

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Ware Youth Football & Cheer

returns

Revamped organization provides cost-free play

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – After not having a season last year, Ware Youth Football & Cheer returned under new leadership with close to 50 athletes to make up two teams.

The peeewees athletes in grades three to four and the juniors in grades five to six.

Please see **YOUTH**, page 8



Chase Shunaman (#10) moved the ball down the field

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Andrew Petracone (#52) and Adrian Krouch (#25), paused between plays.

SB votes to reduce early voting hours

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Select Board held a public hearing at their Monday meeting to hear a request from Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos to reduce the number of early in-person voting hours for the Nov. 3 state election to 44 hours from 74 hours.

Early voting runs from Oct. 17-30 and Witkos said the municipal building will be open for four hours on Oct. 17, 16 hours the week of Oct. 19-23 and Oct. 26-30 and for eight hours on Oct. 24, which is the last day to register to vote.

Witkos said in 2024, the town had 10% in-person turnout, and he also said that he recommends voters come out early because there are nine ballot questions.

Witkos said certain weekdays, the building will be open until 7 p.m. to allow for voters coming home from work to have an opportunity to vote.

The Select Board approved this request, and signed the warrant for the election.

179 Main St.

The board reviewed a bid for 179 Main St., the former senior center and school. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the town went out to bid a second time because the first round did not produce any bids.

This round produced a single bid.

Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker asked some

Please see **HARDWICK BOS**, page 3

Restored veterans honor roll dedicated

By Paula Ouimette
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WARREN – The town held a dedication ceremony for its newly restored veterans honor roll, located outside the Warren Public Library.

At the Sept. 16 ceremony, Town Administrator James Ferrera thanked everyone who made this project possible.

“This wall represents the local men and women who served our country during some of its most difficult times,” Ferrera said.

Ferrera acknowledged those in attendance at the ceremony, including the town’s veterans, first responders, town employees, local and state elected officials and community members.

“Today we are gathered here to honor the brave men and women who have worn the uniform of our nation,” he said. “Our veterans are living reminders of courage, sacrifice and unwav-

Please see **HONOR ROLL**, page 13



The restored veterans honor is located outside the Warren Public Library.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

At right: Warren Town Administrator James Ferrera is shown with John Dyjak of the Warren Rural Improvement Committee in front of the restored veterans honor roll, which was dedicated at a ceremony on Sept. 16



Town hosts community talk on police facility

By Ryan Drago
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WARREN – The town held a community conversation about the options of a potential police facility on Sept. 9.

Town Administrator James Ferrera welcomed residents to the Quaboag Regional Middle High School auditorium to review a presentation with options determined by Tecton Architects.

Jeff McElravy of Tecton Architects went over potential sites in town that may be suitable for a new station for the Police Department.

The study determined that an 8,900 square foot space was appropriate for a police station.

Bank building

Tecton Architects looked at the former Cornerstone Bank building located at 968 Main St. after it was brought up in a prior public safety complex informational meeting as a potential site.

McElravy compared the differences between a single-story building and a three-story building. The study determined that additions would have to be added to the former bank building to make it feasible as a modern police station.

These additions include a sally port, which is a detainee transport area that is important for officers and community safety. Another addition is a cell block, which would require a concrete floor.

An elevator would also be required to allow compliant

Please see **WARREN PD**, page 6

Mass Central Rail Trail connects communities

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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The East Quabbin Land Trust held two ribbon cuttings last week to celebrate the opening of new segments of the Mass Central Rail Trail.

The first celebration on Sept. 16 was held at Grenville Park in Ware with the new addition of a 1,500-foot Connector Trail linking to the rail trail on Church



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

A ribbon cutting for the newly completed Connector Trail to the Mass Central Rail Trail was celebrated at Grenville Park. Paul Opalinski of the Edward and Barbara Urban Foundation cut the ribbon, accompanied by members of local organizations, town officials and state legislators.

Street. The path is now fully accessible thanks to many working partnerships and organizations.

State Rep. Todd Smola attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and wanted to thank everyone involved

who made this new trail a reality. He said the accessible trail was part of the beauty that central and western Massachusetts has

Please see **RAIL TRAIL**, page 5



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 8 1 6



Planting day at the Ware River Park gazebo

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Conservation Commission has been working on a restoration project on the slope of the Ware River next to the gazebo in Gilbertville. The commission has been working on removing invasive plants in Ware River Park. The gazebo area was surrounded by a large stand of Japanese knotweed, which has been removed.

The invasive Japanese knotweed grows quickly and aggressively which thrives in disturbed areas along riverbanks and roadsides. The knotweed forms dense thickets that pose a significant ecological threat to riparian areas.

This past week, 10 volunteers helped install compost socks along the river bank next to the gazebo. The compost socks will help stabilize the slope and help control erosion.

The volunteers laid out and staked six rows of compost socks along the river bank. The next step in restoration is to plant some native trees, shrubs and herbaceous pollinator plants in the compost socks.

The planting day is on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help plant willows, dogwood, bee balm, butterfly milkweed and other plants. Volunteers should wear sturdy boots and work gloves and bring a hand trowel for planting. Volunteers can sign up for the whole day or a shift 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 1-4 p.m.

Please RSVP to Becky Bottomley at b2b3bottomley@gmail.com and volunteer to plant a healthy pollinator habitat.

Volunteers prepared the gazebo area of Ware River Park in Gilbertville for a planting day to be held Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



Neil Halin of the Hardwick Conservation Commission and Jim Bourcier of Ware moved compost socks.



Compost socks are in place and ready for planting.

Submitted Photos

Are You Old News?

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



FFile Photo Last week's photo from 2022 showed Connie Grisé and Polli McCrystal at the Ware Fair & Flea held at the Ware Center Meeting House.

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

Ware Senior Center NEWS

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

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

ACTIVITIES Monday, Sept. 28

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

Tuesday, Sept. 29

- 9 a.m. Exercise Class at Valley View Housing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class.
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, Sept. 30

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

Thursday, Oct. 1

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Walking Club (weather permitting)
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners

- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Art Class

Friday, Oct. 2

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

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted Required: call 413-967-9645 by noon on the business day before, to put you name on the lunch list.

Monday, Sept. 28

Swiss Burger with Lettuce and Tomato, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Sept. 29

Macaroni & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Sept. 30

Turkey Waldorf Sandwich, Tomato and Cucumber Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Oct. 1

Brunch, Confetti Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Oct. 2

Tuna Melt Sandwich, Potato Chips, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Recycling Center offers bulk waste day Oct. 24

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Recycling Center, 2011 Barre Road, will hold a Bulk Waste Collection Event on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 8 a.m.-noon.

This event is open to the residents of Hardwick and surrounding towns. A recycling center sticker is not required.

Please note, there are fees per item charged to cover the cost of hauling and processing. Cash or check payment to "Town of Hardwick" accepted.

Prices are available on the town's website, www.hardwick-ma.gov. The staff and volunteers reserve the right to price or reject other items not listed accordingly on site.

Dirty or soiled mattresses or box springs have a fee of \$125.

For more information, people can email recycling@hardwick-ma.gov or stop by the Hardwick Recycling Center during open hours. Volunteers are also needed during the Bulk Waste Collection Event.

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CUT-FREE	\$2.22 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAK	\$7.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG	77¢ lb
USDA INSP. 1/2 SMOKED PORK SHOULDER PICNIC.....	\$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG	\$5.29 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN PEPPERIDGE FARMS CHOCOLATE FUDGE LAYER CAKE 19.6 OZ.....	\$3.99 ea
USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST.....	\$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN YANKEE TRADE CRAB BURGERS 16 OZ.....	\$3.99 ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN SWORDFISH STEAKS 1 LB BAG.....	\$4.99 ea
USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE.....	\$4.44 lb				
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ACCURACY WATCH
 The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to pouimett@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.

School Committee discusses capital projects

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Interim Superintendent Michael Wood said priority capital projects for the school district are the roof at Ware Middle School and a generator at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School.

At the Sept. 9 School Committee meeting, Wood said an engineering study will need to be conducted before the roof project can move forward. All of the school building roofs need to be replaced, but they will address them one at a time, based on need.

Wood said the Facilities Department is also in need of a dump truck to be used for plowing, sanding and salting, in addition to a mower. He said the mower is also used to remove snow.

Wood said technology improvements need to be made in the high school auditorium, including the lighting.

“I don’t think any of the items are out of reach,” he said in terms of technology updates.

Wood said the Athletics Department wants to improve field drainage, dug-outs and lighting on athletic fields. Currently only the football field has lighting.

Wood said adding lighting would require running a power supply to the back fields. He would also like to add a scoreboard to those fields.

Wood spoke about other potential capital projects including fire suppression sprinkler systems in the middle school and elementary school.

He said the high school has a sprinkler system already, and the cost to install them in the other schools would be “outrageously expensive.” He said his opinion is that it would be better to plan for new buildings than to add sprinkler systems to the existing

buildings.

Wood said while two of the schools don’t have sprinkler systems, classrooms in the elementary school have means of egress to the outside.

“I just don’t think it’s feasible to think about a sprinkler system unless you’re going to do a project, in which case it would be mandated,” he said.

Superintendent’s report

Wood said all students including preschoolers have started for the 2026-2027 school year. All fall sports

Please see **CAPITAL PROJECTS**, page 13

Author Duffy presents about Native Americans

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – The Hardwick Historical Society presented a talk with author Donald Duffy at its annual meeting held in the Town House last week.

At the Sept. 17 meeting, Duffy shared information from his newest book, “Native Americans React to British Incursions: In the Central Massachusetts and Connecticut Highlands, and the Connecticut River Valley”.

His book is focused on what he termed the River Indians, or indigenous people who lived along the Connecticut River and its tributaries.

Duffy began by talking about Niniquabbin, a Wabbaquasset, born in the area that is now Woodstock, Connecticut.

Woodstock, Connecticut was once referred to as New Roxbury, and was a part of Massachusetts.

The name “Niniquabbin” could have a couple of meanings, Duffy said, with one translating “to be in danger, to be in peril” and the other to describe a person who causes danger or peril.

“I think that might have been the meaning of the name Niniquabbin,” Duffy said of the second translation.

Duffy said that John Perry of Brookfield referred to Niniquabbin in a 1703 letter to Massachusetts Governor Dudley, calling him Joseph Niniquabbin. Perry wrote the

governor to share concerns about Niniquabbin harassing and threatening farmers, referring to him as part of a group “a few rambling Indians” who were “evil minded men and disposed to mischief.”

“In 1702 Niniquabbin told Perry he would burn their hay if he was not paid for land,” Duffy said.

It is unknown if Niniquabbin was involved in the Feb. 29, 1704 attack on the inhabitants of Deerfield, as only the names of the English and French were recorded.

The next time his name appears in documents is when he joined English forces against the French during Queen Anne’s War and went to sea. This information came from a document sent to the Massachusetts Bay government.

“Niniquabbin agreed to join efforts to take Port Royal,” Duffy said.

Port Royal was the capital of New France, which is now Nova Scotia.

Duffy also spoke about the “lost town” of Greenwich, which was one of four towns disincorporated to create the Quabbin Reservoir. He said there is little known about the Native Americans who lived in the other towns that made up the Quabbin Reservoir.

Duffy said Greenwich was known for having good soil for crops, and an abundant supply of Atlantic salmon.

Please see **AUTHOR**, page 11

Ware Library celebrates Good Neighbor Day Sept. 26

WARE – The Ware Library will be celebrating National Good Neighbor Day on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Good Neighbor Day is celebrated at the end of September each year to help combat the epidemic of loneliness in the U.S. The library is a great place to meet your neighbors and make new friends.

Drop in any time on Sept. 26 to say hello, grab a snack, take part in an indoor scavenger hunt and take home a self-care package. All ages are welcome.

Please call the library at 413-967-5491 for more details.

Ware Library hosts Jonah Knight

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

WARE –The Ware Library welcomed Jonah Knight for an evening of supernatural stories of New England Monday night, funded by the Ware Cultural Council, where Knight told a famous story from each of the six New England states.

The night started with a story out of Northfield, Connecticut, where in 1923, a body was found at a family farm in the town. After an investigation, it was determined it had already been there for four years by the time it was found.

The body was Frederick Mors, who worked at a German assisted living facility/orphanage in the Bronx, New York, where people had mixed reactions toward him, some finding him hilarious, others not thinking so highly.

While Mors worked at the facility, there were 18 unexplained deaths, all of them by arsenic poisoning, and he admitted fault to eight of the deaths to authorities, claiming his boss told him it was okay, and he was just putting the patients out of their misery.

Knight said this is the first case of that phrase being used.

Mors never got a trial or prosecution, instead he was sent to the Hudson River

State Mental Hospital, but he ended up walking out never to be seen again, but a new person emerged a few years later named Frederick Beano, however it was Mors, he had just changed his last name.

So many years went by between his death and his finding because farmers in the area of Connecticut decided not to use the water that had ended up on their farm without meeting with each other, they decided independently, possibly because they felt a negative presence around it.

Mors is known today as one of America’s first serial killers, and the thing that

Please see **KNIGHT**, page 7

HARDWICK BOS
from page 1

questions to be sent to town counsel, including the bidder’s request to rescind a payment performance bond, and how the town would be protected if the bidder takes title of the property but does not follow through with renovations.

He also asked about enforceable development milestones that could be put in the agreement so any renovations don’t stall. The board members tabled a decision on the RFP until they receive answers from counsel.

Eagle Hill sewer connection

The Select Board, acting as the Sewer Commission as

well, discussed a new dormitory at the Eagle Hill School. Caggiano said an application hasn’t been received yet.

Tinker asked several questions that he said need to be looked at before they approve a new connection, including whether they have hired licensed engineers to look at design flow, determined the capacity of the main and pumping station and what percentage of capacity for future development in Hardwick will this project take up.

Tinker said the town’s regulations call for licensed engineers and a permitting process.

Bill Cole, chair of the Planning Board, said during

the application process, the applicant said there would not be higher flow because of the dorm, as there will not be any new users, and the toilets would actually be more efficient.

YouTube/cable access

The board continued discussion on the owner of the town’s YouTube channel, and who has ownership of the raw video should the town terminate the current vendor operating it.

Tinker also asked why there was a \$3,700 invoice on July 1, since the vendor is paid quarterly.

According to Caggiano, that bill would have been for the last quarter of fiscal year

2026 and the law allows the town to encumber bills from the prior fiscal year between July 1-15. Caggiano also said the new information technology vendor is working to get all of their materials onto a cloud backup so they have access in the future.

Town Administrator’s contract

The board voted to place an item on a future agenda regarding the contract with the Town Administrator, particularly section 19, which states that the town has to give the Town Administrator six months of notice if they intend to terminate the contract, and the Town Administrator also has to give

six months notice to the town if they plan to terminate it.

Open meeting complaint

The board discussed a response to an open meeting law complaint, which was submitted by resident Jeffery Smith, regarding missing meeting minutes. Smith alleged that since the board voted to remediate the missing minutes, they have actually gotten worse.

Tinker said there are still several meeting minutes outstanding that have not been approved, or in some cases, have been approved but not posted to mytowngovernment.org.

According to Caggiano, since this complaint regards

meeting minutes from outside of 30 days ago, the town is not required by law to give a response.

Select Board roundtable

Tinker sought permission to speak to town counsel on certain topics regarding the construction and cost of a sewer line, and was granted that permission by Chair Jeffrey Schaaf. He also mentioned the new building at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School which makes room for 150 more students.

Schaaf noted that the railroad crossing on Lower Road in Wheelwright has been repaired.



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viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

I'm reevaluating my retirement plan; what are my options?

Dear Rusty:

I am 69 1/2 years old now and applied for Social Security at the end of June.

I am still working and was planning to begin my retirement in September. A couple of factors arose for me to question if I made a hasty decision by applying for SS.

The employer I have been working for the last 29 years has asked if I would stay on a little longer, which would be good because we have some debt I want to lose before I retire.

I was reading about suspending Social Security and continuing to work. If I understand it right, if I suspend my SS, no payback will be required, and I can continue to work until I'm ready to retire. No spousal benefits taken yet.

Signed: Reevaluating my Retirement

Dear Reevaluating Retirement:

I'm assuming you asked for your Social Security benefits to start in September (when you originally planned to retire), but that you won't be 70 years old until March 2027.

If that is correct, be aware that you will not immediately get all of your earned Delayed Retirement Credits when your benefits start in September – you will only initially get the DRCs you have earned through the end of 2025.

That's because Social Security usually applies DRCs in January of each year. So, what will happen is that your September benefit amount will lack the 5.3% DRCs you earned in 2026, until January 2027 when they will apply the DRCs earned in 2026 to your monthly payment amount.

Said simply, your initial September benefit will not include your full age 69.5 entitlement because it won't include the 5.3% extra you earned in 2026. That extra monthly amount will be awarded in January 2027.

FYI, if you were to, instead, claim for your SS benefits to start in the month you turn 70 (March 2027), you would get your full age 70 amount immediately (SS awards all earned DRCs if benefits are claimed to start in the month you turn 70).

Now, on to your question: Yes, if you take your benefits effective with September 2026 you can suspend your benefits, but you can only suspend them until the month you turn 70. And if you are suspending your benefits, you will not need to repay Social Security for any benefits you happen to receive

before you suspend.

As is obvious, you will not receive any SS payments while your benefits are suspended, and you will earn DRCs for the months your benefits are suspended, resulting in a higher monthly amount at age 70. Also, since you have already passed your SS Full Retirement Age, you can work and earn as much as you like, without your Social Security benefits being negatively affected.

Regarding your comment "No Spousal benefits taken yet." FYI, you cannot get spousal benefits while your benefits are suspended, nor can your wife get spousal benefits from you while you SS retirement benefits are suspended.

To be clear, spouse benefits are only paid when one spouse's benefit at their FRA is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA benefit. Spouse benefits are always based upon FRA entitlements, not on the larger amounts which will result from waiting longer to claim.

In other words, your wife would only be eligible for a spousal benefit from you if her FRA entitlement was less than 50% of your FRA entitlement (not your age 70 SS entitlement). And she cannot get a spousal benefit while your benefits are suspended.

To recap: Yes, you can suspend receipt of your SS retirement benefits until the month you turn 70 and get credit for that delay (resulting in a higher benefit). And, yes, you can continue working as long as you wish and your benefits will not be negatively affected.

And just for added information, you can also ask Social Security to withdraw your current application for SS benefits and then reapply in January 2027 for your benefits to start in March 2027, the month you turn 70. You have both options.

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.

Raised beds? Why not!

I have to say that today I am having a hard time thinking of something to write about.

As I scan my mind of all the seasonal gardening topics, I come up blank. Winter squash? Done it. Mums? Ditto. Seed saving. Yup.

So, on this rainy Sunday, I give you all the luck of the draw. I will grab a gardening book off of my shelf, twirl the pages, and where my finger lands, I will expound on the subject. It may not be autumnal, but it will be interesting, I guarantee that.

Here we go... The book I grabbed from the shelf was "The Dirt Cheap Green Thumb," by Rhonda Massingham Hart. My finger landed on page 189, with the heading "Raise Your Beds, Not Your Expenses."

I have some experience with raised beds. In my home garden I have four rock-edged beds. Prior to that I had beds edged in pine slabs.

My friend uses hemlock edged beds and is happy with them. I envy how neat and orderly they are. Another friend is using galvanized metal beds this year. They seem to be all the rage.

Her tomatoes and peppers continue to produce like gangbusters even late in the season. She has just gotten back into gardening after a two year hiatus and I am proud of her and happy she has been so successful.



Let's begin our chat with some of the advantages of raised bed gardening.

The first one that comes to mind is that you can be selective about the soil you fill it with. I've enjoyed using the Coast of Maine Raised Bed Mix.

Blending loam and aged manure or compost at a 2 to 1 ratio is another option. Additionally, raised beds make it easy to concentrate fertilizers where they are needed.

In large garden plots we often broadcast fertilizers and other amendments throughout the bed. Some inevitably gets wasted in walkways or around hills of plants.

Raised beds can be constructed to suit your needs. I wanted to be able to reach into the middle of my beds

from either side, so they are about four feet wide.

Some gardeners construct them 36 inches wide so there is less of a stretch.

In my four beds, I have a pretty good crop rotation system going. Each crop does a slide to the next bed each year. That way it is four years before onions are grown in the same space.

Another interesting thing I have set up is that onions, for example, follow melons in my rotation. I grow the melons on black plastic. All season long the black plastic is limiting weeds from germinating, so that hopefully next year, the onions, who hate weeds, will see less weed pressure.

Raised beds warm up quicker in the spring, and stay warmer later into the fall. Sometimes the edging material helps with that.

My rock beds, for example, hold heat. So does the metal to some degree.

In mid spring, prior to the frost-free date, raised beds can be easily fitted with hoops on which plastic or polyester row covers can be draped to offer even more frost protection. They can also be covered with the black plastic I mentioned to grow crops like melons or peppers, who appreciate the heat.

With raised beds you will likely never need your rototiller. Beds can effortlessly be turned over by hand from either side. Typically, unless you walk all over them, the soil in the raised beds stays nice and friable, as well.

If I need to get into my beds, say to separate crops, sometimes I will position a plank across the width of the bed, and step on that to disperse my weight, therefore avoiding compaction. Plants always grow better in loose soil.

I almost forgot the obvious! Raised beds are easier to work with. Beds are typically a foot or so tall, sometimes a bit taller.

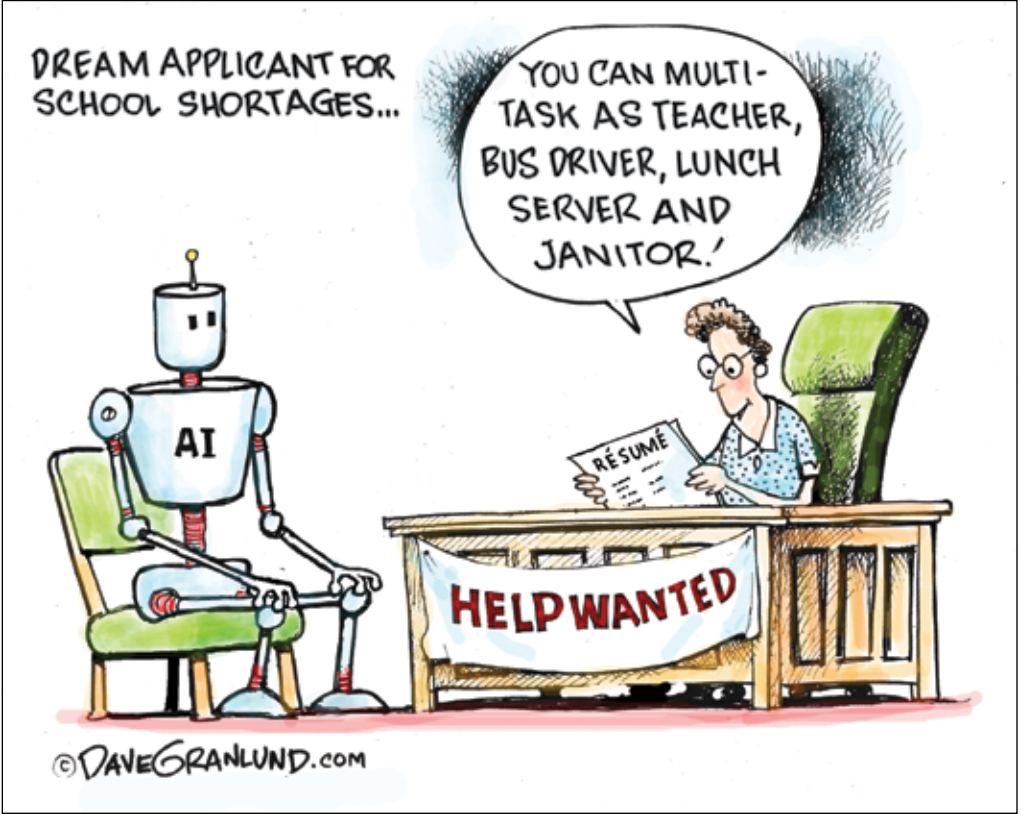
Bring out a short stool to the garden and you can comfortably sit and work in the beds. No more long periods of stooping or crouching.

Well, I hope you enjoyed

Please see GARDEN, page 11



Submitted Photo by Dawn Rudnansky



in my BACKYARD By Ellenor Downer

Someone reported hearing as sandhill crane calling in New Braintree, but did not see it. Recently, someone saw a pair of sandhill cranes in a field on Pleasant Street in Barre. The cranes

stayed about a week and then left.

Sandhill Cranes are large birds that live in open habitats, so they're fairly easy to spot.



Sandhill crane

They are gray overall, have red foreheads, white cheeks, a long dark bill and dark legs.

Immature birds have reddish-brown upper parts and gray underparts and lack the red foreheads. This makes it easy to pick out the parents from the youngsters even when they are the same height.

Sandhill cranes make a loud trumpeting call that can be heard for long distances. They are mainly herbivores, but feed on other foods depending on availability.

They will feed on berries, small mammals, insects, snails, reptiles and amphibians.

These cranes raise one brood per year. The female lays one to three brownish eggs. Both sexes build the nest using plant material and both incubate and feed the young.

In summer cranes are often seen in small bogs, marshes and prairies across north-

Please see BACKYARD, page 7

WARE RIVER NEWS

We Want to Hear From You

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

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

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

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.

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

RECOVERY WITHOUT PERMISSION

Annual resource fair held at Recovery Center of HOPE

WARE – The Recovery Center of HOPE held its third annual Recovery Resource Fair, “Recovery Without Permission: A Punk Recovery Fair” last Thursday. The Sept. 17 event fea-

tured area organizations and resources agencies, and offered attendees a chance to create arts and crafts and enjoy music and homemade food – all while connecting with support services and community members.



Julie Lutz, Ware Recovery Center of HOPE Director, staffed the Recovery Center's table.



Magda Colon of Learn to Cope and Jon Hogan of Workshop13, staffed a table for the event.



John Sullivan joined Julie Lutz, Recovery Center of HOPE Director, in welcoming guests to the third annual Recovery Resource Fair.



Crystal Rondeau, Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, Community Engagement Specialist, and Rowan Bernstein, Ware Library Children's Librarian, participated in the fair.



Kris Hoag and Alene Motta provided information and resources at the Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together table.



Shown left to right enjoying the event were Eja, Debbie Flynn-Gonzalez, Susan Daley and Ashley M.

RAIL TRAIL from page 1

to offer and it is part of promoting recreational activity in the region.

“It’s a treasure that we have as part of the Commonwealth,” Smola said.

Smola said he hopes having this new trail at Greenville Park will be appreciated by the next generation of visitors who have this access to the outdoors.

Dozens of bikers and hikers were ready to explore the trail after the ribbon cutting and were joined by many local organizations. These organizations played a part in making the trail possible.

The Town of Ware, East Quabbin Land Trust, numerous volunteers, and the Edward and Barbara Urban Foundation were all acknowledged as being contributors to making this trail possible.

Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the vision of the rail trail is continuously growing and he is thankful for all the partnerships involved.

Steven Hawk of the Ware Selectboard thanked every-



Members of the East Quabbin Land Trust hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the new segment of the Mass Central Rail Trail in New Braintree.



The new Connector Trail at Greenville Park is a 1,500-foot section linking to the Mass Central Rail Trail on Church Street in Ware.

one for attending the ceremony and said he hopes all visitors will enjoy this new and accessible Connector Trail.

Hawk also put a time capsule together with Mass Central Rail Trail engraved on it. This time capsule will be opened in 50 years, when the U.S. celebrates its 300th anniversary of independence.

The Mass Central Rail Trail is about 104 miles long between Northampton and Boston. Part of the vision is to complete the entire trail.

Paul Opalinski of the Edward and Barbara Urban

Foundation cut the ribbon to officially open the Connector Trail at Greenville Park.

The celebrations were not over as many of the Mass Central Rail Trail supporters made their way to New Braintree off McEvoy Road.

Another part of the Mass Central Rail Trail is located on a piece of land that once housed the railroad back in the late 1800s and the airport. The runway can still be seen on the land.

Executive Director of the East Quabbin Land Trust Cynthia Henshaw said the trail experienced significant storm damage after the land was purchased in 2024.

Henshaw acknowledged Jason Brown of Brown's Trucking & Excavating Inc. of Barre for helping with the storm damage that happened on the trail. Brown's crew have also supported the land trust with other trail related projects over the years.

Brown said working on the trails is his favorite work to do.

Trail work was completed on June 30 of this year and the trail, approximately 1.5 miles long, was ready and

accessible for travel. The trail continues to Station Road in Barre Plains.

The East Quabbin Land Trust also recognized the working collaboration it has with MassWildlife. Central District Supervisor for MassWildlife Todd Olanyk attended the ribbon cutting ceremonies and said “these partnerships are extremely important” to have in the state.

Henshaw said when she started at the land trust over 20 years ago her first job was to work on the Mass Central Rail Trail.

Making these trails accessible for the communities was all part of a long-term vision. She said that are more connecting sections of trail being planned for the future.

“Trails are open, come walk,” Henshaw said.

Funding for both projects came from the Mass Trails grant program, the Edward and Barbara Urban Foundation, the East Quabbin Land Trust and volunteer support.

More information about these accessible trails can be found at eqtl.org.

LIFE'S MEMORIES & MORE PRESENTS

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Author Ed Londergan presents at Warren library

WARREN – “A Thousand Miles from Home” asks whether it’s ever too late to confront the past, repair a broken family and find where you truly belong.

Author Ed Londergan will release his new contemporary novel, “A Thousand Miles from Home”.

The Warren Public Library will host a book release on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m.

Londergan is the author of “The Devil’s Elbow”, “The Long Journey Home” and “Unlike Any Other”. His fiction explores family relationships, hope, reconciliation, redemption and the resilience of the human spirit.

“A Thousand Miles from Home” will be available beginning Sept. 24 in paperback and ebook editions. Copies will be available for purchase at the library during the event, which is free and open to the public.

Corvette Club hosts annual All Makes & Models Car Show

CHICOPEE – The annual All Makes & Models Car Show will be presented by the Corvette Club of Western MA on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Chicopee Moose Club, 244 Fuller Road.

There will be food, beverages, raffles, trophies and live music provided by The Blue Groove Band. There is a \$20 car entry fee and spectators are free.

Selectmen discuss potential next steps for police facility

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen met on Sept. 17 to discuss potential next steps for a new police facility.

Board of Selectmen Chair Richard Eichacker said if the board was ready to move ahead, the town would have to have a special town meeting and a ballot question within 90 days of each other. It is possible a special town meeting could be held near the end of March 2027, with a ballot question in May.

Eichacker said the ballot question would cost in the upper thousands of dollars for programming the machines and so forth.

The board also discussed how many questions would appear on the ballot, which could be either six or seven. One question would be on authorizing the debt with a 2/3 majority vote.

The board members said voting on the potential sites for a public safety complex would help them narrow down to one site. The public safety complex options include both fire and police stations in the same building.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie said the second study was voted on last year for a possible renovation to Fire Station A. Lavoie said this study is forthcoming and is a factor in this discussion.

The fire station study is expected to be completed by next month.

The board members said they wanted more time to determine how the warrant articles should be presented to the voters.

“Let’s collaborate a little

bit and see how we could try to put those into a comprehensive warrant in a way that makes sense,” said Selectmen Raymond Kopacko.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said the board has three different steps to take: seeking a site selection, a debt exclusion and a final referendum ballot vote.

“They’re seeking advice from the public as to what option is the best for the public support,” Ferrera said.

The board is not focusing on just putting out one of the options.

“We’re not going to pick an option. It’s up to the town to pick an option,” Eichacker said.

Donation of land

The board discussed a possible donation of land to the town by Orrin and Cynthia Mason.

Ferrera said Orrin Mason stopped by the office to see if the town was interested in having a parcel of land.

The owner lived in town for several years and now lives in the eastern part of the state and has no use for the land and wanted to see if the town wanted it.

If the board is not interested, Ferrera will inform the owner. If interested, the board would have to review legal documentation first before accepting the land as a gift.

This land is located off Brimfield Road and is right after the underpass below the Massachusetts Turnpike. The land is raised up a bit with a swamp close by.

The board tabled this discussion until their next meeting.

Town Administrator’s report

In his report for the month of August, Ferrera said he marched with the Board of Selectmen in the Town of Ware’s 250th parade.

There was a department head meeting held on Aug. 5 and he participated in a pre-bid conference with Tighe & Bond for the Senior Center HVAC improvement project.

Ferrera worked with the Treasurer to host a successful employee benefits open house on Aug. 18.

Board and committee meetings returned to the Shepard Building on Aug. 11 after the newly installed wheelchair lift passed all state inspections.

The weatherization project at the Warren Community Elementary School was officially closed.

During August, Ferrera worked on the town’s next Green Communities grant application. He said contract negotiations with the CMRECC dispatchers are still continuing.

A contract was finalized with Wind River Environmental LLC for the transportation and transfer of liquid wastewater treatment plant sludge.

The town received two bids for the Shepard Building translucent window panel project. The construction has started on the River & Central Street Improvement Project. Ferrera attended a site visit for the project.

During his regular report, Ferrera thanked all the departments for the improvements on the honor roll wall in town.

“A great day to honor our veterans, our heroes, our first responders,” Ferrera said.

Board continues public hearings

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board had several public hearings during its regular meeting on Sept. 14.

Meadery application

The first was a continuation of the public hearing for applicant Jack Fowler III. Fowler is seeking a special permit for a home-based meadery business at 661 Main St. in the village district.

Town Administrator James Ferrera spoke to the board on some matters regarding the application. A letter from the Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer dated May 11 explained the determination that the applicant’s use is not appropriate in the zone.

According to this letter the use of a meadery does not conform within the zoning bylaws.

Ferrera said the applicant can appeal this decision through the town’s Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ferrera said town counsel Attorney Jeff Blake provided an opinion that if a special permit were to be granted, it would put the town in a position where the building commissioner may have to respond to a potential complaint.

A complaint could lead to possibly closing down the establishment. Ferrera cautioned the board to really look at this opinion from Blake and the determination from Building Commissioner William

Cantell.

Cantell attended the Planning Board meeting and agreed with Ferrera’s statement that this matter is a zoning issue first.

“Basically, zoning says whether you can or cannot do it. Planning tells you how you could do it,” Cantell said.

Fowler said he approached the Planning Board first based off his attorney’s guidance. He said his property was zoned in the village district and this use is allowed in the zone under a special permit.

Planning Board Chair Derick Veliz asked if the board can still approve this special permit application. Ferrera said he believes an approval would put the town in an awkward situation and based on the input from Cantell, a meadery is not an allowable use.

Cantell said one of the main concerns about meadery operations revolves around odor.

“The zoning clearly says no odors are allowed,” he said.

Fowler will next go before the Zoning Board of Appeals and come back to the Planning Board to continue the hearing.

Babe’s Lawn Care Inc.

A public hearing was held for Babe’s Lawn Care, Inc. for both a special permit and site plan review to allow a landscaping and construction business and equipment storage on Brimfield Road.

Please see **HEARINGS**, page 13

WARREN PD from page 1

accessibility to two stories of the building.

The bank building does have parking on the backside of the lot and with the drive-thru space, the conceptual design added covered

police cruiser parking.

While explaining the floor plan McElravy said the design would need to reframe an internal ramp up to the lobby level.

For the former bank building, the probable construction cost is \$10,343,345

and the probable total cost came out to approximately \$13,824,345. Included in the budget is construction cost, project development and contingency.

The expected project duration is 12 months.

New construction options

One of the new construction options is off Brimfield Road adjacent to the Highway Department. The space would be a single-story police station at 8,900 square feet with no firearms simulator.

The total probable cost came out to approximately \$10,850,460.

The presentation also discussed another new construction option at Maple Street that is adjacent to the Shepard Building. The probable cost for this location for a new police station is approximately \$10,627,720.

Cost to taxpayers

Ferrera explained the impact on taxpayers for each option with an assumed average of a single-family home assessed at \$240,000, \$310,729 and \$400,000. The breakdown was determined by a 25-year and a 30-year payment plan.

For a level debt service for the former bank site, taxpayers with homes valued at \$310,729 would pay approximately \$472 more a year for 25 years and about \$440 more for 30 years. For an equal principal loan, the same taxpayer would start paying an extra \$563 a year in the first year, decreasing to \$295 in the final year for 25 years and \$527 to \$245 for 30 years.

For a level debt service for the Brimfield Road site, taxpayers with homes valued at \$310,729 would pay approximately \$370 more a year for 25 years and about \$345 more for 30 years. For an equal principal loan, the same taxpayer would start paying an extra \$440 a year in the first year, decreasing to \$229 in the final year for 25 years and \$414 to \$193 for 30 years.

For a level debt service for the Maple Street site, taxpayers with homes valued at \$310,729 would pay approximately \$360 more a year for 25 years and about \$338 more for 30 years. For

an equal principal loan, the same taxpayer would start paying an extra \$433 a year in the first year, decreasing to \$227 in the final year for 25 years and \$404 to \$187 for 30 years.

These increases wouldn’t start until the next fiscal year if a decision was approved at the next ballot.

Ferrera said the interest rates have gone up since the last presentation. The complete breakdowns can be viewed on the town website, www.warren-ma.gov.

Public comment

Town Moderator Dario Nardi said this conversation has been ongoing for about three years now. Nardi also said the Selectmen need to hear from the residents about what direction they want to take.

“They want to see what your feelings are,” Nardi said.

Nardi opened the meeting to questions from the public. Many residents came up speaking in favor of wanting to see the police department in a better place than where they are now at the Town Hall.

Residents also focused on finding an affordable option. Other residents voiced their opinion that it has come to the point where the town has to act and move forward on an option as costs continue to rise.

One resident asked if the town has any plans in place for future expenses.

Board of Selectmen Chair Richard Eichacker said the Capital Planning Committee helps the town and its departments with capital needs.

Resident Tracey Mazur said the town could look into a community facilities direct loan and grant program from USDA Rural Development. This grant could cover up to 75% of a project’s cost with a long-term loan for the remaining 25% low interest rate.

Mazur said this grant is made specially for essential services including construc-

tion of police stations.

Eichacker said the board is open on any grant opportunities to help with this project.

Residents asked if Police Chief Gerald Millette had any input on the police study options. Millette said he did not have an opinion on this and he wanted to know what direction the residents wanted to take.

Millette spoke about the needs of the Police Department, which includes prisoner processing, secure evidence storage, interview rooms, locker rooms, training areas, communication technology areas, secure parking and public access.

Millette said he has been going over the pros and cons of each option.

When the process first started Tecton Architects sat down with the police and fire chiefs and went through what their needs were. The Board of Selectmen also looked ahead at potential growth in the town to make sure the project is adequate and lasts for a long time.

The new police station is expected to meet the department’s needs for 25 years or longer.

Next steps

Ferrera said any of the proposed options would work for the town, but it ultimately depends on what the residents want to do.

“It’s up to you as to what you’re comfortable paying,” he said.

The Board of Selectmen wanted to be clear that they’re not choosing an option.

“It’s not our choice to make,” Eichacker said.

The next step would be to have a special town meeting to pick a plan. Then the town would have to have a ballot question and then once a decision is made the town will proceed with a bidding process.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Ware River News ~ November 5, 2026

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, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 20, 2026.

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.

Community Walk Audit to be held on Sept. 25

WARE – The Quaboag Connector and Healthy Quaboag invite residents, business owners, people with disabilities, older adults, families and community members of all ages to participate in an upcoming Community Walking Audit.

A Community Walking Audit will start at the former Debbi Wong’s Restaurant, 54 West Main St. on Friday, Sept. 25 from 10 a.m.-noon.

During this guided walk, participants will help identify areas for improvement, including: sidewalk conditions, crosswalk safety,



traffic speeds, ADA accessibility, bus stops and transit access.

Your observations will help create a comprehensive inventory of road and pedestrian infrastructure needs throughout the Quaboag Hills Region.

Participants should bring comfortable walking shoes, a water bottle, weather-appropriate clothing and a cell phone (optional) for taking photos.

Everyone is welcome. Your voice and perspective can help shape safer streets and more walkable neighborhoods for everyone.

Trinity Episcopal celebrates 125th anniversary with dinner

WARE – Trinity Episcopal Church, located at the corner of Park and Pleasant streets, is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

A fundraiser dinner will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3 in the Alfonso Banquet Room at Teresa’s Restaurant, 315 Palmer Road. Tickets are \$50 per person and include a social hour, family-style dinner and live music.

Social hour begins at 5 p.m., and a dinner of chicken parmesan with ziti, salad, coffee and tea will be served at 6 p.m. Cash bar is available.

Raffle tickets will also be sold during the dinner. Raffle items include at least two handmade quilts made by the church ladies quilt group, and items donated by friends and local businesses.

Entertainment will begin at 7 p.m. and has been graciously donated by local musicians, including Seth Newton.

All proceeds from the evening will go toward physical improvement projects at the new Jubilee Ministries center, 80 Pleasant St., especially a handicap ramp and awning and other projects.

This year is also the 45th anniversary of the Jubilee Cupboard, which got its start in the church’s kitchen.

Tickets can be purchased on Sundays at the church after services from 10:30 a.m.-noon; during church office hours Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; at Jubilee Ministries, 80 Pleasant St., on Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon; at Jeffery & Jeffery, 137 Main St., during regular business hours Monday through Friday; or by calling the church office at 413-967-6100.

Tickets must be purchased by Thursday, Sept. 24.

Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club to meet Sept. 29

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its upcoming membership meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at the Senior Center at 73 Central St.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

The club will look ahead to an exciting milestone: celebrating the club’s 40th anniversary in March, 2027.

Club members will provide updates on their recent visit to the HamXposition in Marlboro, the largest amateur radio convention in the Northeast. Members plan to discuss and share ideas for celebrating four decades of amateur radio service in the Quaboag Valley area and will be starting to plan special activities and events to mark the occasion throughout the year.

Looking toward 2027, the club will also discuss offering amateur radio licensing exam classes, electronic VE testing sessions, and ways to welcome new members into the hobby.

QVARC warmly welcomes area hams and anyone curious about amateur radio to reach out and get involved. Whether you’re a licensed operator, a lapsed one looking to get back on the air, or simply curious what ham radio is all about, there’s a place for you in the club as it heads toward its 40th year.

For more information about QVARC, upcoming events, or how to get involved, visit www.qvarc.com or find the club on Facebook at Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club.

KNIGHT from page 3

connected Mors with Beano were his imported Austrian leather shoes.

Moving on to Vermont, this story comes from a small town called New Haven in the 1860s-70s.

At this time, medical journals were talking about a spread of taphophobia raging the nation, which is the fear of being buried alive. It apparently started in Ohio in the late 1860s when there was a flood and they had to move coffins, and one woman fell out of the coffin and there were signs like blood under the fingernails and scratch marks in the coffin that suggested she may have been alive when buried.

Knight said at this time, the coffin bell was invented and the night watchmen’s job was to listen for them.

One man from the area of Vermont, Timothy Clark Smith, was one of the people with this phobia, and he micromanaged his burial so no matter how weak he

may have been when buried, he would be able to use the hammer and chisel he was buried with to break the glass and get out, which never happened because he was actually dead.

Following his death, people in the area have reported hearing a panicked man screaming for at least 100 years.

As it turns out, Smith was appointed as an envoy to Russia to serve in a war there, and he also served as a doctor in the American Civil War before becoming a local doctor in Vermont, so it is likely he had post traumatic stress disorder.

Moving on to Newton, Massachusetts in 2002, a family of three bought a home and the third floor was the play area for the child, a young girl. She would talk about a kind old woman coming to visit her named Mrs. Woodman, who taught her how to be more lady-like and history lessons.

The girl knew about names and businesses that

hadn’t existed in the town for several decades. Ghost hunters came in with EMF readers, which detect micro-waves, and the numbers spiked on the third floor.

The family went to the local historical society, where they learned the house was owned 100 years ago by George and Jane Woodman. The society also found that it was a boarding house before the family bought it, and letters recovered from there showed other people confused about the elderly lady on the third floor who never speaks.

Hart’s Location, New Hampshire is the next stop on the supernatural journey, where in 1778, Nancy Barton worked on a farm and was about to marry Jim. However, before that could happen, Jim ran away and enlisted in the military and took all of her money.

Barton ran out and tried to find him, claiming she knew a shortcut, but did not make it very far before she froze to death, since this was

December. She was buried in a mound of stone that is now a tourist destination, and reports over the past 150 or so years say people hear a woman laughing or sobbing around the area.

Her future husband Jim died just a few years later after a mental breakdown.

The coast of Maine hosts the next story on Popham Beach and Seguin Island. The island has a lighthouse and museum, and the workers at the museum talk of three ghosts.

Ghost one being the first captain/lightkeeper who died in 1804.

In the 1980s, a furniture mover said he was woken up by an old man at the foot of his bed warning him not to touch the furniture. He did the next day, and the cable it was on snapped, causing the furniture to come crashing down into a boat.

The furniture mover ended up going on a speaking tour afterwards.

Ghost two is from the 1840s, where another light-

keeper and his wife came to the island. The wife brought a piano, and the husband eventually killed his wife and himself, along with destroying the piano.

Reports say the piano music can still be heard.

Ghost three comes from the 1880s when a new keeper, his wife and two kids moved to the island.

One of the daughters died from what was likely tuberculosis. Museum workers report hearing a young girl coughing.

Knight said the interesting part of this story is none of it can be true, because the first captain did not actually die on the island in 1804, the state of Maine released official statements saying nobody has been killed by an axe at the location, and nobody could possibly be buried on the island because it is all rock.

The final story comes from Providence, Rhode Island, and involves poet Edgar Allen Poe. In 1848, he proposed to a woman in a cemetery in the area, and she said no at first, but then said she would marry him only if he got sober.

Poe spent time at the Athenaeum at Brown University, and reports of ghost sightings come from the librarians.

Before Poe was to marry the new wife, he was caught drinking. Just one year later, he died in Baltimore.

One report from a librarian said that they had found somebody sleeping on the steps who looked like Poe, and when the librarian awoke the man, he said that he was dreaming of a Poe poem and thanked the librarian for waking him.

There are at least eight other reports from librarians, seeing him pacing, walking through stacks and in the rare books section before eventually fading into mist. The behavior of the ghost is often reminiscent of an addict, according to Knight.

BACKYARD from page 4

ern North America and the southeastern United States. In winter they form immense flocks in places like Bosque del Apache, New Mexico and Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Texas.

Sandhill crane’s call is a loud, rolling, trumpeting sound whose unique tone is a product of anatomy. They have long tracheas that coil into the sternum and help the sound develop a lower pitch and harmonics that add richness.

Sandhill cranes are also known for their dancing skills. Courting cranes stretch their wings, pump their heads, bow, and leap into the air in a graceful and energetic dance.

Many years ago, a Barre resident saw a pair dancing in a field. He said it was a “sight to behold.”

Although some start breeding at two years of age, Sandhill cranes may reach the age of seven before breeding. They mate for life, which can mean two decades or more and stay with their mates year-round. Juveniles stick close by their parents for nine or ten months after hatching.

Sandhill crane chicks can leave the nest within 8 hours of hatching and are even capable of swimming.

The oldest sandhill crane on record was at least 37 years, 3 months old. Originally banded in Florida in 1982, it was found in Wisconsin in 2019.

their feeders are full too.” One neighbor said he has seen a falcon. She wonders if the falcon has anything to do with the lack of birds.

Several people at the Oakham Senior Center reported, they see only a few birds and the feeders remain full of seeds.

Massachusetts Audubon sighting

This report to the Massachusetts Audubon Society supports the lack of birds. Someone stated, “On Sept. 11 we birded around Hardwick and on Sept. 12 we birded around Warren. Both days were very poor for passerine migration.” They also stated, “On both days we only saw 1 species of warbler: common yellowthroat. In general, song birds were in very low numbers and poor variety. And we went to spots that had proven good for migrants in years past. We really worked hard to turn up migrant warblers, and it just was not happening, at least where we were.”

Migrating hawks

The Massachusetts Audubon Society listed migrating hawks spotted on Friday, Sept. 11 at Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham. They included 3 osprey, seven bald eagles, ten sharp-shinned hawks, 131 broad-winged hawks and one merlin.

Canada geese

On Friday, Sept. 4, I saw a large flock of over fifty Canada geese in a field in Spencer. On the same day, I also saw a small flock of wild turkeys and about six Canada geese in field in Barre.

Scarcity of birds

I received an email from a woman who lives on Lake Lashaway.

She said, “Since Sunday, Aug. 30, they had most days without birds...any type, large or small at our feeders or just in the shrubs or anywhere. All my neighbors have noticed

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowne@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

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The Ware Youth Football juniors team carried the American flag onto the field before the start of their game against Easthampton.



Ware Youth Cheerleaders performed during a game versus Easthampton.



Ware Youth Football coaches Randy Gratton, Jay Shunaman and Seth Breyare huddled with the peewee team.



The Ware Youth Football juniors team discussed the next play with coaches.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Chase Shunaman (#10) earned a down for his team.



Owen Gromosky (#2) gets up after a play.



Ware Youth Football teams faced off against Easthampton on Sept. 13.

YOUTH from page 1

This year’s season is different than others, because thanks to the generous support from more than 30 area businesses, there was no cost to play for athletes, making the sport accessible to anyone who wanted to participate.

President Randy Gratton said it bothered him that his hometown didn’t have a youth football program last

year, as football was a big part of his childhood. His father, Roland Gratton, was a past president of the organization.

“I credit it with a lot of my character development,” Gratton said.

Gratton said he wanted to get involved, and he reached out to the last president of the organization to pick up where they left off.

“The vision was to kind of build from the ground up,”

he said.

Gratton said the organization is focusing on the “old school” principles of hard work for its athletes.

“We can care about them and love them, but not allow them to settle for less than what their potential is,” he said.

The rules are simple, Gratton said: be a good person, be a good student; and have a good attitude.

Gratton said the organization has received a lot of help and support from the community from businesses and families. He said the parents are there six days a week to support their athlete at practices and games.



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“They’ve showed up. They’ve volunteered their time in any role we need,” Gratton said of the parents. “There’s families that now become your family.”

Football is a challenging sport, Gratton said, and it can push athletes to their limits physically, mentally and emotionally.

“But that’s what we welcome...we endure the hardest of times,” he said.

Gratton said the teams are “more than just football” and they have grown into “something Ware needs to unify” it.

“It’s really been something for our community to get involved with,” he said. “It’s been really special to be a part of it.”

Gratton said donations from businesses and The Edward J. Urban Foundation covered the cost of the season, which is something he is very proud of. Donations ranged from \$150 up to \$5,000.

Concession items have been donated this year, so any profit from food or drinks sold goes right back to benefit the athletes.

“We got a whole lot of support. We have been able to offer football cost-free,” he said. “To be able to give them [the youth] a chance to play cost-free is something people didn’t think we’d be able to do.”

Gratton also thanked Parks Manager John Piechota and Ware Public Schools Director of Buildings and Grounds Bill Alderman for making sure the teams had fields to practice and have games on, as well as Don Swarts for his help getting the concession stand going.

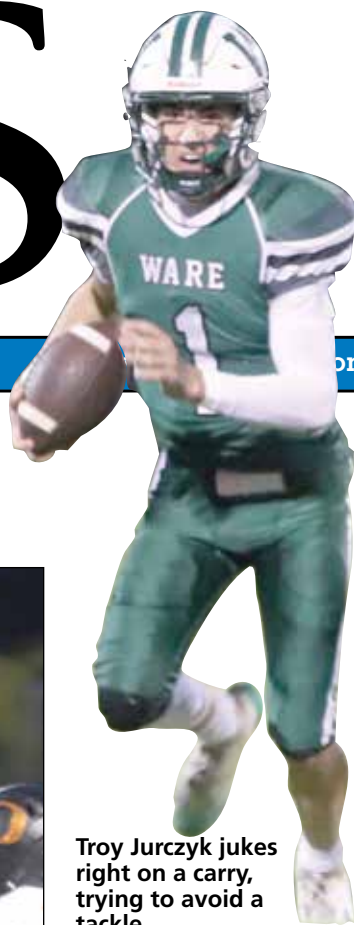
“They’ve all gone out of their way,” he said.

For more information about Ware Youth Football & Cheer or to make a donation for a future season, visit www.wareyouthsports.com. People can also follow the organization’s Facebook page, WYFC.

SPORTS

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Ware football suffers second loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Two years ago, the Belchertown football team made the 20-minute trip down Rte. 9 to Veterans Field in Ware for a preseason scrimmage.

The Orioles made another visit to Veterans Field for a regular season game last Friday night and they celebrated a 44-12 non-league victory over the Indians.

“We played a scrimmage game on this field a couple of years ago,” said Belchertown senior captain Avery Cote. “It feels great to win tonight’s game. All of us worked very hard.”

Cote led the way offensively with three rushing touchdowns. He also scored three rushing touchdowns in the Orioles 38-0 season opening home win versus Quaboag Regional.

“Avery is our leader,” said Belchertown head coach Keith Lebeau. “We do have several pieces around him, which has made things a lot easier so far this season.”

Cote rushed for a total

of 151 yards on 18 carries during last Friday night’s contest, which was played in front of a large crowd. Cote gave a lot of credit to the offensive line, which is led by junior Ajuluchukwu Nebedum, junior Killian Olszewski, junior Miles Sheldon, and senior captain Rulon Anderson.

“I wouldn’t be very successful without the help of my linemen,” Cote said. “We just want to keep winning games.”

Another Belchertown senior captain is Coleman Longley, who’s the starting quarterback.

Longley finished the Ware game with 118 rushing yards on seven carries. He also completed two passes for 16 yards.

The junior duo Brogan Bottari and Ronan Mosher contributed with 92 and 88 rushing yards. Overall, the Orioles nearly rushed for 500 yards.

The Orioles began the regular season with a 2-0 record for the third consecutive year.

“We were 4-0 last season, but then we went 4-3,”



Dalton Marquis navigates through traffic.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Lebeau said. “We’re just going to focus on one game at a time this year.”

The Indians (0-2) played their home opener after beginning the regular sea-

son with a 36-18 loss at Easthampton High School.

“The players know that they can perform better on the field,” said first-year Ware head coach Kyle

Whitney. “It’s another disappointing loss.”

Two of the Indians leaders are senior quarterback Troy Jurczyk and senior running back Dalton Marquis.

Troy Jurczyk jukes right on a carry, trying to avoid a tackle.

Jurczyk completed six of his 12 passes for 63 yards. He also threw a TD pass in the second quarter. He rushed for 35 yards.

When the two teams battled each other at Belchertown High School a year ago, the Orioles squeaked out a 21-20.

The Orioles marched 70 yards down the field on the opening series and Cote capped off the five play drive with a 22-yard scramble up the middle into the end zone with 8:47 left in the first quarter.

Olszewski made the first of his five extra points.

Please see **WARE FOOTBALL**, page 10



The Indians run a play on offense.



Mason Kalafarski gets a tackle.



Zachary Safford brings down a rusher.



Mekhai dives after Belchertown runner to make a tackle.



Charlotte Wilder navigates her way around the defense.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Girls soccer gets another win

BARRE – Last Thursday afternoon, Quabbin Regional High School girls soccer defeated Narragansett 7-1. The Panthers also defeated Mahar Regional 7-1 last Tuesday. The Panthers are now 3-0-1 on the regular season. They are back in action on Thursday, Sept. 24 against Clinton on the road. They are at Ayer Shirley on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 4 p.m.



Maya Putnam winds up to boot it.



Persephone Piermarini fights to clear the ball away.



Bryann Lussier clears the ball to the other end of the field.

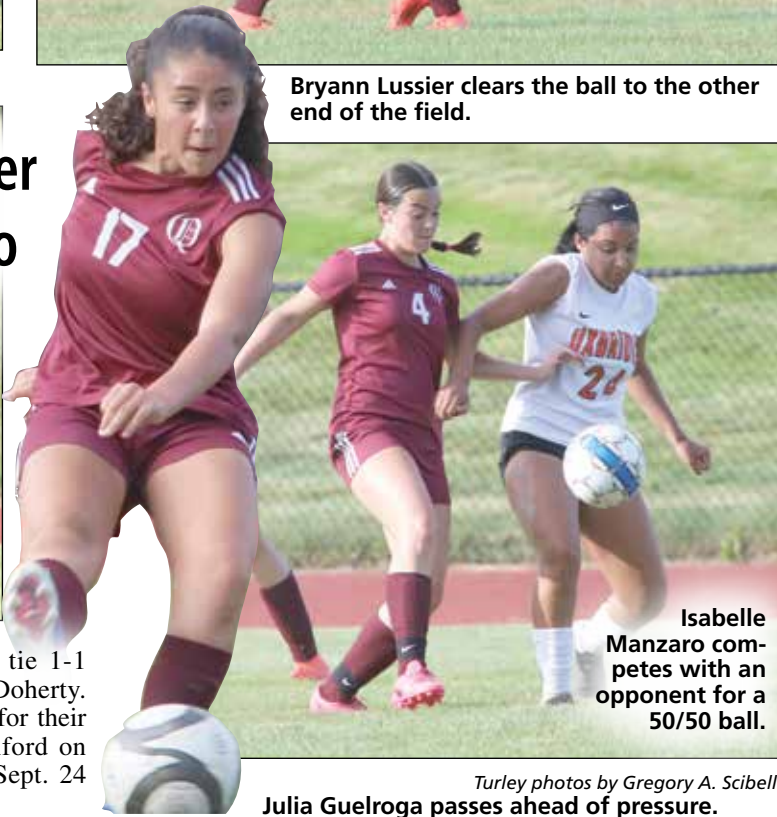


Sophia Paolucci sends a pass toward midfield.

Cougars suffer home loss to Uxbridge

WARREN – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quaboag Regional girls soccer was shutout by Uxbridge 6-0. The Cougars are now 0-3-1 on the season. The

Cougars did earn a tie 1-1 last Friday against Doherty. The Cougars search for their first win against Oxford on the road Thursday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m.



Isabelle Manzano competes with an opponent for a 50/50 ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Julia Guelroga passes ahead of pressure.

sports

Busy start to season for Pathfinder boys



Brody Wetnicka sends a quick pass away.



Owen Pear attempts to clear the ball up the middle of the field.



Ian LaPete tries to stop a Holyoke attacker.



Ian Sauri-Neves tries to get by a Holyoke defender.



Weston Letendre and Abees Castillo-Clotter go after the ball.



Christian Ribeiro looks to get around an opponent.



Mason Ostrout lifts a long kick to the other end of the field.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Quabbin girls soccer gets another win

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

TOP: Sierra Lambert wins the battle to the ball.

CENTER: Saylor Bissonnette creates some space to keep control and possession.

BOTTOM: Allie Lipiec works her way around the defender.



Pioneers get split of first two games



Amber Roman clashes with an opponent.

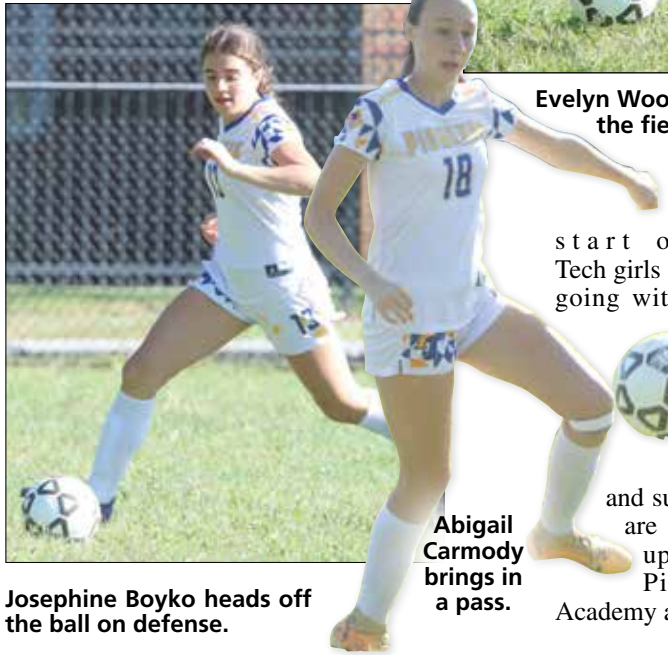


Evelyn Wood makes her way up the field.



Callie Hawk overcomes an opponent and steals the ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Josephine Boyko heads off the ball on defense.

Abigail Carmody brings in a pass.

SPRINGFIELD – After a postponement delayed the start of the season for Pathfinder Tech girls soccer, the Pioneers got things going with two games last week. To open the regular season, Pathfinder defeated Commerce on the road in Springfield 4-2. The next day, the Pioneers made a long trip north and suffered a 6-1 loss at Athol and are 1-1 to start the year. Coming up on Tuesday, Sept. 29, the Pioneers will host Duggan Academy at 4 p.m.



Makaela Tourville starts to dribble after taking possession.

WARE FOOTBALL

from page 9

The score remained 7-0 until the first play of the second quarter when Cote walked into the end zone behind the center. The Indians responded with a ten play scoring drive. The drive ended after Jurczyk tossed an 11-yard TD pass to junior Ian Hogan. Another pass on the two point conversion play was incomplete

making the score 14-6 with 5:17 remaining in the second quarter. With eight seconds left in the first half, Olszewski made a 24 yard field goal giving the visiting team a 17-6 half-time advantage. The only touchdown during the third quarter was scored on a 13 yard run by Bottari with 5:28 showing on the scoreboard clock. He was helped with a block from Longley.

Two minutes later Ware junior Logan Millet intercepted a pass, but the Indians were forced to punt. Cote capped off his outstanding performance with a one yard touchdown run less than two minutes into the final quarter. Then Marquis returned the ensuing kickoff 76 yards for a touchdown, which was one of the few memorable plays for the home team. The Orioles final two

touchdowns were a 9-yard touchdown reception by senior Kyngsten Ageyi and a 61-yard TD run by Mosher with 5:24 left in the contest. Both teams will be playing on Thursday night. While the Indians will be looking to get into the win column for the first time at the Springfield International Charter School, the Orioles will be looking to remain undefeated in another road game against Ludlow.

Warren author releases newest book

WARREN – Author Ed Londergan will release his new contemporary fiction novel, “A Thousand Miles from Home”, on Sept. 24.

The novel follows Sam Parker, who had walked away from his family 12 years earlier, trying to find his place in the world. His wanderings uncovered things he hoped to find and others he wanted to forget.

Surrendering to his demons brings him to rock bottom, with nowhere to go but up. After beginning to rebuild his life, he falls in love with the woman who saved him, and an overpowering dream compels him to finish his journey.

Knowing he might never see her again, it was heart-breaking when he had to leave her. When he reaches his destination, the startling news awaiting him turns his life upside down and leads to a future he could never have imagined, including helping his estranged brother fulfill a promise neither of them wants to keep.

“‘A Thousand Miles from Home’ is ultimately a story about second chances,” Londergan said in a press release. “Sam has spent years running – from his past, his family and, in many ways, himself. His

journey asks whether it is ever too late to stop running, make things right and find your way home; to confront the past, repair a broken family and find where you truly belong.”

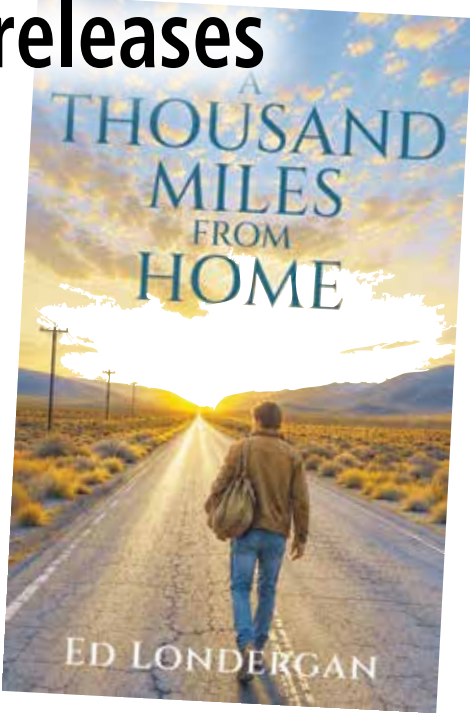
The book is set primarily in West Brookfield and Warren.

“The idea came in fits and starts, banging around in my head for a couple of years. The story line changed three times. As you get older, you look back at life and see things, realize things that you never had before. Seeing the second chances that I and other people had stuck with me. The idea that each of the characters deserve a second chance appealed to me,” Londergan said.

The book took three years to write.

“I think it’s a great story,” Londergan said.

Londergan is the author



Submitted Photo
Local author Ed Londergan will release his new contemporary fiction novel, “A Thousand Miles from Home”, on Sept. 24.

of “The Devil’s Elbow”, “The Long Journey Home” and “Unlike Any Other”. His fiction explores family relationships, hope, reconciliation, redemption and the resilience of the human spirit.

“A Thousand Miles from Home” will be available beginning Sept. 24 in paperback and eBook editions. For more information about the author, the book, and upcoming events, visit www.edlondergan.com or contact Londergan at ed.londergan@gmail.com.

EQLT to host talk and presentation on invasive insects on Oct. 4

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will host an informational talk and presentation on invasive insects on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 1 p.m. at EQLT’s office located at 120 Ridge Road.

Elizabeth Barnes, Ph.D., Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, Crop & Pest Services at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, will be the guest speaker and will share information on monitoring, managing, removing, and projected impacts of, existing and emerging invasive insects in Central Massachusetts, including spotted lanternfly, emerald ash borer, and woolly adelgid, among others. Barnes will discuss the conditions under which these invasive insects have arrived in Massachusetts, the crops, trees, vegetation and other conditions that are enabling them to thrive in this region, the impacts that they can have on farming, native landscapes and wildlife, and human systems. Barnes will share what steps homeowners, municipalities and organizations can take to help control or mitigate their impact and spread.

This educational pub-

lic awareness event is open to everyone, though due to space limitations, RSVPs are required. Please email Amy Trevvett at atrevvett@eqlt.org by Oct. 1 to RSVP.

About EQLT

The East Quabbin Land Trust fosters a meaningful relationship with the natural world by conserving, connecting with, and caring for the farmlands, woodlands, and waters in the East Quabbin region of Massachusetts. EQLT works closely with community members to foster vibrant communities through engagement with the outdoors.

EQLT was formed in 1994 out of concern for the loss of farmland and wildlife habitat in and around Hardwick. Since 1998, EQLT has expanded its land protection efforts to include Barre, Petersham, New Braintree, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Hubbardston, Ware and other nearby towns.

By working cooperatively with property owners, government agencies, conservation groups, and other land trust organizations, EQLT has been able to protect over 7,000 acres in the

region; purchased and leases the historic Country Store in Petersham, revitalizing the heart of the town; and has purchased and opened eight miles of former railroad corridor as part of the Mass. Central Rail Trail in Hardwick, New Braintree, Ware and Barre.

For more information about EQLT, visit www.eqlt.org.

Back Roads Studio Tour is Oct. 3-4

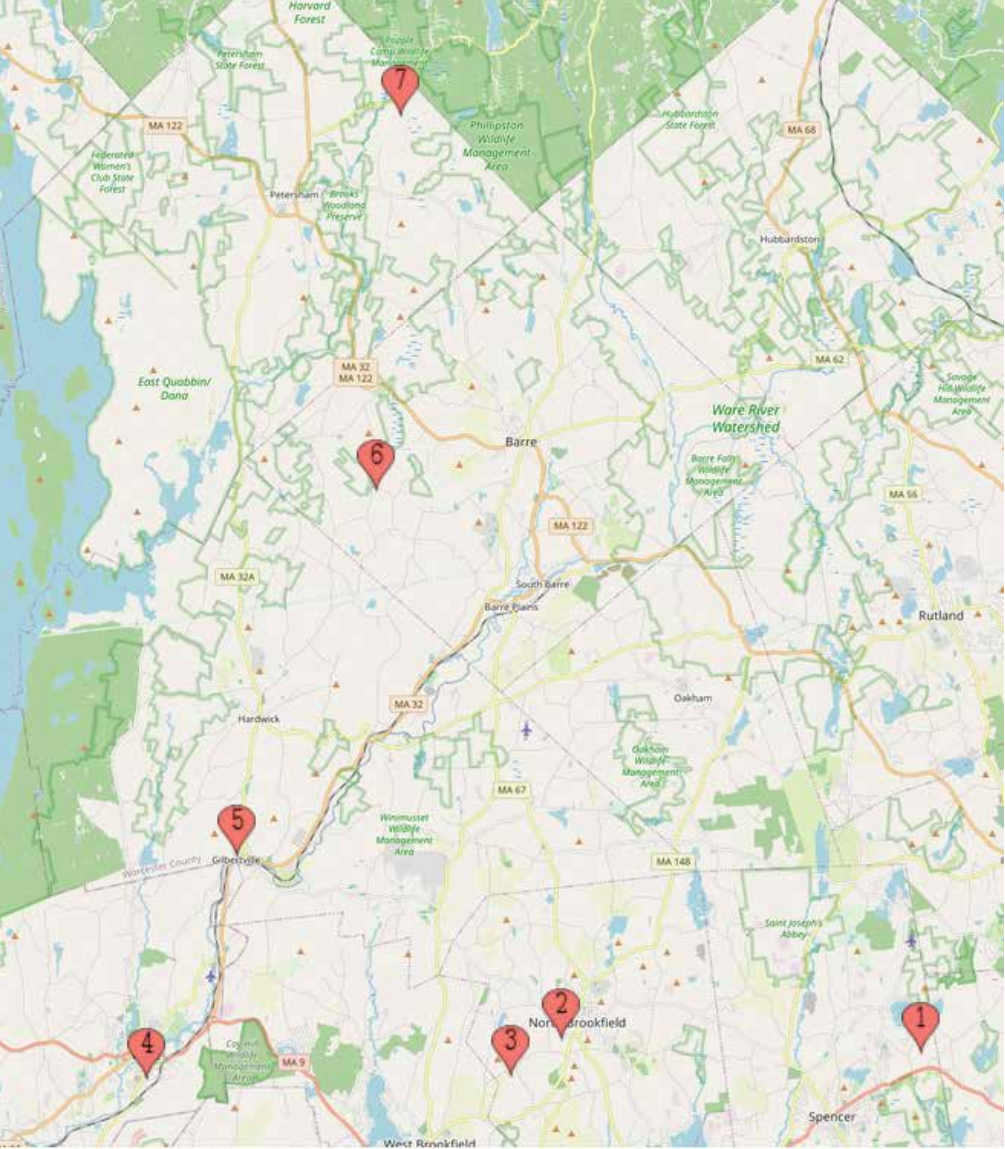
The Back Roads Studio Tour will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 3 and 4 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and includes studios in Barre, Gilbertville, North Brookfield, Petersham, Spencer and Ware.

Studios include Pieceful Primitives, Lou Meyerdierts, 36 Donnelly Cross Road, Spencer; Buck

Hill Studio, Russell Buzzell, 25 Tucker Road, North Brookfield; Brookfield Paperworks, Elisabeth Hyder, 23 High St., North Brookfield; Jeff Palmer Designs, 14 Mill Road, North Brookfield; John Collins Studio, 29 Beach Road, Ware; Dragonbelly Ceramics, Lisa Cohen, 183 Mechanic St., Gilbertville;

Sheldon Farm Baskets, Sue Morello, 587 Sheldon Road, Barre; and Petersham Leathers, Sylvia Brown, 202 Popple Camp Road, Petersham.

For more information about the Back Roads Studio Tour and the featured artists and crafters, visit backroadsstudiotour.org.



- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Pieceful Primitives/Louise Meyerdierts | 36 Donnelly Cross Road, Spencer |
| 2. Buck Hill Studio/Russell Buzzell | 25 Tucker Road, North Brookfield |
| 3. Brookfield Paperworks/Elisabeth Hyder | 23 High Street, North Brookfield |
| 4. Jeff Palmer Designs | 14 Mill Road, North Brookfield |
| 5. John Collins Studio | 29 Beach Road, Ware |
| 6. Dragonbelly Ceramics/Lisa Cohen | 183 Mechanic Street, Gilbertville |
| 7. Sheldon Farm Baskets/Sue Morello | 587 Sheldon Road, Barre |
| 8. Petersham Leathers/Sylvia Brown | 202 Popple Camp Road, Petersham |

Submitted Photo
This map shows the locations of studios participating in this year’s Back Roads Studio Tour, to be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 3-4 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

AUTHOR from page 3

on in the river. When the salmon spawned “it was like Christmas time” for the Native Americans, who would catch the fish and smoke the meat.

Sometime after 1708, Niniquabbin moved to Greenwich. In his book about the Quabbin Reservoir, author Walter Clark noted: “The early Indians of Greenwich belonged to the Nipmuc Tribe...The plantation was named after King

Quabbin, a local chief.”

Duffy said arrowheads and other Native American relics were found in this area, dating back a considerable time, including bowls made from soapstone.

“Their use ended hundreds of years before Niniquabbin arrived in the Greenwich area,” Duffy said.

To learn more about the River Indians and Duffy’s research, people can check out his books at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road.

GARDEN from page 4

reading this luck of the draw column as much as I did writing it! And if you haven’t gardened in a couple of years, give raised beds a try and maybe you will be as fortunate as my friend, with six foot tomato plants still going strong at the end of September!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

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Dr. Ana Serrenho is the owner of POP Orthodontics, located in Post Office Park in Wilbraham. Dr. Ana is a Wilbraham resident and grew up in Ludlow. She completed her dental training and orthodontic residency at Boston University. In addition to her private practice, she is a faculty member at NYU Langone, where she teaches pediatric dental residents. She has been recognized by the Massachusetts Dental Society and the Massachusetts Association of Orthodontists.

POP Orthodontics recently celebrated its first anniversary, and our team looks forward to continuing our mission of providing convenient, comfortable and conservative treatment. We offer both traditional braces and Invisalign, as well as interceptive treatments such as expanders. We use the latest in dental technology and offer daytime and evening appointments. We are excited to be able to provide a locally-owned option for orthodontic care to the community!

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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Sept. 9-15, the Ware Police Department responded to 11 miscellaneous calls, 22 administrative calls, 16 traffic violations, 10 emergency 911 calls, seven disturbances/nuisances, five suspicious/wanted, two thefts/larcenies, one indecency/lewdness, two assist other agencies, two safety hazards, 10 animal calls and 26 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Wednesday, Sept. 9
7:13 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Street, Advised
11:26 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Investigated

Thursday, Sept. 10
12:25 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Otis Avenue, No Action Required
12:52 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Otis Avenue, No Action Required
2:15 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
1:16 p.m. Theft/Larceny, King Street, Services Rendered
1:18 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Doane Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
2:16 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
10:10 p.m. Miscellaneous, Park Street, Investigated

Friday, Sept. 11
3:07 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Palmer Road, No Action Required
6:24 a.m. Alarm, East Street, Investigated
7:52 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Could Not Locate
6:13 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Dale Street, Advised
9:12 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Appears Secure After Check
9:39 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Storrs Street, Services Rendered
9:43 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Main Street, Services Rendered
10:34 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Aspen Street, Could Not Locate

Saturday, Sept. 12
4:34 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Woodland Heights, Services Rendered
6:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
11:41 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated
1 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Greenwich Road, Citation/Warning Issued
2:19 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Main Street, Investigated
4:51 p.m. Indecency/Lewdness, East Street, Report Made
5:57 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Palmer Road, Investigated

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.

8:20 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, North Street, Dispatch Handled
10:16 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Investigated

Sunday, Sept. 13
12:15 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Coffey Hill Road, Could Not Locate
6:34 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Unfounded
10:08 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Walker Road, Services Rendered
1:27 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Highland Street, Investigated
7:24 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Canal Street, Report Made

Monday, Sept. 14
7:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
10:04 a.m. Fire Alarm, Gould Road, Dispatch Handled
11:10 a.m. Safety Hazard, Cottage Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
11:31 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Investigated
11:54 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cottage Street, Dispatch Handled
1:25 p.m. Warrant Service, North Street, Services Rendered
Arrest: Michael Mongeau, 41, Holyoke
WMS Warrant
4:50 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Church Street, Services Rendered
5:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Please see **WARE PD**, page 13

Warren Police Log

During the week of Aug. 23-29, the Warren Police Department responded to 170 building/property checks, five community policings, six emergency 911 calls, four suspicious activities, two thefts/larcenies, two threats, one safety concern, five complaints, two frauds or forgeries, one scam call, one motor vehicle accident, one motor vehicle pursuit, two animal calls and 11 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Aug. 23
8:05 a.m. Suspicious Person, Main Street, Unfounded
4:54 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Report Filed
5:50 p.m. Complaint, Chapel Street, Officer Spoke to Party
7:40 p.m. Erratic Operator, Southbridge Road Extension, Referred to Other Agency
8:05 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, New Reed Street, Negative Contact
9:26 p.m. Smoke Investigation, North Street, Fire Extinguished

Monday, Aug. 24
10:44 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Winthrop Terrace, Officer Spoke to Party
8:58 p.m. Noise Complaint, Keys Road, Report Filed
9:50 p.m. Overdose/Poisoning, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital

11:14 p.m. Gynecology/OB, Cronin Road, Transported to Hospital
Tuesday, Aug. 25
3:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
5:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:29 a.m. Threats, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
2:54 p.m. Complaint, Town Farm Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Wednesday, Aug. 26
6:26 a.m. Noise Complaint, Keys Road, Information Given
10:19 a.m. Scam Call, Chapel Street, Call Transferred
12:53 p.m. Welfare Check, Pine Street, Officer Spoke to Party
2:01 p.m. Suspicious Person, Main Street, Report Filed
2:27 p.m. Fire Alarm Activation, Dunham Road, Investigated
4:29 p.m. Threats, Southbridge Road, Report Filed
6:06 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Pleasant Street, Report Filed

Thursday, Aug. 27
10:23 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Chapel Street, Officer Spoke to Party
10:38 a.m. Power Lines Low Hanging, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
10:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
5:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Report Filed

Friday, Aug. 28
5:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Warren Road, Citation Issued
7:02 a.m. Noise Complaint, Liberty Street, Report Filed
8:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Vehicle Towed
10:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
12:41 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Prospect Street, Officer Spoke to Party
2:42 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Liberty Street, Report Filed

Saturday, Aug. 29
3:08 a.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Officer Spoke to Party
5:09 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Cronin Road, Transported to Hospital
3:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Pursuit, Main Street, Transported by LifeFlight
3:33 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, School Street, Mutual Aid Transport
5:07 p.m. Fall, Brimfield Road, Mutual Aid Transport
7:27 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Sept. 14-21, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 49 building/property checks, 10 directed/area patrols, 10 radar assignments, three traffic controls, 10 emergency 911 calls, seven citizen assists, one complaint, three suspicious activities, one harassment, one disturbance, two motor vehicle accidents, four animal calls and seven motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Sept. 14
10:08 a.m. Welfare Check, Turkey Street, Negative Contact
10:33 a.m. Medical Emergency, Petersham Road, Patient Refusal
1:44 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Dispatch Handled
3:09 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Parker Court, Spoken To
4:39 p.m. Assist Citizen, Parker Court, Spoken To

Tuesday, Sept. 15
5:26 a.m. Assist Citizen, Miner Road, Officer Handled
5:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
11:08 a.m. Complaint,

Summit Road, Spoken To
11:58 a.m. Assist Citizen, Church Street, Services Rendered
3:17 p.m. Welfare Check, Main Street, Unfounded
3:18 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Turkey Street, Unfounded

Wednesday, Sept. 16
10 a.m. 911 Welfare Check, Church Lane, Officer Handled
11:46 a.m. Welfare Check, Main Street, Officer Handled
12:28 p.m. Welfare Check, Church Lane, Spoken To
1:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
3:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, School House Drive, Citation Issued
6:47 p.m. Assist Citizen, Parker Court, Officer Handled
10:38 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, School House Drive, Services Rendered

Thursday, Sept. 17
4:50 p.m. Welfare Check, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
5:44 p.m. Disturbance, Common Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Sept. 18
1:12 p.m. 911 Medical

Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
3:11 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Negative Contact
5:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued

Saturday, Sept. 19
11:42 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
4:51 p.m. 911 Harassment, Broad Street, Arrest(s) Made

Sunday, Sept. 20
5:26 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled
1:26 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
1:54 p.m. Utility Issues, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
9:49 p.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, Lower Road, Services Rendered
11:30 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Church Lane, Officer Handled

Monday, Sept. 21
6:25 a.m. Medical Alarm, Hardwick Pond Road, Transported to Hospital

Fire Department holds open house on Oct. 4

WARE – The Ware Fire Department, located at 200 West St., will have an open house on Sunday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This fun and educational event will include station tours, apparatus tours, gear demonstration, handouts and information and arts and crafts. All are

welcome to attend. The Ware Fire Department is committed to helping the community and this year is accepting donations for the food pantry at All Saints Church. People are encouraged to donate nonperishable food items during the open house.

Fall Fundraiser Benefit Dinner

Please join us for an evening of great food and fun. Learn about our rescue and the horses and donkeys in our care. CNEER is a grassroots rescue located in West Brookfield, MA. Our mission is to rescue, heal and restore the spirit of the horse when it has : been damaged through abuse, neglect and abandonment. We are committed to making a difference - one horse at a time.



October 24, 2026
Hardwick Crossing Country Club
262 Lower Road
Gilbertville, MA 01031

Doors open at 5 pm
Buffet Dinner served at 6 pm

Single Ticket \$100 -
Bundle of Two Tickets \$175
Payment must be received by
October 10th.

To purchase tickets on line please use
the QR code or this link:
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/fall-fundraiser-banquet>

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Friends of Ware Seniors, Inc. list fall happenings

WARE – September is the time of year to start thinking of the fall season and the last days of summer.

Lotto calendars
The friends November lotto calendars will be on sale now until Oct. 30 for \$10 each.

Ladies Tea Party
Monday, Oct. 5 there will be a Ladies Tea Party, from 2-3:30 p.m., so wear your wide brimmed hat. There will be door prizes and everyone will go home with a goodie bag.

You must sign up to attend the tea party by Sept. 28 by calling Sue LaBarge 413-544-1574.

Joint health presentation
Friday, Oct. 16 there will be a very informative presentation joint health from Ortho MA Orthopedic Urgent Care in Wilbraham regarding joint pain and arthritis and what can be done to protect your joints,

manage everyday aches and when to seek orthopedic care.

RMV training
Thursday, Nov. 5 MassDOT will do a presentation on RMV training on how to make that “driving decision.” Discussion will be on topics relating to age concerns, Massachusetts license policies, ID cards, license surrender and local transportation options.

Holiday craft fair
Start your Christmas shopping early on Saturday, Nov. 14 the Friends are having a holiday craft fair at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins road from 9 a.m.-noon. The Friends will have a 50/50 raffle and a raffle table of gift baskets.

To reserve a table, you must call Sue LaBarge 413-544-1574. Deadline to register for a table is Nov. 10.

All the above are open to the public.

QVARC offers ham radio testing sessions on Sept. 29

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club is offering their first VE session of the year on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center at 73 Central St.

Anyone looking to become a ham radio operator or to upgrade their ham radio license can come at this time. The exam fee is \$15. Session starts at 5:30 p.m. Questions? Please email Peter at pbaldracchi@charter.net. For more information about the club, you can visit www.QVARC.com.

Paul J. Sauve, 89



WARE – Paul Joseph Sauve, age 89 passed away on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026 at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer.

Paul Joseph was born on July 31, 1937 in Fitchburg, son of the late Raoul E. Sauve and Jeannette Y. (Guertin) Sauve. Raised and educated in Fitchburg, he graduated High School and attended Business School for two years.

Paul enlisted in the United States Army National Guard on Feb. 5, 1958, in Leominster. He served with Company E, 181st Infantry, and was Honorably Discharged with the rank of Specialist 3rd Class.

On June 7, 1958 Paul entered into Holy Matrimony with Barbara A. McCoubrey. Together they were wed for 66 years, before Barbara passed on March 8, 2025. Their family takes comfort knowing that Paul and Barbara are reunited again in the loving embrace of God, who they both greatly loved and served.

Paul lived for many years in North Attleborough, 17 years in Palmer and recent-

ly, resided at Cedarbrook Village in Ware. Paul was the owner and manager of Douglas Liquors in the Shaws Triboro Plaza in North Attleboro. He was a devout Roman Catholic who practiced his faith. Paul was a communicant of St. Mary’s Church in Ware.

Paul leaves behind his children; his daughter, Deborah Sauve and son in law, Edward Mackey, his son, Michael Sauve and daughter in law, Michelle Sauve, his grandsons; Jonathan and Nicholas, and great-grandson, Cooper . Paul also leaves behind his sisters: Simone Goguen, Germain Gagne and Susan Dominic.

A Funeral Mass will be offered on Friday, Sept. 25, 2026 at noon in St. Mary’s Church, 57 South St., Ware. Inurnment will take place with Prayers of Committal and Military Honors following the funeral mass.

Cebula Funeral Home of Ware is in charge of the funeral service. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.



Death notice

Sauve, Paul Joseph
Died Sept. 17, 2026
Services Sept. 25, 2026

Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

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

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

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

CAPITAL PROJECTS

from page 3
teams have started their seasons as well.
He said the school district hired a new preschool teacher and they have also hired a librarian.
“I’m going to say we’re about 97% hired,” Wood said.
Wood said there are no paraprofessional positions vacant that are student connected.
“We’re really in good shape with hiring and staffing which helps start the new year so well,” he said.
Woods said the school district implemented its new cell phone policy this school year, and it has gone “extremely well.”
Woods said the new messaging system between the school district and families is being utilized and almost 100% of parents are signed up. The posts on the app also get posted on the school district’s Facebook page.
“It’s district-wide,” he said of the system.
Wood said the cost of diesel fuel is rising, and it is something the school district will need to keep a

close watch on.
Wood said the high school’s chiller is operational, but there is still some control work that needs to be completed.
“We’re looking forward to that coming on this coming week,” he said.
Wood said days of heavy rain have resulted in leaks from a skylight at the elementary school. An inspection showed the caulking needed to be replaced.
He said the school district will enter into an agreement to fix one of the facades to address the leaks.
Wood said leaks in the middle school are “more complicated” than in the elementary school and high school, because they “don’t know where they’re starting.” He said the leaks could be caused by a number of things.
“Which is why the whole roof needs to be done,” he said.
Policy changes
School Committee Chair Brian Winslow said the committee had the first reading of the Protect Act, as required by the state. This act requires the school district to cooperate with

law enforcement officials.
The committee voted to approve the first reading of the Protect Act, and will discuss and vote on it again at a future meeting. The committee also voted to approve the first reading of the changes to the employment of school and district administrators policy.
Winslow said the committee also reviewed draft policies related to technology and AI use in schools. These policies will continue to need review before a first reading.
Athletic Director
Wood said Peter Millet was hired as the school district’s new Athletic Director. He will be invited to a future School Committee meeting for introduction.
Donation
The School Committee accepted a \$300 donation from the Ware Lions Club to benefit the high school’s food pantry.
Wood said the donation was a great kick-off to stock the food pantry. He said it is filled by donations.
“It’s a great resource for our students and families who are in need,” he said.

HEARINGS

from page 6
In addition to the site plans, the applicants also provided a cut and fill analysis which was requested by the board. The site plan was provided two meetings ago with one minor change, which was the location of the salt shed.
The plan is to upgrade the facilities such as installing a warehouse building, office space, garage bays and a wash bay. Babe’s Lawn Care will keep items away from the town wells and the wash bay will be draining into the sewer system.
The owner of the business, Chris Predella, introduced himself to the board and said he has his business currently running in Brimfield and is looking to bring business to Warren.
The board continued the

public hearing Sept. 28.

Housing Production Plan update

The board members revisited their discussion about the Housing Production Plan grant that was presented to them by Emily Glaubitz of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.
Administrative Assistant Laura Sherris spoke with Glaubitz who provided an updated and potential final draft of the community survey.
The plan is to post the survey flyer in town. Any notes the board may have will be conveyed to Glaubitz.
The link for the survey will be posted on the town website, www.warren-ma.gov, Facebook page and My Town Alert app.

WARE PD

from page 12
Stop, Eagle Street, Citation/Warning Issued
8:31 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Palmer Road, Could Not Locate
Tuesday, Sept. 15
12:32 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Otis Avenue, Investigated
1:50 a.m. Suspicious Wanted, West Street, Services Rendered
4:01 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Investigated
7:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
7:16 a.m. Miscellaneous, West Street, Investigated

HONOR ROLL

from page 1
ering love for country. They stood in the face of danger to protect our freedom, uphold our values and ensure a safer future for all Americans. We owe them more than gratitude. We owe them our commitment to remember their sacrifices.”
Ferrera said their scarifies will “never, ever be forgotten.”
Ferrera also recognized members of the Warren Rural Improvement Committee, which was influential in moving the project forward, with the use of committee funds, as well as town funds and donations.
Ferrera said the committee “really stepped up,” when it came to honoring the town’s veterans by helping to fund this project.
Speaking on behalf of the committee was John Dyjak, who said talk about restoring the honor roll started several years ago. He said it was a “shame” for the papers and names to be falling off the honor roll.
Dyjak said the committee approached Ferrera about restoring the honor roll, and Ferrera found a company in Springfield that was able to print the veterans names on paper that would last for “years and years.”
Dyjak said someone locally was able to restore the wooden frame of the honor roll and paint it.
“I am so grateful for Jim for stepping forward and getting this project done,” he



State Sen. Jake Oliveira and state Rep. Todd Smola attended and spoke at the honor roll dedication ceremony.

said.
Dyjak also thanked his fellow committee members, who work together to make good use of the funding they have to benefit the town and its residents, and everyone else who supported the project.
State Sen. Jake Oliveira and state Rep. Todd Smola attended the ceremony, and spoke about the importance of honoring the service of veterans.
Oliveira spoke about the town’s namesake, Dr. Joseph Warren, who lost his life fighting on Bunker Hill during the Revolutionary War.
“That decisive battle gave Massachusetts residents, gave the colonies, the confidence in order to pursue independence against Great Britain,” he said.
Oliveira said the names being listed on the honor

roll is a way to recognize the sacrifice and service of the town’s veterans.
Oliveira commended the town for its efforts to work together and make sure the honor roll will be preserved for years to come.
“It takes a team effort to do projects like this,” he said.
Smola said the honor roll not only serves to recognize those who served, but to teach the next generation of their service.
“On this 250th anniversary, we recognize the importance of that sacrifice for all of those years. We would not have a country that survived for all of that time without veterans stepping forward, answering the call of their country, in order to do that which the rest of us are not,” he said.
Smola said the honor roll “is so critically important” to pass that message on and



Quaboag Regional Middle High School’s ensemble chorus sang an a cappella rendition of “God Bless America” under the direction of James Joinville.

reflect.
Ferrera invited Fire Department Chaplain Jim Dusty to lead the ceremony in a prayer.
“We dedicate this restored honor roll to the memory and honor of the veterans of Warren, Massachusetts,” Dusty said. “May their names endure, may their sacrifices be remembered.”
Following the prayer, the town’s Police, Fire and EMS drove past the honor roll with lights flashing, while the song “God Bless the USA” by Lee Greenwood was played.
The Quaboag Regional Middle High School’s ensemble chorus sang an a cappella rendition of “God Bless America” under the direction of James Joinville.
“This is just the start,” Ferrera said of the honor roll project. “We have more names to be added. We have



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Warren Fire Department Chaplain Jim Dusty gave a prayer.

more updates to do. This is going to be the start of continuing on this legacy and

making sure that our monuments are protected in this town.”

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