

# WARE RIVER NEWS

Vol. 140 No. 26

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

## STM okays zoning bylaws

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
zachf@turley.com

HARDWICK – Voters approved six new zoning bylaws at a special town meeting last Wednesday, including accessory dwelling units, earth removal and importation and farm animals.

All articles passed unanimously, and the zoning bylaws were previously presented at a public hearing in May.

The accessory dwelling units article allows these structures to be built by right, as it is now a requirement of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The Hardwick option allows for more than one unit on a parcel, units of greater size than the state minimum and phased development of ADUs. The article also removes a section from the zoning bylaw about accessory apartments, since it is superseded by the general laws.

A description of ADUs was provided in the warrant. They are separate homes with sleeping, cooking and sanitation on the same lot as a principal dwelling, or a house, and have separate entrances from the principal dwelling.

Protected use ADUs, as governed by the general laws, are no larger than 900 square feet or one half of the gross area of the principal dwelling, and the local option can approve by special permit an ADU of up to 1,200 square feet.

### Earth removal and importation

This bylaw is designed to regulate the importation, removal and filling of any material to protect health, public safety and the natural biodiversity of the town of Hardwick including aquifers, water bodies and wetlands, per the description in the warrant.

The bylaw requires a special permit to remove or bring in more than 100 cubic yards of material in or out of the town over a one-year period.

The permit would last for two years and come with a fee as decided by the planning board.

The work is subject to inspection by an engineering consultant, and there are exemptions for permits already issued, municipal uses, ecologi-

Please see **BYLAWS**, page 8

## Hardwick Community Fair



LEFT: Friends gathered for a photo on one of the tractors at the fair.

Turley Photos by Mary Whitelaw

BELOW: An actor portrayed Deacon Joseph Allen during the opening ceremony of the Hardwick Community Fair this past Friday night.

*Tradition continues for 264th year*

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Community Fair took place this past weekend during a historic year of anniversaries.

Before the Declaration of Independence and even

before Lexington and Concord, the town started its own annual agricultural fair, with the first dating back to 1762. The annual fair features two days of festivities and highlights locals who make the fair great year after year.

The annual Hardwick Community Fair is made possible by the volunteer run

organization, the Hardwick Community Fair Association. The Fair Board along with numerous volunteers help put the fair together and continue its historic traditions.

Every year, the Fair Board dedicates the Hardwick Community Fair to someone during the opening ceremonies. The 2026 Hardwick

Community Fair was dedicated to Pam Hinckley, who was honored by this incredible recognition.

Hinckley was born in Worcester and came to town for her first teaching job in the elementary school. Though she eventually left

Please see **FAIR**, page 6

## New Director of Student Services selected

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Interim Superintendent Michael Wood said the school district had a successful search for a candidate to fill the position of Director of Student Services.

He thanked School Committee member Mel Whitham and the other search committee members for their efforts.

“It was very successful and we are very pleased with the results,” he said at the Aug. 12 School Committee meeting.

Candidate Lindsey Smithies was selected as the finalist for the position and was “hands-down” the top choice by the search committee, Wood said.

“We are very pleased to have her here,” Wood said.

Wood recommended the School Committee vote to appoint Smithies to the position of Director of Student Services with a three-year contract. Wood is in the process of negotiating the contract with Smithies.

Whitham said there were many qualified candidates that applied for the position, adding that she had “full confidence” in

Please see **WARE SCHOOLS**, page 2

## Hearing continued for Cemetery Road project

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Conservation Commission and Planning Board had a joint meeting on Aug. 12 at the Charles E. Shepard Municipal Building.



**YOU NEED A GEO TECH TO LOOK AT THE STABILITY, THE SHEAR FACTORS OF THAT SLOPE.”**

**TERRY REYNOLDS**  
PEER REVIEWER

The public hearing was for site plan review application of Paquette Bros. Contracting LLC to allow construction of six two-family dwellings served by a single driveway at Cemetery Road in the Village district.

Giving a presentation during the joint meeting was Jeff Dubois of DC Engineering & Survey, Inc.

of Charlton, who has been working with Paquette Bros. Contracting LLC. Also speaking on the plans was Glenn Krevosky of EBT Environmental Consultants, Inc. of North Oxford.

A map of the area for the project off Cemetery Road was presented during the joint meeting. Dubois said the plan hasn't really changed since a previous presentation.

Paquette Bros. is proposing to build six duplexes on the property and proposing to have a driveway coming off of Cemetery Road and Comins Pond Road and have it drive straight into the parking lot. The plans also include side-walks.

Dubois pointed out a berm along the roadway that is approximately 20 feet high. The plan is to take the berm down so the whole project area is all one level.

Planning Board Vice Chair Richard Eichacker asked about the parking lot draining and where the water goes from the parking lot. From what the plans show it seems the water will pool down to the southeast corner.

Dubois explained that the water flow is perpendicular

Please see **HEARING**, page 5



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Adam Bishop of Garaventa Lift explained how to use the new accessibility chairlift at the Charles E. Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High St., while resident Donald Neilsen was the first person to use it.

## New chairlift installed at Shepard Municipal building

Town continues to improve public accessibility

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Last year, the 28-year-old accessibility chairlift in the Charles

E. Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High St., stopped working, and Town Administrator James Ferrera made a promise to the community to have it replaced.

Thanks to a fall town meeting vote to allocate \$109,000 to the project, this promise was recently fulfilled.

Ferrera and the Board of Selectmen held a press

conference and ribbon cutting on Aug. 11, to unveil the new chairlift. They also invited members of the town's disabled community, including Donald Neilsen and Bob Briere, both of whom use mobility devices that require the chairlift to enter the building.

Please see **CHAIRLIFT**, page 8





Ryan McLane does a running drill.



London Shepard focuses on solid contact off the batting tee.

# SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS www.sports.turley.com

## Forge Baseball Clinic returns to WMass

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—One of the last sports camps of the summer of 2026 was held at Spec Pond in Wilbraham from August 10-13. A total of 57 baseball and softball players between the ages of 6-16 from

Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the four day clinic. “This is our fourth year conducting the baseball clinics, and this is probably the best one yet,” said camp director Dustin Brisson “We have almost 60 kids, including a couple of softball players for the first time, this week. It’s the most campers we’ve ever had at this clinic and I’m very pleased.” Brisson, who is the owner of Forge Athletics, was born in Florida and played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. The first baseman was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the 15th round of the 2000 MLB draft. Brisson, who played 345 minor league games, advanced to Double A Portland. His baseball career came to an end due to an injury. “I was blessed to have the opportunity to play professional baseball,” Brisson said. “I’m doing what I can to give back to these kids.” Some of the camp instructors were Lindsay



Campers receive some instructions from one of the coaches in the Forge Baseball Clinic.

Beer, David Wendt, Ace Adams Chade Shade, who’s the head coach of the Springfield College baseball team, Pat Strange, who’s the pitching coach at Westfield State University, Dan Gomez, who’s the head baseball coach at Western New England University, and Terry Doyle, who’s the baseball coach at New England College.

Please see **CAMP**, page 10

## Soccer academy has strong session

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — During the past 15 summers, the Quabbin Soccer Academy has held clinics in Ware and Belchertown. The two soccer clinics this summer were held at the Chestnut Hill Community School in Belchertown. “We held our first clinic in Ware in 2011,” said Matt Schiffer, who’s the Director of the Quabbin Soccer Academy. “We moved the clinics to Belchertown in 2014. The clinic has grown substantially since 2021. We had over 100 kids sign up for the clinics that year. I thought it was going to be a one-time thing, but we’ve had between 80 and 100 kids sign up each year since.” A total of 85 kids, who are between the ages of 4 and 13, attended the second soccer clinic, which took place from August 10-14. Most of the campers were from Belchertown. “Originally, we only had one clinic each summer,” Schiffer said. “The parents suggested that we do two clinics each summer and it has worked out very well during the past few years.” Schiffer described the typical day at the clinic. “It’s a six-hour camp and we just want to make it fun for the kids,” he said. “We do some skill development, but we also play some fun games. We also play scrimmages.” The kids are split up into four groups depending on their age. The full day soccer clinic went from 9am to 3pm each of the five days. There were also two other time options from 9am to 10:30am and

Please see **ACADEMY**, page 10



Nate Carrill slides safely home.

## Tri-County finals forced to a deciding game three

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY— Third-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas had a golden opportunity to sweep the top-seeded St. Joseph’s Saints in the Tri-County League championship series. Teddy Bear held a 1-0 lead entering the top of the third inning in game two. St. Joe’s rallied for three runs in the third and fourth innings and they evened the best-of-three series at 1-1 following a 6-3 victory at South Hadley High School Friday, Aug. 7. The game came to an end after five innings due to darkness, which didn’t please the Teddy Bear players and their supporters. “It’s a very frustrating situation,” said Teddy Bear player/manager Ryan Magni. “I think we

Please see **TRI-COUNTY**, page 10



Matt Drobiak tries to evade a run-down.

## Lusitano keeps the soccer going

Hosts exhibition collegiate match

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— In what could become an annual tradition, the UConn and UMass women’s soccer teams met in an exhibition match in front of a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium on Aug. 5. Neither team was able to find the back of the net during the contest, played in three 30-minute intervals, but it was still a memorable evening at the 108-year-old stadium located on Winsor Street in Ludlow. “It’s very exciting to be hosting a college soccer match here at Lusitano Stadium,” said Joe Ferrara Jr., who’s the Managing Director of the New England Mutiny and the General Manager of the Western Mass. Pioneers. “Both UConn and UMass have been very supportive of the Mutiny over the years. I also have a personal relationship with both coaching staffs.” The last time a college soccer match was held at Lusitano Stadium was on October 17, 2018. On that fall evening, the Worcester State University Lancers squared off against the Western New England University Golden Bears in a non-conference men’s match-up. Cyrus Raines, a Belchertown High School graduate, delivered his first collegiate goal during the second half, which lifted the Lancers to a 1-0 shut-out victory. Raines, who’s a defender, finished his college soccer career with three goals. The Worcester State

head coach at that time was Jason Willis, who’s currently an assistant coach for the Western Mass Pioneers. He also coaches a Western United Pioneers team. Willis graduated from Ludlow High School, and he helped the Lions boys’ soccer team win two state titles and three Western Mass. titles back in the 1990’s. Ferrara, who also graduated from Ludlow High School in the 1980’s, played many soccer games on the grass stadium field. “I recall scoring a lot of big goals on this field while I was in high school,” Ferrara said. “I also played for the Lusitano Whites, which won the first ever summer league championship on this field. I hope the college players appreciate the history of this place.” This past spring, Ferrara approached UMass head coach Jason Dowiak about playing the exhibition match against UConn at Lusitano Stadium. “Because it was UMass turn to host the exhibition, I asked coach Dowiak if he would be interested in playing the game here this year,” Ferrara said. “He thought it was a very good idea.” It was something that Dowiak, who was hired as the UMass women’s soccer coach in 2017, had always wanted to do. “I’m beginning my ninth season as the UMass women’s soccer coach and this is something that I’ve always wanted to do,” said Dowiak following the scoreless draw. “I’ve watched several Mutiny games here in the past and this was really a very

Please see **SOCCER**, page 10