

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 137 No. 45

16 Pages

(Plus Supplements)

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

Committee discusses capital needs with Select Board

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Mark Korzec of the Capital Planning Committee gave the Select Board an update on the town's capital needs.

At the Nov. 27 meeting, Korzec said nine departments have sent the committee a list of their capital needs over the next five-to-10 years. Two other departments have expressed interest in providing lists of capital needs as well.

One of the capital needs the town is facing is a new \$1.65 million firetruck for the Fire Department. The committee will be reviewing this need at its Dec. 18 meeting.

Korzec said the committee took action on the need for a police cruiser. Currently the Police Department has seven cruisers, and this additional purchase will bring them to eight.

The committee required the Police Department to reduce their number of cruisers to six, and the department will dispose of two in order to do so.

An emergency repair request

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 5

Local artists show off their talent

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery, located at 69 Main St., is featuring many talented artists' little paintings, photographs, pottery, ornaments, and jewelry for its "Beautiful Little Things" small works exhibition, in display through Dec. 17.

The gallery was opened by Joyce Eichacker, the exhibition chair of the gallery, and the show features many mediums of art

Please see **TALENT**, page 7



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas
A plaster-cast eagle head made of plaster and painted to look like bronze by John Collins.

Patrill Hollow Dam faces removal in spring 2025

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Representatives from MassWildlife were joined by engineers from Tighe & Bond, to discuss the Patrill Hollow Dam removal, located within Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area.

MassWildlife's Central District Supervisor Todd Olanyk was joined by Steven Mattocks, aquatic connectivity and fisheries outreach biologist and Chris

Buelow, senior research ecologist. Representing Tighe & Bond were Daniel Hammerberg, project engineer and Daniel Buttrick, senior engineer.

Patrill Hollow Dam is a 13-foot high, 190-foot long earthen embankment structure that impounds Muddy Brook and has a primary and auxiliary concrete spillway. The dam is located within the 1,937-acre Muddy Brookfield WMA and holds about 75 acre-feet of water.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about the reasoning behind dam removal, and to hear questions or concerns from the public.

"We want to try to get as much information out to people as we can," Olanyk said.

Currently, the commonwealth has more than 3,000 dams, Mattocks said, and many are in dilapidated condition. Since 2005, MassWildlife's Division of Ecological Restoration has removed over 40 dams.

Buelow described Muddy Brook WMA as "one of the most important landscapes in interior Massachusetts for supporting rare and imperiled biodiversity."

Removal of the dam is expected to decrease stream temperatures and restore natural flow and habitat, benefiting many types of fish.

Hammerberg said the Patrill Hollow Dam is considered a "low hazard dam" and is of intermediate size. He said the dam is considered "unsafe" according to conditions defined by state legislation.

The dam was originally built by the Mixer family prior to the 1940s, and it was potentially used to power a sawmill or a forge. The Mixer family owned the land prior to selling it to MassWildlife.

Hammerberg said the dam raises Muddy Brook by six and a half feet, and has two spillways; one located easterly with flashboards and one westerly with outlet structure. He said trees and brush have grown around the dam, and that

Please see **REMOVAL**, page 13



Ariel and Leah Mann, both age 7, of Warren showed off their impressive face-painting they received at Glenda's.

The Grinch wasn't successful in stealing any gifts from the Warren Police Department's "stuff a cruiser" to benefit the Jingle Fund.

Ware Flair's Holiday drive-thru this Saturday

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Santa Clause has come to the town of Ware as the Holiday Flair arrived.

The Main Street brought hundreds of town residents to witness the tree lighting and Santa's arrival at the Town Hall. To kick off the celebration, the townspeople of Ware got to enjoy a dance demo performed by Dance Unlimited.

The dancers got a standing ovation as they flooded Main Street and performed many familiar Christmas tunes.

The Ware Fire Department escorted Santa Claus in one of their firetrucks and dropped him off at the town Christmas tree. Residents joined Santa in a countdown to officially light up the center of Ware with their Christmas tree.

Dozens of families gathered around the tree to take pictures as Santa Claus walked to the Town Hall. There, many families were lining up outside to go see Santa and the wonderful winter wonderland made for the joyous occasion.

Many volunteers helped set up the lights and decorations inside where kids can go meet Santa Claus. The decorations inside became an enhanced Christmas

Please see **DRIVE-THRU**, page 13

SANTA LIGHTS THE COMMON



Santa waves to people gathered around the Common before the tree lighting.

Annual tree lighting and more enjoyed by all

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – The town's annual tree lighting ceremony was hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department this past Saturday, after wet weather postponed it by one night.

More than just a tree lighting, this annual event joins together the efforts of a number of local

organizations, businesses and people to offer fun and festivity for the community.

Mason's Grille gave out complimentary hot chocolate and cookies, while also selling delicious beef stew and clam chowder in bread bowls, the perfect meal on a cold evening. Warren One Stop Market had free coffee as well.

The Warren Water Department also offered free refreshments, and hosted West Warren Library for a story time and craft held each hour of the event.

Please see **LIGHTS**, page 7

Craft Fair floods WHS Gymnasium

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The craft fair arrived and brought the town together at Ware Junior/Senior High School this past Saturday.

The fair has been a holiday tradition for nearly 25 years, with proceeds helping to support the classes, teams, and student councils of the school community.

Many vendors consisted of local businesses in the town of Ware. The Young Men's Library Association enjoyed their time at the craft fair and were selling lotto calendars for the month of January.

Workshop13 had a booth at the craft fair, and it was their first year attending.

They were there to help raise funds for their ceramic studio at ClayWorks. Products included gift certificates, mugs, cups, and bowls.

For fans of art, Dorothy Witaszek who specializes in watercolors had a booth filled with fantastic artwork.

The setup for the craft fair in the gymnasium was made possible by the students, teachers and staff at Ware High School.

The sophomore class helped set up and clean up for the craft fair and each class had a booth of their own raising money for their

classes.

The junior class hosted a raffle to support the class. The senior class had a lot of cool Ware High merchandise to sell such as towels, hats, stickers and posters.

During the craft fair, a lunch cart was provided for the visitors. The exciting one-day shopping event was successful as over 50 local vendors and school classes came together to celebrate the holidays as one strong community.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8.



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Ware High School Class of 2024 selling Ware High merchandise for their class.

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ATTENTION

Due to an ongoing medical emergency, photos from Ware Holiday Flair Committee's tree lighting with Santa Claus will appear in next week's Ware River News.



COMMUNITY

Roses for Rescue helps shelters

Page 2



BUSINESS

George's Tire Place celebrates 56 years

Page 6

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Michele Lariviere, owner of Otto Florist & Gifts (center), delivered arranged roses to BARC (Belchertown Animal Relief Committee) for the annual Roses for Rescue fundraiser. Proceeds from the fundraiser were donated to BARC and Second Chance Animal Services.

Roses for Rescue

Annual fundraiser benefits local shelters

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Staff at Otto Florist & Gifts have wrapped up another successful year of the Roses for Rescue fundraiser to benefit local animal shelters.

Owner Michele Lariviere said this year's fundraiser, which was held in October, sold out for the first time since the pandemic, helping to raise crucial funds for BARC (Belchertown Animal Relief Committee) and Second Chance Animal Services.

"I just want to give a big thank you to all who donated to support Roses for Rescue, to help our local animal shelters," Lariviere said.

Since 2017, Otto Florist & Gifts has held Roses for Rescue, offering a dozen high-quality roses for \$15. Prior to that, from 2001-2015, the rose sale was called the Shirley Batsie Memorial Rose Sale benefiting Mary Lane Hospital's cancer services.

The Shirley Batsie Memorial Rose Sale raised over a quarter of a million dollars.

This year's fundraiser also resulted in a very generous donation tied in with the rose sale, after one business purchased 35 dozen roses and donated them to residents at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield.

Lariviere and her staff arranged the roses in vases that people had donated to Otto Florist & Gifts, and presented them to the residents.

"It brightened up the whole nurs-



Submitted Photos

The staff at Otto Florist & Gifts held another successful Roses for Rescue fundraiser, helping animals in local shelters.

ing home," Lariviere said. "It was so beautiful."

The residents of Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center had a surprise in store for the Otto Florist & Gifts staff when they received their roses; having baked homemade dog treats to give to all the animals in the shelters who are still waiting to go to their forever homes.

"They were our superstars for the day," Lariviere said of the residents, adding that their gesture was a "beautiful, heartwarming thing."

Many people in the community also purchased roses in groups

of 10 dozen or more, which gave them free, local delivery. These roses were delivered to family and friends, bringing smiles to the faces of all who received them.

Lariviere thanked everyone for continuing to support the Roses for Rescue fundraiser, and helping pets in need.

"Everybody needs a helping hand, including our local shelters," she said.

For more information about next year's Roses for Rescue fundraiser and how you can help, call Otto Florist & Gifts at 413-967-5381 or visit www.ottoflorist.com.

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 1991 showed Elizabeth McQuaid and Leanne Juda, second graders in Sister Gloriosa's class at St. Mary's School, performing during Catholic Schools Week. That year's theme was "Kaleidoscope of People." Costumed students sang and danced in appreciation of different cultures being studied. Andy Zajac correctly identified Mary Lussier and Shelley Madden featured in the Nov. 23 Ware River News.

Virtual hearings to be held for PVTa riders

WARE – Public hearings on Title VI Analysis and Route Enhancements on the P21E, G73E and Ware-Palmer Route of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, will be held on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

Virtual public hearings will also be held on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 10-10:30 a.m. and Monday, Dec. 11 from 6-6:30 p.m., via Zoom. The Zoom meeting ID is 882 8937 6754 and the passcode is 515967.

The public is invited to attend one of the public hearings in-person or virtually.

Proposed enhancements include reinstating the previous Ware and Palmer Circulators using two separate vehicles and providing more comprehensive service in each town.

Additional service to Wilbraham Big Y will be added bringing the total number of connections to Springfield to six each day. These changes will take effect in December with the addition of weekend service planned for early spring.

People may also submit comments by mail to Director of Transit Operations, 2808 Main S., Springfield, MA, 01107, email at comments@pvta.com, phone by

calling 413-732-6248 extension 2237 and leave up to a three-minute message or online by completing the comment form at pvta.com/contactUs.php.

All comments must be received by Dec. 20.

Spanish language translation provided. Signing and interpretation for hearing and visual disabilities is available.

Please contact Zoraida by phone at 413-732-6248 extension 2237 or email at Zbonet@pvta.com at least seven days before the hearing date to arrange.

For more information, visit www.pvta.com or 413-781-7882.

Tree & Wreath Festival returns Dec. 9 and 10

WARE – All are welcome to join the Proprietors of the Ware Center Meeting House for this year's Ware Tree & Wreath Festival on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St.

They will be raffling off donated wreaths and trees as well as other decorative items to support the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum. The event also has a bake sale, 50/50 raffle and a table with Ware books, T-shirts, and memorabilia.

There will be free children's activities including decorating a cookie, making a craft, and Kids Karaoke.

Be sure to come to check out (and take a chance) on the Ware Historical Society's Noah's Ark

Tree.

It's decorated with pairs of ornaments to represent the animals on the Ark, which were the only toys children could play with on Sundays. The ornaments include giant cookies, over two inches round.

It's not too late to donate. Businesses and citizens interested in contributing decorated trees and wreaths should call Lynn Lak, co-chair of the Festival committee at 413-967-7223 or email her at llak310@comcast.net.

In-person drop off is Friday, Dec. 8 between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Great Hall in the Town Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Visit warecentermeetinghouse.org for more information or to make a donation online.

Ware Christmas Stroll comes to Main Street this Saturday

WARE – The Ware Christmas Stroll will be hosted by the Ware Business & Civic Association, featuring numerous local businesses and organizations on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Free rides on the Quaboag Connector will bring shoppers to several locations in the downtown area to shop during the Stroll, including the Tree and Wreath Festival (featuring cookie decorating, Kids Karaoke, Santa and more) in the Town Hall, Artsy Elves at Workshop13, games and gift wrapping at Ware River News and other fun activities. Merchants will feature sales and treats for shoppers.

Routes and times for the Quaboag Connector will be announced in the coming week. Visit www.warebca.com for routes and times.

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Christmas for Kids begins, donations requested

WARE – The Ware Police Department and the Ware Fire Department have started their 20th annual Ware Christmas For Kids program for the 2023 holiday season.

They are requesting financial assistance to help them fulfill the needs of the children of Ware, and all assistance is greatly appreciated. The program is for infants through children aged 12.

The program recognizes all holiday observances.

Monetary donations may be dropped off at the Ware Police Department at 22 North St., or may be sent to Ware Christmas For Kids, c/o Ware Police Department, 22 North St., Ware, MA 01082.

Darlene Gildert is the program coordinator, and she can be reached at 413-967-3571, extension 327.

Active Parenting class offers help to parents

WARE – Active Parenting 4th Edition will be held at Behavioral Health Network's Family Resource Center, 82 Main St.

This class is based on sound principles of child development, and provides parents of children ages 5-12 with indispensable parenting help including how to raise responsible, cooperative children, use effective communication skills, understand why children misbehave, hold family meetings and much more.

Being a great parent doesn't have to be stressful. In this class you will receive advice and parenting techniques from a highly qualified leader that will give you the tools to become a successful parent.

For more information or to register contact the Family Resource Center by calling 41-3277-6601 or emailing bhnfr@bhninc.org.

ZBA discusses feather flags, accessory structures and more

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Zoning Board of Appeals discussed signage and feather flags, frequently used by local businesses at their November meeting.

The flags are used as a promotional tool to promote businesses, but the feather flags were brought up for discussion to see if they are allowed or not under the town's zoning bylaw.

Once decided, these flags will be enforced if they are being used for business purposes. At that point, a revision needs to be prepared in order to post a zoning rule on what is and isn't allowed.

The revision on types of flags and their placement would also have to be approved during a town meeting.

Accessory structures
The ZBA's other main topic for new business was the enforcement of accessory structures in the town. These structures consist of separate buildings such as sheds and carports.

Many of the structures have

existed for long periods of time and may not be up to code. The ZBA was trying to figure out what is the best way to enforce the location and size of the buildings.

As of now, the enforcement on these separate buildings are complaint based. Ways to enforce compliance with these accessory structures are still being discussed.

Other business
The ZBA discussed an overlay district going on in town. This district was approved by the previous town meeting.

This new district is a rural residential district of business that can have certain uses. These uses include houses and businesses in town.

Some of these businesses consist of tank farms and research facilities that can all be done under a special permit.

The ZBA had several questions regarding the overlay district and see if there is time to review or appeal. The ZBA agreed to direct these questions to the town attorney.

The next Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will take place sometime in mid-December.

Caregiver support group held every Wednesday

WARE – Caregiver Support Group at Behavioral Health Network is held each Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. at the Family Resource Center, 82 Main St.

Childcare will be provided if needed

Many of us experience daily struggles raising children and youth, and often need someone to talk to, offer support and help us navigate these challenging situations. This group will allow you to foster relationships with other

caretakers and provide a supportive environment, opportunities for education and self-care and growth.

Caregivers will have the opportunity to create ideas for group outings and activities that they find fun and engaging.

Need childcare? Please let us know when you call or email to sign up.

For more information or to register contact the Family Resource Center by calling 413-277-6601 or emailing bhnfr@bhninc.org.

Support group offered for LGBTQ+ youth

WARE – Pride in You, a space for LGBTQ+ youth to feel safe and free to be themselves, offers a support group for LGBTQ+ youth ages 11-18 on Thursdays from 3:45-5 p.m. at the Behavioral Health Network's Family Resource Center, 82 Main St.

Activities will vary between guest speakers, games, LGBTQ+ culture, community resources/services and more.

For more information or to register contact the Family Resource Center by calling 413-277-6601 or emailing bhnfr@bhninc.org.



Turley Photo by Jim Russell
Ware Parks Department workers are shown removing trees in Grenville Park on Dec. 4 that fell on the roadway Sunday night.

Parks Department removes downed trees in Grenville Park

By Jim Russell
Correspondent

WARE – Two large trees that fell across the Grenville Park roadway Sunday night were cleared within 90 minutes Monday morning by the municipal Parks Department.

The tall, aging timbers crashed down at approximately 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3, completely blocking the roadway between the boat launch along the Ware River, and the newly built playground.

According to the Parks Department, a large oak more

than a century old, with its base a yard in diameter, had been weakened by gypsy moths, that destroyed the roots.

In its downward plunge, the big oak took a 75-year old Eastern pine with it, whose base measured about 14-inches in diameter.

While clearing debris early Monday morning, the Parks Department marked an additional half dozen smaller trees nearby that are being removed as well.

Parks Manager John Piechota said the area is as "safe as it can be" for park visitors. "We try our

best," he said.

Grenville Park is a destination for those walking their dogs, taking a stroll, bicyclists and joggers, with its approximately one and a half mile circumference road through the park, that runs along a section of Ware River, off of Church Street. The new playground has increased the number of children and their parents visiting Grenville.

In warmer weather the ball fields and basketball courts are busy, as is the boat launch.

Family Pride Support group held Tuesdays at Family Resource Center

WARE – Family Pride Support Group is held Tuesdays evenings from 6-7 p.m. at Behavioral Health Network's Family Resource Center, 82 Main St.

The group welcomes parents, caregivers, and adult family members of LGBTQIA+ youth to join

them in a judgement free group where they ask, explore, and find answers to questions as they bridge gaps in the community.

For more information or to register contact the Family Resource Center by calling 413-277-6601 or emailing bhnfr@bhninc.org.



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

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All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29
All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5
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GUEST COLUMN

Resident advocates for rehabilitation of Patrill Hollow Dam

By Randall Noble

Forty-one years ago, I was 27 years old when I took the job as David Mixer's caretaker in the most beautiful place in Hardwick.

We lived in the Colorado Rockies, but home is home. My caretaker job was still a sideline to stonework which I learned from the infamous J.J. Dowd.

Care of 650 acres, consisted of mowing and maintenance of the dam at the Mixer pond, overseeing sustainable logging operations, and David did not like shotgun deer season. I think it was more his wife Stefanie, who was very into one of the zoos in New York.

During that period of a decline in the stock market, then a crash, he needed to sell. David's son had lost his life in Vietnam, and David always said he would have carried on with his beliefs.

David wanted the Trustees of the Reservation to buy his land, they were close, then an eastern developer came, and I was asked to show him around - he hated the land. I said you have to like it around here.

He said, "Like it? You would have to love it," and I did. For years we hosted birthdays, four weddings and holiday family outings in the Mixer tradition.

The most remembered wedding was of the former Director of Fish and Wildlife's son Charles McLaughlin, The marriage was held on the very dam in which they are proposing to remove.

Charles, known to us as Lee or Leroy to his boss, the Central District manager of MDFW Chris Thurlow. Many family and friends attended. The MDFW members brought game and we made a great wedding meal on the dam.

After I was treated to great fishing trips on the ocean, and the Quabbin Reservoir. The best was fishing for the eagles at Prescott Peninsula where I got to go into the eagle tower, wow. Then the push was on to buy the hollow

Mixer reluctantly agreed with the stipulation that his caretaker had water rights, so he deeded me the pond. That was met by a very stern no from MDFW.

MDFW stated that the dam must be owned by them, and I quote, "because if the dam was not maintained the loss of wetlands would be intolerable." MDFW was to back out of the sale.

David Mixer by that time was put in a place he would have regretted to this day. He changed the deed to allow MDFW to own the dam trusting they would fulfill their promise to maintain and take care of the beloved Mixer pond.

MDFW didn't do this, in fact they did nothing. It was handed to them intact, and a push lawnmower was used to mow the then in very good shape dam.

Now free funds came out of nowhere to rip it away from the people of Hardwick, and the sportsmen that paid for it with no consideration of a rebuild. A rebuild plan should be presented like the Snow's dam downstream that does not require beaver management as the Mixer does.

Please see **ADVOCATE**, page 11

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Resident grateful for people that make Ware wonderful

In the holiday season, it's a good time to sit back and reflect on what we're grateful for.

I have been blessed to grow up in this great town and own Nat Falk for the last 34 years. I've been able to meet thousands of awesome people over the years because of this and hopefully have made a positive impact on the community.

We are so lucky to live here, sure Ware has its problems like any town, but we have so many great people and organizations that make this the wonderful place it is.

The Main Street looks beautiful every year because of the Holiday Flair Committee and all the volunteers out working in the cold to make it happen.

Then there's the Ware Knights of Columbus who among many things, do the Coats for Kids program which I'm honored to play a small part in.

Halloween and Christmas activities in town including the beautiful drive-thrus at Grenville Park, and the Ware Lions Club who among all their good works put a series of free concerts in Grenville Park for everyone to enjoy.

Then there are all the volunteers who make youth sports available for all our local youth.

I'm sure there are dozens of other groups, organizations and people that contribute to Ware being the great place it is. I know I'm grateful to all of them.

Charlie Lask
Ware



Seventy-five years and going strong

I was opening the curtains in my bedroom this morning to find that my Babci's Christmas cactus had burst into bloom!

How exciting for an indoor plant to live for seven plus decades, never mind that the last two have been under my care. It's no secret that I am not an indoor plant aficionado, but I do have my favorites, and this is one of them.

Read on to learn about this beloved plant, straight from the archives.

One horticulture related Christmas memory involves my mother's Christmas cactus. I remember the arching, woody stemmed plant on an iron stand in her bedroom; before that it lived in my Babci's house.

Every year, just in time for the holiday, it would flower, putting on quite a show, beautiful and exotic in hot fuchsia-pink.

Today, only five original branches remain. But if you look closely within the base of the plant, you'll see lots of new growth.

Perhaps if I follow the advice, I have outlined below this heirloom will be blooming in the home of my future grandchildren!

The Christmas cactus (Schlumbergera bridgesii) is an epiphyte, native to South America where it happily grows hanging from trees in the jungle. Inside, it prefers a location with

indirect light. Positioning it in front of a north or east facing window is best.

During the summer months many people prefer to move the plant outdoors. I have had good luck placing it under the shade of a tree; too much sun will burn its leaves.

When night temperatures begin to dip into the forties it is time to bring the Christmas cactus indoors. Gradually acclimatize the plant to its winter home by increasing the number of hours spent inside each day.

It is very important that the Christmas cactus be planted in a well-drained growing medium. For this reason, either coarse sand or perlite should be added to any homemade potting soil.

A recipe that combines equal parts of either of these along with garden loam and leaf mold or compost should work out just fine. Christmas cactus like to be somewhat pot bound, but if the plant has been growing in the same pot for several years its soil is likely exhausted of nutrients.

Repot by gently teasing away some of the soil from the plant's roots. Replace it with the new soil mixture. Choose a pot that is a single size bigger than the existing root ball, or reuse the old pot.

Many people hear "cactus" and think that the plant is drought tolerant. With the Christmas cactus this is only partly true.

Although its leaves are succulent and can retain a fair amount of water, it is not a true cactus. As a general rule you should water Christmas cactus when the potting soil is dry to the touch.

Adequate moisture is especially necessary during the spring when it begins its growth and once buds are set. A diluted amount of liquid fertilizer can be added then as well, especially if the soil hasn't been refreshed in many years.

When the plant is done flowering, it will

go into a period of rest; almost no water is necessary for nearly two months. Just prior to bud set it will rest again but this time the soil shouldn't dry out completely.

Two environmental factors are responsible for coaxing a plant into bloom. The first is temperature and the second is light.

If temperatures at night range between 55 and 60 degrees for a six week period, the plant will set buds regardless of day length. If temperatures run higher than that, thirteen hours of uninterrupted darkness will bring about buds.

Simply put the plant to bed each night from 6 p.m.-8a.m. until buds form. My luck has been temperature related; because I leave the plants outside until early fall its temperature requirements are met and I am delighted with blooms come Christmas time.

If your plant sets buds and then drops them prior to full bloom it is likely due to over-watering or exposure. For this reason, keep it away from drafty windows, doorways or radiators.

If you don't already own Christmas cactus, consider purchasing one this holiday. Better yet, start a plant.

Simply get a leaf - no longer than two or three segments, from a friend. They are easy to root in regular potting soil.

Two or three of these per four inch pot is perfect. By year two you should be delighted with some beautiful flowers and maybe the start of your own family tradition.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.



We're planning to claim at 62; what do we need to know?

Dear Rusty:
My wife (born May 1962) and I (born April 1963) are retired and will soon be looking to start collecting our Social Security as we each hit 62.

As this is new to us, I'm wondering what things we may need to be aware of or consider as we get closer to her 62 birthday in May. Any advice or information will be appreciated.

Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning:
If you and your wife are both retired from working and have decided to start your (reduced) Social Security as soon as you are eligible at age 62, then there is nothing you need to do in advance of applying.

The Social Security retirement benefit amount for each of you will be determined by your individual lifetime earnings record and your age when you claim. If either of you will be eligible for a spousal boost from the other, that will be automatically applied when both of you are collecting.

If your wife plans to claim her Social Security as soon as she is eligible, she should apply for her benefits about three months in advance and choose the option on the application which states "I want benefits beginning with the earliest possible month and will accept an age-related reduction."

For information, an applicant must be 62 for an entire month to get benefits, so your wife's first month of eligibility will be June 2024.

Social Security deals only in whole months and pays benefits in the month following the month earned; so if your wife's birthday is between the 11th and 20th of the month her first Social Security payment will be received in her bank account on the third Wednesday of July. All subsequent payments will be on that same schedule.

Then, when it's time for you to claim, you should follow the same process as your wife and, if either of you is entitled to a higher amount as a spouse, it will be automatically applied when your benefits later start.

Applying for benefits is a relatively simple process if done online at www.ssa.gov/ apply. Note that to apply online your wife will need to first create her personal "my Social



Security" account, which is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

To prepare for applying later, you can also create your personal online account now (it's required to apply online), at which you will see what your estimated benefit will be at different ages. Of course, your wife first (and later you) can also call Social Security at 1-800-7721213 to request an appointment to apply for SS retirement benefits in person.

Applications which are not done online are usually taken over the phone vs. requiring a visit to your local Social Security office, but applying online is, by far, the most efficient method; you can link to the application process from your online account.

One important thing to be aware of: By claiming at age 62, the monthly payment for each of you will be 70% of what it would be at your Full Retirement Age and that is a permanent reduction.

If you expect at least average longevity about 84 for you and 87 for your wife and if it is financially feasible, then waiting longer to claim would yield a higher monthly amount as well as the most in cumulative lifetime benefits.

For those with an FRA of 67, SS retirement benefits claimed at FRA are 30% higher than at 62 and, if claimed at 70 are 75% more

than at 62. Although the decision on when to claim is always personal, a married couple should also evaluate their joint needs when deciding.

One final word of caution: although you and your wife are now retired from working, be aware that if you claim SS benefits before your FRA and return to work, Social Security has an earnings test which limits how much you can earn before some benefits are taken away. The earnings test lasts until you reach your full retirement age.

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.

Durant sworn in as Senator for Worcester & Hampshire District

BOSTON - On Nov. 29 Peter J. Durant (R-Spencer) was officially sworn in as the next State Senator for the Worcester and Hampshire District by Governor Maura Healey.

Durant fills the seat vacated by former state Sen. Anne Gobi, who stepped down in June to take a role in Healey's Administration.

"I am grateful to everyone in the Worcester and Hampshire District for trusting me to be your next State Senator," said Durant in a press release. "I promise all the constituents of this district that I will work hard to ensure that your interests on represented on Beacon Hill. I will work continuously to make

a positive difference for our district and our Commonwealth. I will always stand with the taxpayers, help small businesses, and ensure that our state government is accountable."

Durant looks forward to hitting the ground running. He and his team will begin building relationships with constituents, and local officials on day one.

Durant will be meeting with local officials over the course of the next few weeks to understand their needs and how he can best serve the community in Boston. He looks forward to being the liaison between the district and state government.

Durant will serve the towns of Barre,

Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holden, Hubbardston, Leicester, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Paxton, Phillipston, Princeton, Rutland, Spencer, Sterling, Templeton, West Brookfield, Westminster, Ware, and the cities of Gardner, and Worcester, Ward 7, Precinct 2,4,5,6 and Ward 9, Precincts 3 and 4.

Durant previously served the 6th Worcester District in the House of Representatives from 2011-2023. He began his public service career as a member of the Spencer Finance Committee in 1999 and served as that Board's chairman for three years before being elected to the Spencer Selectboard in 2006.

WARE RIVER NEWS TEAM



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

Ware River News
www.warivernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO
KEITH TURLEY
President
DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager
Turley Publications, Inc.

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OPINION POLICY

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

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

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.

New act calls for protection of Connecticut River Watershed

HADLEY – On Nov. 4, Congressman James P. McGovern (D-Massachusetts) stood with local conservation champions and officials to call for the passage of the Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act.

The act is a new piece of legislation he has introduced alongside Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-New Hampshire) to direct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a new, whole-of-watershed conservation strategy for the Connecticut River.

The Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act authorizes grant money for organizations for conservation, trails, transit, sustainable agriculture and more, protecting the 7.2 million-acre Connecticut River Watershed that is essential in contributing to the resilience of its resident natural and human communities. It supplies drinking water for 2.3 million people, including residents of major cities like Springfield and Hartford, Connecticut, and fills reservoirs that provide water to another 2.5 million people in the Greater Boston area.

“The decisions we make now will literally determine whether future generations will have the same opportunities that we are so lucky to have today. We are at an inflection point in the climate crisis, and protecting nature

is one of the best tools we have,” McGovern told those gathered at the press conference. “We are here because this river - and this entire river valley-is a special place. Whether you’re just visiting, or your family has called the Valley home for generations, it’s easy to see why the Connecticut River is worthy of recognition and protection.”

The Watershed offers numerous environmental and economic benefits to diverse stakeholders and industries, including forestry, fisheries, farming, hunting, recreation, boating and tourism. In New England, outdoor recreation is a significant economic driver, supporting 195,500 jobs and contributing over \$17 billion to the economies of the five watershed states.

The CRWPA creates a dedicated funding stream to leverage state, local, and private investments to support nonregulatory conservation, restoration, education, and recreation efforts in the watershed. The legislation is modeled on successful partnerships enabled by bipartisan Federal legislation such as the Chesapeake WILD Act (2020), and the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act (2015).

The CRWPA is supported by advocacy groups which collectively represent millions of grassroots supporters in New England

and across the United States, including: American Rivers, Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, Appalachian Mountain Club, Atowi Project, Audubon Vermont, Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc., Connecticut Audubon Society, Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation, Connecticut Forest & Park Association, Connecticut Land Conservation Council, Connecticut Landmarks, Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Connecticut River Conservancy, Conservation Law Foundation, Deerfield River Watershed Association, Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee, Elnu Abenaki Tribe, Estuary Magazine, Fort River Watershed Association, Franklin Land Trust, Friends of Nulhegan, Friends of Pondcherry, Friends of Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Greening Greenfield, Highstead Foundation, Hilltown Land Trust, Housatonic Valley Association, Kestrel Land Trust, Land Trust Alliance, Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts, Mass Audubon, Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, Mount Grace

Please see **WATERSHED**, page 11



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
ABOVE: Dancers from the Get Up and Dance Studio in Gilbertville participated in this past Saturday's Christmas in Barre parade.

GILBERTVILLE DANCE STUDIO JOINS IN PARADE

RIGHT: Sarah Nydam, owner of the Get Up and Dance Studio in Gilbertville, throws candy from the back of the truck with the help of her husband, Tim.



HARDWICK from page 1

was received by the committee from Anne Barnes for the Town House, and Korzec said while her request is not in his committee's jurisdiction (due to being under the \$25,000 threshold) the committee supports her request.

Korzec presented two recommendations that the Capital Planning Committee voted one, the first regarding the school on Ruggles Hill Road. He said a town meeting vote from 2013 approved spending \$4,000 to prepare for the whole or partial sale of the property.

He said the property could be divided into two lots, as the town's water supply is also located on the site.

Korzec said the old ice rink and school building comprise 2.63 acres and the town well and emergency generator house is an additional 10,320 square feet.

He said the decision to sell the property is under the authority of the Select Board.

The Select Board voted to move forward with selecting a realtor to help find parties interested in the property.

The second recommendation from the Capital Planning Committee is to compile a com-

prehensive asset list. The list will include land, buildings, bridges, and all capital property and assets.

“Currently there is no asset list in town,” Korzec said. “I think we need one.”

Used car sales complaint

The property owner of 2089 Greenwich Road asked the Select Board to consider nonrenewal of the Class II used car sales and repair license held by Affordable Cars, which is owned and operated by Brian Gillespie.

Gillespie has seven years remaining on a 10-year lease to operate his business at 2089 Greenwich Road.

The property owner purchased the site in 2021 and it had an open lease with Gillespie. Since this time, the property owner has determined that Gillespie's business practices were “basically deplorable.”

He said Gillespie gets used cars from three states, fixes them up, and sells them on consignment. He said most of Gillespie's sales are from outside of Worcester county.

“He's really preying on really vulnerable people who are spending all the money they own for these vehicles,” the property owner said.

He said Gillespie has had his used car license revoked twice already, including in Ware in 2018. Gillespie said that decision was overturned, and that his license in Ware was transferred to Hardwick.

The property owner also said Gillespie doesn't apply for new licenses with towns, rather he comes in under joint ownership of an existing business.

“He's able to gain access that way, and not answer questions about losing his license in the state and any prior instances,” he said.

The property owner said Gillespie had a contract to rent and maintain a port-a-potty from Parkers Portables, which he did not pay. The port-a-potty has since been repossessed.

Gillespie said he ended up buying two of his own port-a-potties, which is why he stopped renting one.

The property owner said the Police Department has been called to the site due to customer complaints, but there isn't much they can do.

“The state Attorney General's Office has two current complaints since he's acquired the license from Hardwick to operate this business of customers who've been cheated,” he said.

Gillespie said the property has been inspected following complaints filed with the Board of Health and other departments, and no violations were found. Gillespie said the Building Inspector has also checked the site, and found no violations.

“He's been trying to get me out of there,” Gillespie said of the property owner.

The Select Board voted to take the information from both parties under advisement.

Wastewater update

Water Pollution Control Facilities Superintendent Scott Potter said the alarm system at the Wheelwright plant was upgraded, giving them access to more than just a power outage alarm.

He said the Department of Environmental Protection and Environmental Protection Agency toured the wastewater treatment facilities, prior to the start of the town's wastewater upgrade project.

Potter voiced his opposition to hiring oversight for the construction phase of this project. He said digging has been completed in the first leg and there were no issues.

“I just think it's money that we don't need to spend on that,” he said.

Town Administrator Nicole Parker said weekly project updates for the town's wastewater system upgrade are posted on the department's website.

Fire Chief retirement

Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim said he's been speaking with Fire Chief Raymond Walker and Deputy Chief Joshua Pease about Walker's upcoming retirement. Vollheim suggested the Select Board consider naming Pease as interim Fire Chief for a period of six months and then reviewing.

Select Board members Kelly Kemp and H. Robert Ruggles shared concerns about Pease taking on the role, while still being a full-time police officer. They noted the demands of both jobs.

Ruggles and Kemp also suggested speaking with other towns and exploring the possibility of sharing resources, as well as hearing from members of the Fire Department.

The Select Board will be meeting Walker and Pease to discuss the position.

Walker will be retiring on Dec. 25.

Conservation restriction

Cynthia Henshaw, executive

director of the East Quabbin Land Trust, said she has been working with North Road property owner Chet Boronski.

Henshaw said Boronski will be donating an approximately eight-acre parcel of land that includes part of a hayfield to the EQLT and place a conservation restriction on the property. The EQLT will in turn donate the conservation restriction to the town.

“We're working in partnership to make this happen,” Henshaw said.

The Select Board voted to accept the conservation restriction as presented.

Recognitions

Vollheim thanked Lagrant Electric for their help in installing a generator at the Fire Department. He also thanked Kemp for organizing the delivery of poinsettias to the town's senior citizens.

Kemp thanked everyone who donated and volunteered to deliver poinsettias this year.

Police Department grant

The Select Board accepted a grant on behalf of the Police Department in the amount of \$35,126.58.

Support group offered for grandparents raising grandchildren

WARE – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group meets Wednesday mornings from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Behavioral Health Network's Family Resource Center, 82 Main St.

Join the group weekly to have adult conversation and to connect with others

going through the same things you are, trying to be both parent and grandparent.

For more information or to register contact the Family Resource Center by calling 413-277-6601 or emailing bhncfr@bhninc.org.

Dear Patients,

It has been a true pleasure and an honor to provide Eye Care to so many people in Palmer and surrounding areas throughout my career.

I will be retiring February 15, 2024 after 44 years and will no longer be providing eye care after that date.

Quabbin Valley Eye Care is in the process of interviewing new provider candidates, and will notify patients once exam schedules are available.

All patients records will be maintained by Quabbin Valley Eye Care 1448 North Main Street, Palmer MA 01069, and a copy of your records will be available within 30 days. A record release form is available to you from our office if requested.

In the interim Ludlow Eye Associates at Maple Tree Square, Ludlow MA (413-583-3600) has agreed to provide necessary services.

Contact lens exams with a current eyeglass prescription, materials and optical services are still available at QVEC with our licensed Optician.

I wish you all the best for your future health and happiness.

Sincerely,
Dr. Gary Wolf
Optometrist

CHRISTMAS SALE!

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warren

Selectmen OK proposal for Wright's Mill planning services

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen reviewed a contract between the town and Weston & Sampson for professional planning services regarding the Wright's Mill Master Recovery Plan.

At the Nov. 30 meeting, Town Administrator James Ferrera said the request for proposal was successful, bringing in two competitive proposals. A committee reviewed the proposals and came to a unanimous decision in favor of Weston & Sampson.

The cost proposal for services from Weston & Sampson is \$223,400.

The board voted to accept the proposal from Weston & Sampson.

Warning from ABCC

Administrative Assistant Karen Dusty said she received an email from the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission stating that Whiskey Hill Liquors, Countryside Pub, Warren Package Store and Glenda's Pub were tested recently, and all served alcohol to a minor.

Dusty said the ABCC decided to issue a warning to all four businesses.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Richard Eichacker said only Warren Package Store had been involved in a similar incident in the past.

Board of Selectmen Chair David Dufresne said serving alcohol to minors is unacceptable, and he requested that each of the businesses come before the board to discuss steps to prevent this from happening again.

Town Administrator's report

Ferrera said electrical work is being completed at the Senior Center, including emergency exit signs, wiring of exterior lighting, and light switches inside of the building that were not functional.

He said Tecton Architects is looking to meet with the board about the financial feasibility study for a public safety complex, either at the end of December or

in January.

Dufresne said they would like to try to dedicate the second meeting in January to a meeting with Tecton Architects.

Ferrera said he met with the Sewer Commissioners, and they are accepting applications for the positions of wastewater treatment plant operator/mechanic.

"It's critical that we get the position filled," Ferrera said. "We're trying to get as much outreach as possible to draw anybody's interest in that position."

Ferrera said he is also working with the Board of Health to fill the health agent/inspector position.

Ferrera said they are also looking at addressing maintenance issues at the Police Department, including moisture. He said the Friends of the Town Hall have also requested permission to paint the front door of the Town Hall sometime in the spring.

Ferrera said the Board of Health has a list of "problem properties" and court action may be necessary in some cases.

Issues range from junk in the yard to vegetation overgrowth, hoarding, vermin, feces/waste and code violations.

Ferrera said the grit screw is being installed at the wastewater plant, and it should be up and running within a week or two.

Town Accountant

Ferrera provided the board with an updated job description for the position of Town Accountant.

He said the job will be posted from Dec. 15 through the middle of January.

Ferrera said at town meeting, additional money was transferred to the Assistant Town Accountant's salary line until the position of Town Accountant can be filled. Effective Dec. 8, the assistant will temporarily increase her hours to 25-30 hours a week at a rate of \$35 an hour.

Fire report

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie said for the month of October, the department responded to 41 total incidents including nine motor vehicle accidents, four medical assists, one structure fire, 10 acti-

vated alarms, one carbon monoxide call, two investigations, two power line incidents, one illegal burn, one gas emergency, one service call, one good intent call, one cooking fire incident, one chimney fire, one electrical equipment issue and one extrication/rescue.

Lavoie said the department also responded to 59 ambulance calls.

The department's new truck has arrived, and should be in service by the end of December.

Trash complaint

Dufresne said somebody dumped a recliner chair on Douglas Road, as well as trash by the train tracks at the lights on Route 67 in West Warren.

He said residents and the Highway Department work hard to keep the town clean and he asked people to be responsible for disposing of items.

"We're trying to clean up our community, make it nice – pick up your trash," Dufresne said. He said there are trash cans located on the Common.

Clothing donation bins are also located at the Shepard Municipal Building where people can drop their unwanted clothing. The town receives \$.07 per pound of clothing collected from the bins.

Dufresne said he has heard suggestions from residents to remove Salvation Army bins at the transfer station, and replace them with the same ones the Shepard Municipal Building has. He said the reason is because the town doesn't receive any revenue from the Salvation Army bins and the chain's nearest location has closed.

Grant acceptance

Ferrera said the town received a Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency cybersecurity grant in the amount of \$5,000 for firewall protection at the Highway Department, Senior Center and Sewer Department. The board voted to accept the grant.

Lucy Stone Park

Eichacker said signs have been delivered for Lucy Stone Park, and will be installed.

GEORGE'S TIRE PLACE

Business owner keeps the wheels rolling

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – What makes a small town unique is the local businesses who show no signs of stopping.

George's Tire Place, located off Route 67, has been an establishment for the small town community since 1967. An essential business serving the town of Warren and neighboring communities.

In its 56-year run, proprietor George J. Poleshuk has kept his tire place and garage running strong. Poleshuk of West Brookfield grew up with the business his father started more than half a century ago.

The business first opened as George's Tire Sales under Poleshuk's father. Already managing a nearby garage, Poleshuk's father began adding on to his business in Warren in the early 1970s.

In 1987, Poleshuk took over the business and rebranded the garage to George's Tire Place; the name that stands out today.

Throughout the years, George's Tire Place has offered services in multiple repairs. However, as the name on the sign off Route 67 indicates, the main focus and service of the business was tire repairs.

This line of work has certainly been Poleshuk's passion over the years, and it is serving the people in town.

His favorite part of the job is "Getting people out of a tough bind," said Poleshuk. "Helping people and solving unexpected issues."

George's Tire Place is busy most of the year, especially from October to the holiday months. Poleshuk is always ready at the phone to take your call and hear your needs. The business may carry his name, but Poleshuk doesn't work alone.

As of now, Poleshuk has three staff members at his garage and provides exceptional service to locals in need. Over the years, he has had phenomenal staff under his business and mentioned he has a myriad of memories of all who have worked at George's Tire Place.

One memorable story dates back to 2009 where George's Tire Place got exposure on a national level. A story with photos about George's Tire Place was featured in Muscle Car Review Magazine.

Poleshuk still has a copy of the story displayed in his waiting room. Photos highlighted tires being stacked at George's Tire Place.

For the business, Warren has been a great home for Poleshuk and his tire place.

"The town of Warren and I have gotten along very well," said



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
George's Tire Place has been an established business in Warren since 1967. It's located off Route 67 in Warren and has proudly served the town and neighboring communities.

Poleshuk.

Residents of Warren are very common customers at George's Tire Place but has also attracted customers in the neighboring communities. Customers come from West Brookfield, Brookfield, North Brookfield, East Brookfield, Palmer and Spencer.

Many overseas customers even get tire service from Poleshuk. He has met people who have bought tires from him and had them later installed to the cars.

Afterwards, those vehicles are shipped overseas to England and other nations in Europe.

One of Poleshuk's favorite parts about his job is interacting with customers from the past and the present. A lot of conversations happen at Mason's Grille in Warren where he goes for breakfast.

Many locals and his regular customers run into Poleshuk there and it is always a fun interaction.

Many familiar faces take Poleshuk back in time to when he first met his regular customers.

"I didn't feel old until my paperboy came in to buy tires," said Poleshuk.

In the years Poleshuk has operated his tire place, he has maintained a lot of knowledge and experience. In other words, he is a source you can trust when it comes to servicing your vehicle and what tires best support it.

George's Tire Place is a veteran business with a lot of retained knowledge. George really knows his business and his customers appreciate his advice in person and on the phone.

"I give my best advice," said Poleshuk.

Tires can be found easily and come in all brands, shapes and sizes at George's Tire Place. For years, Poleshuk had upwards of 4,000 tires in stock.

In more recent years, Poleshuk has kept a steady amount in stock of around 1,500. No matter the amounts, he is accommodating to his customers.

Generosity is a known quality at George's Tire Place as the com-



George's Tire Place is there for you when you're in a scrape.

pany donates to local food pantries, police charities and national charities every year. In the past, George's Tire Place has been a generous sponsor of several local softball teams, baseball teams, and car races.

For years, George's Tire Place has been a sponsor at Riverside Speedway and Monadnock Speedway in New Hampshire.

As of 2023, George's Tire Place is always there for people who are in a bind when it comes to their vehicle. Poleshuk and his team have been learning new tricks on tire systems on certain vehicles.

Besides automobiles, George's Tire Place also services tractor vehicles and other farming vehicles.

Poleshuk expects a very busy season during the holidays and looks forward to serving the public in the place his business has called home for over 50 years.

George's Tire Place has services such as offering new and used tires, inner tubes for tractor tires, and snow tires. George's Tire Place is located at 386 Boston Post Road, and can be reached by calling 413-436-5779 and is there for you if you're in a scrape.

Gentle yoga for stress relief offered Dec. 7

WARREN – Gentle yoga or stress relief ad to loosen up, relax and breathe easy, will be held at the Warren Senior Center, 2252 Main St., West Warren on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Let peace prevail this holiday season, starting with you. Enjoy a slower-paced yoga practice with simple poses that make you feel

like yourself again.

Yoga and meditation are clinically tested tools for reducing stress and improving health.

This workshop will be presented by Phil Milgrom of the Centered Place in Warren and is sponsored by the Warren Public Library with a grant from the Warren Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the

Massachusetts Cultural council, a state agency.

Registration is required by calling 413-436-7690 or emailing warrenpubliclibrary@hotmail.com. Please bring a mat and one or two blankets and cushions, if possible.

This event is free and suitable for all ages 15 and up. No previous yoga experience required.

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

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

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

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

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Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm
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Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm
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Upcoming Events
Saturday, December 23rd
8pm-11:30pm Project Band
Tony Soul

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5:30pm • All Welcome

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SANTA LIGHTS THE COMMON



After a countdown, the tree was lit by Santa Claus.



Decorations can be found throughout the town, including on the steps of the Town Hall.



These dancers wore festive hats and holiday sweaters.

LIGHTS from page 1

The Warren Public Library invited guests upstairs to enjoy a large selection of treats and cider.

Glenda's was the spot to get your face painted or to make your own ornament.

Warren WIC, The Lost Arts and Diva Dance School held open houses, offering games, activities or vendors.

Leah Shattuck of West Brookfield and her team of draft horses offered free wagon rides around the Common, for all to enjoy.

On the Common, people could pick up a s'mores making kit from the Parks and Recreation Department to roast over several firepits. Apple cider was provided by Breezeland Orchards, and the Donkin Donuts and the Donut Man passed out coupons.

Boy Scout Troop 142 sold their custom wood crafts, sure to spruce up your home for the holiday season. Tam O'Shanter Farm brought Wilbur the Pig and had crafts for children.

The Dance Factory sold hot chocolate as a fundraiser, and wreaths were sold by Warren Fire Department.

The Quaboag Chorus sang holiday songs and the Quaboag Performing Arts Boosters had items available for sale.

Santa's mailbox was filled with letters as the night went on, and families enjoyed meeting with the man himself, posing for a photo in his sleigh.

The Community Emergency Response Team helped people cross the road safely, and Lizak Bus Service, Inc. provided a free shuttle service from the Shepard Municipal Building.

Next up for the Parks and Recreation Department is the "Light the Night" Holiday Decorating Contest for Warren and West Warren held on Dec. 15, 16 and 17 from 5-9 p.m.

Entry forms are due by Dec. 9 to be eligible to win a prize. Forms are available at the Warren and West Warren Post Offices and can be mailed to Light the Night/Warren Parks & Rec., P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083 or emailed to parksandrec@warren-ma.gov.

Registration can also be completed online at <https://forms.office.com/r/xrkiLZNcfW>.

Prizes will be awarded to Favorite #1 (\$150), Favorite #2 (\$100), Favorite #3 (\$75), and Best of Quaboag (prize to be determined). Six participation prizes in the amount of \$50 each will also be awarded in a random drawing.

Maps of Light the Night will be available on the "Warren Parks Department" Facebook

page, or at a drive-through at the front door entrance of the Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High St., on Friday, Dec. 15. See Santa and enjoy hot chocolate and treats compliments of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Maps will be available outside the Shepard Municipal Building on Dec. 16 and 17 as well.



Representing Tam O'Shanter Farm from left are Madeline Davidson, Jaime Lynn Pappas and Mandy Pappas.



Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 142 sold a variety of wood crafts, including stars, trees and creches.



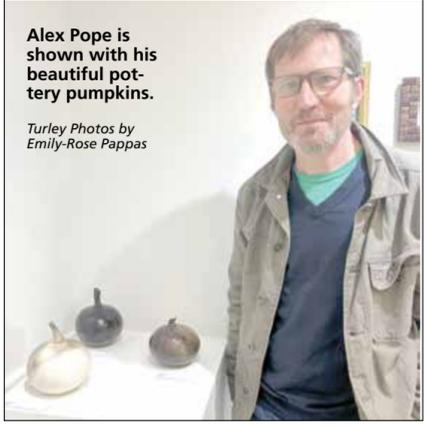
Hot chocolate and cookies were available to guests at Mason's Grille, as well as beef stew and clam chowder in bread bowls.



Diva Dance School performed a number of holiday songs.



Janet Pozar is shown with her beautiful little paintings and landscapes, which are part of the ArtWorks Gallery's "Beautiful Little Things" small works exhibition, on display through Dec. 17.



Alex Pope is shown with his beautiful pottery pumpkins.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas



Perfect pottery turned and sculpted by artist Elisa Eaton.

TALENT from page 1

including stained glass, ceramics, woodworking, scratchboard, plaster, photographs, oil, acrylic, and watercolor paintings, and so much more.

"We wanted to have a small work show because of the holidays," Eichacker explained. "Small works are usually more affordable than larger and can make excellent gifts. We want people to love the artwork as much as we do."

At the gallery's opening was Janet Pozar, a talented painter, showing off her stunning and detailed mini paintings.

"I get ideas from photographs I take," Pozar said. "I think it is a fun thing to do, and everyone can create art. It makes you feel good."

Alex Pope's pumpkin sculptures were a fantastic addition with three different colors to flush out the colors of the clay.

"The natural objects and forms inspire me. But once I make one piece, it inspires the next. I am inspired by nature," Pope said.

ArtWorks Gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. For more information, visit www.workshop13.org.



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10AM - 2PM**

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Treats!
Gift Wrapping at Ware River News

Tree and Wreath Festival

will be held at the Ware Town Hall

Cookie Decorating
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Santa!
AND MORE!

Artsy Elves will be at Workshop 13




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| USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS \$2.59 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS \$4.77 lb | USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN DUMPLINGS \$2.99 lb |
| SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST \$3.99 lb | USDA INSP. 10F FROZEN 26/30 COUNT RAW SHRIMP 2 LB BAG \$7.99 ea | |

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Season's GREETINGS

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WARE HIGH SCHOOL *Holiday Craft Fair*



Winter is fast approaching, and the craft fair had vendors selling warm winter hats and scarves.



Handmade dish towels are unique crafts that are useful at home.



SLM Creative Crafts had ceramic tiles featuring numerous designs.



Handmade onesie dresses would be a great gift for someone new in the family.



CME Pottery offers hand built and handmade pieces such as cups, plates, and vases.



If you're an art lover, these canvases would light up the room.



An assortment of Christmas crafts including scented candles were available during the craft fair.



The arts were flooding the craft fair in all shapes and sizes, including painted rocks that cannot be ignored.



United Church of Ware had a series of unique crafts available for purchase, including toy soldiers.



Many crafts available can be useful for day-to-day routines such as cloths, handkerchiefs and wallets.

This holiday season, protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID & the FLU!

Holiday gatherings are starting up, which means it's time to prevent the spread of germs by getting vaccinated!

The Flu and Covid vaccines are safe and effective for ages six months and older, and can help protect you from serious illness.

Healthy Quaboog is here to remind you to take care of yourself and those around you by getting vaccinated ahead of the holiday season, because YOU MATTER!

Find vaccines near you at www.healthyquaboog.org/rural-vaccine-equality-initiative-rvei/

Go to www.healthyquaboog.org to find vaccines near you.

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Indians looking to make states

WARE – After a disappointing end to last season, Ware girls basketball hopes to come back from a 7-13 campaign and make the state tournament this season. The Indians began practices last week as they prepare for their season opener, which is scheduled for Dec. 8 at Smith Academy. Ware was set to scrimmage Mahar earlier this week and comes home for the first time on Tuesday, Dec. 12 against Athol High School at 7 p.m.



Amelia Orszulak tries to maintain possession under tight defense.



Finn McFaul works to get away from pressure.



Madisyn Slattery dribbles toward the hoop.



Shelby Hogan makes a pass along the perimeter.



The boys went 11-9 last year and made the state tournament.

Pathfinder looks to season ahead

PALMER – Pathfinder boys basketball continued preseason practices last week. The Pioneers had a scrimmage earlier this week and are scheduled to open up with Pioneer Valley Christian on Dec. 7. Their home opener is on Friday, Dec. 15 against Ludlow. Last year's team went 11-9 overall. They faced Paulo Freire, a team that no longer exists, in the state tournament last year. They were defeated by 71-36. Pathfinder hopes for another run in this year's state tournament as well as a shot at Western Mass.



Coach Zac Button gives his team some direction.



Hannah Baxter sets the pick as Mia Ducos drives toward the basket.

Panthers preparing for regular season

BARRE – Last week, Quabbin girls basketball prepared for their regular season opener. The Panthers are set to begin playing on Monday, Dec. 11 against

Worcester Tech. The game is home at 6:30 p.m. Quabbin also had a pair of scrimmages last week against Nashoba and Palmer.



Liana Leger with a jump shot.



Brooke Austin wrestles for the ball with Christiana Dunn looking on in the background.



Riley Bassett reaches for the rebound with Hannah Baxter behind her.



Pathfinder's Riley Sanderson was the Small School MVP.

PVSOA presents year-end awards

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association (PVSOA), which was formed in 1946, held its annual banquet at the Polish American Citizens Club in Ludlow on Dec. 1.

One of the highlights of the evening was the buffet catered by Tony & Penny's Restaurant.

There was also an awards ceremony. Ludlow junior Thomas Wadas is the 2023 George E. Russell Award (Boys Large School MCP award) winner.

"Thomas falls in line with all our former Ludlow players who have won the George Russell Award," said long-time Ludlow boys soccer coach Greg Kolodziey, who won his 200th career game this fall. "He's a very talented player who has worked extremely hard to get what he has achieved."

Wadas is the 24th Ludlow boys' soccer player to receive the Russell award, which is named in memory of the former Ludlow High School principal, since 1965. The first Ludlow boys' soccer player to win the prestigious award was Bob Duarte.

Wadas, who's a three-year varsity starter, didn't attend this year's PVSOA banquet because the Ludlow High School soccer banquet was held on the same night.

In his first three seasons as a member of the varsity soccer team, Wadas, who's a midfielder, scored 15 goals and 15 assists. He also helped the Lions (18-2-2) capture the Western Mass. Class A title for the third consecutive year. The Lions also competed in the Division 1 state tournament.

Pathfinder Tech senior Riley Sanderson received the Henry O. Holly/Dave Grieve (Boys Small School MVP award).

"I received an email from my soccer coach (David

Please see **AWARDS**, page 10



Pathfinder has another week of practice before opening up the regular season.



They faced Paulo Freire in last year's tournament.

sports

2023-2024 Winter VARSITY schedule

Ware High School

| BOYS BASKETBALL | | | |
|-------------------|------|-----------------|-----------|
| Thursday, Dec. 7 | Away | Mt. Everett | 3:30 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 8 | Away | TBD | TBD |
| Monday, Dec. 11 | Home | Granby | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Dec. 14 | Away | Monson | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Dec. 18 | Home | Palmer | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Dec. 21 | Home | Southwick | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 4 | Away | Renaissance | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 8 | Away | Granby | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 12 | Home | Monson | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 16 | Away | Palmer | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 19 | Away | Southwick | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 23 | Home | Renaissance | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 26 | Away | Hoosac | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 29 | Home | Liberatas Acad. | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Feb. 2 | Home | Hopkins | 7 p.m. |
| Sunday, Feb. 4 | Away | Quaboag | 5:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Feb. 6 | Home | David Prouty | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Feb. 8 | Away | Smith Voc. | 6:30 p.m. |

| GIRLS BASKETBALL | | | |
|--------------------|------|---------------|--------|
| Friday, Dec. 8 | Away | Smith Academy | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Dec. 12 | Home | Athol | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 15 | Home | Southwick | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Dec. 19 | Away | Granby | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 22 | Home | Pioneer | 7 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 27 | Away | Ludlow | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 2 | Home | Hopkins | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 5 | Home | Mohawk | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 8 | Away | Franklin Tech | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 15 | Away | Putnam | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 18 | Away | Athol | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 22 | Away | Pioneer | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 25 | Home | Easthampton | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 29 | Away | Mohawk | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Feb. 1 | Home | Franklin Tech | 7 p.m. |
| Sunday, Feb. 4 | Away | Quaboag | 1 p.m. |
| Thursday, Feb. 8 | Home | Putnam | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Feb. 13 | Home | Palmer | 7 p.m. |

Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School

| BOYS BASKETBALL | | | |
|-------------------|------|-----------------|-----------|
| Thursday, Dec. 7 | Away | PV Christian | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Dec. 11 | Away | Mt. Everett | 6:30 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 15 | Home | Ludlow | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Dec. 21 | Away | Gateway | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Dec. 28 | Home | Palmer | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 2 | Home | Smith Voc. | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 5 | Away | Hampden Charter | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 9 | Home | PVCIC | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 12 | Away | St. Mary's | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 18 | Home | PV Christian | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 22 | Away | Duggan | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 26 | Away | Monson | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 29 | Home | Gateway | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Feb. 1 | Away | Smith Voc. | 6:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Feb. 5 | Home | Hampden Charter | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Feb. 8 | Away | PVCIC | 6 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Feb. 13 | Home | St. Mary's | 7 p.m. |

| GIRLS BASKETBALL | | | |
|--------------------|------|---------------------|-----------|
| Monday, Dec. 11 | Away | Baystate Acad. | 6 p.m. |
| Thursday, Dec. 14 | Home | Duggan | 5:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Dec. 19 | Away | Smith Academy | 6 p.m. |
| Thursday, Dec. 21 | Away | Gateway | 4 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 27 | Home | Mohawk | 5:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 4 | Away | St. Mary's | 6 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 5 | Home | Westfield Technical | 5:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 8 | Home | Hampden Charter | 5:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 11 | Away | Sci-Tech | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 16 | Home | Hampden Charter | 5:30 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 19 | Away | PVCIC | 6 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 23 | Away | Duggan | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 25 | Home | Smith Academy | 5:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 30 | Home | Gateway | 5:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Feb. 6 | Home | St. Mary's | 5:30 p.m. |
| Friday, Feb. 9 | Away | Hampden Charter | 6 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Feb. 13 | Home | Sci-Tech | 5 p.m. |

| WRESTLING | | | |
|--------------------|------|-------------|-----------|
| Wednesday, Dec. 13 | Away | Smith Voc. | 6 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 20 | Home | Frontier | 6:45 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 27 | Away | Northampton | 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 3 | Away | Mohawk | 7 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 17 | Away | Gateway | 7 p.m. |
| Saturday, Jan. 20 | Away | Granby | 9 a.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 24 | Away | Duggan | 7 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 31 | Away | Mahar | 7 p.m. |

Quaboag Regional High School

| BOYS BASKETBALL | | | |
|-------------------|------|------------------------|-----------|
| Monday, Dec. 11 | Home | Oxford | 6:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Dec. 18 | Away | Uxbridge | 6:30 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 22 | Away | Ayer Shirley | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 3 | Home | Bartlett | 6:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, Jan. 6 | Away | Mahar | 1 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 8 | Away | David Prouty | 6:30 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 12 | Away | Southbridge | 6:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 16 | Home | Oxford | 6:30 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 19 | Away | Leicester | 6:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 22 | Home | Bartlett | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 25 | Away | Northbridge | 6:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 29 | Away | Ware | 5:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, Feb. 4 | Home | Leicester | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Feb. 6 | Away | David Prouty | 5:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Feb. 8 | Home | Southbridge | 6:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Feb. 12 | Home | Advance Math & Science | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wed., Feb. 14 | Home | University Park | 6:30 p.m. |
| Friday, Feb. 16 | Away | | |

| GIRLS BASKETBALL | | | |
|--------------------|------|--------------|-----------|
| Thursday, Dec. 7 | Away | Marlborough | 6:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, Dec. 9 | Away | TBD | TBD |
| Monday, Dec. 11 | Away | Oxford | 6:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Dec. 18 | Home | Uxbridge | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 20 | Away | TBD | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 27 | Home | Mahar | 6:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 8 | Away | David Prouty | 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 10 | Home | South Hadley | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 11 | Home | Southbridge | 6 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 18 | Home | Oxford | 6:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 22 | Away | Leicester | 6:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 29 | Home | Northbridge | 6:30 p.m. |
| Friday, Feb. 2 | Away | Auburn | 6:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, Feb. 4 | Home | Ware | 1 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Feb. 6 | Home | Leicester | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Feb. 8 | Home | David Prouty | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Feb. 12 | Away | Southbridge | 6 p.m. |
| Monday, Feb. 19 | Home | Millis | 6:30 p.m. |

| INDOOR TRACK (MEETS AT TANTASQUA) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|--------|-----------|
| Wednesday, Dec. 13 | Away | Meet 1 | 5:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 20 | Away | Meet 2 | 5:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 3 | Away | Meet 3 | 5:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 10 | Away | Meet 4 | 5:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 17 | Away | Meet 5 | 5:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 24 | Away | Meet 6 | 5:30 p.m. |

Quabbin Regional High School

| BOYS BASKETBALL | | | |
|--------------------|------|--------------|--------|
| Monday, Dec. 11 | Away | Murdock | 7 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 13 | Away | Narragansett | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 15 | Home | Hudson | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Dec. 19 | Away | Clinton | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 22 | Home | Maynard | 7 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 27 | Away | Oakmont | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 4 | Away | Lunenburg | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 9 | Away | Tyngsborough | 6 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 12 | Away | Gardner | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 16 | Home | Littleton | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 19 | Away | Hudson | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 23 | Home | Clinton | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 26 | Away | Maynard | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 30 | Home | Lunenburg | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Feb. 2 | Home | Tyngsborough | 6 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Feb. 6 | Home | Gardner | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Feb. 9 | Away | Littleton | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Feb. 13 | Home | Belchertown | 7 p.m. |

| GIRLS BASKETBALL | | | |
|--------------------|------|--------------------|-----------|
| Monday, Dec. 11 | Home | Worcester Tech | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 13 | Home | Narragansett | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 15 | Away | Hudson | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Dec. 19 | Home | Clinton | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 22 | Away | Maynard | 7 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 27 | Home | Oakmont | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 29 | Away | Groton-Dunstable | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 4 | Home | Lunenburg | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 9 | Home | Tyngsborough | 6 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 16 | Away | Littleton | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 19 | Home | Hudson | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 23 | Away | Clinton | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 26 | Home | Maynard | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 30 | Away | Lunenburg | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Feb. 1 | Away | Tyngsborough | 6 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Feb. 6 | Away | Notre Dame Academy | 6 p.m. |

| INDOOR TRACK (MEETS AT WACHUSETT) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Wednesday, Dec. 13 | Away | Meet 1 | 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 20 | Away | Meet 2 | 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 10 | Away | Meet 3 | 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 17 | Away | Meet 4 | 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 24 | Away | Meet 5 | 5 p.m. |

| WRESTLING | | | |
|--------------------|------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Saturday, Dec. 9 | Away | Saint John's | 10 a.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 13 | Away | Shepherd Hill | 6 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 20 | Home | North Middlesex | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Dec. 28 | Away | Phil Tomkiel Tournament | 9 a.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 3 | Home | Marlborough | 6:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, Jan. 6 | Away | Tri-County | 10 a.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 10 | Away | Algonquin | 6:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, Jan. 13 | Home | TBD | 10 a.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 17 | Away | Nashoba | 6 p.m. |
| Saturday, Jan. 20 | Away | Granby | 9 a.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 24 | Home | Leominster | 6:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, Jan. 27 | Away | Whitinsville Christian | 10 a.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 31 | Away | Tyngsborough | 6 p.m. |
| Saturday, Feb. 3 | Away | Triton | 9 a.m. |

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The second round of the 2023-24 candlepin league season has witnessed new teams rising to the top on Tuesday nights.

As of Nov. 21, Life is Good started off the second round undefeated by going 4-0 and currently sitting in first place. Blue B's and Last in Line started off the new round going 3-1.

The Champs R Here broke even by going 2-2 at the start of the round. Acres, who finished in second place during round one, started off 1-3. The round one winner, Compression started off 1-3.

In one match, Life is Good bowled against Team BK. In game one, Life is Good managed to hang on to the lead by beating BK 370-354. Mark Fitzpatrick of BK gave a good effort in trying to take the lead by bowling 107 in his first game.

In game two, Life is Good repeated game one by starting off strong earlier in the game. Life is Good won by a score of 346-331. In game three, BK took the last game, and it was a close one. BK won 346-345.

Life is Good won total pinfall with a final score of 1061-1031. Another match for Tuesday

evening was between Acres and Blue B's. The match was close all night with every game being determined by single digit leads. In game one, Acres took the game 360-356. Kenny Trudel of Acres lead the team with an opening game of 102.

In game two, Acres won again 381-372. Trudel stayed strong and bowled 109 in his 2nd game. In game three, Blue B's made it close, but fell two pins shy of Acres 380-378.

By winning all three games, Acres took total pinfall with a final score of 1121-1106.

Round one winner, Compression bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Compression won by a score of 343-331. In game two, Jay Dominick bowled a 112, but it wasn't enough to defeat Last in Line in game two. Last in Line scored 349 and Compression scored 336.

In game three, Compression was victorious over Last in Line by a score of 378-356. Dominick finished strong with a 108.

Compression won total pinfall with a final score of 1057-1036.

The Champs R Here bowled against their average for the night and took 3 out of 4 points. High single of the night was bowled by John Colkos scoring 123. Colkos finished the night with a 107 and a three-game series of 313.

Thursday Night Mixed League The league rolled off after Thanksgiving break and was bowling their final league night in the month of November.

Team Two on lanes four and five at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes. In game one, Team Three was victorious by a score of 375-362. In game two, Team Two won by a score of 427-384. Danny Fennyery of Team Two had a strong showing on the lanes by bowling a 127.

In game three, Team Three won by a score of 424-407. Team Two won total pinfall with a final score of 1196-1183.

Another match on Thursday evening was between Team Six and Team One. In game one, Team Six was the winner with a score of 403 to Team One's 385. Kris Rickson of Team One had the highest single of game one with 112.

In game two, Team Six won again with a score of 408 and Team One bowled 398. Rickson stayed consistent by staying in the 110s with a 114 game.

In game three, Team Six won again for the sweep. Team Six bowled 388 and Team One bowled 372. Team Six won total pinfall with a final score of 1199-1155.

Team Four bowled against Team Five. In game one, Team Five won a close game 419-415. Nick Maslon of Team Four started off the night with a 103.

In game two, Team Four was the winner by a score of 421-407. In game three, Team Five won the last game by a score of 448-418. Team Five won total pinfall and had a final score of 1274 and Team Four ended with a total score of 1254.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Pathfinder boys soccer also received the Small School Sportsmanship Award.

AWARDS from page 9

Wilson) telling me that I had been selected for the MVP award for small schools," said Sanderson, who led his team with 11 assists this past fall. "We weren't able to win any banners this year, but this is a nice way to cap off my high school soccer career."

Sanderson, who missed his junior season due to an injury, also scored 11 goals as a senior.

"Riley has an outstanding right foot, and he could've taken a lot more shots on goal for us, but he would always pass the ball to one of his teammates," Wilson said. "He always plays the game very hard and I'm very proud of him."

Junior Evan Costa led the Pioneers with 34 goals.

The Pioneers, who qualified for the vocational, Western Mass. Class C. and Division 5 state tournaments, finished the 2023 campaign with a 15-5 overall record.

The only other boys' soccer player from Pathfinder Tech to receive the MVP award was Josh Sikorski in 2010.

Minnechaug senior Kylie Ray received the John Kalloch Award (Girls Large School MVP award).

"This is a very special award, especially from the referee's association," said Ray, who'll be playing college soccer at Seton Hall University next year. "I was teammates with Reighan Demers, who received this award last year. It's nice to join her and the other previous MVP award winners from Minnechaug."

Ray is the seventh Minnechaug girls' soccer player coached by Nundi Goncalves to be selected

for the MVP award since 2005.

"I've been fortunate to coach many talented soccer players at Minnechaug," Goncalves said. "Kylie is one of them."

The Lady Falcons, who qualified for the Western Mass. and state tournaments, finished their season with a 13-5-2 overall record.

Pope Francis senior Isabella Meadows, who didn't attend the banquet, received the Robert C. Smith/ Stan Berntowicz Award (Girls Small School MVP award).

Minnechaug Regional also received the Bob McIntyre Sportsmanship Award (Girls Large School).

The Lady Falcons have only received two yellow cards during the past two seasons.

"It always feels good when your teams gets recognized for doing something well," said Minnechaug sophomore Ava Kearney. "Coach Goncalves never wants us to get a yellow card during the game."

Palmer High School received the John Kurty/Benny Santos Sportsmanship Award (Girls Small School).

"It feels very nice to receive the sportsmanship award from the referees," said Palmer senior Grace Burke. "We're always very respectful to the referees and to our opponents."

Burke attended the banquet with teammates Nyela Dupre, Vanessa Baer, and Jordan Bigda, who are also members of the senior class.

It was the first time that the Palmer girls' soccer team has received the sportsmanship award.

"I was very surprised when I was informed that my soccer team has been selected for the sportsmanship award," said Palmer head coach Celso Sandoval. "We only had a couple of yellow cards this season and I'm very happy that the soccer officials recognized us. We had a great season and I'm looking forward to doing it all over again next year."

The Lady Panthers (12-8-1) defeated Granby, 3-1, in the Western Mass. Class D finals.

The Pathfinder boys' squad, which co-ops with Palmer, received the Carl Erickson Sportsmanship Award (Boys Small School).

The Bruno Rumpal Sportsmanship Award (Boys Large School) was given to Westfield High School.

The MISOA PVSOA inductee is Alex Goncalves, who's from Ludlow.

The Paul Bogan Service Award was given to Peter Manolakis, who's from Wilbraham.

The Jimmie Downie Award recipient is Tomasz Ludkiewicz, who lives in Granby.

The Larry E. Briggs Award winner is John Voight, who currently lives in East Longmeadow, but grew up in Hampden. He graduated from Minnechaug Regional.

Former Ludlow girls' varsity soccer coach Jose Anselmo, along with Chris and Diane Kolodziej, who do an outstanding job of running the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, received Letters of Commendations.

The association is always looking for new referees.

UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST – The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today. The PVTO is held each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike. This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at www.pioneervalleytip-off.com. All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

\$12.50 Each Digital Photos

Reunion celebrates the legends of central Massachusetts basketball

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WORCESTER – Well over 100 people gathered to honor and recognize the contributions central Massachusetts had, and continues to have, to the sport of basketball.

On Nov. 25, the Worcester Public Library opened its community space to host the Central Mass Basketball Reunion, celebrating the legacy of the sport in Worcester, and recognizing some of its greatest athletes and coaches.

Emceeding the event was Ed Reilly, Worcester Academy's athletic director, who credited Worcester native and author Mark "Pathfinder" Epstein with bringing everyone together through his book, "Jack 'The Shot' Foley - A Legend for All Time: With Togo Palazzi and Central Mass Basketball".

Epstein is the son of Charlie Epstein, a local icon who owned and operated the Water Street sporting goods store, Charlie's Surplus. Epstein's father was also instrumental in supporting the basketball league at Crompton Park.

His book chronicles the lives of two men, Togo Palazzi and Jack "The Shot" Foley, who each had a profound impact on his life, and instilled his love of basketball.

"Mark has a big heart and a want to do good for others," Reilly said of Epstein. "His book has contributed to the renaissance of Worcester."

Epstein thanked Worcester Public Library staff and Executive Director Jason Homer for hosting the reunion, and also those in attendance.

"What a collection of talent assembled," Epstein said. "We could have one hell of a game at Crompton Park."

Epstein said central Massachusetts has had many of the greatest coaches and mentors of all time, including his "Uncle Togo" Palazzi.

Palazzi led Holy Cross to the 1954 NIT championship and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. He was the fifth pick in the first round NBA draft by the Boston Celtics, where he played four seasons before going to the Syracuse Nationals.

Following his basketball career, Palazzi turned to coaching, which he would dedicate more than 35 years of his life to.

He was the assistant men's



Author and Worcester native Mark "Pathfinder" Epstein signs books at the Central Mass Basketball Reunion on Nov. 25.

coach at Holy Cross with George Blaney, and he was also the college's first women's basketball coach.

Sherry Levin, Holy Cross' all-time leading scorer in women's basketball history (scoring 2,253 points) grew close to Palazzi, first as one of his athletes, and more so as his colleague when she became a coach herself.

Levin talked about what it was like to sit with the "guys" and hear their stories about basketball.

"The stories were absolutely amazing," she said. "To be a part of this community...it's a passion."

Levin said Palazzi was like a family member to her, and he taught her how to be the best she could be, every day. It was his encouragement that shaped her into the coach she became, leading 14 seasons at Worcester Academy.

"He is a legend; the man, the player...most importantly, the person that he was. My beloved Togo," Levin said.

Joining the reunion were two of Palazzi's children, Elizabeth and Vinny.

Elizabeth said she was "honored and happy" to attend the reunion on behalf of her father, adding that she misses him a lot. Palazzi died last summer at the age of 90.

"He was my rock," she said.

Palazzi was also a doting grandfather, and was always helping Elizabeth take care of her daughter. He also had a special soft spot for his granddaughter's dog, Zeus.

Vinny recalled taking trips to the beach in the backseat of the family's Rambler, and how his father would sing Frank Sinatra. After each song, he'd ask his pas-

sengers, "how'd I sound kids?"

Vinny then sang an a cappella rendition of Sinatra's "My Way", in honor of his father, changing the closing the line to the song to "Dad did it his way...how'd I sound kids?"

Bobby Foley, the all-time winningest coach in Massachusetts boys' basketball history in his 50 years as a head coach and Holy Cross graduate of the Class of 1963, shared some of his favorite memories of "The Shot."

"Jack wasn't a natural," Foley said (who is no relation to Jack). "He played nine hours a day to become the player he was."

Foley recalled Jack wearing his plaid shirts and cowboy boots when he went on to become a teacher, and the one time he brought a python into a bar.

"Jack always walked to his own drum," Foley said.

Foley said near the end of Jack's life, he and a friend made the trip out to Barre to visit him, in the midst of a blizzard, after they heard that his health was declining. When the duo arrived at Jack's home, they found him outside shoveling snow in shorts and a T-shirt.

Gettings his start as a freshman on the Holy Cross basketball team before transferring to Providence College, was second round NBA draft pick Kevin Stacom.

Stacom played for the Boston Celtics, Indiana Pacers and the Milwaukee Bucks.

He talked about his first time meeting Palazzi, for a one-on-one match. Stacom said it was "blood and guts" for a couple of hours.

Stacom said he and Palazzi were going back and forth over the ball,



Worcester Academy head coach Jamie Sullivan remembers coaches and players who had an impact on his career.



North High School coach Alan Pettway talks about the athletic talent found in Worcester.



Vinny Palazzi proudly wears a shirt from his late father Togo Palazzi's basketball camp.



Small College Basketball Hall of Fame inductee John Grochowalski talks about facing Togo Palazzi on the court during a one-on-one game.



Bobby Foley, the all-time winningest coach in Massachusetts boys' basketball history, shares stories from his friendship with Jack "The Shot" Foley.



Providence College grad and NBA player Kevin Stacom shares his favorite memories from his career.



North High School student-athlete Joe Okla read an anonymous poem about Jack "The Shot" Foley that is found in Mark Epstein's book.



Worcester Academy athletic director Ed Reilly emceed the reunion.



Holy Cross grad and retired coach Sherry Levin talks about the impact Togo Palazzi had on her career and life.

but Palazzi got away with it.

Palazzi gave him advice that helped him throughout his career – whoever is closest to the ground gets control of the ball.

Stacom said he's never going to

lose his love for the game of basketball.

Recently inducted into the Small College Basketball Hall of Fame, John Grochowalski was a sophomore at Assumption College when we went to Worcester Academy for a pickup game of

basketball. He picked the scrawny, 6 foot 5 inch kid to play against.

"I grabbed him, punched him... did everything," Grochowalski

Please see **REUNION**, page 12

WATERSHED from page 5

Land Conservation Trust, The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut, The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts, The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire, The Nature Conservancy in Vermont, New England Forestry Foundation New Hampshire Audubon, North Central Conservation District, Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society, Salmon River Watershed Partnership, Save the Sound, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, The Trustees of Reservations, Trust for Public Land, Upper Valley Trails Alliance, Vermont Natural Resources Council, Westfield River Watershed Association, and Windham Regional Commission.

ADVOCATE from page 4

It would not require the big drop off spill way that was used for maintenance. As for MDFW's claim that taking it out would relieve flooding is bull. The very name "control structure" means control.

Left to uncontrolled structures such as beaver dams flooding is evident. Also, MDFW claims a cold water stream can only be brought forth by removal is ludicrous. The pond in its deep is very cold and clean.

Beaver ponds are warm and shallow brooks are warmer than deep clean water.

We were approached a few years back about putting a fish ladder on our private land and we said great idea I also think MDFW is missing a big opportunity to establish an ADA canoe/boat ramp for the aging hunters that paid for the pond.

Instead of taking away the rights of handicapped or challenged people that wish to enjoy a wilderness experience at Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area this too will be gone here forever with the destruction of the Mixer dam.

Since I was 16 years, I have supported MDFW. I was once presented with the keys to the gates by the then Central District manager Chris Thurlow. Perhaps money from the .4 clear cuts would be better served to do repairs, than to continue spreading roundup poison on the land in the name of restoration.

Seven years in water and 22 years on the earth these forever poisons have ill effects on health such as non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, kidney disease, and now low sperm count in all mammals including the people that apply this on the ground and plants that deer and other wildlife eat - wake up people.

The facts still point to old growth forest are still the best thing to fight climate change. I so miss the calmness of the big trees, teeming with life.

A life giving forest gone forever in trade for a barren, the name itself tells you something. Barren land void of life and soon life giving clean water.

Tapping into Retirement Savings Early

If you want to make a big purchase, such as a new car or a piece of property, or you were faced with a large, unexpected expense, such as a major home or auto repair, would you have the funds readily available? If not, you might look at what may be your biggest pool of money — your 401(k) or IRA. But should you tap into these accounts well before you retire?

Maybe not — and here's why:
 • **Less money in retirement** — The more money you invest in your retirement accounts, and the longer you keep it invested, the more you'll probably have when you need it most — when you're retired. Consequently, taking out sizable amounts from these accounts before you retire could be costly, as it would disrupt the benefits of compounding that can be achieved by holding investments for the long term.

• **Possible bump into higher tax bracket** — The money you take out from your traditional IRA and 401(k) is taxable in the year of withdrawal. So, if you withdraw a significant amount of money at once from your traditional IRA or 401(k), you could be pushed into a higher tax bracket, at least for one year.

• **Tax penalties** — If you take money out of a 401(k) or traditional IRA before you turn 59½, you could face a 10% tax penalty, although some exceptions exist. Penalty-free withdrawals can be made for several reasons, including for education and medical expenses, first-time purchase of a home (up to \$10,000), after the birth or adoption of a child (up to \$5,000) and more (see irs.gov/taxtopics/c557). With a Roth IRA, which is funded with after-tax dollars, you can withdraw contributions — but not earnings — at any time, for any purpose, without incurring penalties.

Given these issues, how can you avoid dipping into your retirement accounts when you're faced with a financial need?

One possibility is to take out a loan from your 401(k). Unlike a 401(k) withdrawal, a loan is neither taxable nor subject to tax penalties. Also, the interest you pay on a 401(k) loan goes back into your account. Still, a 401(k) loan has its drawbacks. If you leave your job, you'll likely have to repay the loan in a short period of time and if you don't have all the money to repay it, the loan will be considered in default, so you'll owe taxes and the 10% penalty if you're younger than 59½. But even if you don't leave your job and you do repay the loan, you'll still have taken away money that could have potentially kept growing within your tax-deferred account. As mentioned above, as your money compounds, you'll want to minimize disruptions.

Building an emergency fund is another way to gain access to cash. Such a fund should contain at least six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. It can take time to build a fund of this size, so it's never too soon to start putting away money for it. To avoid the temptation of dipping into your emergency fund, you'd ideally keep this fund separate from your daily spending accounts.

Explore all your options before tapping into your IRA or 401(k) early. Keeping these accounts intact as long as possible is one of the best moves you can make to help build your future retirement income.

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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Nov. 20-28, the Ware Police Department responded to 24 miscellaneous calls, 33 administrative calls, eight traffic violations, 20 emergency 911 calls, five animal calls, two harassments, one theft/larceny, 11 motor vehicle accidents, two assist other agencies, one fraud/deception, one damage/vandalism and 36 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Monday, Nov. 20
12:52 a.m. Safety Hazard, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
3:26 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Services Rendered
4:24 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Assist Given
5:24 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, East Street, Report Made
11:59 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Street, Assist Given

Tuesday, Nov. 21
9:50 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Belchertown Road, No Action Required
1:15 p.m. Assault, West Street, Services Rendered
1:22 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Church Street, Services Rendered
1:34 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
Summons: Sorin Boroiban, Unknown
Larceny Under \$1,200
3:21 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Dispatch Handled
5:53 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made
6:15 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call,

South Street, Dispatch Handled
7:05 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Pulaski Street, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Nov. 22
8:25 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Investigated
1:30 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
4:16 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Unknown, Advised
5:22 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
5:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Citation/Warning Issued
6:51 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Services Rendered
10:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued
10:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Warren Road, Citation/Warning Issued

Thursday, Nov. 23
6:20 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Belchertown Road, Services Rendered
10:35 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Dispatch Handled
12:42 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Eddy Street, Dispatch Handled
6:07 p.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, Hillside Village, Advised
9:48 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Warren Road, Services Rendered
Arrest: Corinna H. Baron, 56, West Warren

OUI-Liquor or .08%, 2nd Offense; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Leave Scene of Property Damage

Friday, Nov. 24
7:12 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Dispatch Handled

Saturday, Nov. 25
4:47 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Church Street, Report Made
9:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Warren Road, Citation/Warning Issued
10:48 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Gilbertville Road, Report Made

Sunday, Nov. 26
6:33 p.m. DUI/Impaired, Old Belchertown Road, Vehicle Towed
8:21 p.m. DUI/Impaired, West Warren Road, Investigated

Monday, Nov. 27
11:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued
1:34 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Services Rendered
5:58 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, East Street, Report Made
7:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued

Tuesday, Nov. 28
7:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Warren Police Log

During the week of Nov. 12-18, the Warren Police Department responded to 199 building/property checks, 68 community policing, 11 traffic enforcements, two radar assignments, 16 emergency 911 calls, one larceny/theft, one fraud/forgery, one burglary, one property damage, one animal bite, five traffic safeties, one complaint, two motor vehicle accidents, one animal call and 35 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Nov. 12
5:04 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Main Street, Mutual Aid Transport
2:39 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking, Main Street, Report Filed
7:04 p.m. Fraud/Forgery, Washburn Avenue, Report Filed
8:37 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, O'Neil Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Nov. 13
8:46 a.m. Leg Pain, Sarty Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Nov. 14
6:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Milton O. Fountain Way, Written Warning

Wednesday, Nov. 15
12:39 a.m. Property Dispute, Winthrop Terrace, Report Filed
9:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Written Warning
11:48 p.m. Traffic Safety, North Street, Citation Issued

Thursday, Nov. 16
12:18 a.m. Traffic Safety, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
12:55 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking, High Street, Written Warning
1:01 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking, Nelson Street, Written Warning
1:08 a.m. Traffic Safety, Chapel Street, Citation Issued
1:17 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking, Quaboag Street, Written Warning
5:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Washington Street, Officer Spoke to Party
6:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
6:05 a.m. Traffic Safety, Washington Street, Citation Issued
6:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
6:14 a.m. Traffic Safety, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:51 a.m. Complaint, Mechanic Street, Officer Took Call
7:44 p.m. Property Damage, Demis Road, Vehicle Removed
10:27 p.m. Animal Bite, Carpenter Street, Information Taken

Friday, Nov. 17
2:19 a.m. Burglary, Chapel Street, Investigation
4:44 a.m. Welfare Check, Cottage Street, Report Filed
4:47 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Report Filed
7:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

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.

Saturday, Nov. 18
12:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
Summons: Malinda K. Mathieson, 51, West Brookfield
Leave Scene of Property Damage; Marked Lanes Violation; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle
3:39 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking, Central Street, Written Warning
10:43 a.m. Larceny/Theft, Bridge Street, Report Filed
1:05 p.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital
8:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Citation Issued

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Nov. 27-Dec. 4, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 56 building/property checks, 36 directed/area patrols, four traffic controls, 15 emergency 911 calls, six radar assignments, two complaints, one motor vehicle investigation, one investigation, one assist other agency, seven citizen assists, two scams, one illegal dumping, two trespasses, one threat, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Nov. 27
11:24 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Barre Road, Officer Handled
5:05 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
7:34 p.m. 911 Elevator Call/Alarms, Petersham Road, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Nov. 28
7:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Greenwich Road,

Officer Handled
8:18 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, High Street, Transported to Hospital
10:39 a.m. Trespass, Upper Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
2:11 p.m. Scam, Delargy Road, Officer Handled
2:11 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
4:15 p.m. Safety Hazard, Mill Road, Investigated
4:48 p.m. 911 Animal Call, North Street, Merge
5:56 p.m. Fraud, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
7:47 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Nov. 29
11:21 a.m. Scam, Delargy Road, Spoken To
11:47 a.m. Assist Citizen, Delargy Road, Services Rendered
12:49 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
3:20 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Greenwich Road, Summons Issued

3:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Muddy Brook Road, Spoken To

Thursday, Nov. 30
2:10 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
3:54 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Services Rendered
10:23 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Turkey Street, Transported to Hospital
10:59 a.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Spoken To
12:06 p.m. Investigation, Greenway Road, Investigated
12:33 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Charity Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
3:06 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Old Petersham Road, Unfounded
3:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Voice Message Left
5:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Investigated

Friday, Dec. 1
3:51 a.m. 911 Medical

Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
7:34 a.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Services Rendered
3:47 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Prospect Street, Officer Handled
3:59 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Lower Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
6:41 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Barre Road, Officer Handled
11:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Written Warning

Saturday, Dec. 2
7:43 a.m. Complaint, Goddard Road, Officer Handled
10:50 a.m. Trespass, Summer Place, Officer Handled
2:04 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, Dec. 3
7:09 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
6:42 p.m. Threat, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

Ware Firefighters host third annual Santa Run on Dec. 16

WARE – Ware Firefighters Local 1851 is hosting its third annual Santa Run on Saturday, Dec. 16 for Ware residents. Deadline to sign up is Dec. 8 and Santa's route will be determined on Dec. 11. Local 1851 is asking for a donation of \$10 per child receiving a gift and one wrapped gift per child. Residents can drop wrapped gifts at the Fire Station, 200 West

St. with donation. You will be required to fill out a form with the name of the recipient and address the gift is going to. Please make checks payable to Ware Firefighters Local 1851. One the date of the event, the gifts will be delivered by Santa and members of Local 1851. Delivery times will be announced once the route is finalized after the deadline.

Firefighters host raffle for Bruins hockey tickets

WARE – Ware Firefighters Local 1851 is hosting a raffle of four tickets to see the Boston Bruins on Jan. 22, 2024 at TD Garden, plus a free parking pass. The prize is valued at \$990. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn on Christmas day. Raffle tickets are a \$10 donation each with proceeds to support the Ware Firefighters Local 1851. All members of Ware Fire

Department have tickets, or people may call 413-967-9630.



Country Bank supports the Wonderfund during Season of Giving

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, recently announced its partnership and \$20,000 in support of the Wonderfund of Massachusetts.

The Wonderfund helps kids and teens served by the Department of Children and Families to enjoy childhood's magical moments during the holiday season. The Wonderfund organization is an ordinary group of people on an extraordinary mission to bring the magic and meaning of childhood into the lives of children who have been impacted by trauma, abuse, and neglect.

Join the Wonderfund and Country Bank in making magic this holiday season for kids in foster care by donating a new unwrapped gift at any of its banking centers until Dec. 15. Country Bank's team will shop for gifts to join in the efforts, and donations will be delivered to DCF Offices in Springfield and Worcester to be distributed throughout western and central Massachusetts.

"We are delighted about this partnership with the Wonderfund and the opportunity for our team and our communities to help us make a difference for children



Submitted Photo
From left to right, Jodie Gerulaitis, vice president of Community Relations at Country Bank, Lauren Baker, Former First Lady of Massachusetts, founder and CEO of the Wonderfund and Shelley Regan, senior vice president of Marketing at Country Bank.

by putting a smile on so many faces," said Jodie Gerulaitis, Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank.

In addition to the toy drive, Country Bank donated over \$100,000 to 17 local food pantries and \$42,000 to local senior

centers to support food insecurities, homelessness, and elders in its local communities during its annual Season of Difference Campaign.

If you would like to help make some magic, please visit <https://wonderfundma.org>.

REUNION from page 11

said. "He had me in every game and said, 'nice job kid.'" This was Grochowalski's first match against Palazzi.

"Togo's sons came up to me and said 'John, it's not worth it, don't do it,'" he said with a laugh.

Grochowalski went on to play Series A basketball in Italy, and even there, the legend of basketball in central Massachusetts was well known.

"Don't think this is just central Massachusetts, you're well known all over the world," Grochowalski said.

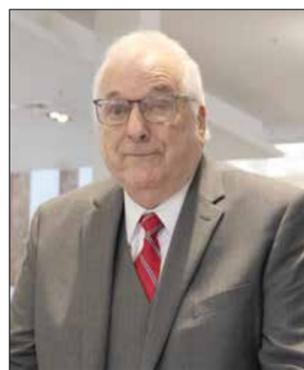
Crompton Park continues to be where Worcester's basketball talent hones its skills, and Eddie Hippert shared the history of the 14-acre parcel of land.

"It was here that we started something very special," Hippert said.

It was Crompton Park where eight teams competed in a league, playing double headers several days a week.

"Players were from everywhere," Hippert said, including Boston, Springfield, Providence, Rhode Island, and Hartford, Connecticut.

Businesses sponsored the league, including Charles' Surplus, and the newspapers covered every game. The crowds were enormous, especially when Bob Cousy brought the Boston Celtics



Eddie Hippert talks about the past and present of Crompton Park.

to play in an all-star game.

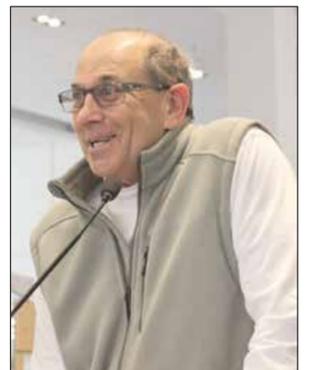
"I was just a young kid sitting up in a tree watching; wanting to be there," Hippert said.

Crompton Park is still developing basketball players today, he said.

Helping to coach and mentor the next generation of players is North High School coach Alan Pettway. Growing up in Connecticut, Pettway said he never knew about Worcester's impact on basketball until he started playing at Crompton Park.

"508 does have a lot of talent," Pettway said.

One of Pettway's student-athletes, Joe Okla, read an anonymous poem about "The Shot" that is fea-



Mark Epstein talks about the sport and the people that shaped his life.

tured in Epstein's book.

Worcester Academy head coach Jamie Sullivan grew up on Vernon Hill, and said he is so proud to be from Worcester. He spoke about all of the coaches and players that had a profound impact, but often go unrecognized.

Following the end of the program, Epstein invited all in attendance to the White Eagle on Green Street, to continue celebrating Worcester's legends and the city's influence on the sport of basketball.

"This was our life," Epstein said.

obituaries

Patricia L. Ouimette, 73

WARE – Patricia L. Ouimette, of Ware passed away on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, after a long and courageous battle with an aggressive form of dementia and Alzheimer's, at the age of 73.



Through her love and inspiration for her family she was able to bring everyone together prior to her passing.

She was predeceased by her loving husband Gerard Andre Ouimette of 41 years. Not a day went by that she did not miss Gerry and the family is at peace knowing they are together again.

She was born on April 20, 1950, in Belfast, Maine to the late Fred McKeen Chaples and Hope (Chalmers) Chaples. At an early age it was her dream to become a nurse and devote her life to help-

ing others.

She was previously employed for the Monson and Belchertown State Schools as a nursing assistant then obtained her nursing license in 1982. She continued the remainder of a 30 plus year career as a nurse for the Palmer House of Healthcare, helping those patients with dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Patricia was an avid traveler and was always looking for the next trip to go on. She also loved her home state of Maine and would travel "back home" any chance that presented itself.

She will always be remembered for a truly caring wife, mother, grandmother, friend and someone that was always willing to help others.

She is predeceased by her husband, Gerard Ouimette and her older sister, Susan Chaples.

Patricia is survived by her three children, Lisa M. Ouimette and Travis Nicoson of Ware, Derek A. Ouimette and his wife Sheila of Orrington, Maine and Brett A. Ouimette of Wales; her grandchildren Hunter Nicoson and his long-time girlfriend Ryley Newcomb, Brandon Ouimette and his wife Jordin, Jason Ouimette, Drew Ouimette, Sadie Ouimette, Quinn Ouimette and Penny Ouimette.

A celebration of life in remembrance of Patricia will be held at a later date in her hometown of Belfast, Maine where Patricia's remains will be scattered and her life celebrated by her family and friends.

Cebula Funeral Home of Ware has been entrusted with the final arrangements. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Louisa Sorel, 88

WARE – Louisa (LaFlam) Sorel of Ware, died on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center surrounded by her loving family, at the age of 88.



She leaves her son, Gene R. Sorel and his wife Jill M. of Ware; her granddaughter, Juliana E.; as well as many nieces, nephews, and friends. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Raymond E. Sorel in 2012; her sons, Paul R. and Rene E.; her brother, George R. LaFlam; and the family dog, Ellie May, whom she adored.

She was born and grew up in Orange, daughter of the late Edward and Louisa Crawford. Later, she moved to North

Death notices

Ouimette, Patricia L.
Died Dec. 3, 2023

Sorel, Louisa (LaFlam)
Died Nov. 28, 2023

Sullivan, Mary J. (Tenney)
Died Dec. 3, 2023

Brookfield where she graduated from North Brookfield High School.

Louisa was a talented upholsterer and seamstress – a commonly used craft years ago, but hard to find today.

She was a former member of Mount Carmel and All Saints Churches in Ware. A Graveside Service for her will be held in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery in the spring.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at charbonneauhf.com.

Mary J. Sullivan, 82

WARE – Mary J. (Tenney) Sullivan of Ware, died on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, at her son's home following a period of declining health, at the age of 82.

She leaves her son, John "Jack" W. Sullivan and his wife Elizabeth of Ware, her sister Nancy Lawrence of North Carolina, along with her sisters-in-law, Barbara Fusco of New Jersey, and Joanne O'Riley of Ware. She was predeceased by her late husband of 53 years, John E. Sullivan in 2014, as well as her brother, Wilder D. Tenney, Jr., and brothers-in-law Donald Lawrence and Richard O'Riley.

She was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, daughter of the late Wilder D. and Iola (French) Tenney. She and John lived in Gilbertville for several years prior to moving to the family farm in Ware.

Mary graduated from Weare High School in New Hampshire and the Massachusetts School of Practical

Nursing. She worked in the Operating Rooms at both Wing and Mary Lane Hospitals for several years prior to retiring.

Mary loved nature, having pets, and all kinds of animals. She has requested that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to the Dakin Humane Society, P.O. Box 6307, Springfield, MA 01105 or the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701 or at www.cancer.org

Her family would like to thank the visiting nurses and staff of Overlook Hospice, and Mary's close friends, Joe, Laurie, Joanne, Doug and Sandy for their dedicated assistance with Mary's care.

A Celebration of Mary's Life will be held at a later date.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at charbonneauhf.com.

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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries

should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

NOTICE

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\$1 million received for clean energy infrastructure

BOSTON – Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts), chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety, recently celebrated an announcement from the Department of Energy that Massachusetts will receive nearly \$1 million in federal funding to develop clean energy infrastructure.

This funding was awarded through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grant program created through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Of these funds, Boston

will receive \$659,900 to create a Building Decarbonization Advisory Program, which will assist residents with enhancing energy efficiency, decarbonizing their homes, and complying with the City's standards.

Littleton will receive \$300,000 to collaborate with five local electric utilities, the Beneficial Electrification League, and the Northeast Public Power Association to launch a clean energy program. The program will help six Massachusetts municipal utilities transition to 100 percent clean energy while advancing their communities towards net-zero

emissions by 2050.

"Massachusetts is the home of the American revolution, and we'll be the home of America's clean energy revolution," said Markey in a press release. "With nearly a million in federal funding, we are supporting Massachusetts families in upgrading and decarbonizing their homes - all while electrifying and transitioning our commonwealth to clean energy. Together, we can reduce carbon emissions to zero, protect environmental justice communities, and save our planet."

had ever considered using its dams for renewable energy. Buttrick said most of MassWildlife's dams are small, without large watersheds, and they're not located on main stream rivers or rivers with significant heads.

The removal project

Buttrick said the project will include removing the embankment and full vertical extent of the dam; demolishing the westerly concrete spillway and boathouse; regrading the adjacent natural topography; and restoring the stream at the location of the westerly spillway.

Buttrick said the project will consider staging and laydown area, road crossing, upstream influence of stream and continued habitat management.

He said he was unsure if the existing beaver dam will remain stable with the removal of the dam, and said it may be removed to allow the beavers to have a chance to rebuild.

"Beavers have well-colonized Muddy Brook," Buttrick said.

Buttrick said MassWildlife and Tighe & Bond are still in the early stages of the Patrill Holl Dam removal process, and will need to go through various permitting considerations at a state and local level.

Now through the winter, field work and data collection will continue, and design work will be developed.

Public hearings will be held in the spring and summer of 2024, with construction expected to start in the spring of 2025.

Questions or concerns about the project can be emailed to Olanyk@todd.olanyk@mass.gov. People can also call him at his office at 508-835-3607.

REMOVAL from page 1

regulations do not allow any such vegetation within 20 feet of the dam.

He said when trees die and fall over, it poses a risk to the integrity of the dam if they are too close.

"If trees fall over, they can take the root ball with it and cause failure of the dam," Hammerberg said.

Hammerberg said there's evidence that the dam has been over-topped and causing a washout on the concrete structure.

The dam removal project would also include the removal of an old boathouse, which is submerged in the pond.

Options for the dam

Buttrick said there are three options that MassWildlife considered when addressing the Patrill Hollow Dam, the first being no action and just leaving the dam as it is since it is considered a low hazard.

Other options include dam rehabilitation or dam removal. Both of these carry a significant cost, with removal expected to range from \$500,000-600,000 and rehabilitation coming in over \$1 million, with an added cost of about \$10,000-15,000 to maintain the rehabilitated dam annually.

"We're not considering rehab," Olanyk said, with Buelow adding there isn't anything reusable to repair.

Removing the dam, will have a "really great net benefit" Buelow said.

Buttrick said the dam is in the top 5% of priority projects for removal partly because of the benefits it could create, but also because of the availability of American Rescue Plan Act funds.

"There is no federal funding to rehabilitate," Buttrick said. "There's a real cost savings to remove a dam. Rehabilitation is two-to-three times more than removal. For that reason, MassWildlife has made the deci-

sion to remove this dam."

Olanyk said MassWildlife is a "poorly funded state agency," getting most of its budget through the sale of licenses and trapping fees.

"We don't have the funding to replace or maintain these," he said.

Citizen concerns

Abutter to the Patrill Hollow Dam, Randall Noble, said when his neighbor, David Mixer, sold the land to MassWildlife; including the dam in the purchase was part of the deal. Noble said Mixer was originally deeding the dam to him, but the sale to MassWildlife depended on them having ownership of the dam.

"David trusted MassWildlife," Noble said, when he included the dam in the sale. "I think MassWildlife's integrity is in question."

Noble said he has been removing brush off the dam daily, and said the dam's lack of maintenance is the responsibility of MassWildlife and no one else.

Noble asked Olanyk how much money MassWildlife received from the timber harvest at Muddy Brook WMA, but Olanyk said he did not know.

Conservation Commission member Neil Halin asked how the dam removal would affect the pond's wildlife. Buelow said most of the animals in the pond will be mobile.

Noble asked what would happen to endangered species that live in the pond, along with six species of turtles.

"There's so much that's going to die," he said.

Buelow said he strongly disagrees with Noble and said MassWildlife is mitigating for all species.

L u c a s Wright, resident and small-scale hydro-electric expert, asked Olanyk if MassWildlife

DRIVE-THRU from page 1

adventure with the characters of "Frozen" on stage next to Santa's seat.

This season marks an amazing milestone for the holiday tradition of the Ware Flair. The parade with Santa Claus has been part of the Ware Holiday Flair for about 20 years.

In addition to the parade, the second part of the Holiday Flair

will be the drive thru at Grenville Park. The drive-thru is an event that became part of the town's holiday flair four years ago.

Santa Claus will return to the Ware Flair during the celebration at Grenville Park. Joining him will be a series of decorations and scenes of holiday cheer.

One of these unique decorations will be a scene of Santa's Workshop generously set up by Western Props Warehouse of

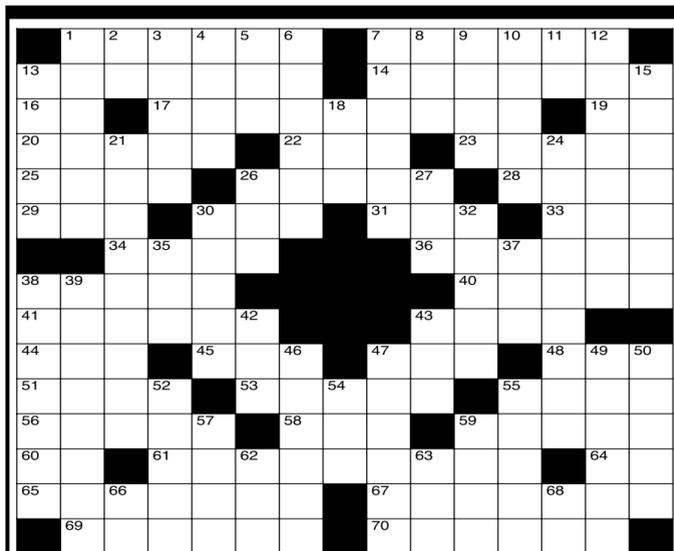
Worcester.

The Ware Holiday Flair will continue Saturday, Dec. 9 at Grenville Park for the drive thru from 5-7 p.m. After the celebration, the town will be seeking volunteers to help take decorations down the following day.

Get your car ready for a fun holiday drive-thru during the second part of the Ware Holiday Flair.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Spiritual leaders
- Salt
- Fortified wine
- Edible mollusk
- It begins with them
- A way to compare
- Government lawyer
- Back parts
- 8th month (abbr.)
- Very willing
- ex machina
- Satisfies
- Quebec river
- A doctrine
- Popular pickup truck
- Dekagram
- Naturally occurring solid material
- Company officer
- Villains
- Cricket frogs
- German founder of psychology
- Endured
- A female domestic

CLUES DOWN

- Animal disease
- Commercial
- Craft supply
- Storage units
- Investment vehicle
- Colorado Heisman winner
- In a way, sank bottom
- Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- Lay about
- Intestinal
- The opposite of yes
- Caused to be loved
- Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- Showing since conviction
- Not safe
- The number above the line in a fraction
- Yard invader
- Pouch
- Swedish krona
- Start anew
- White white or

- yellow flower
- Fourteen
- Graphical user interface
- Up-to-date on the news
- Campaigns
- Touch softly
- "Boardwalk Empire" actress
- Gretchen
- Violent seizure of property
- One who supports the Pope
- Anxiety
- Body fluid
- Phony person
- Title of respect
- Chilean city
- City in central Japan
- Silk garment
- Draw from
- Automobile
- Man
- Legal bigwig (abbr.)

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Ware River News, please email warerivernews@turley.com.

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5

Happy New Year!
Happy Holidays!

public notices

More notices on page 15.

Town of Hardwick Conservation Commission

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Hearing will be held for a Notice of Intent on **Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm** at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville. All interested parties are urged to attend.

Applicant: David Baird
Description of Proposed Work: Single family home, driveway crossing

Location: 0 North Road

Town: Hardwick
Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>. 12/07/2023

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The contents of the following storage unit:
Henry Budreau
Building 6 Unit 14
will be sold for non-payment of Country Corners Storage, 50 Greenwich Rd. in Ware

on **Saturday, December 16, 2023.** 413 967-6095
12/07, 12/14/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS23P0755EA
Estate of: **William A. Pawlowski**
Date of Death: **09/27/2023**
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Richard Maynard of Belchertown, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests

that: **Richard Maynard of Belchertown, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/03/2024.**

This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A **Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 20, 2023
Michael J. Carey
Register of Probate
12/07/2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Darin M. Snow, Sr.** to Mortgage Electronic Registration

Systems, Inc., as nominee for **Embrace Home Loans, Inc.** dated November 1, 2018, recorded at the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13118, Page 103; said mortgage was then assigned to Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency by virtue of an assignment dated January 11, 2023, and recorded in Book 14785, Page 225, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **PUBLIC AUCTION at 10:00 AM on January 11, 2024**, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of **123 Glendale Circle, Ware, MA 01082.** The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

The land together with the buildings and improvements thereon, situated in Ware, Hampshire, County, Massachusetts shown as **Lot 21** on a plan entitled

"Subdivision plan for **Earl Roy**," dated November 28, 1972, made by recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 84, Page 10. Containing (according to the Plan) 15,000 square feet of land, more or less. Together with the right to use all streets and ways shown on the Plan in common with all others having the right to use the same. **SUBJECT TO** utility easement as set forth in instrument recorded with said Registry in Book 2673, Page 329. **SUBJECT TO** restrictions as set forth in instrument recorded with said Registry in Book 3082, Page 258. Please see **DEED** recorded in Book 13118, Page 100.

Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the

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Dated: **October 24, 2023** Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency

By its Attorney **DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC**, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 57134 (SNOW, SR.) 12/07, 12/14, 12/21/2023

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Filmmaker premieres two movies at Basketball Hall of Fame

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent



Filmmaker Geno McGahee (left) is shown with actor Eric Michaelian.

It was a year ago that Geno McGahee of XPosse Productions premiered his "A Christmas Invitation" at the Basketball Hall of Fame Naismith Memorial Complex in Springfield.

The movie itself had nothing to do with hoops, but no matter, it was a good venue for a cinema debut.

McGahee is back again, and this time he was introducing two movies in one night. As "A Christmas Invitation" was a departure from his usual style of deep horror, so would the double bill go off in different directions.

"A Christmas Invitation" played on a genre of movie typified by the Hallmark Channel, without the unrestrained sentimentality. The movies shown in Springfield on Saturday were of older categories that our impresario had not touched previously.

The first, "Fatal Justice", is the story of Dennis, played by Eric Michaelian, an accused killer who is released from prison due to police misconduct. A young college girl was murdered, but it's not over.

The grieving family is upset with the travesty of justice and realizes that there is no reasonable possibility of righting the wrong.

However, one member of the family, the hot-headed young kid, played by Shane Ryan-Reid captures Dennis and brings him home to the consternation of the family.

Still, what can they do? They believe Dennis guilty, but as he has been found innocent in court, what recourse do they have?

"The family of the victim comes face to face with Dennis and holds their own trial to decide his fate. When the system fails, family justice is the only way and FATAL JUSTICE will be executed."

There is a reason why McGahee wanted to make this movie. His favorite film is "Twelve Angry Men".

"Twelve Angry Men" has tugged at the heart strings of many for decades, and has been done in several versions, including the most famous, as well as a number of foreign language incarnations.

"Fatal Justice" is a courtroom drama, but not in a courtroom.

After the trial, will the real villain be revealed? Maybe, but with a twist.

The second film shown was "Deadly Western".

For McGahee, this is definitely going off on a tangent, as he is not at all a fan of Westerns and swore never to wear a cowboy hat. Nevertheless, the deed was



The cast of "Fatal Justice".

done.

"Deadly Western", filmed against a backdrop that appears to be a western ghost town, is where science fiction meets the horse opera.

Eric Michaelian plays Clark, a rather befuddled lawman who wakes up with no memory of who he is or why he is in the town, but struggles to find all that out, with little success.

No matter, he is going to give it the old college try.

His wife, Beth, played by Lorrie Bacon, comes back to town with her brother, the wise-guy Elias, played by Chris Spinelli. With those two and a few others, he is going to have to defend the town against the desperados out to take it over.

The defenders do not appear to be an awe-inspiring militia, yet they go into battle.

Though the evildoers are routed, the triumph can only be described as pyrrhic.

But, it's not over and it all ends with a surrealistic twist.

The two movies screened on Saturday share something else that is also a departure for McGahee in that they were not made locally.

McGahee and company would leave Massachusetts to go out west to Hollywood to make the two films.

If you follow McGahee, you realize that he has several people he relies on to make and crew his movies. Well, that



Actors Chris Spinelli, Lorrie Bacon and Eric Michaelian share a heated moment in "Deadly Western".

repertoire company went with him to California.

This was done at the suggestion of Gregory Hatanaka, who owns Cinema Epoch, the distributor of McGahee's movies. Hatanaka flew McGahee and his team out to the West Coast to make the films.

The results were viewed by an enthusiastic audience at the Hall of Fame, but if you are a McGahee fan and missed the premieres, don't fret. Both features are available on the Tubi streaming channel.

Many of McGahee's other, more

classic horror movies are also on Tubi and other streaming services.

His latest, "Scary Tales: Dead Zone", has just been released on Tubi as well. We should note, those of you who are in fear that McGahee has abandoned New England, "Scary Tales: Dead Zone" was locally made.

It has appeared in time for Halloween.

It was a good evening at the Hall of Fame and the fans left wondering what Geno McGahee will be showing there next.

Maybe a comedy?



Turley Photos by Richard Murphy
Chris Spinelli, Brent Northup and Geno McGahee are shown at the double feature premiere.

public notices

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T-Mobile USA is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing monopole located at 90 Old Brook Rd, Warren, Worcester County, Massachusetts. The modifications will consist of the collocation of antennas at a center-line height of 140 feet above ground level on the 153-foot-tall monopole. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have

on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6123007574 - AMG EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at (585) 815-3290. 12/7/2023

More notices on page 14.



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