

WARE RIVER NEWS

Vol. 140 No. 25

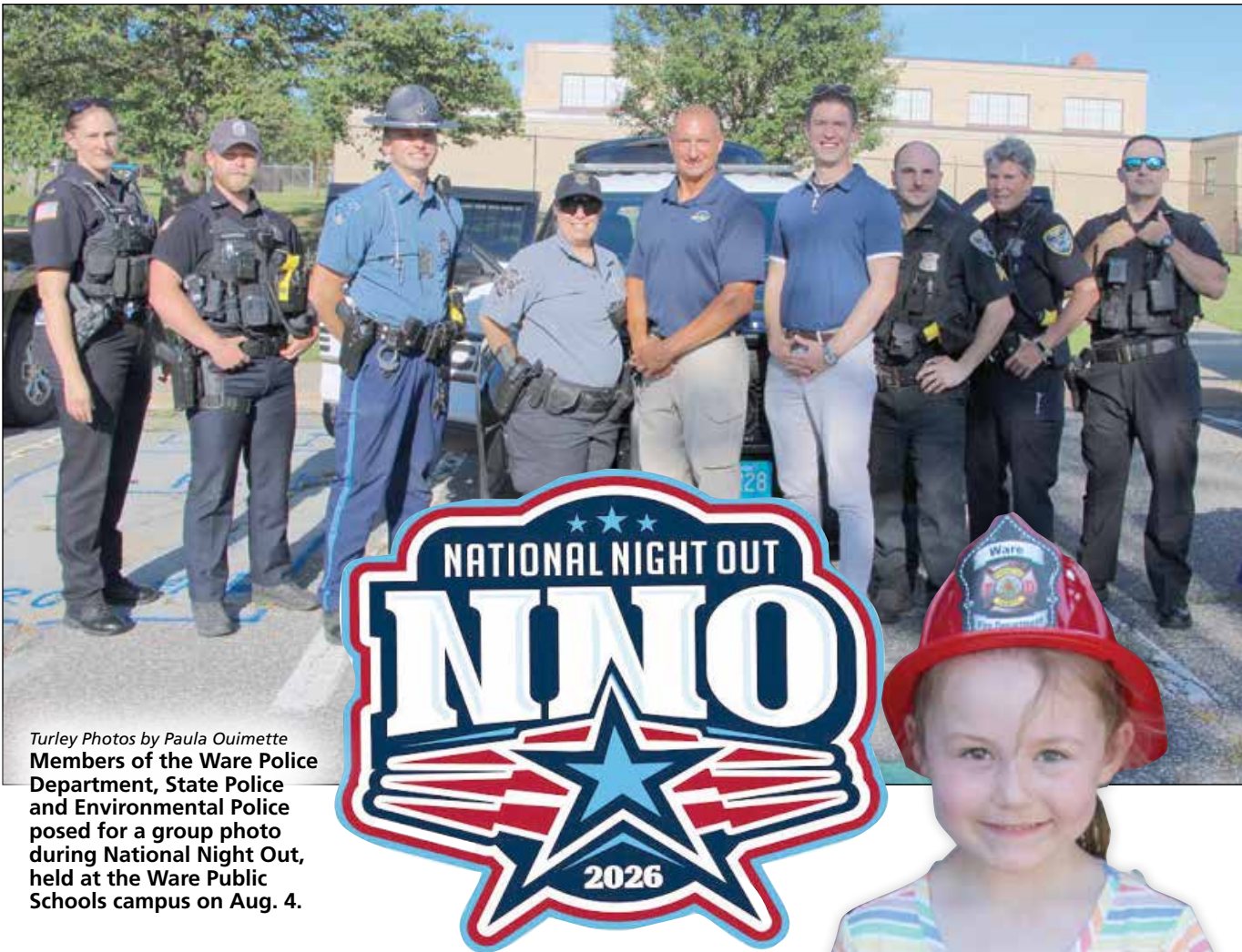
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

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Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Members of the Ware Police Department, State Police and Environmental Police posed for a group photo during National Night Out, held at the Ware Public Schools campus on Aug. 4.

Annual event highlights community, services

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – National Night Out, an annual event that connects people to public safety officials, town departments and local organizations and businesses, was held last Tuesday night.

Visitors to the Aug. 4 event, held at the Ware Public Schools campus,

enjoyed free activities, giveaways and food.

The town's Police, Fire, Public Works and Parks departments brought vehicles and pieces of equipment that people could explore and ask questions about.

Please see **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**, page 7

Isabella, age 5, work a firefighter's helmet while standing next to a firetruck

Town's water shut off policy discussed

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Interim Department of Public Works Director Ken Calder and Water and Sewer Operations Manager John Stanton came before the Selectboard to discuss the town's water shut off policy.

At the Aug. 5 Selectboard meeting, Stanton said the Selectboard/Water Commissioners have the authority to shut off users' water due to non-payment. He said the Water Department is self-sufficient and relies on this revenue and not on tax dollars.

Stanton said Massachusetts law requires certain conditions to be met in order to avoid a water shut off, including proof of finan-

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 6

Selectmen discuss draft report from Tecton Architects

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen reviewed and discussed a draft report from Tecton Architects during their meeting on Aug. 6.

The report was done by Jeff McElravy of Tecton Architects and involves a study on the potential redevelopment of 968 Main St, the former Cornerstone Bank Building, as the town's police station. The board is also planning on setting dates to

meet with Tecton Architects and dates for future public presentations on this report.

Town Administrator James Ferrera explained that Tecton has been working with the Town of Warren, and this is only a draft. According to Ferrera, McElravy is look-

ing for comments and directions from the Select Board prior to finalizing the report.

Once the draft is finalized, the report can be sent out to the public.

Select Board Chair Richard Eichacker wanted to know if McElravy from

Tecton Architects could possibly attend their next meeting. The chair also had a cost comparison spreadsheet comparing the costs for the redevelopment of the bank

Please see **WARREN BOS**, page 15



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Cadets watched as Sergeant Russel Davidson and School Resource Officer Mark Sawyer explained the steps to take during a traffic stop.

Cadets complete Police Dept.'s Youth Academy

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – For the fourth year, the Barre Police Department hosted its Youth Academy for students in grades seven through 12.

This year, the acade-

my was held at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, and 30 cadets from the school district and beyond signed up to participate.

Led by instructors Sergeant Russel Davidson

Please see **CADETS**, page 8

Grant provides Ware Fire Dept. with new equipment and tools

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Ware Fire Department recently received a Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant from the Department of Fire Services in the amount of \$18,953.99.

Fire departments are eligible for this grant based on town population, the department's equipment needs and having all incident reports filed to the state. Each piece of equipment is scored on a priority list for replacement, ranging from low to high.

"Everything you see here was on a high priority list," Deputy Fire Chief Jeremy Boulrice said.

According to Boulrice, this grant was used to pur-

Please see **GRANT**, page 6



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Ware Deputy Fire Chief Jeremy Boulrice is shown with Town Manager Stuart Beckley, along with some of the department's new equipment that was purchased through use of the Department of Fire Services' Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program.

SB transfers license for Whistle Stop

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Whistle Stop has a new owner, Dillon Sherwood, who announced at the Select Board meeting of Aug. 10, that the restaurant is set to open on August 12.

The Select Board officially transferred a common victualler's license to the restaurant. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said a liquor license is scheduled to be voted on at the board's Aug. 24 meeting.

Hardwick Community Fair

The Hardwick Community Fair is this coming Friday and Saturday, Aug. 14 and 15, and the board officially signed off on the special event application.

Caggiano said the Police Department, Fire Department, Board of Health and Building Inspector among other departments have signed as well.

West Brookfield ambulance

The board reviewed the contract between the town and West Brookfield Rescue Squad, with Caggiano saying the agreement is for three years after negotiations, with a 4% increase every year based on calls

and training.

She said Police Chief Kevin Landine and Fire Chief Nick Gaumond are comfortable with the contract.

Select Board member Zack Spencer also said it does not matter to the state where a town gets their emergency services from, as long as they have it. Chair Jeff Schaaf noted that in Wheelwright, which is furthest out from West Brookfield, they still respond in a reasonable time-frame.

Vice-Chair William Tinker said the town should have talked with Barre during negotiations, saying they used to have a portion of the contract.

Warrant review

Tinker said he requested for the most recent accounts payable warrant to be included in the meeting packet for the whole board to review and ask questions on if needed.

Tinker said there is somebody on the warrant who does some of the town's technology and there is no information on how he is paid, or a W-9 associated with him, as requested.

According to Caggiano, this is because a former accountant was not comfortable giving a W-9, and there is likely no physical contract for the worker.

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 3



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WPS offers meals at no cost for students

WARE – The Ware Public Schools participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

As part of this program, all schools offer healthy meals every school day at no cost to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2026-2027. Students receive breakfast and lunch at school without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

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Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling 866-632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation.

The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400, Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; fax to 833-256-1665 or 202-690-7442; or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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Are You Old News?



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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 2023 showed Tristin Supka and Lori Perkins of Ware at the Ware Grange Fair. Lori Perkins correctly identified the photo.

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

Town Clerk lists early voting dates for State Primary

HARDWICK – Hardwick voters wishing to vote early, in-person for the Sept. 1, 2026 State Primary may do so at the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Office Building, 307 Main St.,

Gilbertville on the following dates and times: Saturday, Aug. 22 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. which is also the last day to register to vote for the State Primary; Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 25 and 26

from 3-7 p.m.

Those wishing to vote by mail must have their application, or intention filed with the Town Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 25.

Child Find Public notification for Ware Public Schools

WARE – It is the responsibility of the Ware Public Schools to identify any child who may have a disability who is either a resident of Ware or who attends a private school within the geographic boundaries of Ware even if the student is not a resident of Ware.

This also includes students who are homeschooled, or in private preschools or daycare settings.

The Ware Public Schools is responsible for the evaluation of those students to determine if they are eligible for special education or related services under Federal law, IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) or, Massachusetts State Law, 603 CMR 28 (Massachusetts Special Education Regulations).

The Ware Public Schools is also committed to identifying children before their third birthday in order to provide early

intervention services for 3 and 4-year-olds with disabilities.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's development and would like to have him/her screened, please contact the school district's early childhood coordinator, Kelly Walsh at kwash@ware.k12.ma.us for 3-5 years and the Office of Student Services for all other inquiries at 413-967-4271.

The Office of Student Services of the Ware Public Schools is available to provide screenings and evaluations for special education services at no cost.

The Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards may be found on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

This notice is posted in partnership with the Director of Student Services; Sylvia Magill, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Student Services; and Kelly Walsh, Early Childhood Coordinator.

Annual diaper drive benefits Jubilee Ministries

WARE – The annual diaper drive by the United Way Diaper Bank and its 14 partner organizations serving families across the region has begun.

Trinity Episcopal Church will be collecting donations at a drop box located at the service desk in Walmart, 352 Palmer Road. Donations will be accepted through the month of August and all donations will benefit the Jubilee Ministries.

About 40% of American families with small children struggle to buy diapers.

The UWFH Diaper Bank and its partners distribute up to 20,000 diapers and pull-ups a month to help children stay dry, healthy and in important child care and school programs each day.

For more information about the UWFH Diaper Bank's annual diaper drive, visit www.uw-fh.org.

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



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Joseph and Doris Supczak's children

Ware Senior Center NEWS

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

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

ACTIVITIES

Monday, Aug. 17

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch

Tuesday, Aug. 18

- 9 a.m. Exercise Class at Valley View Housing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
- 1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Brown Bag Program
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class.
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, Aug. 19

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

Thursday, Aug. 20

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing

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

Friday, Aug. 21

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

Required: call 413-967-9645 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.

Monday, Aug. 17

Bacon Mac & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Aug. 18

Soft Tacos, Spanish Rice, Black Beans, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Aug. 19

Stuffed Shells, Chef Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Aug. 20

Hamburger Gravy over Toast, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Aug. 21

Cold Plate, Ham-Chicken-Egg Salads, Dessert of the Day

Park Commissioners discuss E-bike updates

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Parks Commissioners met at Grenville Park for their meeting on Aug. 10 and revisited updates regarding E-bikes.

Parks Manager John Piechota followed up with a report of four complaints in total regarding E-bikes at the park.

Piechota also heard the Police Department recently pulled over three riders over by Brookside Mart and McDonalds on West Street. The vehicles were confiscated and towed.

According to Piechota, after speaking with Police Chief Shawn Crevier, there are already rules in place, but the park still has riders coming in.

The commissioners are thinking about voting to ban any unregistered vehicles that are gas-powered and/or battery-powered from all the parks.

Before making a decision, Piechota will talk to the chief and town counsel about what is needed and allowed to enforce this issue.

Components to this matter involve signage, wording for signage and guidance on what the wording needs to be for signs and for the town website. If this rule is voted on, it will apply to all properties under the Parks Department's care.

During their meetings under the Grenville

Park Pavilion, the Parks Commissioners and other town officials witnessed E-bike riders driving along the road.

Pool funding

The Parks Commissioners discussed pool funding for Reed Memorial Pool. As suggested by the Pool Committee, a GoFundMe page could be started to help raise money.

The Park Commissioners said there was a donor that would give a total of \$40,000 if citizens of Ware would help raise \$10,000.

The funds will go towards a final design of the Reed Memorial Pool and other amenities.

Fall field scheduling

The Parks Commissioners discussed fall field scheduling for several clubs and programs. The Ware Soccer program will be using the bandstand field for the fall season. Youth football will utilize Kubinski Field for practice.

250th events

The commissioners heard an update from Piechota

regarding the town's U.S. 250th events.

"It was an honor to be in the parade," Piechota said. A lot of thought went into these events, and the town received a lot of compliments, including ones about the firework show.

Grenville Park bathroom

The bathrooms at Grenville Park were discussed and there is work being done on site. Overall, according to Piechota, the

Please see **E-BIKE UPDATES**, page 5

Town Clerk lists Early Voting hours

WARE – The Town Clerk announced that all Early Voting for the Sept. 1 State Primary will take place in the Ware Town Hall auditorium located at 126 Main St.

Parking is available in the Municipal Lot directly across from Town Hall and accessible parking is available.

Dates and hours of the Early Voting are as follows: Saturday, Aug. 22 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Monday, Aug. 24 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday, Aug. 25 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wednesday, Aug. 26 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, Aug. 27 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Friday, Aug. 28 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Outside of the voting booths there will be sample ballots for the Democrat and Republican Party for you to view.

Those voters registered to vote in either party will receive their party ballot upon checking in; voters who are Unenrolled will need to make a choice of either the Democrat or Republican Party ballot.

A reminder that as an Unenrolled voter after the State Primary you immediately

return to the status of being a registered voter but not enrolled in that party.

Note that the last date to register to vote for participation in the State Primary will be 10 days prior on Saturday, Aug. 22.

The last date to submit an application for Vote by Mail is Tuesday, Aug. 25 at 5 p.m.

For voters who have requested a Vote by Mail Ballot and have received them, the last date to return your ballot is State Primary Day – Sept. 1 at 8 p.m. when the polls have closed.

If you are in doubt as to being a registered voter, your party affiliation, or wish to register to vote please check www.mass.gov – Elections and Voting for the information you are seeking.

Voters may also view a sample of the Democrat and Republican ballots at the above website.

Questions may be directed to the Town Clerk Nancy J. Talbot at 413-967-9648 extension 177.

HARDWICK from page 1

Tinker also said the board needs more time to review the warrant before they sign it. Board members asked if there could be a way to prepare them quicker, but Caggiano noted the current accountant Holly Mann has limited hours as she is part-time, and does not think it would be possible to prepare them any quicker.

Spencer said this request is not meant to put extra work on the accountant, but meant to allow the board to do their due diligence on taxpayer money.

Pump station

The board continued the discussion of the possible installation of wood chips at the pumping station, but Tinker said the engineers working on the project do not recommend it. He recommended planting native plants about two feet away from the riprap to cover the rocks as the plants grow over them, rather than putting chips or plantings into the riprap itself. Spencer said the wood chips could have caused drainage issues.

The board received a letter from the East Quabbin Land Trust recommending native plants as well.

Caggiano also said there is about \$100,000 in contingency funds left, but they need a \$99,000 generator, so some landscaping would be paid from the contingency if needed, but some of the funds may need to come from the wastewater budget.

Town Administrator's report

Caggiano said the bid for 179 Main St. is re-opened, the information technology vendor is meeting with staff to determine needs and prepare an inventory and sur-

plus list, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is setting a date to repair the railroad crossing on Lower Road, a grant application was submitted for security cameras at the Police and Highway departments, a new officer, Andrew Bresciani is starting, coming from Hubbardston and a new website is coming.

She also recognized outgoing executive assistant Sandra Rosenthal.

Select Board roundtable

Tinker said the Select Board, also acting as the Sewer Commission, has not received an application from Eagle Hill School for their new dormitory, and they are

supposed to approve all new connections. Caggiano said she would meet with the sewer superintendent about that.

Tinker also recommended looking over the job description for the executive assistant to ensure they are helping put together sewer bills and equivalent dwelling units, saying EDUs have not been looked at for over two years.

Caggiano said there are not many applications to the position yet, but in the interim, she will be learning how to generate bills in VADAR, the accounting software.

Visitors comments

Tinker started off the visitor comments section by saying the new rules may be too restrictive, such as only allowing new topics to be brought up, as people may have missed a meeting or have follow up comments.

Resident Bill Cole said comments are protected by free speech, but there is a difference between content and conduct, which can be addressed if people get physically intimidating. Cole also said there is a difference between visitors' comments and the chair recognizing a citizen to speak on a particular item.

Resident Jeffery Smith asked why there was no urgency to hire a new accountant, saying the current one is part-time and working in another community. Spencer said the town is fortunate to have her, and they have been working on it, but it is difficult to attract somebody to a part-time position.

Caggiano said she has been aggressively advertising, but there is no capability to hire somebody full-time. Tinker brought up the possibility of a temporary accountant or a firm.

The board is scheduled to meet next on Aug. 24.



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from 1:30 to 6:30 pm on Wednesdays**

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Resident commends professionalism of town administrator

Editor's Note: This letter was also sent to the Hardwick Select Board.

Dear Members of the Hardwick Select Board,

After viewing your July 13 meeting on You Tube, I feel the need to write.

What was allowed to take place was sad and disturbing to witness.

I currently serve on the Planning Board, the School Committee, the Paige Memorial Library Board of Trustees (of which I am currently chair), and the Capital Planning Committee.

In this capacity, I have had the opportunity to work with Justine [Town Administrator] on multiple occasions and I am continuously impressed by her knowledge, dedication and professionalism.

She is always willing to make time for me when I am looking for assistance – especially when it comes to board policy and procedures, which provides me with a better understanding of my duties as an elected official of this Town.

When asked, she has always been willing to attend some of my meetings in order to provide real-time expertise. I can't stress enough how extremely helpful and supportive she has been and we are very fortunate to have her here in Hardwick.

Several years ago, during the height of the Casella landfill operations in town, I served as chair of the Hardwick Board of Health. Throughout the years, in my capacity as a Town official, I have had

to chair many contentious meetings and I truly understand how difficult it can be to maintain order and decorum when people are outraged and looking for an outlet to vent their frustrations.

I appreciate the benefit of the public comment process, but there's a big difference between constructive criticism and verbal abuse, which no one should ever have to be subjected to during a meeting.

I respect that people have the right to their opinions, but you are under no obligation to provide a stage for people who are looking to put on a show of their belligerence. In fact, you are under no legal obligation to even place public comments on your agenda, so the fact that you do, should be considered a courtesy. I know first-hand how hard it can be to maintain order, but as you are all aware, it's absolutely essential – even if that means having to raise your own voice, which eventually is what finally had to happen. In extreme cases, the chair can unilaterally dissolve the meeting.

I do applaud the fact that you all were able to recover and continue conducting business and I hope that in future, people who attend your meetings will choose to be more respectful, because being antagonistic and argumentative towards people who are actually doing something to help, does nothing to benefit this Town we all call home.

Respectfully,
Jenna Garvey
Gilbertville

Resident wants more positivity in town government

Editor's Note: This letter was also sent to the Hardwick Select Board.

To the Editor:

I would like to express appreciation to the Hardwick Select Board, for the important town work that you do for us each month.

Thank you for volunteering your time away from families, and the amount of effort and sacrifice. To our Administrator, thanks for the support and guidance you have provided to our Conservation Commission over the last couple of years.

Family and community are important concepts that matter to me. Many of us are becoming frustrated with all the negativity and polarization of our times.

It has become fashionable to criticize and disrupt government in general. Having worked for state and federal governments, it has never been an easy job, requiring commitment and long hours.

Lately it's very disappointing and discouraging. We need to get back to a more positive approach.

Having been in western Mass since 1979, I see many of the former slower-paced agricultural hill towns like ours now "coming of age", and being forced to modernize to meet the times. Town government and life in general have become more compli-

cated, there's no need to be blaming individuals for this evolution.

In my opinion, the Board is receiving a biased view from a vocal minority. There has been too much constant disruption and extreme negativity. Sometimes it feels orchestrated.

In my 30 years in Hardwick, I have known four Town Administrators. Our current Administrator is the only one I am aware of to have an advanced degree in public administration. I

have appreciated working with her in my position as Chair of the Hardwick Conservation Commission. Her education and experience are an asset to the town, and she has always been willing to support our Commission when needed.

We treat her with respect and receive respect in return.

The current Board and Administrator should not be blamed for actions or records that predate their time in town, any more than I should be blamed for Conservation Commission records buried in file boxes in a storage room. It's hard enough to be on any board, it is a major sacrifice for a town.

Behavior toward boards in general should be constructive as opposed to disruptive and destructive.

Bill Zinni
Hardwick

Midsummer questions for the Garden Lady

Karen, who has a vegetable garden in Hardwick, is concerned over her tomatoes cracking and is asking the Garden Lady for some advice.

"With all the rainstorms we've had, one measuring over 5 inches last week, my cherry tomatoes, and even some of my paste types are starting to crack. Is this a normal occurrence and if so, is there anything I can do to prevent this from happening in the future?"

This is a timely question, Karen, and one that I am sure a lot of readers can relate to. I know I can.

It's always exciting when the tomatoes start ripening and then this happens.

Fruit cracking around the stem, either in rings or radiating downward is caused by overwatering; we or Mother Nature can be at fault. This year I will blame her for some of it.

A week ago many gardeners in the area received an inch or more of rain in two separate deluges. Keep in mind that most veggies require about an inch per week.

Adjust your irrigation to accommodate for the excess.

Mulches do well to moderate soil moisture; if you mulch, you can water less often. If cracking ends up being a big problem for you, consider scouring the seed catalogs for varieties that are resistant to it.

As long as the cracks are fresh, and haven't begun to

show mold, I use the fruit anyway. Watering issues can also affect other plants. Sometimes gardeners complain that their cucumbers look funny, bent in the shape of an apostrophe.



This effect is also from uneven watering. Besides making necessary adjustments, trellising can also help them to grow straight.

This question came in from Frances who reads the column in the Ware River News: "I have some thornless blackberry plants that produce huge fruit. Occasionally some of the segments on the berries are not colored deep purple or black; they are more of a tan or white color. I was curious why this happens? Years ago when I grew red raspberry bushes I also remember sometimes having this problem. Is it something with my soil? Are the berries safe to eat? I am hopeful it is not some type of mold or fungus."

Although I do not have a picture to be one hundred percent certain, I believe what you are describing is "druplet disorder." The lighter areas on your berries are from sun scald. A reaction simply caused by too much heat.

And yes, they are safe to eat.

Some people comment that the berries with this disorder are a little tough or flavorless. It doesn't really bother me.

Moldy berries would look furry and the area would be raised.

Bill is growing basil for the first time and he had this question for the Garden Lady: "My basil was slow to take off. I came back from vacation and it is in flower. While the bees seem to enjoy the flowers, I was hoping to harvest some of the leaves. Do you have any advice as to how to get it out of flower mode and into leaf production?"

Yes, I do. It involves giving the basil a hair cut. Sure enough, your plant needs to be rid of those flowers.

Once you do that, provide some nitrogen to get them greened up and growing. This could be by the addition of a little blood meal at the base of the plant or a foliar feed of fish emulsion or compost tea.

In no time your plant will rebound. Just be sure to keep those flowers trimmed off.

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 with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



My daughter, Paula Ouimette, took this photo of a juvenile brown headed cowbird watching her run laps with her dog, Jo Jo.

The young cowbird perched on a fence near the driveway of the elementary school in Hardwick.

My daughter used the Seek app by iNaturalist to get the identification. It stayed there for about 20 minutes before flying off.

She said there were no other cowbirds around, but cowbirds lay their eggs in nests of birds smaller than then in hopes they will raise their young.

Obviously, this young cowbird looks well feed. I wonder what bird raised it, often at the expense of their own offspring.

Warblers and vireos are the most common cowbird

hosts. Their nestlings weight less than half as much as the cowbird nestling.

Some species will either push the cowbird egg out of their nest or leave that nest and start another nest.

The brown-headed cowbird is a stocky blackbird. The females do not build a nest and instead produce up to three dozen eggs per summer.

They lay the eggs in the nests of other bird species and let them raise their young, know as brood parasitism.

Brown-headed cowbirds are native to North America, but many people consider them a nuisance bird because of their parenting style.

Cowbirds destroy the eggs and young of smaller songbirds and have been implicated in the decline of several endangered species, including Kirtland's warbler and black-capped vireo.

Adult male cowbirds have glossy black bodies and brown heads, hence their name. In poor lighting, the male's head looks brown.

The female is brown with the head lighter brown than the body. She has fine streaking on the belly/ Both sexes

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

WARE RIVER NEWS

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

The Ware River News (USPS 666100) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.

WEB
warerivernews.turley.com

PHONE
(413) 283-8393

ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

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

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Ware River News
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer, MA 01069
or via email to:
pouimette@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

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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.

Note: Statements or allegations made during the public comment periods of municipal meetings are those of individuals and do not reflect the official views or positions of the public body, municipality, or this newspaper. Comments that are made are not checked for accuracy.

Craft Fair held in memory of Sarah Hermanson

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Vineyard & Winery hosted the inaugural Sarah Hermanson Memorial Craft Fair this past Saturday. Sarah’s daughter Olivia Hermanson of Creations by Liv talked about how her mother always encouraged her to bring her work to craft fairs. In addition to being a supportive mother, Sarah loved supporting small businesses and would attend craft fairs on a regular basis. “She was a supportive mom,” Hermanson said. “She loved going to craft fairs.” Sarah loved watching her daughter do all sorts of crafts, especially crocheting. She also loved the chicken coasters. Hermanson said Sarah was not only her mom, but

also a chicken mom and a dog mom. In addition to craft fairs, Sarah loved going to paint and sip events and loved supporting those who loved to craft. Proceeds from the craft fair are going to the National Brain Tumor Society. With raffle purchases and vendor fees, the Sarah Hermanson Memorial Craft Fair is able to support a great cause and raise awareness about trying to combat brain tumors and help improve patients’ lives. “Our goal is to try and raise as much awareness as possible,” Hermanson said. Hermanson is planning to make this memorial craft fair an annual event as a way to keep her mother’s name and memory alive. The first year of the craft fair had a great turnout with a total of 33 vendors, including some food trucks. Hermanson said the



The inaugural Sarah Hermanson Memorial Craft Fair was held at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery this past weekend.



Members of the Hermanson family arrived at the craft fair dedicated to the memory of Sarah Hermanson. Shown from left are Lillian, Tony, Sarah Hermanson’s daughter Olivia Hermanson, and Mike Hermanson.

company Creations by Liv in 2023. Hermanson’s craft work included crochets, sublimation tumblers and embroidered shirts. Artisans of all kinds were featured in the craft fair and provided some neat handmade items. One vendor had catnip products for sale, including catnip pillows, balls and mats. The catnip is an herb that was home grown and

dried and placed inside the materials and could last a long while. Jurassic Soap Co. was at the craft fair and sold handcrafted oat milk soaps for bath, body and much more. Their uniquely crafted soaps come in all designs including the design of Highland cows and flower beds. Guests cooled off during the craft fair with some ice cream from the Batch Ice

Cream truck. Art by Ashley Rose of Holyoke has been working in art since 2019 and had all sorts of oil paintings, bookmarks and prints. The memory of Sarah Hermanson continues thanks to this craft fair named in her memory. It also continues thanks to the artisans who share their work by attending craft fairs.



Artwork by Ashley Rose was one of the vendors at the Sarah Hermanson Memorial Craft Fair.



Highland cow-themed soap was made by Jurassic Soap Co., which features handcrafted oat milk soap.



Uniquely crafted glass petal gifts came in all designs.

E-BIKE UPDATE
from page 3

project is going well. An electric component will be looked at soon. The town will be seeking out a bid soon for the septic of the bathroom. The Parks Commissioners asked Town Manager, Stuart Beckley to put the line in as part of the bid.

Beckley will add a note to add in the waterline.

Updates from Parks Manager

For his update, Piechota talked about the wash out that happened at the rail trail due to weather. The department has begun remedying the problem and is looking at next steps for repairing the

aging culvert. The road is closed for the time being while the problem is being fixed. At the time of the meeting, Piechota was unsure what the project would cost. The commission thought it’d be best to pay for the project out of budget. Tree work is going well and Piechota says Canadian

Tree Expert has been helpful with the work. The DPW is looking to get a bucket truck. The department is renting one for October and is going for a new one in November. “It has been a busy month,” Piechota said. The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be on Aug. 31.

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BACKYARD from page 4

have thick, conical bills and black eyes. They are 7.5 to 8.7 inches long. They feed on the ground and can be seen walking behind livestock to eat what their hooves stir up. They are found in open habitats such as fields, pastures, meadows, forest edges and lawns. They also perch on a prominent branch high in a tree. They are primarily seed-eaters and insectivores, adapting their diet based on availability and season, often gleaned from the ground or by following grazing animals. They will come to feeders as well and prefer sunflower seeds and millet.

Other Hardwick birds

My daughter, Paula, saw lots of bluebirds, swallows, robins and one hen turkey with a poult. She said there were probably more underneath the hen turkey, but only one was brave enough to come out.

Red tail hawks

I have several red tail hawks in Barre, New Braintree and Oakham. Recently, one flew off and the sunshine showed off the hawks red tail. They are often seen by freshly mowed fields in hopes of catching some rodents, who stand out on a newly cut field.

Great blue heron

Long Pond in Rutland is a popular spot to find a great

blue heron “fishing” in the shallows along Route 122.

Meal worms

I continue to have catbirds come for the mealworms I leave them on the picnic table. The other day I heard a catbird make its meowing call. Males use the call to establish territory and females for communication and alarm purposes.

Raven

Recently, the common raven flew overhead making its gurgling croak. I could hear it, but I was unable to see it with all the trees. People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

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Firefighter/EMT Sean Flynn is shown with the department's new chainsaw.



Firefighter/EMT Sean Flynn demonstrated how the bailout harness belt worked as he rappelled from the tower.

GRANT from page 1

chase necessary equipment for the department, including a multi-gas meter which monitors the air for levels of oxygen, carbon monoxide, combustibles, hydrogen sulfide, hydrogen cyanide and more.

“There are three of these and one was coming out of service,” Boulrice said of the meter.

Boulrice said the department also purchased bailout harness belts, which will be used with the bailout ropes they got last year with money from the same grant program.

Department members also recently participated in a two-day bailout training, allowing them to practice using the equipment to safely bail-out of first and second floor windows.

The grant also replaced the department’s wooden crib blocks with new, heavy duty plastic crib blocks.

“It’s going to last the department for a very long time,” Boulrice said.

Boulrice said the department bought two stand lights made by DeWalt, which are battery operated and will be used to illuminate emergency scenes.

“They’ll light up the whole scene for us,” he said.

Other DeWalt equipment included power tools such as a chainsaw, rotary saw and reciprocating saw, as well as interchangeable batteries and chargers.

Boulrice said a lot of the equipment the department was able to purchase directly from Lowe’s and Grainger.

Boulrice said the new power tools are compatible with the department’s current tools, and being battery powered, they have a quicker start-up time than gas-powered tools.

He said the interchangeability of the batteries will take out a “lot of the guess work” when using equipment on scene.

About the grant

The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program benefited 307 Massachusetts fire departments this year with a total of \$5 million in grant funding to support the purchase of new safety equipment.

The grant program provides reimbursement on purchases of nearly 100 different types of equipment. Eligible items include hoses and nozzles, turnout gear, ballistic protective equipment, portable and mobile radios, thermal imaging cameras, hand tools and extrication equipment, hazardous gas meters and more.

The Department of Fire Services provides the fire service, regulated industries and individuals with training, education, prevention, investigation and emergency response services. This work includes training firefighters, hazardous material response, fire investigation, public education in fire and life safety and incident support.



New bailout harness belts were purchased with the grant.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



This multi-gas meter can monitor levels of oxygen, carbon monoxide, combustibles, hydrogen sulfide, and more in the environment.

New, heavy-duty plastic crib blocks will replace the Fire Department's wooden ones.

WARE BOS from page 1

cial hardship, severe illness, an infant under 12 months old in the home, during winter months or being age 65 years or older.

He said the town has a bylaw that states within 30 days of nonpayment, the Water Department will send a notice to the water user and tape a notice to their door.

“Within 30 days, they don’t pay the bill, we attach something to their bill,” he said.

Stanton said 45 days after nonpayment, the department is allowed to shut the water off.

He said the money needs to be collected in order for the department operate.

Selectboard Vice-Chair Ken Willette said the town currently places liens on properties where the owner has not paid their water bills, which can take the town a long amount of time to collect.

He said as of July 14 of this year, the town has outstanding water and sewer liens totaling \$268,303; and outstanding utility bills totaling \$655,008.

Stanton said the liens are placed once a year, so that outstanding bill balance could reflect more that will

become property liens.

Stanton said implementing the water shut off policy will be challenging, but something needs to be done.

“There’s going to be challenges, major challenges,” he said.

Calder said the revenue will be put back to maintain and make repairs to the infrastructure.

“They’re [water users] going to learn that we need business, we need money to make our business move... we’re trying to move forward,” Stanton said.

Selectboard Board Clerk John Desmond, who has worked in the field of public health for many decades, said he was concerned for the impact these shutoffs would have on public health.

Willette said after the board and town counsel reviews a draft of the shut off policy, he would like to hold a public hearing to notify and hear input from residents regarding it.

Water filling station

Willette said there is a program that takes town water and puts it through a filtration system and into a kiosk, that would be available to water users. He said they would be able to access the kiosk and fill containers

to bring home with them.

Calder said the kiosk is similar to a large-size water bottle filling station, allowing up to five gallon containers.

He said the kiosk is self-contained, and has ultra-violet light filters, carbon and PFAS filters. He said it would required hook-up to the town’s water system, and electricity.

The company Blue Drop provides kiosks, and is also fully responsible to maintain and servicing the kiosks.

“It would provide the residents with the clean water they desire,” Calder said.

Calder said representatives from Blue Drop could come out to the town and give a presentation to the board about how the kiosk works.

The cost of the kiosk unit itself is \$4,630 each month, with a monthly service agreement of an additional \$1,550 for a total annual cost of over \$74,000.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant has about \$20,000 available this year that could be used to help pay for a kiosk if the board decided to move forward with the project.

Desmond said the town’s water is safe to drink and

meets all standards. He questioned the cost of the kiosk and its necessity.

Selectboard member Steven Hawk shared concerns about non-water users taking water from the kiosk, and he asked how it would be monitored.

Willette said the town is working on improving the water system, but the kiosk would provide an short-term improvement while that is happening.

“This is one possibility,” he said.

Stanton said he has concerns about using a kiosk, from a management point of view, as well as financial.

The Selectboard asked Calder to get more information about the kiosk and how it would be managed and bring it back to the Selectboard at a future meeting.

Healthy Quaboag update

Beckley provided an update from Healthy Quaboag regarding the formation of a regional healthcare coalition.

He provided the board with a packet from Gail Gramarossa and Emily Kirby detailing the process, which begins with meetings with various stakeholders across the region, such as town officials, healthcare providers and more.

Beckley said members of the Selectboard, Planning Board and Board of Health would all be invited to participate in an interview during

the first step of the process. This will occur over the next few weeks.

Willette said he would like as many people as possible to participate in the survey.

Update on open meeting complaint

Beckley said resident Cindy Allen Bourcier did not agree with the town attorney’s response to her open meeting law complaint, and she has decided to contact the Attorney General.

He said it is the town’s intent to fix the introduction language for executive session postings on about 10 agendas. These amendments will be voted on at the first meeting in September.

Job description

Willette and Selectboard member Valerie Granger met with Beckley to draft a job description for the position of Town Manager. He said the description builds upon what is listed in the town’s charter.

The board voted to approve the Town Manager’s job description.

Town Manager’s goals

Beckley presented the Selectboard with a list of potential goals for himself as Town Manager.

Proposed goals included improved communication, updates to the town website, providing more formalized staff training, updating staff evaluations annually, filling

vacant positions and updating the five-year financial model for the town.

Key projects Beckley would like to focus on include implementing a town recycling program, the school roof replacement project, town-owned building needs and more.

Board members also shared suggestions for goals and projects, including healthcare needs and economic development.

Willette said the board was supportive of Beckley’s goals as presented.

Yard waste/brush day

The town will host a yard waste/brush disposal day on Sunday, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Robbins Road.

250th events

Willette thanked the town’s U.S. 250th Celebration Committee for a successful series of events to celebrate the nation’s semiquincentennial. He said he has heard nothing but positive feedback about the events, which also celebrated the town’s history.

Appointments

The Selectboard appointed Jaimie Lussier and Hawk to the Rail Trail Committee; and Lyle Hislop and Thomas Fischer (alternate member) to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mary Healey was reappointed to another term on the Cultural Council.



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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
from page 1

The Building Department offered a free raffle for a chance to win Lego kits that were donated by the various town departments.

Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer Anna Marques thanked the departments for their donations, and explained that she chose Lego kits because they require children (and adults), to follow instructions in order to create the kit.

“A very important life skill is to follow instructions,” she said.

The Building Department also gave out two activity books for children, one that explained what being a code enforcement official means in recognition of Building Safety Month, and the other that explained building codes and how code officials work to keep people safe.

Each activity book was filled with coloring pages, puzzles, word scrambles and games, along with important safety and code information.

The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance and Healthy Quaboag, was represented by Sawyer Blake and Autumn Brunette.

Blake spoke about the Community Health and Equity Survey released by the Department of Public Health at www.mass.gov/HealthSurvey. This anonymous survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and is for people age 12 and up.

The survey will be live through November, and results will be posted next spring.

Both Country Bank and North Brookfield Savings Bank were present at National Night Out, offering free popcorn, activities and giveaways. The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce offered its annual Business & Recreation Guide.

Programs and services for seniors citizens were presented by Ware Senior Center Executive Director John Zienowicz, and members of the Friends of Ware Seniors, Inc.



The Friends of Ware Seniors, Inc., were represented by Betty Lussier, Eileen Swett and Sue LaBarge.



North Brookfield Savings Bank employees Jessica Shimansky, Kaitlyn Malin and Abbey Cantwell attended National Night Out.

Friends' President Sue LaBarge said the group is planning a Wheel of Prizes event on Monday, Sept. 14 at 12:30 p.m. at the senior center, 1 Robbins Road, after the Birthday Lunch is served. People will have the chance to win several prizes, including \$50 cash.

The Wheel of Prizes is free to play. The event will also have music provided by DJ Sonny Raine.

Children enjoyed making giant bubbles at the South Central WIC Program's table with Jenny McDonnell, and there was also a diaper toss game offered by Trinity Episcopal Church's Jubilee Ministries to promote its ongoing diaper drive.

Donations for the diaper drive will be accepted through the month of August at a drop box located at the service desk in Walmart, 352 Palmer Road.



Gina and Ava from the Department of Health and Human Services and DART program were at National Night Out.



Members of Westcomm Regional Dispatch are shown from left, Gregory Wallace, Operations Manager; Elizabeth Fortin, Matt Smart, and Mike Meaney, Regional Interoperability Coordinator.



Deb Shepard and Paula Kularski from Behavior Health Network's Domestic Violence services provided resources to attendees.



Logan and Adrian enjoyed hot dogs from the Knights of Columbus.



Department of Public Works employees brought several pieces of equipment for people to explore at National Night Out. From left are Sean Piechota, Mark Young, John McQuaid, Justin Nadolski and John Bechard.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Alyvia, who is almost 4, showed off her temporary tattoos.



Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Gambino displayed one of the department's fire extinguishers.

Behavioral Health Network's Domestic Violence program and the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force offered information and resources to survivors of domestic violence.

The task force had a writing prompt, asking people to share their thoughts on what makes for a healthy, or unhealthy relationship, and what advice they would give to their younger self about relationships.

The members of Ware Knights of Columbus Council 183 were on hand grilling up hot dogs for everyone to enjoy.

The Ware Library, represented by Library Director Heidi Reed and Children's Librarian Rowan Bernstein had crafts and activities for young readers, and information

about upcoming programs.

The Town of Ware had a table to create sand art, run by Executive Assistant Nicole Croteau and Town Manager Stuart Beckley.

National Night Out is held each year on the first Tuesday in August, so mark your calendars for next year's event on Aug. 3, 2027.

About NNO

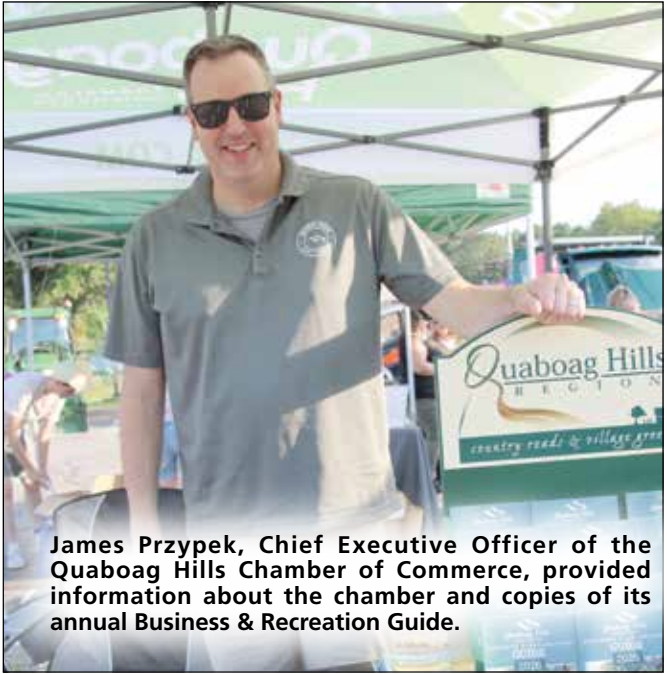
National Night Out is a family-friendly community event where parents and their children will have the opportunity to interact with squad cars, fire trucks, ambulances, Department of Public Works equipment, and other public safety partners to enhance the relationship between neighbors and emergency service personnel while bringing back a true sense of community.



Building Department staff Christen Carter, Administrative Assistant to the Building Commissioner, and Anna Marques, Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer offered National Night Out visitors a chance to win several Lego kits. Each kit was donated by a town department, and featured a vehicle or piece of equipment used by that department.



Ryder, almost 6, posed for a photo with him mother Cassy.



James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, provided information about the chamber and copies of its annual Business & Recreation Guide.



Members of the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force are shown from left, Monica Moran, Taylor Ballard, Erin Ballard and Jennifer Raiche. The task force offered writing prompts to people about healthy and unhealthy relationships.



John Zienowicz, Executive Director of the Ware Senior Center provided information for senior citizens at National Night Out.

Pool Committee talk funding, demo

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

WARE – The swimming pool committee met Monday, where the resident who offered the \$40,000 toward the pool design if the town raised \$10,000 was publicly identified as Chuck McQuaid.

The committee discussed starting a GoFundMe account where residents can make charitable donations toward the goal of \$10,000.

Committee member Ken Higney said he spoke to a lawyer with the town who said that is legal to do so. The money could be refunded if needed.

Higney said he also considered starting a 501(c)3, but there are some limitations to that. The town already has a pool gift account, and according to Parks Manager John Piechota, is controlled by that commission.

He said in the past, there was a one time donation for lifeguard training, and there is likely not much left in that account as of 2026.

A committee member said there is \$80,000 in the Reed Memorial Pool account along with some money left over from an earmark for a study, which can be put toward the final design once the donation money is raised.

Higney also asked if there were any grants out there that could help, describing one applied for in the past. According to Piechota, that grant was not awarded to the town, and there are likely none out there at this time at the same magnitude.

The committee also discussed demolition of the existing pool, but it was noted that the Department of Public Works may not be able to demolish the whole thing, but just take on the building part of it.

Committee member Nancy Talbot suggested reaching out to Associated Building Wreckers, noting they have done work for the town before. Town Manager Stuart Beckley said ReSource Waste Services of Ware has not responded to inquiries as to whether they would take some of the material.

Higney questioned whether the pools needed to be demolished, saying there haven't been incidents. Piechota added, "yet."

He noted concerns with vandalism, people living in the area and the possibility of fires, among other concerns with the structure staying up. Piechota described it as "an accident waiting to happen."

The committee will continue discussing the pool at a future meeting.

Annual Ware Grange Fair returns on Aug. 28-29

WARE – The Ware Grange Fair will be held on Friday, Aug. 28 and Saturday, Aug. 29 at the Grange Hall on Route 9, 297 Belchertown Road.

This year's fair will feature a fun dog show, Kids' Corner workshop, children's field events, games, raffles, bake sale, live music, a barbecue dinner and an auction. Exhibits may be entered on Thursday, Aug. 27 from 5-7 p.m. or Friday, Aug. 28 from 9-11 a.m.

The exhibit hall opens to the public Friday evening from 5-7 p.m., and there will

be a bake sale, raffles and penny sale. The fair continues on Saturday with exhibit hours from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and various events throughout the day.

An auction of fruits, vegetables, baked items, etc., will begin at 6 p.m. Raffle and penny sale winners will be drawn after

A barbecue dinner will be held from 4-5:30 p.m.

For more information, details on exhibiting, or to make reservations for the barbecue, call 413-284-1135 or visit waregrange.org.



Turley Photos by Paula Quimette

Thirty cadets signed up for the Barre Police Department's Youth Academy, held last week at Quabbin Regional High School.

CADETS from page 1

and School Resource Officer Mark Sawyer, the academy was free for all students, thanks to generous support from local businesses, donors and the school district.

"It runs on community donations," Davidson said.

The idea for the academy came about several years ago when Davidson was the School Resource Officer at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, and he led a similar program during the school year. He wanted to expand on that program and open it up to more students.

"I wanted to do one over the summer," Davidson said.

Barre Police Chief James Sabourin was supportive of the idea, and the summer academy was created.

In its first three years, the enrollment was limited to 15 students due to space, but this year, the Quabbin Regional School District offered use of a classroom and grounds and the academy doubled in size.

"We have a great group of kids," Davidson said.

Davidson said it takes a year to plan out and organize the academy, and they welcome student feedback to continue to improve the program.

"Every year at the end we do a questionnaire with the kids," Davidson said. This year's five-day academy started with CPR and



Sergeant Russel Davidson instructed cadets on how to conduct a routine traffic stop.

First Aid training, and each cadet received their certification for these life-saving skills.

On the second day, cadets learned about building clearing, crime scenes and patrol procedures. Stetson School provided use of the Sykes building for the cadets to practice clearing rooms.

There was also a drone demonstration and physical training.

The third day the cadets learned about motor vehicle stops, impaired driving and use of the phonetic alphabet. They took turns practicing a stop, with Sawyer as the driver being pulled over.

The cadets also performed Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and navigated an obstacle course on pedal cars while wearing goggles that simulated the effects of alcohol.

On the last day of the academy, the cadets took a field trip to Boston Harbor where they were able to ride along with the State Police Marine Unit, and to the Worcester County Sheriff's Office. Later that evening, the cadets joined the Barre Police Department for a free movie night at Nornay Park in South Barre.

When asked what he enjoyed about running the Youth Academy, Davidson said it was the opportunity to work with the students, and build a connection with the community.

"I want the kids to have fun and learn something," Davidson said. "We love doing it."

Sawyer joined Davidson as an instructor for his second year at the academy.

He has been the School Resource Officer at Quabbin Regional Middle High School for a year and a half, and each day he gets a lot of questions about law enforcement from the students.

"I get asked a lot about 'what do you guys do in certain situations' and 'what have you seen,' 'what have you experienced,'" Sawyer said.

Sawyer said he also gets a lot of questions about speeding while driving.

"We just want to guide them in the right direction," he said. "We've all made mistakes, but learned from those mistakes."

Last Wednesday, The Barre Gazette was invited to visit the academy and talk to

the cadets about their experiences.

Aimee Ickler, a freshman at Quabbin Regional High School, said she learned "a lot really," at the academy, including how to clear a room properly and how to take point during a building search.

Ickler said she also learned how to talk in a calming manner to someone that may be experiencing a crisis.

Ickler said the experience has encouraged her to pursue her goals of working for the FBI when she's older.

Isabelle Wentworth, a sophomore at the school, wants to be come a police detective after she finishes school. This academy provided her with skills that will help her to achieve that goal.

Ryker Leslie, a seventh grade student, enjoyed learning how to clear rooms, how to use the phonetic alphabet – as well as how to use handcuffs.

Senior Nick Sabourin is a returning cadet at the academy, back for his third year.

He said he learned about substance use, and the impact they can have on people.

"And how dangerous it is to get drugs off the street," Sabourin said.

Sabourin said he also learned about how to use a taser, how to use a shield and gun safety.

Sabourin said he wants to pursue a career as a forensic scientist, and he has already started planning out his college journey.

Ryan Dailey, a junior, is also a returning cadet and he talked about learning how to negotiate.

"You have to kind of let them speak and get to know them," he said.

Dailey said he is also interested in a career in law enforcement, and would like to work in a rural town like Barre.

Kahai Tran, also a junior, has now attended the academy for the fourth year and he said he learns new skills each time.

Finian Fauteux, a sophomore, attended the academy two years ago, but missed last year due to an injury. He was excited to be back this year to continue his learning; including how to build rapport with other people.

"I think I want to be a

police officer," Fauteux said.

Junior Donovan Corby and seventh grader Ethan Alt are both homeschooled students, and they have each learned important skills over the past week.

Corby said he learned how to perform CPR on adults, children and infants. He said he might be interested in become a police officer when he's older.

Alt said he learned how to hold a gun, and the proper way to clear a room.

"I learned how you have to focus on every detail," he said.

Alt said this knowledge will help him in his future, as he plans to join the military.

Mason Punlick, a seventh grader, hopes to use his skills for a career in the U.S. Army.

"I want to be in the military, so this kind of helps me a bit," he said.

Ben Fisher, a freshman, attended the academy for the first time.

"I learned that being a police officer...there's a lot more to it than people think," he said.

While Fisher wants to become a musician for his career, he said the academy has been beneficial to him as a citizen.

"This could help me be a better citizen in the community," he said.

The Barre Police Department thanked Youth Academy sponsors Down Range Sports, Fidelity Bank, Greg's Restorations, White Valley Motors, Inc., Wholesome Farmers Market, Café on the Common, The Country Store in Petersham, Hardwick Crossing Country Club, Quabbin Regional School District and Stetson School.

All supplies, snacks, lunches and water were provided to cadets throughout the week, courtesy of the academy's sponsors. Transportation for field trips was provided by the Quabbin Regional School District.

Be sure to follow the Barre Police Department on Facebook to watch for next summer's Youth Academy registration, which is open (and free) to all students in grades seven through 12. Students do not need to reside in one of the Quabbin Regional School District towns to participate.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Midway between south and southeast
- Fathers
- Wine grape
- Al Bundy's wife
- Derived from ammonia
- Venezuelan state
- Interest rate
- Experts
- Vascular tissues
- Smooth and glossy
- Administrative region in S. Korea
- One from Damascus
- Special interest group
- It cools your home
- Oh, God!
- Intestinal pouches
- Men
- Twelfth star in a constellation
- Former CIA
- Arrange in grades of size

- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- "The Great Lakes State"
- Having earlike appendages
- Momentarily stop
- Ancient kingdom
- Of I
- White clerical vestment
- Songs to one's beloved
- Charges
- Computer application originator
- A place to dock a boat
- One guided by reason
- Slang for cigarette
- Sailboats
- "Jerry Maguire" actor Zellweger
- Screen type
- Country legend Haggard
- Puts together in time
- When you anticipate arriving

CLUES DOWN

- Involuntary muscular contraction
- Eastern US transit agency
- Leaves a place
- Cease to participate
- Current units
- Cease to exist
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Earth vibration
- Very strong winds
- For each one
- A bog
- The creation of beautiful or significant things
- Affirmative
- Pie __ mode
- Nonclerical
- Indonesian island
- Educational environment
- Namibian peoples
- Bring out or develop

- Moves into a place of thought
- Out of the way
- Loads a ship
- Beloved Hollywood alien
- Distinguishes
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Secondary or explanatory title
- Relating to a wing
- One who gives a speech
- In the middle
- Loop with a running knot
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Sweet persons
- Put into play
- Small cattle breed
- Millisecond
- Revolutions per minute
- They __
- Moon crater
- A place to stay the night

Pathfinder Tech concludes Summer Enrichment Program

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School recently concluded its Summer Enrichment Program, a three-week long program that offers five-day courses for third to eighth graders on fundamentals of the various vocational programs that Pathfinder has to offer.

The program was put on through the collaboration of staff, primarily instructors from the school year and student volunteers.

Vocational Coordinator Joseph Brewer, also Director of Pathfinder Tech’s Cold Springs building, said that the program provided an opportunity for kids from the community to use the hands-on technology that’s available to Pathfinder Tech students throughout the school year.

“We did see the kids at different ages interacting with each other, building friendships, supporting each other,” Brewer said. “So they get the chance to see what student life is like here and interact with the high school students.”

Students had the option of signing up for one to three weeks of the program, and could enjoy different offerings from Pathfinder’s curriculum each week.

“We try really hard to make sure we have a wide variety of things to offer to all of the youths. They’re fourth through eighth grade, so there’s a big variety of ages,” said Career and Technical Education Director Shelly Zayas. “We try to come up with things that would hold their interest. This is for any student from any town, but we always want the students to know from our nine sending towns that this is their school, this is where you could come, so here’s all the things we offer around the school.”

There were a great variety of programs offered in the Summer Enrichment Program, including Advanced Manufacturing; Auto Body Repair; Baking FUNDamentals; Baseball Skills; Basketball Skills; Beauty School; Cookie Creations; Custom Kicks and Courts; Dig, Design, and Grow; Drama/Theatre; First Responders; Fishing 101; Fun with Art; Junior Chef; Kid Cafe; MakeCode Arcade; Robotics BattleShop; Woodworking; Zany Science; and the music programs, Young Virtuosos (Recorders and Percussion), Young Rockstars (Guitars and Ukuleles) and Young Beat-Makers (Electronic Music).



The carpentry department showed off the birdhouses they constructed during the Summer Enrichment Program.



Serving food made in the culinary program, (from left) Emma, age 11, Max, age 12, and Braelynn, age 11.

“It really is tailored to the individual likes of the kids. There’s so many things that they’re interested in. The program here offers a taste of everything,” Brewer said. “Some kids might call it a camp, but it’s clearly more than a camp. When we say Summer Youth Enrichment Program, it really is giving these kids a taste of what is offered here at Pathfinder Tech and what career they might want to pursue.”

Nowhere was this enthusiasm more evident than in the Robotics BattleShop, where students clamored to explain what they had done over the course of the program.

“In the beginning, we built some robots,” explained Dylan, age 12. “After that, we did a couple practice matches, and after that we started like we did two-ver-

sus-two battles, and whoever had the best record in the end would get to choose who their partner is.”

“We did our finals today,” said Abram, age 9. “So two people would face off with their teams, and then one person would lose, and then they would go into the battle, and the first person who lost twice, you would get the golden trash can, which was your award, and you could not play anymore.”

The students explained how the tournament taught them not only about building a robot, but also sportsmanship and to accept loss gracefully. The carpentry program also had a curriculum that involved students building something they could be proud of.

“We built this wine bottle bird feeder, and the kids



Annalea, age 9, practiced cosmetology on volunteer Anorah, age 12.

learn how to use the different machines,” Scott Baronas said. “They learn joinery, they learn angles. Every day we go through a certain part of the project, so we do it step-by-step, and by Friday afternoon, they’re all done.”

One new offering was the music program, which was offered for the first time in the summer, and split into three different curricula for each week of the program. The first week, Young Virtuosos, focused on traditional music, then in the second week, Young Rock Stars learned more contemporary rock styles of music, and then in the final week, the Young Beat Makers learned to make digital music.

“It’s been amazing, we have the best student workers from Pathfinder, the best of the best,” said Music Teacher Daniel Friedman. “This week, the beat-makers, had by far the biggest attendance at 14 kids. Last week, we only had three, but there was a lot of excitement around the rock band.”

The rock band class put

together a performance after the drama program’s performance last week, under the band name Volcanic Pioneers.

Zayas said that in addition to providing a chance for younger students to get a taste of what they could learn at Pathfinder Tech, it also provides the teachers with employment during the summer.

“The other good thing is that we get to employ our teachers over the summer to do things that they love,” Zayas said. “Then we get to hire our students, some of them are 14 and 15, so we’re able to have them apply, and we’re able to employ some of our students to work in the summer too for three weeks.”

The Summer Enrichment Program has concluded, but you can learn more about what Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School has to offer by going to their website, at PathfinderTech.org.

Vote by Mail postcards mailed for State Primary

WARE – The Secretary of the Commonwealth has sent out Vote by Mail postcards to all registered voters in each city and town.

The application deadline to apply for a Vote by Mail Ballot for the State Primary is Tuesday, Aug. 25.

If you choose to return the postcard please be sure to sign and date the postcard before you return it. Postage has been paid so you can simply mail the card, it is not necessary to drop off in person.

If you choose to drop off the postcard there is a Blue Drop Box outside the lower level of Town Hall marked “Town Clerk,” feel free to drop off as the box is checked several times during the day.

Things to remember Choose which election or elections you wish to receive a Vote by Mail ballot.

If you are enrolled in a party you will receive that party ballot for the State Primary.

If you are not enrolled in a party (Unenrolled) you must choose which party ballot, you desire for the State Primary.

You may wish to vote in the State Election of Nov. 3; if so, then simply check that box only.

Voting status

Please feel free to check your status as a voter by going to www.mass.gov and search for your voter registration information under “Elections and Voting.” Here you can see how you are registered, what address you are registered at, your party choice if you have enrolled in a party.

You will also be able to view a sample ballot if you are enrolled in a party.

If you are not registered to vote, have changed your address within the town or wish to change your party enrollment you must do so ten days prior to any election.

Ware Grange hosts barbecue dinner Aug. 29

WARE – The Ware Grange is holding a barbecue dinner at the annual Grange Fair on Saturday, Aug. 29 at 4 p.m.

The menu includes pulled pork, chicken, brisket, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, drink and dessert for \$25. Eat outside under the tent or take your meal to go.

Reservations are required. Please call 413-284-1135 or email ware-grange164@gmail.com to make your reservations for the barbecue.

Trinity Episcopal offers sewing class on Aug. 18

WARE – Trinity Episcopal Church, corner of Park and Pleasant streets, will host a sewing class on Tuesday, Aug. 18 from 6-8 p.m.

The fee is \$5 and materials will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

Participants will learn to sew by hand or with a

machine. Join the class to become familiar with hand or machine sewing and leave with a finished project.

Fee free to bring your own machine and something to mend.

Call 413-967-6100 to reserve your spot.

Lions Club hosts Concerts in the Park

WARE – The Ware Lions Club presents Concerts in the Park on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in Grenville Park, 73 Church St.

Admission to concerts is free and concerts are weather dependent.

On Aug. 13, Charlie Lask and Forever Diamond with special guest Irv Lewis. Please note the Aug. 13 concert was rescheduled from July 30 due to inclement weather.

During each concert, the Ware Lions will have a concession stand selling hot

dogs, chips, popcorn and beverages. Raffle tickets for prizes will also be available.

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

The gasoline gift card winning ticket will be drawn on Thursday, Aug. 13. Proceeds from this raffle go to Lion’s charities.

WHS Class of 1976 plans 50th reunion

WARE – Ware High School Class of 1976 is planning its 50th reunion celebration to be held on Oct. 17 at Teresa’s Restaurant.

Class alumni have reached out to many, but are still in need of contact information for many other classmates.

If you have not yet been

contacted, or you know someone who needs information or for other questions, text or call Michelle (Nowak) Higney at 413-237-5854.

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Hardwick

264th Fair

COMMUNITY





Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

- 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM Food Trucks: Big T's, Trolley Dogs, Potato Potato
- 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM Beer Garden: Fieldcrest Brewing
- 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Tri-Parish Church baked potato bar
- 6:00 PM Opening Ceremonies & Fair Dedication (FLAG POLE)
- 6:15 PM Lumberjack Contest
- 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Historical Society Opens (EXHIBITS)
- 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM Exhibit Halls Open
- 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM Blacksmithing & Pottery Demonstrations
- 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM Timber Framing Demonstration
- 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM Antique Tractor & Implement Exhibit
- 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM Entertainment (THE OTTERS)

For a complete list of events, exhibits, rules and instructions, visit hardwickfair.com.

Please remember, NO DOGS are permitted at the Fair unless they are a service animal. Owners must provide appropriate tags or certification reflecting that registration and vaccines are current.

Parking: Parking is available at the field on 32A south of the common and at Eagle Hill School, 242 Old Petersham Road, Hardwick.

FREE Shuttle service will be available between Eagle Hill School and the Fair on Friday and Saturday at frequent intervals provided by EHS. Handicapped parking will be available at the Universalist Church and adjacent to the Police Command Center at corner of Barre Rd. and Rte. 32A.

Kindly recycle your beverage containers in the labeled recycling bins located around the Common. The Hardwick Boy Scouts and our town will benefit from your care.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

- 7:30 AM – 10:30 AM Pancake Breakfast
- 8:00 AM Running of the Road Race (NEW START TIME)
- 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM Kids' Adventure Trail (FAIR OFFICE; TOWN HOUSE)
- 9:00 AM Mountain Bike Ride/Race
- 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Face Painting (PAGE LIBRARY)
- 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM Exhibit Halls Open
- 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM Friendly Farm Animals Exhibit
- 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM Hardwick Fair-y Village (PAIGE LIBRARY)
- 9:30 AM Cattle Judging
- 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM Blacksmithing Demo
- 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Hay Rides (MAINE-LY DRAFTS)
- 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM Timber Framing & Pottery Demonstrations
- 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Book Sale (PAIGE LIBRARY)
- 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Food Trucks: Big T's, Trolley Dogs, Potato Potato
- 10:45 AM Stone Cutting
- 11:00 AM Dance Demo (GET UP AND DANCE)
- 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Tri-Parish Church baked potato bar
- 11:00 AM – 7:30 PM Beer Garden: Fieldcrest Brewing
- 12:00 PM Children's Parade
- 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM Entertainment (THE OTTERS)
- 12:30 PM Antique Tractor & Implement Parade
- 1:00 PM Central Mass Rabbit Breeders Display & Demo
- 1:00 PM Frog Jumping Contest (NO TOADS)
- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Historical Society Opens (EXHIBITS)
- 1:30 PM Horseshoe Contest
- 2:00 PM Children's Games
- 2:45 PM Tractor Pulls
- 3:30 PM Auction of Exhibits
- 4:30 PM Hardwick Adult Bingo (IN BEER GARDEN)
- 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Hardwick Farmers Guild Burger Bash
- 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Entertainment (THE OTTERS)
- 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM Contra Dancing (TOWN HOUSE, SECOND FLOOR)

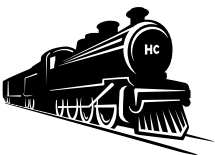


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Mount Carmel takes Men's PVSSL title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Anthony Bourget was an assistant boys' soccer coach under longtime varsity coach John O'Keefe at Minnechaug Regional High School before stepping down at the end of last season.

Bourget was also the head coach of Villa FC, which captured the last two Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League men's championship titles. Villa FC changed sponsors before the start of the 2026 summer league season and are now known as Mount Carmel FC.

Mason Perham is one of the former Minnechaug soccer players listed on the Mount Carmel roster.

Perham scored a second half goal, which helped top-seeded Mount Carmel FC win the championship title once again with a crisp 2-0 win over second-seeded Rumbleseat before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow on Friday, July 31.

"We've won the last two men's championship titles with Villa, and this is our first one with Mount Carmel," Bourget said. "Winning the championship game is something that we expect to do every year. It was a hard fought battle tonight. Rumbleseat played very well against us."

Mount Carmel FC, who finished the PVSSL regular season with a 10-1-0 record, defeated fourth-seeded CF Ardor, 2-0, in the semifinals.

Rumbleseat, who also lost to Mount Carmel during the regular season, entered the playoffs with a 9-1-1 record. They advanced into the men's finals for the first time in more than ten years after knocking off the third-seeded KO Elites FC, 2-1, in the semifinals.

"This is the first time that we've made the finals in many years, and it was a fun game tonight," said Kyle Giroud, who was an out-



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Mount Carmel captured the PVSSL Men's title this year.

standing three-sport athlete at Chicopee Comp. "It's always a great time playing in this league and I'm looking forward to playing again next year."

Giroud is also a member of the Skidmore College men's soccer team.

The men's finals was scoreless at halftime.

Mount Carmel broke the ice four minutes into the second half.

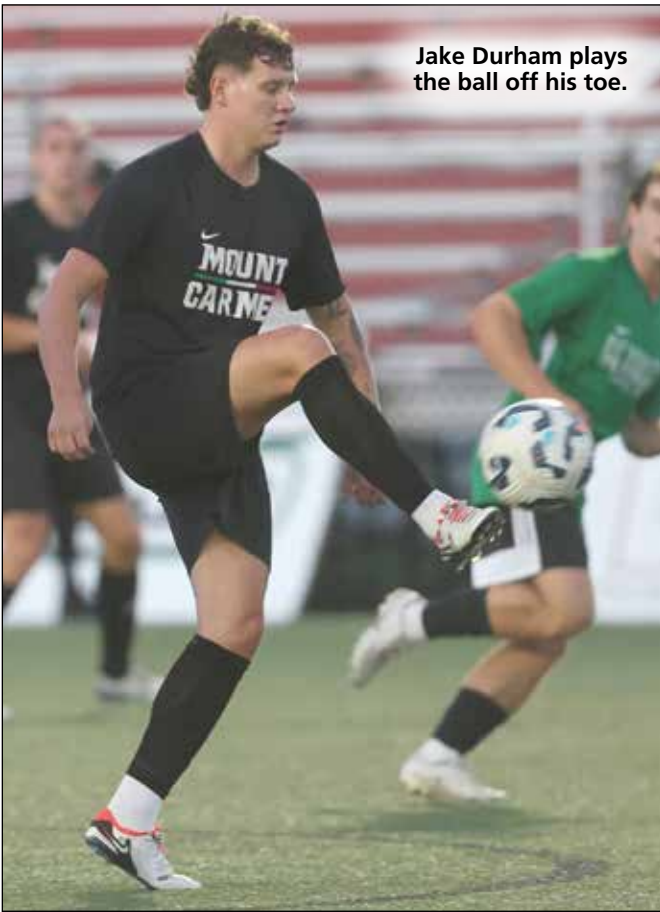
The scoring play began with a crossing pass from Joao Miranda to Deandrae Brown, who fired a shot from the top of the box past Rumbleseat goalie Luke Theroux.

Miranda was selected as the M.V.P. following the match.

About ten minutes later, Perham scored a goal, which was assisted by Brown.

"It just felt awesome to score a goal in the championship game," Perham said.

Please see **MEN'S TITLE**, page 12



Jake Durham plays the ball off his toe.



Deandrae Brown dribbles away from a defender.

West Side Sports Shop grabs ladies title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Since joining the prestigious Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League in 2021, West Side Sports Shop has claimed the women's championship title five times.

Sydney Mercier sends a free kick away.



West Side Sports Shop entered this year's playoffs as the fourth seed. They posted a 2-0 shutout victory over second-seeded W. Mass Xtremes in the women's finals held at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow last Friday night.

"We might be the fourth seed, but we played very well in the playoffs," said West Side Sports Shop head coach Chris Andre. "We lost to the Xtremes twice during the regular season."

The only year that West Side Sports Shop didn't take home the championship trophy was in 2024. They beat top seeded Here for Beer in the finals a year ago.

"We've set a high stranded here," Andre added. "A number of these players have been playing for me since our first year in this league. We also

Please see **WEST SIDE**, page 12

Summer season concludes for Quabbin Cagers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—Christian Horton scored 1,208 career points as the point guard of the Quabbin boys' varsity basketball team 15 years ago.

Horton also played basketball at Nichols College in Dudley and was inducted into the Quabbin Athletic Hall of Fame in 2024. He's currently living in Maryland and returned to Central Massachusetts last week.

One of the things that Horton did on vacation was attend his alma mater's summer league semifinal basketball game against the Oakmont Spartans, which took place at Game On in Fitchburg, last Tuesday night.

Without the services of starting point guard Jacoby Dilling, who was at home sick, the second-seeded Panthers could've used Horton's help, as they suffered a 42-30 loss to the third-seeded Spartans.

"We didn't have our starting point guard, and had to make a couple of adjustments," said Quabbin's summer league coach Alan Crane,



Submitted photo

Quabbin forward Collin Leclair receives a post pass from teammate Brady Patchen during summer basketball action.

who also played basketball at Quabbin between 1999-2003. "Jacoby is our floor leader, and we really missed him in tonight's game. We were also missing a couple of other players."

The Panthers entered the Game On Boys Varsity Division Summer League playoffs with a perfect 6-0 record. They finished the regular season tied with

Lunenburg, who earned the top-seed in the four team playoff due to a tiebreaker.

A year ago, Quabbin competed in the Auburn Summer League, which wasn't held this summer.

Two years ago, the Panthers were one of the six boys' basketball teams that played in the inaugural summer league at Game On, which has ten indoor basket-

ball courts. There are now 14 teams playing in that summer league.

Quabbin's six regular season victories at Game On this summer league were against Gardner (50-43), Bromfield (62-30), Tahanto Regional (66-58), Assabet (55-46), Fitchburg (54-39), and Nashoba Regional (52-33).

In their semifinal setback, Quabbin failed to reach 50 points for the first time this summer.

"Without Jacoby on the court, we wanted to make it a low scoring game," Crane said. "Everything went well until the final five minutes of the game. We had around 25 turnovers, which hurt us. You need to commit fewer than twelve turnovers to win a game at this level."

The other members of the Panthers boys' summer basketball team are Matt Wade, Evan Sherblom, Owen Twarog, Brady Patchen, Aiden Crane, Collin Leclair, Adrein Hein, Isaac Patchen, Jack Leclair, and Fordyce Ruggles.

Please see **CAGERS**, page 13

Silk takes open modified race

WINCHESTER, NH - Ron Silk thought it was Independence Day all over again Aug. 1 at Monadnock Speedway. The July 4 winner of \$7,600 for topping that night's Open Modified main event, took home another \$10,000 Saturday by winning the night's 100-lap Dash For Cash headline race.

The Nutmeg State star, a two-time NASCAR Whelen Modified series champion, is no stranger to victory lane at the high-banked oval. A summer ago, he won a Whelen 200-lapper at Monadnock, while this summer he was victorious in two of the three Open Modified 100s at the fast quarter-mile.

But Silk's two Open Modified victories weren't enough to place him at the top for the overall series championship. That honor went to Bennington, NH second-generation star Matt Kimball, who cut his racing teeth here on the high banks in the oval's youth division Young Guns.

Kimball's spot atop the three-race points parade netted him \$5,000, which, when added to his Saturday fourth-place purse money and event bonuses, sent him home with close to \$10,000, not quite as much as Silk, but a still hefty pay day.

In other action Saturday on the high banks, Daniel Petrowicz scored his first career victory in the Limited Late Models, Jon Fultz made it two on the year in the Mini Stocks, and Jimmy Zellman won a thriller in the Pure Stocks. Young Gun Dylan Stati won his track-high eleventh 2026 feature

Please see **RACE**, page 18

Rocket to visit T-Birds for home opener

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today that the club will host the Laval Rocket as they open the home-ice portion of its 2026-27 season on Saturday, October 10 at 6:05 p.m. inside the MassMutual Center.

Steve Ott returns behind the bench for the Thunderbirds for his first full season at the helm. After joining the T-Birds for his head coaching debut on Jan. 23, the former Blues associate coach led Springfield to a 19-13-2-0 record down the stretch, bringing the T-Birds from the bottom of the AHL standings into a playoff position.

From there, Ott helped orchestrate a pair of stunning upsets. Springfield erased a 1-0 series deficit to win two straight and eliminate

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 14

Valley Blue Sox season comes to a close

HOLYOKE — The Valley Blue Sox's bats finally awoke at home during Game 2 of the 2026 NECBL Playoffs Opening Round on Aug. 2. While the Blue Sox ultimately lost 14-5 to the Sanford Mainers, head coach John Raiola says his team has a lot to be pleased with.

"[As a coach] you try to provide the motivation and the energy and the right words, which are tough to find sometimes, especially when things aren't going well," said Raiola. "There are brighter days ahead, and we have an outstanding coaching staff who brings that same message, and that is something we are proud of."

The journey to get to the playoffs was grueling for the Blue Sox, winning both games of a home-and-away series on the final day of the regular season to secure their spot in the postseason. The team gave it everything they had in the two weeks leading up to the playoffs, but unfortunately ran out of steam in the end.

"They had to go out there and show up every single day, tired, and same lineup, grinding their way through it," said Raiola. "Credit to the players, credit to [team owner] Matt [Drury], and the coaching

staff for keeping the train on the tracks."

Despite finally breaking their duck and hitting the ball out of Mackenzie Stadium for the first time all summer, Sunday's loss eliminated Valley from the playoffs.

Mackenzie Stadium is one of the larger fields in the league, with dimensions of 400 ft. to center, 330 ft. to right, and 315 ft. to left, making it one of the hardest parks in the NECBL to hit a home run in. Valley did not hit a home run at the Mack until Sunday's loss.

Entering the postseason, it seemed unlikely that statistic would change, but Valley's Josh Toole (George Mason) went yard with two outs and two men on base in the bottom of the second. Toole swung at the first pitch he saw from Drew Smith (UConn) and sent the ball out of left field, scoring the first Blue Sox home run at Mackenzie Stadium this summer, putting his team up 3-0.

Fans were still riding the high from Toole's homer when Nick Spaventa (UPenn) added the second Blue Sox home run at the Mack an inning later. Spaventa hit the ball out

Please see **BLUE SOX**, page 18



TOP: Anthony Basile turns play around.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

MEN'S TITLE from page 11

"We took control of the game at the start of the second half. We had another great season."

Perham has been a member of Villa/Mount Carmel for the past four years.

"I'm very happy for Mason," Bourget

said. "He began playing with us the year after he graduated from Minnechaug. We also have a couple of other Minnechaug players on our team. We have a bunch of talented players on this team."

The other former Minnechaug soccer players listed on the Mount Carmel roster are Kyle Atkin, Nick Cianflone, Chase Henderson, and Cam Rigney.

The members of the Mount Carmel FC are hoping to make it a four-peat in the summer of 2027.



RIGHT: Shane Sewell sends a pass away.

WEST SIDE from page 11

add a couple of new players each year. The players get along with each other very well and we always have a lot of fun."

West Side Sports Shop, who finished the 2026 regular season with a 7-4-0 record, defeated the fifth-seeded Lusitano Women, 5-1, in the quarter-finals. Just like they did a year ago, they beat top seeded Here for Beer, 3-2, in the semifinals. West Side Sports also won the regular season match-up Here for Beer.

"Here For Beer is a very talented soccer team," Andre said. "We played very well against them the other night."

The West Side Sports Shop captain is Rhiann Ryan, who graduated from Minnechaug a couple of years ago.

"I love being a member of this soccer team," Ryan said. "It feels nice to finally beat Xtremes, especially after losing to them twice during the regular season."

Six other players listed on the Westside Sports Shop roster played soccer for legendary head coach Nundi Goncalves at Minnechaug. They are Emily Howard, Gabby Rita, Lylah Jeannotte, Chapin Jeannotte, Gaby Williams, and Claire Poindexter.

One of the West Side Sports Shop starters in the championship match was Mallory Pereira, who graduated from Ludlow High School.

Julianna Beaulieu, who graduated from Chicopee Comp, was selected as the M.V.P. of the women's championship game.

"I never expected to be the M.V.P. of this game, but I knew we could win another championship title," Beaulieu said. "I've now won three championships with this team, which is very special. It's been a lot of fun playing soccer for this team."



Kaela Mochak heads up the field.



Emily Howard makes a stop.

Julianna Beaulieu sends a pass away.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

West Side Sports Shop, featuring adult female players from throughout the region, took the PVSSL Women's Championship.

Beaulieu, who played both basketball and soccer at Utica University, scored a pair of goals in the finals.

She got things rolling during the 16th minute of the opening half by putting a

shot into the back of the net past goalie Madison Harmon.

"Once the ball left my foot, I knew it was going into the net," Beaulieu said. "It set the tone for the rest of the game."

The Xtremes, who went 10-1-0 during the regular season, had an opportunity to tie the score during the 27th minute. Gianna Sakowski, who also graduated from Minnechaug, fired a shot on goal, which sailed high over the crossbar.

Beaulieu scored her second goal early in

the second half.

Sara Avery, who was the West Side Sports Shop starting goalie, didn't have to make very many saves in recording the shutout. Avery lives in Belchertown and she graduated from the

MacDuffie School. She'll be a senior on the AIC women's soccer team this fall.

The members of the West Side Sports Shop will be looking to win another PVSSL championship title next summer.

The deadline for submissions for this sports section is the Monday before publication by noon.

To send in information, contact Sports Editor at 413-283-8393, send an e-mail to sports@turley.com or send it through the mail to: Turley Publications c/o Sports Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

Chapin Jeannotte takes the ball up the sideline.



Library hosts dinosaur drawing program

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Warren Public Library hosted a dinosaur drawing program recently with local artist Faye.

Kids and adults joined in on the fun and picked some of their favorite dinosaurs to draw. Faye had her art friends follow a few instructional videos from the popular YouTube channel, Art for Kids Hub.

This channel has hundreds of art instruction videos to help young artists draw what they enjoy. For this program, Faye took requests from her aspiring artists and began searching for some unique dinosaur drawings.

The first dinosaur was a unique dinosaur that gave kids a good laugh – a tacosaurus. This fictional dinosaur has the body of a taco. Due to immediate popularity, Faye and her friends got started on working on their own tacosaurus.

Faye’s interest of dinosaurs came about when the Warren Public Library started focusing on their summer reading theme, “Unearth a Story”. This theme involved dinosaurs and Faye began thinking of ideas of what dinosaur related programs would be fun for kids.

Drawing dinosaurs became one of several fun programs to enjoy this summer.

For Faye, it was tough to decide what dinosaur she likes the most or likes to draw the most.

“I love them all,” Faye

said. “All the dinosaurs are amazing.”

Her point was proven as all the kids and adults at the library went in with maximum effort on their dinosaur drawings. Faye is a substitute teacher at Burgess Elementary School in Sturbridge and says she loves being the substitute art teacher.

After the tacosaurus was done, Faye began searching for other dinosaur drawings for her group of artists to try next.

Though they couldn’t get to them all, Faye still showed her guests what other art instruction options were out there in case the kids wanted to try drawing them at home. There were videos of how to draw spinosaurus, triceratops, tyrannosaurus, mosasaurus and even the fictional nachosaurus.

The group decided to work on a velociraptor next.. Everyone followed the steps carefully and Faye took periodic pauses on the instruction video so artists could catch up.

One of the Librarians, Gena LaScala came up to take pictures of the dinosaur drawings and was amazed by what she saw.

“I dig it,” LaScala said. Kayla’s dinosaur draw-



INSET: Gemma is shown with the tacosaurus design she made during the Dinosaur Drawing program at the Warren Public Library. This table was full of dinosaur drawings at the Warren Public Library.

ing reminded her of her pet snapping turtle, Snappy. After completing the video, the kids got to work on coloring their velociraptors before they got to take them home.

The Summer Reading finale takes place on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 11 a.m. with a Dino Party. The party will take place on the common across the street from the Warren Public Library and will feature a dino dig for kids to enjoy.

Kids will get to be archeologists for the day.

“Like finding treasure,” Faye said.

The Warren Public Library is located at 934 Main St. The library can be reached at 413-436-7690.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Faye returned to the Warren Public Library to teach kids and adults how to draw their own dinosaurs. Faye is shown with a sketch of a tacosaurus.

Chairlift replaced at Shepard municipal building

WARREN – The chairlift at the Charles E. Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High St., has been replaced, and all public meetings will return to the building immediately.

Since the chairlift became inoperable last year, meetings have been held at the Warren Senior Center, to ensure all residents had accessibility.

The chairlift can be accessed along the High Street-facing side of the building, toward the rear, by following the one-way flow of traffic. Accessible parking spaces are located outside the door.

Voter registration deadline for State Primary is Aug. 22

WARREN – The polls will be open for the State Primary Election on Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

The last day to register to vote for the State Primary Election is Saturday, Aug. 22 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Visit us at
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.com



Submitted photo
Aiden Crane searches out teammates Matt Wade and Jacoby for a pass.

CAGERS from page 11

The Panthers were also invited to play in a tournament at Assumption University in Worcester and at the 15th annual Wally Seaver High School Invitational Tournament.

“We’ve only lost three games all summer,” Coach Crane said. “We went 3-0 during first day at the Assumption tournament before losing to Doherty in a winner’s bracket game. Doherty won the championship game. We also went 3-1 at the Wally Seaver Tournament. We got beat by Arlington Catholic, who also won the championship game. There are a lot of talented players on this team. Playing basketball in the summertime is very important for the players’ development.”

The Quabbin boys’ basketball players also take part in clinics, which are held throughout the year.

Dilling, who’s a rising senior, Patchen, who’s a rising junior, were the co-captains of the Panthers varsity hoop squad last winter.

Patchen led the way offensively against Oakmont in the semifinal game with 19 points. He made a total of three 3-pointers.

“Brady is the heart and soul of our basketball team,” Coach Crane said. “He played very well this summer.

Aiden Crane, who’s the son of the Panthers summer league coach, chipped in with seven points against the Spartans (6-1).

Rounding out the scoring for the Panthers were Collin LeClair and Isaac Patchen with two points each.

The Panthers, who were trailing, 10-8, at the end of the opening quarter, took the lead for the first time following a Brady Patchen 3-point-er from the right corner late in the first half.

The Spartans outscored the Panthers, 9-5, in the third quarter and they entered the final ten minutes of the contest holding a slim 25-23 advantage.

A fastbreak lay-up by Collin LeClair and Aiden Crane made a pair of free throws giving the Panthers the lead for the final time at 27-26 three minutes into the fourth quarter, which was ten minutes running time.

Oakmont outscored Quabbin 16-3 down the stretch.

The Panthers summer league coach is looking forward to watching the Panthers varsity basketball team play this winter.

“I can’t wait to sit in the stands and watch these guys play basketball,” Coach Crane said. “I’m expecting them to have a winning season, and it should be a lot of fun.”

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
Cluett’s Appliance Center
Dhillon Dentistry
Hakim Medical Center
Hanna’s on Main
Monson Savings Bank
Moulton Insurance
Ware Town Hall
Westfield Bank
- PALMER**
AmVets Post 74
Palmer Town Hall
Phriends Coffee shop
Mustang Seats
Palmer Senior Center
J. Stolar Insurance Agency
Just A Little Craft Store
Nicks Sports Shop
Palmer Library
Steaming Tender
- MONSON**
Monson Savings Bank
The Better Bean
TJ’s Tavern

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:
DIANE VADNAIS 413-233-8113
dianeavadnaisrealtor@gmail.com
KAREN DAVIS
admin@monsontogogether.com
DAN FLYNN 413-297-5886
dfflynn@turley.com



public safety

Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of July 27-Aug. 10, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 104 building/property checks, 79 directed/area patrols, 23 radar assignments, three traffic controls, 27 emergency 911 calls, 15 citizen assists, four assist other agencies, 10 safety hazards, one illegal dumping, one lost/stolen plate, three threats, four complaints, one scam, two investigations, one trespass, two motor vehicle accidents, 11 animal calls and 16 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, July 27
9:08 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Main Street, Spoken To
9:29 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital
4:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Petersham Road, Written Warning
8:02 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Services Rendered

Tuesday, July 28
2:21 a.m. 911 Assist Other Agency, Greenwich Road, Negative Contact
9:15 a.m. Lost/Stolen Plate, Lower Road, Officer Handled
10:07 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Greenwich Road, Referred to Other Agency
10:41 a.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
2:33 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
3:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Prospect Street, Spoken To
5:25 p.m. Safety Hazard, Turkey Street, Officer Handled
6:32 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Church Street, Arrest(s) Made

Wednesday, July 29
10:30 a.m. Parking Complaint, Barre Road, Officer Handled
12:03 p.m. Safety Hazard, Cleveland Road, Merge

12:07 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Removed Hazard
2:20 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Church Lane, Merge
2:20 p.m. 911 Neighbor Dispute, Church Lane, Peace Restored

Thursday, July 30
8:57 a.m. 911 Fire/Alarm, Petersham Road, Services Rendered
9:14 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Pine Street, Peace Restored
10:52 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Removed Hazard
1:16 p.m. Harassment, Barre Road, Services Rendered
2:31 p.m. Trespass, Church Lane, Officer Handled
3:35 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Negative Contact
5:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
6:10 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Unfounded

Friday, July 31
7:32 a.m. Fire/Alarm, Church Street, Services Rendered
8:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
8:55 a.m. Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Transported to Hospital
2:26 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Spoken To
2:34 p.m. Assist Citizen, High Road, Negative Contact

Saturday, Aug. 1
10:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning
12:15 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Main Street, Services Rendered
4:50 p.m. Complaint, Grove Street, Officer Handled

Sunday, Aug. 2
11:41 a.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, Barre Road, Extinguished

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.

12:16 p.m. Officer Initiated, Main Street, Officer Handled
3:37 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Negative Contact
5:21 p.m. Medical Emergency, New Braintree Road, Transported to Hospital
6:26 p.m. Complaint, Creamery Road, Officer Handled

Monday, Aug. 3
5:47 a.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Common Street, Vehicle Towed
6:48 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
7:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Lyman Road, Services Rendered
8:40 a.m. Assist Citizen, Ridge Road, Spoken To
1 p.m. Complaint, Church Lane, Spoken To
2:09 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Officer Handled
2:25 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Officer Handled
2:32 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Officer Handled
5:32 p.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Services Rendered
11:25 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Barre Road, Unfounded

Tuesday, Aug. 4
7:38 a.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Referred to Other Agency



Submitted Photo

'TOWN TAKEOVER' BENEFITS POLICE STATION PROJECT

The towns of Hardwick and New Braintree participated in Town Takeover night at a WooSox game on July 22 at Polar Park in Worcester. A portion of proceeds from tickets purchased that night will benefit the Hardwick-New Braintree Police Association, to raise money to renovate the police station on Lower Road in Hardwick. Shown from left are Police Lieutenant Robert Toupin, state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, Fire Chief Nick Gaumond, Selectman Bill Tinker, Town Administrator Justine Caggiano, Police Chief Kevin Landine, Selectman Jeff Schaaaf and Police Detective Patrick Almstrom. Both Gaumond and Almstrom were honored during the game for their exemplary work in public safety.

10:36 a.m. Threat, Church Lane, Spoken To
10:47 a.m. Assist Citizen, Sullivan Avenue, Officer Handled
3:58 p.m. Threat, Church Lane, Spoken To
7:41 p.m. Utility Issues, Petersham Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Aug. 5
5:18 a.m. Medical Alarm, Main Street, Officer Handled
1:06 p.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Report Taken
1:14 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Officer Handled
1:33 p.m. Investigation, Broad Street, Officer Handled
3:42 p.m. Scam, Church Lane, Services Rendered
8:54 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled

Thursday, Aug. 6
5:04 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
8:08 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Breen Road, Transported to Hospital

10:09 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Street, Transported to Hospital
12:15 p.m. Assist Citizen, Bridge Court, Spoken To
2:28 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Spoken To
4:12 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Spoken To
4:38 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
5:59 p.m. 911 Threat, Bridge Street, Report Taken
8 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

Friday, Aug. 7
9:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Dispatch Handled
4:38 p.m. Medical Emergency, Prospect Street,

Transported to Hospital
6:57 p.m. 911 Misdial, Main Street, Services Rendered

Saturday, Aug. 8
9:50 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
6:37 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, Aug. 9
12:55 p.m. Trespass, Barre Road, Spoken To
4:01 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Aug. 10
5:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued

Warren Police Log

During the week of July 12-18, the Warren Police Department responded to 231 building/property checks, four community policings, six emergency 911 calls, one missing/lost person, one fraud or forgery, five suspicious activities, one theft/larceny, one harassment, one illegal burn, one trespasser, one motor vehicle accident, one complaint, three animal calls and 21 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, July 12
12:55 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Unfounded

Monday, July 13
8:02 a.m. Diabetic, Ware Road, Transported to Hospital
9:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning
1:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
2:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
6:01 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Winthrop Terrace, Investigated

Tuesday, July 14
6 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital
7:22 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Reed Street, Information Given
7:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
5:07 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Comins Pond Road, Officer Spoke to Party
9:42 p.m. Harassment, Milton O. Fountain Way, Negative Contact

Wednesday, July 15
12:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning
1:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
5:11 p.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, Maple Street, Investigated

Thursday, July 16
7:17 a.m. Missing Person, East Road, Located/Found
8:17 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Forest Avenue, Transported to Hospital
8:30 a.m. Neck Pain, Winthrop Terrace, Mutual Aid Transport
9:59 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, School Street, Transported to Hospital
5:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
10:28 p.m. Noise Complaint, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, July 17
12:38 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Boston Post Road, Please see **WARREN PD**, page 15

ATTENTION! Businesses in Ware, Warren and Hardwick!

ESTABLISHED 1934

DeSantis Garage

Started in 1934 by Querino DeSantis, DeSantis Garage provided a steady base in the community for gasoline, used cars, parts and tractor sales. Reopened in 2003 by Querino's grandsons, David and Brian, DeSantis Garage has proudly carried on Querino's hard work and dedication.

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Ware, MA 01082
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PUBLISHES SEPT. 3, 2026

Turley Publications, Inc.

- A TURLEY PUBLICATION -

WWW.TURLEY.COM

T-BIRDS from page 12

the Charlotte Checkers in the First Round before completing the biggest upset in Calder Cup Playoff history with a four-game dispatching of the Providence

Bruins in the Atlantic Division Semifinals. The Thunderbirds had finished the regular season 38 points behind the Macgregor Kilpatrick Trophy-winning Bruins.

Sewer Commissioners review sewer rate study proposals

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Sewer Commissioners met on Aug. 7 to discuss and vote on two different sewer rate study proposals.

These proposals are from the Abrahams Group LLC and Tighe & Bonde, and are for sewer rates for fiscal year 2029, FY 30 and FY 31.

Town Administrator James Ferrera asked if the commissioners would like to see an updated study of the annual fee that is charged to the rate payers. Last time, the study was done by Tighe & Bond.

There is an exemption in Chapter 30B that allows for registered and licensed engineers to have an exemption from the bidding, which the board could utilize.

Ferrera said he’s not familiar with the Abrahams Group and he recommended that Chief Sewer Operator Scott Urban reach out to another entity to get a written quote so they can get three different proposals to review.

“What you want to see accomplished in this study,” Ferrera said.

The commissioners could also think of some questions they would like to get answered or researched.

“A clear solicitation for the scope that the board is looking for is critical in

terms of obtaining pricing,” Ferrera said.

Sewer Commission Chair Travis Baker says this is something the board has to look into more. The commission tabled this item until their next meeting.

Contract for sludge disposal

The Sewer Commissioners discussed and vote on a contract with Wind River Environmental for the transporting and disposal of liquid sludge. A bid went out for this project and Wind River Environmental had won the bid.

The commissioners voted to enter into a contract with Wind River Environmental for the transportation and disposal of liquid sludge.

Chief Sewer Operator report

Sewer Commission Chair Travis Baker received a message from Urban which included a brief report. The report talked about a plant water project, where a filter is being rebuilt and parts should be arriving in about two weeks.

After the parts are checked in, the department will schedule work with the contractor.

Phase two of the copper study is going well and is operating within the permit limits. A motor for RBC 16 is being replaced and

the operator ordered extra motors to have on site for spares.

Department head meeting

Ferrera shared some of the items explained in the department head meeting on Aug. 5. One of the items was a risk management grant that is available through the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association.

Ferrera also asked the commission to make sure their agendas included the Shepard Municipal Building’s address, as it is back open again to hold meetings.

Sewer connection permit

The commission revisited the discussion and vote on a sewer connection permit for 109 East Road from Lone Oak Enterprises, LLC.

Baker received a call from Urban the previous day and the East Road applicant is waiting on an insurance certificate with the updated insurance. However, the paperwork was not submitted on time and is an incomplete application.

With this information, the Sewer Commission thought it would be best to deny the permit due to the incomplete application. Ferrera suggested the board reach out to the contractor and let them know about the decision.

The vote to deny the application passed.



Submitted Photo

The Department of Conservation and Recreation announced more than \$131,000 in grants to 45 rural, call, or volunteer fire departments across Massachusetts through the Volunteer Fire Capacity Program. The program helps smaller departments train personnel, prevent forest fires and strengthen emergency response in their communities. DCR announced the VFC recipients at the Brookfield Fire Station, alongside local elected officials on Aug. 7.

DCR announces \$131,000 grant

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

BROOKFIELD – Priscilla Geigis, Deputy Commissioner for Conservation and Resource Stewardship at the Department of Conservation and Recreation announced a \$131,000 grant from the administration of Gov. Maura Healey and Lieutenant Gov. Kimberly Driscoll during a press conference at the Brookfield Fire Station last Friday.

According to the press release, Brookfield received \$3,489.

This grant from the Volunteer Fire Capacity Program is split among 45 fire departments in the Commonwealth for those that serve populations of 10,000 or less, or are 80% or more staffed by volunteers. Geigis thanked state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume during her speech, as they were unable to attend.

Geigis said these grants are to help fire departments with training and response, and to help them steward and protect the land, cit-

ing the immense impacts of wildfires, including in Washington and Minnesota. She said this money comes from the U.S. Forest Service, and said these grants are a good example of federal, state and local governments working together.

DCR wild-land firefighter Andrew Regan gave thanks to firefighters in the state, and the state itself, and said this funding better helps to equip communities. Regan said fire stations use the money for personal protective equipment, tools, pumps and radios to name a few.

Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi said these grants show support for local communities, and also called out the importance of mutual aid from other states in the event of wildfires. Gobi said the training that fire chiefs give is important for their firefighters to come home safe.

“When those tones go off, you’re there,” she said.

Brookfield Fire Chief Peter Martell thanked everybody for coming, along with the DCR, and said the town has been fortunate to take advantage of the grant for years.

Other communities’ fire chiefs were present as well, like Three Rivers Fire Chief Stephen Nodurf, who said this is the first year the town has taken advantage of the grant, and are using the funds for 12 sets of brush gear. Three Rivers received \$3,390.

Chief Jamie Hyatt from Windsor gave thanks to the DCR, saying “we’ve been blessed to have this grant.” He said the funds are small, but impact the budget.

Windsor received \$3,482.

Other communities represented were New Braintree, who received \$3,500 and Warren with Lt. Seth Beall. Warren received \$2,750.

Area towns also receiving funds are Brimfield with \$3,500, Wales with \$3,500, Barre with \$2,903, Petersham with \$3,500 and North Brookfield with \$815.

Vendors wanted for Flea Market on the common

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC, 36 North Main St., has been hosting their Flea Market on the town common for more than 50 years.

This year the Flea Market will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (vendor check-in 6:30-8:30 a.m.). Sellers of all kinds are welcome – flea folk, antique dealers, crafters, product vendors and those emptying out basements and attics.

No food vendors, please.

Spaces are available for \$40 for a 20 x 20 grassy spot. Vendors must bring their own tables and tents.

The church will sponsor a food tent with grilled food, cold drinks and sweet treats. Email to fccofwbfleamarket@gmail.com for an application or call Karen at 508-801-7692.

WARREN PD

from page 14

Officer Spoke to Party

8:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Warren Road, Criminal Complaint

11:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

12:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning

2:14 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Winthrop Terrace, Report Filed

3:24 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Winthrop Terrace, Removed from Scene

4:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning

9:59 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Cronin Road, Information Given

Saturday, July 18

11:53 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed

1:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Ware Road, Report Filed

6:27 p.m. Unwanted Party, Main Street, Peace Restored

WARREN BOS

from page 1

building and the cost of constructing a brand new building somewhere else in town.

Eichacker wanted his fellow board members to know if there is anything in the draft report that the board wanted to see more in detail.

Ferrera said, “the program is based on the current needs of the police department.”

These needs were collected through interviews with the Police Chief. This way, Tecton could incorporate how the needs would fit into the former bank building.

One of the main needs is the square footage; approximately 8,900 square feet. The bank building has more square footage than the need.

Eichacker read the estimated costs for both properties. The estimated cost for the bank building redevelopment is \$13,876,343.00. For a new building near the highway barn is estimated at \$12,746,645.00.

The board has some preliminary questions to ask first before Tecton finalizes a report. This includes meeting with Tecton first during a regular meeting.

There is roughly a 9% difference between the two projects, or an estimated \$1.1 million difference. The board was surprised at seeing a higher cost for remodeling an existing building than building an entire new building.

Vice Chair Derick Veliz pointed out that the inside of the bank building is what’s mainly being changed. Eichacker said Tecton Architects did men-

tion building codes required for a police station. The bank building would have to be brought up to code to be appropriate for a police station.

Selectmen Ray Kopacko made a proposal that the board gets their questions and comments sent to McElravy of Tecton by next week. In addition, ask if he could attend the next Board of Selectmen’s meeting to address these questions and comments, and then schedule a public meeting.

There are pros and cons to both locations that are mentioned in the report. The bank building is in the center of Warren and is an older building. The location for a new building has less square footage and would locate the police station away from the center of town.

The costs are only estimates and one of the main questions is how much the town willing is to pay. Jim Fountain, who owns the bank building, commented and thinks the police should be somewhere in downtown Warren.

Fountain thinks the board should also consider if these costs are affordable for the town, or make sure the town spends within its means.

Thinking of a timeline of how long this process will take to come to a decision, Ferrera gave an estimated run down on when the Board can come to a decision.

“Once the Selectmen have finalized and authorized the report to be finalized, then we’ll have some public presentations,” Ferrera said.

The Town Administrator

estimated to have presentations sometime in September or October. The town also has to pick a direction to take, whether it has the board vote, have a special town meeting, or a session with more input.

The board agreed to send questions and comments to Tecton Architects and see if McElravy can attend the meeting on Aug. 20.

Presentation from Rep. Smola

State Rep. Todd Smola attended the Board of Selectmen meeting for a special presentation. For the 250th of America, Smola presented a Declaration of Independence copy to the Town of Warren.

This reprint was done in the same manner as Ezekiel Russell did the print 250 years ago. Smola brought a framed copy to give to the town and have it put in the municipal archives.

The framed copy was accepted by the Town Clerk, Laurie Stockley.

Included with the copy was a write up of Ezekiel Russell and the history of how the copy came to be when it was printed back in 1776 in Salem. Russell issued a broadside edition of the Declaration of Independence less than two weeks after the Declaration’s approval in Philadelphia.

Stockley proudly accepted the copy and the board thanked Smola for the presentation. The location of where this copy will be displayed is still under discussion.

Appointments

The board discussed the appointment of Tracey Mazur for a three-year term on the Warren Cultural Council. Mazur has been the Cultural Council since 2015.

Mazur says the council brings a lot of culture, art, science, and humanities to Warren residents what wouldn’t happen without the efforts of the Warren Cultural Council.

The board appointed Mazur to one three-year term.

The board appointed Haileigh Swistak as a temporary part-time position of Assistant to the Treasurer. The person in this temporary position would also report directly to the Town Administrator for the purpose of completing a special project.

Swistak introduced herself to the Board and shared that she is attending college and also works for Great Horse Country Club. Ferrera said the special project needs to be done with W9s piling up and needs to be properly organizes for tax purposes.

“A time sensitive project,” Ferrera said.

With Swistak’s help, Ferrera hopes the project will be done by the end of the month before Swistak goes back to school. The board appointed Swistak to the temporary position.

River and Central streets

The board had a possible vote on the execution of a contract between the town and Ludlow Construction Company, Inc. for the River Street and Central Street

Improvement Project.

This project was done with the use of Community Development Block Grant funds and a small amount of Chapter 90 money. This contract is for phase one of the project, with the bid coming in for \$570,690.10.

The phase includes infrastructure improvements underground. Phase two of the project will go out to bid soon.

“It’ll be a nice improvement in that area,” Eichacker said.

The board approved the execution of a contract with Ludlow Construction Company.

Town Administrator’s report

During his report, Ferrera talked about the Shepard Municipal Building being open again for public meetings. The wheelchair lift was installed and passed inspections.

Ferrera oversaw the installation of the new wheelchair lift at the Shepard Municipal Building. Handrails were also installed where the decommissioned wheelchair lift was. Currently, a kitchen sink project is being worked on in the break room.

During his monthly report, Ferrera said he submitted the grant close out paperwork and reimbursement requests to the State for fiscal year 2026 grants.

The Town Administrator managed to resolve a legal complaint regarding a town owned property on Pleasant Street. He also resolved and responded to a written quality of life complaint regard-

ing a property located at 38 Ramsdell St.

Ferrera met with Pastor Akin Adeboye to listen to his concerns regarding the Building Department and to also welcome him to the town.

Ferrera is continuing to monitor and oversee the weatherization grant at Warren Community Elementary School. All the installations were completed by July 31.

Ferrera participated in a pre-construction meeting for the River & Central Street Improvement Project. Construction should start in the middle of August.

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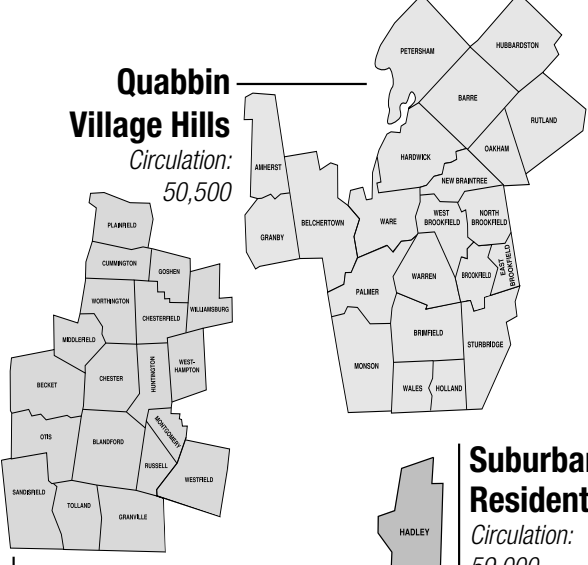
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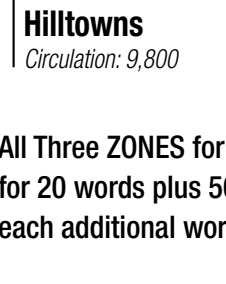
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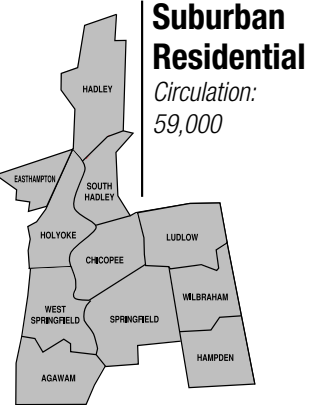
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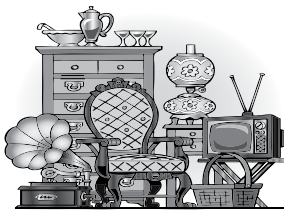
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public notices

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
PROJECT: Stream Daylighting off McEvoy Road
LOCATION: McEvoy Road, New Braintree
PROPONENT: East Quabbin Land Trust, Inc
The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form (“ENF”) to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before August 10, 2026.
This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (“MEPA,” M.G.L. c. 30, ss. 61-62L). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from:

Cynthia Henshaw
chenshaw@EQLT.org,
413-477-8229
Electronic copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of New Braintree.

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, receive public comments on the project, and then decide if an Environmental Impact Report is required. A site visit and/or remote consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit and/or remote consultation session, should email MEPA@mass.gov or the MEPA analyst listed in the Environmental Monitor. Requests for language translation or other accommodations should be directed to the same email address. Mail correspondence should be directed to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.
By: Cynthia Henshaw, Executive Director, East Quabbin Land Trust.
08/13/2026

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT TOWN OF WARREN HILLSIDE AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT REBID
THIS PROJECT IS BEING BID ELECTRONICALLY AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the Bid Documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. See www.biddocs.com for bidding instructions. Electronic Bids must be received by biddocs.com no later than **10:00 AM on Thursday, September 3, 2026**, at which time said bids will be publicly opened, forthwith online.

The Town of Warren invites sealed Bids for the Hillside Avenue Improvement Project Rebid. The project includes installation of approximately 560 linear feet of 8-inch ductile iron water main and associated services, 240 linear feet of 8-inch PVC drain line, two precast concrete drainage structures, 2,750 square feet of cement concrete sidewalk, 590 linear feet of monolithic concrete curb and 440 linear feet of hot mix asphalt curb, 1,310 square yards of road reconstruction, 900 square feet of segmental block retaining wall, and associated work. This project is being administered by the town of Warren and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) and funded by the MA Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, FY25 Warren Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The Engineer’s opinion of probable construction costs for the Base Bid plus Alternate 1 is \$521,175.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available August 12, 2026 at www.biddocs.com (may be viewed electronically and downloaded at no cost) or hard copies may be purchased online at www.biddocs.com or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).
Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount,
All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §§26 to 27H, inclusive, or by the federal Davis-Bacon wage rates, whichever hourly rate is higher.

The project is subject to HUD’s Section 3 policy, under which, to the greatest extent possible, affirmative steps shall be taken to ensure training and employment for lower income workers and project area residents and award of subcontracts to HUD-defined Section 3 businesses. Bidders on the work shall also make a good faith effort to achieve the goals of the Federal Minority and Women’s Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) policy regarding utilization of MBEs and WBEs in order to be deemed a responsible bidder. This project is subject to Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act requirements.
MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, Highway - Construction, for the project with an estimated value of \$521,175 will be required.

Bids may be changed or withdrawn prior to the bid opening, but not within the sixty (60) days subsequent to the bid opening, by submission of such a change in writing in a sealed envelope, identifying the submitting party and indicating that it contains a correction of the bid for the Hillside Avenue Improvement Project Rebid, Warren, MA.

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

Questions regarding the bid specifications should be directed in writing to Bill Storti at Weston & Sampson, at storti@weinc.com. Questions must be received by 5:00 p.m. August 28, 2026. Contract documents may be viewed at the CMRPC, 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520, Worcester, MA 01608, or Weston & Sampson, 712 Brook Street, Suite 103, Rocky Hill, CT, 06067.
08/13/2026

TOWN OF WARREN ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Sealed Bids for the construction of the “**Town of Warren, Warren Senior Center HVAC Improvements**”, will be received by the Town of Warren at the Shepard Municipal Building, Office of the Town Administrator (Second Floor), at 48 High Street, Warren, MA 01083 (P.O. Box 609, Attn. James Ferrera if using US Postal Service) **until 1:00 p.m. local time on September 9, 2026** at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud. Sealed **Bids must have outer envelope marked as “Town of Warren, Warren Senior Center HVAC Improvements.”**

The work consists of ductwork replacement and addition of “mini split” AC units. Bids shall be on a lump sum basis, with additive alternate bid items as indicated in the Bid Form.
All Bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Section 44A - 44J inclusive as amended.
In accordance with Section 44D of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of Massachusetts as amended, the prospective General Bidders must submit with their Bid, a certificate of eligibility issued by the Division of

Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), showing that the Bidder has been approved to bid on projects of the size and nature as advertised herein. Prospective General Bidders must also submit an updated statement summarizing their record for the period between the latest DCAMM certificate and the date of the Bid submittal. The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the General Bidder shall be for the category of work defined as “HVAC”.

Bidding Documents may be obtained electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php. Prospective bidders must complete a one-time registration process on the website in order to receive log-in credentials. Bidders must log in to the web site to download bidding documents for the project. Bidders will be added to the “planholders” or prospective bidders list upon downloading the bidding documents for the project.

A bid deposit of 5% shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The time period for holding Bids, is 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after opening of Bids.

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Workforce Development under the provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract. Federal Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the United States Department of Labor under the Davis-Bacon Act also apply to this project.

An non-mandatory pre-Bid conference will be held at 9:00 a.m. local time on August 19, 2026 at the Warren Senior Center, 2252 Main St. West Warren, MA 01092.

Consulting Engineer:
Tighe & Bond Designer Services, Inc.
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Westfield, MA , 01085
413-562-1600

08/06, 08/13/2026

Ware River News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

Town of Hardwick NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, section 12, the Select Board of the Town of Hardwick will hold a public hearing on the application for Change of Manager liquor license transfer pertaining to the Whistle Stop, LLC. Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on this application on **Monday, August 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM.** Any person wishing to comment may do so at that time. A copy of the application documents pertaining to this matter are available at the Town Administrators Office, Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, Massachusetts.
08/13/2026

Town of Warren INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
The Town of Warren is soliciting sealed bids for its Translucent Window Panel Replacement Project at the Charles E. Shepard Municipal Building located at 48 High Street, Warren, MA 01083, until the time specified below at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.
Specifications and bid forms may be obtained on the Town’s

website www.warren-ma.gov.
Sealed Bids will be accepted until August 20, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. and will be opened shortly thereafter in the Office of the Town Administrator, second floor, 48 High Street, Warren, MA. Bids can be mailed or dropped off to the Office of the Town Administrator Attn: Jim Ferrera, 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609 Warren, MA 01083. Each Bid must be accompanied by a bid security consisting of a BID BOND, CASH, or CERTIFIED CHECK issued by a responsible bank or trust company in the amount of 5% of the bid price.
A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit will be held at the Charles E. Shepard Municipal Building located at 48 High Street, Warren, MA on August 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. It is encouraged that any prospective bidders have a representative in attendance.
A performance bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total amount of the contract price with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be required for the faithful performance of the contract, as well as a labor and materials (payment) bond in an amount equal to 50 percent of the total contract price.
All bids for this project are

subject to applicable public bidding laws of Massachusetts, including, but not limited to G.L. c.149, §§44A-44H, as amended.
Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and the weekly payroll record submittal requirements under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 through 27D inclusive.
Selection of the contractor will be based upon bidder qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects, and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the awarding authority to be the lowest responsible and eligible bidder.
The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of the bids.
The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.
The Town of Warren, MA
James J. Ferrera
Town Administrator
08/06, 08/13/2026

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

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BLUE SOX from page 12

into Valley’s bullpen with Esteban Garcia (Boston College) on third, extending the lead to 5-0.

Though the Blue Sox did not walk away with the win, it was only fitting for the team that clinched their play-off spot on the last day of the regular season to also score their first home runs at the Mack during their last game of the summer.

“We talk so much about the wins and the losses throughout the year, but we don’t do it for the wins; the wins happen as a result of them continuing to show up and do the right things,” said Raiola. “They will look back on it, and they will realize that through failure comes a lot of success down the road, and that part in itself is rewarding.”

RACE from page 12

race Saturday, while New England Dwarf Car ace Ryan Carman had to twice take the lead en route to his second win in six days, his Saturday win following a Sabbath Day score at Hudson.

A top-12 redraw put Silk on the pole for the night’s Country 93.5 FM Open Modified Dash For Cash 100-lap main event. Blasting off at the green, Silk led the first two go-rounds before twice trading the early lead with Kyle Bonsignore en route to holding the top spot for 83 laps as he dashed off to win with ease. The big defining moment in this one happened on a lap 56 restart.

Repeating his July 4 strategy, Silk led nine other cars to the pits for fresh rubber, handing the top spot to Brad

Zahensky. Back under green, a wild mess unfolded as the tight pack charged out of turn two.

Kimball and Brian Robie entered Saturday’s 100-lap-per tied for the top spot atop the three-race series. When the dust had settled along the backstretch on lap 55, Bosignore and Robie were amongst the casualties. Kimball, then at mid-pack, started counting, all the way up to \$5,000.

With Silk sailing off into the night to win with ease, steady Joey Cipriano came home second. Anthony Nocella, with Kimball at his bumper, took home the bronze metal hardware. Zahensky’s choice to stay on the track under caution netted him seventh, while Robie’s promising start fizzled to a 14th place finish.

Daniel Petrowicz started

up front in the nightcap Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model main event and never looked back as he sped off to his first career win in front of the night’s huge Dash For Cash speedway crowd.

Robert Hagar had the fastest car in the field, closing a third-lap deficit to finish four lengths behind Petrowicz for his second runner-up showing of the weekend. Top points man JD Stockwell, a seven-time 2026 winner, had a rare quiet night, getting up for third, just ahead of Hillary Renaud.

Popular Pat Houle led the first dozen laps of the Keene Towing and Recovery Mini Stock feature, then giving way to rocketman Jon Fultz. Once in front, the Bay State ace was unstoppable, winning with ease ahead of

number two point man Craig Chaffee.

Houle held strong to finish a season best third, with former track champ Louie Mahar fourth, and Tim Paquette fifth. Paquette’s top-five run kept him atop the 2026 points parade.

Maya Bell was the early leader in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock 25-lapper, then giving way to Dylan Zullo, who, in turn, surrendered the top spot to four-time winner Michael Yeaton, zooming off in quest of win number five. But this one wasn’t over yet.

A lap- 24 restart sat Yeaton and Jimmy Zellman side-by-side as the event’s defining moment unfolded. The top two banged and clanged out of turn four at the drop of the green, sending Yeaton to the pits and Zellman to the lead.

The Bay State blaster held strong to edge top points man rookie Josh Brigham for the win. Kyle Begos, from way back in row nine, charged up for third, with Markus O’Neil and Zullo completing the top five.

Ryan Carman led twice in the New England Dwarf Car feature, taking the top spot the second time with a lap-21 pass of Tom Harwood as they blasted out of turn two. Harwood held strong for second, and Cody Hodgdon was solid in third.

Dylan Stati continued his dominance of the Doug’s Auto Body Young Guns Saturday, romping to his eleventh win of the summer. Maeve Barry was second, and Mason Bezio earned the third-place trophy.

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