

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Former fire chief entered change of plea

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Former Fire Chief Thomas Coulombe entered a plea of guilty during a hearing at Hampshire County Superior

Court on Tuesday afternoon. At the Sept. 9 hearing, Coulombe said he wanted to be able to move on with his life, which was why he decided to change his plea from not guilty to guilty.

Coulombe had close to four decades in the fire ser-

vice before retiring in 2021. He spent a total of 38 years working for the Ware Fire Department.

Coulombe rose to the rank of Fire Chief, holding that position from 2002-2019.

Coulombe's lawyer, Attorney Jared Olanoff, had

previously entered a plea of not guilty on his client's behalf at a Sept. 20, 2023, hearing.

Judge Jane Mulqueen accepted Coulombe's change of plea, and heard recommendations from both the District Attorney and

Coulombe's lawyer for the terms and conditions of his probation.

Worcester County Assistant District Attorney Maureen McNally summarized the facts in the case, which showed that Coulombe intentionally stole

\$28,000 from the Town of Ware and three regional non-profit fire associations (of which he was treasurer).

Coulombe had also served as past president of all of these nonprofit associations.

Please see **PLEA**, page 3

WFD honored with Lifesaving Award

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Representatives from the American Red Cross came before the Selectboard to present a Lifesaving Award to the town's Fire Department.

Nicole Barbosa, Community Disaster Program Manager – Western Massachusetts and Nia Rennix, Executive Director for the Central-Western Chapter, said the department earned this honor by participating in the American Red Cross's Home Fire Campaign.

"This program runs throughout the year. This is where we give out free smoke alarms, bed shakers for deaf and hard of hearing, carbon monoxide detectors...to families who are in

Please see **AWARD**, page 6



Submitted Photo
Fire Chief Jim Martinez is shown with American Red Cross representatives Nicole Barbosa (left) and Nia Rennix. Martinez accepted the Lifesaving Award on behalf of the Fire Department.

Cannabis cultivation public hearing continues

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Planning Board reopened the public hearing for a special permit for the Cannabis Cultivation application on Greenwich Plains Road.

Presenting the plans is Jamil Jean-Jacques of Tellurice Energy. The proposal is for an outdoor cannabis cultivation with a canopy of approximately 5,000 square feet. About an acre of trees and brush will be cleared for crop land while trees are kept along the border as a shelter belt for wind and pollution.

The applicant said he will only use organic and sustainable fertilizers with the intermittent planting of cover crops to rejuvenate the soil and support the regional ecology.

There were abutters in

attendance who live off Greenwich Plains Road and one of the big concerns they had was the smell coming from the cannabis. The applicant's plan to mitigate the smell is to plant crops and herbs throughout the lot.

The plan is to be natural farmers with no artificial components as part of the operation. Jean-Jacques wants to put a greenhouse structure on the site and wants to include a storage shed and tool shed.

The neighbor of the site said the distance from his house to this facility is 50 feet away. The abutter feels everyone who is a resident on this road does not want this cannabis cultivation farm on their road. The neighbor feels smell would still be an issue and be detected.

Please see **HEARING**, page 5

QHSUA reviewed youth health survey findings

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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During the September meeting of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance, members heard a presentation about the findings of the Spring

2025 Youth Health Survey, which was administered to students in five school districts across the region.

At the Sept. 8 meeting, Lead Epidemiologist for the QHSUA, Emma Berthiaume, said surveys were administered to eighth, 10th and 12th grade students at Ware Public Schools, Monson Public

Please see **SURVEY**, page 12

Warren celebrated Master Plan completion

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Residents and town officials of Warren gathered at St. Stan's Polish Club in West Warren to celebrate the Warren Town Wide Master Plan.

Guests got to enjoy a meal from George's Pizza under the St. Stans Pavilion, which also had beverages available. After the meal, representatives of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission pre-

sented the public draft executive summary of the 2025 Master Plan for the Town of Warren.

Giving the presentation is Sarah O'Brien, Principal Planner at CMRPC. The development of this master plan started in January of 2024 while CMRPC worked alongside Warren's Community Development Advisory Committee. The presentation had a review of each chapter of the master

Please see **MASTER PLAN**, page 11



Residents and town officials of Warren gathered for the Master Plan celebration at St. Stans Polish Club in West Warren.



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



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Ware Senior Center news

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, 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, Sept. 15**
• 9 a.m. Tai Chi
• 10 a.m. Scat
• 11:30 a.m. Lunch

Tuesday, Sept. 16
• 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
• 9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class.
• 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
• 10 a.m. Scat
• 11:30 a.m. Lunch
• 1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Mobile Food Pantry at Grenville Park
• 1 p.m. Cornhole
• 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
• 6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, Sept. 17
• 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
• 10 a.m. Scat
• 11:30 a.m. Lunch
• 1 p.m. Chair Yoga

Thursday, Sept. 18
• 9 a.m. Walking Club. Participants should meet at the Senior Center.

• 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
• 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
• 10 a.m. Line Dancing
• 10 a.m. Scat
• 11:30 a.m. Lunch
• 1 p.m. Cornhole
• 2:30 p.m. Art Class
Friday, Sept. 19
• 9 a.m. Tai Chi
• 10 a.m. Scat
• 11:30 a.m. Lunch
• 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
• 6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

**LUNCHES
DINE IN 11:30 a.m.**
All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted
Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.

Monday, Sept. 15
Bacon Mac & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day
Tuesday, Sept. 16
Beef Tacos with Toppings, Dessert of the Day
Wednesday, Sept. 17
Breakfast Burger with Lettuce and Tomato, French Fries, Dessert of the Day
Thursday, Sept. 18
Chicken Jambalaya, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day
Friday, Sept. 19
Turkey Waldorf Sandwich, Potato Chips, Dessert of the Day

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 1989 showed beekeeper Frank Lagrant removing a swarm of bees from the side of a house on Prospect Street.

Gilbertville library hosts painting workshop

HARDWICK – The Gilbertville Library will host "The Seahorse: How to Pastel Paint," with materials, for adults and teens.
Award-winning pastel artist Gregory John Maichack will present "The Seahorse," a pastel painting workshop for adults and teens 18+ hosted by the Gilbertville Library on Sept. 17, from 5-7 p.m. This is a pastel painting workshop designed for both sheer beginners to advanced participants.

Please call 413-477-6312 to pre-register.
This all-new "The Seahorse: How to Pastel Paint," all draw a seahorse or use a template that Maichack provides, both large and small seahorses. Participants will also create bubbles, and a template will be provided as well.
This is fun, and has an ocean of possibilities, having instruction in expressive pastel strokes, blending, slurring, and layering. Additionally emerald pastel

pencils will be provided for details.
All keep their 12 X 18 pastel painting of their personalized vivid seahorse. Photo references of various pastel seahorses are supplied for ideas allowing unfathomable possibilities.
This project is supported in part from a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming Sept. events

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library is the place to be on Wednesday mornings for Story Time.
At 10:30 a.m., meet and play and then enjoy stories at 11 a.m. with art and science projects to follow.
On alternate weeks, the library is pleased to host the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force which serves Ware, Warren, and Hardwick. The mission of the Task Force is to prevent and respond to domestic violence in these towns with community-led, community driven

initiatives.
The Ware River Valley Task Force and The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley have partnered and purchased and distributed children's books on boundaries and consent.
The books are reaching young children through our local libraries, schools and playgroups.
Teaching young children about consent is crucial because it establishes foundational skills for healthy relationships, empowers them to understand their body boundaries, and helps them recog-

nize when their boundaries are being crossed, ultimately promoting their safety and well-being. It also fosters communication, respect, and honesty, which are essential for building healthy relationships.
Read more here: www.waredvtaskforce.org
History and Legends through Song
On Saturday, Sept. 20 at 1:30 p.m., at the Town House Jon Waterman will present, "History and Legends through Song". Inspired by

his research, musician, songwriter, and history teacher Waterman combines music, history, storytelling, original songs, a slide show, and something about the Quabbin.
This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.
For more information and to sign up to hold your place: email Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704.

Holy Cross church hosts school supply drive

WARE – Holy Cross PNCC is collecting school supplies to be donated to students at local Ware schools.
Donations can be brought to Holy Cross PNCC, 61 Maple St., on Sunday mornings during the 8 a.m. Holy Mass, after Mass in the Church Hall, or anytime to the rectory located on the right side of the church.

Read the Ware River News online at www.warriovernews.turley.com



VETERANS DAY SALUTE
Ware River News ~ November 6, 2025

Ware River News will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to dflynn@turley.com or drop off a photo to **Ware River News, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082**
All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 13, 2025.

There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact Dan Flynn no later than October 13th (413) 297-5886.

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



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United Church hosts take-out turkey dinner Sept. 15

WARE – The United Church of Ware will host a take-out turkey dinner on Monday, Sept. 15 starting at 5 p.m. until food runs out.

The dinner includes turkey and all the fixings, potatoes, stuffing, veggie, roll, coffee, tea and dessert. Dinners are \$15 per person and free for children under age 10. Please pay with cash or check.

Please stay in your car and a runner will come out to take your order. Reservations are not required.

Grange hosts seed saving/food preservation workshop

WARE – Ware Grange's next gardening workshop, "Seed Saving and Food Preservation," will be held on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

The presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly "In the Garden" column for Turley Publications.

As the growing season comes to a close, it's time to store what you can for the winter months and save seeds to grow next year. Participants will discuss some techniques including roasting peppers, saving tomato seeds, and curing squash and onions.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at ware-grange.org for more information.

Kids' Corner Workshop taught about weather

by Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Ware Grange hosted a Kids' Corner Workshop this past weekend about the weather.

The Kids' Corner Workshops have had a lot of

good turnouts this year and this one had about 15 kids participating. This workshop focused on the weather and featured a story and hands-on craft activities.

Local educator Jen McNally returned to the Ware Grange to share sto-

ries about the weather. The story McNally read was "The Wind Blew" by Pat Hutchins. This story is a rhymed tale describing the antics of a capricious wind.

After story time, kids got to explore some weather-related crafts. Kids made pinwheels, rain sticks, snow globes, suns, snowmen, tornadoes, and weather braids. With every new braid, a kid received a note and a way to read the weather using the braid.

The note reads, "Congratulations! You are now the proud owner of a weather forecaster braid. For best results, hang on a nail outside your window."

The bottom of the note has a list of how to tell what the weather is based off the condition of the braid. For example, if it's dry, it's sunny; or if it's wet, it's raining.

McNally's daughter Mackenzie gave a demonstration of a tornado. Two plastic bottles are tied together with



Mackenzie is shown with an example of a tornado with the use of bottles, tape, water and glitter.



Jen McNally read the story "The Wind Blew" by Pat Hutchins during the Kids' Corner Workshop on weather.

tape and the use of water with glitter added helps represent the rotation of a tornado.

Snacks were available during the Kids' Corner Workshop that were made by Terry Vaill. These snacks featured weather themed treats such as sunny cupcakes, snowball cookies, and raindrop cookies. Vaill did

an amazing job with these treats as kids had fun at the Ware Grange and learned about the weather.

The final Kids' Corner Workshop will be the annual pumpkin carving event.

The kids will enjoy the art of carving and decorating pumpkins. Kids will also learn about the life cycles of a pumpkin. Kids will also learn about composting and giving back to the soil.

The pumpkin carving will take place on Monday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Ware Grange, located at 297 Belchertown Road.



Rainbow skies were made by Terry Vaill.



AT LEFT: Sunny cupcakes, raindrop cookies, and snowball cookies were made by Terry Vaill and tied to the weather kids got to learn about.

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Take-Out church supper planned for Sept. 19

WEST BROOKFIELD – The George Whitefield United Methodist Church in West Brookfield will hold a Take-Out Chicken Dinner on Friday, Sept. 19.

Meals may be picked up curbside at 5 p.m. in front of the church at 33 West Main St., West Brookfield.

The meal will include

chicken breast, baby potatoes, glazed carrots, roll and dessert for \$15 or two for \$25.

Reservations may be made by calling Elsa at 209-400-4429 or just come by and pick up dinner on your way home.

Proceeds will benefit the church and its missions.

PLEA from page 1

McNally and Olanoff said they agreed upon Coulombe entering the change of plea, and paying \$20,000 restitution to be paid at the time of the hearing.

According to a press release from the Office of the Inspector General, on Aug. 11, 2023, a Hampshire County grand jury indicted

Coulombe for four counts of larceny over \$1,200 for allegedly embezzling more than \$28,000. He was accused of submitting false and inflated reimbursement requests to the Town of Ware and for allegedly stealing funds from three regional nonprofit fire associations.

Mulqueen granted McNally's request that Coulombe's probation be

continued with finding for two years, and that he have no contact with the victims in this case. The terms also state that Coulombe will not be allowed to work or volunteer in any capacity that involves him handling someone else's money.

The judge agreed to waive the travel restriction in Coulombe's probations.

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viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Can I claim my own SS benefit now and get half of my husband's benefit later?

Dear Rusty:

I would like to get an answer concerning taking my Social Security benefit soon and switching to my spouse's benefit when he begins to take his.

I am 64 years, 9 months old and my husband is 65 years, 7 months. My benefit is low due to the fact that I did not work for about 25 years while raising our children. My benefit would be \$573 at age 65. My husband's benefit at age 67 will be \$3,326. My first question is: can I receive half of my husband's benefit once he begins drawing his? Secondly, if I draw my benefit now will that reduce the amount I can draw from his benefit later?

Signed: Uncertain Spouse

Dear Uncertain:

As you may know, the Full Retirement Age for both you and your husband is 67. If either of you claim before your FRA your monthly SS retirement amount will be permanently reduced and, if you are currently working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for early filers is \$23,400 for 2025 (changes yearly and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away some of your benefits (\$1 for every \$2 over the limit). They "take away" by withholding future payments until the penalty is satisfied.

That said, if you claim your personal SS "soon" (e.g., at age 65), you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until your FRA to claim. You would, indeed, get a "spousal boost" when your husband claims, but you would not get 50% of his age 67 amount. That's because of the way spouse benefits are calculated. When your husband claims, you will get a "spousal boost" added to your early benefit amount

(\$573?). The amount of that spousal boost will be computed as 1/2 of your husband's FRA amount (e.g., \$1663), minus your FRA entitlement (likely about \$661) for a spousal boost of about \$1002. But since you won't have yet reached your FRA when your husband claims, the amount of the spousal boost will also be reduced (to about \$926), which will be added to your age 65 amount of \$573 for a total monthly spousal benefit of about \$1499.

So, the answers to your two questions are:

Because you claimed your Social Security retirement benefit early and won't yet be your Full Retirement Age when your husband claims, you will not get half of your husband's benefit when he claims. You would likely get about 45% of his benefit.

If you take your own SS retirement benefit now, you will get a higher benefit when your husband claims, but the amount you get will be less than half of his FRA entitlement.

The only way you can get the full 50% of your husband's FRA benefit entitlement is to wait until your own full retirement age to claim Social Security.

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

Peach pits and preservation

My first experience with growing peaches was back at my parents' house when a peach pit sprouted in their compost pile.

The resulting tree was moved to a spot in the yard and within a few years, my parents became peach preservers. It was fun for them to "work on" the peaches together, and what I mean by this is blanching, peeling and quartering them, then putting the pieces in a container in syrup and freezing them.

Sure, it was a sticky mess of a time but worth it all to have this bounty in the dead of winter.

Fast forward 30 years to the present day and my mini orchard, deemed "the tiny place" when my kids were little. There I have three peach trees, all started from pits. Two trees were from my friend Eva and one I started on my own.

I planted the pits in my garden in the fall maybe 5 years ago. They went through the stratification process over the winter which helped to break dormancy. Gradually they would germinate over the spring and summer months.

Sometimes they need two winters to complete the process and still not all will germinate. I think the last time I had four or five out of a dozen pits pop up. One tree to keep and others to share!

This year's was the best peach harvest I've ever had on these trees. It was probably the combination of the last couple of wet summers encouraging new growth on the tree and then mild weather

er this spring during bloom time.

It is always so disappoint-

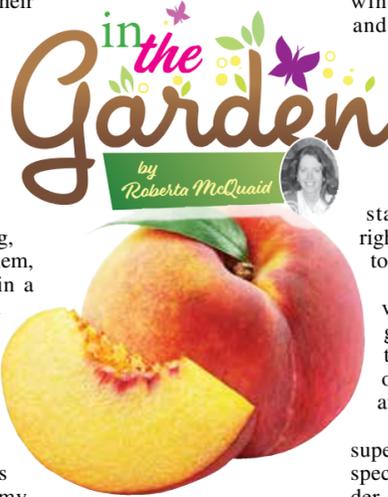
is blossom or right after it is done flowering. At that point in the growing season you can also see and remove winter damaged branches and stems more easily but be careful not to knock off developing fruit by accident.

I read that spreading compost under the tree right after it has been harvested will start the tree out on the right foot. I am going to get to that later this week.

Peach trees are not very long lived. You may get 10-20 years out of them. Trees usually top off at around ten feet tall and wide.

There are such a thing as super dwarf trees, grown as specimens in the shrub border or a kitchen garden, but from what I hear, fruit quality isn't the best. I'll stick to the regular size trees, thank you! And planning ahead with replacement trees means sowing some pits in the garden this fall. Even my mom has sown some around the foundation of her house, just as an experiment. I love that she is still experimenting. I would imagine the memories of "working on" the peaches with my dad hold a special place in her heart.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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



ing to have the tree so beautifully in flower and then a couple nights of very cold weather come through to kill them all. I still didn't have what I would call a bumper harvest for three trees, but we had enough to can 17 quarts (thanks for the canning lesson, dear friend!) and also eat plenty of the fruit fresh off the tree.

Here are a few fun facts about our favorite fuzzy fruit.

Peach trees prefer soil that is near neutral to alkaline. I never think of liming under the trees, but maybe that would be a good idea.

Flower buds are borne only on shoots that grew the previous year. So it is important to prune your trees to encourage new growth.

Peach trees should be pruned to an open center, so that the sun can ripen the fruit. In our part of the country, prune when the tree



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Send opinions to:
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pouimette@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

A Brimfield resident has a wildlife camera in his yard. In a recent email he said, "Surprisingly an adult male Eastern Towhee was seen on the wildlife cam, images quite often even though I don't see him often in the yard. I haven't seen a female or juveniles this summer."

The male Eastern towhee has a black body, rufous sides, white belly and long tail with white spots. The female has a brown body. Juveniles are brown with heavy streaking.

They like dense brush, forest edges and overgrown areas; hence, why it is not always seen. This large sparrow, 7 to 8 inches long, forages on the ground, scratching through leaf litter for seeds and insects. In my first sighting of a towhee, the scratching sound alerted me to its presence.

The towhee is a ground nesting bird that can be attracted to gardens with

untamed vegetation. They build an open cup nest hidden under a shrub or in dense vegetation. Its song is a "drink your tea" and a sharp "che-w i n k"



By Ellenor Downer

call. They are short distance migrant, wintering in the southeastern United States, but some may linger in northern areas.

Other Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident and his wife saw a Northern flicker probing around plants in their flower bed. Coming to his birdbath are gray catbirds, adults and at least one juvenile, as well as blue jays, who come for a drink. Since he stopped feeding peanuts due to black bears, he has not seen tufted titmice, red-bel-

lied woodpeckers, Northern cardinals or as many blue jays. Other birds that show up at the bath include chipping sparrow, female or immature; scarlet tanager, female or immature; common yellowthroat warbler; male American goldfinch; American robin and mourning dove.

Common nighthawks

The Brimfield resident said, "I sat out front for three nights recently looking for migrating common

nighthawks, but was skunked, didn't see any. However two members of the Allen Bird Club reported large flights last week and this weekend. Both live west of the Connecticut River.

Helping birds

A previous column mentioned the poisoning of birds of prey when they eat rodents that ingested anti-coagulant rodenticide bait. Birds can get stuck on glue traps when used outdoors to kill rodents. The



Male Eastern towhee

birds die or end up horribly injured. The lucky ones are taken to wildlife rehabilitators, who can often save the bird. However, they then need to spend months in care growing back feathers.

South Hadley resident

A South Hadley resident said in an email, "Cedar waxwings sound like delightful birds, I hope I can see one or more some day. I'm in the process of removing non-native and invasive plant species from my property and intend to plant berry bushes, among other things. Maybe that will entice them. Though I do have tons of pokeberry on the

perimeters of my yard."

Eagles, ravens and more

My daughter, Paula, saw a bald eagle circling the Ware River by the Church Street rail trail. It was flying very low so either it was landing or just took off. She also heard a raven calling by the covered bridge and then saw it in a tree. She and her daughters saw an osprey while driving over a bridge in Rhode Island. She also had a Carolina wren on her back deck recently.

Canada geese

Two of my grandchildren and I saw a huge flock of Canada geese in a field in North Brookfield last Friday. I stopped to look at them and my granddaughter, Lizzie, took a photo of the geese.

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

CNEER hosts Fall Festival at the Farm Sept. 27

WEST BROOKFIELD – Central New England Equine Rescue, 96 New Braintree Road, will host its annual Fall Festival at the Farm on Saturday, Sept. 27 from noon-4 p.m.

Come and share with CNEER over 20 years of community support rescuing horses. There will be pony rides, face painting, pumpkin decorating, local vendors, delicious food, drinks and desserts.

Deux Amis will provide live folk and jazz music. The Hampden Mounted Police will also be present.

Friends of Ware Senior Center announce fundraisers

WARE – The Friends of the Ware Senior Center will be offering a raffle of a Philips 65-inch flat screen TV, (4K UHD), with tickets available at the Thrift Store in the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-noon.

Raffle tickets are \$5 per ticket and the drawing will be held on Dec. 15.

The Friends are also selling their lotto calendars now until Oct. 31. Tickets are \$10 per lotto calendar and people have a chance to win every day in November.

Lotto calendars can be acquired at the Ware Senior Center, Nat Falk, Crystal Springs, Ware Library and the Ware branch of the North Brookfield Savings Bank. Ticket stubs and payment need to be placed in the drop off box at the Ware Senior Center.

NESFI events presents 'A Pollinator Field Study' today

BELCHERTOWN – On Thursday, Sept. 11 at 3:30 p.m. (rain date Sept. 16), UMass professor and post-doctoral researcher Dr. Jules Davis will lead a field study exploring late summer pollination on the New England Small Farm Institute campus, 270 Jackson St.

Participants will learn about the several flowers that bloom in late summer. They will also learn to identify some of the many pollinators active at this time of year.

During field work, participants will find a selected flower species and collect data on the pollinators found on it. Students will be exposed to basic field study data collection and analysis techniques. Bring your cameras.

In addition, participants will have the option to collect an insect, identify it and prepare it for an insect collection with the help of Davis.

Please pre-register at info@smallfarm.org and indicate if you are interested in collecting an insect. Suggested donation per person: \$10

Walk-ins are allowed if spots are available. Students in grades six to 12 (and parents welcome, too).

For more information, visit NESFI's website: www.smallfarm.org.

Learn to take nature/landscape photos with smartphones

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Photo Group invites the public to a program led by award-winning photographer Linda Repasky, "From Meh to Stunning: Smartphone Photography for Nature & Landscapes."

It will be held on Monday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State St. (located behind the Belchertown Police Department). The evening is open to anyone curious about turning everyday phone shots into wall-worthy images.

The program will show how the camera you always have in your pocket can do far more than take snapshots. Attendees will learn practical techniques and in-phone features that make an immediate difference, exposure and focus control, composition tips, burst modes, panoramas, macro close-ups, and simple edits that bring out detail and color in outdoor scenes.

Repasky is a Belchertown photographer who captures the beauty of local natural resources with her iPhone. Repasky is a frequent explorer of the Quabbin Reservoir and an avid macro photographer, revealing the tiny patterns, textures, and details



Submitted Photo

The Quabbin Photo Group will offer a learn to shoot smartphone photos program on Monday, Sept. 22.

in nature that most of us walk past. Her iPhone images have earned recognition in numerous international photography competitions, and you can view her work on Instagram at @lindarepaskyphotography (www.instagram.com/lindarepaskyphotography).

"The camera you always have in your pocket can do far more than take snapshots," said Repasky. "We'll cover techniques and tips for using your smartphone to create nature and landscape photos worthy of hanging on your walls."

Founded by renowned nature photographer Les Campbell, the Quabbin Photo Group celebrates the natural beauty of the

Quabbin Region through monthly public programs, guest speakers, and opportunities for photographers of all levels to learn, experiment, and share their work. Whether you're an experienced photographer, a casual hiker with a phone, or someone who just wants better pictures of New England foliage, this program is designed to help you get more from the camera you already carry.

For more information about the program, contact Program Chair Ed Comeau at ecomeau@comeauphotography.com. To learn more about the Quabbin Photo Group, reach out to President Mark Lindhult at mlindhult@gmail.com.

HEARING from page 9

The neighbor approached the Planning Board bench to identify the property line being 50 feet away on a map.

One resident thinks the farm does not fall under agriculture and is a commercial operation.

Jean-Jacques addressed some of the concerns that were brought up by neighbors, including the green house structure. The greenhouse would take up 400 square feet, the fenced in area would be 140 by 278 feet, and the canopy would be 50 by 100 feet.

This farm would not be a year-round operation and is going to be a one grow per year. For water, the applicant is still reviewing several options. There would be four staff members on site and operations during the week would be four to five days a week, estimated by Jean-Jacques.

The operation would take place from May to September and as for the product being made, the purpose is to have medicinal marijuana. This is the first endeavor made by Jean-Jacques who said he doesn't have other facilities such as this proposed cannabis cultivation farm.

Director of Planning & Community Development

Paralee Smith said the police chief reviewed the site and was good with the security plan the applicant will have in place. The building inspector would have to look at the water supply and sewer.

The Conservation Commission would have been involved as well. For more information, The Planning Board wanted to review any definitions in the Town's bylaws regarding marijuana and see if this farm would be consistent with the bylaws.

Vice Chair Chris Dimarzio wants the board to check to see if this sort of project would be conflicting with their bylaws but also consider what the State says about cannabis cultivation.

"We have to at least explore the proposal," Dimarzio said.

The board reviewed various regulations for marijuana establishments. They also reviewed regulations for water and sewer that may be impacted by a cannabis cultivation farm.

The board asked if the applicant could explain the process leading to harvest time, considering odor being a big issue. Jean-Jacques explains his odor mitigation process and how the development of smell doesn't happen until later after the plants mature.

An idea was given to the

applicant about installing a carbon filter. Jean-Jacques said he will conduct more research as a mitigating measure.

The Planning Board hopes the applicant can bring back any new information that could help decrease any possible impacts. The board voted to continue this public hearing until their next meeting on Sept. 18.

Fieldcrest Brewing application

The Planning Board heard from Adam and Shannon Field, the owners of Fieldcrest Brewing Company LLC out of Wilbraham. The brewery owners are seeking a special permit to operate a taproom at the former Gabe's bar location at 11 East Main St.

Opening a taproom is the goal as well as serving the company's beer, cider, and seltzers with cans to go being sold as well. The owners are also planning to have a small cidery on site, which fall under winery use.

Fieldcrest Brewing also wants to serve food such as flatbread pizza and other menu choices.

They're hoping to get permission to have a seven days a week operation as well as be a host for special events.

"We're excited to bring Fieldcrest to Ware," Field

Ware Cultural Council seeks funding proposals for 2026

WARE – The Ware Cultural Council is accepting applications from organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants supporting cultural community activities for 2026.

The deadline for filing applications begins Sept. 2 and ends on Oct. 16, 2025.

This year the Ware Cultural Council will distribute \$11,900 in grants to fund artistic projects and activities, including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artistic residences, performances in school, workshops, and lectures. The council thanks the Massachusetts State

Legislature for providing annual funds to each of the 351 local cultural councils in the Commonwealth.

For local guidelines and complete information on the Ware Cultural Council contact Aileen O'Regan at wareculturalcouncil@yahoo.com. Application forms are available on www.mass-culturalcouncil.org - then scroll down and select Local Cultural Council Programs.

The mission of the Ware Cultural Council is to promote, encourage, and facilitate the arts, plays, music and interpretive sciences for the enjoyment of Ware citizens of all ages.

Senior center hosts free Information Fair Sept. 24

BARRE – The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, invites the public to a free Information Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 10 a.m.

Come explore an exciting range of local resources and discover the wealth of information, services, and opportunities available in our community. Attendees will have the chance to: learn about local businesses and community organizations, explore educational programs and

services, connect directly with experts in the field and meet neighbors and strengthen community connections

This fun and informative event will also feature raffle prizes, and no registration is required. The Information Fair is free and open to all members of the public.

Stay up to date with details and announcements by following the senior center on Facebook at Barre MA Senior Center.

Flea Market on the West Brookfield Common

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church, 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. 13 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tell your friends and come out for a day of bargains and yummy a lunch.

New this year is a tag sale inside the church. Come in for more bargains.

Sellers of all kinds are welcome – flea folk, antique sellers, 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 lunch, cold drinks and sweet treats.

Email Karen at fccofwb-fleamarket@gmail.com for an application or call her at 508-801-7692.

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community

Second Chance seeks clothing, linens donations

EAST BROOKFIELD – Cleaning out your closets? You can now bring used clothing donations to Second Chance Animal Services East Brookfield or North Brookfield locations.

Second Chance has partnered with St. Pauly Textile Inc. to provide a wood-frame clothing drop-off shed for community use. The sheds are designed to give community members a uniquely clean, convenient, and well-cared-for option to donate their used linens and clothing to.

St. Pauly Textile Inc. partners with businesses and various organizations to distribute donated items both here in the U.S. and worldwide, where they're ultimately re-worn by people who need them. Second Chance receives funding for donated clothing and additionally has the option to use donated



items like towels and blankets to care for pets.

With over 1,600 clothing drop-off sheds in place,

St. Pauly Textile Inc. collects over 175,000 pounds of clothing a day and estimates that this clothing ends up in 44 different countries (including the U.S.) yearly. In 2024, the company was able to help keep over 64 million articles of clothing out of landfills, which clothed an estimated 7.8 million people worldwide.

The company was founded in 1996 and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau.

Accepted items: clothing, shoes, belts, purses, towel, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals.

The donation sheds are located at the Second Chance Adoption Center, 111 Young Road, East Brookfield and the North Brookfield Community Veterinary Hospital, 372 North Main St., North Brookfield.

Sultana presents 'History and Legends through Song'

HARDWICK – On Saturday, Sept. 20 the musical duo Sultana will bring "History and Legends through Song" to Paige Memorial Library at 87 Petersham Road at 1:30 p.m.

The program consists of songs, history and slides about fascinating historical or legendary people and events. The show will feature some songs about Massachusetts history.

Other subjects in the show may include ancient Mesopotamia, a character from Arthurian legend, the Old West and a renowned radio broadcast. "History and Legends through Song" is part of the series "Live Music Making History Live." The other shows in the series are "The Roots of American Popular Music,"

"The Railroad in Song," and "Popular Music and Veterans."

The duo Sultana is Jon and Li Waterman, both lifelong musicians and songwriters. Jon is also a licensed history teacher in Massachusetts. He created "Live Music Making History Live" in 2018 with the belief that history and entertainment go together - throughout the ages, songs, stories and theater have included history, and history is - or should be - entertaining.

The program is supported in part by a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

AWARD from page 1

need and we do this in partnership with our local fire departments," Renninx said at the Sept. 2 meeting.

Renninx said if a fire call is received at a home where one of these devices is installed, it becomes eligible for the Lifesaving Award due to the potential for having saved a life or lives with fire and CO detection devices. One of these homes in Ware was impacted by fire and the occupant was able to escape in a timely manner due to the fire alarms.

"This was an official life saved," Renninx said. "We want to recognize the outstanding efforts that made a real difference in our community by honoring the Ware Fire Department with this Lifesaving Award."

Fire Chief Jim Martinez accepted the award on behalf of the department.

"On behalf of the membership of the Ware Fire Department, and our Life Safety Educator, Lieutenant Laura Fandrey, I accept this award," he said.

Water quality discussion

Selectboard member Ken Willette started discussion about the town's water quality, as it has been a main concern of residents.

"Having consistent, quality water delivered to segments of town remains," he said.

Willette said while the town has worked to develop engineering studies and long-term solutions to the water quality issue, it's still impacting people's daily lives. He said the water is difficult to use and many residents have invested in home filtration systems or purchased bottled water.

Willette suggested the Selectboard re-engage on the issue of inconsistent water quality, and survey water users to understand how much of the system is impacted and when. He said they need to address this quickly.

He introduced resident Amy Mathison who shared her experience with the town's water on Eagle Street. She said she has invested in a home water filtration system and has to replace the filter every two weeks.

She called the water "utterly disgusting."

Mathison offered ideas of how to help the town's water users, including enlisting the help of apprentice plumbers in need of service hours; or having the town bulk order water filters for water users to purchase at a lower cost.

She said clean water was a constitutional right.

Interim Department of Public Works Director Ken Calder said Ware is one of a couple of towns on the east coast that he knows of that still operates its water system with a cistern.

"The cistern is part of the reason that the iron and manganese in the water, causing the browning and some of the sediment, is so high," he said. "It also triggers the need to jack up the amount of chlorine."

He said the rehabilitation of the water tanks on Church Street is a "good start" to improving the water quality. In addition to finishing two wells that were drilled years ago, and getting them online.

"Once that happens, you have the capacity to basically work on taking that cistern offline," Calder said.

Selectboard Chair Nancy Talbot said there is no easy fix to the town's water con-

cerns, but the town has started to address issues that have gone on for too long. She said there should be a separate meeting held between the Water and Sewer commissioners to continue this discussion.

Talbot also said there should be a complaint line or email address for water users to submit complaints to.

Selectboard Vice-Chair Josh Kusnierz asked if the town could help to provide water filters for residents.

Fire Department report

Martinez said the department completed the hose and ladder testing. He said he is in the process of replacing old hoses that couldn't be tested.

For commercial fire prevention, he said Deputy Jeremy Boulrice is working with the Building Department, Board of Health and Community Development Authority to try to get occupancies lacking in fire protection and detection into compliance.

"This is a hard push with the Fire Marshal's Officer to reduce community risk," Martinez said. "We understand there are some challenges financially with some of these people and not being able to upgrade the systems fully and completely initially, but we're working on a process of trying to move toward compliance rather than trying to hammer them."

Martinez said the department will host an open house for Fire Prevention Week at the station and they are continuing a senior safety education program at the Senior Center.

He said he received two bids to replace the station's breathing air compressor. He is still looking for a third bid.

Martinez said he is hoping this project will come in under budget and that the extra funds can purchase new turnout gear for the firefighters.

He said he has applied for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for recruitment and retention as well as for a vehicle.

Martinez said he is creating a preventative maintenance program for the department's apparatus. He said the tower was in "pretty rough shape" and needed eight new tires and about \$20,000 of work to make its condition safe and operable.

He said the tower is a 2007 model.

"We've had a couple of years now where the tower has cost us a great deal of money to repair and maintain," he said. "I have asked that it be moved up on the capital planning as the next piece to be replaced in the department."

Police Department report

Police Chief Shawn Crevier said training has been ongoing for the department's new officers.

"Everyone's doing good and getting rave reviews," he said.

Crevier also provided a monthly breakdown of call response for the department, made available from Westcomm Regional Dispatch.

Water abatement

A resident requested a water abatement for property located at 80-82 South St. The resident stated there are no leaks on the property and that he is being overcharged for this utility.

Calder said there is evidence of a leak on the property on the main meter at 82 South St. He said the property is a duplex, but the units do not have separate services.

Calder said previous administration had issued abatements and reductions to the resident's bills.

Calder said the resident stated he hired plumbers to look at the property and that no leaks were detected. He said the resident has not provided any verification or proof of these findings from the plumbers.

"He's consistently stated that, and he has not to this date," Calder said.

The Selectboard tabled the water abatement request to gather more information.

DPW Director vacancy

The Selectboard discussed the progress in filling the DPW Director vacancy. Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the position is posted and applicants have been interviewed but they haven't found the right candidate.

Beckley said the Selectboard could consider hiring operations managers for water and sewer if they are unable to hire a director. The Selectboard suggested Beckley post the operations manager positions in addition to the director.

"Our need is immediate," Willette said of the positions.

Public works projects

Selectboard Clerk John Desmond asked for a status update on public works projects on Cottage, Church and East Main streets. He said some of the projects involve water, sewer, sidewalks, paving and more.

"I think it would be very

helpful if we knew exactly what the status is of each of these...and also the timeframes," he said.

Beckley said he will prepare a written update on these projects for the next Selectboard meeting.

Stage curtain

Beckley said a second sampling of the dust found upstairs in the Town Hall came back negative for asbestos after the stage curtain came down in August. He said the area cannot be used at this time until the curtain is addressed.

He said the Historical Commission is interested in encapsulating and preserving the stage curtain.

Substance use prevention funding

The Selectboard approved the allocation of \$91,000 from opioid settlement funds (in the event grant funding is not available) to pay for the salary and benefits of the Department of Prevention and Community Health's director's position.

Hearing for 92-102 Main St.

The Selectboard set a hearing date to declare the buildings at 92-102 Main St. dangerous. The hearing will be held during the Oct. 21 meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Funding to demolish the buildings was approved by voters at the annual town meeting.

Appointments

Timothy Russell was appointed by the Selectboard to serve as an on-call firefighter.

Selectboard member Ken Willette was appointed to represent the board on the Capital Planning Committee.

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Circle of Song began 25th season

BARRE – Circle of Song will begin its 25th season on Thursday, Sept. 4.

Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, corner of Exchange and Mechanic streets.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary, original co-director Elisabeth Bryant is guest conducting two of the pieces for the concert. Mozart's Regina Coeill will be the centerpiece of this Dec. 20 concert (7 p.m. Barre Town Hall), which Bryant will conduct.

She will also conduct Java Jive, Ben Oakland and Milton Drake's enjoyable "ode to coffee." Additionally, she will solo on clarinet with the chorus in Rene Clausen's arrangement of "Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair".

Jeff Williams will direct Irving Berlin's "White Christmas", Nancy Afonso will lead "Mary Did you Know" arr. by the Pentatonix, and Scott Bryant will direct Morten Lauridson's "O Magnum Mysterium".

Julie Rawson, COS director will lead, "At the River" by Aaron Copland, "The Irish Prayer", arranged by Doug Andrews, and finally, "The Seal Lullaby" by Eric Whitacre.

Circle of Song, a choral group of approximately 20 members, is always looking for new members. The chorus sings in four-part harmony, pieces that are somewhat a reach musically.

And support is given to all singers as desired, with learning tapes and sectionals for those who are interested. New and experienced singers are invited to join. Circle of Song is a no-nonsense, down-to-earth chorus that includes singers of all ages and experience.

Those interested in joining the chorus can call Rawson at 978-257-1192 or email julie@mhof.net.

Second Chance to host low-cost pet vaccine clinic on Sept. 13

LEICESTER – Second Chance Animal Services is returning to the Leicester community with another low-cost pet vaccine clinic on Friday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m.-noon at Endless Pawsabilities, 880 Pleasant St., Rochdale.

Dogs and cats from all towns are welcome.

Thanks to support from the Leicester Savings Bank Fund through the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and Petco Love, the Distemper/Parvo combo vaccine will be offered free of charge. Rabies vaccines will be available for \$12 for residents of Leicester, Rochdale, and Cherry Valley, and \$18 for residents of all other towns.

"Vaccines are a critical tool in preventing the spread of dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases in pets," said Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer of Second Chance. "We're proud to offer this clinic to help protect the health of pets and the people who love them."

Microchipping will also be offered for just \$22.

Parking is limited, and a limited number of walk-ins will be accepted until

Warren Planning Board reviewed member description

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board met on Sept. 8 and discussed the roles and responsibilities of board members and drafted a description.

The board members also began discussing its meeting schedule. According to the wording, the board meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Planning Board Chair Richard Eichacker thinks its best to keep that schedule in case a scheduling conflict comes up.

For the editing of the wording, board member Ray Kopacko suggests the description reads that the board meets twice a month currently on the second and fourth Monday of the month. The board seemed satisfied with the edit.

Planning Board Secretary Laura Sherris presented a draft to the board for consideration of a newly revised job description for a Planning Board member. While reviewing the draft, the Planning Board mentioned that members of the board are normally elected

to a five-year term.

"Whoever is volunteering should probably know that," Kopacko said.

There is also a vacant seat on the board due to a resignation. Therefore, the Planning Board consists of five members. The board has it mapped out to do one new election every year. Vice Chair, Derick Veliz, brought up the topic of five years being too long of a term for a member.

Kopacko brought up some points to that term length and said there has to be interest, but there also has to be a level of competence. Have some criteria by which you can determine that someone is able to actually serve effectively. The three components highlighted by Kopacko are interest, competence, and integrity.

"Anyone can apply, but the appointing authority should consider those three components," Kopacko said.

It is true that anyone in town can apply for the position, but the board thinks there should be some form of eligibility requirements.

For this job description topic Sherris said the initial idea was to get something consolidated on paper

so that if someone had expressed interest in applying to the Planning Board. This is also a general job description and not just for the vacant position.

The board wants to promote the vacant position on the town website, newspapers, and possibly the Warren Facebook page. The board also wants to add this description to the Planning Board page on the website.

The board continued to find any possible edits to the job description. The board focused on roles board members have and Kopacko brought up the topic of pre-serving.

"It's not our job to necessarily preserve," he said.

The board went over the term land use and that it's the board's responsibility to review and approve land use. The board wants to be clear in the job description they're editing and clear on what they're looking for in a candidate.

The Planning Board is also looking to appoint someone through May of 2026.

The job description will be reviewed again in a later meeting.

Register for Rotary's annual TREK

STURBRIDGE – The Rotary Club of Sturbridge has announced that pre-registration is now open for its popular TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K, and Fun Walk, which is slated to return on Sunday, Oct. 26, according to club president and race director Klaus Hachfeld.

"To pre-register for this year's event, just go to getmeregistered.com, and type 'Sturbridge' in the search field in the upper right-hand corner," said Hachfeld. Participants who pre-register by Oct. 21 will get a free 2025 TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K T-shirt.

All activities begin at the OSV Education Center on Old Sturbridge Village Road (not to be confused with Old Sturbridge Village Academy at the main entrance to the village). Parking will be available in the Education Center lot.

The family-friendly event offers two timed races, including a 5K Trail Run & Fun Walk, and a 1K Pre-Teen Run. In the spirit of the season, participants are encouraged to come in costume. The event also includes free children's game starting at 9 a.m. at the Education Center.

The timed 1K Pre-Teen Run (\$20 registration) starts at 9:15 a.m. This is for the 12 and under crowd, and the course is accessible for anyone with mobility challenges.

The timed 5K Trail Run (\$35 registration) & Fun Walk (\$30 registration) will start at 10 a.m. using Old Sturbridge Village Road and the Arbutus Park Trail in the Leadmine Mountain Wildlife Conservation Lands.

An awards ceremony will follow at 11:15 a.m. starting with a competition for best Halloween costume for all registered runners and walkers. Judging will be by popular choice.

On-site registration will also be available starting at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the race.

The Trek Sturbridge Halloween 5K and Fun Walk is a Sturbridge Rotary Club fundraiser, with all profits going to the organization's community needs projects. For additional information, or to sign on as an event sponsor, email the race director at laserklus@gmail.com. Or visit the Sturbridge Rotary Club website at <https://sturbridgerotary.com>.

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Millyard Academy opens its doors on East Main Street



The staff at the Millyard Academy are shown from left: Savannah, Riki, Jenna, Kylie, owner, Taylor and Jenny.

Staff Report

WARE – Millyard Academy opened its doors on Sept. 8 at 40 East Main St.

Millyard Academy is a childcare facility operated and owned by Kylie Toppin.

“I have worked in childcare settings for the last eight years in total, starting off as a classroom teacher and working my way to the administrative positions,” said Toppin.

“I come from a very family orientated background, with supportive parents and in-laws. My sister and I grew up playing sports, and always involved in town functions or school activities,” said Toppin.

Millyard Academy can host up to 60 children per day.



Turley Staff Photos

Millyard Academy owner Kylie Toppin is pictured with her husband Josh Toppin.



Kylie Toppin explained the program to an excited visiting family.



A prospective client tested the room.

“We can accept registration of children, infants, toddlers, from the ages of 2 months to 5 years of age,” said Toppin. “My goal is to create a community based early education program to help support our small towns and allow for growth in job opportunities. Children are

my passion, but supporting my team and my employees who helped build the foundation of the program is a top priority.”

The Millyard Academy location has been fully renovated from its prior use as a medical services facility.

“The Millyard Academy staff are each and all trained and experienced in the field of education. A parent or caregiver can know that we will provide a safe and engaging atmosphere for learning and fun,” said Toppin.

The curriculums at the Millyard Academy have activities that includes sensory, science, reading math and many more.

“We provide timely updates to parents and caregivers so we can meet and exceed their expectations,” said Toppin.

“Since my first job in this field, I was encouraged by my supervisor and a co teacher to open my own facility. And here I am today” said Toppin. “You can leave your child, even stop into Fitness Factory next door, workout, then head to work,” said Toppin.

Toppin said childcare is a huge concern for a parent and employee to invest in and that Millyard Academy offers a secure and safe option for a parent to know their child is well cared for.

“Opening a business has brought many challenges, learning to navigate through the process of becoming established, making sure we were meeting deadlines, and working as a team between the town and state to become a registered operable program,” said Toppin.

Millyard Academy’s hours of operation are Monday through Friday, from 6:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 413-277-0193 or email Millyard academy@gmail.com to schedule a tour of the facility.

GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY IN WARE

September 27, 2025

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1-3pm: Adult vs Kid Kickball Games and Free Ice Cream at Grenville Park*

6-9pm: Movie Screening of Disney's "Cars" in Grenville Park*

***Weather Dependent: No Rain Date**

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Indians kick off season with win over rival Hopkins

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE – The Ware boys' varsity basketball team celebrated a 21-point road victory against Hopkins Academy last January.

Five months later, the Hopkins baseball team beat Ware, 7-4, in the Western Mass. Class D. semifinals at Memorial Field in Ware.

Several of the Ware basketball and baseball players are playing for the boys' varsity soccer team this fall.

The Indians kicked off the 2025 regular season with a 4-1 non-league victory over the Golden Hawks under the lights at Veterans' Field in

Ware, last Tuesday night.

It was their first meeting between the two high schools on the soccer pitch since 2016.

"We do have a couple of basketball and baseball players on the soccer team, so this is a very big game for them," said Ware head coach Charlene Vallee. "You always want to get off to a good start in the season opener."

It was only the second time that the Ware boys' soccer team began the regular season with a victory in the past five years. The Indians lost, 5-4, at Hoosac Valley in last year's season opener before squeaking out a 4-3 win over Commerce in the

home opener. They finished the 2024 campaign with a 6-9-2 overall.

"All of the players on this year's team have positive attitudes," Vallee added. "They've been practicing very hard, and we played very well in tonight's game. We just want to keep improving in every game that we play."

Ware senior goalie Jack Gaudreau is a member of both the basketball and baseball teams. He was credited with 12 saves in the season opening victory.

"Jack made a couple of big saves in tonight's game," Vallee said. "This is his

senior year, and he really wants to enjoy it. He's also one of our captains."

Gaudreau, who posted two shutouts as a junior, managed to keep the Golden Hawks off the scoreboard until late in the second half. He was aided by a strong defense led by sopho-

Please see **WARE**, page 12



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Levi Ramirez socks a free kick away.
LEFT: Kyle Kaczuwka takes the free kick.



Matthew Skutnik heads up the field.



Brodie Koczur tries to clear the ball away.



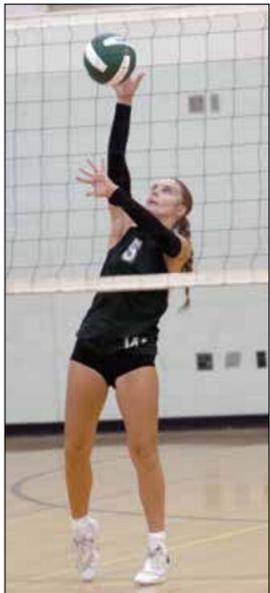
Daniel Damirez passes the ball ahead of pressure.

Ware defeats Mt. Everett in opener

WARE – Last Tuesday evening, Ware High School girls volleyball picked up a quick win over Mt. Everett in the season opener for both teams. It was a fairly easy three sets as Ware won by scores of 25-11, 25-8, and 25-18. Andrea Albano had a huge game from the service line with 10 aces for the Indians. Ware would suffer losses to Smith Vocational and Southwick later in the week and entered this week 1-2 to start the season. Ware faces Renaissance on the road Sept. 11 at 5:15 p.m.



Carly Brown gets the spike.



Emma Zalesky sends a hit over the net.



Kazmiryr Lagimoniere tries to send the ball over the net.



Maeve Stevens sends a serve away.



Isla Bennington gets the bump to keep the ball in play.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Submitted photo
Several members of Quabbin Regional cross country ride the ferry to Martha's Vineyard for an event last weekend.

Quabbin harriers compete in event

MARTHA'S VINEYARD – The girls' and boys' cross-country teams took vans and then a boat to go to an invitational race on Martha's Vineyard Saturday the 6th of September. It was the 18th annual race there and the Quabbin harriers decided it was time to go there and join in with the races. The day started at 5am with vans leaving Quabbin heading to Woods Hole where the team along with many other teams, would board a ferry for a 45-minute ride through the Atlantic Ocean. Upon arrival, the host school Martha Vineyard High School would send buses to pick up the many teams with runners. At the high school five races were

held with a freshman co-ed 3K race and then two JV races of 5K distance (3.1 miles). Quabbin's girls team placed 11th led by top runner Dani Gaudreault who placed 41st with a time of 23:11. Teammates Maddie Boisselle took 65th place 25:03, Jill Rigney 68th 25:12, Whitney Reeves crossed the finish line in 77th place with a time of 26:01 and Hazel Carter closed out the scoring in 96th place 28:47. Julianna Lindsten and Ruari Bosley also finished the race in 102nd and 103rd places respectively. Earlier in Week the girls travel to Hudson and defeated the Hawks 20-50 and lost to Tyngsboro 26 to 32.

The varsity boys raced

the last race of the day and finished in 12th place. The Panthers were paced by the duo of Brendan Welch and Jacob Bassett finishing in 43rd and 44th places respectively with times of 18:25 and 18:26. Teammates Brody Faucher 66th 19:38, Jack Orsini 70th 19:56 and Aiden Mahoney 104 22:00 closed out the team scoring for 303 points. Brennan Gabrenas and Wyatt Clark also ran in the race finishing 105, and 109 respectively. On Thursday the boys lost to the host team Hudson 19 to 39 and in a narrow loss also to Tyngsboro 27 to 28.

The teams' next meet is at home on Sept. 17 running against Bromfield and Lunenburg.

sports

Pioneers wins season opener



Brody Wetnicka looks for a lane to make a throw-in.



James Vulpe defends the ball in front of the net with Cayden Bousquet, left, and Goalie Elijah Hodge flanking him.

PALMER – Last Tuesday afternoon, three different Pioneers scored for Pathfinder in the season opener as they defeated Monson 3-2. Adonis Dupre, Owen Pear, and Cayden Bousquet all had the goals as the Pioneers were able to pull out the victory. The Pioneers fell to Smith Vocational 5-4 to make Pathfinder 1-1 to start the season.



Jaleel Roman tries to play the ball high.



Cayden Bousquet looks to get around a Monson midfielder.

RIGHT: Adonis Dupre sends the ball deep.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Gianni Holland goes for the loose ball.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The 2025-2026 candlepin league season has begun for Roll-A-Way Lanes.

The Wednesday Night League consists of 12 teams, with the league being divided into two divisions of six teams. This past Wednesday night was opening night of the fall/winter league. Standings will be announced later in the season after a few new bowlers establish a league average.

Names of teams will be announced later as the season rolls on.

On lanes three and four, Team Seven bowled against Team Four on opening night. In game one, Team Seven defeated Team Four by a score of 455-437.

In game two, Team Seven was victorious again by a score of 473-443. Keith of Team Seven bowled well with a 115 after starting off the match with a 102.

In game three, Team Four won the last game of the match by a score of 468-452. Breno of Team Four bowled a 113 to help his team get the victory. Keith finished with a 107 and a series of 324. The final score was 1380-1348 in favor of Team Seven.

Team Three bowled against Team Two in week one. Game one results, Team Three defeated Team Two by a score of 457-407. In game two, Team Three won again by a score of 533-444. Nate, Dean, Jody and Scott of Team Three all broke the century mark with scores of 125, 101, 108, and 135.

In game three, Team Three won by a score of 476-459. Sue Horton of Team Two finished strong with a 134, featuring a dou-

ble strike, and had a three-game series of 356.

Team Ten bowled against Team Eleven in week one. Game one results, Team Ten won by a score of 449-430. In game two, Team Ten won again by a score of 492-442. In game three, Team Ten won the last game by a score of 468-444.

Team Five bowled against Team Nine in week one. The scores are scratch scores due to handicap scores still being determined. Game one results, Team Nine scored 351 and Team Five scored 336. Shaun Midura of Team Nine began with a 110.

In game two, Team Five bowled a 358 and Team Nine bowled a 399. Midura bested his first game by bowling a 114 in game two.

In game three, Team Five bowled a 357 and Team Nine combined with a 366. Results of who won during this match will be determined on a later date.

Team Six bowled against Team Eight in week one. In game one, the scratch scores are 415-313 in favor of Team Six. Jason Swistak of Team Six started the match with a 119.

In game two, the scratch scores were Team Six with a 474 and Team Eight with a 352. Swistak followed up with a 111 and his teammate Ryan Drago bowled a 144.

In game three, Team Six bowled a 468 and Team Eight bowled a 340. Swistak finished strong with a 132 and a series of 362.

Team One bowled against the Ghost Team during the first week. Lee Robinson had the highest single game in week one with a 145. His teammate, Darryl Sinclair finished with a 121 to go with a 111 and 103 for a series of 335.

T-Birds support charity ride

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today their continued support of the annual Ride to Remember, contributing a donation of \$2,500, hundreds of team hats for participants, and a specially designed custom Thunderbirds jersey honoring Aaron Pelletier, Connecticut State Police Trooper First Class, whose memory will be honored at this year's event. The Ride to Remember took place on Sept. 6, bringing together riders from across the region to honor and remember fallen police officers and fire-

fighters. "The Thunderbirds are truly honored to once again join together in support of Springfield's Ride to Remember in 2025," said Springfield Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "This event speaks to the values that mean so much to us as an organization – honoring service, remembering sacrifice, and standing with our Western Mass community. It's a privilege to stand alongside the families, participants, and first responders who give this tradition its heart and meaning."



Now in its 14th year, the Ride to Remember unites hundreds of cyclists as they ride from Springfield to Hartford. Proceeds from the event support the families of fallen officers and firefighters and ensure their legacy is carried forward.

The Thunderbirds' contribution is part of the team's longstanding commitment to community impact. Alongside their donation and custom jersey, the Thunderbirds will continue to engage in initiatives that support local organizations and causes that strengthen Western Massachusetts.

Community members are encouraged to come out tomorrow to cheer on the riders and learn more about the Ride to Remember here, and to follow the Thunderbirds' community initiatives at www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Leclerc, Patnode gets wins

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Teen Ty Leclerc is for real and so too is a slightly older guy named Todd Patnode. The potent pair split a pair of 35-lap Modified main events Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway, with each backing up his dash to victory lane with a strong third-place performance in the second feature event.

Other winners Saturday on the high banks of the Great Race Place included Super Street hot shoe Zach Zilinski, who won for the second time this summer and Gordon Farnum, Farnum, who jumped into the Swanze Oil ride mid-season, won for the third week in a row and fourth time this summer.

While points aren't kept in the youth Young Guns division, 2025 will be remembered as the year of Hunter Duquette. The Bay State teen scored his track-high seventh win Saturday. And in the Six Shooters, defending track

king Michael Yeaton moved to the top of the leader board with his second win of the summer.

Leclerc started up front alongside Andrew Brousseau as the Allstates Material Group 604 Modifieds went to war in the night's first of two 35-lap features. The Taunton, Mass. star, who'd scored his first career win just three weeks earlier, jumped all over the opening lead and never looked back.

Top gun Tyler Leary raced most of the way in Leclerc's shadow but could never find a path around the flying teen. Patnode was quickly up to Leary's bumper but could advance no farther, settling for the bronze medal finish and setting his sights on a bigger prize in the nightcap.

With the top eight then inverted to start round number two, top points man Brian Robie, who entered Saturday night's twins with four wins already this summer, took charge on lap two. Patnode, though, firing from row three, led by a foot as the two former champs hit the stripe on lap four and then held strong to beat Robie to the checkers by a single length. Leclerc, blasting off from row four, was strong in third.

While Robie was winless on the night, he and his potent Bar Harbor Bank and Trust ride still holds a commanding 64-point lead in the race to the 2025 604 Modified championship, with only two remaining races this season.

Michael Lashua, stronger and better every week, led the first eight laps of the Twin State Truck Services Super Street feature. Zach Zilinski,

though, wasn't about to let him get away, low-lining into the lead in turn two and then holding off a blockbuster cast to score his second win of the season.

Zilinski had to first hold off Erik Smith, and then JD Stockwell, as the presence of five-time winner Dylan Zullo moved closer and closer from his row four starting spot. Zullo rocketed into second on lap 16 but, on this night, had to settle for second, taking the checkers glued to Zilinski's bumper as he continued his march toward a first-time title. Stockwell finished his strong night's work in third, with two other previous 2025 winners, Chris Riendeau and Smith rounding out the top five.

Reigning Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock champ Andrea St. Amour started up front in Saturday night's 25-lap feature and immediately took charge. While she had a swarm of top contenders at her heels, the biggest thing to keep her from cruising into victory lane was coming like a heat-seeking missile from way back in row five.

Gobbling up positions from any lane he chose, Farnum took fourth on lap six, third on lap nine, and sailed past points leader Kyle Kenny two laps later. St. Amour was next. Taking the lead low along the front chute as lap 13 went into the books. He sped off into the sunset to win for the third week in a row. St. Amour and Carlos Grenier, staged a terrific battle for the second spot, with

Please see **RACE**, page 12

ASPEN ST ROD & GUN CLUB

**MEMBERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER, 21, 2025
11:00 AM**

FINAL CLUB MEETING - SALE OF THE CLUB

MEMBERS ONLY!!!

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Free stress relief program offered at yoga studio

WARREN – The Centered Place in Warren is sponsoring a free Yoga for Stress Relief program Friday, Sept. 19 from 7-8 p.m.

The class will be taught by Swami Shrutananda, a yoga monk who resides at the Svaroop@ Vidya Ashram in Downingtown, Pennsylvania. She travels throughout the U.S., Canada, Australia and Europe.

Swami Shrutananda teaches yoga, meditation, yoga therapy and the sacred texts. She is a teacher-trainer at the ashram.

Before becoming a monk, she was a research scientist. In those days, she was experiencing physical pain from stress and pushing her body through extreme sports.

She said, "I had a hard time finding meaning to my life...Yoga and meditation gave my body back to me, plus I have a quieter mind. My life now has meaning and more. It is 'The More' that has inspired me to teach others all the wonders that yoga promises."

Swami Shrutananda will discuss the causes and symptoms of stress. She will then lead you through a few user-friendly yoga poses. In just a few minutes, you will discover how easily you can reduce your

stress. The yoga style she teaches (as does The Centered Place) is easily accessible and slower-paced. Every pose is customized to your individual needs. No previous yoga experience is required.

To register for this event, or for more information, email phil@thecenteredplace.com or call 413-436-7374.

Swami Shrutananda is also presenting a program from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20. The program gives you "an adult time-out" – an opportunity to stop the world for a day. Leave your worldly concerns behind and bring a "new you" back into your life. There is a fee for this program. For more information, email phil@thecenteredplace.com or call 413-436-7374.

The Centered Place yoga studio has served the local area since 1988. It was founded by Nancy A Nowak, who co-directs and teaches along with her husband, Phil Milgrom. The studio was voted Best in Yoga by Sturbridge Times readers for several consecutive years before the magazine was discontinued.

The physical address of the studio is 286 Bridge St. The web address is www.thecenteredplace.com.

Warren Library hosted book sale

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Warren Public Library hosted a book sale this past weekend with numerous amounts of books available.

The library had tents set up outdoors in front of the library and the foot traffic was steady throughout the day. Both youth and adults were out shopping and exploring what books they could find as well as DVDs and various gift items.

Library Assistant Gena LaScala said the turnout was good for the library's book sale. Ed Londergan attended the book sale and said there were thousands of books available. This book sale served as a fundraiser for the Warren Public Library that took a lot of planning and organizing.

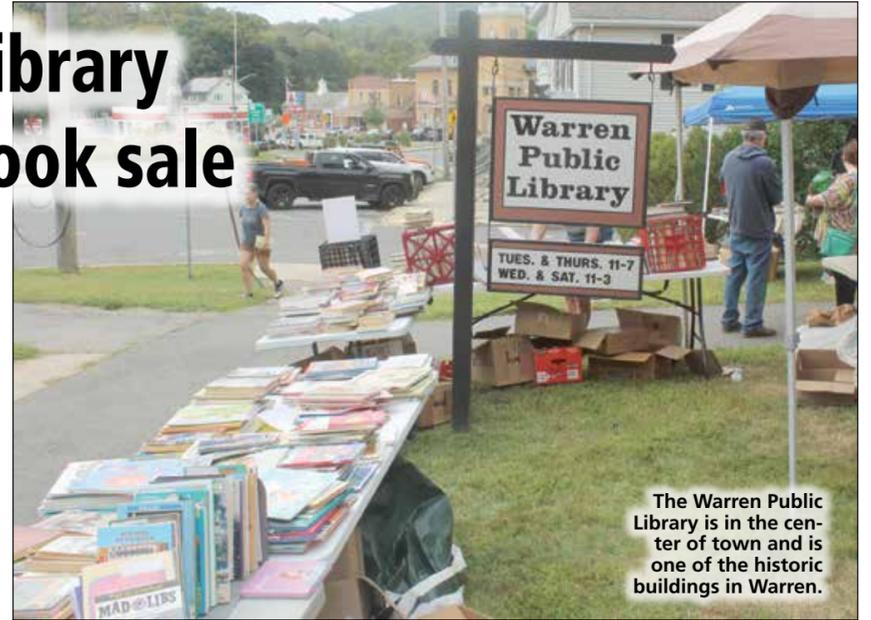
After witnessing a good turnout for the book sale, Londergan believed this was one of the best book sales the library has had in recent years. There is a lot of history behind the Warren Public Library, which is part of the center of the community.

"It is the center of the community," Londergan said.

In addition to the book sale, the Warren Cultural Council was selling decorative wreaths. Many of the wreaths were donated by local crafters to help support the sale.

The book sale also featured a tent with gift items available. The items for sale included notecards, book bags, cookbooks, watercolor prints, and commemorative plates.

There was a table full of old DVDs outside. Throughout the day, that



The Warren Public Library is in the center of town and is one of the historic buildings in Warren.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

table was nearly cleared off as guests bought numerous DVDs.

The Warren Public Library usually has one book sale a year. This year's book sale went well and got many residents, young and old, to visit their local library.

For more information and future events at the library, visit warrenpubliclibrary.org or contact the library at 413-436-7690 or warrenpubliclibrary@hotmail.com. The Warren Public Library is located at 934 Main St.



The Warren Cultural Council had a wreath sale taking place during the book sale.



Cookbooks were for sale for those wanting to add more recipes to their home cooking.

MASTER PLAN from page 1

plan and a public comment period, which is open until the end of September.

The public is able to review copies in person or can review the entire document on www.warrenmasterplan.com. After this celebration, the next step is to review any possible changes to the master plan. Then, it will be brought forward to the Planning Board for a vote to adopt the plan.

There are a total of seven chapters that make up the plan and O'Brien went over each one in her presentation. What is considered the "hard part" of the master plan process is to implement the plan, which involves various town departments and how it is tied to the budget process.

In the last few years, CMRPC has completed about half a dozen master plans, and O'Brien said her, and her associates are passionate about completing these plans for towns in the central Massachusetts region.

"We love doing these master plans," O'Brien said. Having a master plan helps the town pursue future grants and the plan shows the state that the town is eligible to qualify for grants. O'Brien said this master plan helps "express yourself as a Town."

A total of nine members of CMRPC helped support Warren through this process, and many expressed their appreciation during the celebration at St. Stans. Copies of the public draft were handed out to the residents and town officials who attended the celebration.

The plan begins with an explanation of what a master plan is. A master plan is an ambitious communication



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Sarah O'Brien of CMRPC made announcements regarding the completed Town of Warren's 2025 Master Plan which was celebrated this past week.

of the town's unique vision. O'Brien, who also served as a consultant with the town, feels there are a lot of passionate residents in attendance during this celebration.

"Celebrate the volunteers that made this happen," O'Brien stated.

O'Brien confirmed with everyone that nothing has been decided or voted on. The plan is currently in its public comment period. The timeline was listed in the packet and explained by O'Brien.

The last step in the timeline is a vote by the Planning Board to adopt the master plan.

Next was the vision statement, which was crafted by Warren residents through the Master Plan Community Survey and Workshop.

The vision statement reads, "Warren, a traditional New England mill town,

blends its rich history with modern opportunities. Our town's natural landscapes and scenic roads invite adventure and exploration, creating an environment ripe for new business ventures. Our historic homes welcome residents from all walks of life, while our commitment to high-quality education, diverse recreational activities, and responsive government ensures a thriving and inclusive community. Strategically located 'half-way to everywhere', Warren is poised to grow while maintaining its unique charm and character."

There is various priority projects listed under the 2025 Master Plan for Warren. The priority development areas include the Town Common area, West Warren Village, Wrights Mill, Southbridge Road, Gilbert Road, and Reed Street.

These development areas are under various uses. For example, Southbridge Road is considered housing and Gilbert Road/Reed Street are considered industrial, mixed use.

The town is also looking to find use for the Town Hall building, which currently houses the Police Department. The reconstruction of Cutter Park is currently underway to find new design and construction of new park amenities.

Another important priority project is connecting villages, that increases safety and connectivity on Main Street through sidewalks and a riverwalk. The Community Hall in West Warren is also a priority project acknowledged in this master plan. The town wants to support private redevelopment of the building.

The town also wants to support private redevelopment of the Wrights Mill Complex. Another priority project is the construction of an emergency management building that houses the police and fire departments, as well as a headquarters for emergency preparedness functions.

O'Brien went over each of the seven chapters of the master plan. Each chapter has key findings and goals. Housing was one chapter and O'Brien talked about how there is a need for housing rehabilitation and trying to keep Warren affordable. Another goal is to ensure there is a variety of housing types available to meet the needs of Warren's most vulnerable residents.

Economic development is another chapter and is considered an important chapter for all of New England. The key findings for this chap-

ter include a strong desire for diverse business offerings in Warren, opportunity to leverage niche markets and agritourism, and the need to revitalize key commercial corridors.

For the transportation chapter, there is a need for improvements to Warren's aging infrastructure. There are funding sources to review such as Complete Streets, Community Development Block Grant, MassWorks, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness action grants, and Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants to help improve transportation.

Town Services & Facilities is another chapter with a goal to maintain a state of good repair for all municipal facilities and infrastructure. In the key findings, town services rely heavily on volunteers.

For the Open Space & Recreation chapter, residents place a high priority on active and passive recreation land. There is an opportunity to leverage the town's open space and recreation assets to attract eco-tourism. Warren's Park & Recreation department could benefit from increased capacity.

Natural & Cultural Resources is a chapter and a key finding is Warren having a rich and interesting history that has left the town with a wealth of historic artifacts. Land Use was the last chapter and a key finding is that the town is expected to experience development pressures. There are vacant and underutilized properties currently existing in Warren, and it gives the town some redevelopment opportunities. The goal is to plan for reuse and redevelopment of former brownfields, vacant build-

ings, and underused sites.

After the presentation, O'Brien began taking questions from the residents who attended the celebration. Highway Surveyor & Chairman of the Warren CDAC, Jeremy Olson, wanted to comment on O'Brien's passion and energy and appreciates her and CMRPC's hard work on developing this master plan.

"It's something we embrace," Olson said.

Derick Veliz asked if the master plan does include the idea of a Massachusetts Turnpike entrance. O'Brien confirmed that it does fall under the transportation chapter. Some of the challenges include offramp funding for Warren to get an exit off Interstate 90. The benefit Warren would get is distribution and trucking if they had a ramp off the turnpike.

When asked about the difference between old master plan from 2006 and this year's master plan, Chris Dunphy commented and feels this new master plan expresses more character and optimism.

"There is optimism for Warren," Dunphy said.

A lot has changed in central Massachusetts and CMRPC feels many people are moving out to the central and western Massachusetts regions.

More public comments will be discussed and addressed at the next CDAC meeting on Oct. 22. Residents can view the master plan on the town website or on www.warrenmasterplan.com. Residents and Town Officials thanked O'Brien and CMRPC for their presentation as the celebration continued at St. Stans in West Warren.

CDAC reviewed grant updates and charging stations

By Ryan Drago

Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN — The Community Development Advisory Committee met on Sept. 3 to hear updates on grant funding.

Town Administrator James Ferrera shared some updates about the Community One Stop for Growth grant. Ferrera hoped to hear some updates soon regarding the housing production plan sometime in October.

There is also a grant application for stormwater management that the

town wants to complete. Ferrera also mentioned the Green Communities grant and Warren Community Elementary School is hoping to get an application submitted for a weatherization project. According to Ferrera, the town is eligible to apply.

John O'Leary of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission shared updates on Community Development Block Grants. For fiscal years 2022-2023, the second phase of the School Street Project is near completion. The Town Common Improvement Project has its design nearly complete.

O'Leary said the consultant has put in a phase plan approach to bring forward to the town for consideration.

"Run through how they believe it's best for us, the town, to be able to seek funding and phase that project out over the next few years," O'Leary said.

O'Leary and his associate, Chris Dunphy, are working on a budget amendment to reprogram approximately \$159,000 worth of funds to the Main Street Improvement Project. The CDAC will stay informed if this amendment is approved.

For fiscal year 2024, the Central Street and River

Street Improvement Project is in its design phase. O'Leary said they're working with the engineer on the project before going out to bid. The town is hoping to go for bid sometime next month. The construction of the project could start in the late fall or in the spring depending on how the bidding process goes.

O'Leary brought up the Cutter Park Improvement Project. The town recently made a contract agreement with GZA Engineering Firm out of Springfield to help with the design. The committee for this project will be scheduling an initial kick-off

meeting soon.

Charging stations

The CDAC discussed new business regarding a charging station being placed somewhere in town. Steve Cristol of the CDAC mentioned the idea as there are currently no charging stations for electric vehicles in Warren.

Cristol had a few recommendations that would make good locations for a charging station. The first location is the municipal parking lot across the street from the police station (the Town Hall). CDAC Chair Jeremy Olson said it would be amazing if the town could get two

charging stations.

The CDAC thought of the idea of approaching a business in town to maybe install a charging station.

The committee was curious on how many EV cars are in Warren. Olson said he has seen a lot of them driving down Route 19, and believes it would help to offer a charging station in town.

"A matter of offering that service," Olson said.

CDAC will conduct some research and see if there is funding that can help with charging stations. CMRPC will help as well and think it is a good idea to pursue.

WARE from page 9

more Levi Ramirez, junior Aaron Bateman, and senior Kyle Kaczuwka, who was one of the leading hitters on the Indians varsity baseball team last spring.

The other seniors listed on the Indians boys' varsity roster are Ryder Cahalan, Kaleb Kanozek, who's a member of the basketball team, Daniel Ramirez, and Brodie Koczur, who also plays both basketball and baseball.

Sophomore Matt Skutnik is another three-sport varsity athlete.

Last Tuesday night's season opening match remained scoreless until late in the first half.

The Indians broke the ice during the 36th minute when freshman Finnegan DeMarco sent a crossing pass to Cahalan, who fired a shot into the right corner past Hopkins senior goalie Matthew Feltovic.

With 40 seconds remaining in the opening half, Kanozek blasted a shot into the back of the net for an unassisted goal giving the home team a 2-0 halftime advantage.

"The two goals that we scored at the end of the first half gave us a little bit of breathing room," Vallee said. "It also gave the players a lot of confidence entering the second half."

The visitors from Hadley put a lot of pressure on the Indians defense during the first ten minutes of the second half.

The Golden Hawks were unable to cut the deficit in half before Kanozek netted his second goal of the match during the 57th minute.

The scoring play began with DeMarco sending a pass from the left end line into the box where Kanozek put a shot into the net that deflected off the left post.

Kanozek, who joined the varsity squad as an eighth

grader, only scored two goals as a junior. His only other varsity goal came during his freshman season.

"Kaleb hasn't scored very many goals at the varsity level, but this is a brand new season," Vallee said. "He started off the very well in tonight's game."

The Indians were given a penalty kick seven minutes later following a foul that occurred inside the penalty box.

DeMarco stepped up to the spot and put a low shot into the net giving the home team a 4-0 advantage.

The Golden Hawks' only goal of the season opening match was scored by senior James Anderson with about three minutes remaining in regulation.

While it was the only meeting of the regular season between the two soccer teams, they could possibly face each other again in the Division 5 state tournament.

RACE from page 10

St. Amour prevailing to earn the runnerup hardware. Jimmy Zellman was fourth on the night, and fifth went to Addison Brooks.

Hunter Duquette made easy work of powering to win number seven in the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns Saturday. Leading all the way in the caution-free 15-lapper, he romped to victory after earlier winning his heat. Ella Grabowski impressed in second, and Maya Bell was third.

Michael Yeaton and Travis Hollins were tied atop the Six Shooter leader board entering Saturday's third outing of the season. Not anymore. Like he'd done a few weeks ago at Claremont, Yeaton, the reigning king of the Six Shooters on the high banks, blasted off to win by a country mile Saturday. Hollins was second, and first-timer Jeff Staiti came home third.



CLINIC from page 7

10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to ensure availability.

Pet owners can register online at www.secondchanceanimals.org/scasconnect-worcester/ to reserve a spot and help ensure a smooth clinic experience.

All dogs must be on leashes and cats in carriers for everyone's safety.

For more information about Second Chance Animal Services and their mission to provide affordable veterinary care to help pets stay healthy and in their homes, visit www.secondchanceanimals.org.

SURVEY from page 1

Schools, North Brookfield Public Schools, Palmer Public School District and Quabbin Regional School District.

"We conducted our survey in March and April of 2025," Berthiaume said.

Berthiaume said while there was less response to the survey from older students, roughly two-thirds of the 1,051 students enrolled in the various school districts participated. Almost 80% of eighth grade students returned surveys.

Use of illicit substances

Overall, 82% of students reported no substance use in the past 30 days. Almost 90% reported that they have not used alcohol, 92.5% said they have not used cannabis, 92.8% said they have not used e-cigarettes/vape pens, and 97.3% have not used nicotine pouches.

Berthiaume said 97.7% of students reported they did not use cigarettes, and 95.7% said they did not misuse prescription medication. Misuse of inhalants (97.1% said they do not misuse inhalants) has also shown a decrease from previous survey data.

"Most students reported no illicit substance use," she said.

While 12th grade students reported less use of cigarettes (down from 6% to 1%), the survey showed that 3% of both eighth and 10th grade students still use them.

"The need for prevention is younger. Because we're seeing the behaviors increase in the younger grades," Drug Free Communities Program Director Rebecca Edwards said.

Berthiaume said there is no trend data for the use of nicotine pouches among students, but they are increasing in popularity and commonality.

After reaching an all-time high in 2021, alcohol use continues to decline according to the survey results

except for an increase from 4% to 9% among eighth grade students.

Cannabis use has also seen a downward trend in all age groups surveyed, Berthiaume said, going from 19% to 9%. This trend was also seen with the use of e-cigarettes/vape pens.

"A drop from 19 to 9% is pretty significant," she said.

The survey data showed that the misuse of prescription medications and inhalants has remained the same after increasing from 2021 to 2023. Medications used to treat ADHD, benzodiazepines and opioids were all listed as being "easily accessible" to students.

"That's definitely something to keep an eye on," Berthiaume said. "Even though they're comparatively low, due to their seriousness."

Access to illicit substances

The percentage of students who reported access to illicit substances noted that alcohol, cannabis vape pods and pens, and nicotine vape pods and pens were the easiest to get. Access to cigarettes also came in high, but most students reported not using them.

"Almost 50% of students reported it would be easy to access alcohol," Berthiaume said.

Students who reported some substance use reported they primarily gained access from friends. Students also reported getting access to substances (both knowingly and unknowingly) from family members.

"Very small amounts reporting buying it online or asking a stranger to buy it for them. Very few reported using fake IDs. The time of that is largely over," she said.

In talking to school administrators, many students reported getting substances from their coworkers who are over 21 years old and legally able to purchase alcohol, nicotine and cannabis.

Policies that raise the

age of purchase (such as the Nicotine Free-Generation) could help to reduce the amount of friend to friend exchanges of substances. The town of Belchertown is one of 13 towns in the commonwealth to adopt such a policy.

State and national comparison

Berthiaume said national and state data was not available yet for the 2025 survey, but compared to previous data, the region remains comparable to those numbers.

For eighth grade students, the regional data reported less alcohol use compared to both national and state data. The 10th grade students were slightly higher than the state average but still below the national average.

Students in 12th grade reported less alcohol use than the state average and were comparable to the national average.

Student demographics

"For many of the categories, we see pretty consistent with all students," Berthiaume said.

Berthiaume said substance use rates are higher with LGBTQ+ students and students of color. These students also reported higher levels of feeling negative emotions.

Emotions and mental health

Berthiaume said the students surveyed were asked about the following emotions: anxious/nervous, happy/content, depressed/sad, angry/upset, really stressed and physical symptoms of emotions.

"The major question we asked was 'how often do you feel these emotions?'" Berthiaume said.

Berthiaume said the eighth grade students reported higher levels of these emotions, and LGBTQ+ students reported feeling more negative emotions regularly.

Female students were twice as likely to experience

negative emotions than their male peers, but had similar levels of happy/content every day.

Students of color also reported more negative emotions than white students.

"The overall data of feeling negative emotions is trending downward compared to 2021 and 2023," Berthiaume said. "During COVID, negative emotions were at an all-time high."

When the students were asked how they coped with these negative emotions, only 27% reported that they would talk to their family, but almost 70% will go on social media to manage difficult emotions.

"The impact social media has on youth is not good and it's going to exacerbate those feelings," she said.

Talking to friends to help cope with negative emotions was listed by 42% of students, which is lower than expected. More than three-quarters of students said they would focus on something else or do an enjoyable activity to cope.

Berthiaume said one in 10 students reported engaging in self-harm in the past 12 months (11%), which is a drop from the 16% reported in 2023. She said this is still something to monitor closely as it is "concerningly high."

Perceptions of harm

Over 80% of students reported there is a "moderate/great" risk of harm with binge drinking alcohol, which is defined as five or more drinks one-to-two times a week.

For cannabis, about half of the students reported it as moderate/great risk of harm for use one-to-two times a week, but 87% think every day use is more harmful than binge drinking. More than 90% of students think every day use of e-cigarettes/vape pens is moderate/great risk of harm.

A large percentage of students recognized the dangers of substance use and saw

these behavior as more harmful for someone their age versus just people in general.

"So that was great to see," Berthiaume said. "They really understand that it's harmful for them."

Parent and friend disapproval

For 10th and 12th graders, there's a drop in the percentage of students who think their parents would disapprove of the use of alcohol and cannabis.

"One to keep an eye on is the cannabis in particular," Berthiaume said.

Looking at friend disapproval rates for 10th graders, trends are bouncing back from what was seen in the 2023 data. Berthiaume said she would like to see the results for e-cigarettes/vape pens and cannabis to be higher.

For eighth graders, the friend disapproval rate increased for both e-cigarettes/vape pens and cannabis.

In 12th grade, the disapproval rate for friends dropped for the use of alcohol.

Family factors and school culture

Berthiaume said 95% of students reported that their families have clear rules and expectations about alcohol and 96% have the same for drug use. Almost 100% of students said their parents would be aware if they were in school or not.

"Our students know that someone is looking out for them. It's really reassuring to see," Berthiaume said.

The survey showed that the percentage of students who think their peers are using substances is higher than the number actually reported by students.

The survey also looked at bullying, and 50% of students who reported being bullied said it was for their body size/personal appearance which broke down to weight (90%), hygiene (73%)

and clothing (56%). Almost 40% of those bullied said it was because of their race/ethnicity.

Another primary cause reported for bullying was related to a student's physical ability.

About QHSUA

Established in 2014, the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance is a partnership of local hospitals, school districts, behavioral health agencies, religious organizations, police departments, town administrations, mental health professionals, fire and rescue departments, businesses, youth groups and organizations, substance use treatment service providers, and community members who care about community-based substance use prevention, treatment and recovery supports.

The alliance began as a program under the auspices of the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition.

In 2015, it was funded with a start-up grant from Baystate Health Eastern Region's Community Benefits Advisory Council. In 2016, the town of Ware and the alliance were awarded a five-year federal Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant. They have also received grant funding from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and the Public Health Services Commissioned Officers Foundation.

In 2019, the QHSUA was awarded another federal grant to address underage drinking and the risk of impaired driving.

QHSUA serves local communities that are located in Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester Counties — the towns of Barre, Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

Warren Police Log

During the week of Aug. 24-30, the Warren Police Department responded to 146 building/property checks, 21 community policings, 10 emergency 911 calls, three complaints, one threat, three motor vehicle accidents, one burglary, four animal calls and 25 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Aug. 24

3:28 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Keys Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Ware Road, Investigated
 8:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Report Filed
 10:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Southbridge Road, Report Filed

Monday, Aug. 25

4 a.m. Suspicious Person, North Street, Report Filed
 6:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Washington Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:10 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Chapel Street, Transported to Hospital
 12:38 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:14 p.m. Complaint, Keys Road, Call Transferred
 2:38 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Southbridge Road, Officer/

Chief Advised
 4:23 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Ware Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Tuesday, Aug. 26

6:59 a.m. Unattended Death, Main Street, Report Filed
 9:33 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Milton O. Fountain Way, Mutual Aid Transport
 2:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Written Warning
 2:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Washington Street, Vehicle Towed
 11:02 p.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 11:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Aug. 27

8:29 a.m. Suspicious Person, Southbridge Road, Report Filed
 9:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 10:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:59 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Charlton Road, Report Filed
 11:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written

Warning
 12:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:22 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Keys Road, Report Filed
 12:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:04 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:42 p.m. Threats, Pleasant Street, Report Filed
 2:02 p.m. Unwanted Party, Keys Street, Report Filed
 2:03 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Little Rest Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Aug. 28

11:53 a.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Main Street, Report Filed

Friday, Aug. 29

6:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 7:13 a.m. Welfare Check, Yankee Drummer Drive, Report Filed
 9:41 a.m. Brush/Wildland Fires, Town Farm Drive, Fire

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.

Extinguished
 10:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 3:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Removed to Court/Lockup
 3:53 p.m. Noise Complaint, Southbridge Road, Referred to Other Agency
 9:57 p.m. Mutual Aid Ambulance, Palmer, Mutual Aid Assist

Saturday, Aug. 30

4:39 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Yankee Drummer Drive, Mutual Aid Transport
 2:19 p.m. Parking Issues, Keys Street, Verbal Warning
 10:13 p.m. Noise Complaint, Comins Pond Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Sept. 1-8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 83 building/property checks, 41 directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, two traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one complaint, one investigation, two motor vehicle investigations, one fire, one vandalism, two safety hazards, seven animal calls and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

6:55 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Dispatch Handled
 9:56 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Patrill Hollow Road, Unfounded

Friday, Sept. 5

11:13 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Negative Contact
 12:05 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Lower Road, No Action Required
 8:48 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:21 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:28 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Patient Refusal

Saturday, Sept. 6

11:37 a.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, Services Rendered
 3:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
 5:07 p.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Referred to Other Agency
 5:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning

Sunday, Sept. 7

8:36 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Ruggles Hill Road, Services Rendered
 3:04 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered
 7:57 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 11:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

Monday, Sept. 1

10:22 a.m. Investigation, North Road, Officer Handled
 11:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, No Action Required

Tuesday, Sept. 2

2:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 9:30 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 8:07 p.m. Fire Alarm, Bridge Street, Services Rendered
 9:05 p.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, High Street, Extinguished

Wednesday, Sept. 3

7:05 a.m. 911 Vandalism, Ridge Road, Services Rendered
 12:05 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, Sept. 4

2:03 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To

Pyramid scheme masquerading as scooter investment

The Better Business Bureau is warning investors about Lightning Shared Scooter Company LLC, a business claiming a North Texas address that appears to be operating as a pyramid scheme.

LSSC currently holds an "F" rating with BBB for failing to respond to complaints and for operating without the required competency license from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. In July, BBB saw a sharp increase in consumer com-

plaints and BBB Scam Tracker reports, triggering an investigation.

Investors were given what appeared to be an SEC certificate. However, the document was riddled with typos, grammatical errors, and a fabricated certificate number. The company advertises itself as the "leading shared scooter company," encouraging investors to lease scooters at varying investment levels, with promises of daily returns.

BBB Scam Tracker reports describe losses ranging from

\$1,000 to \$55,000, matching the so-called "investment levels."

Like many pyramid schemes, investors are recruited by friends or family and encouraged to bring in new members. Bonuses are promised based on the investments of those recruits. Investors report being required to pay in cryptocurrency, a common tactic in fraudulent investment schemes.

Scam reports connected to LSSC have come in from 20 states and three Canadian

provinces as of Aug. 22, with many concentrated in California and Florida.

BBB has a long history of exposing such scams. In recent years, BBB investigated another North Texas operation, Blessings In No Time (BINT Operations LLC), which lured investors with a so-called "blessing loom."

If you've been approached by Lightning Shared Scooter Company LLC or a similar investment, file a report with BBB Scam Tracker.

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

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

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.



TUTORING AVAILABLE

Meet Your Professional & Educational Goals

Tutors Needed

For English Language Learners, HiSet Tutors:
English, Writing & Math

Call to ask about our next Computer Security class

Computer Security Class

- Basic Computer Use —
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- GED/HiSET Preparation
- Reading, Writing, Math
- Citizenship Exam
- SAT, TOEFL, etc. Test Prep

Contact Us For More Information

NEW PHONE NUMBER 413-544-6600

email: dkimball@topfloorlearning.org

https://topfloorlearning.org/

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We're on Facebook!



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Utilitarian fashion accessory
4. Engine additive
7. Macaws
8. Listens to
10. Self-righteously moralistic person
12. Made of wood
13. Chinese lute
14. Beginning military rank
16. Indicates near
17. Ties the score
19. Chum
20. Long ago
21. Localities
25. Midway between northeast and east
26. Make fun of
27. Tennis great
29. Construction location
30. Cow's noise
31. Blue
32. One of the Fab Four
39. Formula 1 team
41. Dash
42. Lifting device
43. Basics
44. Keyboard key
45. Old Irish alphabet
46. Shaking of the Earth's surface
48. Covered stadium
49. Sword handles
50. Longing or yearning
51. Creators' social network
52. Boxing's GOAT

CLUES DOWN

1. Occur
2. Show up
3. Capital of Taiwan
4. Ocean
5. Givers and ___
6. Gets ready
8. Ad ___
9. Fit of irritation
11. Criminal organization
14. Exclamation that denotes disgust
15. American state
18. Sensor hub
19. Before
20. The boundary of a surface
22. Witnesses
23. Singular
24. Type of meal
27. Music awards show
28. Former French coin of low value
29. A bag-like structure in an animal
31. Schenectady County Airport
32. Calm down
33. Partner to cheese
34. Cola brand
35. Stepped on
36. Japanese city
37. Type of coating
38. A citizen of Yemen
39. Popular breakfast item
40. On a line at right angles to a ship's length
44. First responders
47. Short-term memory

Obituary

Robert H. Harnois, 79

WARE – Robert H. Harnois, age 79, passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield with his loving family by his side, after a battle with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia.

Robert was born in West Warren, on Dec. 4, 1945, son of the late Avila J. Harnois and Bella M.J. (Chevette) Harnois.

Robert was raised and educated in West Warren before enlisting in the United States Army National Guard and he proudly served his country honorably. Robert's upbringing and military service developed his all-encompassing values of service and commitment that defined his life.

A dedicated employee, Robert worked in the maintenance department at UMass Amherst and also shared many rewarding years working alongside his brother-in-law at R&P Construction. His work ethic and integrity were admired by all who knew him.

Robert was a resident of Ware for over 50 years and a member of All Saints Catholic Church. Robert was a passionate supporter of his grandsons and could often be found on the sidelines of their sporting events, cheering them on with pride and enthusiasm.

An avid collector, Robert had a keen eye for antiques and enjoyed exploring flea markets and tag sales in search of hidden treasures. His curiosity and appreciation for history were evident in the stories he shared about his finds, bringing joy to those around him.

Robert had a big heart and

was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone no matter how busy he was.



He was not shy to share his pride and feelings and was well known to "tell it like it is".

Robert leaves behind a legacy of love and kindness. He will be remembered as a proud, loving, caring, and generous father, grandfather, godfather, brother, uncle, and friend.

Robert is survived by his loving children and grandchildren, his son, Robert J. Harnois, daughter, Leslie Archambault and her husband, Eric and grandsons; Mason and Luke Archambault, who were his world. Robert also leaves behind his brother, Joseph Harnois and wife Jean, and sisters, Pamela Ellithorpe and husband Ron, Debra Harnois, Patricia Harnois-Church, Janet Lyons and Rose Campagna, as well as his former wife, Gloria Jean (DeSantis) Goddu, Luann Lauzier who was like a second daughter to him, his longtime friend Andrea Humpel whom he adored, his cousins James Waz and Al Dimo, his godchildren and many nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Robert was predeceased by his sisters, Gloria Cobleigh and Roberta Harnois, as well as his beloved canine companion Rusty who was like his best friend.

A Graveside Service with Prayers of Committal and Military Honors for Robert will be held on Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Our Lady of the Angels Columbarium in New St. William Cemetery in Ware. Per Robert's request, "he wanted no hoopla and a very

Death notice

Harnois, Robert H.
Died Sept. 3, 2025
Services Sept. 19, 2025

Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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

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

simple service," therefore, there will be no calling hours.

Funeral arrangements and services are under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

**Hardwick Planning Board
Notice of Public Hearing**
Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Zoning Board per Hardwick Zoning Bylaw, sections 3.2.2.k., 4.1.3 and 6.5 will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:45PM at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA.**

The Hearing is regarding the application for a **Special Permit** by Lynne and John Blanchette to construct a Common Driveway at 1144 Petersham Road. All interested parties are asked to attend.

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>

Hardwick Planning Board
William Cole, Chair
09/04, 09/11/2025

**(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT
22 SM 003053
ORDER OF NOTICE**

To: **Sarah L. Bouthellier** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*):

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Ware, numbered 126 Eagle Street, given by Sarah L. Bouthellier to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Network, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated April 30, 2013, and recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 11299, Page 184, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **October 13, 2025** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on August 28, 2025.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
22-007927
09/11/2025

TOWN OF WARREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166 Section 22, a public hearing will take place for consent to install 5 JO Poles on Cronin Rd beginning at a point approximately 0 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Southbridge Rd @ Cronin Rd and continuing approximately 3,632 feet in a north direction. Additionally, to Relocate 2 JO Poles on Cronin Rd, Pole #21 to opposite side of the road and Pole #28 approximately 50' south toward Pole #27. This hearing will be on **Thursday, September 25th, 2025**, Shepard Building 48 High St. Warren, at **6:00PM**. You may attend our meetings via Zoom:

Meeting ID: 811 8078 5980
Passcode: 273231
By Phone: +1 646 558 8656
Richard Eichacker, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
09/11, 09/18/2025

Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicles under G.L. c. 255., Section 39A

Notice is hereby given by REGIN'S REPAIR 19 CHURCH ST GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031 Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255. Section 39A# that on **9/26/2025** at 10:00AM at: Regin's Repair 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keepers lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

Vehicle description:
2000 Honda Accord

Registration#/State: 5BWC19/MA
VIN: JHMCG6681YC034580
Name and address of owner:
Kimberly Moores
8 Grafton St., Apt 301
Worcester, MA 01604

Vehicle description:
2002 Buell Blast motorcycle
Registration#/State: NONE
VIN: 4MZKP13C523502211
Name and address of owner:
Michael Day
17 Church St.
South Barre, MA 01074
Antonio Marcello
298 Farm St.
Bellingham, MA 02019

By: James M. Regin
Dated: 9/4/2025
09/11, 09/18, 09/25/2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **PATRICIA A. SWISTAK to SPENCER SAVINGS BANK**, dated August 21, 2013 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds (the "Registry") in Book 51404, Page 158 (the "Mortgage"), of which Mortgage the undersigned (the "Mortgagee") is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of the Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at the mortgaged premises located on or near 2186 Main Street, West Warren, Massachusetts (the "Premises"), all and singular the premises described in the Mortgage, to wit:

"The land in Town of Warren, Village of West Warren, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

FIRST PARCEL

BEGINNING on the northerly line of Main Street in said West Warren at a corner of land now or formerly of Cornelius Mahoney;

Thence easterly on line of said street 50 feet to land now or formerly of The Thorndike Company;

Thence northerly by land now or formerly of said Company 127 feet, more or less, to land now or formerly of Frank F. Marcy;

Thence westerly by land of said Marcy and land now or formerly of William Clark 50 feet to land of said Mahoney;

Thence by land of said Mahoney, southerly 127 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning.

SECOND PARCEL

BEGINNING on the northerly line of the Warren Cotton Mills at a point situated N. 79° 15' W., 42 feet from a stone point at the northeast corner of land of said Company;

Thence on line of land of said Company and other land of Lorraine T. Methote northerly 79° 15' W., 128.5 feet;

Thence by land of said Company N. 3° W., 104 feet to an iron pin;

Thence easterly by land now or formerly of Charles Guilette 85.5 feet;

Thence by land now or formerly of Joseph Brunell and land now or formerly of Jeremiah Sheehan southerly 160 feet, more or less to the place of beginning.

Being the same premises conveyed to Peter F. Swistak and Sibyl T. Swistak by deed of Lorraine T. Methote dated July 20, 1960 recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 4136, Page 266, Peter F. Swistak having died on March 7, 2008. BSPC in Bk 42817 253"

The description of the Premises contained in the Mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The Premises, together with

all improvements encumbered by the Mortgage, are to be sold and conveyed subject to all leases, tenancies, occupancies, mortgages, restrictions, covenants, orders of conditions, easements, encroachments, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, federal and state tax liens, other liens or claims in the nature of liens and existing encumbrances recorded prior to the Mortgage and/or otherwise having priority over the Mortgage, if there be any.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable deposit of TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) DOLLARS is to be paid by certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale, the balance to be paid by certified or bank cashier's check and deed to be taken by purchaser within thirty (30) days of the sale at the offices of Seder & Chandler, LLP, 339 Main Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, attorneys for the Mortgagee.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation on the date and at the time and place appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public proclamation on the date and at the time and place appointed for the adjourned sale.

In the event of the failure or inability of the purchaser to perform and to purchase the Premises in accordance herewith, the Mortgagee reserves the right (but is not obligated) to accept, subject to the Memorandum of Sale, the second highest bid for the Premises, without further advertisement and without further notice to other bidders or persons. In the event that the Mortgagee offers the Premises to the second highest bidder and such person declines either to purchase the Premises at the second highest bid price or to sign the Memorandum of Sale, then the Mortgagee may elect (but is not obligated) to exercise the rights of the second highest bidder under this paragraph and to purchase the Premises at the second highest bid price, without further advertisement and without further notice to other bidders or persons.

Other terms to be announced at the time and place of sale.

CORNERSTONE BANK f/k/a
SPENCER SAVINGS BANK
Present holder of said Mortgage

Jennifer L. Conrad, Esq.
SEDER & CHANDLER, LLP
339 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 757-7721
Attorneys for the Mortgagee

THE ZEKOS GROUP
P.O. Box 549
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
(508)842-9000
Auctioneer, License No. 104
08/28, 09/04, 09/11/2025

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the purpose of the
notice, or as the
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Thank you.**

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

Town of West Brookfield – Snow Removal Contractor Wanted

Seeking contractors or individuals with a 6-wheel truck, 9' plow, and 2–3 CY spreader for snow & ice removal for the 2025–2026 season

Details and application available at:
wbrookfield.com/highway-department

Questions? Call (508) 867-1417 or
email Anne agarwood-hampp@wbrookfield.com
or Jim jdaley@wbrookfield.com

Full-Time Police Officer

The Warren Police Department is accepting applications for the position of full time Police Officer. Applicants do not have to be academy trained, but academy trained are preferred. Must be willing to work weekends, nights and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen's contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior experience may also be considered to start at a higher step of pay.

Resumes and cover letters will be accepted until position is fill to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov.

The Town of Warren is an EOE.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

DA's office issues warning about increase in paving scams

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office is alerting residents to an increase in asphalt paving scams.

Homeowners across the region lose thousands of dollars to rogue paving crews who show up unannounced offering to repair, pave, or sealcoat driveways with faulty materials.

"Vigilance is the best

defense against these schemes," said Northwestern Assistant District Attorney Andrew Covington. "These asphalt paving scams often target the most vulnerable residents. We encourage residents to report suspicious offers immediately to your local police department."

Paving scams often target elderly residents, with

fraudsters using high-pressure tactics to get quick cash, but leaving victims with shoddy or unfinished work. Many crews vanish once the work is done or abandoned, leaving victims with little recourse.

The scams often play out this way: Crews show up at a home claiming they have material left over from a

nearby job with an offer of a bargain price if the homeowner agrees immediately. However, the materials used are of poor quality, the work is rushed, and the driveway often begins to crack, crumble, or wash away. When the problems appear, however, the crew is long gone.

Sometimes, crews start additional work without per-

mission, then demand more cash. If the homeowner refuses, the crew threatens to abandon the driveway without finishing the job or even threatening to take property until payment is made.

Homeowners should refuse offers of work that include no written contracts or cash-only payments and pressure to decide on the

spot. Other red flags are no verifiable references; no work permits; out-of-state license plates or crews that can't provide a local address or business history.

Residents are asked to report suspicious paving crews to their local police department immediately.

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