towns, Kopacko said he thinks it's best to live within their means.

Kopacko is confident that

the town will not vote for a level funded budget that is roughly \$1.5 million.

The board will meet on May 21 to close the warrant.

Town Administrator's report

Ferrera is in the process of interviewing a candidate for a part-time position of custodian at the Warren Senior Center. Several applications were received and Ferrera and Senior Center Director Sharon Meli are working on scheduling interviews.

Ferrera participated in a Central Massachusetts Regional Dispatch meeting. The budget and contracts are currently being worked on.

Ferrera received a letter, which addressed some illegal dumping happening on a lot off Pleasant Street. There is overgrowth happening also on the lot.

The town still currently owns the property, and Ferrera said he made a commitment to maintain the property as a good neighborly gesture. The town is hoping to get a crew to clean up some of the trash.

Ferrera had asked the Highway Department if they have to time to help out. The town may have to get some outside service to help is Highway is not available.

Grant acceptance

The board discussed the acknowledgement and acceptance of a local grant between Healthy Quaboag through the town of Ware and the town of Warren's Council on Aging. This grant is in the amount of \$5,000 for a local produce delivery program and would also involve authorizing the Senior Center Director to administer the grant.

There is no match required from the town to receive this grant. Ferrera said Meli obtained this grant and is part of the Healthy Quaboag initiative.

“A win-win program,” Ferrera said.

This grant will help collect fresh local produce, considering residents being on fixed incomes and grocery bills being quite high. The board voted and accepted the grant.

Board recommends approval for zoning bylaw amendment

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board met on May 11 to consider a proposed Floodplain District Zoning Bylaw amendment.

Administrative Assistant Laura Sherris shared with the board that there were changes from the draft of the amendment and notes were addressed. A report will be drafted and is about the proposal from the Planning Board.

In the report, there is an article listed to see if the town will vote to amend the Floodplain District Zoning Bylaw (Town of Warren Zoning Bylaws, Section 10, Flood Plain District). The purpose of this article is to update the town's Floodplain District Zoning Bylaw to maintain compliance with FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program.

The floodplain district is an existing overlay district that does not change any underlying zoning.

The Planning Board has to vote on this proposal to be included on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

The board first voted and approved the Floodplain District Zoning Bylaw amendments and

then voted to recommend approval of this article at the Annual Town Meeting, which is June 11.

Public hearing

A public hearing was held on the application of Paquette Bros. Contracting LLC. The applicant is requesting site plan approval to allow construction of six two-family dwellings served by a single driveway at Cemetery Road in the Village District.

This project is off Cemetery Road and is in an old gravel pit area. The applicant is looking to put in 31 parking spaces as well as a sidewalk and accessways to each building.

The Planning Board is aware that Paquette Bros. Contracting is looking for a continuance at this point due to still discussing with the Conservation Commission. The next meeting with Conservation Commission will be on May 19.

The applicant did confirm with the Planning Board that Conservation has already done a visit on the site. Planning Board was looking to schedule a site visit as well.

The board did receive

Please see **BYLAW**, page 6

Voter registration deadline for Annual Town Meeting is June 1

WARREN – The last day to register to vote in the Annual Town Meeting is Monday, June 1 from 9

a.m.-5 p.m. The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11 at 7 p.m.

SCOOL CLOSING

from page 1

sizes, and still got all of the help and support they needed. They asked what the cuts at the high school will look like, and Duff said the only place they have left to take money from is theater, art, music and sports.

He said they can't cut at the elementary level.

The students said cutting theater would lead to a decrease in enrollment

since the school is well known for the theater and arts program.

The motion to cease operations at the elementary school was made by committee member Megan Sears and was passed unanimously. The motion included giving the building back to the Town of West Brookfield and all the students with the exception of grade six being transferred to Warren Community Elementary School.

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business

The Wellness Collective

Health, wellness and fitness businesses celebrate grand opening

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Wellness Collective recently celebrated its grand opening on the second floor of the Stone Mill Marketplace, 44 East Main St.

The Wellness Collective is a collection of independent businesses designed to support and inspire wellness through fitness, self-care, aesthetics and personal growth, created by FitFuzion Studio owner Nikki Durand-Cloutier.

“The vision for The Wellness Collective is to allow each business to remain independent while also being part of a larger community that brings together a variety of businesses centered around health, wellness, and personal well-being,” Durand-Cloutier said.

Currently, The Wellness Collective includes FitFuzion Studio as well as Tranquility Massage, offering customized massage sessions tailored to each individual’s needs, and Burnout to Bliss, which supports people in their physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and energetic health and wellness through coaching, yoga, Reiki and sound therapy.

“Investing in the community is something that is especially important to me,” Durand-Cloutier said. “Both my immediate and extended family have owned and operated businesses locally, and my grandmother worked in The Stone Mill for many years and always spoke so fondly of her time there. Having the opportunity to be part of the reinvigoration of the mill – and what I believe is a time when the town of Ware is reinventing itself – is incredibly meaningful to me.”

She said being able to have her own business, FitFuzion Studio, within the mill, but also to help create opportunities for other small businesses and provide new experiences and services for the community, is something she is truly passionate about.

In the near future, The Wellness Collective will welcome Healthy Glow Co., offering custom airbrush tanning services as well as an herbal apothecary offering handcrafted teas, herbal remedies, wellness products and nature-inspired education focused on plants, creativity and community. The vision for the apothecary is to create a warm and welcoming environment where people can connect through herbs, art, learning and natural living.

In addition, a variety of classes and workshops will be offered through the apothecary, creating opportunities for education, self-care, creativity, and community connection within the space.

“We are also actively looking to expand by adding a hair salon, esthetician and nail technician to create a more complete wellness experience for our clients and community,” she said.

FitFuzion Studio

Durand-Cloutier began FitFuzion Studio in January 2023 in the basement hall of All Saints Church with the goal of providing group fitness classes focused on improving strength, endurance, confidence and overall wellness in a supportive community environment.

“After instructing in that space for two years, I realized it was time to move FitFuzion Studio into a space of my own, so I could create the exact environment and



Shown from left are Dan Collette, Ware Business & Civic and Beyond director; Zack Cloutier; Sydney Slattery; Nikki Durand-Cloutier, FitFuzion Studio owner; Summer Rae Cloutier and Stacy Collette of Bonded by Stacy.



Nikki Durand-Cloutier stands next to the entrance of The Wellness Collective at Stone Mill Marketplace, 44 East Main St., Ware, second floor.

experience I envisioned for my clients and community,” she said.

Having her own studio has allowed her to truly “level things up” by creating a more welcoming atmosphere, expanding class offerings and most importantly, increasing her ability to provide differentiated instruction opportunities that better support the needs and goals of every individual who walks through the door.

Durand-Cloutier has always been active, whether through dance or by working out at gyms, but after the birth of her second daughter in 2018, she was struggling to feel like herself again.

“Not only physically, but even more so mentally,” she said.

Through the recommendation of a friend, she joined a facility that offered group fitness classes combining strength training and cardiovascular exercise.

“I was immediately hooked by the programming, but even more drawn to the encouragement, sense of belonging and strong community atmosphere that the facility provided,” Durand-Cloutier said.

Durand-Cloutier began attending classes five to six times a week, and started to feel like herself again.

“I am overall a better person when I prioritize working out. My mind and body are stronger, and that positively impacts every facet of my life,” she said.

Durand-Cloutier said the facility she joined did not reopen after the pandemic, and she “deeply missed the people, the atmosphere, and the feeling of community that had become such an important part of my life.” She decided to offer her own group fitness classes, just like the ones she had grown to love.

“That realization sparked something in me – and that’s how the journey of FitFuzion Studio began,” she said.

Durand-Cloutier said one of the biggest benefits of fitness and exercise is that you are investing in yourself and your future. She said particularly for women, strength training is essential for longevity because it helps maintain muscle mass, preserve bone density, improve

balance and support overall health as they age.

“These benefits play a major role in maintaining independence and quality of life for years to come,” she said. “Beyond the physical benefits, strength training also builds confidence, resilience, and mental strength – both inside and outside of the gym.”

Durand-Cloutier said one of her favorite things about her job is watching her clients build confidence, improve their health and discover what they are capable of just by showing up and participating in class.

“Every person who walks through the doors of FitFuzion Studio is at a different stage in life, and together we have built a community that supports one another through all of life’s ebbs and flows,” she said.

In addition to the physical benefits of exercise, Durand-Cloutier said the class participants have a lot of fun together.

“The friendships, encouragement, laughter and sense of belonging within the studio are what truly make FitFuzion such a special place,” she said.

Currently FitFuzion Studio is offering Complete Body Conditioning classes on Monday and Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 a.m. and 6-7 p.m.; Friday from 5:30-6:30 a.m. and 8-9 a.m.; and Saturday from 7-8 a.m. Rise & Life Strength Training is offered on Tuesday from 5:45-6:30 a.m.

Durand-Cloutier be contacted on Facebook through FitFuzion Studio and The Wellness Collective at Stone Mill Marketplace, or by email at fitfuzionstudio@gmail.com and wellnesscollective@gmail.com.

Burnout to Bliss

Burnout to Bliss was started by Lisa Holloway in the summer of 2020.

“Social distancing was still going on and I remember having to get my business license through the mail and opening my business bank account through the drive through window,” she said.

Holloway began working as a health and wellness coach remotely and then shortly after that out of the Listening Wellness Center in

Barre.

In 2022, Holloway began to teach yoga, including Yin, Hatha, Vinyasa, Restorative, Prenatal and Kids.

Prior to starting Burnout to Bliss, Holloway worked as a rehabilitation counselor before becoming a stay at home mom.

“I live on a farm and sold plants, vegetables, fruits and other things at the farmers market for income so I could be with my kids. As they got older I began to think about what I would like to do for work,” she said.

As a rehabilitation counselor, Holloway said she felt very limited on how she could support people.

“The mind/body connection was always important to me and as I began to explore I realized health and wellness coaching was what I wanted to do because it involves the whole person – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual,” she said. “I could also use what I learned as a farmer and what I learned as a counselor in this role.”

Holloway has always practiced yoga, which also encompasses these aspects and she said, “everything just came together for me.”

Holloway also recognized the benefits of sound healing and Reiki, which she will offer at The Wellness Collective starting in June.

“Over the last couple of years, I have realized that the energetic piece of the whole person is just as important, so I am beginning to incorporate this into my practice as well,” she said.

Holloway said her two favorite aspects of her work with Burnout to Bliss are helping people, and seeing the beautiful community that has evolved from her classes.

“It brings me joy to see friendships forming and people supporting one another,” she said.

Helping people succeed and reach their accomplishments is what she hoped for when she started Burnout to Bliss.

There are many benefits to having a health and wellness coach, Holloway said, with the top two being accountability and having someone to listen to you.

“A health and wellness coach will work with you on your goals – what you want to accomplish. They will hold you accountable for your action steps,” she said. “It is so easy to not take steps to achieve your goals, but working with a coach, if you are committed, you will achieve your goals with this accountability...A coach is there for you. The coach will listen, not judge, and many times clients will have ‘a-ha’ moments where they realize something very important about themselves just having this space – time set aside to process and someone to truly hear them.”

Holloway said that health and wellness does not just include the physical. It includes mental, emotional, spiritual, financial, social, etc.



Submitted Photos

Members of the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond gathered next to the debris gathered from the day’s cleanup effort.

WBCA PARTICIPATES IN MAIN STREET CLEANUP



Katlyn Lucis, of the Town of Ware Planning and Community Department, brought her collection of weeds for disposal.

Blair Swistak-Robidoux and Monica Begin of Country Bank added mulch to a tree pot on Main Street.



Noah Fabregas raked out weeds.

Warren Library hosts owl program at Senior Center

WARREN – The Warren Public Library will host an owl program at the Warren Senior Center, 2252 Main St., West Warren, on Saturday, June 6 at 1 p.m.

Owls are all over New England, but how often do you get to see them up close? Join the Warren Public Library at the Warren Senior Center and meet six live owls.

They will be joined by naturalist and teacher Marcia Wilson, and author,

photographer, and naturalist Mark Wilson of “Eyes on Owls,” an educational duo that have been sharing their passion for owls since 1994.

Learn how to find signs of owls in the wild, get tips on how to attract and protect owls near you, and practice your hooting.

This program is free and open to the public, and is ideal for ages 4 and up. There is no registration required, so stop by and meet some owls up close.

BYLAW from page 5

a letter of concern by a neighbor of the site off Cemetery Road. The concern revolved around the effect on both the scale of the neighborhood and the drainage conditions.

The applicants are confident that their plan is consistent with the scale of the neighborhood and has a full drainage system listed.

Each unit is 1,800 square feet. Chair Derick Veliz said duplex homes are typically mid-sized homes but should also look appealing.

The representative of Paquette Bros. Contracting plans to turn over the area to a condo association.

The board wanted to know if they’ll see more detail in the plans to address landscaping. This was brought up due to how the applicants plan to handle snow removal during the winter months both on the parking lot and on the sidewalks.

This matter mainly addresses safety of the residents who may live in this area once project is complete.

“There’s a reason why

we do landscaping for safety,” Veliz said.

The board will have a site visit on Wednesday, May 20. The board continued the public hearing for Paquette Bros. Contracting LLC to their next meeting on June 1.

Public hearing scheduling

The Planning Board had to vote to schedule a public hearing for Special Permit No. 317 and Site Plan Review No. 74, at 21 Quaboag St., for Verizon New England. Sherris said this public hearing has to be scheduled by July 2, which is the deadline.

The Planning Board agreed to schedule a public hearing on June 15.

Reorganization

The Planning Board spoke briefly during the meeting to reorganize the board. Votes were taken and the board has been reorganized where Derick Veliz will be the chair, Richard Eichacker will be the vice-chair, and Drue King will be the clerk.

Karyn Wood and Raymond Kopacko are also members of the Planning Board.

TOUR from page 1

dy,” Wolfe said of the library. “We need money to keep it open while we’re working.”

Following the presentation, Wolfe took participants to the Stone Church Cultural Center, which is the former Trinitarian Congregational Church.

Built using Monson granite, this Tudor Gothic style church was designed by noted Worcester architect Elbridge Boyden; who also designed Mechanics Hall in Worcester, the Hubbardston Public Library and the Congregational Church in Brookfield.

The Stone Church’s tower is the only one of three such towers of Boyden’s still standing.

Wolfe noted that the church has its original Johnson and Son Company pipe organ, which is still played to accompany silent films to this day.

“The acoustics are wonderful,” she said.

Wolfe said the Friends of the Stone Church have invested \$900,000 in restoration efforts into the iconic building over the past 10 years.

The tour then moved to Mill #4, located across the street from the Stone Church. The granite fence posts lining the road to the mill are likely also from the same Monson quarry as the church.

Built “on the island,” Mill #4 had its own power plant with a chimney that was built from the inside out.

“Which is kind of unique,” Wolfe said.

According to tour participants who worked in Mill #4, the small, white wooden building on the site was one of two fire stations, which were basically hose houses. One participant recalled the wooden walkway that crossed from the mill to a secondary building at the site, and how a tractor trailer truck ran into it and it came down.

He said that it made for an interesting work day.

Wolfe directed the tour to the canal intake into the buildings, which has since been filled in. She said the water wheel is still located under Mill #4, and its housing is visible on the side along the Ware River.

The tour made its way back to Main Street, before heading down Bridge Street, stopping to look at many examples of Italianate tenement housing. One of the houses off Bridge Street still has its original peaked windows on its top level that make it easy to identify.

Wolfe said many of these windows have been replaced as the tenement buildings were renovated to become multifamily homes.

Participants then crossed the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge, which spans 137-feet across the Ware River, connecting the two towns.

Wolfe pointed out the footings of the railroad tracks that once sent cars from Mill #1 to the power plant at Mill #4. She also identified the remnants of a dam and the canal intake.

The tour traveled down the Mass Central Rail Trail, which follows the path of the old railroad tracks to Mill #1. Once there, Wolfe showed the participants where Mill #2 and #3 would have been located.

Mill #2 stood where

the parking lot of Mill#1 is today, and Mill #3 is now the New Furnace Landing gazebo area. The canal intake is still present by the Danforth Brook.

Wolfe said when the dam existed; the water level was about three-quarters of the way up to the railroad tracks.

Wolfe spoke about some of the places that exist only in memory, including the Union Hotel, which is now Cumberland Farms. The village’s skating rink is now the Post Office.

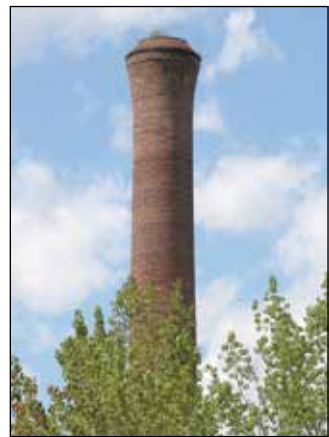
Two train depots have earned a second use as restaurants, as Hardwick House of Pizza and the recently closed Whistle Stop Restaurant.

Wolfe said St. Aloysius Catholic Church no longer has its steeple, but that the adjacent school has been restored to its former glory and continues to be utilized as a place of education.

“It’s like going back into



The lattice of the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge has names and dates carved into it.



This chimney was part of the power plant by Mill #4.

the 30s,” she said.

One former St. Aloysius School student even recalled which class he was in the day that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

A gas station is now Rose 32 bakery, and the Kardas Market is now Hardwick Package Store. Regin’s Repair was once a livery stable, and later Dorman’s Garage where gas was 32 cents a gallon in (fairly) recent history.

The former high school is now the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, and the former elementary school (later Senior Center and Youth Center), is now vacant.

As Wolfe’s tour made apparent, there is still a chance of a new life for that building in Gilbertville’s future.

Following the tour, participants were able to purchase T-shirts at the Gilbertville Public Library, with proceeds to benefit the library.

To get your own T-shirt or to see what the village library has to offer, stop by the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville, during open hours Tuesday and Wednesday from noon-4 p.m., and Thursday and Friday from 3-7 p.m.

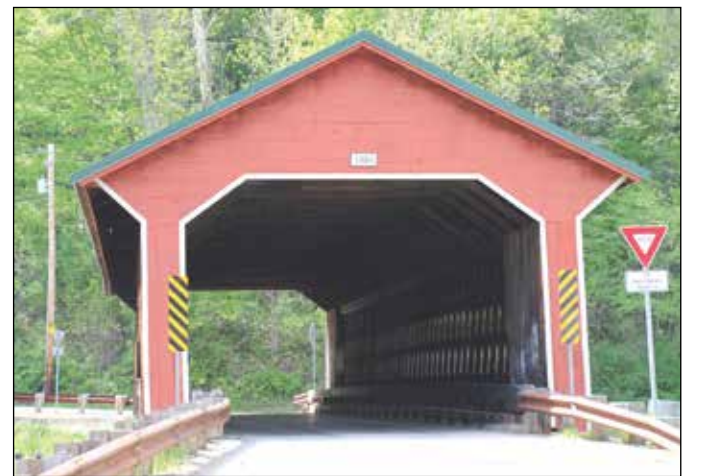
For more information about the Paige Memorial Library, located at 87 Petersham Road, stop by, visit its Facebook page and website at www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/ or www.paigelibrary.com/, call 413-477-6704 or email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com.



Walking tour participants posed for a photo on the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge, which spans the Ware River to connect the two towns.



The recently closed Whistle Stop Restaurant was once a train depot.



The Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge was built in 1886.

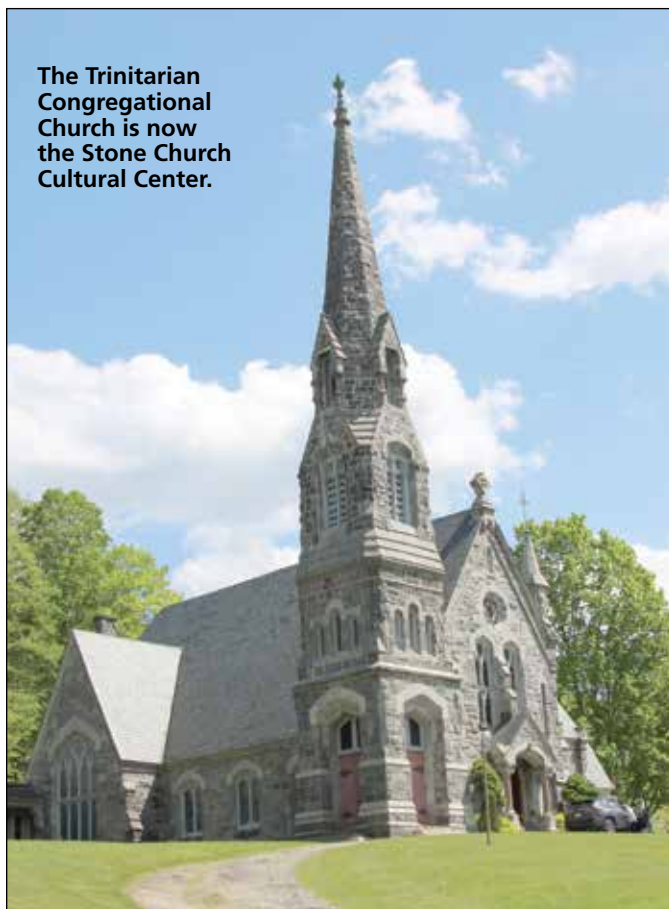


Mill #4 is now used as a storage facility.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



This small building near Mill #4 was one of two fire stations for the site.



The Trinitarian Congregational Church is now the Stone Church Cultural Center.



Tour guide Cheryl Wolfe said a waterwheel is housed under this structure into Mill #4.



This photos shows where the railroad tracks used to be near the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge.

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Sowing seeds of change

Grassroots Central Mass hosted skills sharing event

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

SOUTHBRIDGE – Members of Grassroots Central Mass held a Seed Swap and Skill Sharing event to kick-off its recently formed skills sharing group.

The event was held on the Southbridge common on April 26, with people bringing seeds and seedlings to share with each other. Participants had a wide selection of seeds, as well as tomato, pepper, squash and strawberry plants to take home and grow in their gardens.

Grassroots Central Mass member Maureen Doyle displayed a potato plant that she grew from the eye of a potato she had purchased over the winter. That single eye had



Members of Grassroots Central Mass were joined by community members for a Seed Swap and Skill Sharing event on the Southbridge common. Participants shared seeds, seedlings and gardening knowledge with each other and talked about different ways to garden.

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

produced a plant with at least four good-sized potatoes.

Doyle said local grocery store, Big Bunny, has a shelf of odds and ends produce at discounted prices, which includes potatoes that have begun to sprout eyes.

Doyle said she is focusing on growing her own food as a homesteader, but that she still

needs to visit the grocery store at times.

“We’re not there yet,” she said.

Doyle also shared advice about choosing the best soil to grow your garden in, whether it be purchasing bags, or creating your own. She said for the beginner gardener, it’s often easier to start with bagged soil

for the best results.

Grassroots Central Mass member Jeana Edmonds said the skills sharing workshops are a new initiative of the organization, which grew out of Brookfield Indivisible in 2017.

The workshops will allow people to share their various talents with others, and teach different ways to encourage

sustainability.

“We can learn how to repair our clothes, knit and crochet, garden,” she said. “We have multiple skills in the group.”

Edmonds said the organization is also focusing on immigration issues, and has been hosting programs at area libraries that share immigration stories.

“We’re trying to change the narrative and use music and poetry to tie into immigration stories,” she said. “We’re going to continue to step up and continue to protect our neighbors.”

Edmonds said Grassroots Central Mass continues to work hard, and meets regularly. The group also has a number of subcommittees related to climate change, political initiatives, racial and social justice, as well as a youth council led by Hardwick resident Colin Brown.

“The committees take on a lot of responsibility,” she said.

Grassroots Central Mass also endorses local political candidates, including two of its own members; Brown, and West Brookfield resident Shannon Teabo. Brown

is seeking election to the Quabbin Regional School Committee as his hometown representative, and Teabo is running for State Senate in the Worcester & Hampshire Senate District.

The organization is also endorsing South Hadley resident Jeromie Whalen for U.S. Congress in the Massachusetts First Congressional District.

Grassroots Central Mass is also actively involved in national politics.

Edmonds said a group of walkers and singers took part in a six-mile trek from East Brookfield to West Brookfield as part of the No Kings 3 stand-out that was organized by Brookfields Fight Fear. Protest songs were performed by Chorus for These Times, led by Nym Cooke.

Edmonds said Grassroots Central Mass member Sherry Zitter wrote a song for the event.

For more information about Grassroots Central Mass and its various initiatives, endorsements and skills sharing workshops, visit grassrootscentralmass.org.

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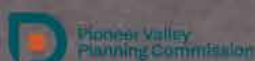
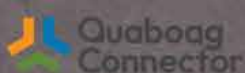
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BASEBALL from page 1

support of the town, including the Selectboard, Police and Fire departments, as well as the Parks Department and its commissioners.

"The Parks Commission puts in a lot of time," Clark said.

Clark gave a special thank you to Parks Manager John Piechota for his dedication and effort to ensure the baseball fields were ready for opening day, despite the recent loss of his mother.

"John still came here this morning, lined the field and made sure the grass was mowed," Clark said.

A moment of silence was then held to honor the passing of Piechota's mother.

Clark then introduced local and national baseball legend, former MLB player Billy Jo Robidoux, who threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Catching the first pitch was Ware Jr./St. High School varsity player Kyle Kaczuwka.

"We always talked about who wanted to be the next Billy Jo Robidoux," Clark said of his youth.

Robidoux graduated from Ware High School in 1982, and was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the sixth round. He made his major league debut on that team in 1985, and stayed with them until 1988 when he signed with the Chicago White Sox.

He then signed with the Boston Red Sox for the 1990 season and played his final MLB game on Sept. 17, 1990.

"He's played in every state but Alaska and Hawaii," Clark said.

Robidoux continues to be involved in the sport, but now as an umpire for teams across western Massachusetts.

Robidoux shared some advice for the young ballplayers, urging them to listen to their coaches and to do their best. But most importantly, to have fun.

"Baseball is a great foundation for everybody," Robidoux said. "It gives you leadership, compassion, sportsmanship."

Clark thanked all of the coaches for volunteering to lead the organization's teams, and he also thanked the generous local businesses whose sponsorship makes playing the sport possible for all.

"We never refuse a child from playing this game," Clark said.

He also thanked photographer Suzanne Durand for taking team and player photos, and Cathy Petracone for running the concession stand.

Clark closed the ceremony with his thoughts about baseball, and how it's "just about being better."

"We want to just try to do one thing better any time we can...better is the best goal," he said. "One person can change the world."



Players were eager to take to the field after the parade.



A young ballplayer waved to the crowd.



Red Sox player Cornell McLaurin gave Janice McLaurin a carnation during the opening ceremony.



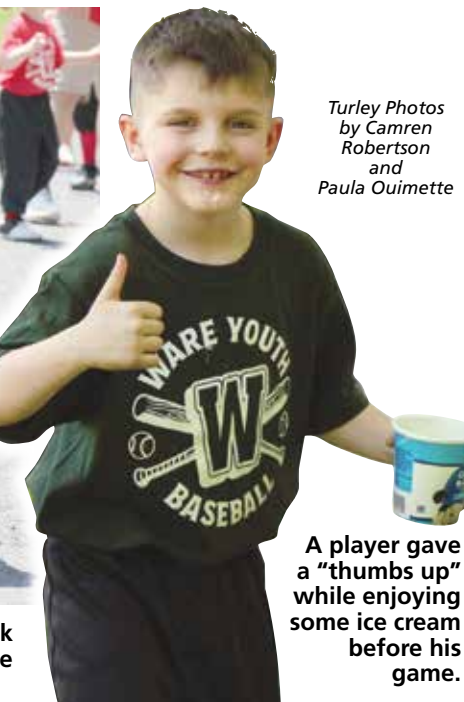
This T-baller threw the ball from the outfield.



This batter had his eyes on the ball.



This young ball player took her coach's hand during the parade.



Turley Photos by Camren Robertson and Paula Ouimette

A player gave a "thumbs up" while enjoying some ice cream before his game.



Teams and coaches were recognized during the opening ceremony.



Ware Jr./Sr. High School's baseball team and coaches knelt during the opening prayer.



Coach John Slattery waved during the parade.



This Rockies player waved to supporters during the parade.



AT LEFT: Ware Youth Baseball and Softball President Shawn Clark welcomed players, families and fans to the opening day ceremony.



Fr. Piotr Pawlus said a prayer during the opening ceremony. Opening day

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Memorial Day 5K Walk/Run to be held May 23

WARE – The second annual Memorial Day 5K Walk/Run will be hosted by Sculpt Well Co. in partnership with the One Call Away Foundation on Saturday, May 23 in Grenville Park, 73 Church St.

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

Participant check-in starts at 9:30 a.m., followed by the opening ceremony at 10:15 a.m. and race start at 10:30 a.m. A free kids fun run will be held at noon.

Awards, raffles and closing notes will begin at 1 p.m.

An ice cream truck will be available at 11 a.m.

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

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

Register online by Friday, May 22. Registration link: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Ware/SWCMemorialDay5K>



Memorial Day 2026

CEREMONIES & EVENTS

Saturday, May 23

WARREN

Warren will observe Memorial Day with a parade and ceremony in both Warren and West Warren. The town will note this day of reflection beginning at 10 a.m. at St. Paul's Cemetery.

A cookout will be held after the ceremony at the Fraternal Eagles at 11:30 a.m.

In case of rain, the ceremony will be moved to Quaboag Regional High School, 284 Old West Brookfield Road at 10 a.m. in the cafeteria. There will be no procession, but seating will be available.

Sunday, May 24

HARDWICK

The town will observe Memorial Day throughout the various villages. Please note after Wheelwright, the times are approximate and may be 15-30 minutes earlier than stated.

The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at the World War II memorial in Wheelwright, Barre Road.

At approximately 10:45 a.m., assemble on the west side of the Common and proceed to the Civil War memorial. After services there, proceed to the

Revolutionary War cemetery adjacent to the old Town Hall.

Reassemble at the Hardwick Cemetery at approximately 11:15 a.m. across from the Highway barn on Petersham Road.

The ceremony will then continue to Gilbertville, meeting at St. Aloysius cemetery, Upper Church Street at approximately noon, ending at the World War I memorial, Route 32, Main Street around 12:30 p.m.

WARE

A Memorial Day Ceremony at Quabbin Park Cemetery will be held 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.

In 1868, Major General John A. Logan, the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, named May 30 as a special day for honoring the soldiers that had died in the Civil War. 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 our annual Memorial Day Service at Quabbin Park Cemetery. The public is welcome but please no dogs.

The Ware Historical Society is presenting the 16th Annual Ware Remembers Ceremony at 6 p.m. in front of the Ware Center Meetinghouse and Museum, on what was the original town common. Please come and bring a lawn chair.

With the help of the Ware Veterans' Council and the Ware Boy Scouts, a field of flags will be created in front of the Ware Center Meetinghouse and Museum. It was here that citizens prepared to take part in the American Revolution. The flags will remain until Flag Day, June 14.

The very special ceremony in honor of Memorial Day is a combined effort of veterans, Boy Scouts, historical groups, Ware Community Television, and very supportive volunteers.

Monday, May 25

WARE

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.

Following the ceremony, parade participants are invited to return to the American Legion for a luncheon.

Memorial Day ceremony to be held at Quabbin Park Cemetery

BELCHERTOWN – The Friends of Quabbin, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Veterans Councils of Belchertown and Ware invite the public to attend the annual Memorial Day Commemoration at Quabbin Park Cemetery on Sunday, May 24, from 10 a.m.-noon.

The ceremony will feature a performance by the Belchertown Community Band and will include a special focus on the upcoming 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War, honoring the enduring legacy of American military service from the nation's founding to the present day.

Since 1947, Quabbin Park Cemetery has served as the gathering place for Memorial Day services honoring the four lost towns of the Swift River Valley.

Refreshments will be

served at the Quabbin Park Cemetery Building at 10 a.m. and the march will step off at 11 a.m. Following the march, services will be held at the Quabbin town monuments in the cemetery.

The public is welcomed to attend, and please note that dogs are not permitted. Quabbin Park Cemetery is located off Belchertown Road (Route 9) in Ware, across from the East Entrance to the Quabbin Reservoir Park.

The Friends of Quabbin (www.friendsofquabbin.org) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the natural, cultural, and historical significance of the Quabbin Region. Through advocacy, education, and community partnerships, the organization works to protect the watershed and share its stories with future generations.

16th Annual Ware Remembers to be held on May 24

WARE – On Sunday, May 24 at 6 p.m. the Ware Historical Society is presenting the 16th Annual Ware Remembers Ceremony in front of the Ware Center Meetinghouse and Museum, on what was the original town common.

Please come and bring a lawn chair.

With the help of the Ware Veterans' Council and the Ware Boy Scouts, a field of flags will be cre-

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The flags will remain until Flag Day, June 14.

The very special ceremony in honor of Memorial Day is a combined effort of veterans, Boy Scouts, historical groups, Ware Community Television and very supportive volunteers

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Charles Henry Robinson Ball
Clark J Osborne
Daniel Coombs
Edwin Augustus Barr
Francis H Eastwood
Francis H Saunders
Francis James Denny
George F Barr
George Francis Dunbar
George Warner Snow
Henry A Crocker
Henry Sumner Blood
Hiram A Wilcox
Horace V B Grout
James Sullivan Fisherdict
James William Tisdale
Jasper Albert Winslow
John Buckley
John C Johnston
John M Gage
J Glynn
John Melvin Dunbar
John Woodis
Joseph J Rogers
Joseph Stone
Joseph Wallingford Lawton
Lewis C Olds
M. Mc Nancy
Michael Mc Kenney
Newell C Andrews
Otis F Cummings
Patrick Maloney

CIVIL WAR

Richard Mc Nany
Thomas Ronan
Thomas Stafford
Walter Ford Gardner
Willard Emerson Wright
William Alfred Fisherdict
William Dorrauce Snell
W F Hatstat
William Fay Howard
William O Hastings
William Witherow

WORLD WAR I

Earl F. Howe
Ralph J. St. Germain
Raymond E. Parsons
Henry West
Erwin Patrill
Fred W. Sharpe
James L. Burns
Arthur Berube

WORLD WAR II

Walter P. Bernat
Stephen J. Bielaszka
Henry Blyskal
Francis H. Boisclair
Edward J. Bubon
Ernest R. Derosier
Raymond A. Desforges
Richard Dunham
William E. Eldredge
Edwin P. Fafara

WORLD WAR II

Robert P. Gariepy
Albin J. Gaj
Roman W. Guzik
Fred B. Hale
James Haley
Herbert W. Hurst
Joseph W. Jezyk
John J. Konicki
Francis A. Koziol
James Lee
Emile M. Lignar
Paul E. Malboeuf
Arthur Mercure
William L. Merrill
Joseph Miskiewicz
Henry Mucha
Wesley A. Nelson
Julian S. Niemiec
Henry M. Nowicki
Francis J. Pajak
Joseph E. Palys
Fredrick J. Piszczek
Nathan J. Starodoj
Kazimierz M. Rymarski
Joseph P. Pendergast
William F. Quirk
Samuel J. Taylor
Francis J. Sherby Jr.

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Indians fall at home

WARE – Last Friday afternoon in a makeup from a rainout, Ware High School softball was defeated by Pioneer Valley Regional 13-1. Ware got a 1-for-2 performance from Naomi Torres. The Indians fell to 5-10 on the regular season.



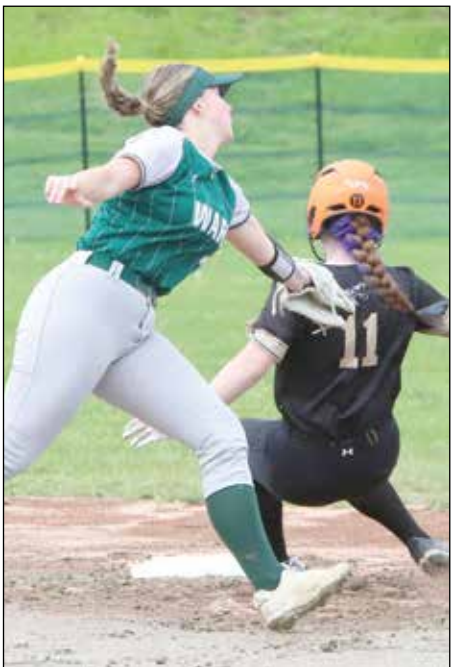
Alexandra Marceau sends a throw back to the infield.



Lucy Hebert delivers a pitch.



Ware tries to record an out in front of the plate.



Madisyn Slattery tries to tag out a runner.



Reaghan Jacobs makes an easy throw to first.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Olivia DiRienzo catches the out at first.

Boys volleyball strong heading for tourney

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Between 1989 and 2004, the Ware boys' volleyball team won a total of eight league titles.

The Indians also captured the league title in 2022.

The members of this year's squad had the opportunity to finish the regular season in sole possession of first place in the West Division standings. However, the Indians wound up having to share the league title with the Veritas Prep Charter School.

"We're playing in a new league this year, which has helped us," said Ware head coach Steve Jarvis. "We do have a talented group of players, and it has been a very successful season."

The Indians (17-2) began the regular season with a 3-0 non-league loss at Granby High School before reeling off 16 consecutive victories.

"We weren't ready to play Granby in the season opener," said Ware senior Ryder Cahalan. "We're hoping to play Granby again during the postseason tournament."

The Indians long winning streak came to an end following a 3-0 loss at Veritas Prep, last Wednesday.

The two teams finished the regular season with 11-1 league records.

Ware posted a 3-1 home win against Veritas Prep in their first meeting of the

regular season back in the middle of April.

The Indians rebounded from last Wednesday's league loss with a 3-0 home win versus Commerce the following afternoon.

Ware entered the Western Mass. Class C tournament as the third seed. They were scheduled to face second-seeded Veritas Prep for the third time this spring in the semi-finals on Monday.

The winner of the semi-final match-up will be facing either top-seeded Granby or fourth-seeded SICS in the championship match.

"I like the concept of still having the Western Mass. tournament before the state tournament," Jarvis said. "We're looking forward to competing in both tournaments."

The Indians, who were ranked 14th, will also be one of the teams competing in the Division 2 state tournament.

The last time that Ware qualified for both tournaments was in 2024.

The other are members of the senior class are Adrain Montone, Jonathan Adkins, Brayden Compton, Jadrien Berthiaume, Sean Bernier, Shaymus O'Connor, and Daniel Ramirez.

"We always like to have the senior's work with the younger players on the team," Jarvis said. "The seniors are our leaders, but it's a close knit team."

Please see **VOLLEYBALL**, page 12

Pathfinder suffers home loss to Granby

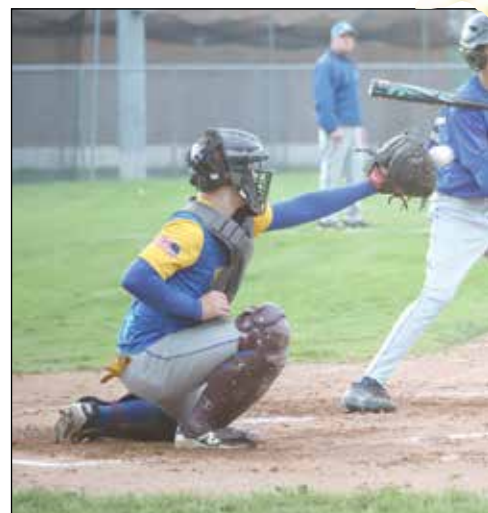
PALMER – Last Monday under the lights of Legion Field, the Granby High School baseball team had a 10-run third inning and it powered the Rams to a 17-4 win over Pathfinder that ended after five innings because of the mercy rule. Brandon Carillon and Anthony Santiago had three hits each. Carillon had five RBI. The Rams are just 4-12 on the season while Pathfinder fell to 1-13.



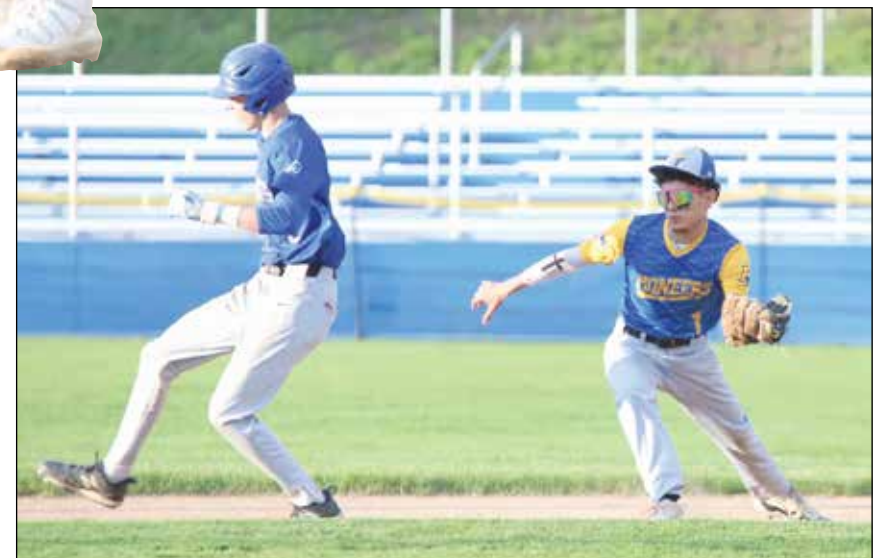
Above, Zachary Smith delivers a pitch for Pathfinder. Right, Aiden Girard slings a throw to first.



Brody Wetnicka sends a throw across the diamond for the Pioneers.



Joseph Szostek tries to frame a strike.



Ian Suari Nieves looks to tag out a runner.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

sports



Matthew Labrousse gets the leverage he needs to clear the bar in the pole vault.



Owen Twarog bends over backwards as he sails over the high jump.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Boys track hosts Lunenburg

BARRE – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quabbin Regional High School boys track had a home meet, hosting Lunenburg High School. The boys had won two of their first three meets so far this season. The final score of the meet was not reported as of press time.



Jaymeson Pina builds up momentum for an airborne launch in the triple jump.



William O'Neill coils up as he gets ready to send the discus flying.



Sadiki Francis bolts for the finish line in the 100-meter hurdles race.

Racing season opens up at Stafford

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Stafford Speedway returned to action with its first Friday night weekly racing program of the 2026 season on Friday, May 8. Feature winners on the night included Keith Rocco in the SK Modified feature, Adam Gray in the Late Model feature, Robert Blossom, III in the SK Light feature, Gary Patnode in the Limited Late Model feature, and Brandon Warren in the Street Stock feature.

In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature, Troy Talman took the lead at the drop of the green flag with Dylan Kopec, Keith Rocco, Dylan Izzo, and Matt Vassar all lined up behind him. Kopec took the lead from Talman coming out of turn 4 on lap-3 before the caution came out for Chase Cook, who spun and came to a stop

in turn 2.

Talman took the lead back on the restart with Kopec in second. Rocco and Izzo were side by side for a lap fighting for third placed before Izzo got loose in turn 2 and slid back several spots. Vassar was fourth with Mikey Flynn in fifth. Flynn took fourth from Vassar on lap-6 while Kopec took the lead before surrendering the lead to Rocco on lap-9. Talman was now third behind Rocco and Kopec with Flynn fourth and Glen Reen up to fifth.

Marcello Rufrano was on the charge as he took fourth place from Talman on lap-12 as Rocco continued to lead Kopec and Flynn. Anthony Flannery was now sixth with Reen, Alexander Pearl, Izzo, and Jon Puleo making up the top-10. Rufrano charged his way past Flynn on lap-15 to

move into third and now he was challenging Kopec for second place.

Rufrano took second from Kopec on lap-19 and now set his sights on Rocco in the lead. The caution flew with 24 laps complete as Meghan Fuller spun in turn 2 with Chase Cook. Cook was black flagged by Stafford officials for making contact with Fuller.

Rocco took the lead back under green with Rufrano taking second. Kopec was third with Flannery fourth and Flynn fifth. Pearl was sixth with Izzo, Talman, Michael Christopher, Jr. and Puleo making up the top-10. Rufrano nearly took the lead from Rocco on lap-28, but Rocco was able to fend off his challenge. With five laps

Please see **RACING**, page 17

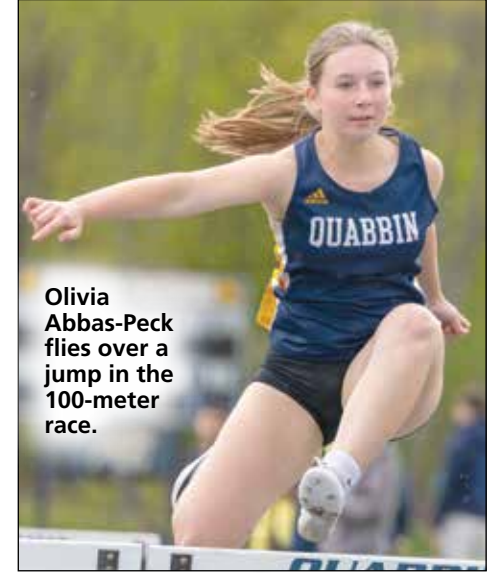
Quabbin girls track takes on Lunenburg

BARRE – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quabbin Regional High School girls track had a home meet, hosting Lunenburg High School. The girls had won two of their

first three meets so far this season, beating Hudson and Groton-Dunstable. The final score of the meet was not reported as of press time.



Robyn Waltz propels herself upwards in the pole vault.



Olivia Abbas-Peck flies over a jump in the 100-meter race.



Audrey Niles easily clears the bar in the high jump.



Juliana Tweedell extends her arm as she throws the shot put.



Katy Twarog goes flying for distance in the triple jump.



Sarah Jean-Francois spins into her throw as she hurls the discus.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

T-Birds steal Game 2 over the Penguins

WILKES-BARRE, PA - The Springfield Thunderbirds authored one of the most remarkable comebacks in team history, storming back from three behind to shock the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins in overtime, 4-3, on Thursday night in Game 2 of the Atlantic Division Finals inside Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza. With the win, Springfield evened the series at one win apiece and stole home ice advantage.

The Penguins' newest offensive weapon again proved to be a thorn in the T-Birds' sides at the 8:42 mark of the first. With Wilkes-Barre/Scranton operating on its first power

play of Game 2, Bill Zonnon parked himself just outside Georgii Romanov's goal crease and deflected a Mikhail Ilyin shot behind the Springfield goalie to make it a 1-0 Penguins lead.

Romanov was the far busier netminder in the first 20 minutes, with the Penguins heftily outshooting the T-Birds 14-4 in the frame, but the Springfield goalie continued his stellar work to keep the deficit at just a single goal heading into intermission. Sergei Murashov had little work to do in the first himself, needing to stop just four Springfield attempts.

Springfield's deficit grew almost instantaneous-

ly in the middle period, when Ilyin freed up a loose puck in the right circle, allowing Tristan Broz to rip it home just 16 seconds into the second, making it 2-0.

Springfield's power play received two chances to try to take a bite out of the two-goal hole, but Murashov and the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton penalty kill answered the bell with successive dispatchings.

Then it was the Penguins' turn to return to the power play late in the period, and Avery Hayes made no mistake, taking a cross-ice setup from Rutger McGroarty and whipping a forehander past Romanov's blocker at 18:16.

The Penguins began the final period with another power play and a chance

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 15

VOLLEYBALL

The trio of Adkins, Bernier, and Cahalan are the Indians captains.

"We all love playing volleyball and we just want to win every match," Adkins said. "It has been a lot of fun this year."

Adkins missed the second half of last season due to a left ankle injury.

"I broke my ankle in the ninth game of the season,

and I wasn't able to play the rest of the year," he said. "I worked very hard to get back on the court again this year. I just love playing volleyball."

Bernier, who also played football and basketball, is the only remaining varsity player from the 2022 team. He also changed positions this season.

"This is my first year as a setter and I really like it," Bernier said. "I was previ-

ously a libero. We're a very good team this year."

The juniors listed on the Indians volleyball roster are Lucas Schilling, Dalton Marquis, King Stallings, Michael Owsiak. Rounding out the varsity squad is eighth grader Andrew Shaw.

The Indians seniors are hoping to keep playing volleyball together for a couple more weeks before going their separate ways.



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FAITH from page 1

for their vision. Being vacant for so long, there was plenty of work to be done in order to open in time for the start of school at then end of that summer.

When St. Aloysius Catholic School first opened, there were only three classrooms and 38 students. There was a preschool class, and combined kindergarten through third grade and fourth through sixth classes.

Today, the school serves students in preschool through eighth grade.

"Now every inch of the building is full," McQuaid said. "We're projected at 90 [students] for next year...this will probably be our biggest kindergarten class so far."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic schools were able to fully reopen, instead of having remote and hybrid learning. This was a big draw for families in the area, McQuaid said.

"Since the COVID years we've been hovering around 82-85 students," she said. "This year we've seen an uptick...people are just looking for something different."

Not only has the school grown in numbers, but it has also grown in its Catholic faith.

"We have a motto: stop, drop and pray," McQuaid said.

McQuaid said there is a whole-school assembly each morning to pray. As well, students say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing a patriotic song. They also use this time to celebrate birthdays.

Student artwork is displayed in the halls of the school.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimett

French teacher Elizabeth Blake is shown giving a lesson to students at St. Aloysius Catholic School. All students, even preschoolers receive French lessons.

Students of all faiths attend the school.

The students also attend and assist with Mass each week at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, which is adjacent to the school. They also perform a Nativity pageant each year at the church before Christmas.

"Our Head of School Dawn Rudnansky joined us in year two, and really brought a love of the rosary and the saints," McQuaid said.

The preschool program is run by teacher Jennifer McNally, who joined St. Aloysius Catholic School after working at St. Mary's School for nearly eight years before it closed. McNally utilizes themed teaching, and incorporates all of the learning standards required by the Archdiocese of Hartford into the curriculum.

"The faith is woven in throughout the day," McQuaid said of McNally's program.

McQuaid said the academics at St. Aloysius Catholic School are rigorous, and the small class sizes allow for students to have a more personalized learning experience.

The students have a traditional foundation in math and English Language Art, which includes learning cursive and having written assignments. There is also science, music, art and gym.

The school has technology available to every student, giving them the best of both worlds.

"We're old-fashioned but we're up to date," she said.

All students receive French lessons, giving them an early start to learning a foreign language.

Students enjoy field trips, and hands-on learning experiences such as Nature's

Classroom.

The school has a full-time nurse, and an afterschool program.

Students come from all of the Quabbin-area towns, as well as the Brookfields, Petersham, Spencer and Ware.

McQuaid said the school's graduates have gone on to earn high scores on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test, which gave them free tuition to any state colleges and universities, and others have gone on to be named salutatorian of their high school graduating class.

The school also offers two whole-school recess periods on its recently completed playground, dedicated to the memory of Joe Knight, a founding member of the school.

This playground was the result of years of fundraising by the school and its dedicated Parent Teacher Organization, as well as donations.

"We have an incredible playground," McQuaid said. "It's a credit to them [PTO] that the kids are able to enjoy it."

Commitment to the community is also important for students at St. Aloysius Catholic School, including organizing food drives for area food pantries.

"Children are taught to think beyond themselves," she said.

Anniversary celebration

The anniversary of the school's reopening is Saturday, June 6, which will be celebrated with a chicken barbecue fundraiser sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #183 at St. Mary's Church Hall in Ware on that date from 1-4 p.m.

There will be a DJ, all sorts of fun for the kids, basket raffles, a 50/50 and more. Tickets are \$25 for a chicken dinner or \$5 for a hot dog and chips.

Purchase tickets by calling the school at 413-477-1268 or by reaching out to PTO President Megan Morrison by phone or text 978-751-1211.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go into the school's general fund to help maintain and improve the historic building and support its operating costs. As is true with public schools, operational costs are always rising.

"We continue to seek out benefactors who sup-

port faith-based education in order to continue the great work we've done in the last 10 years," McQuaid said. "At St. Aloysius Catholic School faith and academics are our top priority."

McQuaid credited St. Mary's Church and the Knights of Columbus for being "wonderful and supportive" of the school's mission.

Enrollment information

St. Aloysius Catholic School is still accepting applications for its preschool program, which is open to children who are potty-trained and age 3 by Aug. 31.

The kindergarten is open to children who are age 5 by Aug. 31.

Tuition payments are spread out over 10 months and an annual fund drive from mid-December through March, can reduce tuition by as much as \$300 per student, thanks to the generosity of a benefactor that offers a full match to money raised during the drive (up to \$40,000).

Financial aid is also available through the Worcester Diocese, and students do not need to be part of a church to apply. St. Mary's, All Saints and other local parishes also offer financial assistance for students within their respective parishes.

For more information about the school, visit their website, staloyuscs.com or Facebook page, or call 413-477-1268 Monday through Friday from 7:20 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of May 5-12, the Ware Police Department responded to 30 miscellaneous calls, 23 administrative calls, 14 traffic violations, 10 emergency 911 calls, seven harassments/stalks/threats, two trespasses, three thefts/larcenies, five disturbances, one brush fire, one breaking and entering, one motor vehicle accident, two animal calls and 12 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Tuesday, May 5
 6:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 7:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 9:59 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Could Not Locate
 12:59 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Osborne Road, Investigated
 3:26 p.m. Safety Hazard, Gould Road, Services Rendered
 4:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Upper Church Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 5:03 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
 5:49 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Services Rendered

Wednesday, May 6
 1:16 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Pine Crest Circle, Appears Secure After Check
 2:11 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Sky View Drive, Appears Secure After Check
 8:43 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cummings Street, Dispatch Handled
 9:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, West Main Street, Investigated
 11:18 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street,

Advised
 1:25 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Could Not Locate
 3:30 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Main Street, Arrest Made
 5:21 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Greenway Avenue, Investigated
 8:32 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
 8:40 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, South Street, Investigated

Thursday, May 7
 1:55 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Osborne Road, Investigated
 7:08 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Convent Hill Road, Investigated
 1:06 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Cummings Street, Investigated
 1:15 p.m. Assault, Eddy Street, Arrest Made
 11:37 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Walnut Street, Services Rendered

Friday, May 8
 8:48 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Warren Road, Services Rendered
 11:31 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, East Street, Could Not Locate
 11:54 a.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Services Rendered
 12:14 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Advised
 1:06 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, East Street, Could Not Locate
 3:56 p.m. Drugs, West Street, Advised
 7:36 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Sherwin Street, Services Rendered
 10:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Otis Avenue, Arrest Made

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.

Saturday, May 9
 3:52 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Old Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered
 9:24 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Street, Could Not Locate

Sunday, May 10
 5:21 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
 7:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 9:02 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Cummings Street, Investigated
 10:11 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Beaver Lake Road, Investigated

Monday, May 11
 3:26 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Advised
 5:12 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, West Main Street, Investigated
 5:41 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Aspen Street, Advised
 6:20 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
 7:22 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Gilbertville Road, Advised
 7:39 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Otis Avenue, Advised

Warren Police Log

During the week of April 26-May 2, the Warren Police Department responded to 140 building/property checks, 10 community policings, 16 emergency 911 calls, three complaints, seven safety hazards, one fire call, one smoke investigation, one motor vehicle accident, two harassments, one animal call and 27 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, April 26
 12:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 11:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:30 a.m. Unwanted Party, Little Rest Road, Report Filed
 11:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Burbank Avenue, Written Warning
 2:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
 5:54 p.m. Miscellaneous Fire, Reynolds Road, Fire Extinguished
 7:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 8:29 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Bemis Road, Mutual Aid Transport

Monday, April 27
 11:23 a.m. Bleeding, Main Street, Transported to

Hospital
 11:31 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Brimfield Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 12:59 p.m. Mutual Aid Ambulance, Ware Fire Station, Mutual Aid Assist
 1:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:41 p.m. Complaint, Gilbert Road, Referred to Other Agency
 11:50 p.m. Falls, Nelligan Terrace, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, April 28
 12:25 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Yankee Drummer Drive, No Transport Required
 8:52 a.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:49 p.m. Smoke Investigation, Boston Post Road, Fire Extinguished
 1:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:01 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 4:01 p.m. Welfare Check, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 5:01 p.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:24 p.m. Overdose/Poisoning, Old West Warren Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Wednesday, April 29
 7:41 a.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 7:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:51 a.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Investigated
 9:29 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
 9:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 11:38 a.m. Complaint, North Street, Report Filed

12:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 1:21 p.m. Seizures, Nelligan Terrace, Transported to Hospital
 1:55 p.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Report Filed
 5:11 p.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Criminal Complaint
 5:13 p.m. Falls, Southbridge Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 9:02 p.m. Complaint, Keys Road, Report Filed

Thursday, April 30
 7:37 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Nelligan Terrace, Mutual Aid Transport
 8:27 a.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Information Taken
 9:55 a.m. Harassment, Keys Road, Information Taken

Friday, May 1
 8:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Saturday, May 2
 3:14 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Nelligan Terrace, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 8:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road Extension, Written Warning
 9:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
 11:22 a.m. Parking Issues, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised

1:11 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Presidential Circle, Report Filed
 3:05 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Southbridge Road, Call Transferred
 7:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 9:38 p.m. Harassment, Pine Street, Report Filed
 11:29 p.m. Bleeding, Richardson Street, Mutual Aid Transport

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of May 11-18, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 58 building/property checks, 29 directed/area patrols, 17 radar assignments, 11 emergency 911 calls, seven citizen assists, three assist other agencies, four investigations, two motor vehicle investigations, one vandalism, one illegal dumping, two complaints, one scam, one safety hazard, five animal calls and eight motor vehicle

stops in the town of Hardwick.
Monday, May 11
 9:35 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Cleveland Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:29 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
 10:55 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
Tuesday, May 12
 6:43 a.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer

Handled
 4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:23 p.m. 911 Alarm, Main Street, No Action Required
Wednesday, May 13
 3:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Joslyn Road, Officer Handled
 8:28 a.m. Welfare Check, Hardwick Road, Merge
 8:29 a.m. Welfare Check, Hardwick Road, Officer

Handled
 3:24 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
Thursday, May 14
 7:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:08 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Spoken To
 2:31 p.m. Fire/Alarm, Prospect Street, Extinguished
 4:56 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Services

Rendered
 8:32 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:33 p.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Spoken To
 10:29 p.m. Complaint, Barre Road, Officer Handled
Friday, May 15
 12:06 a.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 3:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Petersham Road, Report Taken

3:46 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Transferred Call to C7
 6:24 a.m. Investigation, Petersham Road, Negative Contact
 9:26 a.m. Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:03 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Chagnon Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:53 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Negative Contact
 3:13 p.m. Scam, Main Street, Officer Handled
 8:16 p.m. Complaint, Upper Church Street, Negative Contact

Saturday, May 16
 12:04 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Services Rendered
 9:08 a.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Spoken To
 5:39 p.m. Welfare Check, Brook Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:42 p.m. 911 Neighbor Dispute, Barre Road, Transferred Call to C7
 8:59 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Patrill Hollow Road, Negative Contact
 11:54 p.m. Disturbance, Petersham Road, Arrest(s) Made

Sunday, May 17
 12:23 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Transferred Call to C7
 1:31 a.m. 911 Disturbance, Barre Road, Transferred Call to C7
 9:27 a.m. 911 Disturbance, Off Prospect Street, Spoken To
 11:40 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled
 12:29 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Charity Hill Road, Patient Refusal

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HARDWICK from page 1

make it part-time. He said they had an interview scheduled for that position prior to the meeting, but the applicant did not show up.

Gryszowka said surrounding towns like Barre, Oakham and New Braintree are offering closer to \$30 per hour for that position, and he said Barre is starting to attract applicants. He said Hardwick starts at \$25 per hour for the same position. Gryszowka was asked how the department was managing Chapter 90 funds, and he said there is a price of \$538,000 just for paving 1.6 miles of road from the town line to Czesky Road, and that does not include labor or machines, just materials.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Nicholas Gaumont said the department is working "bare bones" right now. He said prices are going up, and they have already had 75 calls this year, which is more than half of all of last year.

Gaumont said equipment like helmets and boots are expiring this year, and the department has been trying to utilize grant money, but federal grants are shut down right now. He said any other cuts in their budget would send the department backwards.

Police Department

Police Chief Kevin Landine said he recently cut \$10,000 from the department's budget in April, and level funded most of the line items. He said the one place the department was considering cutting was on fuel, but the bills went from \$500 to \$1,300 within two weeks.

Landine said the department usually has a \$4-\$5,000 savings, which will be expended by the end of June.

He said there is some help from New Braintree, as they will pick up the fuel costs depending on where the call for service is, and New Braintree often gets 3,000 gallons per year compared to Hardwick's 4,000 per year.

Library

Library Director Julie Bullock said if the libraries don't meet their Municipal Appropriation Requirement they would lose state certification, which would eliminate the ability to get state aid and participate in inter-library loaning, where customers at certified libraries can loan books and materials from other communities.

Jennifer Garvey, who sits on the library board of trustees said there is a waiver, but the town would not meet the requirements of it unless every department was cut the same as the library. Bullock said there is a lot of paperwork that would go along with receiving a waiver.

Bullock said that the Paige Memorial Library and Gilbertville Public Library are both seen as one by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and their statistics are combined, and are both certified. She said if Gilbertville closes, it would affect overall certification.

General government

Town Administrator Justin Caggiano said a lot of departments are one person departments, and there is a vacancy for Town Accountant. She said many positions other than some department heads are on a part-time basis, and the treasurer is working six days a week.

The board decided to save any questions on the general government budget until a joint meeting with the Finance Committee on May 21.

179 Main St.

The board continued to discuss the request for proposal process for 179 Main St., the former senior center. The board sent the RFP to the Historical Commission for review.

John Petraglia, speaking on behalf of the Historical Commission, said they submitted a preservation covenant for the Paige building, and would likely do the same thing for 179 Main St. when they meet next.

Petraglia said the building is of significance in the National Historic Overlay District, and it should be maintained in an appropriate nature. He said one benefit to a potential bidder is they can get a 20% tax break for historic building rehabilitation, which comes into effect for any costs after the original purchase value.

He said it will likely be a \$1 million or more project to restore it.

Petraglia said the current RFP has no language regarding a historical covenant, just extra points for someone with preservation experience.

Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker said the board needs to set a minimum purchase price, compared to the assessed price of \$230,000, which Caggiano said is a 50% depreciation. Caggiano said she does not think someone will pay over \$200,000 for it.

Petraglia said the main goals should be getting a taxable property back into the revenue stream, that brings character and positivity to the town, and the sales price may not be the most important consideration.

Fire truck discussion

Select Board member Zack Spencer said he had done some research on the laws, and meeting minutes regarding the financing of the fire truck purchased at a town meeting in 2024.

He said paying only interest for the first three years gives the town a cushion to build up to full payments of principal and interest on the debt schedule.

Tinker said there is a town policy adopted in 2017 which restricts financing for more than 10 years except for some specific exceptions, and if they start paying principal next year they can save \$100,000, and on the current schedule, the burden is on the future taxpayer.

Spencer said one of the exceptions had to do with the useful life borrowing guidelines published by the Division of Local Services, which the fire truck would fall under.

Surplus vehicles

The board voted to designate a 2017 police cruiser and an electric vehicle formerly used by a building inspector as surplus vehicles. Landine said the cruiser is the one replaced at the special town meeting earlier this year, and had 135,000 miles on it. Caggiano said Gryszowka is going to advertise the electric vehicle on auction sites. The electric vehicle is a generation 1 Ford Focus, which is all electric and the battery in it is dead.

Caggiano said she spoke with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission about auctioning off the electric vehicle since it was purchased with a grant, and they had no problems with it.

Morss Scholarship

The board awarded one \$500 scholarship to Elizabeth Matheson. Caggiano said there were two other applications received, but they did not meet the minimum requirements of being a Hardwick resident.

Tinker said this is the first public discussion of this, and somebody may hear about it and apply, so the board agreed to extend the deadline another week.

According to Schaaf's reading of the requirements, it is a scholarship for high school seniors who live in Hardwick, and they have to submit a 500 word essay along with GPA, SAT scores and examples of community contributions.

One-day alcohol permit

The board approved a one day liquor license at the Town House for Thomas Petraglia, for a wedding that may be held there if the weather is poor on that day. Caggiano said she is going to try to put a liquor license policy in place through the board in June.

Meeting minutes

The board discussed minutes from Nov. 24, 2025, because Tinker said they voted on amendments to them but they were not reflected on the website. He said the board had two executive sessions that night, one which started at 5 p.m. and another at around 6 p.m.

Tinker said he recused himself from both executive sessions, and the chair of the board left the building before Tinker returned to open session. Tinker said he wanted all of this documented in the minutes.

The board also discussed minutes from April 13, 2026, because there were votes to go into executive session and votes in executive session to return to open session, which he said need to be reflected in the minutes.

The board approved the acceptance of these minutes as amended.

Caggiano said there is an item on the next agenda about a process to resolve outstanding meeting minutes.

The board's next meeting is May 21, a joint meeting with the Finance Committee. The next regular meeting is May 26, the Tuesday after Memorial Day.

the margin to 3-2.

The veteran forward was far from finished, as Dube picked up his second 6-on-5 goal with 1:50 remaining, parking himself off the right post and jabbing a loose puck behind a helpless Murashov following a Calle Rosen slapper to make it a 3-3 tie and force an improbable overtime period.

The T-Birds carried the overtime period as well, as the visitors finished the night with 31 of the game's final 43 shots on net. Finally, it was Akil Thomas who ended the festivities with a fortuitous bounce at 13:44 of

the overtime. Thomas was spilled on a breakaway down the slot area, but still got a shot away that rocketed off the end boards, careened back to the net front, bounced off Murashov's back, and squeaked across the line to win it for Springfield.

The magical third period and overtime marked Springfield's largest third period comeback win in their postseason history. Romanov improved to 6-2 in his postseason run, making 39 saves in the win. Murashov finished with 41 stops for the Penguins.

Katherine (Tracy) Piechota, 75

Katherine "Kathy" (Tracy) Piechota passed away peacefully on May 7, 2026 at Baystate Hospital, surrounded by her family and friends.



She was born in Biddeford, Maine, and raised in Wells, Maine. Kathy was the daughter of Arthur Tracy Jr. and Claire (Melanson) Tracy, who preceded her in death.

Kathy attended the Wells school system and graduated in 1968. She was the last class of primary students' class to attend the Wells Branch one room schoolhouse. She attended Deaconess Hospital Nursing School in Boston and graduated in 1971 as a Registered Nurse. She worked as a nurse at Wing Hospital with numerous co-workers, who became family and all very dear to her heart.

Kathy held several positions including ER Supervisor and Quality Coordinator until she retired in 2018.

Kathy assisted in raising funds for the new ER at Wing. The fundraising team called themselves the Fun D Raisers. They collected money at the intersections in Palmer with bedpans and urinals.

Kathy was involved with Palmer Ambulance Service for nearly 40 years in various positions and roles.

Kathy had a very strong passion in providing care for the community. Kathy was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, living a life of service.

Kathy loved cruises, Cape Cod, cooking, catching fish, and her four-legged

pets. Kathy looked forward to the winter months which meant "Deer Camp". She was always excited to greet everyone after a day of hunting, to see what was brought to the garage.

Kathy treasured her trips to Maine with her son and then later her grandson and a car full of their friends.

Kathy was first and foremost a mother, grandmother, chief cook, incredible ritualist, and a vibrant woman ahead of her times in many ways.

Kathy leaves behind her devoted son, John Piechota III, and wife Dawn (Pulchtopek) of Ware; her cherished grandson Sean Piechota and fiancée Samantha Squires of Ware; her sister Carrie Tracey of Kennebunk, Maine; dear friend and caregiver Louise Clark of Ware; as well as a niece and several nephews.

A celebration of Kathy's life will be held on Saturday, June 13, from 1-4 p.m. at the St. Mary's Club, 3036 High St., Bondsville. Please bring a photo to add to the picture collage and share some wonderful stories of how Kathy impacted your life.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Kathy's memory to St. Jude Children's Hospital (st.jude.org/donate) or The Shriners (donate.shrinerschildren.org).

Cebula Funeral Home of Ware was entrusted with the final arrangements. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

9:09 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
11:12 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, May 18

7:48 a.m. Fire Alarm Testing, Cleveland Road, Services Rendered

POLICE from page 14

1:38 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Mellon Road, Officer Handled

6:58 p.m. Vandalism, Off Prospect Street, Officer Handled

9 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

Death notice

Piechota, Katherine (Tracy)
Died May 7, 2026
Services June 13, 2026

Ware River News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice**

listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

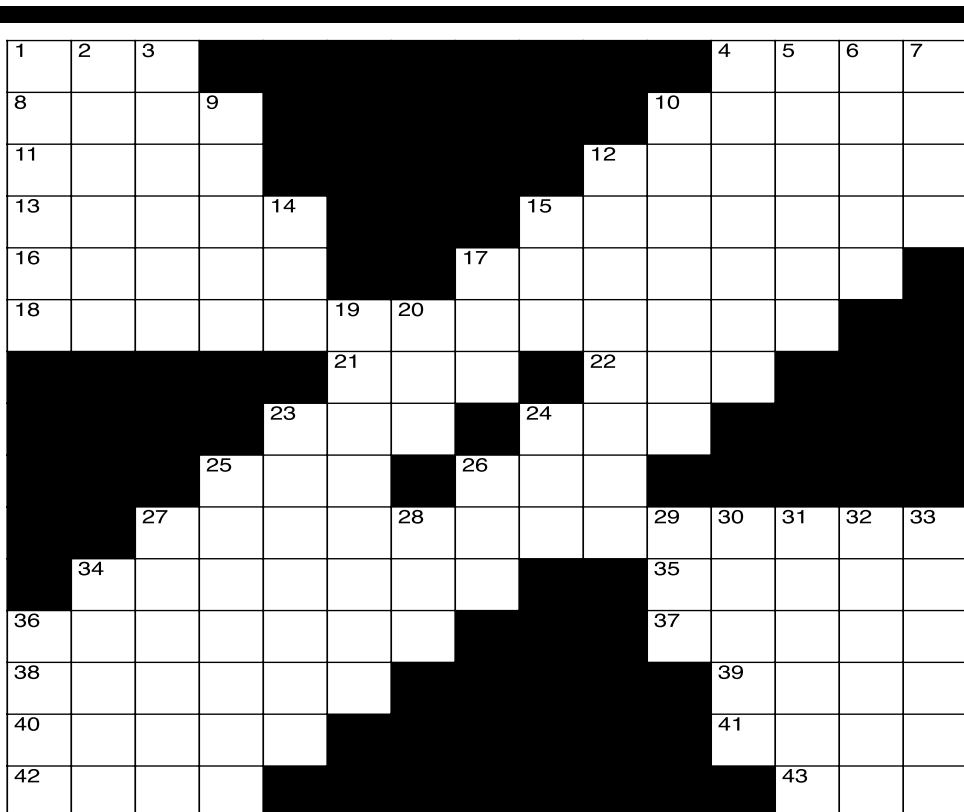
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

NOTICE

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



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Government lawyers
- 4. The back of a person's neck
- 8. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 10. In a less flashy way
- 11. Living room piece
- 12. Shepherd dog
- 13. A citizen of Iran
- 15. Moved slowly
- 16. Small finch
- 17. Previously
- 18. What a kid does on Halloween
- 21. Monetary unit
- 22. Using dry humor
- 23. Ocean

CLUES DOWN

- 24. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 25. Not close
- 26. NHL legend Bobby
- 27. A ballplayer would love to do this
- 34. Charity
- 35. City in Finland
- 36. Loomed over
- 37. Vaccine developer
- 38. Avoids capture
- 39. We all need it
- 40. Openwork fabrics
- 41. Get away
- 42. Something you might hit
- 43. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Abstain from
- 2. Admirer
- 3. Expedition to observe animals
- 4. Act that is legally void
- 5. WW2 combatants
- 6. A tool
- 7. Looked at
- 9. Showing wild excitement
- 10. Banknotes
- 12. Tired
- 14. Printers need it
- 15. Women's patriotic group
- 17. When you anticipate getting somewhere

- 19. Functions
- 20. Breed of sheep
- 23. Mocking pieces
- 24. A major division of geological time
- 25. Andiron
- 26. Many not ands
- 27. Cuban city
- 28. He voiced "Olaf"
- 29. Criticize
- 30. "Thundercats" character
- 31. Markings
- 32. Gets up
- 33. MLB lefty reliever A.J.
- 34. An assembly of witches
- 36. High energy lasers (abbr.)

T-BIRDS from page 12

to put the T-Birds away. Instead, Springfield began their comeback for the ages when Hugh McGing rifled home a one-timer, short-handed, past Murashov just 55 seconds into the period to make it 3-1.

Springfield tilted the ice heavily in their favor for the entirety of the final period, unleashing 20 shots in 20 minutes on Murashov. Still, it would take the T-Birds until the final four minutes to get closer when Dillon Dube deflected an Alek Kaskimaki attempt behind Murashov with 3:24 remaining to cut

Classifieds

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 Grease trap pumping business. Ninety customers, two pump trucks.
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 Fresh cut & split \$240.00
 Seasoned cut & split \$375.00
 All hardwood.
 Tree length available
 *Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).
 Quality & volumes **guaranteed!**
 New England Forest Products
 (413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit.
 Call (508)882-0178

MISCELLANEOUS

HARMON PELLET STOVE MODEL XXV. Like new condition, dark maroon enamel. \$2750. 413-848-2298.

TAG SALE

BARN SALE
 Goss Hill Road, Worthington.
 Fri., May 22-Sat., May 23
 9am-5pm. Many vintage items, prints, collectibles, small furniture and quilts.

WANTED

WANTED!
CASH for:
 • Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
 • Electronics & Audio Equipment.
 • Sports Cards.
 • 70s/80s/90s Toys.
 • Antiques & Collectibles.
 Much, much more!
 Call/Text Sam
 413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.
BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
 Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

WANTED

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:
 Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.
 Call Paul 413-206-8688

JUNK REMOVAL

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

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

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

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds.
WE GET RESULTS!
 Call 413-283-8393



SERVICES

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

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PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN
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 Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.
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 Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor.
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HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

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

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FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
 Call Mike (413) 348-7967

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

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

AUTO

CAMPERS

2011 KEYSTONE MONTANA MOUNTAINEER MODEL RKD
 LENGTH 33, 2 SLIDE-OUTS, REAR KITCHEN, SLEEPS 4, LOTS OF STORAGE. \$8000. BRIMFIELD - (413)374-1880

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED:
 PAINTING, CLEAN-UP.
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HOUSE CLEANER POSITION AVAILABLE!
 Established company, flexible schedule, competitive wages, supportive team, respectful clients! Work around college classes or meeting the bus! Call today to see if we are the right fit for you! We are eager to have you join our Team!
413-267-4297 or 413-695-8087.

LABORERS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
 Positions available with local work. Proper licenses required including OSHA compliance. Compensation will commensurate with experience. Transportation required.
 Email:
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REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

15 MAPLE ST, BROOKFIELD.
 Available June 1. Unit 2. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, fenced yard, washer/dryer/dishwasher. Country style kitchen cabinets, quiet location. \$1500/mo. First/last/security. Good credit 700+.
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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

WALES: SECOND FLOOR ROOM RENTAL. \$750 per week, no pets, no visitors, non-smokers. Lease month to month. References required. First/last. 508-344-0732.

FOR RENT

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

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

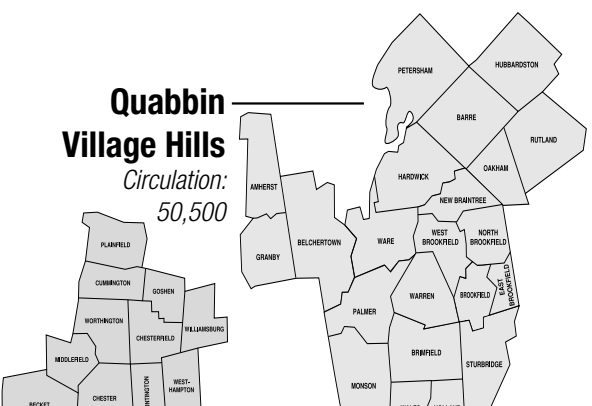
MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
 or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

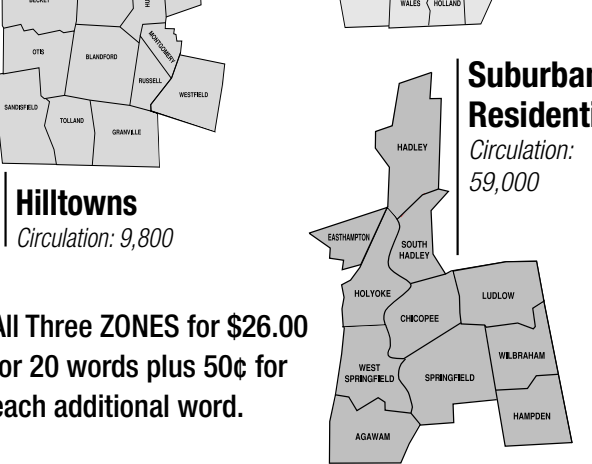
| CATEGORY: | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | Base Price \$26.50 | 22 | Base Price \$27.00 |
| 23 | Base Price \$27.50 | 24 | Base Price \$28.00 |
| 25 | Base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

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


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 Circulation: 50,500



Hilltowns
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Suburban Residential
 Circulation: 59,000



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public notices

INVITATION FOR BID SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SERVICES WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B, the Ware Public School District is accepting bids for **School Business Management Services**. Specifications will be available beginning **Monday, May 18, 2026, after 10:00 a.m.** via email request to krasys@ware.k12.ma.us and in the office at the address below:

**WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
239 WEST STREET
WARE, MA 01082**

Bids will be received at the Ware Public Schools' Superintendent's Office, 239 West Street, Ware, MA 01082, **no later than 2:00 p.m. on June 3, 2026** to be publicly opened and read. **No bid will be accepted after 2:00 p.m. on June 3, 2026.** Bids shall be filed in a sealed envelope, bearing the title "SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SERVICES FY27-1", per specifications, delivered personally or by mail to Ware Public Schools Superintendent's Office, 239 West Street, Ware, MA 01082 on or before **2:00 p.m., June 3, 2026.**

Questions may be referred to the following:

Michael L. Wood,
Interim Superintendent
mwood@ware.k12.ma.us
05/21, 05/28/2026

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 Paul Muise, Sr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, dated April 15, 2016 and registered at the Hampshire County Registry District of the Land Court as document number 19333, and noted on certificate of title number 2395, as modified by a certain modification agreement registered on November 8, 2021, and registered with the Hampshire County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 21243 as noted on Certificate of Title No. 2395, of which mortgage the undersigned

is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, registered on May 5, 2021, Document No. 21027, as noted on Certificate of Title No. 2395 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **4:00 PM on June 18, 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at 79 Pleasant Street, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The land in said Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:

A certain parcel of land situate in Ware together with the buildings thereon in the County of Hampshire and said Commonwealth bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHWESTERLY by the northeasterly line of Pleasant Street fifty and seventy-five one hundredths (50.75) feet;

NORTHWESTERLY by land of Bridget Scheffer sixty-eight and seventy three one hundredths (68.73) feet;

NORTHEASTERLY by Lot C as shown on plan hereinafter mentioned fifty-seven and eighteen one hundredths (57.18) feet;

SOUTHEASTERLY by Lot A on plan above mentioned seventy-six and eighteen one hundredths (76.18) feet Being Lot B on sub-division plan numbered 609 B land in Ware, John T. Casey, Surveyor, January 1951. Sub-division plan filed in Registry District of Hampshire County November 2, 1951, Book 4, Page 13 1/2.

All of said boundaries are determined by the Court as shown on sub-division plan numbered 609 B as above referenced to. Subject to restrictions of record, if in force and effect. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed registered with Hampshire County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 19332, as noted on Certificate of Title No. 2395.

These premises will 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 (\$5,000.00) Dollars 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 certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, 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. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
28437
05/21, 05/28, 06/04/2026

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT TOWN OF WARREN RIVER & CENTRAL STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

THIS PROJECT IS BEING BID ELECTRONICALLY AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the Bid Documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. See www.biddocs.com for bidding instructions.

The Town of Warren invites sealed bids for the River & Central Street Improvement Project. The project consists of furnishing all labor, tools, materials, and equipment necessary for the installation of approximately 805 linear feet of 8-inch DI water main and associated water services. Alternate #1 includes 425 linear feet of 12-inch HDPE drainage pipe and associated precast concrete structures, and 510 LF of roadway reconstruction, and associated work. Alternate #2 includes the installation of approximately 510 LF of new concrete sidewalk paving & curbing. This project is being administered by the Town of Warren and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) and funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), FY2024 Warren Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and MassDOT Chapter 90 Program.

This project is being administered by the Town of Warren and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) and funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), FY2024 Warren Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and MassDOT Chapter 90 Program. Electronic bids for the construction of the River & Central Street Improvement Project for the Town of Warren, Massachusetts, shall be prepared and received electronically by www.biddocs.com until **3:00 p.m. prevailing time, on June 11, 2026**, at which time said bids will be publicly opened, forthwith online.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available at www.biddocs.com (may be viewed electronically and downloaded at no cost) or hard copies may be purchased online at www.biddocs.com or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §26 to 27H,

inclusive, or by the federal Davis-Bacon wage rates, whichever hourly rate is higher. The project is also governed by HUD's Section 3 policy as implemented by 24 CFR Part 75, whereas efforts occur to ensure that economic opportunities, most importantly employment, generated by this CDBG program shall be directed to low- and very low-income persons. Bidders on the work shall also make a good faith effort to achieve the goals of the Federal Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) policy regarding utilization of MBEs and WBEs in order to be deemed a responsible bidder. This project is subject to Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act requirements.

A bid bond with an acceptable surety, or a certified bank check in the amount of 5% of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid and made payable to the Town of Warren. The successful bidder must furnish a 100% Performance Bond, and 100% Labor and Material Payment Bond.

MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as "Sewer and Water" for the River & Central Street Improvement Project with an estimate value of \$785,000 will be required.

The lowest qualified responsible bidder shall be awarded the contract subject to availability of funds under the EOHLC CDBG program. The Town of Warren, the Awarding and Contracting Authority, may cancel this Invitation for Bid (IFB), in whole or in part, at any time that such an act is deemed in its best interest, reserves the right to waive any informality in the bidding or to reject any and all bids in total or in part as may be deemed to serve the best interest of the Town, and will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a bidder in preparing and submitting a bid in response to this IFB.

A pre-bid conference will not be held for this project. Questions regarding the bid specifications should be directed in writing to Jacob Murray at Waterfield Design Group, at jmurray@wdgrp.com. Contract documents may be viewed at the CMRPC, 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520,

Worcester, MA 01608, or Warren Town Hall Building, 48 High Street, Warren, MA 01083. 05/21/2026

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 26 SM 001628 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: **Ross Shong** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):

Freedom Mortgage Corporation

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Ware, numbered 1 Vernon Street, given by **Ross Shong to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for CMG Mortgage, Inc. dba CMG Home Loans**, dated **September 15, 2023**, and recorded at **Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14962, Page 97**, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **June 29, 2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of said Court on May 18, 2026.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

05/21/2026

BACKYARD from page 4

week. This week a second male oriole and two more grosbeaks show up, another male and a female. He also has a male eastern towhee in his yard. He said, "A couple of years ago we had two male towhees in the yard and one spent the summer attacking its reflection in the many windows despite best efforts to dissuade it."

He said elsewhere, in Warren on South Street there are three occupied great blue heron nest and two others he was not sure if they were being used. The osprey pair

has been around for awhile. The nest has gotten deeper over the years and on a recent visit he could only see the tail or maybe wing feathers barely showing above the nest. I think incubation has started, but can't be sure.

He also has a male common yellowthroat and house wren in his yard.

He said, "House wrens have nested in nesting boxes in the yard several times and I saw feathers near the entrance hole on a box they have used before. The wrens have a habit of building false nests in a couple of boxes

that they never use."

He also said, "A male yellow-bellied sapsucker spent some time on a native dogwood and today a sapsucker, probably the same one, spent several hours tapping away at the same tree."

Geese in a pavilion

On May 12, I drove by Camp Putnam in New Braintree and saw four geese under their pavilion near the pond. I see many Canada geese in fields or ponds, but I have never seen them in a pavilion.

Other birds

On May 8 I received an email reporting a scarlet tanager, grosbeaks and hummingbirds.

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

RACING from page 12

to go Rocco was still leading Rufrano with Kopec, Flannery, and Pearl making up the top-5.

Rocco led Rufrano to the checkered flag to pick up his first win of the 2026 season. Kopec finished third with Flannery and Pearl rounding out the top-5. Following post-race inspection, the

car of Kopec failed to meet the minimum ride height requirement and the car of Flannery exceeded the maximum allowable left side weight and both cars were disqualified from the feature finish. This moves Pearl into third with Christopher and Flynn rounding out the new top-5 behind Rocco and Rufrano.

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Noah Plante is shown placing an American flag at a veteran's grave.



Jariella Male placed an American flag at a veteran's grave.



Leah Vongratsamy is shown holding an American flag. Submitted Photos



Sarah Louis helped honor veterans.



WEST BROOKFIELD/WARREN – Eighth grade students from Quaboag Regional Middle High School helped place American flags on veterans' graves in cemeteries in West Brookfield and Warren in preparation for Memorial Day.



Cody McKusick placed an American flag in a holder.



Julian Toohey helped honor veterans for Memorial Day.

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