

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Meet the Candidates

Selectboard candidates answer questions at forum

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Ware River News and Ware Community Television hosted a Meet the Candidates forum this past Saturday, with the two candidates running for a vacant Selectboard seat in the upcoming Tuesday, Aug. 12 Special Election.

Polling hours are from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Town Hall, 126 Main St.

Candidates Kenneth Willette and Catherine Buelow Cascio were asked questions submitted by members of the community, covering a number of important issues in town including infrastructure, healthcare and more. Their answers appear below.



Selectboard candidates Kenneth Willette and Catherine Buelow Cascio participated in a Meet the Candidates forum hosted by the Ware River News and Ware Community Television.

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Whether it be roads, bridges, water, sewer or facilities and buildings, the infrastructure in Ware is aging and becoming increas-

ingly expensive to replace and repair. What are the top three capital projects needed that the town should fund? How would you propose that

they be funded?

Willette said the first project that needs addressing is

Please see **FORUM**, page 13

## SB hears from Ware officials about trust

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board heard from representatives from the town of Ware to discuss a letter that was sent by the board regarding decisions about the Lewis Gilbert Trust.

At the July 28 meeting, Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley and Selectboard Chair Nancy Talbot acknowledged receipt of the letter and said there was no intention to leave Hardwick out of the discussion of the trust which is associated with the former Mary Lane Hospital.

The trust, which is currently overseen by Bank of America with Baystate Health as the beneficiary, was created by Lewis Gilbert to provide medical care for the residents of Ware and Gilbertville.

Beckley said the town's primary goal has been to

reestablish healthcare after the closing of the hospital, to serve the residents of the town and surrounding communities.

"It has always been the Selectboard's intent to work toward healthcare," Beckley said. "We would love to cooperate [with Hardwick]."

Beckley said the Selectboard had only heard from the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital regarding Hardwick's desire to be involved with any decisions about the trust prior to receiving the board's letter.

Beckley invited the Select Board members to reach out to him with any questions that they have.

Cindy Allen Bourcier of the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital said her group has sent a letter to both Bank of America and to the Attorney General's office regarding a recent vote of support by

Please see **HARDWICK BOS**, page 5

## Committee held hearing on dress code/cell phone policies

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The School Committee held a public hearing to discuss changes to the school district's student dress code and cell phone use policies.

At the July 23 meeting, the committee shared the results of a survey that was offered to stakeholders which showed that many people were in favor of a

dress code that would promote a positive and constructive learning environment.

School Committee member Melissa Whitham said those surveyed agreed that profanity, violent or discriminatory words or symbols were inappropriate. She said school administrators can still request special dress code days, such as pajama day or hat day.

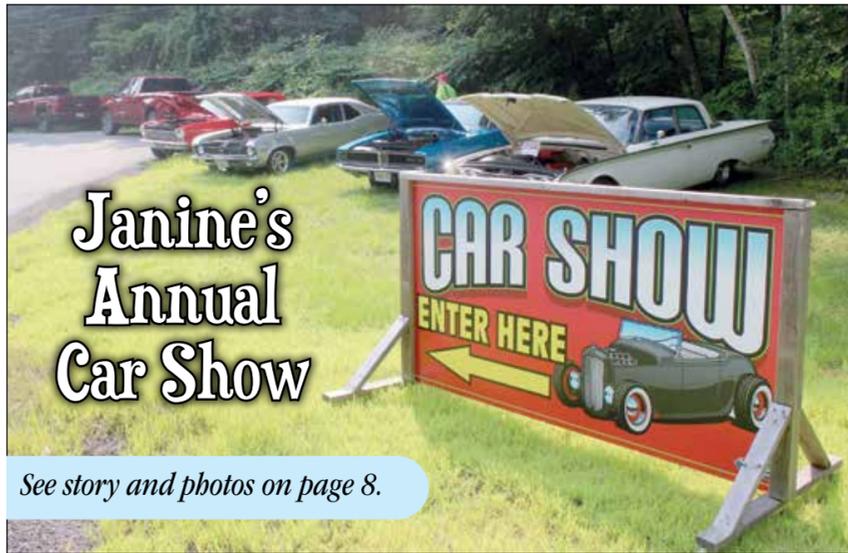
Enforcement of the dress code policy should be con-

sistent and applied equitably, and enforced directly without embarrassing the students or staff.

"If you're going to do the work, it needs to be followed through," one parent said about enforcement.

Whitham proposed that the results of the survey be formatted into bullet points to be added to the existing policy, which is currently only two small paragraphs.

Please see **POLICY**, page 15



See story and photos on page 8.



## Legends Tribute Show

Lions Club brought all-star show to Grenville Park

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Dolly Parton, Barry White, Lionel Richie and Barbra Streisand took to the stage this past Thursday evening, led by none other than Ware's favorite singer, Neil

Diamond.

How could the Ware Lions Club host such a star-studded lineup on the bandstand at Grenville Park? Through the incredible talent of tribute performers Charlie Lask, Jeffrey Thomas and Amanda Meli and with support from Monson Savings Bank.

Lask has been a long-time supporter of the Ware Lions Club, and each year performs the most popular

Please see **LEGENDS**, page 5

## Vendors brave rain at Hardwick Farmers Market

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

HARDWICK – This past Sunday amid a dreary day in Hardwick, the Farmers Market was still in session, and residents filed in and out for fresh produce, including greens, potatoes, berries, squash, and corn.

The market was not as bustling as it would be on a sunny day, as only two vendors attended, including Stillman's Farm and West Hardwick Blueberries, two

local growers.

Stillman's Farm has been a staple of the farmer's market, sharing their produce with the community for the past 15 years, according to Reid, the vendor from Stillman's Farm. The building of Stillman's Farm can be

Please see **VENDORS**, page 3



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### KEY ISSUES

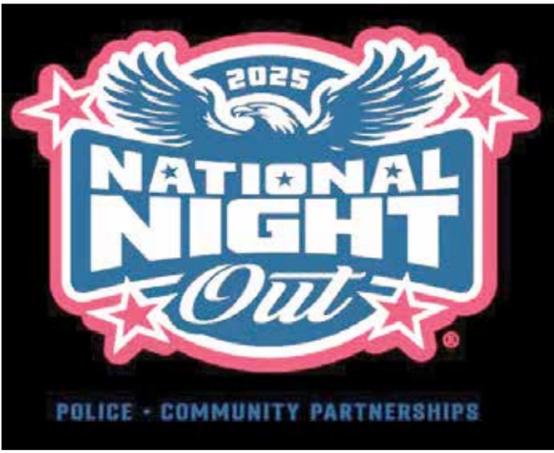
- Moving forward on construction of new pool
- Create a marketing plan for Mill Yard, Main St. & Mary Lane properties
- Reconsider impact of discolored water on users quality of life & short term actions to address
- Utilize multi year town financial forecast to guide decisions

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**KEN WILLETTE**  
Selectboard

- INTEGRITY
- LEADERSHIP
- EXPERIENCE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**PLEASE VOTE FOR KEN WILLETTE**  
 **ON TUESDAY AUGUST 12, 2025**

PAID FOR BY KEN WILLETTE



## National Night Out to be held Aug. 5

WARE – This year's National Night Out event will be at Grenville Park, 73 Church St., on Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 6-8 p.m.

NNO is a family-friendly community event where parents and their children will have the opportunity to interact with squad cars, fire trucks, ambulances, Department of Public Works equipment, and other public safety partners to enhance the

relationship between neighbors and emergency service personnel while bringing back a true sense of community.

The best way to build a safer community is to know your neighbors and your surroundings. NNO triumphs over a culture that isolates people from each other and allows them to rediscover our own communities and build lasting relationships.

## Free meals offered to youth until Aug. 1

WARE – Ware Public School is committed to providing students nutritious food and will provide free meals for youth ages 18 and under, Monday through Friday, from June 30-Aug. 1.

No registration or ID is required. Meals will not be available on July 4.

Serving times for congregate meals at SMK Elementary School are as follows: breakfast 8-9 a.m. and lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lunch meals will also be available to-go from the municipal parking lot on Pleasant Street from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Dates and times are subject to change. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Food Service Department at 413-967-5977. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# 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 2022 showed Maren exploring the pond behind the Paige Memorial Library in Hardwick.

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).

## Ware Grange lists upcoming events

WARE – The next Kids' Corner at Ware Grange will be "Pets" and will take place on Saturday, Aug. 9 at 10 a.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

Kids' Corner workshops are led by local preschool teacher, Jen McNally, and feature songs, stories, crafts, and activities.

There are so many different pets to learn about. Each type of pet has different ways to care for them and different needs. Kids will explore the different types of pets and meet a few of them.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at [waregrange.org](http://waregrange.org) for more information.



### Gardening workshop

Ware Grange's next gardening workshop, "Gardening in Small Spaces," will be held on Thursday, Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall. The presenter will be Chris Messier, a gardener with 60 years of experience, including expertise in seed saving and home-steading.

Grow bags and raised beds provide a way to have a garden when space is limited or if your soil is not good for growing flowers and vegeta-

bles. Participants will explore some of the possibilities for gardening in raised beds as well as using grow bags on patios, balconies and other small spaces.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at [waregrange.org](http://waregrange.org) for more information.

### Tickets available for barbecue dinner

Ware Grange is holding a Barbecue Dinner at the Fair on Saturday, Aug. 23

from 4-5:30 p.m. The menu includes pulled pork, chicken, brisket, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, drink, and dessert for \$25.

Eat outside under the tent and enjoy live music by Brianna Lamb during dinner. Take out is also available.

Reservations are required. Please call 413-284-1135 or email [waregrange164@gmail.com](mailto:waregrange164@gmail.com) to make your reservations for the barbecue.

## Paige Memorial Library lists events

HARDWICK – Welcome to Awesome August at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road.

Library patrons are still enjoying Summer Reading activities and preparing for the Hardwick Fair.

On Wednesdays, Story Hour begins at 10:30 a.m. for playing and visiting, then a story at 11 a.m. with an art activity.

On alternate weeks, members of the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force read books on boundaries and consent, promoting safety and well-being and then do a craft. The Task Force and The Zonta Club of Quabog Valley donated the books and the materials used in the activities. Wednesdays are also Lego Building days. Lego enthusiasts may enjoy the table purchased by the

Friends for the young Lego builders.

On Tuesday, Aug. 5 at 3 p.m. children may make puzzles from pictures they bring or create at the library.

Readers should bring in their last book list Aug. 5, 6 or 7. On Saturday, Aug. 9 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., people may experience the ocean with the Mystic Aquarium "Touch Tank," the grand finale for the 2025 Summer Reading Program.

They should bring their Hardwick Fair literary submissions to the Paige Memorial Library, P.O. Box 413, Hardwick, MA 01037.

People may sign up to create a Fairy House Tuesday, Aug. 12, and Wednesday, Aug. 13. They must know how many peo-

ple are coming to make sure they have enough supplies by calling 413-477-6704 or email [Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com).

The Paige Library needs volunteers to help prepare for the Hardwick Fair Book Sale and the Fairy Village. Volunteers should call 413-477-6704 or email [Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com).

The Hardwick Fair is Aug. 15 and Aug. 16. The Paige Memorial Library will hold their annual book sale on Aug. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fairy Houses will be displayed in the Hardwick Fair-y Village, visit with a real live Flower Fairy and get a glitter tattoo.

The library is open Tuesdays and Thursday from 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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## 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 [pouimett@turley.com](mailto:pouimett@turley.com), or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

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# Infrastructure Asset committee heard project updates

## Staff Report

WARE – The Infrastructure Asset Improvement Committee met this week to review ongoing projects and to discuss next steps for funding by Town Meeting.

The committee is tasked by the Selectboard to move forward with improvements to the town's water and sewer system. Jeffrey Faulkner of Tighe & Bond, the town's engineering consultant on several projects, presented updates on ongoing projects.

The Church Street and Anderson Road Water Storage Tanks Rehabilitation project is underway. The project has been designed and bids received.

Town Meeting appropriated up to \$4.1 million for the tank project. The awarded cost of the project will be close to \$2.4 million.

The contractor will work on the Church Street tank during September and October. The Anderson Road Tank will be cleaned and painted in the spring of 2026.

Committee members questioned Faulkner and Interim Department of Public Works Director Ken Calder about the coordination of other activities such as water system flushing and the repair of fire hydrants. Committee members discussed coordination with the Treatment Plant and raising awareness to residents when the water system work is underway.

Tighe & Bond will conduct a flow rate study to

assure fire protection.

Committee Chair Matthew Palladino noted that all plans and funding for water improvements are steps toward a properly designed and constructed water filtration system.

Projects moving forward with previous Town Meeting approval include the permitting of replacement wells at Barnes Street and consideration of options to remove the 1890's constructed cistern water source from the system. Preliminary designs should be completed by the winter and next steps presented to the Annual Town Meeting in May, 2026.

The study to address concerns with PFAS, a water supply contaminant, was recently completed. The committee will monitor changes in the PFAS limit regulations before considering the next steps.

The town's water currently meets the levels established by State regulations.

Tighe & Bond is working with the committee on two plans that will review the assets of the two infrastructure systems. These plans are funded through a combination of Department of Environmental Protection grants and town funding.

The Wastewater Asset Plan work commenced earlier in July and will be completed in March, 2026. The Water Asset Plan will begin in September and will be submitted to DEP in

Please see **UPDATES**, page 13

# Town prepares for fireworks show

## Staff Report

WARE – In June of 2024, at the Town of Ware Downtown Improvement Committee monthly meeting, the topic of the Town fireworks display was discussed.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley had reported the reason for the lack of a show was primarily due to funding of the fireworks display.

"I turned to Dan Flynn, Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond President and said we can find the funding," said Dustin Pennington of Pennington Painting. "Flynn readily agreed and we made the commitment to do the fireworks for the town.

The following morning, Pennington and Flynn met with Beckley and Nicole Croteau, Executive Assistant to the Town of Ware Manager to discuss the overall fireworks program.

It was determined the cost of the fireworks show itself would be a very large cost increase from the last show held two years prior. A fundraising goal was determined by the Fireworks Committee.

"The amount was a huge challenge. We have the town budget allocation of \$5,000 to start with but we would have to raise an another \$11,000 to hold the event," said Pennington. "But we know a lot of local businesses who believe in the community and Flynn and I were confident to raise the funds."

In addition to the funding concern, the use of Grenville Park as a site location had become inadequate.

"The safety requirements of hosting a fireworks display were greater than the current tree growth situation at the park," said Beckley.



Turley Staff Photo

Fireworks Committee members Dustin Pennington, Stuart Beckley and Nicole Croteau performed a walkthrough of the fireworks event site at the Ware Public Schools campus.

Pennington and Flynn approached Ware Schools Superintendent Michael Lovato to request use of the Ware Public Schools campus as a fireworks site.

"Lovato was very agreeable to host the fireworks. He and the Ware School Committee were terrific to work with the fireworks committee," said Pennington.

Over the next 10 days, Flynn and Pennington raised the entire budget.

"The community we live and work in is an amazing one and we are grateful for their support," said Flynn.

The rain delayed the fireworks one night but a 20 minute fireworks show lit up the sky on that Sunday night. An estimated 1,500 people attended the event.

"The four of us committed to put the show on for 2025," said Pennington. "We have been meeting throughout the past year, planning and preparing for an even bigger event."

"Our goal for this year was to add a concert and have family based activities like bounce houses, dunk tank, obstacle course and kick ball games to make the event a bigger day for families," said Croteau.

"The fireworks budget took a huge leap upwards, with activities, band and fireworks price increases. The committee was committed to making this a free event for families," said Pennington.

Over the winter months, two fundraisers were held at Hanna's on Main.

"We held two celebrity Bartender & Waitstaff nights where all tips went to the fireworks. The first night featured a performance by Charlie Lask and the second night was a karaoke night," said Pennington.

"The Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond were a big part of the evening, with employees from Moulton Insurance, Monson Savings Bank,

Country Bank, QVDC and Cedarbrook Village staffing the events," said Beckley. "Both nights were a success and everyone had fun."

Planning the pre fireworks events and concert went smoothly.

"We were fortunate to book a local favorite to play that night, the Charlie Lask Band featuring the music of Neil Diamond. And several local businesses stepped up to sponsor the family activities," said Croteau.

"We are finishing up the fundraising and are ready for the day to arrive," said Pennington. "With less than two weeks before the event to occur, the fireworks event is set to go. We hope more families attend this year than last year. It's been a lot of work but the feeling the four of us share, the committee, is a feeling of community spirit and dedication. This day will be a blast."

The Town of Ware Fireworks display starts at 9 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9 at the Ware Public Schools campus on West Street. Prior to the firework display, there will be family based activities from 5-8 p.m. and a concert featuring Charlie Lask and his band from 7-8:45 p.m. A rain date of Aug. 10 has been set.

The Fireworks Committee does ask all attendees to please follow school department rules which include no smoking or vaping, no alcoholic beverages, no chairs on the football field and please be considerate and do not litter.

Any questions, please contact Dan Flynn at 413-297-5886 or Dustin Pennington at 413-813-7328.

## VENDORS from page 1

found at 1205 Barre Road in New Braintree, conveniently located on Route 67.

The farm itself was started by Glenn, who is Reid's father, and has continuously served New Braintree, Hardwick, and the surrounding towns for over 30 years.

According to Reid, it is not only important as a family business, but also as a way to share their lifestyle, which he describes as "conscientious." The farm does not use any genetically modified organisms in their growing. He said that this is to allow everybody to know what is in what they are eating.

When asked if everything that was on display was grown at the farm, Reid answered that virtually everything is local from the New Braintree location, except a few products which are supplemented from a partner farm in Hardwick, run by his brother. These

include some specialty products including blackberries, gooseberries, and various varieties of blackberries, according to Reid.

The biggest sellers at the market are corn, tomatoes, and any kind of berry, according to Reid. When asked for any final comments, he stated that he encourages all of the community to be sustainable.

Also present at the Farmers Market was a small setup run by Liz Cyran, who calls her station "West Hardwick Blueberries." She is a more recent addition to the market, as she estimates that this year is her fifth year there.

At her stand, you can find freshly baked blueberry hand pies, fresh picked blueberries, blueberry jam, and peach jam. Cyran decided to start selling her blueberries at the market because she had an abundance of them at her house.

On her property lies a blueberry bush which Cyran said produces quite a handsome amount of blueberries a year. She decided to start packing them, making them into jam, baking them into pies, anything to get rid of them and share them with the public.

Her motto is "sun, water, and love." She does not use any chemicals, preservatives, or sprays on her blueberries, it is simply whatever comes off the bush is what she uses.

Cyran also is promoting a new recipe for her jams, which uses only 25% sugar, as a way to appeal to those who may need to cut back on it. She still has jams and spreads which use 50% sugar.

Cyran's products can also be found at the Hardwick Farmers Co-op, at 444 Lower Road in Gilbertville, off Route 32, as well as at the Petersham Farmer's Market.

Cyran also acknowledged

that even on a rainy day such as last Saturday, there are still many regulars who show up, and she appreciates all

those who purchase her blueberry products.

The Hardwick Farmers Market is held rain or shine,

every Sunday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on the common through Oct. 26.



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# viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### I'm turning 70. When should I apply for Social Security?

**Dear Rusty:**

I have a very simple question: I will turn 70 on Sept. 20 and want to start my Social Security benefits in September.

What month should I file my claim? Have there been delays with the reductions in SSA staff? Thank you for your help.

**Signed: Ready to Claim.**

**Dear Ready to Claim:**

Social Security allows you to submit your application for benefits up to four months prior to the month you wish benefits to start (you will specify your desired benefit-start-month on the application).

Thus, to have your benefits begin in September (the month you turn 70), you can submit your application as early as May 2025. That will give SS plenty of time to get your benefits started on time.

Remember, though, that SS pays benefits in the month following the month earned, so if you start benefits in September, you will receive your first SS payment in October on the third Wednesday.

And, since you will be turning 70 in September you are entitled to full benefits effective from the first of that month. Congratulations on choosing a strategy, which maximizes your monthly payment. By claiming at age 70, your monthly SS benefit will be about 31% more than it would have been at your Full Retirement Age and you will get that higher monthly amount for the rest of your life.

Re your question about possible delays, Social Security staff reductions have not included "front line" agents, those who handle applications, so the SS recent staff adjustments should not likely delay processing your application.

Although some back-office staffing turmoil currently exists at SSA, they have been moving more people to front-line positions to try to improve their service. Just be aware, however, that it normally takes the SSA about two to three months to process new applications, which is why they allow applications up to 4 months in advance. You will specify the month you wish benefits to start on your application. In any case, although your application should be fine if you submit it this month, rest assured that they will pay you starting with the month you requested, even if they must do so retroactively.

FYI, people can apply for Social Security in person by making a telephone appointment to do so at 1-800-772-1213 or they can apply online at [www.ssa.gov/apply](http://www.ssa.gov/apply). To apply online, they need to have first created their "my Social Security" online account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Here is a video which explains the online application process: [www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim\\_r01.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm).

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

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Resident compares views of Selectboard candidates

I've heard Baystate representatives often say that no healthcare entity has approached them about procuring ownership of the Mary Lane Hospital site.

It may have been true at the time said, that no other entity had approached Baystate, but I understood Baystate was to go to them, to seek a buyer for the facility rather than a buyer just seeking them out about it.

Unfortunately, many folks have taken this wording to mean that no medical entity has interest in the site. But in fact – yes fact, there are a number of entities that have expressed interest (perhaps not directly to Baystate) in returning medical care to the Mary Lane site. It is an inaccurate assumption to hear in what Baystate has persistently said, that no other entity has interest.

In the candidate forum provided by Turley Publications, for the election to fill the vacant Ware Selectboard seat, the obvious difference in opinion

was the polar opposite stance with regard to our hospital. I heard support for Baystate's return from Mr. Willette and I heard support for more than just that one option from Ms. Cascio.

One look at 85 South Street as it now stands should make up the minds of every voter in this town. Fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me.

Both candidates had good ideas and reasonable understanding of the issues residents are facing in town. Beyond content, I preferred Cathy's passionate loyalty to roots, her quirky realism, her past experience in the position, and I know of her selfless promotion of all things Ware over time.

With all due respect to Ken Willette for being willing to step into this role in his adopted town, I will be voting for Cathy Cascio on Aug. 12 and I urge others to please do the same.

Respectfully,

**Ann Bigda**  
Ware

## Summer questions for the Garden Lady

This question came when the Garden Lady was visiting the local library: "What is going on with my lilac?"

That was all she needed to say, and I knew: brown, crispy leaves, and dead stems. I answered this same question perhaps a year ago, and at that time it was the second year people had been seeing these symptoms on their beloved lilac bushes.

Well, here we are after another wet spring. Read on to hear my answer.

All you have to do is ride in the car and you will notice brown leaved lilac bushes or those that are nearly devoid of leaves altogether! My best guess is that Pseudocercospora leaf blight of lilac is the culprit.

Some lilacs even lost their leaves then sported flowers in October because the plant, after leaf loss, was tricked into thinking it was time to flower and grow new leaves. Because this new growth is very tender, you may notice tip dieback in spring on those areas of new growth and/or flowering.

It simply didn't have enough time to harden off before winter. Lilacs are tough plants, though, so don't despair.

What can we do to help, you ask? First of all, clean up fallen leaves and debris so that it won't spread the inoculum. Second, water the bushes well and at the base if this fall is droughty.

In the spring, prune out any dead branches, disinfecting your tools in between cuts. You can also choose to prune the plant in such a way so that there is better airflow throughout.

That always helps to cut down on diseases. I'm not a chemical girl – I really try to enhance my cultural practices to strengthen the overall health of the plant. I am sure

there are options out there for this particular malady should you wish to research it.

Melissa wants to know



what my pick is for a long blooming perennial: "I love perennials, but I'm sick of plants that cost an arm and a leg then bloom for two weeks or less. Do you have a long flowering favorites that will give me my money's worth?"

Yes, indeed. Although I am a recent convert to the Coral Bell Admirer's Club, my membership is now a lifetime one.

You see, mom was giving away some of her plants last year. I more or less took them to make her happy, installing them in a part sun situation in my front yard.

Well folks, I cut some of the wispy stems, boasting sprays of small, coral colored flowers the first weekend in June for a floral arrangement and believe it or not, they are still blooming. On their way out, yes, but still showing color.

Heuchera is the Genus for a large number of Coral Bell cultivars and hybrids, many of which are grown more for their foliage than for their flowers. I'll probably never know what the name of my mom's plants are; they are the standard green lobed leaves and aforementioned flowers on self supporting stems that top out around 28 inches tall.

Foliage can uniquely colored, though, and beautifully and intricately veined. You'll find it yellow-bronze, as seen with "Amber Waves" or the red-purple of "Chocolate Ruffles," and many in

between. Some cultivars have a silver pattern to their foliage which is caused by air bubbles that get trapped under the leaf surface.

The coloration isn't erratic, but uniquely defined because of the regular pattern of the leaf veins. Just beautiful. And just like the Hostas I mentioned a few weeks back, some gardeners appreciate the foliage so much of Coral Bells that they cut the flowers right off, especially on those varieties where they are more non-descript.

Besides the coral color, flowers can come in white, cream or even light green.

Plants are best in full sun to part shade in neutral to alkaline soil. They will rot in soil that is waterlogged. During the drought we've been experiencing I have noticed that they don't particularly enjoy super dry soil either, so they have gotten a drink now and then in between rain storms.

Removing spent flowers may increase bloom time. Perhaps because of my early removal for that flower arrangement, I inadvertently extended the show. I'll plan to do that again next year now that I am a convert.

As an added bonus, flowers are attractive to bees, butterflies and occasionally hummingbirds.

Maybe I have convinced you to also give this unique and varied Genus a try in your garden.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



**Male common yellowthroat**

A Brimfield resident reported a common yellowthroat in his yard.

The common yellowthroat as its name implies has a yellow throat. It also has a long tail and round belly. The males have a black mask with a whitish line above, olive upper parts, yellow throat and yellow under its tail. Females are brownish olive above with a yellow throat and breast. They lack the distinct, black mask of the male.

Yellowthroats are small songbirds about 4 to 5 inches long. The males sing a "wichety-wichety-wichety" song. Both sexes give a full sounding "chuck" note. During migration, the yellowthroat is the most common warbler found in fields and along their edges.

These warblers live in open areas with thick, low vegetation ranging from

marsh to grassland to pine forests. The females select a nest location, near or on the ground supported by sedge, reeds, cattails, briars and other low plants. Nests in marshy areas are usually higher off the ground where they are safer from flooding. Sometimes the nest has a roof like the ovenbird nests. They are one of the species that cowbirds lay their eggs in their nests.

People may designate an area of dense or tangled low-growing grasses and other vegetation to attract common yellowthroats to their yards. Yellowthroats prefer larger yards of at least half an acre or more.

#### Phoebe nest

I received an email containing a photo of an Eastern phoebe nest filled with phoebe nestlings. Eastern phoebes nest near humans often selecting a spot over a door or in a shed.

#### Wild turkeys

My grandson and I had to stop and wait for several hen turkeys with their poults to move them along a backroad in Barre. The largest hen led the way, walking down the middle of the road. Three other hens took up the rear with the poults walking all over the place. Some even

stopped to explore the edge of the road, but then ran to catch up. Finally, they headed into the grass and woods on the edge of the road.

#### More Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident said he has seen more birds in his yard since his last email. "Baltimore orioles

have been seen more often at the birdbath, probably because of the warm weather we have been having." On a recent day he had a robin, three orioles, cardinals, a titmouse, a chipping sparrow, blue jays, catbirds and a common yellowthroat all stopped by the birdbath and a black and white warbler was seen in the yard.

He said he took down the bird feeders because of bears. "We had a bear make a daytime visit. It was not seen, but we discovered that it had cleaned out the feeding station. All the black oil sunflower seed, two suet cakes, a "log" of compressed seeds and fruit and suet pellets were all gone. Fortunately the bear didn't damage anything or steal any of the feeders which they often do."

His wife checks a town Facebook page and has seen many reports of bears in town and many of them are in the daytime so he figured it was time to take the feeders down. He still throws a seed mix around in several places like he always has and only put handfuls of black oil and whole peanuts in a small try hanging from a Shepard's crook.

He said, "I've started to see young of the year around the yard. Several days ago

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 13

## WARE RIVER NEWS

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@ Ware River News



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## OPINION POLICY

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

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

# Legends Tribute Show



Ron Cataldi kept the beat on the drums.



Neal Schermerhorn performed on the bass.

## LEGENDS from page 5

concert of the summer season to a crowd of several hundred people. Audience members come from near and far, with ages ranging from young to young at heart.

Audience members took to their feet as the Forever Diamond band rocked its way through the two-plus hour set, performing alongside each singer.

Lask said this concert "was a project" for his band, with only one rehearsal to learn each performer's songs in addition to their own.

The concert started off with strong, with Lask and Meli channeling Neil Diamond and Dolly Parton, followed by Thomas as Barry White.

The Forever Diamond band then shifted into Neil Diamond's "America", and Lask emerged on stage in his gold sequined shirt.

Thomas returned, but this time as Lionel Richie, ending his set with The Commodores' hit "Brick House".

Lask returned to the stage joined by Meli as Barbra Streisand, for a touching duet of "You Don't Bring Me Flowers".

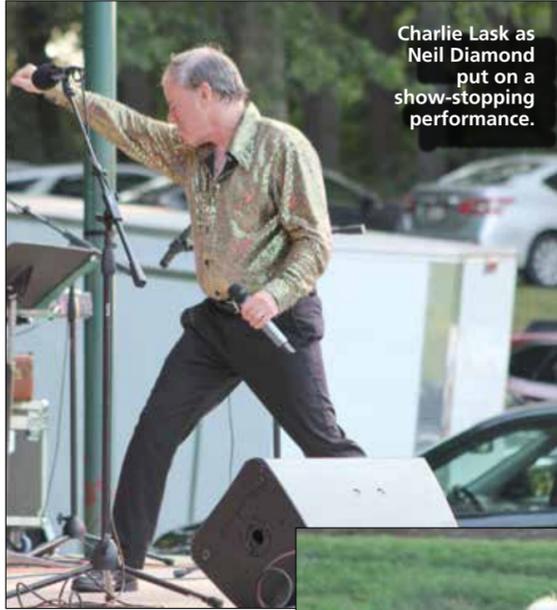
Meli's boyfriend and stage partner, Tony Valley, is currently undergoing treatment for cancer and the Legends will perform a benefit show in his honor on Oct. 25 at Workshop13.

Lask thanked the Ware Lions Club for the opportunity to perform in his hometown, and he asked the crowd, "does it get any better than this?"

The Concerts in the Park series continues on Thursday, July 31 with Bigelow, Aug. 7 with Cobblestone Road and Aug. 14 with Stealing Frequencies. Concerts are held at Grenville Park, 73 Church St., from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Admission to the concerts is free and concerts are weather dependent.

During each concert, the Ware Lions Club will have a concession stand selling hot dogs, chips, popcorn and



Charlie Lask as Neil Diamond put on a show-stopping performance.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette  
Jeffrey Thomas as Barry White dazzled the audience with his smooth vocals.

beverages. Raffle tickets for prizes will also be available.

Funding for the concerts is provided with support from Brad Matthew Jewelers, Westfield Bank, St. Germain Insurance Inc., B'leaf Wellness Centre, Monson Savings Bank, North Brookfield Savings Bank, Country Bank, Nat Falk Men's Clothing, L. Sidur & Son Inc., Rolla Motor Parts NAPA, Cluett's, Quabbin Wire & Cable Co., Jeffery & Jeffery Inc., Moulton Insurance and It's Wine O'clock.



The crowd got up and danced for most of the show.



## HARDWICK BOS from page 1

the Ware Selectboard to keep Bank of America as the trustee with Baystate Health as beneficiary.

This vote came about after the town received a proposal from Baystate Health's President and CEO Peter Banko to open a Convenient Care site in Ware, combining both primary care and urgent care. The Convenient Care would be located in an existing building, and not at the Mary Lane Hospital site.

"We feel it was a very biased opinion," Bourcier said. "Baystate should have been including Hardwick."

Resident Judy Kohn said she is happy to see the two towns willing to work together toward a common goal.

## Health Care Task Force update

Judi Korzec provided the Select Board with an update from the Health Care Task Force regarding its efforts to create a rural healthcare model and bring services to the town.

Korzec spoke against Ware Selectboard's support of Baystate Health remaining as the beneficiary of the Lewis Gilbert Trust, and said that a Convenient Care location in Ware will not benefit the residents of Hardwick.

Korzec said there has not been a good working relationship between the two towns, and that each town has very different needs.

"The Gilbert Trust is ours and we have been completely blocked from all of these discussions," she said. "This trust needs to support our community too. Mr. Gilbert left this to us and you...this trust is for both of us."

Korzec said the town will need seed money to start its rural healthcare model, which could include a small urgent care, a floating pharmacy, eye care, mammography and more. This seed money could come from the trust if a new trustee and beneficiary was chosen.

"We are a healthcare desert," Korzec said.

The rural healthcare model would provide "something unique, rural, different," she said.

Korzec requested that the Ware Selectboard include representatives from Hardwick on the board of the trust, and to be included in meetings with Baystate Health.

"So we're building a model that works for both of us," she said.

## Muddy Brook/aquifer discussion

Rick Romano said the Board of Health is having

three experts speak during an informational session at the board's meeting on Thursday, July 31 starting at 7:30 p.m. The speakers include a hydrologist, an epidemiologist and a public health expert.

Romano said the board received a letter from the Ware Board of Health and the Hardwick Pond Association regarding concerns about pollution to the aquifer in the Muddy Brook area.

"The feeling is the aquifer is vulnerable," he said.

The Muddy Brook aquifer provides drinking water to the town of Ware's Barnes Street well.

Romano said this is an informational session for the Board of Health's members, but the public is welcome to attend and learn about protecting the aquifer.

## Police contract addendum

The Select Board approved an addendum to the Police Lieutenant contract. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said there is money available to cover the salary increase for the remainder of fiscal year 2026, and for the length of the contract.

Caggiano said this increase will make Lieutenant Robert Toupin's salary more comparable to area salaries for the same position.

The Select Board approved the addendum.

## Barre EMS contract

Caggiano said there was a delay in receiving the contract for ambulance services from the town of Barre due to staff changeover. She said this contract is \$5,000 less than last year's due to Barre covering fewer calls.

Caggiano said West Brookfield Rescue Squad and Barre both cover the whole town, and whichever one can respond first, does.

The Select Board approved the contract with Barre for \$35,000.

## Short Road property

Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim said the Planning Board discovered a plot of land on Short Road that belongs to the town. Located off Fisk Road, this plot of land is approximately one acre and borders Quabbin Reservoir land.

## Pole hearing

The Select Board approved the placement of a new utility pole on Mill Street to allow the power lines to cross the railroad tracks and supply power to the wastewater treatment plant.



Marc Graveline performed on both the keyboard and saxophone.



Amanda Meli as Barbra Streisand performed "You Don't Bring Me Flowers" with Charlie Lask as Neil Diamond.

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

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

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.  
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USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC	\$1.39 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL	\$6.69 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG	77¢ lb
USDA INSP. ROAST BEEF	\$7.77 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. OLD FASHIONED GLAZED DONUTS 6 PAK	\$1.49 ea
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# Senior Center hosts annual summer Clam Bake

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – There was a spectacular gathering this past week as the Warren Senior Center hosted its annual Clam Bake.

The Senior Center welcomed over 100 guests to enjoy a delicious clam bake meal. There was a chicken meal available in case guests didn't want to have seafood.

The volunteer cooks were busy in the kitchen preparing these delicious meals, including an appetizing lobster roll for everyone.

Bob Carter, who was at the Clam Bake with his wife Mary Carter, said the appetizers were good.

"The lobster rolls were excellent," Carter said.

The Carters were sitting comfortably at table one alongside friends and fellow residents. There were special guests at the Clam Bake as well, including Selectmen David Dufresne and Warren Town Administrator James Ferrera.

Warren Chief of Police Gerald Millette visited the Senior Center during the clam bake and said hello to all the residents and all the cooks in the kitchen.

The meal also came with clam chowder, a garden salad, corn on the cob and a baked potato. Guests also got to participate in a 50/50 raffle and had a chance to win a raffle basket. Over by the raffles there was also a collection for the food pantry.

The entertainment for the clam bake was singer and

musician Freddie Marion of Holyoke. Marion has been involved with singing since the age of 5. Now, Marion provides music for all occasions.

Marion says he sings "a little bit of everything" and always wears colorful shirts when he performs.

With the summer happening, Marion's music was all summer related. Marion sang songs from familiar artists such as The Eagles, Billy Joel, Jackson Browne, Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis Jr. and Jimmy Buffett.

Senior Center Director Sharon Meli said all the cooks and helpers did an amazing job putting this clam bake together and all the meals came out fantastic. Over 100 seniors left the Senior Center happy after enjoying the clam bake.

The Warren Senior Center is located at 2252 Main St in West Warren. For more information and for more activities, call the Senior Center at 413-436-5662.



The Warren Senior Center hosted its annual Clam Bake this past week. All the cooks were busy preparing meals for over 100 guests.



Warren Police Chief Gerald Millette is shown alongside volunteer cook Mike Careno.



Lobster rolls were a delicious advertisement prior to the main course.



Table one guests waited for their meals.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



The Warren Senior Center was packed for the annual Clam Bake



Freddie Marion was the entertainer during the Clam Bake.



Warren Selectmen, David Dufresne, left, and Town Administrator James Ferrera attended the Clam Bake at the Warren Senior Center

August 2025

## Quabbin Health District Public Health Nurse Newsletter

Kirsten L Krieger RN, BSN,  
Public Health Nurse

Andrea Crete MPH, RS,  
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[www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com](http://www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com)

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In this month's online issue:

Quabbin Health District Harm Reduction Program!

**KIDS eat right.**

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation

National Immunization Awareness Month

During August, AAI is highlighting the importance of vaccination for people of all ages.

#ivax2protect



For the full issue  
visit:



# Weston & Sampson present redesign project

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen reviewed a presentation by Weston & Sampson consultants regarding the proposed Town Common redesign project.

John O’Leary of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission talked about how the town hired consultants from Weston & Sampson to make design improvements for the Town Common and now have a final design to present. The consultants described the Town Common as a historical public space.

There was a brief walk-through of how community feedback has shaped the latest designs Weston & Sampson have developed. A map was displayed highlighting the existing conditions of the Town Common featuring walking paths, the gazebo, water fountain, parking lot, flagpole, existing trees and a sloped area. There is vegetation in place to keep slope from eroding.

The key design considerations and recommendations is honoring history and preserving the character of the Town Common. This includes keeping the tree canopy, natural materials, and gentle slopes.

There is also a proposed idea to renovate or replace the gazebo, preserving its traditional style to honor the historic character. There was also a suggestion to incorporate the four historic 1938 bridge lights into the new path lighting design.

The new design is also hoping to enhance functionality and accessibility to the Town Common. There are new accessibility pathways, gathering spaces, and placed benches to enhance the comfort and welcoming space of the Town Common. The project would also be designed to have the space host key community events such as the annual tree lighting, farmers market and other small events.

During the study, the consultants identified how people typically use the Town Common. Most people use the common for community events and some use for walking. For upgrades, people prioritize more accessible entrances, walking paths, and parking spaces. There were also needs expressed regarding more seating and a restroom.

For the final design development, the plan is to possibly expand on the existing gazebo, adding a shade structure and a public restroom. The plan is also proposing to do about 20 parking spaces, including seven grass parking spaces. There would also be a newly added gravel road-way on the Common.

For natural features, the plan is proposing to add new trees to be planted, with native shrubs and perennials. Site amenities include benches, picnic tables, seat wall on the lawn, shade structure, rain garden, buffer planting, and a restroom. There are several public restroom options available including a

prefabricated restroom building, a new restroom building, or renovation of the existing train station that is by the Town Common.

The Weston & Sampson Consultants want to hear feedback from the public during the Selectmen’s meeting. Afterwards, they will work on finalizing drawings and working with the Town on a phasing process and see what else could be reincorporated into the plan.

The Selectmen commented first, and David Dufresne said this design project has been a need in the Town for a long time.

“We’ve seen the need for redeveloping our town center,” Dufresne said. “This park is kind of the face of the Town.”

The Parks & Recreation Department has done a good job with current events that are hosted on the Common. The biggest dilemma the town seems to have is that the Train Station property is still privately owned. It would give the town more design options if they owned the train station, since it neighbors the Town Common and would be a big help in adding more amenities to the Common.

The station has been empty for many years and it would be a good historic part of the town to help bring back into some form of activity. Someone in the public asked about the bridge lights. The consultants were looking at having the lights placed by the central seating area of the Town Common.

Sue Ramsay, who served on the Town Common improvement project committee, brought up the idea of possibly relocated the gazebo. There are several feasible options to move stuff around, but the Town Common is limited when it comes to space.

Someone in the public asked how much green space would be lost. There is no real concrete number of how much space can be lost when the Town is still unsure what the costs would be to the town for redesigning the Town Common.

Warren resident Ray Kopacko commented and said the town should get a scope of what the costs to the town are and the town needs a consideration of finances. O’Leary said he will look into other programs and that will help the town have a more comprehensive study to make a better decision on what the final design of the Common will be.

The Selectmen thanked everyone involved in the Town Common Redesign Project for their time and effort that was put into this design.

### Friends of St. Luke presentation

The Selectmen met a volunteer from Friends of St. Luke. The organization provides support to and hospitality to those in need of temporary, non-emergency shelter. The organization serves multiple towns in Worcester County, including Warren.

They have a social worker and case manager to help

families and individuals to become self-sufficient. The purpose of the presentation is to allow people to ask questions about Friends of St. Luke and its guesthouse and share some of their literature in the Town.

Friends of St. Luke want to get the word out and usually help people with a temporary home until they become self-sufficient. Finding Hope is another program the Friends of St. Luke offers, and the organization hopes to connect with Town resources to further spread their support.

The Selectmen asked how long individuals and families usually stay in this temporary home placement, and the friends of St. Luke say they stay up to three months and afterwards are self-sufficient enough to begin finding a home of their own.

The Selectmen said they can place the organization’s information on the town’s Facebook page and website. They can also place brochures in the Senior Center. Friends of St. Luke also participates in a sleep out for homelessness and wants to further expand education homelessness. The Selectmen suggested Friends of St. Luke could check in with the school district to see if they’re interested.

### Oakham battery storage discussion

Town Administrator James Ferrera brought before the board a letter from the community of Oakham and the proposed 180-megawatt lithium battery energy storage system in the Ware River

Watershed.

There are concerns about the facility being placed in their community and the Town sent over documents to neighboring communities. Oakham is reaching out to boards of other neighboring towns to see if they’d be interested in signing a resolution and a letter to the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) in Boston.

Ferrera is offering to see if the Warren Selectmen are interested in signing the letter. Ferrera said Oakham is looking for support from legislative bodies as a way to further raise their concerns about this battery storage system.

The main concerns were lack of knowledge and lack of resources to combat a potential fire. There are firefighter trainings to fight certain fires, but the resources for these training are of a high cost.

“Communities can’t afford to purchase some of these resources or attend these trainings because it is very cost prohibitive,” Ferrera said.

Another worry the Selectmen brought up is that this battery storage system is possibly going near the Ware River Watershed and could possibly contaminate the water. It was proven that there is hazardous equipment placed by these storage systems.

By supporting another community, the Warren Board of Selectmen voted to approve and support Oakham’s proposal and letter.

# CDAC has final master plan review

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Community Development Advisory Committee met with Sarah O’Brien of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to discuss the Master Plan.

O’Brien had a full plan review featuring all the chapter drafts with changes that were made based on questions by the Board. CDAC Chair Jeremy Olson said he had a chance to read through the chapters and didn’t find anything that needed to be changed. Overall, Olson believes the plan looks great.

The CDAC wanted to know what the next steps are for the master plan. O’Brien said it was now time to allow the public to comment after reviewing this plan.

“Publicly say ‘we have the drafts,’” O’Brien stated.

Give the public an opportunity to comment and see what is written in the master plan. O’Brien said a public meeting could be an option to get people together. She also suggested that the town does something that works for Warren.

The CDAC also talked about how many copies of the plan should be made. The town may also provide a QR code that could take people to the plan since people use computers a lot. The committee wants to make it easy for residents to access.

O’Brien did bring a sample of how the master plan

would be put together and was in the form of a book. There could be an option to print the plan on paper instead of just copies of binding books.

For a timeline, there is a public comment period, final changes to the plan, and the CDAC will vote to bring the master plan forward. Usually, the plan is voted by the Planning Board of the town and some town select boards vote on the plan as well. The State will get a copy to read as well.

For a public comment period, the CDAC was looking to have an event sometime in either August or September. The Town could promote some form of function that draws people to the event. The public comment gathering could take place in one of the parks.

The CDAC also talked about a backup plan in case the date they choose has bad weather. When presenting a Master Plan, O’Brien said many towns present the master plan differently. Members of the CDAC talked about St. Stans Polish Club in West Warren as a possibly hosting site for the presentation of the master plan.

The club does have a pavilion outside that could house a decent number of people as well as serve food and beverages. There can also be music provided at the event, and a projector screen can be featured to present the plan.

Please see **MASTER PLAN**, page 13

# School Supply List

## Suggested School Supply Donations:

-  Box of Colored Pencils
-  Plastic Pencil Box (Unlabeled)
-  Erasers (Not Pencil Top)
-  Thin Set of Crayola Markers
-  Thick Set of Crayola Markers
-  Scotch Tape
-  Pack of Post-It Notes
-  Box of 24 Crayons (No Larger)
-  Colored Pencils
-  Children’s Scissors
-  Elmer’s Glue Sticks
-  Expo Markers
-  Single Subject Notebooks (Any Color)
-  Erasers (Pencil Top Style)
-  Lots of Pencils (Ideally Ticonderoga)
-  Pencil Case/Box/Bag
-  Cm/Inch Ruler
-  Hand-Held Pencil Sharpener

## Items For Sharing With The Class:

-  Lysol/Clorox Wipes
-  Tissues
-  Hand Sanitizer
-  Expo Markers
-  Paper Towels

## Drop Off Locations:

### WARE

- Cedarbrook Village
- Monson Savings Bank
- Moulton Insurance
- Hakim Medical Center
- Dhillon Family Dentistry
- Ware Town Hall
- Ware River News

### PALMER

- J Stolar Insurance Agency
- AMVETS Post 74
- Just a Little Craft Store
- Palmer Restaurant
- Phish Phriends
- Life’s Memories & More
- Rocky’s
- Palmer Town Hall

### MONSON

- The Better Bean
- Monson Savings Bank
- TJ’s Tavern

## ZBA seeks two residents to serve on board

WARREN – The Warren Zoning Board of Appeals is seeking two residents of Warren who would like to serve on the board.

The ZBA is a five-member board that hears and considers petitions for Zoning

Variances and appeals of decisions of the Building Inspector.

Residents who would like to serve the town in this capacity should send a Letter of Interest to the Board of Selectmen, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083-0609.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
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**Dan Flynn, 413-297-5886**  
**dflynn@turley.com**



Jill Dal Zovo is shown alongside her and her husband's 1923 Ford Model T, one of the oldest cars featured in this year's car show.



Over 125 cars were registered in this year's car show and happened on a beautiful summer day.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

# Janine's Frostee hosts 20th Annual Car Show

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Janine's Frostee had a packed parking lot this weekend due to hosting their annual Car Show.

This year marks the 20th Annual Janine's Frostee Car Show and this year's show is supporting Send Me Outdoors. This is a veteran focused 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps impact the lives of veterans and first responders in their post-service transition.

Co-owners of Janine's Frostee, Tim and Cindy Dugas, took over ownership of the business earlier in the year and thought it was important to continue the tradition of hosting the annual car show. Thanks to the passion the previous owner had, both Tim and Cindy fell in love with Janine's and were excited to offer the car show this year.

Over 125 cars were registered in this year's show and keeping to tradition means offering new car show T-shirts as well as previous T-shirts from the past car shows. Many car owners who have participated in the car show over the years were wearing shirts from previous years. The staff at Janine's were supporting the 20th annual Car Show t-shirts with Send Me Outdoors



An orange Ford Bronco was featured in the 20th Annual Janine's Frostee Car Show.

being represented on the shirt.

"This was a spectacular turnout for our first year," Dugas said. "We like to spread out the support."

In addition to the car show, there were over 60 raffle prizes donated by various local businesses who went far and beyond to support Send Me Outdoors. For musical entertainment, the Willies made a return to Janine's Frostee to perform during the Car Show. Tim Dugas said the Willies "fit perfectly" with their "car hop

type of music."

For more about the nonprofit organization, Send Me Outdoors, go to [www.send-meoutdoors.org](http://www.send-meoutdoors.org). The mission of Send Me Outdoors is to provide opportunities for military and first responders veterans and their families to develop strong social connections while enhancing their social, physical, mental, and emotional well-being through acts of service and activities in an outdoor setting.

Tim's wife Cindy said "everything is working out beautifully" during the car

show and the event was blessed with perfect summer day weather. Both Tim and Cindy are planning to keep with tradition by continuing to have this car show on an annual basis. There were 15 awards being given out in this year's Car Show at Janine's Frostee.

There were many regular car owners who returned for the annual Janine's Frostee Car Show, but this year's show featured a lot of newcomers. Dolores Day, originally from Ware, entered a car for the first time and



A 1941 blue Plymouth P12 Special Deluxe, owned by Mark Smith of Chicopee.



A shiny blue 1968 Ford Mustang. Tim of Springfield has owned this mustang for 13 years.

it was her 1969 Chevrolet Camaro.

This Camaro was newly restored with a new motor

Please see **CAR SHOW**, page 15



The 1969 Chevy Camaro, owned by Dolores Day, was displayed for the first time at the Janine's Car Show.



A 1931 Ford Model A Woodie Station Wagon



There were a lot of Mustangs featured in this year's Car Show.

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Brady Patchen navigates through the defense looking for a basket.

## Panthers grab another win



Isaac Patchen crosses midcourt with the ball.

**AUBURN** – Last Monday evening, Quabbin boys summer basketball scored a win over Shepherd Hill. Combined with a win last Wednesday night, the Panthers are an impressive 8-1 for the summer season in the Auburn High School Summer Basketball League. The Panthers have one final regular season game earlier this week before the playoffs begin.



Aiden Crane goes for the layup.



Evan Sherbloom keeps the ball from going out of bounds.

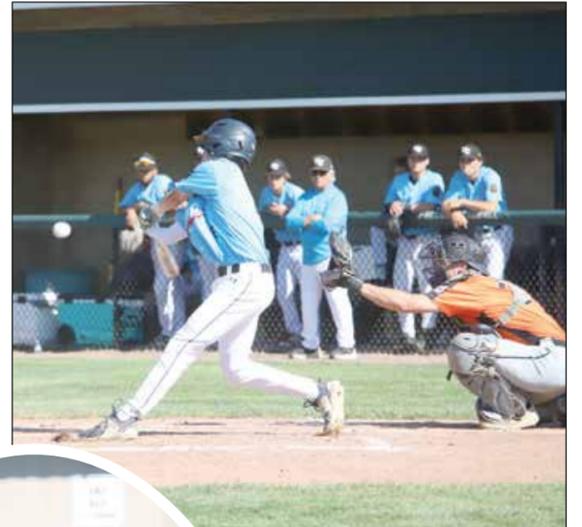


Jacoby Dilling calls out a play.

## North County advances in Legion playoffs



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Logan Cormier sends a pitch home.



Aiden LaPointe swings and connects.



Benjamin Forbes feeds the pitch after making a play.

**WILBRAHAM** – The North County American Legion Baseball team defeated Belchertown for a second time in a double-elimination tournament last Monday. North County beat Post 239 10-5 after falling behind early in the game. With the win, North County, which includes players from Quabbin Regional High School, moved into another matchup with Leominster. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition.



Anthony Girgenti reaches hit to catch a throw on a bunt play.

William Gage heads into second with a double.

## Monson Post 241 beats Wilbraham to advance in tourney

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

**WORCESTER**—Nate Kaczuwka will be ineligible to play for the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team in the summer of 2026.

Kaczuwka hurled a three-hitter as Monson stayed alive in the 2025 state playoffs with a 7-1 victory over the Wilbraham Falcons at Fitton Field located on the College of the Holy Cross campus, last Sunday.

“Unless we can make a heck of a run in the state playoffs, this was the last start of my legion career,” Kaczuwka said. “Being the winning pitcher in my final start is a great way to go out.”

Monson, who finished the regular season with a 7-6

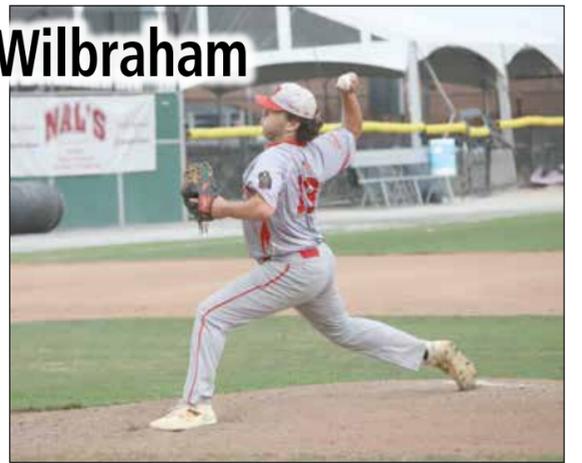
record, began the playoffs with a 7-1 loss to Shrewsbury Post 297, who were the top-seeded and host team in the Region 3 pod.

The Wilbraham Falcons (7-6), who finished tied with Monson in the District 3 standings, lost 5-4 to Lowell Post 87 in the opening round game.

At the start of the regular season, the Falcons squeaked out an 8-7 home win against Monson.

“We lost a close game to Wilbraham at the beginning of the season,” said Monson manager Steve Tripp. “We had some timely hits, and we broke the game open after the rain delay in the sixth inning.”

Monson held a slim 2-1 lead when it began raining with one-out in the sixth



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Nathan Kaczuwka throws a pitch home.

inning. The members of the grounds crew began rolling out the tarp in left field before the home plate umpire stopped the game.

When play resumed 30 minutes later, Wilbraham righty Anthony Ardolino, who played baseball at Pope Francis, recorded his seventh strikeout which was the sec-

ond out of the frame. Monson would send six more batters to the plate before the final out of the inning was made.

“We just stayed focused in the dugout during the rain delay,” said Monson catcher

Please see **LEGION**, page 11



Shane Szado hustles down the first base line.



Hunter Sherman takes a swing

# sports



Mason Barcomb fields a grounder to short.



Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Dave Clark flips a throw to first.



Cam MacDonald sends the ball from third to first.

## PeoplesBank advances to Tri-County finals

HOLYOKE – In a best-of-three games series, the PeoplesBank Tri-County baseball team swept Teddy Bear Pools in two games to advance to the league championship series. St. Joseph's won its series in three games, two games to one, to face PeoplesBank. That championship series was scheduled to begin earlier this week. PeoplesBank defeated Teddy Bear in both games by a final of 7-2.



Brendan Fournier throws a pitch home



Seth Allen steals second base.



Alex Gochinski makes a throw to first for Teddy Bear Pools.

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Summer Edition

EAST BROOKFIELD – It is week 12 as the Wednesday Mixed Summer League at Bogey Lanes nears the end of the season.

With only two weeks left, Sophia's Raiders have a comfortable lead in first place with a record of 73-23. Kristen's Squad move into second place with a record of 54-42. The Gutter Dolls are in third place with a record of 53-43.

During week 12, Sophia's Raiders bowled against Team No Shows. In game one, Sophia's Raiders won against No Shows by a score of 454-425. Trevor Kenneson bowled a 112 in game one.

In game two, No Shows got the victory by a score of 472-442. Ryan Drago of No Shows bowled a 121 and Pete Swistak bowled a 104.

In game three, Sophia's Raiders won the last game by a score of 426-401. Phil Clough of Sophia's Raiders finished the match with a 107 and Swistak finished with a 106. The final score was 1322-1298 in favor of Sophia's Raiders.

Kristen's Squad bowled against Rolling Stones this past week. In game one, Kristen's Squad bowled well and won by a score of 483-419. Emily Black of Kristen's Squad bowled well over her average with a 107 and her teammate Bob Button bowled a 126.

In game two, Rolling Stones won by a score of 424-411. In game three,

Kristen's Squad won by a score of 413-404. The final score was 1307-1247 in favor of Kristen's Squad, who are now in second place.

Gutter Fingers bowled against Gutter Dolls in week 12. In game one, Gutter Fingers won by a score of 444-422. In game two, Gutter Fingers won again by a score of 450-422. In game three, Gutter Fingers won by a score of 439-434 to sweep the Gutter Dolls. The final score was 1333-1278 in favor of Gutter Fingers.

The Gutter Snipes bowled against their average in week 12 and won two points. Marc Vinciulla had a good game during game one with a 129. The Gutter Snipes are currently in eighth place with a record of 44-52.

Straight Shooters bowled against Clock Barn this past week. In game one, Clock Barn tied with Straight Shooters by a score of 452-452. In game two, Clock Barn won a close game by a score of 432-426.

In game three, Clock Barn won another close game by a score of 423-420. Clock Barn received seven points as they won total pinfall by a final score of 1307-1298. Clock Barn has a record of 28-68 after twelve weeks of bowling.

With a comfortable lead, it looks like Sophia's Raiders have clinched first place to win this year's summer league on Wednesday nights at Bogey Lanes. The league will end in a couple weeks followed by a banquet.

## Valley Blue Sox score win over Bristol Blues

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox hosted the Bristol Blues in what was a phenomenal game. Bristol (25-17) scored two runs in the top of the second. Blues' Dean Oneill singled, which was then followed by a Thomas Ahlers single. The first baseman Trevor Hansen smacked a double into left to score Oneill and Ahlers. The Blues were in business up 2-0.

Valley (19-21) responded in the bottom of the fourth inning. Second baseman

Sean Darnell singled into left for the Blue Sox's first hit of the night. An E4 by Bristol's Danny Infante allowed Michael Elko to advance to first. John LaFleur then came up to the plate. He doubled off the right field wall to score Darnell and advance Elko to third. Tim Ford hit a sac-fly to right, which scored Elko and advanced LaFleur to third.



Valley's Catcher, Hayden Perry singled, scoring LaFleur to give the Blue Sox the lead 3-2 after four innings.

The Blues found their offensive footing in the top of the fifth. Tyler Benick reached first on a walk. Blue Sox's Starting Pitcher Conor Wolf got replaced by Jake Andrews with one out in the

inning. Andrews struck out the first batter he faced, that being Infante. Kristopher Giangreco walked to put another runner on base for Bristol. The three-hole hitter, Gianni Merlonghi, ripped a single into shallow right field, scoring Benick to tie the game at 3-3. Valley's relief pitcher Andrews, got out of the inning by striking out Oneill to limit the damage to one run.

Please see **BLUE SOX**, page 11

## Quabbin Valley set to host second over-28 fall league

Following up on the resounding success of its inaugural campaign, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 adult baseball league will hold its second Fall League this September and October.

Seeking to create a similar competition environment to its spring/summer league, Quabbin Valley, with contributions from the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, created a four-team

fall league last year featuring the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Twins.

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the league is open to welcoming more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

While the fall league schedule is still under construction, it will mostly feature Sunday morning games played with wood-bat only, which is customary for fall baseball. There could be some Saturday games added to the schedule depending on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rain-outs, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season. Last year's fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

An interest/registration form, will be forthcoming soon, but until then, to express interest in the league, you can email the coordinators of the league at either GScibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com.

Scheduled and team placement for unaffiliated players will be finalized in mid-to-late August. Please join in the fun this fall.

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LEGION from page 9

Kyle Kaczuwka. "We managed to pull away after that."

Monson third baseman Brayden Mega kept the inning alive with a line-drive single to right field. Then Dylan Holbrook, who had been a pinch hitter two innings earlier, was safe at first base following a throwing error by the third baseman.

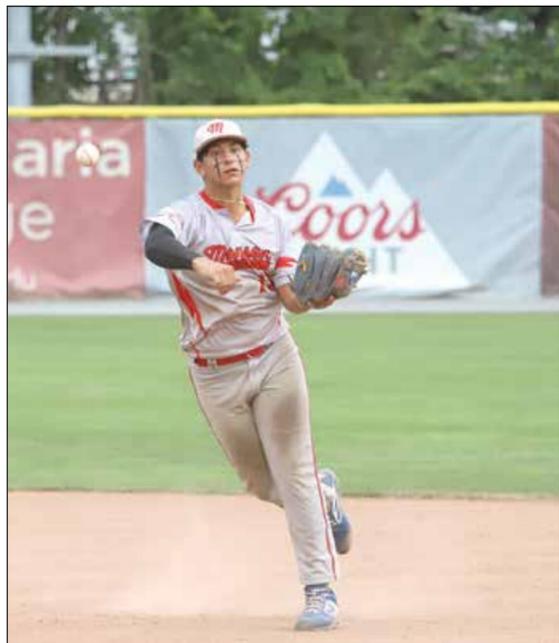
Centerfielder Zack Youngberg, who attends Worcester Academy, greeted relief pitcher Robert Bouchard by hitting a hard groundball single into left field scoring the first run of the inning. Two more runs crossed the plate when Kyle Kaczuwka (3-for-4) blasted a triple that bounced off the center field fence.

"Kyle is our best hitter," Tripp said. "He was our starting catcher in today's game, but he can also play any infield position. He just loves playing baseball."

Second baseman Miguel Velasquez continued Monson's rally with an RBI single to right field, which gave Monson a 6-1 advantage.

Then Nate Kaczuwka, who was the ninth batter of the inning, also hit a triple down the rightfield line scoring another run.

The righthander then kept



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Miguel Velasquez makes a throw to first.

Wilbraham off the scoreboard during the final two innings finishing his complete game performance.

Monson took a 1-0 lead with no-outs in the top of the second inning.

Velasquez, who hit a lead-off single, scored the first run of the game when Nate Kaczuwka doubled to left. It could've been a much bigger inning for Monson, as they

left the bases loaded.

Wilbraham tied the score in the bottom half of the frame.

Bouchard, who began the game in centerfield, drew a walk before advancing to second base following a wild pitch. After the next batter flied out to right, leftfielder Ethan Steigmeyer drove home Bouchard with a single.

Wilbraham's other two base hits were by shortstop Luke Stejna and first baseman Liam Howe.

Monson quickly retook the lead in the next inning with an unearned run. Kyle Kaczuwka knocked home the go-ahead run with a single to left.

Post 241 made another trip to Worcester less than twenty four hours later and played another elimination game.

"My older brother pitched a great game, and it feels great winning our first playoff game," Kyle Kaczuwka said. "We just need to take it one day at a time."

# Silk conquers Monadnock Speedway in 'Cheshire County Clash 200'

WINCHESTER, New Hampshire – After a series record eight different to open the year, Sunday's Cheshire County Clash 200 at Monadnock Speedway yielded the first repeat winner of the 2025 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season.

Ron Silk would be the one to snap the streak, earning his first Monadnock victory with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour in the process. The triumph did not come without drama for Silk, who collided with race leader Patrick Emerling in Turn 3 with 30 laps remaining, sending the latter for a spin.

Silk attributed the collision to two drivers going for the win. Although he was disappointed to see Emerling spin after the contact, Silk was more than satisfied to finally visit Victory Lane at Monadnock in his 15th appearance.

"We were racing pretty hard," Silk said. "I pulled out on the exit of Turn 2 and he didn't give me a lot of room, but I don't blame him. I feel like we both kind of got loose in and made some contact. I wish he

could have held onto it, but that's hard racing."

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Matt Hirschman celebrates after claiming the Whelen Short Track Cup for the second time during the Cheshire County Clash 200 for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, New Hampshire on July 20, 2025. (Photo: Jaiden Tripi/NASCAR) Bonsignore held on to finish second while Hirschman secured third, which enabled him to claim his second Whelen Short Track Cup. Hirschman endured an odyssey just to reach the top

five, as a mistake in qualifying relegated him to 20th on the starting grid.

By utilizing strategy and persevering with a car not to his liking, Hirschman narrowly edged out his Mud Lane neighbor Austin Beers for the Whelen Short Track Cup and a \$3,500 bonus courtesy of JDV Productions.

"I did not think this was possible," Hirschman said. "I do think we gave it away last night, but we ended up with a third place finish with a car that felt like it was on six or seven cylinders. My guys worked hard, nobody knows what the problem is, but it's nobody's fault. The Cup wouldn't have even been a contest if we finished remotely close to where we should have last night."

"I feel like I drove my rear end off today with what I had."

Anthony Nocella and Trevor Catalano made up the rest of the top five. Rounding out the top 10 at Monadnock were Joey Cipriano III, Luke Baldwin, Emerling, Beers and Tommy Catalano.



Matt Santos ranges left to field a grounder.

BLUE SOX from page 10

In the bottom of the sixth the Blue Sox's First Baseman Elko blasted a homer into right field as the crowd roared in cheers. Valley was now up 4-3 after the go ahead homer by Elko. Blue Sox Head Coach Endy Morales was hyped after the homer. "He's unbelievable. Off the field he's a high character guy and on the field he does all the little things right." Ford then lined a single in the gap into

left but then got caught on a pickoff by Bristol's Pitcher Mason Glickman. The Blue Sox were not able to score more runs after the homer but reclaimed the lead to end the inning.

No more runs were scored and the game ended 4-3 in favor of Valley. Morales gave his thoughts on the game. "I thought we pitched really well. We got ahead of a bunch of hitters and that makes a big difference when you're getting ahead."



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## 529 education savings plans: More flexible than you think

Planning for your child's education can feel overwhelming, but a 529 education savings plan offers a powerful way to build a financial foundation for their educational future.

One in 4 parents currently invests in a 529 plan, according to 2025 research by Edward Jones and Morning Consult. Perhaps it's because of the tax benefits — earnings are generally tax free if the money is used for qualified educational expenses. Or perhaps it's because of their flexibility.

Types of education. While most people know 529 plans can help cover college and university tuition, these versatile accounts can also pay tuition for vocational and trade schools, making them suitable for students pursuing careers in skilled trades like plumbing, electrical work or culinary arts. Additionally, some apprenticeship programs qualify for these funds. And even K-12 tuition expenses are covered, up to \$10,000 per year for private, public and religious elementary and secondary schools.

Beyond tuition. Withdrawals from a 529 plan can move beyond tuition and cover the cost of room and board for students enrolled at least half-time. They can help pay for books, computers and qualified educational supplies. And a big surprise for some: A 529 plan can help with student loan repayment up to \$10,000 per beneficiary.

Who can contribute. Fortunately, 529 plans welcome contributions from anyone — parents, grandparents, other family and friends. Contributions are treated as gifts to the beneficiary, so most contributors will want to stay within the annual nontaxable gifting limit (which for 2025 is \$19,000 for individuals or \$38,000 for married couples filing jointly).

Interestingly, 1 in 5 parents would prefer for their child to receive 529 contributions as gifts from loved ones, making these accounts perfect for birthdays, holidays and other special occasions.

Multiple children. If you have multiple children, you have options in how you structure your 529 savings. You can maintain separate accounts for each child or use one account for all your children.

Unused funds. You may be concerned about what happens if your child doesn't use all the money. Fortunately, these accounts offer numerous penalty-free options. You can easily change the beneficiary to another qualifying family member, including siblings, nieces, nephews, grandchildren or even yourself as the account owner.

You can also roll funds to another family member's existing 529 plan. If your child receives a scholarship, you can withdraw up to the scholarship amount without penalty (though you'll pay income tax on a portion of the money). The IRS allows an option to roll up to \$35,000 into a Roth IRA for the beneficiary if certain requirements are met. You should consult with your tax advisor on this 529/Roth IRA rollover issue.

State options. It's important to note that 529 plans vary from state to state, and you're not limited to your home state's plan. However, it's smart to examine your home state's offerings first, as many provide special incentives like tax breaks for residents.

When comparing plans, consider factors such as tax benefits, fees, investment options and ease of use. A good financial advisor can help you navigate these choices and identify the plan that makes the most sense for your family's specific situation and goals.

529 education savings plans offer flexibility and tax advantages that help make them an excellent tool for education planning. With their expanded uses and multiple options for unused funds, they can help provide families with both security and adaptability in preparing for their children's educational futures.

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# public safety

## Ware Police Log

During the week of July 22-29, the Ware Police Department responded to 17 miscellaneous calls, 23 administrative calls, 18 traffic violations, 16 emergency 911 calls, two motor vehicle accidents, two safety hazards, one fraud, one damage/vandalism, one breaking and entering, nine animal calls and 61 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

**Tuesday, July 22**  
 5:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 6:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 7:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 7:31 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Dispatch Handled  
 9:56 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated  
 10:49 a.m. Warrant Service, East Street, Services Rendered  
 Arrest: Mark Martinez, 49, Ware  
 Warrant of Apprehension  
 10:50 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised  
 5:34 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Sky View Drive, Services Rendered  
 6:07 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Main Street, Services Rendered  
 8 p.m. Safety Hazard, East Street, Dispatch Handled

**Wednesday, July 23**  
 11:57 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, Milner Street, Report Made  
 2:06 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Dispatch Handled  
 10 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Canal Street, Dispatch

Handled  
**Thursday, July 24**  
 5:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Criminal Complaint  
 1:55 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cummings Street, Advised  
 5:32 p.m. Safety Hazard, Sczygiel Road, Services Rendered  
 8:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Friday, July 25**  
 1:17 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pleasant Street, Services Rendered  
 1:52 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Could Not Locate  
 4:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Criminal Complaint

**Saturday, July 26**  
 2:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Arrest Made  
 Arrest: Ryan T. Barber, 28, Ware  
 OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Number Plate Violation  
 10:12 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Horseshoe Circle, Could Not Locate  
 11:06 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, East Street, Could Not Locate  
 1:37 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Could Not Locate  
 2:55 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Investigated  
 3:12 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Could Not Locate  
 4:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
 7:06 p.m. Traffic Incident/

*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.*

Crash, Palmer Road, Report Made

**Sunday, July 27**  
 12:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 12:44 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Services Rendered  
 1:29 p.m. Breaking and Entering, Osborne Road, Report Made  
 4:49 p.m. Traffic Violation, Walnut Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 7:05 p.m. Outside Fire, Greenwich Road, Investigated  
 7:29 p.m. Traffic Violation, High Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 7:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning issued

**Monday, July 28**  
 9:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Tuesday, July 29**  
 12:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
 7:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued

## Warren Police Log

During the week of July 13-19, the Warren Police Department responded to 100 building/property checks, five community policings, six emergency 911 calls, four complaints, four frauds/forgeries, two safety hazards, two harassments, one threat, one larceny/theft, one motor vehicle accident, one animal call and 30 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

**Sunday, July 13**  
 10:50 a.m. Falls, Bacon Street, Report Filed  
 6:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 7:21 p.m. Noise Complaint, North Street, Officer Spoke to Party

**Monday, July 14**  
 12:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning  
 12:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 12:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 12:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 1:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

1:40 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Bemis Road, Officer Took Call  
 1:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 1:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 2:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 2:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning  
 2:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 2:30 p.m. Safety Concern, Bacon Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 2:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Brookfield Road, Written Warning  
 2:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning  
 2:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 2:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Street, Written Warning  
 5:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Old West Brookfield Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Tuesday, July 15**  
 4:08 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Main Street, Report Filed  
 5:15 p.m. Fumes/Odor, Bacon Street, Investigated  
 5:15 p.m. Harassment, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
 6:44 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 8:38 p.m. Complaint, Old West Brookfield Road, Officer Took Call

**Wednesday, July 16**  
 9:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 11:24 a.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
 12:13 p.m. Harassment, Old West Brookfield Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 2:13 p.m. Parking Issues, Liberty Street, Officer Took

Call  
 2:57 p.m. Threats, Milton O. Fountain Way, Call Transferred  
 4:03 p.m. Safety Concern, Reed Street, Call Transferred  
 4:14 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Crescent Street, Transported to Hospital  
 6:03 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Main Street, Negative Contact

**Thursday, July 17**  
 11:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
 11:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Comins Pond Road, Criminal Complaint

**Friday, July 18**  
 9:39 a.m. Complaint, Keys Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 3:57 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Constitution Avenue, Report Filed  
 5:27 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Bridges Avenue, Report Filed

**Saturday, July 19**  
 7:47 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Constitution Avenue, Officer Took Call  
 2:53 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Constitution Avenue, Officer Took Call  
 3:17 p.m. Complaint, Keyes Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 3:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Reed Street, Written Warning  
 4:03 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Keys Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of July 21-28, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 75 building/property checks, 39 directed/area patrols, seven radar assignments, two traffic controls, seven emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, two assist other agencies, three complaints, one motor vehicle investigation, one safety hazard, one scam, one trespass, five animal calls and 18 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, July 21**  
 1:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning  
 1:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning  
 2:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning  
 6:35 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Services Rendered  
 9:06 p.m. Trespass, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled

**Tuesday, July 22**  
 11:11 a.m. 911 Welfare Check, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered  
 12:29 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Gaudet Road, Spoken

To  
 5:49 p.m. Scam, Muddy Brook Road, Report Taken  
**Wednesday, July 23**  
 11:10 a.m. Assist Citizen, Turkey Street, Voice Message Left  
 1:34 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Officer Handled

**Thursday, July 24**  
 10:23 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Hardwick Pond Road, Negative Contact  
 1:45 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To

**Friday, July 25**  
 5:08 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed  
 11:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 2:42 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Prospect Street, Negative Contact

**Saturday, July 26**  
 1:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 9:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
 1:34 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town,

Services Rendered  
 1:56 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To  
 2:18 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital  
 3:25 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered  
 3:30 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital  
 4:16 p.m. Assist Citizen, Bridge Street, Officer Handled  
 11:20 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

**Sunday, July 27**  
 11:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
 12:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued  
 2:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridge Street, Citation Issued  
 2:14 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled  
 3:43 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Hardwick Road, Spoken To

**Monday, July 28**  
 1:57 a.m. Medical Emergency, Moran Road, Transported to Hospital

## BBB offers tips to help recover from a scam



Scammers are generally after one of two things; they either try to steal your money now, or they try to steal your identity now to steal money from you later (or to pretend to be you to steal from others).

For many scam victims, the loss of personally identifiable information is even worse than losing money, because it's hard to recover.

The Better Business Bureau offers the following tips to help people recover from scams.

Put a fraud alert on your credit reports and consider freezing your credit. This will prevent thieves from opening additional lines of credit in your name and causing additional financial distress.

Request a free credit report to make sure that existing lines of credit haven't been compromised.

Follow the guidelines on IdentityTheft.gov for additional recovery strategies. This free resource provided by the Federal Trade Commission will assist in helping you take the steps necessary to notify the appropriate agencies.

In Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has advice for protecting yourself from identity fraud and how to report it.

Monitor your online accounts (banking, credit card, app payment services, etc.) at least weekly to make sure you recognize all the charges.

Change your passwords regularly and don't use the same password for multiple

sites. After you've taken care of yourself, report the scam to BBB Scam Tracker to help warn others and to provide additional information that may be useful to law enforcement.

If a company you do business with has suffered a data breach, don't panic. Check the company's website or look for an email with instructions on what you should do to follow up. Many companies offer free credit monitoring after a data breach, or have other concrete measures.

With so many major data breaches in the past decade, consumers should assume their data has been compromised in some way and take the same precautions as those who know they've been scammed.

If you've lost money to a retailer because of undeclared merchandise or are

being told you must pay more in order to receive an item, there are several options:

If you used a credit card, contact the credit card company using the number on the back of your card and dispute the charges. If you used a debit card, contact the banking institution immediately to report the loss (use the number on the back of your card).

If you used a third-party app (PayPal, Venmo, etc.), contact them for instruction on next steps.

If you don't get satisfaction through these means, file a complaint at BBB.org and they will try to help you.

If you were responding to an ad on social media (Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, etc.), report the ad or business and tell the social media channel exactly what happened.



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**UPDATES** from page 3

November 2026. The plans include an inventory and prioritization of equipment, buildings, and pipes and will provide a funding analysis.

Water Pollution Control Plant operator Jeff Tweedie asked if the plan will contemplate future changes in regulations. Faulkner responded that the plans focus on the asset needs, not regulatory change, but realistically those will need consideration.

The committee members were pleased to learn of the progress on the long awaited WPCP Influent Screen. The screen which will remove solids such as wipes and rags from the wastewater was approved by the Selectboard nearly three years ago. It is funded by nearly \$1.7 million of federal COVID funds.

Construction will mobilize in early August with

work to be substantially complete by the end of October. Committee members noted the savings in labor hours from physically removing the materials as well as energy savings from more efficient pumps.

Committee member Nancy Talbot suggested that the town continue to remind residents of the harm to the treatment plan done by materials such as wipes and cloths that are not flushable. Committee members will view the screen once construction has begun.

The town is also moving forward with the repair and replacement of 34 hydrants in the next few months. The replacement of infrastructure and re-pavement of East Main Street is entering a permitting phase and then the town will receive bids for the work.

The committee will next meet on Aug. 26.

**EEE virus confirmed in mosquitoes from Belchertown**

BELCHERTOWN – The Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced on July 23 that Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Belchertown, according to a press release from Director of Public Health Andrea Crete.

EEE is a rare but serious illness spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. While EEE can infect people of all ages, people under 15 years of age or over 50 years of age are at greatest risk for serious illness.

**Avoid mosquito bites**  
Apply insect repellent

when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children.

Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be

applied to skin.

Be aware of peak mosquito hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. When risk is increased, consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning.

If you are outdoors at any time and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up and/or wearing repellent.

**Mosquito-proof your home**  
Drain standing water – many mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mos-

quitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water.

Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or repair screens – some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly fitting screens on all your windows and doors.

**For more information**

Information about EEE and reports of current and historical EEE virus activity in Massachusetts can be found on the MDPH website at [www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito](http://www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito).

**BACKYARD** from page 4

two juveniles were following an adult male red-bellied woodpecker around, two juvenile Baltimore orioles were seen at the bird bath and I also saw a juvenile chipping sparrow take a bath.”

**Bobolinks**

He said, “A few years back I took part in a citizen science project monitoring

bobolinks at Moore State Park in Paxton. Because the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation has failed to maintain two large fields at the park for the benefit of grassland species the bobolink population at the park has declined. Milkweed, multi flora rose, bindweed, crown vetch and other non-grass type vegetation is slowing invading the once grass fields. The first year

I monitored the park there were 149 bobolinks seen in the largest field in August but unfortunately the numbers declined every subsequent year.”

**Osprey**

This Brimfield resident visits a pond in Warren often to check on an osprey nest. He said, “The osprey nest in Warren may have only produced one young this year. The nest has got-

ten bigger over the years so I hoping that there are more young in the nest that have been unseen because the nest is deeper now.”

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](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

**MASTER PLAN**

from page 7

The CDAC will contact the polish club to see if they can book the event on Sept. 3. There is still plenty of time to read the plan. O'Brien will work on a flyer for the event. The Committee was

also looking to have the event broadcasted on their local public access station.

Travis Baker stopped in to confirm that WCAT can come down and broadcast the event. Olson will see if the chosen date works for the polish club.

**FORUM** from page 1

the town's water system infrastructure.

“We know that we have a fair number of water system users who are still challenged by water, that while it meets the technical definitions of being ‘clean water’... it becomes brown,” he said. “I think we have to develop a clear plan and communicate to those folks how to address that.”

Willette said work is underway on this project and town meeting has allocated funds to clean the town's water tanks, to look at reopening another well and repairing pumps. He said the town is also getting ready to undergo a water asset management study.

“All of those are pieces of the puzzle,” Willette said. “I think what's lacking is providing that in a clear manner to the users and trying to address their immediate needs.”

Willette said he believes the project, which costs tens of millions of dollars, will be paid through user fees and long-term financing through bonding and town meeting action.

Willette said the school district's roofs also need to be repaired and replaced, which will be paid for through state building grants with a local match.

He said the town's buildings, including the Town Hall, Department of Public Works, Water and Sewer Departments, need further investment. He said this will require a plan that looks at the town's capital needs.

Cascio said being a water and sewer user, she said the water system is a number one priority and should be focused on regularly. She said this issue is so important that it needs more than the Infrastructure Asset Improvement Committee to look at it and move it along.

“Besides the funding... one thing I really want to see, and I hope to push forward is that right now the Board of Selectmen are also Water Commissioners. I've never made sense of that,” she said. “We at one point did have elected water/sewer commissioners and I really think we need to get back to those point where those people are elected and their main focus is water/sewer...it needs to be a sole focus.”

Cascio said she also wants to focus on vacant buildings and the “Slum and Blight” designated area in town.

“That has had such a detrimental effect to our feelings in town,” she said.

Cascio said the town has a great grant writer and departments that can work together

to take care of some of these areas.

The other thing she wants to focus on is offerings for the town's youth, including replacing the town pool.

*With increasing costs and tightening budgets for departments, equipment and capital improvements, several towns in the region have asked taxpayers to support additional funds. Are there circumstances or projects for which you would support an override or debt exclusion?*

Cascio said she would not be in favor of voting for an override because it would make taxes unaffordable for many in the town. She said the town should look into sharing expenses with other towns by purchasing equipment that can be used regionally.

“We need to really start thinking outside of the box... for equipment, for other things,” she said. “Can we do something that's more on a regional basis or maybe share something between some of our towns? Why should one town have to foot the whole bill?”

Cascio said she would look at debt exclusions for particular projects but that it is up to the voters at town meeting, but she would not support permanently raising the tax rate to meet financial needs.

“You'd never see me go for a 2 1/2 override,” she said.

Willette said a five-year financial plan would need to be conducted to identify the town's needs to help plan ways of how to fund them.

“An override has a very serious consequence to the town,” he said. “It does involve raising our tax base.”

Willette, who currently serves on the Finance Committee, said the town is starting to see “a lot of pressure” between the needs of the town on an operational level and capital needs level, and state and federal funding.

He said they may see state funds maxed out for school funding and right now, federal funding is tenuous.

“It's putting pressure on us,” Willette said. “I don't want to say, ‘I will never’ I don't want to say, ‘I will’ what I want to say is I will consider what the needs of the town are against a five-year financial forecast and make the call based on that...and ultimately it will be taxpayers, it will be the residents, who decide what is the best way to go.”

*As a member of the Selectboard, what next steps would you support to bring additional healthcare service to Ware and the region?*

Willette said the closure of Mary Lane Hospital has had a significant impact on the residents of the town and there is

a proposal to bring healthcare back to town from Baystate Health.

He said Baystate Health has committed to opening a Convenient Care center in town that would have three primary care physicians available five days a week.

“I think that's a great first step in the right direction,” Willette said.

Willette said the rezoning of the Mary Lane Hospital site for healthcare will also open up opportunities for additional healthcare resources.

“It's going to be a multipronged approach,” he said, by supporting both the Convenient Care site and marketing the former hospital site.

Cascio said she has served on the Hospital Review Committee and is a member of the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital. She said there is interest from healthcare entities to develop the hospital site.

She said the rezoning is a great first step to bring healthcare back.

Cascio said she is skeptical of Baystate Health's commitment to open a Convenient Care location in town, and she does not agree with the Selectboard's vote to keep Baystate Health as the beneficiary of trust funds through Bank of America.

Cascio said the trust funds benefit more than just Ware, and there needs to be a larger discussion.

“Hardwick is very involved and very upset that they're not part of the conversation,” she said. “The more voices we have, the louder we can be...a couple primary care and a little Convenient Care is okay, but that is not health services...I would work hard and passionately to continue that moving forward.”

*What do you see as our biggest current economic challenge here in Ware and what do you see as future economic development opportunities that might move us forward?*

Cascio said she is “disheartened” by the vacant buildings on Main Street, and she wants to talk with the small business associations to come up with ways to attract people to town.

She said the millyard provides a unique opportunity for the town to be “truly business friendly.” She said bringing in more businesses helps build the tax base and provides more employment opportunities for residents.

Willette said the town relies heavily on its residential tax base (about 85-90%) and the types of businesses and industries in town has evolved.

He said there are some

very positive things happening with the opening of a Tractor Supply store and the progress at the millyard.

He said Ware is close to a number of big tourism draws, including the racetrack, top fishing areas, colleges, and more.

“You can put something here to service the needs of the people who want to enjoy those activities and benefit the town of Ware at the same time,” Willette said.

*Do you support that the current trustee should remain, or that a new trustee should be sought, with regard to the trust funds meant for medical care at the now former Mary Lane Hospital site, and why do you hold this position?*

Willette said he does support having Bank of America remain as trustee of the Lewis Gilbert Trust with Baystate Health as beneficiary.

“Our number one priority was to bring healthcare to Ware and to bring healthcare to Ware as soon as possible,” he said.

Willette said with the way things are currently set up, there could be healthcare back in town within a year and a half. If the trustee and beneficiary shift, it would require the establishment of the Mary Lane Foundation which could take some time.

“We don't know how long it would take to establish that. We don't know what the result would be when they advertise to the community of having the funds available,” Willette said.

Willette said he served 19 years as a firefighter/EMT in his 30 plus years in the fire service and he knows the importance of primary care and convenient care for preventative healthcare.

“I saw many cases that we transported to the hospital that could have been prevented had somebody had access to primary care,” he said.

Willette said there are people in town that need access to healthcare as soon as possible. He said the Convenient Care site is not the only solution, but it is the way to being healthcare sooner.

Cascio said she does not support the decision to keep Bank of America as trustee and Baystate Health as beneficiary.

Cascio said keeping Bank of America as trustee of the funds will limit the funding distribution to Baystate Health only. If the trust is shifted to the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, it would allow the money to benefit more than just Baystate Health.

“They can distribute the monies separately,” she said. “When you go with just Bank of America it will solely and

only go to Baystate.”

*The town has been a longtime supporter of the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force. How would you see your role in supporting the Task Force's efforts and do you have any new ideas on what role the town can play in supporting the Task Force and the community's efforts to support safe and healthy relationships - especially for young people?*

Cascio said she has volunteered with domestic violence organizations in the past and this is an important focus for the community. She said the trust funds could be used to provide support as well.

She said using public platforms and sharing information at social events can help spread awareness about domestic violence.

Willette said the task force has raised awareness by engaging with the community through its walks and educational material.

He said as a Selectboard member, he would assemble the town's departments to support the cause and mission of the task force.

*Often, we hear, “Ware has changed” or “It's not what it used to be” or “Things used to be better”. What does that mean to you? What would you change?*

Willette said Ware was changed over time due to external pressure, shifting from an agricultural community to a mill town with thriving industry, and now it still continues to change.

He said work is ongoing at the millyard to promote new businesses. He said Workshop13 is also looking at expanding their artistic offerings in the millyard.

“We need to build on that, we need to market Ware,” he said.

Willette said the town has funded the removal of vacant buildings on Main Street, as well as a façade improvement program to help small businesses.

“We have some more work to do but we've got to demonstrate that Ware is a great place to be with great residents, great opportunity, and then bring the town's resources to supplement it and make it more vibrant than it is on Main Street today,” he said.

Cascio said it is important to improve the appearance of town, and she said homeownership will help instill a sense of pride amongst residents and improve neglected properties. She said this also involves contacting landlords to address properties.

“I want them to have pride again,” she said.

Cascio said there also needs to be more youth programming. She said she wants

all youth to be able to participate and not be limited by affordability.

Cascio said she would like to form a “welcome group” to promote the town's small businesses and resources to new residents.

*The fastest growing population in Ware and the country is senior citizens. What steps should the Selectboard promote to ensure the town is Age Friendly?*

Cascio said the town is designated as being senior citizen friendly and she is a big supporter of aging in place. She said the Senior Center is thinking outside of the box to find ways to keep people in their homes.

She said many senior citizens are taking in roommates in order to stay at home.

“Our seniors are our backbones,” she said. “What do we now do to ensure that they're able to stay here?”

Cascio said it's important for the town to find ways to support its senior citizens and its veterans.

Willette said maintaining emergency services will help senior citizens feel safe in their own homes and he credited the Senior Center staff for the work they do to offer support and programs.

Connecting senior citizens to resources through the Senior Center, as well as having transportation and improving accessibility are also important focuses to make the town more age friendly.

Both Cascio and Willette spoke about tax relief for seniors citizens, including the senior tax work-off program.

*What means do you intend to use to connect with the residents you would be serving? How do you intend to use such communications in your decision making for the town?*

Willette said he will be available through phone and email, at meetings, and community events. He said he would be open to meeting with residents and various groups.

Cascio said she would like to setup meeting times with residents at the Senior Center and at community events and always welcomes conversation.

*What is your vision for Ware events and activities to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary of independence?*

Cascio said she would love to see the town host a multi-generational ball, and bring back the downtown ham and bean supper.

Willette said he would like to see a recreation of the town's significant history, including the town meeting where residents funded the purchase of the assets of the Otis Manufacturing company.

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The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest and resumes from qualified candidates for a **full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer** position within the Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

More in-depth information can be found on the Town's website: **www.worthington-ma.us**  
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to **highway@worthington-ma.us** and **sboard@worthington-ma.us**. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.  
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Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

The front view of a 1955 Chevrolet Model 210, owned by Tony Kozlik of Ware.

**CAR SHOW** from page 8

and beautiful interior. The color of the exterior of the car was unique, being in an audi grey color. Day also added emblems to the Camaro, says it “makes the side of the car prettier.”

During her first time entering a car into the Car Show, Day said she enjoyed seeing a lot of vintage cars dating back to the 1950s.

One of the rarest cars featured in Janine’s Car Show was a 1941 Blue Plymouth P12 Special Deluxe. Mark Smith of Chicopee has owned the car for five years and has been involved with cars his whole life. The Plymouth is one of 11 cars Smith owns in total. The Plymouth is the oldest car he owns and estimates its value at around \$35,000.

When Smith purchased the car he began doing upgrades. The car has new interior, steering, and wheels. Smith said he still drives the car when he can.



This year’s 20th Annual Janine’s Frostee Car Show T-shirts. Previous year T-shirts were available as well.

“I drive it everywhere,” Smith said.

One of the oldest cars in this year’s show was a 1923 Ford Model T, owned by David and Jill Dal Zovo of Westfield. This 102-year-old car came in bright yellow with a brown box as the trunk. Jill Dal Zovo said the seating in the car is quite

comfortable. “It’s like sitting on a couch,” Dal Zovo said.

Another newcomer to the Janine’s Car Show this year was Kris Brown of Wilbraham, who brought his 1976 Trans Am. Brown is a member of the Smokey and the Bandit Trans Am Club and has been doing car shows almost as long as he has owned the Trans Am.

Earlier this year, Brown went to a car show in Epping, New Hampshire and brought the Trans Am. Brown had his membership plaque on display under the hood of the Trans Am as well as a calendar picture where the car was featured for one month.

Many visitors took pictures of the Trans Am as Brown agreed “The car is the show.” Brown also shared a picture of his Trans Am next to a replica 18-wheel truck that resembles the truck that was featured in the 1977 film “Smokey and the Bandit”.

**POLICY** from page 1

Parents and educators questioned if flannel pajama-style pants and flip-flops would be allowed in the proposed dress code, citing the affordability of these items for many of the low-income families. Others discussed whether a sports bra would be permissible to wear as a top in the classroom, or slippers with outdoor soles as shoes.

“We need to find a balance,” Whitham said.

School Committee member Aaron Sawabi said it makes sense to have a standard of how students should dress in the learning environment.

A parent also brought up students wearing ears and tails to school, and asked if that would be considered part of the dress code. School Committee members will research if this falls under costumes or cosplay, or if it would fall under Title VI for identity.

Whitham also shared concerns about dress code being tied to modesty or morality, rather than professionalism.

The current dress code policy does not have a standard for teachers. This would need to be negotiated with the union if the School Committee expands the existing policy to include staff.

“In our current contracts, we don’t have a dress code for staff,” Ware Middle School Principal Kimberly Thompson said.

Whitham said she will

continue researching the dress code policy, including the use of slippers and costumes. She will also gather diagrams used by other school districts that show the definition of acceptable shirts, pants and shorts, etc.

“Obviously this is going to take some back and forth conversation,” Whitham said.

The hearing also addressed the school district’s cell phone policy.

High School Principal Scott Slattery recommended having a location in each classroom to store students cell phones during learning time.

A teacher at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School said smart watches have been an issues with the younger students.

Parents surveyed about the cell phone policy noted that they were largely unfamiliar with the current policy. Most parents agreed that students should only be allowed access to cell phones during passing periods and lunch time, but prohibited from using them in the classroom during learning time.

The School Committee said they should look at creating three tiers to the cell phone policy, to address specific needs in each school.

The School Committee closed the public hearing and will continue work to amend the existing dress code and cell phone use policies.

Athletic handbook

Athletic Director Thomas Shamgochian said having an athletic handbook would

be good due to the changing climate in athletics across the commonwealth. He said Slattery sent out a letter to building staff seeking volunteers to form a committee to work on the handbook, but didn’t receive any replies.

“Mr. Slattery and I have been working together to make an athletic handbook,” Shamgochian said.

The draft handbook is 16 pages long and mirrors MIAA policies as well as district policies.

“Before we continue to work on it, I think we just need more direction,” he said.

Shamgochian said the handbook also outlines academic requirements and eligibility, athletic awards, registration and tryouts, how to find the team schedules, concussion and injury policies, communication and chain of command, practice and game attendance, daily attendance policy, substance and chemical use, hazing, weather, recruiting and college play, discipline, transportation and more.

“It’s pretty in depth,” he said.

The draft will be reviewed by Director of Student Services Dr. Ginger Colman and the school committee’s legal counsel before adoption.

**Budget update**

Andy Paquette of TMS, Inc. provided an update to the close of fiscal year 2025’s budget. This includes end of year transfers.

“We’re doing out reconcil-

iation and closeout with the town,” he said. “Reviewing end of year purchase orders.”

Paquette said the balances being carried over into FY 26 are slightly lower than anticipated due to the amount of Circuit Breaker received being higher than expected. He said this won’t have any adverse impact on FY 26.

“By law, you’re only allowed to carry over a certain amount, so we actually had to use more Circuit Breaker than we anticipated because we got more,” he said.

Paquette said there is still a balance in the transportation account because the business office is waiting for the last quarter of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act transportation expenses. He said there will be a portion of the balance returned to the town from that account.

**MOA for interim asst. principal**

The School Committee signed a memorandum of agreement for grade six teacher Steven Alaownis who will serve as the interim assistant principal in Ware Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year. Alaownis will have the option to return to his teaching position for the 2026-2027 school year.

**Surplus equipment**

Thompson said the middle school had created a three-year plan to replace the desks in the school, but with the savings in the budget from

not having three significant staff members since March has allowed them to purchase all of the desks and chairs now.

“New desks should be here on the 13th of August,” Thompson said. “But it leaves us with a lot of desks.”

Technology Director Michael Brown also had a list of surplus items, including four Dell computer carts, 28 Chromebooks, wireless access points, phones, projectors and servers that are now obsolete.

The School Committee voted to declare these items as surplus equipment and will first offer them to the town before removing or disposing of them.

**Interim superintendent search**

The School Committee discussed questions to use during the interim superintendent search interviews. A list of 15 questions was compiled.

Winslow said the selection, discussion, interview and vote to appoint an interim superintendent will all occur in open meetings.

“We can eliminate candidates in advance based on the posting that we did,” he said. “We will only give interviews to those that qualify and meet out criteria.”

**Fireworks**

The town’s fireworks event will be held on school grounds with viewing from the football field on Saturday, Aug. 9 with a rain date of

Sunday, Aug. 10. The fireworks show is expected to start at 9 p.m.

The event will also feature Charlie Lask performing as Neil Diamond prior to the fireworks show from 7-8:45 p.m. There will also be family friendly fun including inflatables and bounce houses, a dunk tank and kickball game.

Parking will be available at the neighboring National Guard site.

“It’s going to be a lot of fun,” Fireworks Committee member Dan Flynn said.

**Banner advertisement update**

Resident Frank Bateman presented his recommendations for changes to the banner advertisement program at the athletic field.

“I think you may be better off not offering the banners to come through the school,” he said.

Bateman said it adds another layer of responsibility for staff at the school, and it may be better to have the businesses work directly with banner vendors.

He said he didn’t have any cost recommendations for the banners, but that someone needs to put together a map of the fence line and manage the leased banner spots.

Bateman said his recommendation is that veterans organizations should be exempt from paying the costs to hang banners at Veterans Field.

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**STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS ORDER OF NOTICE**

NOTICE TO: **Shawn Ross LKA 8 Dunham Avenue Ware, MA 01082**

of parts unknown.

Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above named or vesting of custody and care of said child(ren) of the above named in a lawful, private or public agency or a suitable and worthy person. The petition whereby the court’s decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on: **08/06/2025 at 3:00 p.m. at SCJM 81 Columbia Avenue, Willimantic, CT 06226.**

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the: **Ware River News**, a newspaper having a circulation in the town/city of: **Ware, MA.**

Hon. Nicole Anker (Anker, Nicole) Tracey L. Doulens, Deputy Clerk Date signed: 7/23/25

RIGHT TO COUNSEL: Upon proof of inability to pay for a

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**Storage Auction**

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of Kerri Tinker will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 70 Boston Post Rd., Warren, Mass on 8/16/25 at 9:00 a.m.**

The contents of Gerry Van Pelt, Julie Figueroa, Ashley Apraham, Brian Alves, Michael Murphy and Bernadette Carberry will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, Mass on 8/16/25 at 9:30 a.m.**

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278. 07/24, 07/31/2025

*Ware River News*  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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# Town Clerk shares Special Town Election information

WARE – The Selectboard has scheduled a Special Town Election on Tuesday, Aug. 12 with voting from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. to fill the vacancy on the board.  
Catherine Buelow Cascio and Kenneth R. Willette have

submitted their Nomination Papers.  
The last date to register to vote for the Special Election will be Friday, Aug. 1 at 5 p.m. Individuals may check to see if they are registered to vote at [www.ma.gov](http://www.ma.gov) –

Elections and Voting. Simply put in your name and address and you will see whether you are registered or if you need to register or change your address (if you have moved).  
Vote by Mail will be part of this election also.

Information and the application are on the Town of Ware website – [www.townofware.com](http://www.townofware.com) under News and Notices. Complete the application and drop off to the Town Clerk in person during normal business hours.

You may also put your application in the Blue Drop Box located outside of the lower level offices or email the ballot to – [ntalbot@townofware.com](mailto:ntalbot@townofware.com). The deadline to apply for a Vote by Mail ballot will be Tuesday,

Aug. 5 at 5 p.m. Vote by Mail is active also on the [www.ma.gov](http://www.ma.gov) website – Elections and Voting.  
Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk Nancy J. Talbot at by calling 413-967-9648 extension 103.

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