

# WARE RIVER NEWS



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## New special Ed director, interim principal named

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Superintendent Michael Lovato announced that High School Principal Eugene Rich has given his resignation after 20 years in the school district.

“It is a big loss,” Lovato said. “He definitely was valued.”

School Committee Chair Christopher Desjardins thanked Rich for his dedication.

“You definitely will be missed, and we wish you the best of luck,” Desjardins said.

An email sent to Ware Public Schools families following this announcement, named Scott Slattery as interim principal.

### Director of Special Education

Bobbie French, candidate for the Director of Special Education position, introduced herself to the School Committee during their July 19 meeting.

She has close to 30 years’ experience in the field of education, ranging from guidance to principal to special education.

French said strong social, emotional and mental health are a passion of hers, working with students and teachers.

“We were coming to kind of a point of crisis even before the pandemic hit, and now coming out of that...we have a lot of work to do that way, with the adults and the kids that we have in school,” she said.

French is also focused on literacy and wants to have all students being readers by third grade.

French said she was drawn to Ware Public Schools because it has the same small town feel as her hometown. She lives in Phillipston with her family, and enjoys bass fishing and spending time with her two dogs.

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 5

## Disability Pride Month



Members of the Americans with Disabilities Act Commission are shown from left, Amber Letendre, Heidi Reed, Ruth McGrath (holding the Disability Pride flag) and Brittini Robidoux.

### ADA Commission aims to make Ware accessible for all

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – People with disabilities can face extraordinary challenges in their daily lives, but those living in rural communities often deal with a great number of obstacles.

Representing people with disabilities and helping to make the town more accessible for all, is the town’s Americans with Disabilities Act Commission, made up of Chair Ruth McGrath, Clerk Amber Letendre, Brittini Robidoux, Heidi Reed, Patricia Ranner and Town Manager Stuart Beckley.

McGrath has been a disability commissioner since around 1980, working in Washington, D.C. for about 20 years, then moving to Enfield, Connecticut, then Northampton, before settling here.

She grew up with two deaf parents and was deaf herself before

having surgery. She is also blind and uses a wheelchair.

McGrath previously worked with computers and has always had a love for “gizmos.”

Finding ways to make life more accessible for herself and others with disabilities is a passion of hers.

“Rural areas have higher concentrations of disabled people because they can’t afford to live in the city,” McGrath said, adding that the town’s population is aging and needs more accessibility.

Please see **ADA**, page 7

## Sewer Commission hears input on increased fees

Sewer bills will now be due bi-annually

By Ryan Drago  
Correspondent

WARREN – The Sewer Commission held a public hearing on the sewer fee increase for fiscal year 2024.

On July 12 residents attended the meeting to share their input and concerns regarding the increased bill they will receive for their sewer services.

“You should look at a different way of calibrating so that it’s more equitable for people that are single, one person, two person, versus families with 7-8 people living in the same house,” one resident said. “It doesn’t seem proper that a single person should pay \$400 plus when someone with a large family pays the same amount.”

According to the Sewer Commission’s documentation, the current average payment for sewer services for a single person is \$495. Locals in attendance believe the Commission should look into making the sewer rate more reasonable for everyone in town.

In additional feedback, the Sewer Chief Operator, Ralph Zebrowski shared his thoughts on the reasons behind the increased fees. According to Zebrowski, a lot of the equipment used for sewage treatment is aging and is due for an upgrade.

“I’m trying to upgrade the equipment. The EPA [Environmental Protection



**THE SEWER DEPARTMENT HAS HAD TO RELY ON ITS ‘RETAINED EARNINGS’ TO BALANCE THEIR BUDGET.”**

**JAMES FERRERA**  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Agency] is continually restrictive on requirements on what I discharge, which means new equipment to meet these goals,” said Zebrowski.

Town Administrator, James Ferrera shared his thoughts on the increase in cost. In Ferrera’s point of view, it comes from the operation of the town’s plant.

“The sewer department has had to rely on its ‘retained earnings’ to balance their budget,” said Ferrera. He also referred to the town’s free cash position, which is tied to the “retained earnings.”

These retained earnings are extra revenue that the town has received to compensate the operational costs. In other words, these funds help cover the cost of operation for the town’s sewer system.

One of Ferrera’s suggested solutions was the hope that at some point the town will get

Please see **FEEs**, page 3

## Selectboard discusses staffing for accountant, highway dept.

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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HARDWICK – Town Administrator Nicole Parker updated the Selectboard about the town’s accounting services, which are currently provided by the firm Marcum LLP.

Marcum LLP notified

Selectboard members that it will be ending its services to the town.

The reason Marcum LLP has decided to end its relationship with town is unclear, Parker said, but she does not believe the issues lie with the town’s staffing.

“I think the department is running well...we do work a lot, and we wear many hats,” she said, adding there is always a need for more

staff.

At the July 24 meeting, Parker said she spoke to a contact at Marcum LLP again, and they seem comfortable with having former Marcum LLP employee Laurie Dell’Olio return as the town’s accountant.

Dell’Olio had also previously provided accounting services to the town through the firm

Melanson, P.C., prior to the merger with Marcum LLP. When she left her position with Marcum LLP, Dell’Olio signed a non-compete agreement, but it appears Marcum LLP is willing to waive it.

“I think that we’re in pretty good shape right now,” Parker said about filling this position. She said there are other qualified individuals willing to bridge the gap until the

position is filled.

Parker spoke about the rest of the town’s financial team, saying that the Treasurer/Collector’s office is always busy, while also dealing with the public.

“They’re working diligently... they’re getting the treasurer work done, they’re getting the collector

Please see **STAFFING**, page 5

## Board discusses open space plan, King George Drive

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Town Manager Stuart Beckley said one of the requirements of an Open Space and Recreation plan is review and recommendation/approval of the Planning Board.

He told the Board at its July 20 meeting, that the plan is still in the process of being updated since it was last completed seven years ago.

Beckley said a public forum was held back in June, and several residents worked off the approved 2016 Open Space and Recreation

plan, taking away goals that were no longer relevant due to being completed, and adding new ones.

“It’s an important plan, and steady progress does get made,” Beckley said.

Beckley said funding for projects outlined in the plan comes from a variety of sources, including grants.

“There’s a great amount of money available,” he said.

Grant money and private donations have helped the town reach goals for rail trail improvements and East Quabbin Land Trust acquisitions. A town meeting

Please see **BOARD**, page 15

## Car show revs up

at DEAN PARK



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Debra and Richard Julian stand with their 1991 GMC Jimmy, which they purchased 11 years ago with just 50,000 miles on it. The Julians are the third owners of the vehicle, which still has its original Bahama Blue Metallic paint job. The 1991 model was the first year to feature this paint color, and the last year with this body style.

SEE MORE PHOTOS AND STORY ON PAGE 8.

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### COMMUNITY

Lions Club concerts rock Thursday nights

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### EVENT

State Police held Community Day

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### EDUCATION

Community remembers Quabbin teacher

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**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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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

## Country Bank recognizes the President's Platinum recipient

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, announced the recipient of the 2023 President's Platinum Award.

The Bank's recognition program, "Above and Beyond," encourages team members to look for coworkers who embody the Bank's corporate values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Prosperity. Within this program, members can receive different levels of recognition: Silver Spotlight, Gold Star, and the President's Platinum.

"Country Bank's team members contribute to the Bank's success in many ways throughout the year, and we are delighted to celebrate their contributions. The 2023 President's Platinum award was presented to Crystal Mansfield, Customer Experience and Sales Support Specialist. Crystal embodies the Bank's corporate values in every interaction she has. In addition, her nominator recognized her contributions to the organization, customers, and coworkers. The Country Bank team is extremely dedicated, knowledgeable, and committed to delivering the best service to their external and internal customers," said Paul Scully, President and CEO of Country Bank in a press release.

"I am extremely hon-



Submitted Award

The 2023 President's Platinum award was presented to Crystal Mansfield, Customer Experience and Sales Support Specialist. She is shown with Paul Scully, President and CEO of Country Bank.

ored to have been named a recipient of the Presidential Platinum Award! Thank you to my colleague for nominating me and to Paul for selecting me to receive this year's award. My focus is always on a positive customer experience. Supporting, listening to, and finding customer solutions is simply the best part of my job. I could not do what I do without all the amazing team members at Country Bank. I am humbled to receive this award and appreciate that Country Bank has a culture that supports and recognizes the contributions of the team," said Mansfield.

**About Country Bank**  
 Country Bank is one of the Commonwealth's most highly capitalized mutual savings banks, offering full-service consumer and commercial banking services. Country Bank serves Central and Western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, and Worcester. Country Bank is an FDIC, DIF, and SUM network member.

Country Bank can be reached by calling 800-322-8233 or visiting [countrybank.com](http://countrybank.com).

# Are You Old News?

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

*File Photo*  
 Last week's photo from 2003 showed Taylor Young enjoying pancakes at the kickoff breakfast for the Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com).

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## Grange Fair program books available

WARE – The Ware Grange Fair program books are now available.

Plan your exhibits by checking out the categories of exhibits in our program book. Books are available on the Grange website at

[waregrange.org](http://waregrange.org).

To receive a book by mail, call 413-284-1135 or email [waregrange@comcast.net](mailto:waregrange@comcast.net). Exhibitors may enter in a variety of categories including vegetables, fruits, eggs, cut flowers,

baked goods, fancywork, arts and crafts, and photography.

The Ware Grange Fair takes place in late August. Visit the website for schedule and details.

**ACCURACY WATCH**

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

## Backpack and school supplies giveaway

WARE – Round Room, LLC., the nation's largest Verizon Authorized Retailer, announces its TCC and Wireless Zone retailers will be donating 120,000 backpacks with school supplies through the 11th annual School Rocks Backpack Giveaway.



Since 2013, the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway has provided more than 1.3 million backpacks to children across the U.S. ahead of the upcoming academic year.

On Sunday, July 30 at 1 p.m. while supplies last, more than 1,000 TCC and Wireless Zone stores nationwide, including the location at 350 Palmer Road, Suite 125, are inviting local families to their locations to pick up a backpack filled with pencils, paper, a pencil box, folders, a ruler and glue. One backpack per child present will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis at each participating TCC and Wireless Zone store.

Any leftover backpacks at School Rocks Backpack

Giveaway events will be donated to local schools of each store's choice.

To find your nearest TCC and/or Wireless Zone School Rocks Backpack Giveaway event, visit <https://locations.tccrocks.com/search.html> and <https://shop.wirelesszone.com> and select the "Backpack Giveaway Participating Store" filter.

"The School Rocks Backpack Giveaway is our company's cornerstone annual event, and I couldn't be more thankful for our store locations, employees and customers for helping us continue to do good in the thousands of communities we operate in," said Scott Moorehead, CEO of Round Room, in a press release. "The start of the school year is an exciting time for many, and we look forward each and every year to make school supplies more accessible for students so they can thrive in the classroom."

According to the National

Retail Federation, American families with school-aged children spent an average of \$864 on school supplies in 2022 – totaling \$36.1 billion spent in the U.S. last year on school supplies alone. Through TCC and Wireless Zone, Round Room aims to ease the strain of rising school supply costs each year with the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway.

Round Room, LLC operates 1,248 TCC and Wireless Zone wireless retail stores across 43 states. Its portfolio of companies, including TCC and Wireless Zone, share a deep commitment to improving and being key partners in the thousands of communities they serve nationwide. Because of this, and the extraordinary impact it makes across its industry, Round Room was honored in Inc. Magazine's Best in Business in 2022.

Supporters of the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway are encouraged to use #BackpackGiveaway on social media to help spread the word. To learn more about TCC and Wireless Zone, and the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway, visit [www.RoundRoom.com](http://www.RoundRoom.com), [www.TCCRocks.com](http://www.TCCRocks.com) and [www.wirelesszone.com](http://www.wirelesszone.com).

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## 'Rock the Park returns this Saturday

WARE – Workshop13 will host the third annual "Rock the Park" Music & Arts Festival on Saturday, July 29 from 1-10 p.m. at Grenville Park, 73 Church St., on the 50th anniversary of the historic event at Watkins Glen which featured The Band, The Grateful Dead and The Allman Brothers, known as The Summer Jam.

Bands from across New England will represent these iconic groups: Professor Louie & The Crowmatix with Woodstock Horns, Bearly Dead and The Brothers Project.

"Rock the Park" will also include a cultural performance by Bomba De Aqui, an award-winning Afro-Puerto Rican Bomba group sponsored by the Ware Cultural Council. There will also be artisans, vendors, local businesses for outreach, food trucks, beer garden and free children's activities.

Children can explore and create with clay, or make wire sculptures using wire donated to Workshop13 by Quabbin Wire & Cable Co., Inc.

Many local businesses have

donated to help support the event, which helped Workshop13 reduce their ticket price to just \$10, if purchased at It's Wine O'clock, Nat Falk, Hanna Devine's, ArtWorks Gallery, Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, and B'leaf Wellness Centre (while supplies last).

Tickets purchased online or at the event are \$15. As always, children aged 12 and under are admitted free.

Sponsors include Country Bank, The Edward and Barbara Urban Foundation, Pioneer Valley Environmental, B'leaf Wellness Centre, Pennington Painting, Monson Savings Bank, Mass Cultural Council, Ware Cultural Council, The River 93.9, Valley's Classic Hits, Superior Plus Energy, Cedarbrook Village, Quabbin Wire & Cable Co., Inc., Firesafe Chimney Services, Dhillon Cosmetic Dentistry, Moulton Insurance Agency and Dioguardi Jewelers.

The Ware Jr./Sr. High School Cheer Team will be in charge of VIP parking in Grenville Park, at a cost of \$5 per car. Proceeds

from the VIP parking will help send the Cheer Team to summer cheer camp the week after "Rock the Park."

Parking will also be available for \$5 at the United Church of Ware's parking lot.

Free parking is available where permitted on streets, and in municipal parking lots.

Food and drink will be offered by Rustic Fusions Mobile Cafe, Holyoke Hummus Company, Pig Park BBQ, Batch Ice Cream, Wake the Dead Donuts, Kettle and Pine, Tree House Brewing Co. and Bay State Brewing Company.

Ware's Knights of Columbus will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers as well.

There will also be 25 artisans and vendors selling their wares.

Make sure to bring your reusable water bottle, as event sponsor Pioneer Valley Environmental created a water filtration system to tap into the Park's water, providing clean (and free) hydration.

For more information about "Rock the Park" or Workshop13, visit workshop13.org or find them on social media.

## Cub Scouts get hooked on Scouting



WARE – Ware Family Pack 520 held its annual fishing day at South Barre Rod and Gun Club this past Saturday, with two of the Cub Scouts landing some prize winning fish. Prizes for the top fish included a fishing pole, tacklebox, net, scale and other accessories. Once the Scouts were done fishing for the day, they enjoyed

a tailgate picnic, courtesy of Cubmaster (and grill master) Chris Boos.

For more information about Cub Scouts, visit Ware Family Pack 520 at National Night Out on Thursday, Aug. 1 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Grenville Park, find them on Facebook, or contact Boos by calling 413-345-0448 or email lottecredneck3.3@gmail.com.

Ware Family Pack 520 held its annual fishing day last Saturday.

### CAMPUS NOTES

## UMass Amherst announces locals named to Dean's list

AMHERST – Below is a list of local students who were named to the Dean's list at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the spring 2023 semester.

In order to qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a four-point scale.

Local students include Jadelynn Marie Colman, Isabella Rose Johnson and Patrick William Mendrek, all of Gilbertville; Connor Malcolm

Geary and Lauren Stephanie Wojcik, both of Hardwick; Camden James Balicki, Michael Paul Bellefleur, Gillian Marie Gaboury, Shaemus Xavier Harper, Sean Moriarty, Jacqueline Ng, Justin P. Rife, Celina Lagrant Rivernider, Derek James Rohan, Olivia Jo Vadnais and Monet Theresa Estella Williams, all of Ware; and Cassandra Elizabeth O'Shea, Emily Lynne Pease and Meghan Elizabeth Silva, all of Warren.

### FEES from page 1

more users of the sewer system. Any added residents or business to the town can help, but those additions take time to come around and have no effect on the current sewer rate residents of Warren are being charged now.

After the public hearing, residents expressed that they are not satisfied with the current process of being billed for their sewage service. One resident attending the meeting insisted that the Sewer Commission would take into consideration that Warren has many retired residents and could be on fixed incomes and a one-time, annual payment may be challenging for them.

The Sewer Commission made a motion to make the sewer rate be paid bi-annually with one payment in the spring and one in the fall.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette  
Cub Scout Eileen had the second place catch for the day.



Cub Scout Brody took the top spot during Ware Family Pack 520's annual fishing day, held at the South Barre Rod and Gun Club.

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## GUEST COLUMN

### SNAP Gap Act to expand eligibility and increase benefits

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts), a member of the Senate Health, Labor, Education and Pensions Committee, and Rep. Lori Trahan (MA-03) today introduced the Bridging the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Gap Act, legislation to expand SNAP benefits for young adults, families, and Americans with regular medical expenses by breaking down harmful rules that limit eligibility and benefit levels.

According to a press release, the legislation would ensure that working students ages 17 to 21 can continue to receive their families' benefits and extend existing rules for seniors and people with disabilities so that all SNAP beneficiaries who spend at least \$35 a month on health-related expenses can receive higher monthly benefits.

"Nearly one-in-three college students are food insecure. Families across the country are seeing Congress cut their benefits as their medical costs rise. The Bridging the SNAP Gap Act will reverse this trend and help ensure that no student or family falls through the cracks," said Markey. "Families should be able to put food on the table, this shouldn't be controversial."

"For decades, working families have relied on SNAP to help make ends meet and get food on the table. I'm proud to be working with Senator Markey to introduce the Bridging the SNAP Gap Act to strengthen the vital nutritional support that SNAP provides," said Trahan. Specifically, the Bridging the SNAP Gap Act would: Raise the student income exclusion age from 17 to 21 to let young people receive SNAP benefits as part of their parent(s)' household without reducing the amount of SNAP benefits the family can get; Guarantee that all SNAP recipients can get additional benefits if they have at least \$35 of monthly medical expenses; and, Reduce and streamline paperwork for the medical expense deduction floor, currently at \$165 in 2023, with increases mirroring that of Medicare Part B rates.

In April, Markey led his colleagues in a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Social Security Administration urging them to make SNAP more accessible for Americans who are receiving or are eligible for Supplemental Security Income benefits, including low-income elderly and individuals with disabilities. In December 2022, Markey successfully advocated to insert a provision to ensure that victims of "SNAP skimming" would have their benefits repaid by requiring the USDA promulgate regulations to reimburse individuals and families whose SNAP benefits were stolen.

## GUEST COLUMN

### Bipartisan push to end violence against children around the world

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, alongside Rep. Maria Salazar (R-FL) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced a major new bill to update and strengthen existing U.S. Government efforts to end global violence against children, improve inter-agency coordination in addressing violence and promote the use of evidence-based strategies and information gathering capabilities.

Globally, half of all children experience violence. Violence includes abuse, neglect, and exploitation and can be physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional in nature.

Violence can happen anywhere—in communities, schools, homes, workplaces, and in humanitarian settings. Sexual exploitation and abuse take many forms and include human trafficking, early and forced child marriage, homicide, online exploitation, and gender-based violence.

"America has played a leading role in developing strategies to reduce and end child violence, and our new bipartisan bill builds on that legacy to help put an end to violence against children once and for all," said McGovern in a press release.

"We must do more to protect vulnerable children from being exploited by evil individuals across the world," said Salazar. "I am proud to co-lead the Strengthening Efforts to End Violence Against Children Act to help innocent children who are at risk of sexual exploitation, human trafficking, forced child marriages, online abuse, and gender-based violence."

"It is our duty to protect children from exploitation and violence," said Fitzpatrick.

Please see **END VIOLENCE**, page 15



### Get out of the garden with a few good books

The saying goes like this: "If you can't handle the heat, stay out of the kitchen!"

I'd like to switch it up to say "garden" in place of "kitchen" in light of the fact that I really can't handle the summer heat as well as I used to. These last few weeks, gardening has been accomplished early in the day or during the evening hours instead of midday.

What does a gardening fanatic do if they aren't actually gardening? Read about gardening, of course!

Call me old-fashioned, but I still prefer books over online text. I like to see and hold my books, curl the pages and even write in the margins.

Sometimes, just for fun, I'll pick a book and flip the pages to see where my finger will land. What interesting topic will I read about?

Today I'll choose three books and end up with the topics for today's column that way. Maybe we can all learn something new or at least refresh our skills.

The first pick is from one of my favorite herb books, "Herbs in Bloom" by Jo Ann Gardner (Timber Press). I flip the pages and end up on Feverfew (Tanacetum parthenium).

Timely, because Feverfew is blooming in my yard right now.

Feverfew is from the Latin word febrifuge thanks to its past use as a fever reducer. Both its single and its double form (Flora pleno)

lend themselves to admission into the perennial border; often they bloom the first year from seed.

The plants thrive in both light shade and full sun, with the single flower type resowing itself to almost nuisance status if given the opportunity. The flowering span seems to go on and on, the white daisy flowers lending themselves to use in the vase alongside bee balm, summer phlox, veronicas and more.

I especially like the double flowers, and had great luck drying them, their off-white color the perfect addition to a wreath of hydrangea and dried roses.

Second year plants will return with some winter-kill that will need addressing. After blooming plants will likely not return for year three.

Still, feverfew is a must have for those of us who love herbs in the flower garden. Keep volunteers at bay by deadheading all but a few of the flowers.

The second pick is ironic, considering the rain we've been getting.

On page 138 of "Secrets to Great Soil" by Elizabeth P. Stell (Storey Books), we learn about improving soggy or poorly drained soils, first by mentioning the use of raised beds.

My stone edged raised beds that usually demand a daily watering in the summer heat are handling all the rain in stride. Unlike the corner of my vegetable garden that was literally under water after the 3.5" we received on Friday.

In addition to that mention on raised beds, a number of perennials are cited as thriving in moist soil. You'd be surprised to learn that Astilbe (Astilbe spp.) falls into this category, as do the more familiar native wetland plants: Joe-Pye Weed (Eupatorium maculatum), Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis) and its cousin Great Blue Lobelia (L. siphilitica), the three of which bloom later in the summer.

Candalabra primrose (Primula japonica) was also mentioned. I have purchased this

plant two years in a row and it never thrives; now I know the reason: it needs moister soil.

The plants growing under the tree canopy at Positively Perennials are a sight worthy of mention in mid-May when they are in full multi-tiered bloom. Next year, check it out!

We seem to be on a flower theme, so let's see what "The Flower Gardener's Bible" by Lewis and Nancy Hill (Storey Books) has in store. Alas, pick three does not disappoint.

I landed on a page devoted to both the native Coneflowers (Echinacea species) and the Globe Thistles (Echinops species). Right now, my new border, devoted to our pollinators, is striking with Purple Coneflower as one of the stars.

This plant too, has seemed to enjoy the rain, gaining some height after the shock of being divided and replanted early in May. If you leave the spent flowers in place, self-sown seedlings will emerge next spring, begging to be moved about the landscape or shared with friends and family.

Like Feverfew, from our first pick, Echinacea has history as a healing plant and continues to be used today for immune support.

Globe Thistle, with its steel blue globes and deeply cut, silver gray foliage, as stiff as it is, also deserves a place in the garden. It is a true bee magnet!

Stems can be harvested as everlasting once flowers color up but before the individual florets, aka "pickers" on each plant open. Clip and dry them upside down for use in wreaths and arrangements.

Well, it's been fun escaping the heat with you! Read any good books lately?

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



### Will WEP and GPO affect my wife's spousal benefit?

**Dear Rusty:** My wife worked for the U.S. Postal Service in New York for about 22 years and then in the private sector for about 15 years.

She began collecting her "deferred annuity" from the USPS at age 62 and she plans to collect her Social Security benefits at age 67, which is her Full Retirement Age.

Her Social Security benefit before the Windfall Elimination Provision is less than 50% of my Primary Insurance Amount, so the plan is for her to start collecting a "spousal" benefit from me at age 67. My question is: will my wife's spousal benefit be reduced by both the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset?

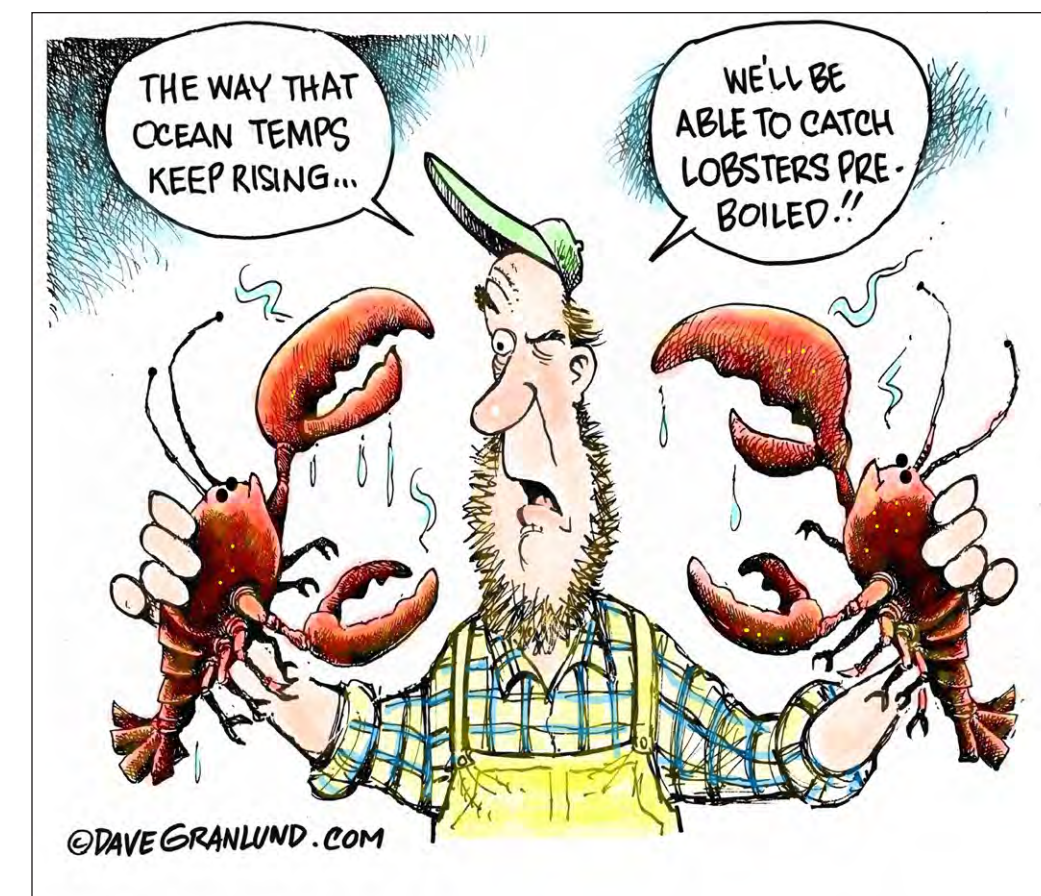
Signed: Inquiring Husband

**Dear Inquiring Husband:** Your wife cannot separate her personally earned Social Security retirement benefit from her Social Security spousal entitlement from you whenever she applies for Social Security, your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for all benefits she is entitled to when she claims.

Because your wife has a "non-covered pension" from the U.S. Postal Service and assuming that pension is under the older Civil Service Retirement System, your wife's personally earned SS retirement benefit will be reduced by the Windfall Elimination Provision.

WEP reduces Social Security retirement benefits for anyone who also has a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security.

The Government Pension Offset is different: the GPO will affect any additional amount your wife is entitled to as your spouse, which we refer to as her "spousal boost." The "spousal boost" amount is the difference between your wife's pre-WEP FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, which is your Primary Insurance Amount. Because of her



USPS pension, GPO will reduce your wife's "spousal boost" by 2/3rds of the amount of her non-covered pension, which may eliminate her potential spousal boost.

So WEP will affect your wife's personally earned SS benefit and the GPO will affect her spousal entitlement from you. But, depending on the amount of her USPS pension, your wife will not be entitled to an additional amount as your spouse if 2/3rds of her USPS pension amount is more than her "spousal boost" amount. If the GPO doesn't completely eliminate your wife's spousal boost, it will at least drastically reduce it.

I have previously published several articles about both WEP and GPO and how each provision works, which you are welcome to review by visiting the AMAC Foundation's special Social Security website at www.SocialSecurityReport.org. In particular, one such article providing more detail on how the GPO works can be found by visiting this link www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-government-pension-offset-gpo/.

Social Security will make the final determination about your wife's benefit entitle-

ment under WEP and GPO when she applies for her Social Security benefits, but I'm afraid your wife's entitlement may be much less than you are anticipating because of these two provisions. If you have additional questions, please feel free to email us directly at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org or call 1-888-750-2622.

*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 informational purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.*

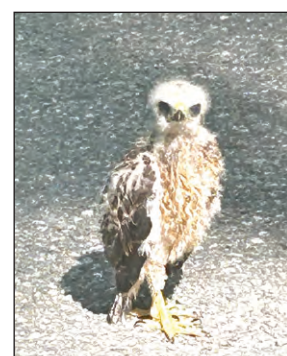
Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Several people spotted a juvenile red-tailed hawk by Coldbrook Road in Oakham last week.

People who saw the bird hoped its parents were nearby and would take care of it. That did not happen.

When no parent appeared by the next day, the bird was brought to a wildlife rehabilitator. The red-tailed hawk is the most commonly seen hawk in this area. It is about 19 inches



Juvenile red-tailed hawk

long and it gets its name from its reddish upper tail.

It also has a white chest with a belly band and markings on the chest. Plumage varies considerably.

The immature has a finely, banded gray-brown tail and keeps this plumage for one year.

The female lays one to five bluish white eggs with dark marks in a platform of sticks lined with bark and greens in a tree. The nest can be 15 to 120 feet high.

They often are seen perched in a tree by a

field. They make a slurred scream like "tsee-aarr" often directed at an intruder.

Fledglings and adults also make a "klooeek" sound. During courtship or territorial encounters, they make a piercing "chwhirk."

#### Bird talk

On July 7, I spoke about birds at the Oakham Senior Center.

Ava, age 7, won the door prize of a "Squirrel Slammer" feeder. She came to the event with her great-aunt, who also took the photo of the young red-tailed hawk in this column.

She related the story of its rescue since it appeared to be abandoned.

One Oakham woman attending the talk said a robin nested near the house. She and her husband could watch it from their home.

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

## 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:  
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Ware, MA 01082  
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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.





Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Charlie Lask's Neil Diamond Tribute performs at the Ware Lions Club concert last Thursday evening at Grenville Park.



## Lions Club's concerts continue tonight

WARE – The Ware Lions Club continues to host concerts on Thursday evenings at Grenville Park from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tonight's concert features WheelSmith and the concert on Aug. 3, features Wicked Biscuit.

Concerts are made possible by support from Country Bank, Talk of the Town, North Brookfield Savings Bank, Westfield Bank, B'leaf Wellness Centre, St. Germain Insurance Inc., Brad Matthews Jewelers, Cluett's Furniture & Appliance, Sidur & Sons, Quabbin Wire & Cable, Crystal Springs, NAPA Auto Parts, Nat Falk, Moulton Insurance, It's Wine O'clock, Fitness Factory and Donna and Ray Mathews.

Hot dogs, chips, soda, freeze pops and popcorn are available to purchase at each concert.

The Lions Club thanks all who support them by buying raffle tickets and food.

Charlie Lask performs as Neil Diamond.

## 'Find Your Voice' at Paige Memorial Library

HARDWICK – Find your voice at the Paige Memorial Library this summer – read a book on any topic, play an instrument, write, draw, paint or dance.

The Summer Reading Program allows you to explore and express yourself; running through Aug. 10 so participants are reminded to bring in lists of books read (or listened to) for prizes and projects.

A Hand Drumming Circle Series with Tim and Chris Kane will take place at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, on Wednesday, Aug. 9 from 4-5 p.m.; Tuesday, Aug. 15 from 6-7 p.m.; and Tuesday, Aug. 22 from 6-7 p.m. No experience necessary.

Discover differences in cultures and techniques on djembes and frame drums. Personal percussion welcome, but there will be drums provided for 20 participants.

Each week a different cultural focus: Africa, Caribbean Islands, Brazil, Peru, Middle East and Native American rhythms. Research indicates that drumming induces deep relaxation, lowers blood pressure, and reduces stress. Please bring tall lawn chairs.

There will be a grand finale on Thursday, Aug. 10 at 7 p.m.

at the Town House, 32 Common St., when special prizes will be awarded, and Julie Stepanek will show you the fundamentals of playing the ukulele. No experience necessary and ukuleles will be provided.

This is an all-ages ukulele program.

Stepanek is from western Massachusetts and has been teaching and making music at libraries, schools, and senior centers for 15 years. There will be lots of fun, music, and prizes for those who participated in the Find Your Voice Summer Reading Program.

Both of these programs are brought to you through grants from the Hardwick - New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Paige Memorial Library programs do not stop there, get ready for Fairy House building in August in preparation for the Hardwick Community Fair.

For more information, visit the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, or call 413-477-6704, or email directorpaigelibrary@gmail.com, or check out the latest updates on www.paigelibrary.com and Facebook.com/paigelibraryhardwickma.

## National Night Out held Aug. 1

WARE – National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 1 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Grenville Park.

There will be equipment from Fire, Police and Department of Public Works, as well as games and giveaways for children and families. The Knights of Columbus' Hungry Squire Grill will be serving free hot-dogs and giving out school supplies for children.

## Chicken BBQ/pig roast tickets available

BELCHERTOWN – It's not too late to get tickets to the Swift River Sportsman's Club Chicken BBQ/Pig Roast happening on Saturday, Aug. 26.

Starting at noon and going through 6 p.m. at 350 Cold Spring Road, three different meal tickets will be offered: chicken BBQ, pig roast and a combination chicken BBQ/pig roast. Entertainment will be provided by the Time Trippers from 1-5 p.m.

For more information, including tickets, please call either Mike at 413-205-6778 or Ed at 508-981-7249.

## BACKYARD from page 4

One day, they saw the mother shove all her babies out of the nest.

### Wild turkeys

Recently, I saw a turkey dust bathing along the side of the road. An Oakham resident had one doing the same thing in her yard.

At first, she was concerned it was injured, but it did get up and leave.

Several people reported wild turkeys in their yard with youngsters. I saw one group on someone lawn recently; the poulters looked adorable.



Wild turkeys

This is especially important this year with all the heavy rain in preventing flooding of the nests.

### Massachusetts Audubon Society sighting

In Berkshire County, sightings reported to Massachusetts Audubon Society included a northern gos-

hawk and two hooded warblers in Great Barrington and a single hooded warbler at the Hopkins Memorial Forest in Williamstown. Other sightings were a least bittern at Richmond Marsh and merlins in Pittsfield and Lenox.

In Worcester County, sightings included a Brewster's warbler in Harvard, two black vultures soaring near the Hardwick Winery and five evening grosbeaks.

It is good to hear there are evening grosbeak sightings as many of the people at the bird talk at the Oakham Senior Center said they had not seen evening grosbeaks in some time.

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

### Loons

Most loon pairs hatch their young the first two weeks of July. Both Wachusett Reservoir and Quabbin Reservoir have nesting loons.

Floating nests not only provide suitable nesting sites, but they also rise and fall with the water level.

## STAFFING from page 1

work done," Parker said.

Parker suggested the Selectboard also look into hiring an accounts payable clerk in the future.

### Sewer update

Water Pollution Control Facilities Superintendent Scott Potter said the cannabis mill in Gilbertville is now tied into the town's sewer system.

He said the wastewater treatment plant took in 36,000 gallons of leachate from the landfill a few weeks ago. He said they've been getting four loads every two months for as long as he's been in his position.

Potter said the generators have also been serviced.

### Morss Scholarship update

Bill Cole shared information about the Morss Scholarship fund, which has been used in the past to award scholarships to students, ranging from \$500-\$1,000.

He said the \$20,000 principal is accruing interest, which currently totals \$1,465.

Cole said the town could accept applications to award the scholarship to deserving students by next year.

### Bylaw updates

Cole said the Planning Board is still drafting zoning bylaw amendments. He said they've also discussed enacting the Mullin Rule, which would allow certain board and committee members to miss one session of a hearing and

still be able to vote if certain criteria are met.

### Highway Department staffing

Selectboard Chair H. Robert Ruggles said the town needs to find a way to get more help for the Highway Department. The open position will be advertised in hopes of finding applicants.

Currently, there are three employees covering the Department, seven days a week.

### Election workers

The Selectboard appointed the following election workers through 2024: Joyce Power, Warden; Marilyn Shorrock, Clerk; Nancy Lemoine, Joanne O'Connell, Wendy Bolognesi, Gail Ashes and Frank Hanson, election workers.

## SCHOOL from page 1

The School Committee voted in favor of hiring French, pending contract negotiations.

### Budget update

Andy Paquette of TMS, Inc. said they are continuing to close out fiscal year 2023. He said the

unexpected maintenance costs have been covered, making the budget tighter, but still manageable.

### School calendar

Lovato said the Middle School block party will be held on Aug. 17 and the first day of school for the district is Aug. 24.

Kindergarteners will be starting on Aug. 30 and 31, depending on their last names.

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## WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS-CHILD FIND NOTICE

It is the responsibility of the Ware Public Schools to identify any child ages 3 through 21 who may have a disability who is either a resident of Ware or who attends a private school within the geographic boundaries of Ware. This also includes children who reside in Ware who are homeschooled, as well as children ages 3 through 21 who are not yet enrolled in school.

The Ware Public Schools is also responsible for the evaluation of those students to determine if they are eligible for special education or related services under federal and state law.

The Ware Public Schools is also committed to identifying children before their third birthday in order to provide early intervention services for three and four-year-olds with disabilities. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's development and would like to have your child screened, please contact the Ware Public Schools Office of Special Education.

If you suspect that your child may need an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education services, you may request an evaluation, at no cost, through the Ware Public Schools Office of Special Education. Please contact us at the following:

Department of Special Education  
P.O. Box 240  
Ware, MA 01082  
Phone: (413) 967-4271  
Email: astanton@ware.k12.ma.us

It is the policy of the Ware Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, military service, union activity or genetics in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, Chapter 622 of the Massachusetts General Laws, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, M.G.L. c. 71A and c. 76, s. 5.

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# community



K-9 Knox demonstrates how to apprehend a suspect.



The State Police had many vehicles displayed at Community Day, including this breast cancer awareness cruiser, dedicated to the memory of Trooper Tamar Buccì.

## Community Day highlighted STATE POLICE'S SPECIALTY UNITS

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – The State Police Academy hosted what is hoped to become an annual event last Wednesday, with the first ever Community Day.

On July 12, people had the opportunity to get an up close and personal look at the State Police's specialty units and the equipment they use, as well as meet with various Troopers as well as recruits attending the Academy.

Farmer Matt along with the Academy's commissary, Eures, provided free food to the hundreds of people who attended Community Day.

The Mounted Unit was there with horses, as well as the K-9 unit with a variety of dogs to demonstrate their skills.

Remy, an almost 7-year-old black Labrador Retriever, is an accelerant detecting K-9 with the Fire and Explosive Investigation Unit, assigned to the State Fire Marshal, along with her handler, Trooper Dan Riopel.

Riopel said Remy has a high work drive, and is food driven.

Remy has been in training since she was eight weeks old, raised by an inmate through the "Puppies Behind Bars" program.

She attended about six or seven fire scenes last month, searching for the use of an accelerant, which is about average, Riopel said. He added that the pair travels all around the country as Remy is a federal K-9.

Remy is one of 10 accelerant-detecting K-9s in the state.



Family and friends of State Police troopers enjoyed lunch in the shade.

"She's a regular dog at home," Riopel said.

K-9 Scout was also raised through the "Puppies Behind Bars" program and is trained in explosives detection, assigned to the Bomb Squad.

Scout, a yellow Labrador Retriever celebrated his 5th birthday in December and lives with Trooper John Ragosa and his other dogs.

While Scout is skilled in his ability to detect explosives, he's also a hide and seek pro, as demonstrated at Community Day, when

he quickly hid behind Ragosa when the Trooper covered his eyes.

Other K-9s can be trained to detect cadavers, find lost people or apprehend suspects.

K-9 Knox has received over 580 hours of training and originates from the Czech Republic, while K-9 Barry has received close to 1,000 hours and comes from Holland.

Central and western Europe are the breeding grounds of the some of the top U.S. K-9 breeds, including the Belgian Malinois; a breed that trails closely behind the

German Shepherd in K-9 use.

Trooper Nick D'Angelo said for K-9s like Barry and Knox, all of their "fun" is had on the job, and their home life is very calm, maybe even boring at times.

Community Day also offered people the chance to meet with their local law enforcement, as well as first responders, including the Hardwick-New Braintree Police Department, Hardwick Fire Department and West Brookfield Rescue Squad.



Members of the State Police's Mounted Unit were at the State Police Academy.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



Hardwick Fire Department, West Brookfield Rescue Squad and the Hardwick-New Braintree Police Department also participated in the State Police Academy's Community Day.



Mitchell Avellino, age 2 of Leicester, checks out "Roscoe" the State Police Bomb Squad's robotic dog.



K-9 Remy relaxes during the recent Community Day.



K-9 Knox has secured the suspect.

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# S.O.N.G.Stock 2023 takes the stage



Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally (S.O.N.G) is hosting a family friendly music festival at Brimfield Winery on Sunday, Aug. 27.

## Musical festival on Aug. 27 helps children in need

BRIMFIELD – Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally (S.O.N.G.) based in Brookfield and Ware is sponsoring a music festival at Brimfield Winery, 35 Main St., on Sunday, Aug. 27, from noon-6 p.m.

“S.O.N.G.Stock 2023” is a family friendly music festival to benefit children orphaned by the conflict in Ukraine and foster children in Massachusetts. This event features live music all day by Secret Sage, The Lisa Martin Band and Peter J. Newland & RadioX.

S.O.N.G. is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that has

been providing care and support to orphaned children since 1999. By attending this event, you’ll help S.O.N.G. make a much-needed positive impact on their lives.

In addition to the fantastic music, you can enjoy locally crafted wine from Brimfield Winery, locally crafted beer and cider. This event offers various fun family activities, including a pie-eating contest, sack races, face painting, other fun contests, and much, much more.

Don’t miss the 50/50 raffle and silent auction featuring Red Sox tickets, sports memorabilia, collectibles, original paintings, and many other treasures like two beautiful handmade quilts that have been donated by a very talented local artistic quilter.

Advance tickets are \$15 (\$20

day of the event) and children under 13 are free. Advance ticket purchases are automatically entered in drawings for special door prizes.

For tickets and more information, contact S.O.N.G. by emailing [info@supportingorphans.org](mailto:info@supportingorphans.org) or calling 413-813-8100.

Visit their website, [supportingorphans.org](http://supportingorphans.org), and follow them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for updates and to learn more about their Mission.

Lawn chairs, blankets, pop-up tents, and umbrellas are welcome. Parking is free.

Please, no outside beverages or food and no smoking around the stage or anywhere attendees are gathered. No fires.

Food will be available for purchase. Well-behaved, quiet pets are welcome.

# Quabbin Community Band presents ‘Bandstand Favorites’

BARRE – At this week’s concert on the Barre Common on Sunday, July 30, The Quabbin Community Band is going “interactive,” allowing the audience to choose which song the Band plays next.

The theme is “Bandstand Favorites” so there really is no wrong choice. They will be offering up the classic “Man of La Mancha”, the dramatic “Selections from Les Miserables”, and the heart-pounding “Mission Impossible” theme among others.

They’re also excited to perform Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “The King and I” with guest vocalist Mary Catherine (Reidy) Salo, reprising her role as guest singer with the Quabbin Community Band from when she was in high school. Salo played the bass clarinet in the band at their first concert on June 10, 1973, and sang with the band several times during the summers in between her studies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

As always, concerts on the Common start at 6 p.m. As a reminder, the following week’s concert on Sunday, Aug. 6 is “Homecoming On The Barre Bandstand” when we will be welcoming and recognizing alumni from the band’s early years.

The QCB encourages all to bring family and friends to this reunion celebrating 50 years of music and community on the Barre Common.

Margaret Reidy is the current musical director of QCB who encourages musicians of all ages to join the band at 6:30 p.m. each Monday night through Aug. 7 at the Barre Town Hall for weekly practice.



ABOVE: Sante Graziani (Barre) warms up his cornet with Sally Ruggles (Hardwick) and her French horn before a parade, circa 1975.



LEFT: Adrienne Nims (South Barre) on flute in 1976. She has been a professional musician in California for the past 30 years.

Be sure to follow the band on Facebook at Quabbin Community Band. In the case of inclement weather, concerts will move to the Barre Town Hall.

## ADA from page 1

Letendre said McGrath is the “heart and soul” of the ADA Commission.

“All of us have a reason for being here, but she has so much knowledge and passion,” Letendre said.

Ensuring that everyone has equal access is something Letendre feels strongly about.

“Just because I’m in an able body at this moment, doesn’t mean that I’ll always be in one,” she said. “My ability could be taken away at any time.”

Letendre said accessibility isn’t just for the senior population, it’s also for people of all ages, with mental disabilities as well as physical.

“The world that we live in isn’t made for all bodies,” she said.

Robidoux joined the ADA Commission because her son is on the autism spectrum, and she has family members with various disabilities.

She aims to make the town more sensory and disability friendly.

Reed, who works at the Young Men’s Library Association, said she was approached by McGrath to join the Commission and represent the Library. The Library has received accessibility improvements, including an elevator in 1999, but it could become more accessible, Reed said.

Reed said her first husband had muscular dystrophy and used a motorized wheelchair, and she is well aware of the challenges people in similar situations face.

Accessible housing is one of the greatest needs facing residents, McGrath said.

Many people are unaware of the resources available to them, that could help them live comfortably and safely in their home.

McGrath herself has used the Home Modification Loan Program to adapt her house to her needs, with no out-of-pocket cost. The program applies the cost of any improvements to the title of the house (similar to a mortgage), that only needs to be repaid if the house is sold or the title is transferred.

Those that are eligible for the HMLP will receive a 0% interest, deferred payment loan ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000. Landlords can also benefit from the program, and could be eligible for 3% amortizing loans.

Many people also don’t realize that dogs and miniature horses are the only approved service animals in the commonwealth.

Building Commissioner Anna Marques said she was impressed by the modifications made to McGrath’s home. She also agreed that accessible housing is one of the top concerns, as well as parking.

“There’s a lot we can improve on,” Marques said.

Letendre said another concern is polling in the Town Hall for elections, with very limited parking available downtown. Moving polling to the school, she said, would be better for the community as a whole.

The schools also face accessibility challenges, both with lack of adequate bathrooms in the elementary school to not having wheelchair spaces in the auditorium where town meetings are held.

Youth with disabilities often can’t find safe places to play, with the nearest fully accessible playground a 15-minute drive out of town. The town has recently improved accessibility at two playgrounds in town.

“If you’re a disabled kid, you don’t have a lot of options,” McGrath said.

In the past 50 years, two significant laws have been enacted to protect people with disabilities from discrimination; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Great strides have been made to ensure towns have accessibility, whether it be ensuring adequate handicapped parking, adding ramps and elevators to buildings with stair access, or installing automatic door openers to help open heavy doors.

Recently, the town received a 257-page accessibility plan, the result of a self-evaluation that all municipalities must perform.

The self-evaluation looks at the town’s policies, practices, programs, procedures, services, etc. (including communication) to determine compliance under the ADA.

According to the accessibility plan, “municipalities must make reasonable modifications to these policies, programs, services, etc. to avoid discrimination against individuals with disabilities unless such modification would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of that program or service.”

The ADA only requires local governments with 50 or more employees to take additional, specific measures, but smaller municipalities are also encouraged to do so.

The ADA Commission is setting their sights on “low hanging fruit;” working to fix the issues they are able to, while they work on meeting the bigger needs.

“It would be nice if Ware became known as an ADA compatible town,” McGrath said.

### How to get involved

The ADA Commission is also looking for motivated individuals to join and get involved.

Make sure to stop by the ADA

Commission’s table at National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 1 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Greenville Park and learn about its mission.

People can also call or text McGrath at 413-636-4103, email

[rmcgrath@townofware.com](mailto:rmcgrath@townofware.com), visit the website at [townofware.com/government/boards\\_and\\_committees/ada\\_commission.php](http://townofware.com/government/boards_and_committees/ada_commission.php), or stop by a meeting at the Town Hall or via Zoom.

The next regular meeting of the ADA Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m.

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# Cruisin' and country



Classic and vintage cars were on display for Cruise Night.



The Cruise Night featured a variety of vehicles from across the decades.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



Concertgoers explored emergency vehicles during Touch-a-Truck.

## Parks & Rec. wrap up concert series this Friday

WARREN – The Parks & Recreation Department's Concerts in the Park series will hold the final concert of the season, featuring The Alley Kings on Friday, July 28 from 6-8 p.m. in Dean Park, West Warren.

Moonlight Run Farm, LLC will also return with their petting zoo at this concert.

The Parks & Recreation still have more fun planned for the summer, with the annual fireworks at Quaboag Regional Middle High School, 284 Old West Brookfield Road, on Saturday, Sept. 9.

Musical entertainment will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the fireworks will go off at dark. Refreshments will be available to purchase, with the proceeds benefiting student groups at the High School.

The Parks & Recreation will also host a town wide tag sale on Sept. 9 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., rain or shine. Register by Sept. 1 to get your location on the map; the cost is \$10 per map location.

Maps will be sold for \$2 on the common starting at 8 a.m., the day of the tag sale.

People can register their location for the town wide tag sale online at [unipay-gold.unibank.com](https://unipay-gold.unibank.com) (search Warren Parks & Recreation) or mail checks payable to "Town of Warren/Parks & Rec" to Warren Parks & Rec, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083. If mailing a check, please also register at <https://forms.office.com/r/fyGawceS9T>.

For more information or notice of weather cancellations, follow Warren Parks Department on Facebook.



Children were able hop inside of some big rigs, and even blow the horns.

Down Right Country kept the beat going.

Down Right Country performed at Dean Park during the Parks & Recreation's Cruise Night and Touch-a-Truck event.

# SONGstock

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**We invite you to join us**  
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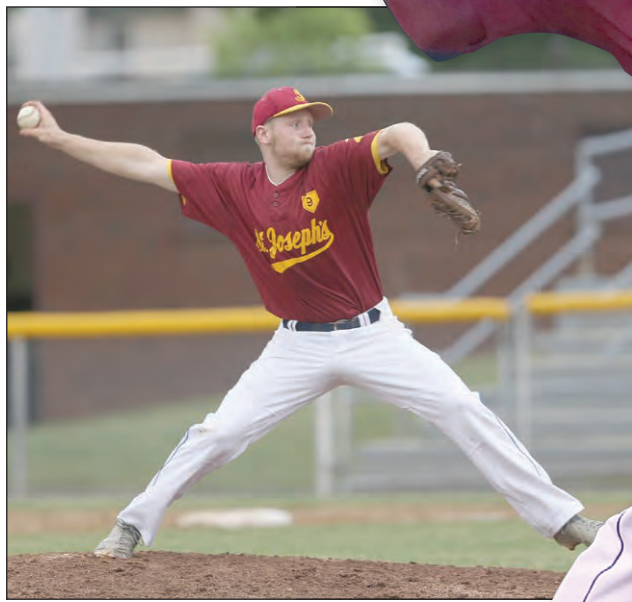
# SPORTS

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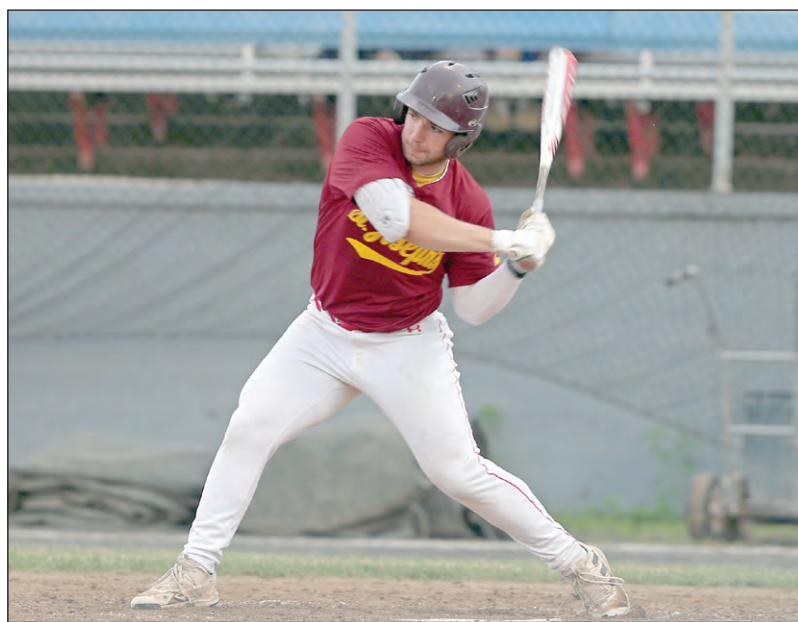
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Greg Vouros winds up for a long throw to first.



Pitcher Sam Schriber reaches back and fires to the plate.



A.J. Dillard swings and connects.



Ware's Devin Slattery slings a throw to first base.



Jackson Petrin slides back to first.

## St. Joe's begins playoff run

PALMER – It was down to the wire, but a tie thrown into 413ATC's record caused St. Joseph's Saints to receive the No. 4 seed in the Tri-County Baseball League playoffs. As a result, the Saints were placed in the 4-5 matchup with DiFranco Realty. St. Joseph's finished the regular season last week with an 8-10 overall record, and 16 points. If St. Joe's gets by DiFranco in the best-of-three-series, they would face top-seeded and reigning, defending champion PeoplesBank in the league's semifinals.



Guard Ricky Janoure takes advantage of his quickness and ball-handling ability to beat his defender on a drive to the basket.

## Cagers lose two on final possessions

AUBURN – The young and hard-working Quabbin Cagers were denied victory in both games in the final seconds and on the last possessions. There are no do-overs but for the team coached by Luke Brownell and Tim Hay, one could come to the conclusion that experience

is what you get when you don't get what you want. Bay Path downed the Quabbinians 36-33 in a game with many lead changes and with the locals unable to hold on to a 22-18 halftime lead.

Kyle Clark scored nine points followed by Chris Prunesti-Leveille with seven points. Once again, the team placed six players in the scoring book as the offensive continues to improve with a balanced effort.

Jaxon Warburton contributed five points while teammates Jacoby Dilling, Nick Whitelaw and Ricky Janoure all contributed 4 points each.

It was a corner three-pointer that broke the 33-33 tie in the final seconds by Bay Path that handed the cagers the loss in a game that left the team disappointed but not discouraged.

It may have been a poor performance from the free throw line that made this game close and eventually doomed the Quabbinians as they shot 3-for-10 from the charity stripe.

Committing 15 turnovers, which has been an improvement over the course of the summer season, kept the cagers in the game and although the ball-handling and passing has been getting better both Hay and Brownell are emphasizing taking care of the basketball.

The team did exactly that in turning the ball over only six times in an exciting game against host team Auburn only to be edged on the last possession again when they couldn't get a shot off to tie or win in regulation.

Kyle Clark continues to lead the team in scoring as the 6'4 junior scored sixteen points including two key offensive put-backs from assaulting the offensive boards which he is beginning to dominate. Ricky Janoure was also in double fig-

Please see **CAGERS**, page 10



Chris Prunesti-Leveille rises above two defenders for a pull-up jump shot in summer league basketball action.

## Playoff berths in Valley Wheel come down to final week

WILBRAHAM – The Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, which plays its games throughout Western Massachusetts and features adult players from all over the region, has lived up to its reputation for having a league full of parity.

As a result, this final week will be the determining factor when it comes to deciding which teams receive the four playoff spots the league offers.

Following the games of July 9, five of the league's six teams were in a tie for first place with identical 7-5 records.

The games of July 16 were rained out, pushing the league to finish the final three games of the regular season within an eight-day period.

Weeks 14 and 15 were scheduled to be played on July 23 and 30, respectively, while the Week 13 matchups were scheduled in between, July 26 and 27.

The Week 14 games found the Athletics, Tigers, and Cubs coming away with wins. That left those three games with 8-5 records while the Angels and Twins sat at 7-6, both one game out of the first-place tie.

Midweek matchups included the Angels-Orioles, Cubs-Athletics, and Tigers-Twins, which could further complicate the standing heading into Sunday's final games.

According to the league commissioner, Jim Nason, the first tiebreaker for determining who makes the playoffs will be head-to-head records. Each team plays their opponents three times making a definitive decision if there is a tie between two teams. But in the event of a three-way tie, the next tiebreaker is run differential, which could be used to seed teams as well in the event of a three-way tie for first place.

This weekend, the final matchups are Twins-Angels, Cubs-Orioles, and Tigers-Athletics. Semifinals are scheduled for Aug. 6 at Spec Pond in Wilbraham with game times of 2:30 and 6 p.m. The league championship game is set for Sunday, Aug. 13 at 3 p.m. at Spec Pond.

## Hall takes win in Granite State series

HERMON, ME – The Granite State Pro Stock Series returned to "Vacationland" for the first time since 2021 with Saturday night's Go FAS Racing 100 at Speedway 95. And against a tough field, Garrett Hall captured his second career GSPSS win in the series' debut at the Hermon, Maine speedplant.

Seventeen drivers, all but one from the state of Maine, turned out for the GSPSS' rain-delayed debut at the historic oval just outside Bangor. Wiscasset Speedway regular Josh St. Clair topped the charts in time trials, splitting the heats with home-track ace Mike Hopkins.

But in race trim, it was Hall who prevailed. With reigning GSPSS champion Joey Doiron in the pits, Hall worked the inside line around the third-mile oval en route to victory.

Hall won in his GSPSS debut in 2017, claiming the series' only trip to Oxford Plains Speedway. With Saturday's win, the Scarborough native is the first series driver to win twice in the Pine Tree State.

Hopkins, a road warrior with two wins in the Southeast earlier this season, came up short of victory in his second-ever GSPSS appearance, finishing second at his



Garrett Hall was the winner up in Maine last Saturday.

Submitted photo

hometown track. St. Clair held on for third in his series debut.

Points leader Travis Benjamin extended his advantage with a fourth-place finish, while Ben Ashline rounded out the top five.

Saturday's GSPSS showdown capped off a night of racing that included Speedway 95's local classes. Dalaney

Please see **SERIES**, page 10

## Pioneers take season finale, make playoffs

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The atmosphere at Lusitano Stadium is always a lot more festive whenever the Western Mass. Pioneers celebrates a victory.

The Pioneers faithful supporters were in no hurry to head home following the July 15 5-1 win over AC Connecticut in the regular season finale.

The Pioneers 10th win locked up sole possession of second place in the USL-2 Northeast Division. They also clinched a playoff berth for the fourth time since 2019. The 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

"I think making the playoffs is a little more special for us this year," said Connor Hicks, who's one of the Pioneers' veteran players. "Our backs were against the wall a couple of weeks ago, but we were able to make the playoffs again."

Following a 2-1 home loss against rival Seacoast United on June 23, the



Jordan Koduah makes a pass.



Tomas Duben makes his way toward the goal.

Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10



# sports

## West beats East in NECBL All-Star Game

LYNN - The West Division defeated the East Division 5-1 in the 2023 NECBL All-Star Game, presented by Metro Credit Union, behind eight scoreless innings thrown by nine different pitchers.

Catcher Kevin Bruggeman (Upper Valley, C, Hofstra) won the 2023 All-Star Game MVP after going 2-for-2 on the night with two hits including a two-out two-run single with the bases loaded in the fourth inning. Bruggeman was one of two West All-Stars with multi-hit performances, joined by Anthony Livermore (Keene, 3B, Northwestern).

The West Division struck first with a leadoff single by T.J. Williams (Vermont, OF, Notre Dame) on a full count in the top of the first inning. Williams stole second base and later scored from second on an RBI single by Greg Bozzo (Keene, C, Northeastern). East Division starter Santhosh Gottam (Newport, RHP, Brown) limited the damage to one run to keep the game close through the first inning.

Garrett Howe (Ocean State, 2B,

Samford) hit a leadoff double with a blooper to left field for the East Division. Howe attempted to steal third, but was caught with a perfect throw by the catcher Greg Bozzo (Northeastern). West Division starter Nolan Sparks (Vermont, RHP, Rochester) escaped a first inning jam with a diving stop by Kyle Hannon (North Adams, 3B, Penn State) at third base to leave two runners stranded for the East Division.

Alex Logusch (Ocean State, RHP, Winthrop) allowed three walks to load the bases in the fourth and a Ryan Cesarini (Upper Valley, DH, St. Joseph's) sacrifice fly scored Javon Hernandez (Danbury, SS, Auburn) to start the inning.

The West continued its rally when Williams reached base for a third time after his second hit-by-pitch to load the bases once again with two outs. Bruggeman's two-run single drove in Nighthawks teammate Adarius Myers (Upper Valley, OF, Louisiana Tech) along with Brandon Butterworth (Vermont, 2B, NC State) to give

the West a commanding 4-0 lead.

Brent Francisco (Bristol, RHP, East Stroudsburg) recorded the first 1-2-3 inning of the evening after retiring three straight batters in the fifth inning, including strikeouts of Anthony DePino (Mystic, 3B, URI) and Mike Bello (Mystic, OF, Auburn).

Bruggeman reached base for a second time with a single to right field in the sixth inning, and later advanced to second on a Kyle Hannon two-out walk. Wyatt Lunsford-Shenkman (Ocean State, RHP, East Carolina) struck out the league's second-leading home run hitter Samuel Tackett (North Adams, OF, Virginia Tech) to escape the jam with a scoreless frame to keep the East within four.

Michael Weidinger (Valley, LHP, William & Mary) retired the side in the sixth inning, including two fly outs and a strikeout of Nolan Nawrocki (Martha's Vineyard, SS, Clemson) to continue a dominant pitching performance by the West Division.

In the bottom half of the seventh inning, Anthony Livermore

(Keene, 3B, Northwestern) showcased his speed with a diving attempt at first base to earn an infield single in his first plate appearance of the game. Livermore went on to steal second and third base before scoring on three straight walks allowed by East pitcher Jay Allmer (Mystic, RHP, Seton Hall), the league's leader in saves.

The East Division cut into the lead with a solo home run by Jake Berger (North Shore, 3B, Harvard) in the bottom of the eighth. Fellow Navigator Stan DeMartinis III (North Shore, OF, Bentley) followed with a single to left, but Week 2 Pitcher of the Week George Viebrock III (Danbury, LHP, Denison) retired the next three batters to maintain a 5-1 lead for the West heading into the ninth.

West Division Fan Vote winner Luis Mislá (Upper Valley, LHP, SUNY Cortland) split the ninth inning with 2023 Home Run Derby champion and two-way player Anthony Steele (Danbury, LHP, Penn State) to seal a dominant 5-1 victory for the West Division.

### PIONEERS from page 9

Pioneers (10-1-3) closed out the regular season with five consecutive victories.

"After we lost to Seacoast, most people thought we wouldn't be making the playoffs this year," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "There was a lot of pressure on us to win every match, but boys worked very hard. It's not very easy to qualify for the playoffs in this league."

The Pioneers, who'll begin their postseason journey this weekend, have posted an impressive 42-6-8 regular season record since the start of the 2019 campaign.

"We've changed a lot of players since 2019," Molinari said. "When the new players join us, they always play very hard, and they also have a good attitude. It has been an outstanding season so far."

Hicks, who's from Monson, and Khalid Rose are the only remaining players from the 2019 playoff team.

Hicks, who has been a defender for most of his Pioneers career, was an outside midfielder against AC Connecticut (4-7-3). He had a couple shots on goal, but has never scored a goal while wearing a Pioneers uniform.

"I did score a goal in my first game with the Pioneers four years ago, but it was disallowed because of offsides," said Hicks, who's planning to play for the Pioneers in 2024. "I was trying to score a goal in tonight's game."

Alec Hughes, who's a first-year member of the Western Mass. Pioneers, led the way offensively with two goals and a pair of assists.

"We really needed to win tonight's game to make the playoffs," Hughes said. "It has been a lot of fun playing for this soccer team this summer."

The home team, who scored five goals in a home match for the first time since a preseason friendly with KO Elites FC, took a 1-0 lead six minutes into the opening half.

The scoring play began with Gabriel Pacheco sending a pass from the left side of the box to Tomas Duben, who tapped the ball over the goal-line past AC Connecticut goalie Clayton Knibbs.

Less than ten minutes later, Duben was credited with the assist as Hughes fired a shot into the left corner for his first goal of the match.

Duben and Hughes hooked up again during the 32nd minute. A tap in by Hughes increased the Pioneers lead to 3-0, which was the half-time score.

"I always try to put myself in the right spot and let my teammates find me," Hughes said.



Alec Hughes shoots and scores for the Pioneers.



Gabriel Pacheco sends a free kick away.



"I just want to do anything to help my team win."

The Pioneers outshot AC Connecticut, 15-1, during the first 45 minutes of the match.

Any thoughts the AC Connecticut players might've had of making a second half comeback didn't last very long.

A goal by Lucio Berron, which was assisted by Hughes in the 58th minute, gave the Pioneers a commanding 4-0 advantage.

AC Connecticut, who also lost the first meeting to the Pioneers, 2-1, received an early Christmas gift following an own goal in the 73rd minute.

A couple of minutes later, Jordan Koduah scored the Pioneers final goal, which was assisted by Hughes.

It was a perfect way to wrap up the regular season for the Pioneers players and their supporters.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Connor Hicks, of Monson, attempts to run down the ball.

## Sports nutrition tips from Boston Children's Hospital

What should an athlete eat to prepare for a big event? Read on for sound tips from the Sports Medicine Division.

### Carbs are your friend and other game-day nutrition advice

Like a car, your body needs fuel to run. These foods help you rev up for top performance on game day:

- Carbohydrates (pasta, fruit, bread, oatmeal, sugar) provide fast energy. Without carbs, an athlete is likely to hit a wall of sluggishness.
- Fat (nuts, nut butters, olive oil, avocados, salmon or tuna) provides longer-lasting energy. Fats and carbs work together to fuel performance.
- Protein (chicken, beef, eggs, dairy) builds muscle and repairs tissues. Protein after a practice or game is essential to building and maintaining muscle strength.

### Pre-game fueling

Three to four hours before a practice or game, an ideal pre-game meal includes mainly carbs with some protein and fat.

- peanut butter toast with a banana
- granola bar
- yogurt and fruit
- Closer to game or practice time, snacks or meals should decrease in volume and be mostly carbs.
- oatmeal
- sports drinks

### Post-game recovery

A snack or meal with both protein and carbohydrates within 30 to 45 minutes after a game helps muscles recover more rapidly.

- chocolate milk
- banana and peanut butter or almond butter
- graham crackers with peanut butter or almond butter
- yogurt with granola
- turkey sandwich

Foods that work for your teammates might not work for you. Be sure to try out different foods before and after practice and see how they make you feel. When game day rolls around, you'll know what fuel your body thrives on.

Stay tuned for more news and injury-prevention tips from Boston Children's Hospital.

## Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

### CAGERS from page 9

ures with ten points and contributed three loose ball possessions as they 5'8 guards relies on his quickness and savvy. Freshman Jacoby Dilling scored a summer high seven points and added five loose ball recoveries. Dilling and Janoure seem to be always around the basketball taking advantage of their speed and anticipation.

In Fitchburg League action, the younger Cagers were also downed on the final possession of the game as South Lancaster Academy made a free throw to break a 37-37 tie with less than one second remaining on the game clock. A final desperation shot by Matt Wade fell short and the squad, coach by Dawn Sulmasy, was on the short end of a 38-37

bitter loss.

Coach John Leonard will be at Quabbin this Thursday, July 27, for two sessions conducting his advanced skill and development clinic. Those interested in improving their skills and knowledge while concentrating of the fundamentals of the game must sign up with a summer league coach.

Leonard is a former head coach at the collegiate level and was drafted by the NBA New York Knickerbockers soon after graduating Manhattan University as the all-time leading scorer. His ability to teach advanced offensive skills and concepts is well-known and the clinician has been to Quabbin several times to work with those interested.

### SERIES from page 9

Dunn came out on top in the 25-lap Cage Runner feature. Scott Modery took the checkers in the Street Stocks, and Kris Foss won the evening's Sport 4 feature.

The next race for the Granite State Pro Stock Series is a return to Riverside Speedway on Saturday, August 12, where Travis Benjamin will try to back up his June performance with another win at "Grovetona." Details on the fifth race of the GSPSS' twelfth season will be released shortly.

For more information on the Granite State Pro Stock Series, visit www.gspss.net or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

### RESULTS Go FAS Racing 100, July 22, 2023

1. (94) Garrett Hall
2. (15ME) Mike Hopkins
3. (14) Josh St. Clair
4. (7B) Travis Benjamin
5. (99) Ben Ashline
6. (32) Brandon Barker
7. (75) Gary Smith
8. (32ME) Nick Jenkins
9. (28R) JR Robinson
10. (7CT) Cory Casagrande
11. (56) Evan Beaulieu
12. (21C) Shane Clark
13. (81) Bryan Lancaster
14. (28) James Doucette
15. (15) Trevor Krouse
16. (21ME) David Oliver
17. (01) Jet Decker

## Baystate Health holding blood drive next week

PALMER — The Baystate Health Blood Donation team will host a blood drive 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2, at Baystate Wing Hospital.

According to a news release from the hospital, blood drives will be held every other month on Wednesdays throughout the year at Baystate Wing, including on Oct. 4 and Dec. 6.

"When you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift remains in our local communities," Nicole VanZandt, supervisor, BRL Blood Donor Services, said.

"Please help us to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available by donating blood with the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program."

Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation and refreshments, the release states.

To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds; have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks.

In appreciation, all eligible donors will receive a \$10 gift card or a Big E ticket while supplies last.

There is a constant need for blood donations, which can be lifesaving for many people facing health conditions or problems that might require a transfusion, according to Baystate Health. Some of these reasons may include cancer, trauma or injuries, operations, blood disorders, pregnancy and birth.

For more information or to book an appointment to donate blood, call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Be sure to note Baystate Wing Hospital as the location you would like to make your donation when you make your appointment.

## Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary awards scholarships

PALMER — The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary recently presented \$3,500 in scholarships to area high school students pursuing careers in healthcare.

Each year the scholarships are financed by the hard work and dedicated fundraising efforts of its members.

The Auxiliary awarded scholarships to seniors graduating from Belchertown, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder, Minnechaug, and Ware High schools who are pursuing higher education in the healthcare field. The students were

chosen based on their academic excellence, volunteer efforts and related community service, work experience, and dedication to their goals.

The scholarship award recipients are: Madeline Jaszek from Belchertown High School, Kaylee Lyman from Ludlow High School, Nikolas Supczak from Minnechaug Regional High School, Maggie Ronaldson from Monson High School, Colton Santarelli from Palmer High School, Morgan Austin from Pathfinder Regional High School,

and Callie Orszulak from Ware High School.

"Our Auxiliaries work hard each year to raise funds for scholarships because it is very important to them to support our future healthcare professionals," said Ursula St. Amand, chair of the scholarship committee. "We are extremely proud of these students and grateful to the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary members for their continued dedication to our hospital and our communities."

For over 75 years, the Auxiliary has been actively supporting

Baystate Wing Hospital through its sponsorship of special events and management of the gift shop. This diverse group of women and men includes teachers, nurses, and business owners, both young and retirees, who live in many different communities and are united by a shared commitment to support the mission of the hospital.

"We are thankful to the Auxiliary members for their continued commitment and support," said Teresa Grove, philanthropy officer for Baystate Health's Eastern Region.

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# Remembering Mike Dymon

Family and friends honor Quabbin educator and coach

By Paula Quimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – Family, friends and former high school students and athletes came together recently to remember a man whose drive and determination forever shaped their lives.

Joseph Michael “Mike” Dymon of Amherst, a longtime educator, athletic director and coach at Quabbin Regional High School, died on May 23 at the age of 84.

Born in Ware in 1939, Dymon attend Barre High School, earning the title of Most Valuable Player for basketball and baseball. He went on to earn degrees from Boston University before taking his first teaching job at East Corinth Academy in Maine.

In the mid-1960s, Dymon became athletic director for Wilmington High School in Vermont, as well as coach of the basketball and baseball teams. His baseball team won the first and only state championship ever won by Wilmington High School.

Dymon then returned to Barre to dedicate the rest of his career to the students and athletes at the newly created Quabbin Regional High School, where he stayed from 1967 until his retirement in 1994.

Dymon was inducted into the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Quabbin Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006.

Baseball was Dymon’s top sport, his daughter Rachel said, and she remembered attending games as a child.

“My grandfather used to change the scoreboard during the games,” she said. “Every so often I’d get to change the numbers.”

A petition was signed by at least 26 people in attendance at the remembrance held at Barre Post 2 American Legion recently, seeking to dedicate Quabbin’s baseball field in Dymon’s memory.

“I grew up on baseball,” Rachel said. “It’s really so meaningful.”

While many remember Dymon for being an inspiring coach, his role as a husband, father and grandfather is where he truly set records.

“He made my childhood magical,” Rachel said. “He just had an enthusiasm for everything he did... I’m really going to miss him.”

Fellow Quabbin coach and educator Dennis Dextradeur acted as master of ceremonies at the remembrance, listing Dymon’s many impressive accomplishments.

One of the most significant



Former athletes coached by the late Joseph Michael “Mike” Dymon gathered at Barre Post 2 American Legion to remember their mentor.



Rayne shared his favorite memories of his grandfather with the help of Dennis Dextradeur.



Mike Dymon’s cherished Golden Rake Award. Dymon was known to bring a rake and shovel to all baseball games.



Mike Richard shared memories of his coach and colleague.



Rachel Dymon said her father made her childhood “magical.”



Olen Muir talked about car rides with his coach

being leading the 1972-1973 basketball team to an undefeated Wachusett League championship.

Although Dextradeur didn’t play on Dymon’s championship team, he went on to coach varsity basketball and led his own team to victory 22 years later.

“That meant a lot to me and to Mike, it made a major impact on

my coaching career,” Dextradeur said.

Dextradeur first met Dymon in 1981, when he was 22 years old and just out of college.

Dextradeur was surprised when Quabbin’s administrators named him as varsity coach at the start of his career, with Dymon as the

junior varsity coach. But years later he realized it was so Dymon could continue to mentor him, while letting him get a handle on coaching.

“They knew I would stumble in that position, but Mike Dymon wouldn’t let me fall,” he said. “I always think of that when I work with younger coaches...don’t let



Photos, games balls and newspaper clippings highlighted Mike Dymon’s coaching career.

them fall.”

Still coaching after more than 40 years, Dextradeur credits Dymon for his fulfilling career.

“I had one of the most rewarding experiences working under Mike,” he said. “It’s a debt of gratitude.”

Several former athletes that Dymon coached traveled from across the country to share their memories, including Cliff Duncan, an alumnus of Wilmington High School.

“Mike had a gift that transcended...he was a boundless man of energy,” Duncan said.

Duncan said Dymon had the ability to look at each athlete as an individual, offering them the personalized support they needed to succeed.

“He would push you out of your comfort zone...he read you like a map,” he said.

Dymon would also find ways to get things his students needed, including new glass backboards to replace the school’s old tin ones.

Duncan said the school’s principal said the backboards could only be replaced over his “dead body,” but Dymon found a loophole when the principal was admitted to the hospital and out of the school for a period of time. Through fundraising and his own money, Dymon replaced those backboards.

Like Dextradeur, Duncan also went on to become a coach.

“It made me realize that this is important,” Duncan said. “Mike always said, ‘baseball emulates life more than any other sport.’”

Dennis “The Bear” Davis said he injured his knee going into his senior year of high school, and his doctor recommended surgery.

This would have ended his career, but Dymon pushed for a second opinion. It turned out that the injury was just a sprain and Davis was able to return to the court to play his final year of high school basketball.

He went on to become the first Quabbin Regional High School student to score 1,000 points.

Davis thanked Rachel and her mother Ute for supporting Dymon’s coaching career.

“Thank you for sharing Mike over all these years,” Davis said.

Olen Muir remembered how Dymon would bring rakes and shovels to all baseball games, even earning the “Golden Rake” award.

Muir and Dymon were both catchers, and would spend many car rides just talking baseball.

“He loved to teach baseball,” Muir said of his coach.

Al Gray remembers the “grueling” conditioning Dymon put his athletes through, and how it was all worth it.

Gray kept in touch with Dymon, who always wanted to know how he and his family were doing.

“I was one of hundreds of players that he had, and he took the time,” Gray said.

Mike Richard said Dymon’s memory was “incredible,” and he could remember any stats. However, he was not so good at remembering first names of his female colleagues and would often refer to them as “Missy.”

“The only women in his life were Ute and Rachel,” Richard said.

Tommy Gareau talked about a faster-than-expected drive to Groton for a game with Dymon, joking that he must have dreamed of being a NASCAR driver outside of coaching. During this time, he “met the man,” not just the coach or teacher.

In addition to being a coach, Dymon was also an avid outdoorsman, hiking parts of the Appalachian Trail with his daughter and traveling the world with his wife Ute.

“Mike’s unwavering passion for athletics and the great outdoors was infectious,” Dextradeur said.

Dymon’s family asked that donations be made in his memory to the Quabbin Alumni Field Press Box Fund, c/o Quabbin Regional School District, 872 South St., Barre, MA 01005.

## HCC STEM scholarship deadline is Aug. 1

HOLYOKE — Students enrolled full time in chemistry, biology, engineering, mathematics, physics or other STEM fields at Holyoke Community College have until Tuesday, Aug. 1, to apply for a National Science Foundation scholarship of up to \$10,000 a year.

Through HCC, the National Science Foundation Scholarship offers on average \$6,500 per year to qualified full-time students and prorated amounts for part-time students.

New and current HCC students are encouraged to apply. The application deadline for the fall 2023 semester is Aug. 1. Scholarship awardees will be notified by Aug. 20.

Students chosen for the NSF scholarship become members of HCC’s STEM scholars 2.0 Program, also known as STEM Cohorts for Research & Engagement.

STEM scholars are expected to maintain enrollment in a STEM program, be in good academic standing, complete an associate degree at HCC, and/or transfer to an accredited STEM degree program at a four-year institution. The scholarships are renewable every year as long as students continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

Beside the financial awards, STEM Scholars become part of a learning community that fosters a sense of belonging and academic success, and includes mentoring, research, and honors experiences, community service, and internships.

The application and eligibility guidelines can be viewed at [hcc.edu/stem-scholarship](http://hcc.edu/stem-scholarship).

STEM disciplines include biological sciences, physical sciences, math, computer and information services, geosciences, and engineering.

The program is led by HCC math professor Ileana Vasu, coordinator of the STEM Scholars program. She can be reached by emailing [ivasu@hcc.edu](mailto:ivasu@hcc.edu) or calling 413-552-2438.

## Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 13, 2023.

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.

## Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_



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or email\* them to: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)  
\*Be sure to indicate “Autumn Event” in the subject line of your email.



# public safety

## Ware Police Log

During the week of July 18-21, the Ware Police Department responded to 15 miscellaneous calls, 33 administrative calls, six traffic violations, 11 emergency 911 calls, nine animal calls, six harassments, two frauds/deceptions, one theft/larceny, one damage/vandalism, four motor vehicle accidents, four assist other agencies, one trespass and 10 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

**Tuesday, July 18**  
10:35 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Belchertown Road, Advised  
11:48 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Eddy Street, Services Rendered  
8:01 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised

**Wednesday, July 19**  
5:31 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, High Street, Investigated  
7:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
9:37 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Services Rendered  
10:19 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Elm Street, Investigated  
Summons: Charlie M. Ricko, 44, Roxbury  
License Revoked as HTO, Operate Motor Vehicle With

(Criminal)  
11:06 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Church Street, Advised  
10 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Homecrest Avenue, Assist Given

**Thursday, July 20**  
1:10 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Street, Assist Given  
6:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
6:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Criminal Complaint  
Summons: Rodrigo Rodriguez, 46, Ware  
Registration Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Uninsured Motor Vehicle  
8:32 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered  
2:25 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered  
2:34 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, Church Street, Report Made  
3:23 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised  
4:08 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised  
5:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Cottage Street, Advised  
Arrest: Timothy Flores, 19, Ware

Assault and Battery with Dangerous Weapon (Knife), Serious Bodily Injury; Dangerous Weapon, Carry  
6:10 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Ross Avenue, Investigated

**Friday, July 21**  
4:30 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Coffey Hill Road, Dispatch Handled  
9:38 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised  
4:56 p.m. Drugs, Monson Turnpike Road, Investigated  
6:39 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Main Street, Dispatch Handled  
6:47 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Main Street, Report Made  
8:28 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Assist Given  
9:53 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Main Street, Report Made  
10:22 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Main Street, Arrest Made  
Arrest: Patrick J. Krol Jr., 23, Ware  
OUI-Liquor or .08%, 2nd Offense; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle  
10:30 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Hillside Village, Services Rendered

## Warren Police Log

During the week of July 9-16, the Warren Police Department responded to 222 building/property checks, 96 community policing, 14 traffic enforcements, seven emergency 911 calls, one fraud/forgery, two motor vehicle accidents, one harassment, one prowler/trespasser, two larcenies/threats, 13 burglaries, one complaint, two animal calls and 39 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

**Sunday, July 9**  
2:02 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
4:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Columbus Avenue, Written Warning

**Monday, July 10**  
1:59 a.m. Diabetic, Quabog Street, Transported to Hospital  
11:10 a.m. Fraud/Forgery, Moore Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party  
9:37 p.m. Officer Wanted, Old West Warren Road, Report Filed

**Tuesday, July 11**  
6:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Citation Issued  
Summons: Daniel J. Jordan Jr., 56, Warren  
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle  
10:52 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Mechanic Street, No Fire Service Necessary  
2:40 p.m. Lethargic, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital  
5:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Officer Advised  
6:12 p.m. Officer Wanted, Comins Pond Road, Report Filed

**Wednesday, July 12**  
10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire, Southbridge Road, Report Filed  
12:50 p.m. Harassment, Comins Pond Road, Report Filed  
11:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

**Thursday, July 13**  
3:03 p.m. Prowler/Trespasser,

Mechanic Street, Officer Took Call  
4:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Report Filed  
6:22 p.m. Officer Wanted, Winthrop Terrace, Report Filed  
10:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Criminal Complaint  
Summons: Keith E. Callahan, 40, West Warren  
Speeding; Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, License Restriction; License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With

**Friday, July 14**  
4:21 a.m. Larceny/Theft, Presidential Circle, Report Filed  
6:20 a.m. Burglary, Constitution Avenue, Information Given  
6:33 a.m. Larceny/Theft, Keys Road, Information Given  
7:16 a.m. Burglary, Keys Road, Investigated  
7:22 a.m. Burglary, Keys Road, Investigated  
8:01 a.m. Burglary, Keys Road, Report Filed  
8:06 a.m. Burglary, Keys Road, Report Filed  
8:16 a.m. Burglary, Bemis Road, Services Rendered  
9:25 a.m. Burglary, Bemis Road, Report Filed  
9:52 a.m. Burglary, Bemis Road, Report Filed  
10:15 a.m. Burglary, Keys Road, Report Filed  
10:32 a.m. Burglary, Keys Road, Report Filed  
12:41 p.m. Burglary, Southbridge Road, Report Filed  
1:07 p.m. Burglary, Bemis Road, Report Filed  
3:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
5:02 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Pine Street, Report Filed  
5:13 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Winthrop Terrace, Report Filed  
6:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Report Filed  
7:21 p.m. Burglary, Keys Road, Report Filed

**Saturday, July 22**  
1:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bemis Road, Citation Issued  
4:14 p.m. Officer Wanted,

*Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.*

Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
5:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Quabog Street, Citation Issued  
5:41 p.m. Complaint, Milton O. Fountain Way, Officer Spoke to Party  
5:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
7:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning  
7:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
7:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
8:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
9:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Criminal Complaint  
Summons: Bismark Abban, 26, Warren  
Number Plate Violation; Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; Name/Address Change, Failure to Notify RMV of  
9:53 p.m. Gunshots, Underwood Road, Negative Contact  
10:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Warren Road, Written Warning  
10:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
10:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
10:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
10:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of July 17-24, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 58 building/property checks, 31 directed/area patrols, three traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, eight radar assignments, five citizen assists, one complaint, two assist other agencies, one safety hazard, two vandalisms, one threat, one harassment, one motor vehicle investigation, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and 10 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, July 17**  
1:30 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road,

Transported to Hospital  
2:36 p.m. Vandalism, Off Prospect Street, Services Rendered  
4:25 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed

**Tuesday, July 18**  
8:50 a.m. Harassment, Barre Road, Officer Handled  
9:36 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Church Street, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, July 19**  
8:40 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered  
3:53 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Muddy Brook Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

**Thursday, July 20**  
8:59 a.m. Assist Other Agency, High Street, Dispatch Handled  
9:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, Lyman Road, Spoken To

**Friday, July 21**  
8:29 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital  
9:40 a.m. Assist Citizen, Greenwich Road, Spoken To  
6:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued  
6:48 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Officer Handled

# Local legislators advocate for arts tourism bill across state

By Nick Boonstra  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – State Sen. Jake Oliveira and state Rep. Pat Duffy held a press conference at the Polish Center for Learning and Discovery in support of a bill that would help to promote cultural tourism in western Massachusetts and across the state.

The bill, which was drafted in collaboration with the arts advocacy organization MASSCreative, would establish a grant program focused on boosting underrepresented regions and voices in Massachusetts' creative economy.

Emily Ruddock, Executive Director of MASSCreative, explained at the press conference on July 11 that the proposed bill would create a grant fund, overseen by the Office of Travel and Tourism, that eligible arts organizations would be able to use toward their marketing efforts.

Funds would be distributed with an emphasis on boosting regions and voices that are often left underrepresented in Massachusetts cultural tourism, an industry that MASSCreative reports brought in \$10 billion in 2020 alone.

Oliveira, who represents the Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester District on Beacon Hill, highlighted the significance of this bill to the western part of the state.

"One out of six jobs is tied to the creative economy here in western Massachusetts," he stated, emphasizing the importance of having a fund like this to promote the many excellent events the industry has to offer.

Oliveira also made clear that representatives from western Massachusetts are the ones pushing hardest for this bill's passage.

"This is a Western Mass-led bill," he affirmed, adding that the joint committee that will first consider the bill is primarily led by legislators from the region.

Duffy, whose 5th Hampden District is largely coextensive with the city of Holyoke, touched on a theme that came up multiple times during the event: bouncing back from the pandemic with purpose and intent.

"The pandemic really was an opportunity, as we're rebuilding, to be purposeful about how we're rebuilding," she said, cautioning against "leaving gold behind" in the rich cultural resources available in the area moving forward.



Turley Photos by Nick Boonstra  
State Sen. Jake Oliveira and state Rep. Pat Duffy led a press conference about a bill that would help promote cultural tourism.

Michelle Murphy, Vice President of Development and Marketing at the Springfield Museums, echoed this sentiment through the lens of public interest in cultural tourism now that pandemic restrictions have loosened.

Murphy stated that people are demonstrably "relishing perhaps more than ever the opportunities to go in person to places and to experience art and culture and each other in community."

She summarized this point succinctly: "I am here to say that we are back."

Murphy's position as an arts executive also gave her a unique perspective on the importance of marketing to the cultural tourism industry, pointing out that many of Springfield's most interesting and culturally diverse exhibits would not have been possible without proper marketing.

"Unless people know what we have, they can't appreciate, experience, and support us," she said.

Chicopee Mayor John L. Vieau was also in attendance and spoke on the importance of arts and culture to the city as well as to his own life and heritage.

"Just knowing that people need that opportunity to connect with arts and culture, I'm always going to be a strong proponent for it as Mayor," he said. "I can't think of having a better way than a bill to promote it."

Vieau was happy to take the Polish Center itself as a key example. "Everyone should be proud of their heritage and where they come from," he said, assuring those present that he was indeed half Polish



Chicopee Mayor John L. Vieau spoke about the importance of arts and culture in the city.

despite bearing a French surname, and commenting on how cultural spaces like the Polish Center had made a difference in his life.

The bill is currently at its earliest life stage, with the first major step toward passage being a hearing in the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development. Ruddock was hopeful that this hearing would take place in the coming fall months.

Ruddock also emphasized the importance of developing as much momentum behind this bill as possible early on in the legislative process. Those interested in supporting the bill were encouraged to contact their local representatives and senators to urge them to sign on as cosponsors.

Individuals and organizations interested in officially endorsing the bill can also reach out to MASSCreative directly, with information available at <https://www.mass-creative.org/>.

## Quabbin Visitor Center lists free upcoming events

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

All ages are welcome. Email [QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov](mailto:QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov) with questions or to be added to the mailing list

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the Quabbin Watershed.

Space is limited.  
To register for any of these events, visit [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?\\_page=1](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_page=1).

**Barrens habitat hike**  
Barrens habitats are anything but barren - they are teeming with life. On Thursday, Aug. 3 from 10-11 a.m., come see some of the flora and fauna of a recently restored inland sandplain heath (a type of barrens) and find out what makes these glob-

ally rare ecosystems so special.

The 1.5 mile hike is easy, but the terrain is uneven, so secure footwear is recommended. Please come prepared for sun and ticks and bring water.

Meet at Gate 29, New Salem and caravan to site (<https://goo.gl/maps/CZIpU7XxWGS6faA>).

Late summer meadow visit  
Enjoy a later summer hike at Quabbin Park on Thursday, Sept. 7 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This hike will meet at the parking area at the Middle Entrance and walk along the Spillway Road to a small meadow across from the Boat Cove.

The approximately 1-mile walk is easy, but the road along the Spillway is heavily trafficked, so caution is advised. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear, bring water, and come prepared for insects.

Meet at the Middle Entrance parking lot (<https://goo.gl/maps/2x-FhXUWcU7H8fmae8>).

## Free legal clinic available to small businesses

SPRINGFIELD – The Western New England University Small Business Legal Clinic is accepting applications from entrepreneurs and small business owners seeking legal assistance for the fall semester.

Under faculty supervision, law students assist clients with a variety of legal issues. This is a free service available to local businesses that might not have the resources to obtain such services.

The Small Business Clinic has assisted more than 500 small businesses since it opened.

The Clinic requests small business owners to submit their applications by Aug. 15. Applications received after that date will be considered if additional resources are available.

Students will begin providing services in mid-September. For more information, call the Legal Clinic at 413-782-1469 or email Marie Fletcher, Clinical Programs Administrator at [mfletcher@law.wne.edu](mailto:mfletcher@law.wne.edu).

The School of Law Small Business Legal Clinic was established to afford law students with an opportunity to provide practical consultation to entrepreneurs starting new and building existing small businesses in the community. This initiative strengthens alliances within the community by using the resources of the University to foster new business development.

For more information or to complete an online application, visit <https://www1.wne.edu/law/centers/small-business-legal-clinic.cfm>.

**Saturday, July 22**  
11:19 a.m. 911 Misdial, Old Petersham Road, Transferred Call to C7  
2:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued  
2:55 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Main Street, Officer Handled  
2:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued  
5:46 p.m. Complaint, Patroll Hollow Road, Removed Hazard  
6:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Patroll Hollow Road, Summons Issued  
11:07 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Sunday, July 23**  
12:41 a.m. Threat, Main Street, Report Taken  
3:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Citation Issued  
7:14 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Railroad Tracks, Officer Handled  
8:57 p.m. Vandalism, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled  
9:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Officer Handled

**Monday, July 24**  
7:35 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital



# Planning Board continues earth removal hearing on Gilbert Road

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Cal Rolling Hills, LLC is seeking a special permit to remove earth materials at a property on Gilbert Road, in the rural district.

Don Frydryk of Sherman & Frydryk Land Surveying and Engineering spoke on behalf of property owner David Callahan at the Planning Board's July 17 meeting. He said previous permits for the property had a seven acre operating area inside of a 40 acre overall area.

Frydryk said they have submitted the required materials in order to secure a special permit.

Operating hours match those allowed by town bylaws.

He said there was one special condition allowed during previous special permits, which allowed for the storage of road grindings on the site to use to repair access roads in the event of washout.

Written concerns from an abutter discussed truck traffic, citing past issues, as well as short notice of when blasting happens. Another resident in attendance at the meeting expressed concern about turtles crossing the road and getting unintentionally hit by truck traffic.

The resident said she supported approval of the special permit, with these considerations taken into account if possible.

Callahan said the truck route uses Smith Road. He said they contact public safety officials before blasting.

Callahan said this is a rock quarry, and the bylaws are written for gravel pit standards.

Planning Board Vice-Chair David Dufresne agreed that Callahan's operation was closer to mining than a gravel pit.

Planning Board member Richard Eichacker suggested that Callahan create his own call list to let abutters know when blasting will occur, in addition to contacting public safety officials. Planning Board Chair Derick Veliz said a notification could also be sent out through the My Town Alert app.

Resident Rebecca Acerra drew attention to the fact that the wrong bylaw was referenced in the hearing notice regarding this special permit, and it wasn't properly posted.

The hearing will be reposted and continued on Aug. 28 at 7:15 p.m.

### Special permit continuation

The Board continued a public hearing for Samek Properties, LLC to construct a 60 foot by 120 foot steel building with overhang to house equipment for a sand and gravel pit at 275 Brimfield Road.

Attorney Damien Berthiaume represented the applicant and shared plans detailing the layout

of the building.

"As you will see from looking at the plan, the building is setback about 210 feet from the road, 230 feet from the southerly boundary, 125 feet from the northerly boundary," Berthiaume said.

The building will utilize town water and sewer, rather than a septic.

A resident expressed concerns about the water supply being affected by the building site, and its proximity to wetlands.

The Board voted to close the public hearing, and they will vote on the special permit at the next meeting.

### Agilitas Energy special permit

The Board received a letter from town counsel regarding whether or not a special permit had lapsd for Agilitas Energy. The opinion of town counsel was that the special permit is still valid.

The Board had previously voted to declare the special permit expired, and given this new information, they voted to rescind that previous vote.

Building Inspector BJ Church said, "This company in my eyes, and everything I've reviewed and researched has done everything the town has asked for from the start and continues to do that."

Church said Agilitas Energy has spent over \$8 million on the site to date.

## Susan J. Witt, 74

WARE – Susan J. (Wnek) Witt of Ware, died on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at Baystate Wing Hospital following a period of declining health over the past few months, at the age of 74.



She leaves her loving husband of 60 years, Daniel C. Witt, her daughter, Theresa S. DeSantis and her husband Dean of Apache Junction, Arizona; one son, Daniel C. Witt, Jr. and his wife Kelly of Ware; three grandchildren, Stephanie, Madison, and Jacob, and two great-grandchildren, Gabriel and Elliana; her sisters, Judy Pariseau and her husband Roger of Ware; Diane Frazier and her husband Bob of Springfield; Jean Tapke of New York; and her brother, Joseph J. Wnek of Springfield.

She was predeceased by her brother, Frank Wnek in 2002.

She was born in Ware, daughter of the late Joseph S. and Mildred (Messier)

## Death notice

**Witt (Wnek), Susan J.**  
Died July 18, 2023  
Services were July 26, 2023

Wnek, and was a life-long resident of the town.

Susan worked as a machine operator at the former Hardwick Knitted Fabrics for nearly 28 years. Later, she was also gainfully employed as an associate at Walmart.

She enjoyed watching televised Red Sox games, as well as Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy. She was a good candlepin bowler, and bowled with a league at Roll-a-Way lanes for several years.

Susan also was a devoted pet owner, and loved her many cats over the years.

Calling hours for Susan were held on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, Tennessee 38148.

An online guest book is available at charbonneaufh.com.

## 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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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

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

# Resident continues decades-long fight

For 'fairness, equity'

By Michael Harrison  
Correspondent

HADLEY — Tom McGee has a plaque on his desk with a quote from Calvin Coolidge about persistence.

One day, if a bill in the Massachusetts Legislature he spurred becomes law, someone might have a plaque on their desk with a similar quote from McGee.

"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence," is part of the famous quote attributed to Coolidge, a former Massachusetts governor who became the 30th U.S. president a century ago and said ability and knowledge alone do not guarantee success. It takes tenacity, too.

McGee, a retiree in his 80s who has lived in Hadley for over 30 years, has that by the boatload.

Since 1995 he has been championing legislation to require public access to all state job openings. It became his cause after he realized that only some positions were posted – in a hard copy format typical of the pre-digital age – at regional unemployment offices.

The rest, mostly the prime jobs, he said, were posted on bulletin boards in state offices in Boston or circulated by word of mouth and were available to just "the connected" class, he said.

According to McGee, other than the creation of the Massachusetts Jobs Department website, not much has changed.

"It's an issue of fairness," McGee said.

"It's an issue of equity and fairness in hiring for jobs in Massachusetts and people in Western Massachusetts, people with expertise and training, such as veterans, don't have the opportunity to apply for good jobs they're qualified for."

For decades, McGee filed petition bills through state Sen. Stan Rosenberg and state Rep. John Scibak to try to enact a law requiring all state jobs to be posted publicly across the commonwealth. The bills would go far, but never make it to the finish line.

This legislative session he enlisted the help of their successors, Sen. Jo Comerford and Rep. Daniel Carey, whose districts include Hadley. Both have filed bills in their chambers and Comerford read a statement about them submitted for the record on behalf of both during a hearing last week of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

"Hiring guidelines in Massachusetts already require posting state employment opportunities publicly to ensure a fair and transparent hiring practice," the statement says.

"However, many state agencies are working around this requirement by obtaining exemption waivers. The current hiring guidelines are not effective for public job seekers because of these exemptions. Furthermore, many residents are unaware of where to find state employment vacancies because of the lack of a centralized referral system.

"Transparency about state employment vacancies will not only garner greater trust from the public in government hiring processes, but will also benefit state agencies which will receive applications from more diverse and qualified candidates. While it is easy for those close to Boston and the State House to hear about state

employment opportunities through word



Sen. Jo Comerford

of mouth, the members of the public living outside metro Boston are unaware of poorly publicized job vacancies."

If the bills become law, all of the job openings would be accessible online.

According to an email from Comerford's office, "the committee has until early February 2024 to

report the bill out favorably, recommend an amendment, refer the bill for further study or report it out unfavorably."

Asked about his experience working with Comerford and Carey, McGee said it was "excellent" and seeing the bill recognized in the hearing "shows they listen to their constituents."

He said he believes leveling the playing field for state jobs, particularly the higher level positions, would make the commonwealth run more efficiently and prevent systematic failures. He brought up the dozens of deaths at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic as one example.

After so many years going by without getting a bill passed into law, why McGee is optimistic about its chances this time around seems an obvious question.

"I have confidence in the senators and representatives that they want to ensure fairness and equity in the commonwealth," he said.

"I have confidence they will do the right thing."

And if they don't?

"If not, we'll reintroduce it again," McGee said.

"We'll keep pushing. You keep filing a bill until you get it passed."

# Protect yourself and others from the heat

SPRINGFIELD – Extreme heat can cause people to suffer from heat-related illness, and even death.

According to a press release, each year in the United States more than 700 people, both adults and children, die from the heat.

People suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to properly cool themselves. Older adults, young children, and people with chronic medical conditions are at high risk for heat-related illness and death.

According to Dr. Seth Gemme, FACEP, vice chair, clinical operations for Emergency Medicine, Baystate Health, extreme heat affects the body's ability to safely regulate its temperature, often resulting in heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion, heat stroke, or heat cramps.

Sweating is the body's natural defense to cooling itself. However, when humidity is high, sweat does not evaporate as quickly, preventing the body from releasing heat quickly and resulting in a rapid rise of body temperature.

"Those at greatest risk for developing a heat-related illness are children under 5 and people 65 years of age and older, who have the least ability to regulate their body temperatures, as well as those who work outdoors for a living," Gemme said.

As with many illnesses, the best defense is prevention, consider the following tips to keep you safe in the high heat:

Stay out of the heat. Avoid direct sunlight and strenuous activity outdoors. If possible, remain indoors.

If there is no AC at home, go to a location that does, such as the mall or a movie theater.

Dress for the weather.

Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and a broad-brimmed hat when outdoors. Stay away from polyester in favor of cotton and linens which are better at repelling the sun's heat.

Also, consider wearing sunglasses and putting on sunscreen with an SPF 15 or greater.

Drink plenty of liquids- Begin drinking before going outside and,

if exercising, drink one quart of liquid an hour to replace lost fluid. Avoid caffeinated beverages and alcohol which can contribute to the loss of more body fluid.

Also, if taking water pills or on a fluid restrictive diet, consult with a physician before increasing liquid intake.

Take it slow and easy with athletic activity and working outdoors.

Postpone athletic activity during high heat and humidity. Limit outdoor activities to the morning and evening.

Drinking sports beverages can replace lost salt and minerals when sweating. However, those on low-salt diets should check with their doctor before drinking sports beverages.

If you work outdoors, in addition to drinking plenty of liquids and dressing appropriately, pace yourself and take frequent short breaks in the shade.

Eat smaller meals. Instead of the usual rule of eating three square meals a day, eat smaller meals more frequently on days when the sun turns up the heat.

Also, avoid high-protein foods which can increase metabolic heat.

Take a cool shower or bath to cool down.

Warning signs of an oncoming heat-related illness could include excessive sweating, leg cramps, flushed skin, nausea and vomiting, dizziness, headache and rapid pulse. If these occur, get out of the heat

and drink liquids.

If you don't feel better soon, Gemme recommends calling a doctor or visiting a local emergency department. "Since the elderly are at greater risk from the ill-effects of the heat, make it a habit.

to check on elderly relatives and neighbors several times a day to make sure they are

safe and free from any signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke," Gemme said.

Gemme also reminds parents and caregivers that hot weather and vehicles can be a deadly combination for kids.

About 950 children since 1990 died from heat stroke in hot cars when left alone. Most children unknowingly left behind. According to the National Safety Council, on average 38 children under the age of 15 die each year after being left in a hot vehicle.

Kids and Cars, a nonprofit focused on improving child safety around cars, suggests in a "Look Before You Lock" flier to place an item in the back seat that you will need to get before starting your day such as a laptop, handbag, phone, employee badge and more; keep vehicles locked at all times so young ones can't sneak in unknown to you; and teach kids to honk the horn if they become stuck inside a car.

More tips are available at kidsandcars.org.

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Bonus materials
- 7. Formal names
- 13. Free from restraints
- 14. One who scrapes away
- 16. Type of device
- 17. Skin cancers
- 19. The Show Me State
- 20. Plate glasses
- 22. Red-brown sea bream
- 23. Small (Fr.)
- 25. Flightless Australian birds
- 26. High IQ group
- 28. Stiff structures
- 29. Revolutions per minute
- 30. Where a bachelor lives
- 31. Licensed for Wall Street
- 33. A place to park
- 34. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 36. An important creed in Catholic Church
- 38. 18-year astronomical period
- 40. Furies
- 41. Removes from the record
- 43. Noted child psychiatrist
- 44. Feline
- 45. High schoolers' test
- 47. Not happy
- 48. They \_\_\_
- 51. On top
- 53. Precious stones unit of weight
- 55. Moved quickly
- 56. Seagulls
- 58. A seed with hooks or teeth
- 59. Partner to "oozed"
- 60. Exclamation of surprise
- 61. Most unpleasant
- 64. Organization help service members
- 65. Type of cockatoo
- 67. Humorous criticisms
- 69. Went through and
- 70. Wakes up

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Settle in tents
- 2. Big
- 3. Books
- 4. Masses of eggs in fish
- 5. Language
- 6. Not standing
- 7. Chinese philosophy
- 8. Computer giant
- 9. A device to catch radiation
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. Actor O'Neill
- 12. Smallest interval in western music
- 13. Not lower
- 15. Revolves
- 18. Leavened bread
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Cable
- 26. Adult male
- 27. Airborne (abbr.)
- 30. Bullfighting
- 32. Broadcast
- 35. \_\_\_ Angeles
- 37. Vehicle
- 38. Not religious
- 39. North American peoples
- 42. A baglike structure
- 43. Body art (slang)
- 46. Picked for a role
- 47. Actress Tomei
- 49. Former hoopster "Big Country"
- 50. Icelandic poems
- 52. More pleasant
- 54. It can add flavor to meat
- 55. Self-immolation by fire rituals
- 57. Expression of annoyance
- 59. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Body part
- 66. Thus
- 68. In reply (abbr.)

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# public notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family  
Court  
Hampshire Division  
Docket No.  
HS23P0210EA  
Estate of:  
Michael F. Cebula  
Date of Death:  
December 18, 2022  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION  
NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Lori A. Cebula of Ware, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Lori A. Cebula of Ware, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition

the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
07/27/2023

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of Patrick Moynihan will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 70 Boston Post Rd., Warren, MA at **9:00 a.m. 8/5/2023**. The contents of Ashlee Burns and Stephen Rondeau will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, MA at **10:00 a.m. 8/5/2023**.

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.  
08/05, 08/12/2021

**TOWN OF WARE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
126 Main Street  
Ware, MA 01082  
LEGAL NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING**  
Pursuant to Mass General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Town of Ware Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on **8/9/23 at 6:30PM** for a **Request for Determination (RDA)** filed by Jeff Grantz, located at 15 Pointview Road. For work to be done pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act MGL 131, Section 40. The proposed work involves: single family home construction.

Public Participation will be available by attending the meeting at the Town of Ware located at 126 Main Street, Ware, MA, 01082. Notice of the public hearing, including the date, time, and place, will be posted in the Town Hall not less than forty-eight (48) hours in advance.  
07/27/2023

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

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



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### REAL ESTATE

#### FOR RENT

**DUPLEX APT.** 2 br., 2 ba., full basement, washer/dryer hookups. No pets. Town St., Ware. 413-283-9575

**GREEN STREET, PALMER** Newly renovated 1 bedroom apt. porch, off-street parking, coin-op laundry, \$1,100/ mo includes heat. No Pets. Call Tom 413-896-1555

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QUABBIN & SUBURBAN  
FRIDAY AT NOON  
HILLTOWNS  
MONDAY AT NOON

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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

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HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
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**BOARD** from page 1

vote funded the addition of a new playground at Greenville Park.

Town meeting vote and a state earmark have also funded a study to look at repairing the town's pool.

The Board will continue discussion of the 2022 Open Space and Recreation plan at its next meeting.

**King George Drive review**

A resident of King George Drive came before the Planning Board to discuss accepting the subdivision roadway "as built" as a public way, with the hope of having the request appear as an article on the fall special town meeting.

The road has two houses on it.

Director of Public Works Geoffrey McAlmond wrote a letter to the Board supporting the road's acceptance by the town. In the letter, McAlmond said himself and the Highway Superintendent "have no reservations with the town's acceptance of the road."

McAlmond noted in his letter, that the road's surface is slightly oxidized, but there is no indication of subgrade failure.

Vice-Chair Richard Starodaj said the pavement is slightly weathered, but no worse than other roads and the town is satisfied with its condition. A King George Drive resident present at the meeting had hired a company to make repairs to the road, helping to maintain its condition.

**Town Planner position**

Beckley said there are 17 town planner openings across the state, and the town has reposted the position.

**Hardwick landfill**

Beckley said Casella made a brief presentation recently to the Hardwick Selectboard about expanding an old landfill in Hardwick.

"It would take at least two steps of zoning by Hardwick town meeting...so it's got a ways to go," Beckley said.

"The concern for us, is it's at the head of Muddy Brook," he said.

Beckley noted that during the presentation, Casella said traffic would increase by 50 trucks a day, avoiding the use of Hardwick center roads.

Casella proposed bringing in 350,000 tons of waste a year, or 1,100 tons a day.

**END VIOLENCE** from page 4

"I am grateful to partner with my colleagues on the bipartisan Strengthening Efforts to End Violence Against Children Act to ensure that appropriate resources are directed to protect vulnerable children at risk of violence around the world."

Specifically, the Strengthening Efforts To End Violence Against Children Act will:

Align current interventions for vulnerable children with USAID's Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity Strategy and evidence-based interventions such as the INSPIRE strategies and Violence Against Children Surveys.

Elevate the USAID Special Advisor for Assistance to Orphans and Vulnerable Children and require the Special Advisor to advise USAID offices, bureaus, and field missions and other U.S. government agencies to address violence against children through the current whole-of-government strategy. Update USAID reporting requirements to identify how U.S. agencies are utilizing the INSPIRE strategies and findings from Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys, including in response to the effects of COVID-19.

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Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

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- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

**Please send resume and writing examples to:**

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to  
ekennedy@turley.com

**Dakin Humane Society halving their adoptions fees for July**

SPRINGFIELD – Dakin Humane Society, 171 Union St., will be reducing adoption fees for all animals by 50% through the month of July.

Dakin typically shelters cats, dogs and a variety of other small animals including (based on availability) birds, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, chinchillas, hamsters, gerbils, mice and rats.

"Summer always means lots of pets coming into our shelter," noted Meg Talbert, executive director of Dakin. "But this season has outpaced previous summers significantly. For example, we anticipate more than 500 kittens arriving in the months ahead, many of them motherless and underage so we need to provide them with significant veterinary care and appropriate time to reach adoption age."

Recently the shelter discounted adoption fees for some of its pets. Those special fees



Dakin Animal Resource Counselor assists in adoption.

are also included in the 50% reduction promotion.

"We want all pets to have the best chance of finding new people and loving homes as soon as possible," said Talbert. "Whatever adoption fee people see on our website for a partic-

ular animal can be cut in half through July 31. In addition, we will be holding special Saturday drop-in adoption hours in July. From 12:30 to 3 p.m. people will be able to visit the shelter in Springfield and see the pets we have with no appointment

necessary. However, if there is a particular pet that you want, we would encourage you to not wait until Saturday to adopt, as someone could take that pet home before you can."

Adoption fees at Dakin include a variety of services and treatments including a veterinary exam, spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip and registration, deworming treatment, a rabies vaccine (if pet is over 12 weeks of age), a behavior evaluation, access to behavior support, a free post-adoption veterinary exam at participating clinics, and a food starter pack.

Other features include a feline leukemia test, FIV test, flea and ear mite treatment (for cats), and a heartworm test, flea and tick treatment, and heartworm prevention (for dogs).

According to Talbert, the pre-adoption cost of care for each adoptable animal that

comes to Dakin averages \$705.

Dakin Humane Society, located in Springfield, delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them. In a typical year, the organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals and has performed over 100,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it New England's largest spay/neuter provider.

Dakin's Pet Health Center, a non-emergency veterinary resource for pet dogs and cats, opened in 2022 and has treated more than 2,500 pets. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community.

For more information, visit [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org).



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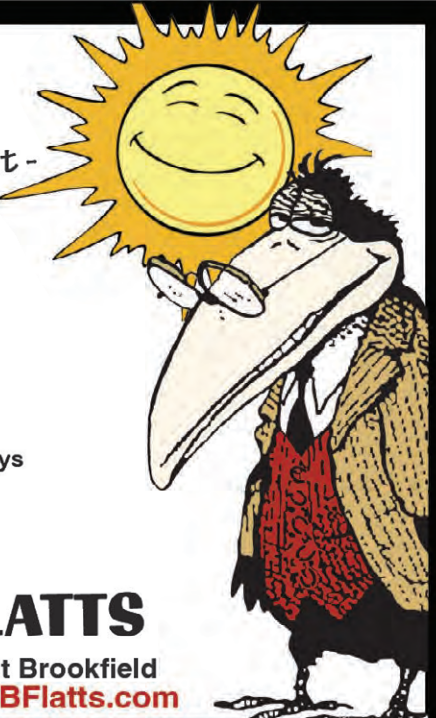
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