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Willow wore her red, white and blue beads.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
RIGHT: Claudia Kadra and Nicole Croteau of Ware's 250th U.S. Celebration Committee helped out at the Chicken BBQ Fundraiser at St. Mary's Parish.

Chicken BBQ fundraiser held at St. Mary's Parish

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – To prepare for the upcoming celebrations of America250, a chicken BBQ fundraiser was held at St. Mary's Parish this past weekend.

The chicken BBQ fundraiser was organized by members of the town of Ware's

250th U.S. Celebration Committee. Chair of the Committee, Nicole Croteau, said this was a big fundraising event to help support the full celebration and series of events that will take place in Ware to celebrate America's birthday.

Well over 100 tickets were sold for this fundraiser.

Croteau and her fellow committee members were

working during the event alongside members of the Knights of Columbus Ware Council 183.

"They were very supportive of the event," Croteau said.

The Knights prepared the meals inside the kitchen of St. Mary's Parish. The meal included BBQ chicken, baked potato, salad, dinner roll and a cookie for dessert. Guests

had the option to dine at the Parish or take their meals home.

The committee had merchandise for sale, including America250 themed T-shirts. Information on how to order a shirt can be found on the town website, www.townofware.com, or visit usa250ware.itemorder.com to place an order.

Please see **BBQ**, page 7

Planning Board hears project proposal

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – The Planning Board met on June 4 to hear a project proposal off West Street near Cumberland Farms.

Michael Harris has talked about this project idea in the past with the Planning Board and provided a few updates about what's happening near 193 West St.

Harris provided some documents with improvements he'd like to make to the project.

There is a wetland concern in the area Harris is looking at and a survey is being done to determine the size. Once results are in, Harris will go to Conservation Commission and then present a plan to the Planning Board.

Please see **PROJECT**, page 6

LandEspace opens at ArtWorks Gallery

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – The ArtWorks Gallery in Ware held an opening reception this past week for the new exhibit called LandEspace.

The focus of this exhibit is artists thinking of a place

where the natural or imagined places are where you wish to be or actually escape to.

"A place they'd like to escape to," Joyce Eichacker said.

Shona MacDonald was the juror for this exhibit.

Please see **GALLERY**, page 7



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Living Museum by Anastasia Brown-Westphal is made of acrylic and paper collage.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Rich Eichacker performed on guitar and Roc Goudreau on keyboard.

Concerts in the Park

Lions Club kicks off summer series

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Last Thursday evening, the Ware Lions Club kicked off its summer Concerts in the Park series with a performance by local favorite, The Project.

Band members Cindy Colon, Rich Eichacker, Roc

Goudreau, Tom Trudeau and Brad Willard played a variety of classic songs for the large crowd at Grenville Park, 73 Church St.

The concert series continues on Thursday, July 9 starting at 6:30 p.m. with Wicked Biscuit. Other concerts include July 16, Bigelow; July 23, The Bridge; July 30, Charlie Lask and Forever Diamond with special guest Jimmy Mazz and Aug. 6, Woodshed.

Admission to concerts is free and concerts are weather dependent.

Please see **CONCERTS**, page 2

Ferrera receives 'outstanding' rating

Selectmen complete TA's annual performance review

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen recently completed Town Administrator James Ferrera's annual performance review, which will be presented at the board's July 9 meeting.

The annual performance review evaluates the employee's daily work activities and provides both positive recognition of the employee's achievements, as well as feedback and suggestions for areas of improvement.

Performance dimensions are divided into seven categories, and the employee

receives a number scale rating with 1 being "unsatisfactory" and 5 being "outstanding." Categories are Job Related Expertise; Communication and Customer Service; Quality of Work and Productivity; Initiative, Creativity and Problem Solving; Cooperation, Teamwork and

Leadership; Dependability and Attendance; and Supervisory/Staff Development.

This year, Ferrera received a cumulative score of 206 out of a possible 215, earning him an "outstanding" rating. His performance "consistently exceeds all exceptional standards."

Please see **FERRERA**, page 3



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Chefs Donna and Paula were busy preparing the chicken BBQ meals.

Seniors enjoy Garden Party at Lucy Stone Park

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – Seniors gathered at Lucy Stone Park for the very first Summer Solstice Garden Party.

As part of the celebration, seniors enjoyed a chicken BBQ meal, live music, balloon animals and cotton candy. June birthday celebrations also took place as over 50 seniors gathered on the beautiful grounds of Lucy Stone Park.

Council on Aging Director Sharon Meli shared that the purpose of having a Summer Solstice is to show the seniors what a lovely spot the park is after its recent revital-

ization. The town received a grant to renovate the grounds of Lucy Stone Park to make it into a visiting destination, which includes seniors.

"I had several of them tell me that they had no idea it was there, and how beautiful it is," Meli said.

The work was accomplished thanks to Tim O'Brien, Warren Conservation, Warren's Rural Improvement and numerous volunteers.

"It is a lovely space," Meli said. "It is a very special park, and I am so happy the seniors enjoyed the day there."

Please see **GARDEN PARTY**, page 8





Submitted Photo

Alisyn Bruso named to President’s List

NORTH ANDOVER – Alisyn Bruso of Ware has been named to the President’s List at Merrimack College for the spring semester of 2026.

She is the daughter of proud parents Robert and Brandy Bruso of Ware.

She was the recipient of the 2025 Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship.

A nursing major, Bruso will return to Merrimack in the fall where she is a member of the Austin Scholars and serves as the Zeta Tau Alpha Sisterhood Chair.

U.S. Air Force band to perform on July 5

NEW BRAINTREE – The U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band will perform under the newly built pavilion on the town green on Sunday, July 5 at 2:30 p.m.

This free event is part of the town’s 275th and nation’s 250th anniversary celebrations organized by the 275th Anniversary Committee.

People are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and snacks.

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, July 6

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch

Tuesday, July 7

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.
- 9 a.m. Exercise Class at Valley View Housing
- 10 a.m. Council on Aging meeting. Open to the public.
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 250th Independence/Birthday Party Lunch
- Call 413-967-9645 on Monday, July 6 by noon to be put on the list for 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, July 8

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.
- 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, July 9

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Walking Club (weather permitting)
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Art Class

Friday, July 10

- 10 a.m. Scat
- 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Brown Bag Program
- 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 you name on the lunch list.

Monday, July 6

Stuffed Shells, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, July 7

U.S. 250th/Birthday Party
Baked Ham with Pineapple Raisin Sauce, Candied Yams, Baby Carrots, Dessert of the Day and Music by Memory Lane courtesy of Friends of Ware Seniors, Inc.

Wednesday, July 8

Stuffed Peppers, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, July 9

Breaded Chicken Sandwich with Lettuce and Tomatoes, Potato Chips, Dessert of the Day

Friday, July 10

Baked Fish, French Fries, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Are You Old News?



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

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 Terry Ouellette and Marilyn Fisher sewing velvet hearts onto newly adopted Teddy bears at the Stone Church Cultural Center’s Teddy Bear Picnic.

The Project’s Tom Trudeau on bass and Brad Willard on drums, performed at the first concert in the Ware Lion Club’s Concerts in the Park series last Thursday at Grenville Park.

CONCERTS from page 1

The concert originally scheduled for Thursday, July 2 (The 60’s Experience) has been postponed due to the extreme heat advisory.

During each concert, the Ware Lions will have a concession stand selling hot dogs, chips, popcorn and beverages. Raffle tickets for prizes will also be available.

This year’s raffle includes a chance to win a \$300 gasoline gift card to Brookside Mart on West Street. Tickets are \$10 each and available at Thursday night concerts, from any Ware Lions Club member, or at Nat Falk Men’s Clothing or St. Germain Insurance.

The gasoline gift card winning ticket will be drawn on Thursday, July 30. Proceeds from this raffle go to Lion’s charities.

The Project’s singer Cindy Colon performed at Grenville Park.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



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Crafters make their own patriotic banners

RIGHT: The Ware Library's monthly adult craft night featured American flag ribbon banners. Here is a sample made by Library Assistant Lauryn Goldenberg, which can be spotted at the Ware Library's front desk.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Ware Library hosted a patriotic adult evening craft this past week featuring American flag ribbon banners.

With America's 250th birthday approaching, the Ware Library was inspired to offer a craft that gave people something patriotic to hang in their home and learn a new technique. All the materials for this craft inspired by America 250 were donated to the library.

Library Assistant Lauryn Goldenberg was the instructor for craft night and was busy earlier on creating a banner of her own.

The sample made by Goldenberg consisted of 62 pieces of ribbon. The banner is displayed at the front desk of the library.

The monthly adult craft has had a lot of repeat crafters who love trying something new and possibly trying a new craft they can do at home.

Goldenberg said these American flag ribbon banners

are good for display outside and inside. The craft involves knotting ribbons to a cord to create the banner. These banners can be made any length and Goldenberg said, "you can make knots until your heart is content."

The ribbons were tied to a cord, which the Ware Library got from the craft swap they recently had. Everyone in the reading room picked some unique patterns of ribbon to add to their banner.

One crafter was really into polka dots, while another added other shades of red, white and blue to their banners. Tommy was feeling patriotic and continued to add stars and stripes to his American flag ribbon banner.

The Ware Library will be hosting Sharpie Tie Dye on Thursday, July 9 from 5-6:30 p.m. at 37 Main St. The next craft event will feature tie dye canvas bags.

Adult Craft Night is held on the second Thursday of each month in the reading room of the Ware Library. For more information, visit warelibrary.org.



Tommy is shown with a patriotic ribbon banner with stars and stripes being added.



These American flag ribbon banners were created by adding knotted ribbon to a cord. Ribbons came in all colors, especially red, white, and blue.

FERRERA from page 1

"I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen for their continued support and trust in my abilities as we work together to continue to move the town forward," Ferrera said.

The Selectmen noted in Ferrera's performance review that he does "beyond what's expected" and that he "always represents the town well." This includes his networking and collaboration skills with people in and out of town.

Ferrera also received praise for his ability to work with the public and town employees and officials in a respectful manner.

"Jim is very skilled at being professional and courteous...he embodies the role of a public servant," the review stated.

Ferrera's success at applying for and securing grants for the town was also highlighted as one of his strengths.

The Selectmen noted that Ferrera is creative in problem solving and takes initiative to explore all options.

"Jim strategically considers matters and combines his experience and insight to address issues," the Selectmen stated in the review.

Ferrera also exhibits strong leaderships skills and is a role model for employees.

The annual performance review also looks at Ferrera's progress toward achieving his goals for the year. All five of his goals for fiscal year 2026 were successfully achieved, according to Board of Selectmen Chair Richard Eichacker.

Ferrera's FY 26 goals included creating a task force to address the rising costs of utilities and insurance to produce a report to the Selectmen and town meeting, procuring a vendor to refresh the town's website and manage its implementation, working with the Collins Center to perform a review of the town's personnel bylaw and update the town's human resources policies, continuing to address town building maintenance and improvements and continuing to provide training opportunities to assist with staff development.

His goals for FY 27 include procuring a vendor to replace the worn-out Lexan glass windows at the Shepard Municipal Building and manage the project, working with the Board of Health to facilitate a discussion to get

two residents currently on well water to switch to town water for the purpose of saving annual well monitoring fees incurred by the town, obtaining certification from the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts as a credentialed "Small-Town Administrator," continuing to address town building maintenance and improvement and providing training opportunities for staff to build upon staff development.

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- Board of Registrars (1-Democrat) – assist with elections and census
- Conservation Commission (1 Member & 2 Alternates) – care of wetlands and open space
- Council on Aging (3) – provide assistance and programs for senior citizens
- Open Space Committee (2) – work on open space protection and trails
- Planning Board (1 Alternate) – review plans for development and growth
- Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIF Committee) (1)
- Youth Committee (3) – improvements and activities for town youth
- Zoning Board of Appeals (1 Member & 1 Alternate) -review permits and building appeals

Applications can be found at:
townofware.com/boardsandcommittees

CDA hears updates on grants, services

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

WARE – The Community Development Authority met last Monday to hear updates on the Community Development Block Grant, where a public hearing was held to make an amendment to the budget of the fiscal year 2025 grant.

At the June 22 meeting, Erica Johnson from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission said four social service programs were awarded funding with the FY 25 grant, but one of them would not move forward.

According to the agenda posted on the website (townofware.com), the money is to be moved from the PATCH program, which stands for Planned Approach to Community Health.

Johnson said there were discussions about moving the money from that program into the other three, which were awarded funding, but there had to be a public hearing first.

She said there was \$45,130 in that account, which would be split to the other programs. That divides into about \$15,043 in additional funds for the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force, the adult literacy program, and the senior outreach program.

Johnson said there were no written comments, and there were no public comments at the meeting, so the amendment passed.

Melissa Fales, who is a representative from the Quabog Valley Community Development Organization, along with the founder of the senior outreach program, asked if she could use that money to work on advertising. Johnson said the state likes to see programs advertising themselves, so it would be an allowed use.

Johnson said it is unclear when the money will come

in, but it should be available immediately after the state approves the amendment. She said with the additional money, the domestic violence task force will have about \$52,000, the adult learning center will have about \$63,000, and the senior outreach program will have about \$38,000

Other CDBG updates

Johnson said the contacts for the FY 25 CDBG program started in March, and the domestic violence task force's funding source has changed, but will start using the CDBG funding in July.

She said the senior outreach program is regularly assisting more than 15 seniors a month.

She said the learning center has three new students, and four total students have passed their General Education Development.

Johnson said the Cottage Street project is moving slowly, and there was a kickoff meeting with engineers, the Department of Public Works and the Water Department on June 9. She said the hope is for bids to start in the summer, with work starting in the fall or next year.

Johnson said the award notifications for the FY 26 CDBG grant will arrive in September at the earliest.

ARPA updates

The CDA voted to move funds from the American Rescue Plan Act social services fund (\$1,349.31) to the ARPA facade grant fund (\$19,406) to fund one more project. The authority also capped the applications for facade grants to what they currently have, including applications submitted by Weir River Brickmill, D&D Fitness Factory, The Wellness Collective, TCF Enterprise and the Millyard Academy.

The authority amended the requirements to make each applicant present two quotes for their project.



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viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

When should my wife claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:
We could use guidance on optimum dates for my spouse to begin taking Social Security.
She doesn't have enough work credits on her own, so she will be using mine for spousal benefits. I was born in 1955, and I now get \$3,886 in monthly SS benefits.
My wife was born in 1961. We currently receive about \$50,000 per year in royalties and VA disability payments that will stop upon my death.
So, with that in mind, can you suggest optimum dates for my wife to claim, based on my projected death in early 2027 or early 2030? My wife is very healthy and will likely live beyond 2040.
Of course no one can predict their own passing; these are just random dates I came up with based on probabilities with my health issues.
Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning Ahead:
Life expectancy and financial need are primary factors for your wife to consider at this point, plus whether she is now working. Her Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is age 67 and, if she takes her spouse benefit before that, the monthly amount will be reduced by about 8.3% for each year early, and she will also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earning Test, which limits how much she can earn from working prior to reaching her FRA.
Statistically, your wife's life expectancy is about 87 that's average longevity for a woman your wife's current age. Even though she isn't eligible for her own SS retirement benefits, she can still get a spousal benefit while you are both living and will get an even higher surviving spouse benefit when you die.
That's because her spousal benefit while both living will be based on 50% of your Full Retirement Age entitlement, but your wife's surviving spouse benefits when you die will be based upon 100% of the benefit you were receiving at your death.
Generally, if you believe you will pass within the next few years and your wife isn't working, her best option would be to claim her regular spouse benefit now.
Although she will initially get less than 50% of your FRA entitlement, that amount will be replaced automatically by her higher survivor benefit when you pass. Depending on her age when you pass, she will get the full \$3,886 monthly amount you are receiving at your death plus any COLA yet to be

awarded.
If that happens before she reaches her full retirement age, her monthly survivor amount will be actuarially reduced based upon how far before her FRA it is claimed. Generally, the survivor benefit reduction will be about 4.75% for each full year claimed early about .396% for each month early.
So, to a large degree, your wife's options for spouse and survivor benefits are based on your expected longevity. If you have reason to believe you will pass within the next few years, then your wife should probably claim her spousal benefit now while you are both living.
Because she is a bit shy of 65 years old, her initial SS spouse benefit will be reduced she'll get about 42% of your FRA benefit amount, instead of the 50% she would get if she claimed at age 67.
She can collect that amount until you die, at which time she will receive her survivor's benefit as your widow. If she has reached age 67 when that happens, your wife's benefit will become the same as yours was when you died, the \$3,986, plus any COLA since awarded.
And she will collect that higher SS survivor benefit for the remainder of her life which, from what you've shared, would likely be about 20+ years. Assuming her life expectancy is at least average, that is how your wife would get the most cumulative Social Security benefits over her lifetime.
As you have said, no one can predict how long they will live, but from the information you've provided, I expect that the above would likely be your wife's best Social Security strategy. And, for the record, I admire you exploring your wife's options in advance. I hope this answers your question, but rest assured we are always here if you need any further information.

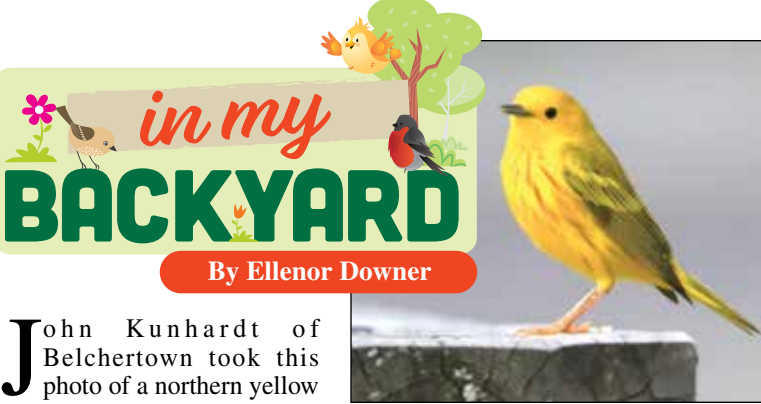
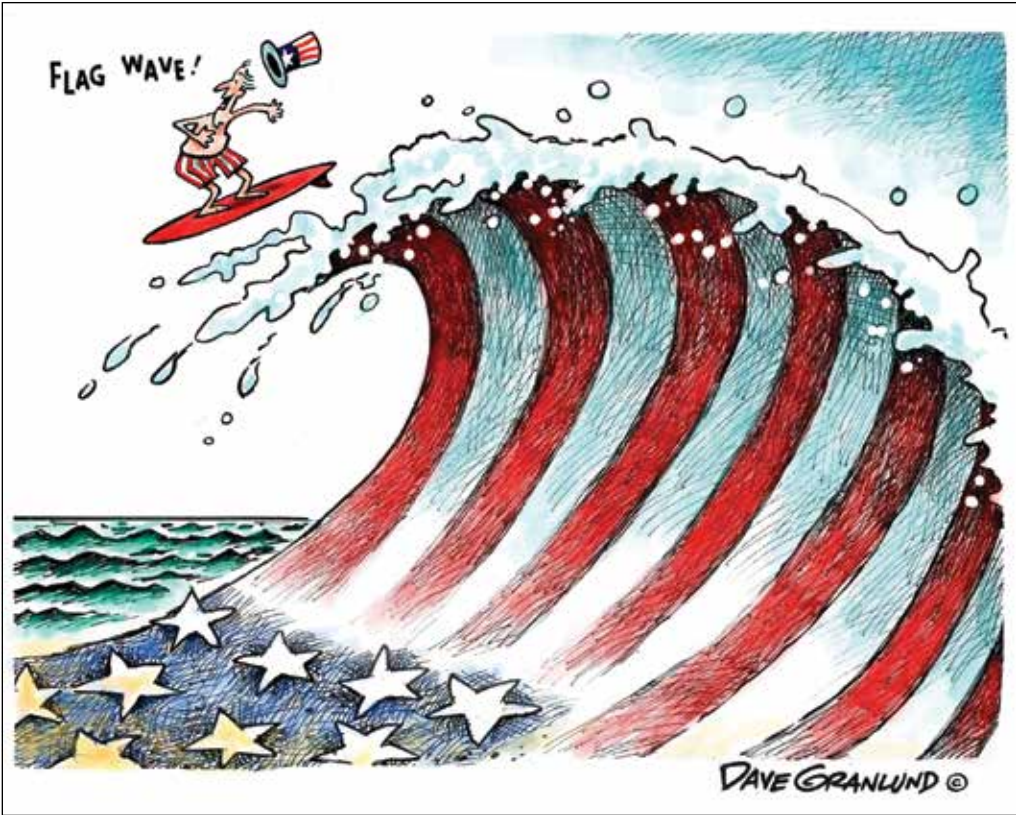
The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations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

Reminiscing brings butterflies to mind

My husband and I were sitting on the porch reminiscing.
To be honest I felt a bit melancholy. Where has time gone?
With empty nesting feeling like it's right around the corner, it's easy to drift back in time and wish just for a moment that the kids were little again.
Boy, did we read lots of books. I remember one of the girls' favorites was "Butterfly Count" by Sneed B. Collard III.
In honor of "days gone by," enjoy this column right out of the archives
The basic premise of the book highlights the North American Butterfly Association's Fourth of July butterfly count with a simple story of a mother and daughter counting butterflies at a prairie restoration site named after the girl's great great-grandmother Nora Belle.
When Nora traveled west as a child, "regal fritillaries by the thousands danced over the bluestem grasses, setting the prairie afire with butterfly wings" yet today they are gone, "their prairie homes are farms and houses now." The story ends with mother and daughter finding the rare butterfly in an undisturbed area of the preserve, the tiny cemetery in which her great great-grandparents are buried.
Reading the book got me thinking about what we could do as gardeners to encourage healthy butterfly populations. According to the North American Butterfly Association it isn't enough to simply choose specific flowering "nectar" plants to attract butterflies, we must also choose plants that will feed caterpillars- that way we are providing for the entire life cycle of the insect.
Some of the best nectar plants for our area include



native wildflowers such as boneset, Joe-pye-weed, milkweed, black-eyed Susan and purple coneflower. Other common wildflowers like hawkweed, ox-eye daisy and Queen Anne's Lace make good nectar plants as well.
Top caterpillar food plants for our region include carrot, dill, parsley, fennel, milkweed, nasturtium and verben-
The largest number of butterfly species will be drawn to our yards if we imitate how plants grow in the wild. To do so, we should install a diverse mixture of trees, shrubs, perennial and annual flowers and herbs that bloom throughout the growing season.
Trees such as aspens, willows, poplars, and wild cherry make great host plants for caterpillars. In addition, they give butterflies shelter from the wind, protection from predators and spots to roost at night.
A good habitat should also include some form of water source that will provide butterflies with additional moisture when dew and rain are scarce. "The Family Butterfly Book" by Rick Mikula (Storey Publishing, \$29.95) offers a fun project to make with your kids called a waterless pond.
Line a shallow hole in the garden with a trash bag, fill it with stones and add water. Dew will collect on the rocks in the morning and slide down the cracks.
Butterflies can land on the rocks and sip water from the crevices. Put a narrow band of sand around your pond and this area will serve double-duty as a "puddling station," a place for male butterflies to imbibe salts and minerals in preparation for mating.
Another important feature in a butterfly den is a basking station. To be able to fly, these solar powered creatures must warm up.
In fact, Mikula reports that their flight muscles must achieve 83 degrees before lift-off!
Light colored stepping stones placed about the garden will reflect the sun, allowing the insects upper and lower wing surfaces to heat up at the same time.
After researching this article I realize just how little I know about butterflies. Luckily, some of the plants mentioned above already grow on my property, and butterflies often frequent the premises.
For more information on or to participate in the North American Butterfly Association's butterfly count consult their website at www.naba.org.
Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 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.



John Kunhardt of Belchertown took this photo of a northern yellow warbler near Lake Wallace in Belchertown.
Northern yellow warblers are small, evenly proportioned songbirds with medium-length tails and rounded heads. They are 4.7 to 5.1 inches long. For a warbler, the straight, thin bill is relatively large.
Northern yellow warblers are uniformly yellow birds. Males are a bright, egg-yolk yellow with reddish streaks on the underparts. Females are

also yellow but appear slightly duller.
Both sexes flash yellow patches in the tail. The face is unmarked, accentuating the large black eye.
People may look for these warblers near the tops of tall shrubs and small trees.
They forage restlessly, with quick hops along small branches and twigs to glean

caterpillars and other insects. Males sing their sweet, whistled songs from high perches.
Northern yellow warblers breed in shrubby thickets and woods, particularly along watercourses and in wetlands. Common trees include willows, alders and cottonwoods across North America
In winter these warblers inhabit a variety of wooded habitats including mangroves, deciduous forests and tropical evergreen forests, as well as gardens, town plazas, second growth, brushy pastures, hedgerows, agricultural lands and plantations.
Their song sounds like
Please see **BACKYARD**, page 7

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and "Your Turn" guest column between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.
Send opinions to: Ware River News Letter to the Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to: pouimette@turley.com
The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.
Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

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Country Bank supports QV CDC with donation

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, announced a \$10,000 donation to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation to support programs that strengthen local businesses and promote economic development throughout the region.

QV CDC plays an important role in supporting entrepreneurs, small businesses, and community members by providing access to resources, technical assistance, and business development services. Through its work, the organization helps foster sustainable economic growth and opportunity across the Quaboag Valley.

“Every year, Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation applies for state and federal grants, but we still rely on donor contributions from the community to help fund our work,” stated Melissa Fales, Executive Director of QV CDC. “We are very grateful for this generous donation from Country Bank, which will



Submitted Photo
Shown from left to right are Jodie Gerulaitis, First Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank; Lindsay Aucoin; Melissa Fales, Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation Executive Director; Barbara Deslauriers and Elizabeth Lawrence.

help us offer business development services and promote economic development in our region.”

Country Bank remains committed to supporting organizations that strengthen communities and expand economic opportunities throughout Central and Western Massachusetts.

Contributions like this help ensure local organizations have the resources they need to continue serving residents, businesses, and entrepreneurs in meaningful ways.

To learn more about the various support programs offered by the Quaboag Valley Community

Development Corporation, visit www.QV CDC.

About Country Bank

Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking customers through financial solutions with FDIC and DIF insurance for added security.

Country Bank is a full-service \$2.2 billion mutual community bank serving Central and Western Massachusetts with 16 banking centers and two business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge and Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers

individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services.

Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

Summer Reading continues at Hardwick libraries

HARDWICK – Now through Aug. 22, the Hardwick Libraries invite you to “Dig In and Read.”

Sign up for the Summer Reading Program, which includes activities and prizes for all ages, dinosaurs, American history and nature.

Come make giant tissue flowers July 7 or 11. Watch the webpage paigelibrary.com and Facebook for more activities and events.

Support the Hardwick Haymakers to defeat the Westfield Wheelman in a base ball game with Civil War rules at Roach Field on Saturday, July 11 at 1 p.m. Register to play or just show up to cheer and eat hot dogs and popcorn for sale by the Parks and Recreation Committee to support their work.

Shenanigans with Friends at the Town House will be held on Saturday, July 25 at

3 p.m. This event is brought to you by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library.

This event will feature rock, country, folk and R&B with tight harmonies and danceable rhythms.

Join the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road for Wednesday morning Story Hour with an art/science activity and play time starting at 10:30 a.m., Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, the Friends group, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers, the 250th Quilt group, the Movie Festival Committee, and programs for all ages and interests.

Watch for a new date for African rhythm drumming with Jafar Manselle and the Wendell Warriors on the Hardwick Common.

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

Ware Grange gardening workshop July 13

WARE – The Ware Grange’s next gardening workshop, “Composting,” will be held on Monday, July 13 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

The presenter will be Rubén Parrilla, Education Director for the Northeast Organic Farming Association. In this workshop, partici-

pants will learn how to transform yard waste and some kitchen scraps into nutrients to keep garden soil healthy, how to manage a compost pile, how to compost if you have limited space, and when to use the compost in your garden.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

Digging Dinos with Diane Edgecomb on July 7

WARREN – The Warren Public Library presents Digging Dinos with Diane Edgecomb on Tuesday, July 7 at 1 p.m.

Little Patty does not want to share her toys. But what is a girl to do?

How about turn herself into a Pattysaurus so doesn’t

have to share them.

Enjoy this fun-loving original family fable along with the story Egg Mountain, based on true scientific discoveries. The whole audience will join in on an imaginary Fossil Hunt to discover Maiasaura, the first dinosaur known to care

for its young.

Participants will learn Dinosaur Sign-Language and play Dinosaur Jeopardy, too. This show will leave its audience roaring for more.

Edgecomb is an award-winning storyteller. Her warmth and natural storytelling ability invites us to

participate and become part of the tale with her.

She has been featured on NPR and is the winner of the Parent Choice and Oracle award for Storytelling Excellence as well as five other Storytelling awards.

This show is free to the public and for all ages.

Five questions that could change how you see retirement

Saving for retirement is important, but it's only part of the picture. If you're within five to 10 years of your target retirement date, it's time to start thinking about what you actually want your retirement to look like. After all, getting to retirement isn't the end goal — it's what you want to do once you're there that matters.

Start by asking yourself these five questions.

When do you want to retire? The age at which you retire matters more than you may realize. Retiring early sounds appealing, but it means saving more and having less time to do it. It can also create gaps in health care coverage and income before key benefits kick in. For example, Social Security benefits can begin at 62, but at a reduced amount. Full benefits are available between ages 66 and 67, depending on birth year, and waiting until 70 means the maximum benefit. Medicare doesn't start until age 65, and penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts generally aren't allowed until age 59½.

For couples, timing gets even more complicated. Staggering retirement dates can sometimes maximize benefits; in other cases, retiring at the same time works better.

A financial advisor can help you sort through these decisions and find the approach that makes the most sense for your situation.

How do you want to spend your time in retirement? Many new retirees are surprised to find that having unlimited free time feels disorienting rather than freeing. Thinking ahead about how to fill the days with meaningful activity — whether that's travel, volunteering, pursuing hobbies or spending more time with family — can make the transition smoother.

It helps to sketch out what a typical week, month or even first year might look like. If there are big gaps, it's worth thinking now about what might fill them in rewarding ways.

Where do you want to live as a retiree? Some retirees stay put, while others downsize or relocate entirely. Either way, it's wise to consider whether a chosen location will work well as you get older, taking into account factors like proximity to family, access to health care, cost of living and climate.

What will your retirement lifestyle cost? It's not uncommon for retirees to discover that their travel, entertainment or leisure expenses were higher than expected. The more active and involved you plan to be, the more you will likely need to budget.

Does your retirement involve giving back? Retirement often brings both the time and motivation to be more generous. Whether the goal is helping family members, donating to charity or volunteering in the community, it's worth defining those goals and building them into an overall plan.

Now that your vision is taking shape, turn it into a plan. Work with your financial advisor to align your savings with the life you want — and revisit that plan as your priorities evolve so your retirement keeps pace with you.

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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of June 15-24, the Ware Police Department responded to 26 miscellaneous calls, 36 administrative calls, 15 traf-fic violations, 22 emergency 911 calls, five harassments/ stalks/threats, one trespass, two thefts/larcenies, two dis-turbances, two motor vehi-cle accidents, three safety hazards, 11 animal calls and 19 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Monday, June 15
1:25 p.m. Theft/Larceny, River Road, Investigated
2:17 p.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
6:33 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Unfounded
7:28 p.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
9:04 p.m. Suspicious/ Wanted, Cherry Street, Investigated

Tuesday, June 16
12:18 p.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, Eddy Street, Services Rendered
12:42 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Castle Street, No Action Required
5:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Highland Street, Services Rendered

Wednesday, June 17
1:59 a.m. Drugs, Prospect Street, Unfounded
4:26 a.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, Fisherdict Road, Services Rendered
9:28 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Could Not Locate
3:51 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Prospect Street, Report Made
5:42 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Coffey Hill Road, Dispatch Handled
6:53 p.m. Assault, North Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, June 18
2:11 p.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, Vigeant Street, Advised

6:36 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Services Rendered

Friday, June 19
9:38 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Dale Street, Dispatch Handled
12:40 p.m. Suspicious/ Wanted, Fisherdict Road, Dispatch Handled
4:04 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Shoreline Drive, False Alarm

Saturday, June 20
12:07 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Could Not Locate
3:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued
11:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Church Street, Patient Refusal
12:07 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Monson Turnpike Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
12:47 p.m. Safety Hazard, Old Poor Farm Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
3:57 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Beaver Lake Road, No Action Required
4:12 p.m. Suspicious/ Wanted, North Street, Services Rendered
5:39 p.m. Weapons/ Firearms, Cummings Road, Services Rendered
9:30 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Convent Hill Road, Investigated

Sunday, June 21
12:35 a.m. Suspicious/ Wanted, Main Street, Arrest Made
Arrest: Joshua Hubbard, 41, Ware
WMS Warrant
2:39 a.m. Trespass/ Unwanted, Church Street, Services Rendered
2:51 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Unknown Address, No Action Required
6:54 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Parker Street, Could Not Locate
7:43 p.m. Disturbance/

Barre Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, June 24
10:08 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Petersham Road, Negative Contact
6:40 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Turkey Street, Arrest(s) Made

Thursday, June 25
3:31 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered
8:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, New Braintree Town Line, Citation Issued
9:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
9:53 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered
6:13 a.m. Disturbance, Broad Street, Peace Restored

Monday, June 22
10 p.m. Complaint, Turkey Street, Officer Handled

Tuesday, June 23
9:24 a.m. Utility Issues, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered
4:26 p.m. Investigation, Jackson Road, Criminal Complaint
4:50 p.m. Assist Citizen,

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Editor’s Note: People in this coun-try 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 infor-mation. 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.

Nuisance, Laurel Drive, Advised
9:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/ Warning Issued
10:14 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Belchertown Road, Investigated

Monday, June 22
2:34 p.m. Disturbance/ Nuisance, Beaver Lake Road, Services Rendered
4:15 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Morse Avenue, Investigated
4:55 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, East Main Street, Dispatch Handled

Tuesday, June 23
1:41 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Fisherdict Road, Complaint Taken Care Of
9:48 a.m. Safety Hazard, Old Belchertown Road, Services Rendered
10:38 a.m. Assault, North Street, Services Rendered
11:15 a.m. Safety Hazard, Old Belchertown Road, Services Rendered
6:15 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Canceled

Wednesday, June 24
10:31 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Advised
11:25 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Coldbrook Road, No Action Required

Friday, June 26
10:44 a.m. Assist Citizen, Telephone, Voice Message Left

Saturday, June 27
2:29 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Road, Referred to Other Agency
11:12 p.m. 911 Complaint, Broad Street, Negative Contact
11:25 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled

Sunday, June 28
1:05 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
8:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Monday, June 29
6:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued

NOTICE
ERRORS: Each adver-tiser is requested to check their advertise-ment the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsi-ble for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any er-ror in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Warren Police Log

During the week of June 7-13, the Warren Police Department responded to 45 building/property checks, 16 emergency 911 calls, one safety hazard, two motor vehicle accidents, one fraud, one trespass, four property damages, one larceny/theft, one threat, one missing per-son, five animal calls and nine motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, June 7
12:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:02 a.m. Fire/Power Lines, Cronin Road, Fire Extinguished
3:49 p.m. Seizures, East Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
4:06 p.m. Unconscious/ Unresponsive/Syncope, Comins Pond Road, Mutual Aid Transport
4:45 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
5:22 p.m. Power Lines Down, Cronin Road, Investigated
7 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Old Douglas Road, Report Filed
9:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Monday, June 8
7:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
10:51 a.m. Chest Pain/ Heart Problem, School Street, Transported to Hospital
11:17 p.m. Abdominal/ Back Pain, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, June 9
4:15 a.m. Suspicious Person, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
1:52 p.m. Welfare Check, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
3:53 p.m. Unwanted Party, Old Douglas Road, Report Filed
6:17 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Yankee Drummer Drive, Transported to Hospital
7:03 p.m. Neurological/ Head Injury, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, June 10
10:04 a.m. Welfare Check, Independence Lane, Investigated
12:59 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, No Transport Needed
1:35 p.m. Welfare Check, Jones Street, Report Filed
6:05 p.m. Property Damage, Pine Street, Report Filed

Thursday, June 11
7:55 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Report Filed
11:53 a.m. Weapons/ Ammo Complaint, Presidential Circle, Recovered
2:12 p.m. 911 Hang-up/ Misdial/Abandoned, Yankee Drummer Drive, Report Filed
2:18 p.m. Missing Person, Bemis Road, Located/Found
3:12 p.m. Threats, Pine Street, Report Filed
4:10 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Old West Warren Road, Report Filed
5:04 p.m. Disturbance/ Disorderly, Cottage Street,

Peace Restored
5:21 p.m. Stroke (CVA), South Street, Mutual Aid Transport
5:46 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Maple Street, Report Filed

Friday, June 12
11:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
1:07 p.m. Property Damage, Brimfield Road, Call Transferred
3:28 p.m. Property Damage, Brimfield Road, Report Filed
4:14 p.m. Property Damage, Pine Street, Advised Civil Action
5:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Milton O. Fountain Way, Information Taken
6:03 p.m. Stroke (CVA), Cross Street, Transported to Hospital
6:48 p.m. Disturbance/ Disorderly, Cronin Road, Officer Spoke to Party
9:28 p.m. Chest Pain/ Heart Problem, Yankee Drummer Drive, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, June 13
11:53 a.m. Burglary/ Breaking and Entering, Pine Street, Officer Spoke to Party
12:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
3:07 p.m. Falls, Parkview Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
3:44 p.m. Safety Concern, Old West Brookfield Road, Negative Contact
7:54 p.m. Unconscious/ Unresponsive/Syncope, Main Street, No Transport Required

State Fire Marshal says leave fireworks to the professionals and avoid injuries

STOW – Fires, explosions and serious injuries related to illegal fireworks spike each summer in Massachusetts, and fire service leaders are hoping to reverse last year’s increase over 2024.

“Here in Massachusetts, fireworks have caused nearly 500 fires and explosions, almost 200 serious injuries, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage over the past five years,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “Tragically, one man even lost his life last summer. Please don’t risk a fire, an injury, or a day in court – leave fireworks to the professionals.”

Of the 188 fireworks-re-lated visits to Massachusetts emergency departments from

2021 to 2025, 121 took place in July. July also accounted for 253 of the 486 fires and explosions caused by fire-works during the same five-year period.

Both injuries and fires increased by about 23% last year, with 43 ER visits and 112 fires and explosions – including one that claimed a 70-year-old man’s life in Wareham.

Massachusetts’ law requires police to seize any illegal fireworks they encounter in the course of their duties. This includes fireworks that were pur-chased lawfully in another state and transported to Massachusetts.

People who use or pos-sess them illegally are also

subject to a fine, while the unlawful sale of fireworks is an arrestable offense that carries potential jail time. The law is effective: the Massachusetts fireworks injury rate is about one-fifth the national average, and the rate of fires and explosions is about one-sixth the national average.

The Department of Fire Services posts a list of per-mitted fireworks displays and updates it each week through the summer. To view the list – and to learn more about the dangers of illegal fireworks – visit the DFS website, www.mass.gov/info-details/leave-fireworks-to-the-pro-fessionals.

PROJECT from page 1

The other main part of the project is the increase in units Harris wants to put in. Originally having 40 homes in mind, Harris is possibly expanding to 60 homes.

Harris wanted the board’s input and opinion on the idea of purchasing an abutting parcel to combine the lots. The board reviewed the map in front of them during the discussion and it shows new additions to the potential project.

Harris is looking to purchase the land from Cumberland Farms, which is described as a back lot that is not being utilized. He is still in negotiations with Cumberland Farms, but Harris believes making an improvement on that land would be a lot better for the town.

The area is right behind Cumberland Farms with Fourth Avenue close by. Harris asked if it was pos-sible to do an exit from the property off Gould Road. From this direction, there is 80 feet of frontage.

The size of the units

consists of 2.5 bedrooms, according to Harris and are approximately 1,350 square feet. These housing units are more catering to those look-ing for start up homes or pos-sible senior citizens looking to downsize.

The plan shows parking in front of each unit and the side of each unit and would have driveways.

For storage and equip-ment, Harris says he would hire it out and hire for snow removal in the winter

The board suggested that Harris should conduct some further research on the impact this kind of project would have on the town and on the schools.

This project is waiting on the survey results to come in.

Another suggestion the board made was to contact the State to see if he can access West Street. Harris was taking notes on what he can research prior to deciding on any future investments for the project.

Vice-Chair Chris Dimarzio asked if the town has any requirements for condos. According to Director of Planning &

Community Development Paralee Smith, there is nothing in the bylaws that address condos.

“We don’t have condo in our bylaw,” Smith said. “We don’t have a definition for condo in our bylaw.”

According to Smith, the word “multifamily” was the term used at the time. As of now, the Planning Board does not regulate condos.

“We don’t regulate at this point,” Planning Board Chair Kenneth Crosby said.

The Planning Board said the project still falls under a special permit. Harris also had a question about One Stop for Growth grants, and how the town can help with those grants.

Reorganization

The board voted to keep the current positions of the Planning Board as they are. Crosby will remain as chair; Dimarzio will remain as vice-chair; Elizabeth Hancock will be secretary; and Richard Starodoj and Alex Bergeron will be mem-bers.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Nancy Talbot, right, and members of the Knights of Columbus Ware Council 183 kept busy preparing the meals in the kitchen.

BBQ from page 1

Town Manager Stuart Beckley was in attendance serving water and soda for guests at the fundraiser.

“Everyone is doing a great job,” Beckley said.

Those dining in got to enjoy some music provided by Roy Erickson of the Knights of Columbus and member of the Ware Cemetery Commission. Erickson had red, white and blue beads for guests at his DJ booth.

Ted and Helen decided to dine at St. Mary’s Parish and thought the cooks did an amazing job on the chicken.

“It is so good,” Helen said.

The Ware 250th U.S. Celebration Committee is made up of Croteau, Claudia Kadra, Nancy Talbot, Robert Krasnecky, Joshua Kusnierz, Wanda Mysona, Valerie Granger and Frank Bateman. The committee is still looking for people who want to participate in the parade that is coming up this summer as part of the U.S. 250th Celebration Week in Ware.

For more information, contact the US 250th Celebration Committee at 413-967-9648 extension 101 or 774-230-9665, or email ncroteau@townofware.com.

The Celebration Week starts on July 25 for Ware Olde Home Day, taking place at Grenville Park from 1-8 p.m., featuring food vendors, craft tent, marionettes program, music, games, costume contest, pie baking contest and a lot more.

On July 26 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., the Town Hall will be hosting Historical Day where guests will learn about the historical town hall with cake, tree planting, and a presentation called “Women of ’76: Stories of 5 Remarkable Women Who Witnessed & Shaped the American Revolution.”

July 27 is Family Game Night at the Ware Senior



Roy Erickson of the Knights of Columbus was the DJ for the chicken BBQ dinner.



Ted and Helen enjoyed their chicken BBQ meals at St. Mary’s Parish.

Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. featuring music bingo, corn hole, and Ping-Pong. On Thursday, July 28, Ware High School will be hosting a car show starting at 5 p.m. with music and an ice cream truck happening.

Grenville Park will be hosting family movie night on July 29 at 7:30 p.m., hosted by the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance. The movie will be the “Wild Robot”. Bring a blanket or chair for movie night at Grenville Park.

The Concert in the Park Summer Series continues on July 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Grenville Park. The entertainment for the show will

be Charlie Lask and Forever Diamond with special guest, Jimmy Mazz.

On July 31, Workshop13 will be hosting a talent show “Where’s The Talent?” at Workshop13’s Grand Hall at 13 Church St. Performers of all ages are welcome to participate and there will be prizes for each age group.

Aug. 1 will feature the town parade and fireworks. The parade begins at 11 a.m.

At 4 p.m. on the school campus, there will be food vendors, bounce houses, face painting, dunk tank, and live music, followed by fireworks. For updates, visit the town website, www.townofware.com.



Jeff Potter stood alongside his work “The Storm” which is based off the area of Sakonnet Lighthouse in Rhode Island.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

RIGHT: An oil on panel painting of Shelburne Marsh by William Roberts Jr.



GALLERY from page 1

which had over 90 submissions and a total of 50 art pieces on display.

Selected as Best in Show was “Tree Shadows” by Kathy Halper. Honorable Mention for work in paper went to Porter Gifford’s “Pool #3174, Concord, MA”. Painting Honorable Mention went to Jackie Boudreau Kinsey for the art piece “Shivelight Dream”.

There were three honorable mention awards for creative interpretation. One of the recipients of the award attended the opening reception of LandEscape, Richard Wollman. Wollman’s work “Refuge: Azores Beach”, was crafted on a piece of wood, more specifically pine.

Wollman said this art piece took him an entire summer to work on. He regularly works with ash and pine wood and has been focusing on this art medium

since 2008.

His inspiration for wood sculpting started back in 2008 after meeting a Nigerian wood sculptor. Wollman’s work featured in LandEscape is inspired by a part of Portugal, Flores Island.

The design on the pine wood features acrylic, charcoal, and stain to paint a landscape. Wollman used an X-Acto knife to sketch the pine.

Other honorable mention awards for creative interpretation went to Cai Vail for “Consolation”, and Cathy

Durso’s “Small Feather” creation.

Many artists had landscapes based on areas in New England. For example, Jay Rathaus had an oil on wood painting based off Cape Cod Bay. Rathaus had another work entered, which is a landscape painting of the Connecticut River, which was also done with oil on wood.

Photography was a popular medium for LandEscape.

Jeff Potter of Smithfield, Rhode Island has been involved in photography for the last 10 years and submitted his archival inkjet print called “The Storm.”

The picture was based off the area near Sakonnet Lighthouse in Rhode Island. Potter is also into landscape and street photography in New York City and says a lot of streets in the city have a lot of good spots for street photos.

“This is a cool theme,” Workshop13 Executive Director Marie Lauderdale said.

The LandEscape exhibit can be seen at ArtWorks Gallery, located at 69 Main St.. The exhibit is displayed through Aug. 2 with gallery hours on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

For more information, visit workshop13.org.

LEFT: Richard Wollman is shown with his honorable mention award winning art piece, “Refuge: Azores Beach” made of wood (pine).



A fiber on canvas called “Into the Woods” by Liz Foss.

BACKYARD from page 4

“sweet-sweet-sweet, I’m so sweet.”

Yellow warblers usually build their nests in shrubs or small trees, typically 3 to 10 feet above the ground. The nest is often placed in dense foliage, making it difficult for predators to spot.

They commonly select willows, alders or other shrubs near water. The surrounding leaves provide camouflage and protection from harsh weather.

A typical yellow warbler clutch contains about three to five pale greenish or bluish white eggs with small brown or gray speckles.

The female incubates the eggs for roughly 11 to 12 days, rarely leaving the nest

except to feed. Once the chicks hatch, both parents help feed them.

Feeding mealworms

After seeing a pair of bluebirds, I started putting out mealworms on the picnic table every day. I figured black bears would not bother with mealworms.

I was right and the birds ate them up quickly. Yes, the bluebirds came for the mealworms, but so did two catbirds and a male robin.

The other day the pair of catbirds landed on the table as I spread out the mealworms. I’ve noticed them check the table for mealworms before I put them out.

Red-shouldered hawk

A woman in Montgomery

reported a red-shouldered hawk in her yard. It’s one of the most distinctively marked common hawks with barred reddish-peachy underparts and a strongly banded tail.

Wild turkey encounter

My daughter, Paula, was walking her dog, JoJo on the rail trail in Gilbertville along the river. A hen turkey was hidden on the side of the trail. She states, “When JoJo and I ran by, she flew up. One of the babies panicked and started running after mom flew off, which caused mom to charge at us making a bunch of noise.”

She states, “JoJo and I sprinted a good 20 feet before she decided we weren’t a threat anymore.”

She continues, “But this was definitely the closest

encounter we’ve ever had. JoJo now ranks turkeys in the ‘scary’ category along with Canada geese.”

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident emailed, “A pair of yellow-bellied sapsuckers spent a few days visiting a native dogwood tree in the yard awhile back. And we have seen a few warblers, a common yellowthroat checked me out when I was working in the garden yesterday. We have at least two male hummingbirds visiting the yard and feeders and at least one female.”

He stated, “I saw a female rose-breasted grosbeak collecting nesting material so I’m going to look for a nest. Several years ago I found a grosbeak nest near our shed.”

Osprey

The Brimfield resident stated in his email, “The Osprey nest in Warren looks like the chicks have hatched based on the behavior of an adult at the nest yesterday. In the past it is usually mid June before I see chicks in the nest. When they are very young osprey chicks mostly lay down in the nest waiting to be fed.”

He reported four great blue heron nests at the pond I visit in Warren where the Ospreys nest.

Bird count

The Brimfield resident also stated, “The Allen Bird Club of Springfield does a spring bird count each year in mid May. We use the Christmas Bird Count count circle, I

have covered Ludlow since 1989. I only managed 50 species this year, partly because my hearing isn’t what it use to be.”

He stated, “I did manage to find a Tennessee and Parula warbler, about a dozen yellow-rumped warblers, two common loons, one each solitary and spotted sandpiper and a black-billed cuckoo. I hadn’t seen a cuckoo in a few years.”

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.

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The first Summer Solstice Garden Party took place at Lucy Stone Park where seniors enjoyed a chicken BBQ lunch, music and the beautiful garden at the park.



Ray Kopacko of the Board of Selectmen brought meals over as it was "chicken time".



Linda Hamill danced with Frizzle. Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

GARDEN Party



Guitar player and singer Freddie Marion provided music during the Summer Solstice Garden Party.



From left are Leesa and Norma who got flower balloons during the garden party.

GARDEN PARTY from page 1

Many seniors parked by the high school and had a shuttle service available thanks to the students at Quaboag Regional Middle High School. The students volunteered their time to help during the Summer Solstice Garden Party and used a golf cart to transport seniors to Lucy Stone Park and back to their cars.

For entertainment, the seniors were greeted by Frizzle the Clown, a talented animal balloon twister who brought a lot of laughter and joy to Lucy Stone Park. After lunch, Frizzle brought a vintage cotton candy maker for cotton candy.

Seniors also got to enjoy the musical entertainment of Freddie Marion, a local favorite, playing all kinds of summer-themed covers. One of them was an excellent cover of Jimm Buffet's "Margaritaville".

June birthdays were also celebrated during the Summer Solstice Party. Millie Reed's 100th birthday happened on June 17 and everyone sang "Happy Birthday".

Meli took a moment to thank everyone who made this Summer Solstice Garden Party possible.

It was a community gathering at Lucy Stone Park as many town officials and departments arrived to enjoy the festivities.

Town Administrator James Ferrera joined the seniors

during the meal. Selectmen Raymond Kopacko was one of the cooks preparing the meals at Lucy Stone Park.

Members of the Highway Department, Jim McKeon and Jeremy Olson attended the Summer Solstice Garden Party. Derick Veliz of the Warren Board of Selectmen was enjoying a chicken BBQ meal and went around Lucy Stone Park to take photographs during the party.

Chef Kathy wore her cat apron.



Millie Reed celebrated her 100th birthday this month and everyone sang Happy Birthday to her during the Summer Solstice Garden Party.



Paula showed off the chicken being cooked on the grill.



Town Administrator James Ferrera is shown alongside Frizzle the Clown at Lucy Stone Park.



Frizzle the Clown made animal balloons for seniors during the Summer Solstice Garden Party at Lucy Stone Park.



Quaboag students Bryann Lussier, left, Isabelle Manzano and Alyssa Lussier volunteered to provide transportation services for seniors by way of golf cart.



Frizzle made cotton candy for guests after lunch.

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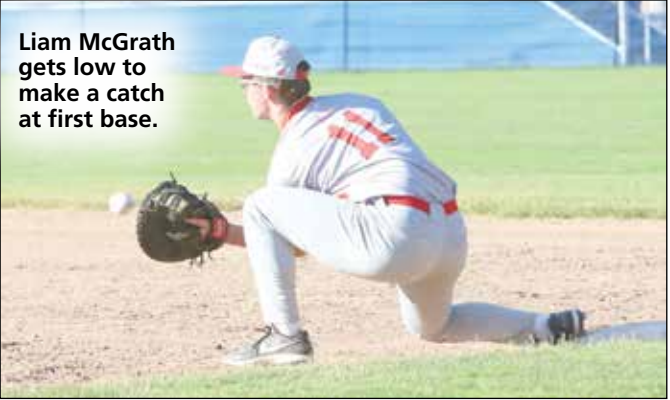
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SPORTS

Monson Legion Post 241 falls at home to Aldenville



Liam McGrath sends a grounder to third base.



Liam McGrath gets low to make a catch at first base.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER-- The final American Legion baseball game of the regular season at historic Legion Field in Palmer was a vintage pitcher's duel.

Aldenville (Chicopee) Post 337, who only had nine players available for the road game, snapped its four-game losing streak by edging Monson Post 241, 1-0, last Wednesday night.

"We battled the entire game," said Matt Sutton, who was the winning pitcher for Aldenville. "I focused on staying calm on the mound, pitch to pitch, and this is a huge win for us."

Aldenville had a 2-4-1 record following the shutout victory, while Monson fell to 2-4.

The two squads were scheduled to face each other for the second time this summer at St. Joe's Park in Thorndike on Wednesday night.

Monson is also scheduled to face Longmeadow Post

175 in another home game at St. Joe's Park on Thursday night, and West Springfield Post 207 at Veteran's Field in Monson on Monday night.

Last Wednesday's contest marked Sutton's first career victory as a member of the Aldenville Post 337 baseball team.

Sutton, who was a junior member of the Chicopee Comp's varsity baseball team this past spring, gave up only three base hits while striking out eight in his performance against Monson. The righthander issued four walks and hit a pair of batters in six innings. He threw a total of 102 pitches.

"I thought Matt pitched a great game," said Aldenville manager Nate Carillon. "We've been mostly using him as a relief pitcher so far this season. He stepped up in tonight's game."

Please see **LEGION**, page 10



Brayden Mega sends a pitch away for Post 241.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

LEFT: Matthew Santos fires a throw to first from deep short.



Submitted photo

QUABBIN ATHLETES MAKE THEIR DECISIONS

During the spring, several athletes at Quabbin Regional High School made some important decisions about their futures. The school hosted an NLI signing days where the students committed to playing sports at the college level. Pictured are: Wes Sanderson-Football at Curry, Collin Lindley - Track at Merrimack, Owura Ankoma-Mensah - Track at University of New Haven, Bianca Wilder - Soccer and Track at Mount Holyoke, Abi Falconi - Track at Franklin Pierce and Mia Ducos (not pictured) - Basketball at Skidmore.

Mutiny shut out by Vermont Green FC

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— Even though the New England Mutiny had already been eliminated from the USL W playoffs, they still had a chance to influence the race for first place in the Northeast Division entering the regular-season finale.

Had the Mutiny pulled off an upset victory against Vermont Green FC, the Hudson Valley Crusaders would have finished at the top of the Northeast Division table.

However, it was Vermont Green FC players and their rowdy supporters doing all the celebrating



Turley photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Trinity Clark collects a pass.

Playoffs hopes still alive after Pioneers shutout

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Had the Western Mass. Pioneers failed to secure a victory in last Friday night's match against AC Connecticut, their playoff hopes would have vanished for the first time since they entered USL League Two in 2019.

The Pioneers kept their postseason dreams alive a little bit longer thanks to a hard-earned 1-0 shut-out win at Lusitano Stadium.

"We didn't get the result that we wanted in our last match on Tuesday night, and we had a tie here last week,"



Martin Echarren looks up the field.

said Pioneers assistant coach Tomas Duben. "It was very important for us to get the three points and the win in tonight's game. We're still battling for a postseason berth."

Duben took over the head coaching duties from longtime Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari, who spent last weekend coaching a Western United Pioneers U-16 girls' team at a tournament in Virginia.

Since 2024, Duben has a 3-0-1 record as the Pioneers

interim head coach.

"My playing career ended a couple of years ago because of a knee injury," he said. "I really enjoyed playing for this soccer team. I'm very grateful that Federico gave me this coaching opportunity and I'm still learning."

The Pioneers improved to 6-2-2 (20 points) following the home shutout victory, solidifying their hold on third place in the Northeast Division. They trail first place Vermont Green FC (10-0-1, 31 points) and second place NEC (10-1-1, 30 points). Only the top two teams in the Northeast Division qualify for the league playoffs.

Western Mass. finished at the top of the Northeast table in both 2019 and 2021. They made it all the way to the National Semifinals in 2021. They've finished in second place



Matiwos Rumley goes to meet the ball.

during the past four seasons.

Between 2010 and 2018, the Pioneers only qualified for the USL PDL playoffs

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Alfred Baafi makes a backwards pass.

once.

AC Connecticut (1-10-0) had several scoring chances during the first twenty five minutes of the opening half, but Pioneers goalie Ben Alexander made the saves which kept the

match scoreless.

"Ben played very well in tonight's match," Duben said. "The defense also gave him a lot of support back there."

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 11

Blue Sox drop third straight game, falling to Danbury

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox dropped their third consecutive game after suffering a 5-2 loss to the Danbury Westerners on Saturday night. The Blue Sox had won their two previous matchups against Danbury but struggled to get on base early in tonight’s game, which contributed to the outcome.

The top of the first inning came and went for the Blue Sox as Danbury’s starting pitcher, Cole Gibson, retired the batters in order, giving the Westerners a chance to set the tone. For Valley, Andrew Oppenheimer made his season debut, joining the team due to personnel changes in the Blue Sox’s bullpen.

Postgame, head coach John Raiola touched on having players come onto the team in the middle of the season, but made it clear that he has to rely on those who have been here from the

beginning.

“It does take some guys here and there to come in and replace some guys that we lost,” said Raiola. “Our core is our core [and] they are all here for a reason... t h e y k n o w w h a t i t t a k e s t o b e s u c c e s s f u l a t t h i s l e v e l .”

Oppenheimer began the bottom of the inning by walking the lead-off hitter, Jack Lutte, who advanced to second when Kyle Garbowski grounded out. Collin Mowry then hit an RBI double with Lutte in scoring position, giving Danbury an early 1-0 lead.

Gibson continued his impressive start in the second by retiring the batters in order once again, but this time Oppenheimer followed suit, quickly regrouping from his first inning.

Valley still had trouble finding a way on base in the

third, and Danbury kept capitalizing on the Blue Sox’s shortcomings as Noel Rivera got walked, advanced to second, and scored on a wild pitch, putting Valley behind 2-0.

The fifth inning had Valley getting two men on base when Eddison Esquivel hit a single out to center field, and Nick Tomasetto was walked. Unfortunately, the next three hitters were retired by Gibson, ending Valley’s chance at a scoring opportunity.

Danbury did not waste any time starting the bottom of the frame as Peter Link hit a long homer out to center field, extending the deficit to 3-0. However, Anthony Grabau responded with a home run of his own during the sixth, leading the team in the home run category and getting Valley their first tally of the game.

The Blue Sox finally got the momentum on their side with Trevor Harmon getting

Please see **BLUE SOX**, page 11

Blues to partner with Railers

ST. LOUIS, MO - The St. Louis Blues and the Worcester Railers of the ECHL today announced an affiliation agreement through the 2030-31 season.

Starting with the upcoming 2026-27 campaign, the Railers will serve as the secondary affiliate for the Blues and their primary developmental affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds of the American Hockey League (AHL).

St. Louis’ affiliation agreement with Springfield began in 2021 and was extended in 2024 to last through the 2030-31 season.

“For the development of St. Louis Blues prospects, Worcester truly is an ideal location for our ECHL affiliate and we look forward to launching this partnership with their organization and community,” said Tim Taylor, St. Louis Blues Assistant General Manager and Co-General Manager of the Springfield Thunderbirds. “Having Springfield and Worcester located within 50 miles of each other will maximize the competitive opportunities for our young players and introduce some unique efficiencies for our player

development and pro scouting teams.”

The ECHL affiliate for the Blues over the previous two seasons was the Florida Everblades. The team just completed a run to win the ECHL’s Kelly Cup for the fourth time in five seasons.

The addition of Worcester as the Blues new ECHL affiliate enhances the organizational development pyramid based on geography and alignment between management teams. Recently named by The Athletic as having the 10th-best prospect pool in the NHL, the Blues head into the 2026 NHL Draft with 12 total selections, including three in the first round. Prospects already in the Blues system with Springfield recently completed an inspiring play-off run to the AHL’s Atlantic Division Finals under the leadership of first-year head coach Steve Ott, establishing a record for the biggest upset in AHL playoff history in the process.

“When we were assessing affiliation opportunities, we looked at a number of factors,” said Michael Myers, Worcester Railers Chief Operating Officer “We took into account prox-

imity, resources, and track record. Seeing what the Blues and their affiliates have done in recent history, excites us as an organization for what the future with St. Louis may hold. We look forward to welcoming St. Louis back into our Central Massachusetts hockey culture.”

The Worcester Railers were founded in 2016 and served as the ECHL affiliate for the New York Islanders since beginning play in the 2017-18 season. The Railers have posted a .500 or better record in seven of their eight seasons, including a 35-30-7 record during the 2025-26 season, their second-best record in franchise history. The head coach and general manager of the Railers is Nick Tuzzolino.

The Railers play in the ECHL’s North Division in the Eastern Conference and have seen five former players make their NHL debut. A pillar of the Worcester, Massachusetts community, the Railers have received the ECHL’s league-wide Community Service Award

Please see **PARTNER**, page 11

LEGION from page 9

Sutton, who earned a save in Aldenville’s season opening road victory against Westfield Post 124, made his second start of the Legion season. His first start came against Northampton Post 28, which was a home loss a couple of weeks ago.

Memphis Huertas, who’s normally Aldenville’s starting catcher, didn’t attend last Wednesday’s game at Legion Field. Noah Carillon, who’s Nate’s younger brother, strapped on the catcher’s gear for just the second time

during his Legion career.

“Noah used to be a catcher in little league. He also caught a Legion game at North Adams last year,” Nate Carillon said. “He played very well back there.”

Noah Carillon made a diving catch on a foul pop-up in the first inning and threw out a runner trying to steal third base in the third inning.

“It was Noah’s first time as a starting catcher and he did a great job behind the plate,” Sutton said. “I’m very proud of him.”

Monson righthander Brayden Mega, graduated

from Pathfinder Tech in 2025 and is currently a member of the Monroe University baseball team, also pitched very well. He went the distance in his start against Aldenville, allowing a run on two hits with four walks and nine strikeouts.

“It was another outstanding performance by Brayden,” said Monson manager Steve Tripp. “He only had two hits and a couple of walks. We’ve just been struggling offensively. We had guys on base in every inning and couldn’t score a run.”

Aldenville centerfielder

Justin Rivera led off the top of the first inning with a line-drive single to the gap in right center. Rivera advanced to second base following a fielding error. After the next two struck out and grounded out, Noah Carillon drew a walk extending the inning.

Mega escaped the jam with a pop-up caught by shortstop Matt Santos, who recently received the Karl Oliveira Memorial Scholarship Award.

Then Mega retired the next ten Post 337 batters.

Meanwhile, Monson left six runners on base, including five in scoring position, during the first five innings.

With two outs in the bottom of the second, Monson second baseman Grayson Griswold, who singled to left leading off the frame, was tagged out by Carillon trying to steal home.

Two innings later, Monson first baseman Liam McGrath hit a leadoff single and left fielder Josiel Ortiz was safe at first base with two outs following a throwing error. Ortiz stole second before Sutton ended the threat with a strikeout.

Aldenville leftfielder Adam Ozga lined a single into left field before being thrown out trying to steal second base by Monson catcher Kyle Kaczuwka.

The visitors would then break the scoreless deadlock with a run in the following



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Theo Haley takes a lead off first.

frame without the benefit of a base hit.

Rivera drew a one-out walk before stealing both second and third. Shortstop Charlie Maxwell also walked, putting runners at the corners. Then Ryan Netkovick, who was Aldenville’s starting second baseman, hit a ground ball to Santos. His throw to the plate was dropped and Rivera scored what turned out to be the only run of the ballgame.

Then Carillon was walked intentionally, which loaded

the bases.

Mega managed to get out of the jam with a strikeout and a ground ball out.

Monson had an opportunity to tie the score in the bottom half of the frame, but they had a runner tagged out by Sutton trying to score on a passed ball.

Maxwell relieved Sutton before the start of the seventh inning. The righty issued an one-out walk to Dayne Shanley before retiring the next two batters to earn the save.



Grayson Griswold lunges to pick up the ground ball.



Kyle Kaczuwka tries to check a swing.

MUTINY from page 9

following a 3-0 shutout win over the Mutiny at Lusitano Stadium last Saturday night.

“We wanted to play the spoiler role in today’s match,” said New England Mutiny midfielder Avery Klingensmith, who’s from Belchertown. “We were hoping to make the playoffs in our first season playing in this league, but it’s always a lot of fun trying to impact another team’s season.”

Vermont Green FC captured the inaugural USL W League Northeast title with a 6-0-4 overall record.

They’re scheduled to host the Eastern Conference playoffs this weekend

One of the Vermont Green’s ties came at Lusitano Stadium against the Mutiny (1-1) on May 26.

Vermont Green squeaked out a 2-1 home win in the second meeting between the two squads at the beginning of June.

The Mutiny finished their

season with a 2-6-2 overall record.

“We lost a couple of close games this season,” Klingensmith said. “We also had a lot of new players, and it was a rebuilding year for us. We always tried to do our best in every game.”

Kate Howarth and Megan Cunningham made their first starts of the season in last Saturday’s match.

“I played with both of them in the past and it was a lot of fun having them back on the field again today,” Klingensmith said. “They’re a big part of this organization.”

Howarth, who also played for the Orlando Pride of the National Women’s Soccer League, is the Mutiny’s all-time leading goalscorer and point-scorer.

Klingensmith is also one of the Mutiny’s veteran players. She joined the squad after graduating from Belchertown High School in 2022.

“It has been a great journey playing for this team,”

said Klingensmith, who graduated from American University in May. “I only live about 15 minutes away and this place is very special to me. I’m hoping to play for this soccer team again next year.”

Klingensmith is planning to play for a professional soccer team in Greece beginning in August.

The other players from Western Mass. listed on the Mutiny roster are Mila Dillard (Chicopee), Hope Santiniello (Agawam), and Tennessee Murphy (Monson). None of those players played in the final match of the regular season.

During the opening half of last Saturday’s match, the

Mutiny had two free kicks, but both attempts were saved by Vermont Green goalie Olivia Shippee.

The visitors from Burlington took a 1-0 lead during the 28th minute fol-

lowing a goal from Georgina Clark.

Emily Mara, who assisted on Clark’s goal, booted the ball into the net three minutes later.

The score remained 2-0 until the 73rd minute when Lauren DeGroot netted another goal for Vermont Green.



David J. Minney, 90



WARE – David John Minney, 90, of Ware, entered into eternal rest on June 19, 2026. David was born to Hector and Amelia (Gokey) Minney on Oct. 1, 1935. He grew up in Ludlow, attending local schools and graduating from Ludlow High School as a multi-sport athlete, excelling in soccer and basketball, earning the nicknames “Minney Mouse” and the “Mighty Mouse.”

After graduating from high school, he attended Wilbraham Academy for a post graduate year where he also played soccer.

David was a man of incredible pride; he was immensely proud of every single one of his life’s endeavors and adventures, speaking of them often, sharing stories and laughs with friends, family, and even strangers he was meeting for the first time.

He was a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, serving as a medic in the National Guard.

He was an extremely honest and hardworking man and put his all into everything he did.

As a young man he helped breed award winning spaniels and run kennels alongside his father. He started in the excavating business as a young man as well, working for his father’s business, H.F.

Minney & Son Excavating Landscaping in Ludlow.



He owned and operated Ludlow Outdoor Sports, selling snowmobiles and minibikes and sharing his enthusiasm for them with many local residents.

Later in life he started D&B Junk Removal with his wife, eventually going back into excavation as owner and operator of Minney & Sons Excavating for many years, even donating his time and equipment to create local youth sports fields and help with the creation of a playground at the local elementary school.

He was an outdoorsman thru and thru, loving all outdoor activities from hunting to fishing to 4 wheeling and snowmobiling.

He was a member of the Ludlow Fish & Game Club for many years, also working there in his younger years. Deer hunting, specifically as a bow hunter, was his true passion, which was witnessed immediately upon entering his prized log cabin, where he proudly displayed his many mounts.

He was also a die-hard New England sports fan, never missing a Celtics, Pats, or Sox game if he could help it!

He joins in eternal rest his parents, Hector and Amelia Minney; his wife,

best friend, and soulmate, Barbara (Holbrook) Minney; his children, David J. Minney Jr., Brett F. Minney, Renee D. Pollack, and Allan R. Beauregard. He is survived by his two sisters; Marsha Matlasz, her son Matthew Matlasz, and her daughter, Marisa Kalesnik; Hazel Bazinet, her husband, Roger, and their son, Brian Bazinet; the grandson he proudly raised as a son who became his best friend, Aaron Wrobel and his partner, Brittany Van Etten; the granddaughters he also raised, Angela, Amy, and Ariel Pollack; his unofficially adopted daughter, Kelly Moores; his grandchildren, Alyssa Paradise and Bradley, David, Emily, and Destiny Beauregard; his great-grandchildren, Kadence and Damien Brooks, Peyton Damon, and Jaice, Jailee, Jaila May, and Jailani Hall; as well as several cousins, nieces, nephews, and other extended family.

Services will be held on Monday, July 6, 2026 with a prayer service to begin at 4 p.m. followed by calling hours until 6:30 p.m. with military honors to close at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in David’s honor to the Massachusetts wildlife and fisheries departments or the Massachusetts department of conservation and recreation, or to another charity/organization of your choosing.

Lorraine Maziarz, 84

SOUTH HADLEY – Lorraine Maziarz, age 84



She loved to visit with family, going to the zoo, Yankee Candle trips, and going on vacation. Lorraine leaves behind her sisters; Rosemarie Murphy of Ware, and Patricia Chabot of Suffolk, Virginia, and three nephews; Richard Murphy of Ware, Jonas Chabot of Ware and Joshua Chabot of Suffolk, Virginia; two nieces, Michaelena “Mikey” Murphy-Tapanes of Northampton and Hanna Chabot of Suffolk, Virginia.

A Funeral Mass will be offered on Thursday, July 2, 2026 at 10 a.m. in St. Mary’s Church, 57 South St., Ware. Inurnment will follow in St. Mary’s Cemetery in Ware. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Cebula Funeral Home of Ware.

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

She liked car rides and helping her mother around the house. Lorraine frequently helped her mother with her job of cleaning

homes in Ware.

She loved to visit with family, going to the zoo, Yankee Candle trips, and going on vacation.

Lorraine leaves behind her sisters; Rosemarie Murphy of Ware, and Patricia Chabot of Suffolk, Virginia, and three nephews; Richard Murphy of Ware, Jonas Chabot of Ware and Joshua Chabot of Suffolk, Virginia; two nieces, Michaelena “Mikey” Murphy-Tapanes of Northampton and Hanna Chabot of Suffolk, Virginia.

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

Death notices

Maziarz, Lorraine
Died June 24, 2026
Services July 2, 2026

Minney, David John
Died June 19, 2026
Services July 6, 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.

Residents reminded to return annual census forms

WARE – Town Clerk Nancy Talbot said it is the last call to return your annual town census forms.

Massachusetts General Laws require each city and town to send an annual census to each household every year. The census was sent out to all households in Ware several months ago and currently the return has not been done by many households.

The law also requires that an inactivation of voters is done for those voters who have not returned the census.

This will be done in the next week for those who do not mail or return their census in the blue drop box outside the lower-level offices.

When a voter is inactivated, a confirmation card is mailed and must be returned to the Town Clerk to reactivate them.

There are three choices listed on the card: 1. I am still living at the same address in the Town of Ware, 2. I have moved to the following address (fill in the blank) in the Town of Ware

or 3. I have moved out of town and wish to be deleted as a voter. My new address is (fill in the blank).

The card must be signed and dated by the voter and returned to the Town Clerk (it is a postage paid card).

If and when the card is not returned, the voter will need to complete paperwork when they come to vote at the next election. Proof of residency at the address the voter is listed at will be needed at that time.

PIONEERS from page 9

Alexander returned to action after missing a couple of games due to an injury.

It was the Pioneers’ fourth 1-0 win of the regular season. They also played a scoreless draw in a road match against Black Rock FC at the beginning of June.

The Pioneers, who have a 3-1-1 home record, took advantage of a mistake made by AC Connecticut goalie Asger Hemmer-Hansen to take a 1-0 late in the first half.

Alfred Baafi put a shot into the back of the net giving the Pioneers a 1-0 lead at the end of the first half.

“The goalie attempted to clear the ball, but I stole it away from him,” said Baafi, who scored his third goal of the season. “Then I put a shot into the wide open net, which felt really good. We’re still hoping to make the playoffs”

Baafi, who’s from Techiman, Ghana, is a first-year member of the Pioneers.

“The atmosphere at this stadium is always outstanding,” he said. “We get plenty of support at our home games.”

Baafi is also a member of the men’s soccer team at High Point University in High Point, North Carolina.

Two years ago, Baafi was a member of the Seacoast United Phantoms, which captured the USL-League Two National Championship title.

“It was an amazing feeling after my team won the championship game two years ago,” said Baafi, who’s going to be a senior in the fall. “I just needed a change



and decided to play for the Pioneers this year. I’m also hoping to be drafted by a MLS team.”

The Pioneers had an opportunity to score another goal at the start of the second half.

Martin Echarren sent a pass into the box to Juan Galindrez, whose shot attempt skipped wide of the goal.

The Western Mass. squad also had several more chances to score, but the score remained 1-0.

The Pioneers are scheduled to host Black Rock FC at 7:30pm on Friday night.

LEFT: Riley Priddy makes a quick pass.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
William Fauth watches his pass move away.

BLUE SOX from page 10

walked and moving to second off another Esquivel single. Nick Tomasetto hit a single of his own and sent Harmon home, bringing Valley within one run of a tie game.

Owen Basso replaced Oppenheimer in the bottom of the sixth and ended up loading the bases after hitting Ronan Donohue with a pitch and walking Michael Delph and Gavin Donohue. Basso then threw a wild pitch that allowed Ronan Donohue to score

Danbury’s fourth run.

There were no runs scored in the seventh, and unlike Danbury, Valley was not able to get on the board in the eighth. The final run of the game was another home run from the Westerners as Gavin Donohue hit the ball out of Rogers Park, putting a late Blue Sox comeback out of reach.

Valley’s focus now shifts to their next game, and Coach Raiola spoke about what he hopes to see from his team when they play the Sharks.

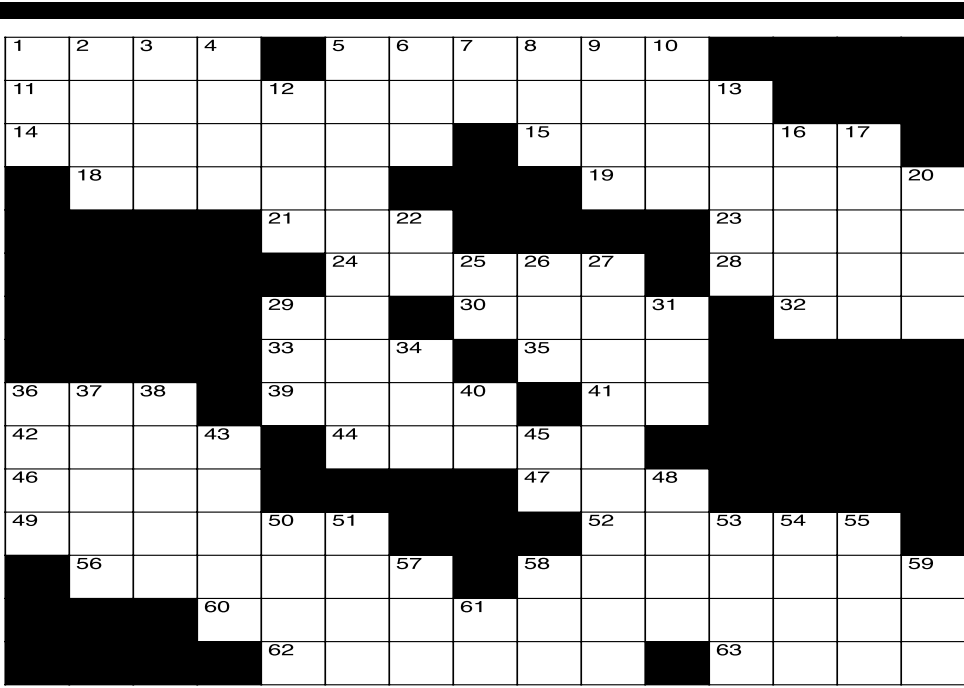
PARTNER from page 10

five times in their eight seasons.

The Blues helped introduce minor league hockey to Worcester from 1994-2005 when the Worcester IceCats were the team’s top AHL

affiliate. In addition to a series of successful playoff runs, the IceCats produced several players that went on to play prominent roles for the Blues, including Jim Campbell, Michal H a n d z u s , J a m a l Mayers, Tyson Nash, Darren

Rumble, and Blues Hall of Famer Barret Jackman. After the IceCats were sold and relocated to become the Peoria Rivermen in 2005, the Worcester Sharks served as the AHL affiliate of the San Jose Sharks until 2015.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. __ chat
- 5. Statue near the Pyramids
- 11. A process to change the look
- 14. Herb
- 15. Think about excessively
- 18. Bass vocal part
- 19. Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO
- 21. A major division of geological time
- 23. New Zealand parrot
- 24. Cognitive contents
- 28. Lump of yarn
- 29. Atomic #109
- 30. Let go of
- 32. Indian title of respect
- 33. Whereabouts unknown
- 35. Electronic data processing

- 36. Drivers’ licenses count
- 39. Snakelike fishes
- 41. They precede C
- 42. Popular personal computers
- 44. Intermediate community stage in ecological succession
- 46. Wings
- 47. Indicates position
- 49. Pleasantly smooth or soft
- 52. Jeweled headdress
- 56. In slow tempo
- 58. __ Falls
- 60. Reassertions
- 62. Eras
- 63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Corporate executive
- 2. A plant used for flavoring food

- 3. Opinion or belief
- 4. Sheep in their second year
- 5. Intensities of sound
- 6. Indicates support for
- 7. Expression of laughter
- 8. OJ trial judge
- 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. True bugs genus
- 12. Lawyers argue theirs
- 13. Body parts
- 16. Closes tightly
- 17. World Heritage site in Nigeria
- 20. Islamic calendar month
- 22. Commercial
- 25. “Westworld” actor Harris
- 26. They __
- 27. Religious guilds

- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 34. Brew
- 36. Spiritual leader
- 37. Indigo bush
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Older citizen
- 43. Scad fish genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Line passing through the center (abbr.)
- 50. Double S-shaped curve
- 51. Small, thin person
- 53. Older
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Word meaning ear
- 58. To the __ degree
- 59. Residue
- 61. It cools your home

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Lost Towns Brewing opens in Stone Mill Marketplace

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The community welcomed Lost Towns Brewing as they opened a new taproom inside the Stone Mill Marketplace in the historic millyard.

“We’re happy to be here,” said Alex Spurrell of Lost Towns Brewing.

Lost Towns Brewing found its first home in the village of Gilbertville inside the former Czabaj’s Market building off Route 32. Lost Towns Brewing was founded by the Spurrell family, Pam and James Spurrell.

Lost Towns Brewing became a community gathering business with brewed beers, live music, art, games and community building. The Spurrell family has had a lot of amazing events held at Lost Towns Brewing in Gilbertville.

This historic mill picture is displayed across the hall from Lost Towns Brewing. This picture shows previous property owner Joe Lotuff looking over the Stone Mill during a sand blasting job on his property.



The new bar featured a neon sign highlighting Lost Towns Brewing. Standing by the sign is Lost Towns Brewing crew member Terrence Kiernan putting orders in.



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to welcome Lost Towns Brewing at its new location inside the historic Stone Mill in Ware. The Spurrell family, Pam and James, is shown cutting the ribbon alongside the Lost Towns Brewing crew and the Ware Business and Civic Association & Beyond.

With a new space in the Stone Mill officially open Lost Towns Brewing decided

to keep the Gilbertville location for production only.

The grand opening of the new Lost Towns Brewing location had an excellent reception as customers were already settling in the new taproom. The Spurrells and Lost Towns Brewing staff were giving tours of the new taproom, which has more seating, a bigger bar, a stage area and a display of art.

Local artist Terrence Kiernan, who also works at Lost Towns Brewing, gave a tour and showed some of the art displays on the walls of the new taproom. One of the art displays is by the late Elizabeth Howe Lincoln, whose art is based on locations in the towns of Ware and Hardwick.

Kiernan also has his own work displayed in the new

taproom.

Kiernan was excited to be at the new Lost Towns Brewing location and felt the support by the community and Lost Town’s dedicated patrons.

“The turnout and reaction have been really supportive,” Kiernan said.

Lost Towns Brewing is ready to become a destination in Ware and what better than to operate inside a historic building. When asked about how they heard about the Stone Mill Marketplace, Pam Spurrell shared how the brewery was approached.

Rick Lotuff of the Stone Mill approached the Spurrell family about the revitalization plan for the building. This plan included looking for businesses who would want to partner with Stone Mill Marketplace so it will become a destination location.

Lotuff had some shared visions with Lost Towns Brewing and both thought it would be a perfect partnership.

“We’re about the commu-



Art is displayed all over the new Lost Towns Brewing location at Stone Mill in Ware. This is the artwork of Terrence Kiernan.

nity,” Spurrell said. “Wanting to be an integral destination in Ware.”

The new space offers a bigger occupancy and is inviting. Lost Towns Brewing is also thankful to have plenty of parking at the Stone Mill Marketplace. Guests can park in the lot in front of the Mill and conveniently walk to the front entrance.

The ceremony began with the ribbon cutting as the Spurrell Family and the Lost Towns Brewing team were officially welcomed by the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond. The giant scissors were handed to Pam and James Spurrell who made the grand opening official.

The audience applauded Lost Towns Brewing and made their way inside for a cold brew. The new bar features a new Lost Towns Brewing neon sign with the logo hanging above. The bar also features 12 beers on draft plus a hard seltzer.

Lost Towns Brewing will have some new seasonal brews throughout the year as well as sticking with their regular flavors. Alex Spurrell was working at the bar and talked about a new beer release happening during the grand opening.

This brand-new beer was named “Life Goes to a Party” and was tried by many patrons who attended the grand opening.

Lost Towns Brewing is one of many new additions to pop up inside the Stone Mill and the public is excited about it. The fun programs Lost Towns Brewing offers will continue in the new space.

Alex Spurrell mentioned trivia night happening at the taproom. Trivia night will take place on May 7 and will be a regular event on the first and third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Open mic nights will be at the new taproom and are every Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Karaoke night will also be held at Lost Towns Brewing. A new stage area has been set up for bands, open mics, and karaoke.

A list of events can be found on the Lost Towns Brewing website, ltbrew.com. People can also call Lost Towns Brewing at 413-277-0818 or email info@lost-townsbrewing.com.

Lost Towns Brewing is officially settled inside their new home in Ware. Be sure to visit at 44 East Main St. located inside the Stone Mill Marketplace.

public notices

Town of Ware Notice of Public Hearing Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

V-2026-02

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Zoning Board of Appeals, acting as the Variance granting authority, will hold a Public Hearing during the scheduled meeting on **WEDNESDAY, July 22nd at 4:00pm**, on the application of **Mark and Kris Lynch** for the construction of a carport in front of the main dwelling, under Zoning Bylaw Section 7.3, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Board of Selectman’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 87 Osborne Road, Ware MA. Said premise being further described in a deed recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 4449 Page 61. Property is also identified as Assessor’s Parcel 28-0-43. Zoned: Rural Residential (RR).

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

WARE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
07/02, 07/09/2026

Town of Ware Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

SP-2026-04 & SPR-2026-03

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting and Site Plan Review Authority, will hold a Public Hearing during the scheduled meeting on **THURSDAY, July 23rd, 2026 at 7:00pm**, on the application of **New England Power Company**, rebuilding and expanding of existing electric substation, under Zoning Bylaw Section 7.2.1(B), and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Board of Selectman’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 0 & 59 Gilbertville Road, Ware MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 1063 Page 264. Properties are also identified as Assessor’s Parcels 30-0-43 & 30-0-42. Zoned: Rural Business (RB).

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

WARE PLANNING BOARD
07/02, 07/09/2026

Town of Ware Notice of Public Hearing Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

V-2026-01

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Zoning Board of Appeals, acting as the Variance granting authority, will hold a Public Hearing during the scheduled meeting on **WEDNESDAY, July 22nd, 2026 at 4:00pm**, on the application of **New England Power Company** for the construction of a fence over 6ft in the buffer zone, under Zoning Bylaw Section 7.3.2, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Board of Selectman’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 0 & 59 Gilbertville Road, Ware MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 1063 Page 264. Properties are also identified as Assessor’s Parcels 30-0-43 & 30-0-42. Zoned: Rural Business (RB).

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

WARE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
07/02, 07/09/2026

Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicles

under G.L. c. 255., Section 39A
Notice is hereby given by REGIN’S REPAIR 19 CHURCH ST GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031

Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on **7/17/2026 at 10:00AM** at: Regin’s Repair 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keepers lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle description:
2014 Chrysler Town & Country Registration/State: 6XWF19/MA VIN: 2C4RC1BG5ER343463
Name and address of owner:
Denise Ziemba 408 Main St. Sturbridge, MA 01566

By: James M. Regin
Dated: 6/24/2026
07/02, 07/09, 07/16/2026

WARREN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Jack Fowler III 661 Main Street

Pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40A, notice is hereby given that the Warren Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, July 20, 2026 at 7:00 PM** on the appli-

cation of Jack Fowler III. The Hearing will be held at the Warren Senior Center located at 2252 Main Street in West Warren.

The Applicant, Jack Fowler III, is requesting a Special Permit (No. 318) under Sections 3.23-17 and 3.25-2 of the zoning bylaws to operate a home-based meadery business at 661 Main Street (Map 18, Lot 52) in the Village district.

A complete copy of the application may be inspected in the Office of the Planning Board or the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.
07/02, 07/09/2026

Notice of Public Hearing Ware Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

SP-2026-03

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting and Site Plan Review Authority, will hold a Public Hearing during the scheduled meeting on **THURSDAY, July 9th at 7:00pm**, on the application of **Colleen Powers**, for the keeping of over 5 chickens, under Zoning Bylaw Section 4.4.1.D.2.B, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be

conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Board of Selectman’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 168 Fisherdict Road. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 11920 Page 16. Property is also identified as Assessor’s Parcel 33-0-9. Zoned: Rural Residential (RR).

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

WARE PLANNING BOARD
06/25, 07/02/2026

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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171 Farm Pond Road Oakham \$590,000
 Designed w/entertaining in mind, this home offers an open-concept fl plan & private 3-acre setting. The 1st floor features a stunning 33-ft country kitchen w/ss appliances, quartz countertops, large walk-in pantry, & beautiful Brazilian cherry flooring. The kitchen flows seamlessly into the 26-ft front-to-back living/family rm, highlighted by a raised-hearth pellet stove, & formal dining rm adorned w/custom moldings. Sliding doors provide easy access to rear deck, perfect for indoor-outdoor gatherings. Upstairs, the generous primary suite includes a walk-in closet & en-suite bath w/soak tub & separate shower. 2 additional bedrooms, another full bath with laundry complete the level. The finished lower level offers additional heated living and entertainment space, while the heated two-car garage provides year-round comfort/convenience. For equestrian or hobby farmers, the property features a two-stall barn w/water and electric w/2 paddocks & ample room for horses, goats, cows or more.

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We will be closed Saturday July, 4 In Observance of the Holiday

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