

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Baystate Wing's CHNA report

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Members of the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council heard the results of Baystate Wing Hospital's recent Community Health Needs Assessment.

Presenting the findings of the assessment at the Dec. 17 meeting were Annamarie Golden, Director of Community Relations and Community Benefits at Baystate Health and Lisa Ranghelli, Director of Assessment and Capacity Building at the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts.

Golden explained the purpose of the assessment, and how its data is used to help address the health needs of the communities Baystate Wing Hospital serves.

Please see **WING**, page 12



Submitted Photo

## Day care students get visit from Santa, elves and Grinch

Little Tumblers Day Care in Ware had a special daycare opening on Saturday to give parents the opportunity to shop/wrap, while Santa stopped by to visit and drop off gifts for 11 kids. Shown are Della Mascitis, Adaline and Lorelei Guzik, Camden Slattery, Charlotte Poususky, Leah and Loral Chartier, Brayden Kosla, Baylee Reeves, Dylan Hinkley and Grant Ligawiec.



## Augustus toured housing authority, mill complex

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Last Thursday, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus made his 186th stop to one of the commonwealth's 229 housing authorities at Winthrop Terrace.

"I focus so much time on public housing because I think it's important," Augustus said.

Augustus said he wanted to see the challenges and benefits each housing authority has, in order to make more informed decisions about funding and policies.

"We wanted to make decisions based off first-hand experience," he said.

Joining him on a tour of the housing authority were Warren Housing Authority acting Director, Katelyn Baker; Warren Housing Authority's Facilities and Maintenance staff member, Drew Martinez; Town Administrator, James Ferrera; District Director to state Sen. Jake Oliveira, Jennifer Pickering and Selectman, Derick Veliz.

Baker and Martinez are both residents of town

Please see **HOUSING**, page 8

## SB discussed water/sewer commissioners article

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Selectboard members discussed the placement of an article on a town meeting warrant, which would seek a special act of legislature to amend the charter, and include the

Selectboard as water/sewer commissioners.

At the Dec. 16 meeting, Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the Selectboard had an article on the warrant of the most recent town meeting about appointing water/sewer commissioners and after the town attorney reviewed it, she came to

the conclusion that the town charter does not mention that the Selectboard members are also the commissioners.

"The charter basically puts the DPW director in charge of water and sewer and that position is overseen by the town manager," Beckley said.

Beckley said it was deter-

mined that he could appoint a commission in his role, or through a special act of the legislature, the town could amend the charter and include the Selectboard as commissioners.

Beckley said the Selectboard could include an article on a future town meeting warrant to ask the legisla-

ture for a special act.

Selectboard Chair Nancy Talbot said right now, it is up in the air and the town needs to have individuals delegated to act as commissioners.

The Selectboard voted to have Beckley get more infor-

Please see **ARTICLE**, page 13



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Shown from left to right are Patricia Ranner, Linda Pellissier, John Zienowicz, and Beverly Anthony inside Teresa's Restaurant in Ware for the first Good Neighbor Day Luncheon.

## Good Neighbor Day Luncheon held at Teresa's

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – It was a beautiful day in the community as seniors gathered for a nice lunch at Teresa's Restaurant.

This gathering was part of a new concept in which Ware was the first pilot town

to take part in. This concept is known as Good Neighbor Day Luncheon and is part of the Good Neighbor Winter Tables Initiative, a pilot program that carries the spirit of Massachusetts Good Neighbor Day into the winter months.

Please see **LUNCHEON**, page 5

## Weir River Concert Band performed at Stone Church

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville was the home of a Christmas Concert that was held this past Sunday.

Performing in the concert was the Weir River Concert Band and their concert was called "Holiday Traditions".

Giving the announcements during the concert was Karen Guertin, who has been performing with the band for the last 10 years. Guertin got to sing in this year's Christmas Concert and



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Ian Wykes conducted during one song at the Christmas Concert at the Stone Church Cultural Center.

sang "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas".

Prior to each song, Guertin shared some history behind the songs and carols that are played every holiday season. "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", was written for Judy Garland in

the 1944 film "Meet Me in St. Louis". Garland had convinced co-writer of the song Hugh Martin to change the lyrics to offer hope during wartime and is now known for its iconic version.

Serving as the conductor of the band was Joanne

Meegan. Ian Wykes was one of the musicians playing the

Please see **CONCERT**, page 5



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Turley Photos by Sadie Ouimette

Cradle Rock Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star members who helped out at the annual cookie walk during Christmas in Barre are shown standing from left: Dolly Bacon, Ashley Knapik, Carolyn Lariviere, Gail Handy, Angelina Hubbard and Jane Whitmore; and seated, Marna Mucha.

## Cradle Rock OES held annual cookie walk

By Sadie Ouimette  
Correspondent

BARRE – For the past 15 plus years, the members of Cradle Rock Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, have been hosting their annual cookie walk during Christmas in Barre.

The cookie walk is a fundraiser to support the chapter, Worthy Matron Marna Mucha said.

“And then through that we donate to the community and the Eastern Star Benevolent Fund,” she said.

This fund helps elderly members of Eastern Star when they are in a time of need.

All of the cookies sold are provided by Eastern Star members. One of the members Carolyn Lariviere, made 450 of them herself, and there are about 10-12 bakers total. The cookies are sold this year for \$9 a pound. A steady line of customers were eager to fill up on sweet treats.

Last year, they made about \$1,800 and sold over 200 pounds of cookies. By



Peg Wikel, Andrea Wikel Fiske and Beckie Ward set up tables to sell Christmas items and decorations.

noontime this year, the cookie walk had already surpassed last year's numbers.

Money raised through the cookie walk also helps to support Barre Assembly #114, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

During the cookie walk, a few members of the Eastern Star had tables set up with a sale of Christmas trinkets and mugs and ornaments for people to buy along with the cookies.

The Eastern Star members

also support other organizations in town, and even donated sandwiches to the Lions Club during its annual car show.

Every month, the Eastern Star members hold a wonderful pancake breakfast fundraiser at Mount Zion Lodge, 71 Pleasant St., which is open to the public. These breakfasts are usually held on the first Saturday of the month from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

They will also be hosting a simple supper.

# Are You Old News?



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



File Photo  
Last week's photo from 2023 showed Cyrus Glidden and his daughter Piper at Aspen Grove Cemetery during Wreaths Across America Day.

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

## Ware Senior Center News

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

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

### ACTIVITIES

**Thursday, Dec. 25**  
Closed for Christmas Day  
**Friday, Dec. 26**  
9 a.m. Scat  
10 a.m. Scat  
11:30 a.m. Lunch  
1 p.m. Chair Yoga with

Lori  
6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

### LUNCHES DINE IN

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

**Thursday, Dec. 25**  
Closed for Christmas Day  
**Friday, Dec. 26**  
French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Sausages, Dessert of the Day

## EQLT hosts First Day walk on Jan. 1

WARE – The East Quabbin Land Trust will kickoff the New Year with a First Day walk on the Mass Central Rail Trail, Thursday, Jan. 1 at noon.

The walk will be held on the Church Street segment of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Ware. Well-behaved dogs on leash are welcomed.

For more information, visit [eqlt.org](http://eqlt.org) or follow East Quabbin Land Trust on social media.

## EQLT hosts 'Space Night' on Dec. 26

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust's Learning Exchange will present "Space Night" at the office, 120 Ridge Road, with PhD candidates Maura

Shea and Aman Kar on Friday, Dec. 26 from 6-8 p.m.

There will be stargazing and telescopes, depending on the cloud cover. Space

enthusiasts of all ages and knowledge levels are encouraged to attend

RSVP is appreciated by not required by emailing [eshea@eqlt.org](mailto:eshea@eqlt.org).

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Members of Quabbin Regional High School's band were decked out in holiday sweaters and hats.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

## SANTA PARADE HELD DURING CHRISTMAS IN BARRE EVENT

BARRE – After a fresh dusting of snow, the Santa Parade made its way from Ruggles Lane Elementary School to the town common on Dec. 6, one of the highlights of the annual Christmas in Barre event. While Santa Claus was unable to break away from his busy North Pole workshop this year, Mrs. Claus arrived and happily heard the Christmas wishes of children. She even had a special, huggable gift for each child to take home. Mrs. Claus was joined in the Santa Parade by elves, town officials and public safety personnel, as well as local organizations and businesses.



Quabbin Regional High School's NJROTC's honor guard carried flags in the Christmas in Barre Santa Parade.



Get Up and Dance Studio's Tim and Sarah Nydam tossed candy from the back of a truck driven by Devon Wentworth.



LEFT: Dancers from Gilbertville's Get Up and Dance Studio waved to people from the float.



BOTTOM LEFT: Members of Barre Assembly #114, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, held a banner representing the Barre Masonic Family. The Rainbow Girls were also joined by members of Gardner DeMolay.

# School district continued portrait of a graduate talk

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Interim Superintendent Michael Wood said he held a virtual meeting with residents to discuss the school district's portrait of a graduate.

At the School Committee's Dec. 17 meeting, Wood said he received "lots of good input" during that virtual meeting that he will share with the administrative team before holding another meeting.

Wood said they will also look at the existing documents in each school and make sure it is cohesive across all grade levels.

"Ultimately what we want to have is a K-12 document... that has language that the developmentally appropriate age groups can understand and apply to their everyday belief system about becoming a lifelong learner," he said.

Wood said one of the suggestions from the virtual meeting was making the materials discussed during School Committee meetings available to the public through the school district's website, wareps.org.

Resident Frank Bateman said it was helpful to be able to read the documents the School Committee members were reviewing in the meeting to have a better understanding of the discussions.

### Superintendent's report

Wood said the ventilator project is close to being closed out. He said all of the units are functioning and the abatement issues were addressed.

"The last piece of the puzzle seems to be whether or not it's pumping enough water to the system," he said. "This was an existing concern at the very beginning of the project."

Wood said it seems to be a water pressure issue, but all of the pumps are working and all of the rooms have heat.

Wood said the school district is still working to fill vacancies, including a speech language pathologist. He said Director of Student Services Dr. Ginger Coleman has worked with a company that will help staff the position until they can hire someone.

"We will continue to advertise for a person, but we want to make sure we don't fall behind on our special needs students," he said.

Wood said the flu virus is spreading and having an impact on student attendance. He said the custodial team is rigorously cleaning the schools, especially in common areas.

### Senior class trip

Senior Class Officers Olivia DiRienzo and Jack Gaudreau came before the committee to give details about the proposed senior class trip to be held May 31-June 1, 2026, to Lake George, New York.

Currently the class has raised \$21,000 to fund the trip, and there are more fundraisers planned. The total amount the class is hoping to raise is \$25,000.

Class Advisor Betty Brown said the students will lodge at a hotel at Six Flags Amusement Park. She said they will also rent an entire steamboat for a dinner cruise.

During the trip, the students will also visit Lake George.

The School Committee voted in favor of approving the class trip.

### Costa Rica trip

The committee also approved an international trip to Costa Rica to be held in April 2027. Students who are interested in attending the trip will have fundraising opportunities and be able to schedule monthly or bi-monthly payment plans.

### Game side manager discussion

The committee discussed

signing a memorandum of understanding for the positions of game side manager, ticket sales coordinator and head scorekeeper. Wood said these rates were not in the existing contract but have traditionally been paid for people filling these positions during home games.

School Committee Member Melissa Whitham questioned if the Athletic Director could also serve as the game side manager, rather than pay a separate person.

Parent Jessica Rohan also asked why they would pay for separate people to do the same work the Athletic Director is doing and said she believed it was a waste of money.

Whitham said she was in favor of signing a memorandum for the ticket sales coordinator and the head scorekeeper, but not the game side manager and made a motion to reflect that. The committee approved the motion.

### Budget update

Andy Paquette of TMS, Inc. said they are halfway through the budget year, and the school district is in a "comfortable position."

### MOU for cheerleading coach

The committee signed a memorandum of understanding for a junior varsity cheerleading coach. Wood said the committee approved the position last year, but a memorandum was never signed.

### Superintendent search subcommittee

Whitham said she was appointed to serve as the superintendent search subcommittee chair, and student representative Caeleb DuBois as vice-chair.

Whitham said the subcommittee had a detailed discussion about the qualifications and requirements for the school district's next superintendent. She said they will meet again on Jan. 7, 2026.

## Trinity church to hold Lessons and Carols

WARE – On Sunday, Dec. 28 at 10 a.m. the Trinity Episcopal Church will hold a service of Lessons and Carols.

On Sunday evening, Dec.

28 and again on Friday evening, Jan. 2 from 5-7 p.m. the church invites the public to a Candlelight Nativity walk in the church, which will be decorated with Nativity

and creche displays from its parishioners, as well as Trinity's traditional Christmas Putz display. There will be refreshments, hot chocolate and coffee served.

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| USDA INSP. SKINLESS & SHANKLESS BUDABALL OLD TYME HARDWOOD SMOKED WHOLE HAM..... | \$266 lb | USDA INSP. FROZEN STICKY BUNS.....                           | \$249 ea  | USDA INSP. FROZEN CHEFS TOGETHER PIGS IN A BLANKET 8 PAK.....             | \$399 ea  |
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## GUEST COLUMN

### New pool again?

By Denis R. Ouimette

There's a rumor that some of our elected officials want to hold another Special Town Meeting to have another go at pushing through funding for a new pool design even though it was soundly defeated at a just completed Special Town Meeting.

What was in the warrant article that these representatives want to try again? It was to borrow \$200,000 to fund the final design of a new town pool, filtration system, parking lot and spray park. The final cost as produced in the warrant article explanation was over \$3 million.

Unfortunately, this missed many ancillary costs that will surely drive the costs by millions more.

The existing bath house needs to be replaced; it has rotting sills (the pool's last season was 2018) and suffers frequently by sewage backups from West Main Street. All the plumbing fixtures would have to be replaced and made America with Disability Act compliant.

The pool used to be filled directly from the Pines reservoir located in the back of the property. This was done by an underground pipe about 1,000 feet long that allows water to fill the pool for free; it needs to be capped off at both ends and the pump house demolished for safety.

A new pool would be great, but even if it happened it would not be the same as the current pool thanks to changes in various laws since the current pool was built in 1936. The new pool design would actually save significant money because it would only be six feet deep (since diving is not allowed, no need for a deep end).

With a shallower pool, no relief valves would be necessary, keeping the pool cleaner and therefore less chemicals would be needed.

Another requirement is a beach-level entrance to the pool, making the shallow end dramatically less deep. To accommodate this low angle would mean an L-shaped pool, increase the wading area and shrink the actual area to "play" in.

Also not included in the \$3 million price tag are

security lights and cameras to deter the vandalism. The proposed location of the splash park into the Pines area would be a major mistake and an invitation for destruction as it will not be seen from Route 9.

During water bans the splash park would be shut off, but since it wouldn't be fenced in it would still invite damage.

Also not included in the \$3 million cost for a new pool and splash park: costs of staffing by certified lifeguards, if it's even possible. The price of chemicals has tripled; these costs were covered by the pool trust, but some elected officials are talking of using the trust to reduce the cost of the pool design.

If so, how do we pay for the seasonal costs as we have done for decades? Electricity costs are much higher now and so is liability insurance.

A splash park would have several positives: It would be a great feature as a place for everyone to cool off; no lifeguards necessary since the water won't be deep enough to risk drowning; no chemical costs since fresh water would be used; no filtration system since the water would drain away and be replaced constantly. Negatives? Closed during water bans; not secured; not visible from Route 9 (think of passing police patrols); potential vandalism to fixtures and possible broken glass introduced. A set of china dishes were thrown into the pool one year.

The new pool and splash park would be a wonderful addition to the town, but they are by definition, luxury items. Before we as a town splurge on luxury items, we must consider capital needs that are much more pressing requirements.

Some of the requirements we must face and finance in the near future: The schools need three (3) new roofs (\$3 million?); Water filtration system (\$13 million at last estimate several years ago); Sewer plant upgrade/replacement (\$60 million); new DPW garage (\$10 million? Existing garage is outdated and cannot fit all the equipment, requiring several outbuildings); new fire department ladder truck (\$3 million?); new school

Please see **POOL**, page 6

### An update on Connie's poinsettia

Connie, who wrote in this time last year about her mom's poinsettia, reached out with a follow up question and sent a picture to show her progress.

First, let me get you all up to speed with her first question: "We read your article about poinsettias in the Country Journal. I have been caring for my mother's poinsettia she purchased three Christmases ago. She is hoping you can help us as I never cut it back because I didn't know to do that. Now it is a small tree. There is bark on it. I had one red bract last Christmas but no yellow center. I did try to put it in a dark room but as you can see, it is too big now to do that. Any suggestions?"

Many years ago when I joined my brother on a trip to St. Thomas, I became fully aware of the poinsettia and its true, tree-like form. It looks like you are well on your way to replicating that in your house!

First, congratulations, from the picture you provided you are clearly growing a healthy specimen. The leaves are a beautiful shade of green. I would recommend that, if you want to make it more manageable in size, you do try to cut it back.

It looks as if there is a lower "tier" of leaves. If you can cut it back to those stems, I think that is a good place to start. Do that in April when it will be in active growth.

At that time I would also transplant it into a container one size bigger. So if it's in a

six inch pot now, try one that is seven or eight inches, but not any bigger.

our poinsettia. I did what you suggested. The only thing I couldn't do is move it into a totally dark room. It's too big to go through the door. You can see the trunk is getting bigger. More bark. It has certainly regrown to its size before I clipped it. I've fertilized it regularly, but no flowers. Any other thoughts? It is going into its fourth year soon."

Connie, the picture you sent of your poinsettia indicates it continues to be very healthy. Great job!

Again, the color of your leaves is bar none! I do understand that it is a large plant and it would be difficult to move. So, why don't we create darkness?

I think if you purchased a contractor's size trash bag you could easily drape it over the plant next year and try to get the bracts to turn color. Any light at all will foil this process, so be sure to tuck it around the bottom of the plant.

Your plant looks so good, I am not certain I would cut it back this year, but you can repeat the process I shared last year; it's up to you. Keep up the good work!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month. New growth should appear by the end of May.

After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks.

Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall in September.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. Bracts will turn red and the small yellow flowers in the center will form. Most people get on a 5 p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts.

Placing the plant in a closet or basement with no light interruption will work fine.

It is a commitment, that's for sure. Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

Good luck; I bet you will be successful this year!

Now, for her update: "I emailed you last year about

## WARE RIVER NEWS

### TEAM



**EDITOR**  
Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Dan Flynn  
dfflynn@turley.com



**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
sports@turley.com



**STAFF WRITER**  
Ryan Drago  
rdrago@turley.com

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**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President



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or via email to:  
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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.



DAVE GRANLUND.COM

## GUEST COLUMN

### Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

By Francis P. Church in 1897

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say that there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in the Sun, it is so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?  
Virginia,

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as

certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?

Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond.

Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else as real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, maybe 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the hearts of children.

### German Christmas traditions celebrated

By Ellenor Downer edowner@turley.com

One did not have to look beyond the Christmas tree to realize the influence of German Christmas traditions.

As Germans migrated to other countries, they brought the tradition of the Tannenbaum or Christmas tree with them with its display of lights and ornaments. When supplies of evergreen trees diminished due to over cutting, artificial trees made of goose feathers took hold in the 1890s. In the 1930s, a toilet brush company, manufactured artificial trees from brush bristle inventory. Today, these "fake" trees resemble the real thing without the fir tree fragrance.

**Christmas tree**  
The Christmas tree takes center stage during holiday celebrations in Germany, evoking a profound sense of nostalgia and festivity.



Submitted photo

The Advent calendar is another German Christmas tradition. It marks the days of December to Christmas Day.

Within this cultural practice, families come together to partake in the ritual of embellishing the tree with ornaments, garlands and

Please see **GERMAN**, page 16

### 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.

**CONCERT** from page 1

tuba during the concert but came up to conduct a couple musical numbers.

The Weir River Concert Band has been performing a Christmas Concert for last 20 years. The concerts were held at the Ware High School auditorium up until the pandemic. The band was looking for a new space and needed one to continue to have rehearsal time and soon found themselves at the Stone Church Cultural Center.

The Friends of the Stone Church is a public charitable corporation and community group organized in 2015 and offers a space that proudly serves the community. The church welcomed the Weir River Concert Band in 2021 and has been the home of their concerts, including the annual Christmas Concert.

The band consists of over 30 members and they were all expressing their holiday spirit with colorful attire. This concert was free to the public and gave community members of Hardwick and



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

**Karen Guertin sang "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" during the Christmas Concert.**

Gilbertville a special event to come together and here the Weir River Concert Band's versions of holiday classics.

"Hallelujah" has been played by various artists and was included in the soundtrack to the animated film "Shrek". The Weir River Concert Band played their own version prior to intermission.

Another unique song played was tied to the holly characters associated with Christmas, including "Frosty

the Snowman" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer". This was called "A Cartoon Christmas" and was a popular one with the audience inside the Stone Church Cultural Center.

The Weir River Concert Band also does a concert in the summer at the Stone Church Cultural Center, located at 283 Main St. off Route 32 in Gilbertville. More information can be found on friends-of-the-stonechurch.org.

**Quabbin Regional High announces honor roll**

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School announces the first quarter honor roll.

**Grade Nine, High Honors**  
Kalina Bassett, Hazel Carter, Lauren Colleton, Adalyn Cranston, Greyson Mullins, Whitney Reeves, Madisyn Shotwell, Addison Surprenant, Michael Tabares, John Tyler, Robyn Waltz and Jack Wynne

**Grade Nine, Honors**  
Olivia Abbas-Peck, Emma Ackert, Alison Baptiste, Joseph Cook, Fiona Derr, Brynn Dunphy, Tyler Ellis, Maya Faucher, Silas Flint, Lindsay Fors, Nathan Gingras, Aveyrey Hyland, Reese Jamieson, Sarah Jean-Francois, Allie Lipiec, Sage McQueston, Gemma Mullins, Justin Njenga, Olivia O'Connor, Joseph Perrone, Chloe Richardson, Jillian Rigney, Ava Rogowski, Connor Roohan, Jacob Rosario, Zoey Salvatore, Brianna Souza, Robert Tobin, Mackenzie Toupin, Gareth

White and Dylan Woodward  
**Grade 10, High Honors**  
Chloe Howarth.

**Grade 10, Honors**  
Brent Benoit, Anyiah Bergeron, Abraham Brown, Eleanor Carroll, Nicholas Carroll, Brian Colleton, Aiden Crane, Kayla Curran, Maya Edouard, Sydney Freeman, Daniella Gaudreault, Callahan Hardy, Samuel Jamieson, Matthew Labrousse, Emma Lindsey, Gianna Montalvo, Niki Nikakhlagh, Anthony Noborini, John Orsini, Ellie Poulin, Moira Powers, Veanna Salvadore, Ava Sobol, Silas Stukuls Barrieau, Benjamin Thompson, Erin Trottier and Catherine Tucker.

**Grade 11, High Honors**  
Madeleine Boisselle, Tess Dunphy, Grace Flamand, Kathryn Ford, Anna Hautala and Ella Reeves.

**Grade 11, Honors**  
Alexa Araujo, Skyler Bard, Jacob Bassett, Halo Bissonnette, Logan Bruley, Isabel Doty, Leah Doucette, Brody Faucher, Kayleigh

Fuller, Lilian Hinckley, Kirk Kaelin II, Sadie Kennan, Sierra Lambert, Jillian LaMontagne, Audrey Laursen, Ailey Majoy, Scarlett Merriman, Anna Metcalf, Kevin Njenga, Samantha O'Connor, Charlotte Oliver, Sadie Ouimette, Sylvan Rector, Jennavicia Roseberry, Emma Ryan, Sienna Shaw, Brady Skinner, Caylee Watts, Brendan Welch, Ellary White and Carlo Zolla.

**Grade 12, High Honors**  
Kylee Costello, Elizabeth Matheson and Bianca Wilder

**Grade 12, Honors**  
Tyler Belden, Aaron Bodine, Owen Breuer, Tricia Brusio, Troy Budreau, Kalina Dyer, Marianna Fjeld, Madeleine Hardy, Emma Kahlau, Anthony Landry, Aidan Mahoney, Grace Manna, Hunter McQueston, Jayne O'Brien, Madeleine Rigney, Aaron Rowell, Lindsey Ryan, Madelyn Stauber, Cameran Vega, Thomas Wigglesworth and Jin Xi Zou.

**LUNCHEON** from page 1

Joining the seniors at Teresa's Restaurant was the Executive Director of the Ware Council on Aging, John Zienowicz. This concept gives seniors in the community to socialize and enjoy a nice lunch and help create a social network.

Zienowicz invited a total of five seniors from Ware and gathered at Teresa's Restaurant, who sponsored the meal. The seniors and Zienowicz thanked Claude Ferrentino and his staff at Teresa's as they were getting ready to order lunch.

Ferrentino has been the owner of Teresa's for the last 45 years and first heard of the concept of Good Neighbor Day Luncheon from a former staff member, Susan LaBarge. After hearing about it, Ferrentino thought his restaurant would be happy to provide a meal for their seniors.

Ferrentino said the seniors in town have been good customers for years and Teresa's has donated gift cards to the senior center over the years. If approached again, Teresa's would be happy to host a luncheon again for the seniors.

"Enjoy your lunch," Ferrentino said to his guests.

The Good Neighbor Winter Tables Initiative was launched by the Massachusetts Coalition to Build Community and End Loneliness. Working with the Coalition is Costas Niarhos, who's company, Bridge Social, works with Senior Centers and provides AI-powered texting & operational tools for aging services organizations.

Niarhos said this is a new concept the Coalition is doing and helps folks spend time in their community and learn to be a good neighbor and help combat loneliness.

"Get Good Neighbor Day to be every day," Niarhos said.

This program helps build a lot of connections and helps bring folks together and gather at different venues and not feel isolated. A total of five seniors arrived at Teresa's Restaurant and thought this concept was a good idea to bring people together, especially seniors.

"It would benefit a lot of people," says Patricia Ranner. "Try to get out and not just stay home."

Ware is the first community to try this new concept and Niarhos shared that six other communities in Massachusetts are actively trying to recruit restaurants to possibly sponsor a meal, which is part of the Good Neighbor Day Luncheon. The wintertime was a great time of the year to bring this program to fruition as the Coalition's goal is to end loneliness for those that may feel isolated.

"Ware has been a great partner in making this possible," Niarhos said.

Niarhos' company, Bridge Social, helps provide an AI texting line to help older adults feel connected to various agencies. For more information about Bridge Social, visit [www.bridgesocial.io](http://www.bridgesocial.io).

When asked about what's instore for this program for the future, Niarhos said, "our goal is to inspire little micro events like this throughout the State. Work with local organizations in helping with bringing people in their communities closer together."

Co-founder of the Massachusetts Coalition to Build Community and End Loneliness is Sandra Harris, who co-founded the coalition back in 2019. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, Harris and her associates from the Coalition began to notice the impact of isolation within older adults especially those who live alone.

The Massachusetts Coalition to Build Community and End Loneliness had gotten a lot of calls of people asking for help. As a result, the Coalition gained an understanding of what is happening within the State of Massachusetts.

The Coalition had to quickly adjust due to covid, which caused isolation and loneliness. Although covid was a major contributor, isolation is still here for sure and is increasing according to Harris.

The Massachusetts Coalition to Build Community and End Loneliness is a state-wide, multi-sector effort dedicated to raising awareness of the loneliness epidemic, strengthening social health, and creating connected, inclusive communities where everyone feels they belong. The coalition has partnered with 240 organizations to help with this concept.

"Working on a community level," Harris said.

The Coalition wants to help people understand the benefits of connection and the impacts on loneliness and how to combat it.

Good Neighbor Day is an example of what brings connections. As part of that connection, the Coalition wants to connect with restaurants who would want to sponsor a meal as a way to give people something to look forward to, especially during the holidays. This program started last year, and Harris mentioned Massachusetts Good Neighbor Day, a state-wide celebration dedicated to strengthening connections, encouraging kindness, and fostering a deeper sense of belonging throughout the Commonwealth. This was officially recognized nationwide on Sept. 28 and it helps people remember what it means to be a good neighbor.

The Coalition is working hard at partnering with restaurants, chambers of commerce

and already have good partnerships with senior centers throughout the state, including the Ware Senior Center.

The Coalition appreciates the community of Ware for fostering connection in their community. The seniors enjoyed their time at Teresa's

Restaurant and most of them ordered the haddock dish. Hanna's on Main will be the next restaurant in Ware that will be partaking in Good Neighbor Day and will happen sometime in January 2026.

"Loneliness is one of the

most urgent public health challenges of our time," said Jean Bushell, Co-leader of the Massachusetts Coalition to Build Community and End Loneliness. "These meals do more than provide nourishment, they create real human connection. A single shared

table can remind someone that they matter, that they are seen, and that they are part of a community."

For more information on these programs, visit [www.endlonelinessma.com](http://www.endlonelinessma.com).



# Baby's First Christmas 2025



**Carter Legasey**  
September 28, 2025  
Parents: Thomas and Jessica Legasey, Rutland  
Sibling: Scarlett Legasey  
Grandparents: Donald and MaryAnn Dunbar, Ware  
Thomas and Sharon Legasey, Spencer



**Arthur Senecal**  
May 26, 2025  
Parents: Sarah and Scott Senecal, Bondsville  
Grandparents: Mario and Julie Nicolliello, Ware  
Bruce and Tina Aldrich, Ware  
Doug and Maria Senecal, Oak Hill, FL  
Great Grandmother: Charlotte Iadiserma, Palmer



**Ethan Jordan**  
July 26, 2025  
Parents: Krystal and Brett Jordan, Hardwick  
Big brother: Connor Jordan  
Grandparents: Laura and Jon Wilson, Barre  
Dana and Mary Ann Jordan, Barre



**Maeve and Quinn Courtney**  
December 5, 2025  
Parents: Cait and Tom Courtney, Ware  
Grandparents: Rich and Robin Walker, Belchertown  
Will and Patty Courtney, Belchertown

# What we did on Christmas Eve

A reflection on my family's tradition

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

This year, I wanted to share a story with all the readers as I reflect on the last 17 years of Christmases.

We all have our traditions during the holidays and Christmas Eve became the day my family and I started a fun tradition we still enjoy to this day. It was a simple family gathering that only involved those in our household.

When it started in 2008, it was just my mother, my younger sister, and myself. It was just over a year after we moved to Warren, and we had quite a commute from our nearest relatives who live out in eastern Massachusetts.

My mother worked a lot during the holidays, and it was easy for us to have a simple family activity. Every year for the last 17 years our family tradition on Christmas Eve has been dinner and a movie.

Most years we went out to dinner first because restaurants that were open on Christmas Eve usually close early. There weren't many restaurants to choose from at the start, but over the years we would always pick a place that had steak on the menu.

Looking back over the years, the most common restaurants we would go to on Christmas Eve included Outback Steakhouse, Longhorns, and sometimes Texas Roadhouse. Every server we had was nothing but nice and we always appreciated their time as they worked on a holiday night.

What makes this tradition worth sharing is the memory of every movie we saw

on Christmas Eve. These weren't movies we watched at home, but movies that were new in theaters and came out around Christmas.

In 2008, the first movie I saw with my mother and sister was "The Tale of Despereaux". This adorable, animated film follows the mouse Despereaux who doesn't cower and won't run away from danger, as mice should.

This movie was cute at the time and was more of a family film, but from my perspective, it wasn't one of my favorite movies on Christmas Eve. However, this film is part of the starting point of this Christmas Eve tradition.

2009 came around and it was still the three of us. This year's Christmas Eve featured another simple dinner followed by another family-friendly film, "Alvin & The Chipmunks: The Squeakquel". This cute film was enjoyed mostly by a younger sister, Melissa, who

was seven at the time. There was a lot of singing in this film in addition to comedy.

In 2010, my family would endure various changes and one of those changes was when my stepfather Phil came into our lives. It was our first Christmas Eve as a family of four and we saw the Disney film "Tangled". I recently spoke with Phil about the previous movies we've seen, and he recalled seeing "Tangled" during one Christmas Eve.

"Tangled" was an adorable film featuring music, comedy, and was another classic example of how well Disney can bring a story to life on the big screen. This wasn't all-time favorite Christmas Eve film, but it is a memorable one.

In 2011, our movie was based on a true story and was called "We Bought a Zoo". The film starred one of my

Please see **TRADITION**, page 11

# Sponsor a wreath for 2026's Wreaths Across America

WARE – Now through Dec. 31, all sponsorships received for next year's Wreaths Across America Day will be fully matched by the Wreaths Across America organization.

To sponsor a wreath for next year's event to be held on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2026, visit the "Wreaths Across America, Ware, MA" Facebook page and click on the respective links. Wreaths can also be sponsored by scanning the QR codes featured with this notice.



Ware Veterans Council  
Ware Middle School PTO

**POOL** from page 4

department parking lot (\$1 million?); new Aspen Grove cemetery office/garage (\$500,000? Garage was condemned and torn down and garage in remaining office for storing all the equipment).

And for an item that's only used 8-9 weeks a year, weather permitting.

Another elected official

stated that "the people want this." No, they do not and the vote proved it.

The vote was 63 voting yes and 67 voting no; this was not a close vote as it may appear. Because the vote was not a simple majority; since it was to authorize borrowing, a 2/3 vote was required. Therefore, 87 votes were required for passage, meaning the loss margin was 24 votes.



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Illustration of three smiling teeth with holiday decorations.

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# 'A Charles Dickens Christmas' with Bill Thierfelder

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

Libraries throughout Massachusetts shared the virtual presentation of "A Charles Dickens Christmas" with Dr. Bill Thierfelder.

Introducing Thierfelder was Beth Dalal, the Adult Programs Coordinator at the Groton Public Library. This program is presented in partnership with the Groton Public Library and in cooperation with a variety of other area libraries, made possible, in part, by the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust. This zoom presentation was shared through various libraries in the state of Massachusetts, including the Woods Memorial Library in Barre.

Thierfelder is a retired Professor of Arts and Humanities, who offers various inciteful programs on a virtual platform. His lecture program, "Learning From

Home," are virtual programs for libraries and other organizations.

For this month, with the holidays just beginning, Thierfelder presented "A Charles Dickens Christmas," a detailed history on the Victorian-era English writer and journalist.

Thierfelder reminded his virtual audience that Dickens has written more Christmas stories besides his famous tale "A Christmas Carol". There are five Christmas books written by Dickens in the 1840s, followed by over 20 Christmas stories that were written between 1850 and 1867.

In many biographies, Dickens is known as "the man who invented Christmas," which Thierfelder knows is not the case, but knows Dickens' work made an impact on how the holiday is celebrated to this day.

This presentation allowed viewers to explore other stories written by Dickens, with

a heavier focus on the five novellas. Thierfelder encouraged his virtual audience to explore his website, which lists additional sources and information about Dickens and his work.

Dickens was born on Feb. 7, 1812, and was one of eight children. At a young age Dickens was already an avid reader.

His first published story was called "Dinner at Poplar Walk", which appears in Monthly Magazine. During the Victorian Era, many novels would get published in a weekly or monthly installments.

The first of his Christmas books was "A Christmas Carol" (1843), a story that remains especially popular and inspires adaptations in every artistic genre.

The book was first released in December of 1843. To this day, the world continues to talk about "A Christmas Carol", but that wasn't the end of Dickens' Christmas themed stories.

His next novella was called "The Chimes" (1844). This story is about Toby "Trotty" Veck, a poor ticket porter who loses faith in humanity.

The story explores themes of social injustice, the importance of compassion, and the cyclical nature of hardship, ultimately suggesting that hope and positive change can be found even in the bleakest circumstances. The story ends with a dreamlike scene where the bells ring in the new year and the leading character achieves positive change.

Dickens achieved great success while writing these holiday novellas and would share his work with the public. According to Thierfelder, "Dickens was a great self-promoter", and described him as a "real showman" when it came to him doing live readings of his work.

In the 1850s, Dickens began giving public readings of his own works as he expe-

rienced continued success. Thierfelder shared a story on how he purchased a house forever known as Gad's Hill, a house he spotted 30 years ago in his youth and desired to have.

What Dickens tried to avoid was repeating the mistakes his father made, which included falling into debt. Dickens and his family moved into Gad's Hill in 1857.

Though he achieved much success, Dickens kept an exhausting schedule of writing and touring all over Europe and the United States for his readings. His last tour of the U.S. was in 1867.

Thierfelder talked about Dickens' other successful Christmas books. "The Cricket on the Hearth" (1845) was released in December of 1845 and is a Christmas novella focusing on the Peerybingle family and their domestic life. In December of 1846, Dickens released "The Battle of Life", a story about two sisters and

their intertwined love for their father's ward, Alfred.

The last Christmas novella by Dickens is "The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain" (1848).

This story follows a chemist who is haunted by painful memories and a spectral double who offers to remove them. He accepts but discovers that forgetting his sorrows also makes him lose compassion and empathy, and he spreads this forgetting to others, turning them cruel. The chemist realizes that even painful memories are essential to human connection and must be embraced and not forgotten.

After writing these five notable books, Dickens went on to write over 20 more Christmas stories during his writing career. "A Christmas Carol" was written when Dickens was 31 years old and this Christmas story along with the others

Please see **DICKENS**, page 10

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**HOUSING** from page 1

and have strong ties to the community, with Martinez serving on the town's Fire Department.

Winthrop Terrace was built in 1978 and has 60 units in its two-story structures. Currently, the housing authority has three vacancies. The town also has a six-family unit in West Warren and a duplex near the Brimfield town line.

Residents in any of the state's housing authorities pay 30% of their income toward rent, which allows them to "live decently" at a housing authority, Augustus said.

Augustus said the housing authority at Winthrop Terrace had "good curb appeal" and noted the care that staff have taken to update and maintain not only the units, but the grounds and common areas.

"Warren has done a good job keeping up on it," Augustus said.

Baker has been in the

role of acting Director for the past year, and she shared details about the community of residents at the housing authority. She said they enjoy socializing in the community room, and also actively attend the town's Senior Center for meals and programs.

"It's good for people who don't have family around to meet their neighbors," Augustus said.

Martinez took the group on a tour of a recently vacated second story unit, which featured a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, living room and three closets. Each unit at Winthrop Terrace is heated and cooled using electric mini splits.

As the tour continued, Augustus said turning over these units quickly to the next tenant is a "big priority" for the state, as the demand for housing continues to grow, especially among senior citizens. Access to housing authority units is prioritized to veterans and



**Drew Martinez, who works in the facilities and maintenance department at the Warren Housing Authority, talked about the housing units located at Winthrop Terrace.**

homeless people.

"We've got a lot of incentives to fill these units in a timely way," he said.

With the creation of the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs, potential tenants from all over the state can select a housing authority close to where they currently live, but many are coming from a greater distance now,



*Turley Photos by Derick Veliz*

**Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus (second from left), is shown speaking with (from left) Selectman Richard Eichacker, Town Administrator James Ferrera and facilities manager of the Wrights Mill complex, Bill Leslie. Augustus visited the complex after touring the town's Housing Authority last Thursday.**

Baker said. She said many of the long term residents at Winthrop Terrace are local, but newer ones come from as far away as the Boston area.

Lack of public transportation and access to grocery

stores and shopping centers is an issue that many housing authority tenants face in rural areas, and Baker said the application for Winthrop Terrace highlights the need for personal transportation

when people apply for a unit. "Transportation is a challenge," Baker said. "People without cars don't typically come to Warren."

After finishing his tour of the housing authority, Augustus joined Ferrera and Veliz to meet Selectman Richard Eichacker and Facilities Manager Bill Leslie at the Wrights Mill complex located at 85 South St., in West Warren.

The approximately 600,000 square feet of mill space is located on almost 100 acres, and once provided 900 jobs in town. There are a total of 15 buildings that range from one to five stories tall.

The Wrights Mill complex is zoned in its own overlay district, which provides a wide variety of potential uses, including residential, commercial, industrial and mixed uses.

Leslie has overseen the care of the complex for the last seven years, and shared that his uncle used to own it when it was the ribbon factory. The complex also produced cotton fabric as well as parachutes used during World War II.

Ferrera said the town recently completed the Wrights Mill Master Recovery Plan with Weston & Sampson, which is available online at [wrightsmill-masterplan.com](http://wrightsmill-masterplan.com).

"We want to see some type of development here," Ferrera said.

Augustus said developing a site such as the Wrights Mill would require a phased approach, but is something that has been done with mill buildings across the commonwealth, including the Ludlow Mills.

"This is something you're going to be in for the long haul," he said. "It's not quick, but it can be done."

In addition to his visit to Warren, Augustus also toured the housing authority in Ware before heading to Great Barrington to announce the awards for the Community Development Block Grant program.

This funding will provide housing rehabilitation, street and sidewalk upgrades, planning work and vital social services to dozens of communities. The town of Warren received a joint award with the town of Millbury for \$1,050,000 for the design of the Senior Center parking lot as well as neighborhood infrastructure.

Augustus also announced the new Rural and Small Town Housing Choice designation, which recognizes that smaller communities face different realities but are just as committed to creating housing options for their residents.

"These changes grew out of hundreds of conversations my team and I have had with local leaders over the past three years, and they will help more communities qualify for Housing Choice recognition and grant programs that support long term housing and community development," Augustus said.



**Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus (left) is shown with Katelyn Baker, acting Director of Warren Housing Authority; James Ferrera, Town Administrator; Drew Martinez, Facilities and Maintenance at Warren Housing Authority, and Jennifer Pickering, District Director to state Sen. Jake Oliveira.**



**Ed Augustus, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities Secretary, spoke about the process to develop a complex like the Wrights Mill.**

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# SPORTS

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Isabelle Manzano sends a pass toward the corner.

## Shooting struggles as Ware edges Quaboag

Evelyn Potvin sends a pass away.



Reagan Grant charges into the arc.



Gabrielle Kaczuwka tries to bring down a rebound.

WARE – Last Wednesday night, it was a battle of defense and rebounding as both Quaboag and Ware girls basketball had a tough time scoring. But Ware was able to overcome a small deficit entering the final frame for a 26-24 win over Quaboag. Ware got 10 points from Amelia Orszulak. Ware girls basketball improved to a perfect 3-0 while Quaboag is now 0-4.



Maddie Potvin eyes the hoop as she enters the arc.

Reese McKeever struggles to get a shot up.



Madeline Dufresne is pressured near the hoop.



## Offense struggles in second half for Pioneers

SPRINGFIELD – Last Tuesday evening, Pathfinder had a tough time getting on the scoreboard in the third quarter and allowed Pioneer Valley Christian Academy to pull away with a 55-41 loss for the Pioneers. Pathfinder would fall to 0-2 on the season after opening the season with a loss to Westfield Tech. Pathfinder is back in action on Monday, Dec. 29 against St. Mary's High School at 7 p.m.



Dayne Showley goes after the loose ball.



Aiden Girard makes an inbound pass.



Gabe Cardenales tries to overcome a block and shoot.



Cassian Kowalik drives toward the hoop.



Angelo Rentas one-hands the ball into the hoop.

## Tough start continues for Ware boys

SPRINGFIELD – Last Thursday night, Ware High School boys basketball was defeated at Duggan Academy 54-49. The Indians fell to a disappointing 0-3 on the season.

In the defeat, Ware had consistent offense, and was tied with Duggan at halftime 29-29. But Duggan pulled away slightly in the third, and held on in the fourth.

Ware was led by Brady Guimond and Jack Gaudreau with 12 points each. Kaleb Kanozek had 10 points.

Coming up, Ware will travel to Belchertown on Monday, Dec. 29 at 7 p.m.

## Rogers recognized by MIAA

FRANKLIN – The MIAA recognized 21 game officials from across the state as the 2024-2025 Game Officials of the Year during a celebratory banquet held Monday, Dec. 15 at the Doubletree Milford.

The MIAA annually recognizes the best game officials from the over 5,000 officials in Massachusetts as nominated by their peers. The following individuals were nominated and ultimately selected as the best in their craft:

Among those recognized was longtime umpire Andrew Rogers from South Hadley. Rogers is also the umpire assignor for Western Mass. high school baseball and multiple adult leagues as well as American Legion summer baseball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

# sports



Sienna Shaw looks for a way to get around her opponent.



Abby Rogoowski crosses midcourt for the Panthers.



Mia Ducos passes on the run.

Makenzie Casey attempts a shot.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Izzy Doty squares up a shot.



Aubrey Torpe is pressured as she crosses midcourt.

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# Turleysports

**Amelia Orszulak**  
WARE HIGH SCHOOL

## Athlete of the Month

Orszulak had a 10-point performance to lead the Ware girls basketball team in a win over Quaboag last Wednesday night.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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## Offense gets going early in Railers win

WORCESTER — Although they are very much alive in the ECHL's North Division playoff race, they were — for one night anyway — the late Worcester Railers.

They beat the Norfolk Admirals 6-2 last Wednesday and scored a goal in the closing seconds of all three periods. Worcester got one with two seconds left in the first, 10 seconds go to in the second and 2.1 ticks remaining in the game.

Worcester's goals were all scored by different players. Ten different players had points. Parker Gahegan continued his wonderful play in net by stopping 31 shots. That included 16 of 17 in the second period when Norfolk desperately tried to get back into a game it trailed, 4-0, after 20 minutes.

That's right. The Railers had a 4-0 lead going into the second period. That had happened only once before in team history, on Jan. 26, 2019 here, in what became a 5-1 victory over Adirondack.

Prior to this game

Worcester had spent most of its first periods in survival mode, especially at the DCU Center.



"I think we really tried to channel our road type of mentality," coach Nick Tuzzolino said. "When you get into this amount of games you start pre-scouting yourself and I was pre-scouting us I'd probably say 'pounce on 'em in the first period."

"That seems to be their weakness." Riley Ginnell, Drew Callin, Anthony Repaci and Michael Suda scored the first period goals. Matt DeMelis got one in the second period, Gleb Veremyev in the third.

Drew Callin was 1-2-3. Suda was and Repaci were both 1-1-2 and Anthony Callin had two assists.

Jack O'Leary scored both Norfolk goals. The Railers did something unusual to achieve the triumph. They beat Norfolk goaltender Isaac Poulter, a very good one just down from the American Hockey League. Prior to Friday night Poulter had put

together a streak during which he allowed the Railers to score just two goals in three full games.

The first period goals were scored by, in order, Ginnell, Drew Callin, Repaci and Suda.

Ginnell converted a 2 on 1 break with a short side wrist shot from the left circle at 5:39. Drew Callin deflected home a shot by his brother at 10:11, Repaci took advantage of a Norfolk turnover and sizzled a wrist shot past Poulter at 12:26, then Suda blasted a low shot home from 55 feet away with just two seconds left in the period.

Norfolk got one back at 8:10 of the second period as the teams traded 2 on 1 breaks. Worcester's came first and when Ross Mitton came down the right side missed to the far post on a wrist shot, that set up the Admirals' 2 on 1. O'Leary scored at 8:10.

The Admirals were all over the Railers for most of the period. Just when it looked like Worcester would escape with the 4-1 lead, DeMelis extended his goals streak to four by putting a 20-footer past Poulter at 19:50 and the Railers were up by four again.

Both teams had someone in the penalty box so it was a 4 on 4 goal.

**DICKENS** from page 7

helped Dickens find a way to recoup his former glory as a writer.

When he wrote "A Christmas Carol", Thierfelder said that Dickens, "certainly spread the message about what Christmas could and should be."

The book was self-published, and it sold out in one week. With this success, Dickens would return to financial stability. At the same time, the story inspired interest in the holiday season during Victorian Era England.

Overall, every Christmas

book by Dickens was successful and each had a unique story behind them, shared by Thierfelder.

"The Chimes" was written during a family trip Dickens took while he was in Italy. "The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain" was just as successful as the previous four books but had a unique ghost idea tied to it.

Ghost stories were a popular theme in Dickens' stories, including the Christmas ones.

Thierfelder reminded his viewers that Dickens always shifted back to other stories and gave many good ones to the world, including the holiday novellas. At the end of

the presentation Thierfelder encouraged his audience to explore other stories written by Dickens.

"You just might find some other gems," Thierfelder said.

Thierfelder would then take questions that were left by viewers and were read by Dalal. When asked about his favorite stories by Dickens, Thierfelder mentioned he likes the book, "The Signal-Man", a ghost story by Dickens.

When talking about film adaptations of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", Thierfelder said his favorite is the 1951 movie with Alastair Sim.

# Quabbin Middle School lists honor roll

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional Middle School announced the first term honor roll.

## Grade Six, High Honors

Leonna Barre, Moriah Baxter, Ella Bourgeois, Casey Coates, Troy Corbett, Nolan Cronk, Charlotte Daniels, Kayla Despres, Ralph DiBenedetto, Joshua Doherty, Elise Flores de Oliveira, Logan Grandmaison, Aria Jackson, Jase Johnson, Thendara Magario, Richard May, Avery Phelps, Nathaniel Putelis, Sophia Serrano, Vincent Stark, Jorja Thorpe, Richard Valcourt and Luna Yules.

## Grade Six, Honors

Caiden Ahearn, Lia Aiesi, Bella Arriola, Elias Bellemmer, Danica Bjorklund, Edgar Blanchard, Audrey Breault, Clayton Cranston, Ruby Dagbjartsson, Autumn Dahn, Derek Ferreira, Rose Fleming, Maxwell Gaidanowicz, Andrew Gingras, David Groner, Brady Holmes, Annabelle Ickler, Laine Jenkins, Mia Joyal, Abigail Kajjala, Mason Kazanovicz, Kylee Lomastro, Evelyn Lord, Elliott Macutkiewicz, Scarlett McDonald, Liam McKenzie, Logan McManaman, Chase McQueston, Anna Medine,

Jonah Melad, Olivia Mellor, Tonseth Miller, Julia Montague, Valkyrie Moore, Sage Morin, Tyler Nadeau, Hunter Nagle, Owen Nally, Harris Paakkonen, Ivy Packard, Bridgette Parker, Wyatt Porter, Dylan Potter, Sadie Russell, Deklan Sampson, Jaide Stillman, Tristan Tesell, Andrei Timofeev, Katara Tran, Emma Tyler and Irellyn Venne.

## Grade Seven, High Honors

Jaysen Cassano, Ayla Clark, John Cook, Anna Coomey, Lincoln Graves, Colby Hill, Theodore Minton, Annaleigh Moncoeur, Ximena Palomera-Espinoza, Hana Mae Tousignant and Joseph Youngstrom.

## Grade Seven, Honors

Nevaeh Andres, Asher Baker, Julianna Bienvenu, Ava Blancato, Jacob Blanchard, Talasyn Boissonneau, Vincent Broten, Cameron Charpentier, Charley Chauvin, Ayla Cogoli, Ryan Colgate, Ella Critelli, Audrey Cutler, Hannah Cutler, Joey DeMalia, Ethan Donaldson, Hannah Dube, Pipsissewa DuBois, Elliott Feldman, Mason Ferguson, Matthew Flamand, Maia Flint, Andrew Fuller, Alexander Girouard, Jude Gomes, Davin Goodwin, Joseph Haley, Madilyn Houle,

Silas Howe, Adrian Johnson Jr., Jack Johnson, Colin Kania, Nathan Kearchner, Ryan LaRange, Walker Larson, Maishao Lee, Carter Majoy, Brady Malin, Kayla McHugh, Sawyer Minton, Adelaide Moeller, Nolan O'Connor, Aviendha O'Neill, Chevy O'Shea, Terra Paradis, Harper Parcell, Bryce Pariseau, Chloe Phillips, Cathryn Racine, Waverly Rivard, Emily Schur, Hazel Serra, Liam Shaw, Ava Sherblom, Andie St. Clair, Weston Stukuls Barrieau, Brayden Surprenant, Landon Swindlehurst, Kenzie Thorpe, Regan Toohill, Emma Veinotte, Adrian Wahl, Everett Weisman, Alonzo White and Brady White.

## Grade Eight, High Honors

Saylor Bissonnette, Julia Blanchard, Winter Boyea, Eliza Brown, Christopher Dallair, Emily DeMalia, Brody Despres, Maria Hamm, Pele Johnson, Caiden Lance, Mathieu LeBlanc, Madeline Omasta, Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza, Owen Pears, Evelyn Priestley, Madeleine Proulx, Autumn Rector, Maci Roseberry, Katy Twarog, Maggie Ward, Lila Wilson and Raegyn Wnek.

## Grade Eight, Honors

Brady Aiesi, Raiden

Apraham, Addyson Barringer, Owen Black, Caleb Boyce, Amelia Breault, Caleb Brouillet, Ashlynn Casey, Jack Castell, Henry Corbett, Enzo Fargnoli, Lane Fargnoli, Benjamin Fisher, Carrick Fitz, Gabriel Fleury, Addison Ford, Eden Fortier, Lucas Gaspar, Jaidev Giumentaro, Meaghan Glidden, Kaylee Harrington, Nolan Herrick, Grace Lantegne, Maggie Leander, Jack Leclair, Pa Huam Lee, Mackenzie Levesque, Alessandrea Lewis, Kyliegh Los, Chiara Manna, Ava Maxim, Cameron McDonald, Ryder McGee, Valeri Metterville, Rose Michael, Olivia Mosso, Brayden Nadeau, Jonathan Nunes, Calleb Oliveira, Coleton Pina, Lily Ryan, Thomas Schoonmaker, Hannah Shotwell, Madalyn Simons, Bella Spring, Bentley St. George, Emma Stauder, Fiona Stevens, Brandon Strom, Baelin Sullivan, Arina Timofeev, Kailyn Traynham, Elizabeth Welch, Skylar Wisniewski and Lola Zantouliadis.

# St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold annual fund drive

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville has launched its Annual Fund Drive with a pledge of \$40,000 in matching funds from an anonymous benefactor.

The fund drive runs through March 15, 2026.

Last year the fund drive raised just over \$95,000 including the match funds.

“To raise that amount of money was truly a miracle. Never in the history of our Annual Fund Drive or the Scholarship Drive that preceded it, did we ever exceed our goal to that extent,” said Roberta McQuaid, Finance Manager and Enrollment Coordinator for the school.

The School Board implemented the Annual Fund Drive in place of the Scholarship Drive in 2025 to be able to diversify the use of the money earned, and thereby keep tuition affordable for families.

“The cost of nearly everything it takes to run a school has increased, from utilities to insurance, to books and salaries. It is no small feat to make ends meet. We rely

so heavily on those who support our mission; we couldn't do the good work we do if it weren't for our donors. While I hope and pray we will do well again this year, big gifts are not a given, and every donation, no matter the size, truly counts,” continued McQuaid. “Catholic Schools provide a foundation of faith for the students we serve, and their families benefit too. Our students work hard academically and contribute to the local community. It's a well rounded education, and when they leave St. Aloysius for high school they are prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead. It's a worthwhile goal to try and keep our tuitions prices stable so that families can continue to afford a private, Catholic education.”

Tuition assistance is also available through the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester and from scholarships gifted by private foundations.

Please see **DRIVE**, page 12

## TRADITION from page 6

favorite actors, Matt Damon, who is from Massachusetts.

This was a biographical comedy drama telling the story based off a memoir of the same name by Benjamin Mee. A widower moves his family to a property containing the Rosemoor Wildlife Park, which has been closed for years but is still home to zoo animals.

This was one of my favorite movies we've seen on Christmas Eve and if I remember correctly, my family thought it was a cute film. I believe this was the last Christmas Eve movie we saw at the movie theatre that was inside the Eastfield Mall in Springfield.

2012 came and we switched movie theatres. Cinemagic opened in Sturbridge around the same time and was closer to where we lived. It was the year we saw a film with themes tied to Christmas and other holidays.

The film was “Rise of the Guardians”, an animated film showcasing Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy, and the Sandman as the world's guardians. Jack Frost is the Spirit of Winter who wants to be believed in and wants to spread his winter magic for the sake of fun and soon becomes part of the guardians to combat the Boogeyman named Pitch Black.

2013 brought another holiday themed film to us on Christmas Eve. “Frozen” was the movie to see and was full of laughter, music, and loveable characters.

Longhorns was our chosen restaurant, and we went to the one in Millbury and went to the movie theater close by. Prior to being seated at our table, my mom shared an announcement; her younger sister, my aunt Missy, shared a picture of a sonogram announcing that she was pregnant with her first child.

This was my senior year in high school and joining me on our Christmas Eve tradition was my girlfriend at the time. I remember distinctly that she loved the song “Let it Go”.

Though we all saw the same movie, the two of us sat in a different row and my parents and sister sat several rows below us. This was one of my favorite Christmas Eves, and who doesn't like “Frozen”. Once again, Disney delivered another classic film that is still loved 12 years later.

2014 brought another Disney movie on Christmas Eve in the form of “Big Hero 6”. Baymax wasn't as cute and funny as Olaf but was still a good film to see during

the holidays.

2015 had eluded me and I soon realized I didn't go to the Christmas Eve movie that year. I was either at work or visiting family, but I can't remember exactly what I was doing that Christmas Eve.

My parents remembered what they saw in 2015, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens”. I was able to see this movie a few days later when Phil wanted to go see it again.

2016 was the first Christmas Eve I was able to have an alcoholic beverage during dinner. The movie was another musical as we saw the animated film, “Sing”. Animals of all species participate in a singing competition to have their voices heard.

2017 was an interesting year, but as far as the movie goes it wasn't one of my favorites, but most likely my sister's favorite. Melissa got to pick the movie that year and it had to be “Pitch Perfect 3”. This movie series has been watched consistently by my mother and sister.

Not one of my favorites, but it became part of our Christmas Eve tradition.

2018 featured a new movie theater at MGM Casino in Springfield. One of the new additions to MGM was Regal Cinemas, a luxurious movie theater with comfortable and adjustable seating.

The lobby had a bar so you could order a drink prior to the movie.

The film to see was Christmas Eve was “Aquaman”, which I know Phil was excited to see because he's a big comic book fan. Jason Momoa was a rising star and brought a cool element to the role of Aquaman.

I was bowling in a league in Agawam at the time and I recall coming across a fellow league bowler at MGM. I went over to say hello and wished him a Merry Christmas. He asked what I was doing at the casino on Christmas Eve and I mentioned “Aquaman” and he asked if it was good.

I said, “It was really good,” and I highly recommended it if he hadn't seen it yet. I shook his hand and wished him a Merry Christmas and good luck if he was going to play in the casino.

After a fun experience at MGM, we decided to use Regal Cinemas as our new movie theater every Christmas. 2019 was another Star Wars year as we saw “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker”. This was the film that was supposedly wrapping up the Skywalker storyline in the Star Wars universe.

I'm not the biggest Star

Wars fan, but I thought it was a good movie, but not the best Star Wars movie. Phil was a Star Wars fan and said his favorite film is “The Empire Strikes Back” (1980).

2020 was full of adjusting as COVID-19 occurred. If it hadn't, who knows what our Christmas plans could've been. We decided to stay home for Christmas and voted on takeout for dinner. We went to Antonio's Pizza in Belchertown; we were excited they were open on Christmas Eve.

We set up the living room to look like a home movie theater and voted on watching the live action film of “Mulan”. A good choice, but we'll always love the animated feature of “Mulan” (1998) more.

2021 was a lot better as movie theaters were operating again and we returned to Regal at MGM. It was another superhero movie year as we saw “Spider-Man: No Way Home”. One of my favorite Spider-Man movies of all time and one of my favorite Christmas Eve movies over the last 17 years.

2022 was another year with my absence, but my parents mentioned they saw “Avatar: The Way of Water”; the sequel to James Cameron's successful 2009 film. It took me until December of this year to finally watch the second Avatar movie and I'm glad I finally watched it, because it was good.

2023 was the year we saw “Wonka”, a prequel to

Roald Dahl's novel “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”. It wasn't the best movie but had a cute story behind it. In my opinion, Gene Wilder's Willy Wonka movie from the 1970s is still the best film to this day.

2024 we still had dinner at Longhorns, but we couldn't decide on a movie. We just felt there was nothing interesting that year. After we ate, we decided to go to Bright Nights at Forest Park in Springfield.

This year, we will be returning to one of our original movie theaters, Cinemagic in Sturbridge, which closed during the pandemic. It is now under a new name, and we will be seeing “Avatar: Fire and Ash”. It's a good thing I recently watched

the second Avatar movie before seeing the third one.

Our venue for dinner this year will be new as we will have an early Christmas Eve dinner at the Publick House in Sturbridge. Will I have steak again this Christmas Eve or something different?

I am very thankful to have a good enough memory to remember all the films we saw over the last 17 years. What started off as a simple outing as a family became a fun Christmas tradition and it always happened on Christmas Eve.

Thank you for reading and have a safe and happy holiday season. Be sure to enjoy the holiday traditions you have with your loved ones and don't leave out dinner and a movie, they're possible.

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# public safety

## Ware Police Log

During the week of Dec. 7-16, the Ware Police Department responded to 37 miscellaneous calls, 47 administrative calls, 11 traffic violations, four emergency 911 calls, five thefts/larcenies, three trespasses, one fraud/deception, three harassments/stalks/threats, one structure fire, one motor vehicle accident, one safety hazard, nine animal calls and 48 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

### Sunday, Dec. 7

7:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
8:22 p.m. Warrant Service, West Main Street, Arrest Made

### Monday, Dec. 8

2:18 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
2:40 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Pulaski Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
12:16 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Services Rendered  
2:23 p.m. Traffic Violation, West Street, Report Made  
3:26 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Homecrest Avenue, Services Rendered  
5:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
8:15 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Highland Village, Assist Given

### Tuesday, Dec. 9

9:17 a.m. Fraud/Deception, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered  
4:09 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Arrest Made  
7 p.m. Structure Fire, Highland Village, Extinguished

### Wednesday, Dec. 10

3:32 a.m. Administrative, Vigeant Street, City Ordinance Violation

3:54 a.m. Administrative, East Street, City Ordinance Violation

### Thursday, Dec. 11

6:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
6:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
6:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
7:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
7:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
7:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
7:39 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cummings Road, Investigated  
8:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
8:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gould Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
8:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued

### Friday, Dec. 12

7:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, North Street, Services Rendered  
7:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Criminal Complaint  
8 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Church Street, Dispatch Handled  
8:49 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, South Street, Advised

### Saturday, Dec. 13

2:14 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Otis Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued  
9:18 a.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Assist Given  
9:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued

*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.*

11:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pulaski Street, Citation/Warning Issued

### Sunday, Dec. 14

12:16 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Park Street, Arrest Made  
11 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, North Street, Services Rendered  
1:54 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, South Street, Could Not Locate  
7:23 p.m. Safety Hazard, Doane Road, Dispatch Handled

### Monday, Dec. 15

3 a.m. Administrative, Westbrook Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued  
3:17 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Otis Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued  
11:20 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised  
11:38 a.m. Services of a Summons, Milner Street, Report Made  
3:13 p.m. Weapons/Firearms, Unknown Location, Arrest Made  
5:03 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, South Street, Services Rendered  
5:38 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Services Rendered  
7:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

## Warren Police Log

During the week of Dec. 1-6, the Warren Police Department responded to 126 building/property checks, 20 community policings, 11 emergency 911 calls, one assault and battery, one threat, two parking issues, two complaints, two motor vehicle collisions, one vandalism, two property damages, three animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

### Monday, Dec. 1

4:46 a.m. Parking Issues, Main Street, Written Warning  
4:50 a.m. Parking Issues, Central Street, Written Warning  
11:50 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Devils Peak, Transported to Hospital  
3:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Report Filed  
8:03 p.m. Assault and Battery, Main Street, Report Filed

### Tuesday, Dec. 2

5:53 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Reed Street, Transported to Hospital  
9:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
1:01 p.m. Vandalism, Reynolds Road, Report Filed  
1:05 p.m. Complaint, Southbridge Road, Investigated

### Wednesday, Dec. 3

8:58 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, South Street, Area Search Negative

### Thursday, Dec. 4

10:59 a.m. Property Damage, Milton O. Fountain Way, Information Taken  
7:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

### Friday, Dec. 5

6:38 a.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Coy Hill Road, Transported to Hospital

9:18 p.m. Threats, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
9:59 p.m. Property Damage, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
11:19 p.m. Noise Complaint, Burbank Avenue, Report Filed

### Saturday, Dec. 6

5:28 a.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
1:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Criminal Complaint  
2:06 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Heritage Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
4:50 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Keys Street, Transported to Hospital  
9:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, West Brookfield, Mutual Aid Assist  
10:07 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Keys Road, Transported to Hospital  
10:38 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Yankee Drummer Drive, Mutual Aid Assist

### WING from page 1

Golden said non-profit hospitals are required to conduct a CHNA every three years.

Baystate Wing Hospital is located in Palmer, with 46 patient beds, 50 physicians and 500 employees. The hospital serves patients across multiple counties including Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester.

Golden said the hospital has a busy emergency department, with 20 private patient rooms, trauma and behavioral health crisis services and CT and X-ray services. Last year the emergency department had more than 38,000 patient visits.

"Our team there is absolutely fabulous," she said.

Data for the assessment is collected through various sources thanks to the partnership of nine hospitals and insurers through the Coalition of Western MA Hospitals/Insurers.

"The coalition was established in 2012 to leverage resources," Golden said. "There's a lot of overlap."

Ranghelli shared the key findings of the CHNA, which highlighted health trends and needs across the counties.

"This is a very comprehensive and inclusive process. We use it as our starting point," Ranghelli said. "A lot of different folks have been engaged."

Ranghelli said data was collected from 300 community members from western Massachusetts, through focus groups, key informant interviews, public health surveys and through regional advisory committee members.

The CHNA took into consideration social and economic influences, barriers to care, health behaviors and outcomes and priority populations.

The key findings for this year's CHNA showed a focus on maternal health, mental health, substance use, access to basic needs (food, housing and transportation) and difficulty with insurance and medical systems.

"Access to needs is a perennial challenge, including food, transportation and housing," Ranghelli said.

### Maternal health

Ranghelli reported that

the level of adequate prenatal care rates have dropped by 10-20% per county, based on whether the patient has private or public health insurance.

"Access to prenatal care showed a difference based on what health insurance you have," she said. "Public health insurance had more barriers across all three counties."

Ranghelli said higher rates of low birth weights were also reported by patients with public health insurance, especially in Hampshire County.

"Hampshire County has doubled the low birth weight for public insurance compared to private," she said.

### Adult mental health and substance use

Ranghelli said the assessment found an increase in the rates of poor mental health, compared to findings from 2019.

"Unfortunately, we see increases in rates of poor mental health and we're seeing that across the board," she said. "This continues to be a challenge in the present day."

Binge drinking was also identified as an ongoing challenge in all of the counties. With one in five people reporting having binge drank.

Ranghelli said while there has been a more positive shift in substance use care in the community, those who use substances are still facing barriers for basic needs in addition to discrimination and stigma in emergency rooms and other medical settings.

Ranghelli said people from the Recovery Center of HOPE were interviewed about these barriers, and that the staff leaders at Baystate Wing Hospital were responsive to the feedback received.

### Youth substance use and mental health

In the spring, students at Monson, North Brookfield and Quabbin Regional middle/high schools were given a survey about substance use.

The survey showed that alcohol is the most commonly used substance with 20% of eighth grade students reporting that they tried it.

Mental health continues to be a challenge, with four out of 10 students reporting daily anxiety. Seventy-eight percent of LGBTQIA+ students reported high levels of daily anxiety.

Of all students surveyed, 27% reported feel-

ing depressed or sad nearly every day.

### Common themes

Ranghelli said there's "a lot of crosscutting themes" across the following population groups: older adults, immigrants and refugees and young children and their parents/caregivers. Barriers include access to transportation, access to technology, earning a livable wage, access to reliable and affordable childcare and access to food.

"One of the biggest expenses for grandparent caregivers is food for the children," she said.

Ranghelli said many grandparent caregivers do not qualify for government assistance to help with food insecurity, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Older adults are struggling with housing, social isolation and loneliness, and a lack of geriatric care providers. Women age 65+ are more likely to be widowed and living in poverty than men are.

With immigrants and refugees, there is a great need for trauma informed care and practice. There are also language barriers, despite Baystate Wing Hospital having translation services.

Transportation in rural areas is still a barrier to healthcare, which can also have an impact on a person's ability to get food.

Ranghelli said the Quaboag Connector, a transportation service based out of Ware, is trying to meet those needs.

Ranghelli said the cost of housing has continued to rise and the town of Palmer reported higher eviction rates.

"Many folks, more than a quarter, pay more than 30% of their income for housing," she said.

Food insecurity had decreased in 2021 when supports were in place, but now there is an uptick due to inflation and those supports being gone.

Ranghelli said the top searches on 413Cares were related to housing and food.

"We know we have areas where food isn't available and we have limited access," she said.

### More about the CHNA

The 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment is available at baystatehealth.org/CHNA. The Health New England Community Health Needs Assessment will be published in January 2026.

### DRIVE from page 11

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to the Annual Fund please visit [www.staloyuscs.com/support/](http://www.staloyuscs.com/support/). Donations can also be mailed to St. Aloysius Catholic School, P.O. Box 522, Gilbertville, MA 01031, noting "Annual Fund" on the

memo line.

An Open House is planned for Monday, Jan. 26, 2026 from 3-5:30 p.m. Prospective families are encouraged to visit the school.



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## Eugene F. Rich, 79

BARRE/ALACHUA, FL- Eugene F. Rich, 79, of Alachua, Florida, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, Dec. 12, 2025.

He was born on July 20, 1946, in Boston.

Eugene grew up in Dorchester, and was raised by his mother, Edna Chase, and very special uncles and aunts. He is predeceased by his mother; his brother, Kenny and many aunts and uncles. He was also predeceased by the love of his life and angel, Donna Jean Kingsbury.

He leaves behind his loving children, son Michael Rich of Florida; son Eugene Rich and his wife Patricia Habink Rich of Ware; daughter Patricia Rich and her wife Jennifer Martin of Perry, Florida; and daughter Kimberly Rich of Tampa, Florida. He also leaves behind his Auntie Ronnie of Hyde Park; nine loving grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Eugene proudly enlisted into the Marine Corps on Dec. 22, 1967 and was Honorably Discharged on Jan. 8, 1972. During his time as a Marine, he served as a Rifleman, where he



saw heavy combat action in Vietnam. He also served time as a Military Police (MP).

Some of the notable awards he earned include the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnamese Service Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon, while rising to the rank of Sergeant (SGT).

Eugene married his best friend and love, Donna Jean, on May 17, 1975. He received a job opportunity to work for Stop & Shop in Marlborough, and it was here where the two of them started their family.

In the spring of 1986 Eugene moved his family to Barre, where he began his career in the United States Postal Service working at the Shrewsbury Distribution Center.

Eugene took pride in being a Marine, a husband, a son, and a father. He was well known for his strength, ability to persevere, and his GRIT. He would often remind everyone that when the going got tough, the tough got going. He also believed in not leaving anyone behind, a trait that was embedded in him from his years of service in the mil-

itary. His compassion, love, and determination all played pivotal roles in his later years as he took on the role of caregiver for his wife from 1996-2012. He demonstrated, with honors, what it meant to take care of the people you love and the sacrifices that come with that.

No one modeled that level of commitment better than him.

In 2019, Eugene moved to Alachua, Florida. Where he would spend his final years. He enjoyed sitting out on lanai, while watching golfers play the 15th fairway of Turkey Creek.

He loved cooking out, spending time with family, driving his golf cart around, and taking his dogs Charlie and Tim on walks. When he had time he would attend various Marine Corps gatherings, spending time bonding with others who had also proudly served their country.

The funeral for Eugene was held on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025 at 11 a.m. in Pillsbury Funeral Home 96 South Barre Road, Barre. Visitation was held from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service. Burial with full Military Honors followed in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Barre.

## John M. Vadnais, 92

WARE – John “Maurice” Vadnais, 92, of Ware, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025, surrounded by his family.



He was born in Lange-Gardien de Rouville, Canada on Dec. 27, 1932, son of William and Herminie (Briere) Vadnais. He leaves behind his devoted wife of 67 years Ruth (Watson) Vadnais and their seven children, Cynthia Mulhare and husband Michael of Radford, Virginia, Joseph and wife Marcia of Ware, Carl and wife Lori of Pleasant Hill, California, Janet Neffinger and husband Stephen of Ware, William and Wife Maureen of Pleasant Hill, California, John Paul and wife Janice of Ramsey, New Jersey, and Jack and wife Catherine of Agawam, along with 21 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

He was one of 17 children, and he leaves behind his sisters Marion Kozlik, Madeleine Mouser, and Rachel Mace. He was predeceased by Dafrose Vadnais, Blanche, Edmond, Robert, Louise Biron, Pauline

Biron, Eugene, Paul, Theresa Laplante, Irene McGrath, Annette Desjardins, William, Jr. and David.

John served in the United States Navy for four years during the Korean War on the aircraft carriers USS Leyte and USS Wasp. Following his service, he worked for Fontaine Brothers as a carpenter and superintendent for over 30 years.

He spent many hours volunteering in the Ware community in many roles including commissioner of the youth football league, coaching Babe Ruth baseball, etc. He was an avid fan of his children's sports teams as well as the New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox.

After his retirement 31 years ago, his energy turned into playing golf, and he was known at Dunroamin CC as the commissioner of the Morning Moaners. He loved spending time in his garden, taking care of his family and various farm animals. He could fix anything.

With the help of his

## Death notices

**Rich, Eugene F.**  
Died Dec. 12, 2025  
Services Dec. 23, 2025

**Vadnais, John M.**  
Died Dec. 9, 2025  
Services Dec. 19, 2025

brothers and brothers-in-laws, he built the family home 62 years ago. You could always find him helping his children with their homes and other projects.

John loved the time he spent with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, his eyes would light up, and his smile would grow bigger when they visited him. John was a very special man and was loved by everyone.

Calling hours for John were held in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025, from 5-7 p.m. His Funeral Mass was held on Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, at 11 a.m. in All Saint's Church, 17 North St. in Ware.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in his name to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation@ T2T.org. An online tribute page is available at charbonneau.com.

## ARTICLE from page 1

mation from town counsel to create an article for the annual town meeting in the spring.

### Water quality perception survey

Selectboard member Ken Willette and resident Amy Mathison-Start spoke about the creation of a survey to address the perception of water quality in town.

Willette said the survey is the first step to “get information from water users... both those who use the Ware public water supply, but we're also using it to survey people who get their water from groundwater sources in town.”

He said the survey will isolate those using public water and those using groundwater.

Willette said the survey will be mailed with the town census, and it will also be available online at www.townofware.com.

The survey asks if residents have a water filtration system, and if so, what kind. It also asks how often water filters are being changed.

The survey asks residents how they feel about the quality of their water, and if they consider it to be safe to use.

“Let's see what the data tells us and see where it guides us,” Willette said.

The survey will also information about the town's public water quality testing results.

### Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. to take action on 15 articles.

One of the articles will ask voters to appropriate funds to demolish the Reed Municipal Pool and bathhouse.

A public hearing to discuss potentially lowering the quorum for the Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Comments and concerns Resident Cindy Allen Bourcier questioned if the Selectboard had the authority to make a decision to support Baystate Health through a letter that was sent to the trustee of the Lewis Gilbert Trust, Bank of America.

“I can't find anything that gives the Selectboard the authority to determine who our healthcare provider would be, or who will receive multi-town resident healthcare endowment funds,” she said. Bourcier said she believed

this letter was sent to Bank of America when there was concern about the town facing litigation, but there is not such legislation.

Beckley said the Selectboard made a recommendation to Bank of America, which is within the board's right.

Hardwick resident Stephen Granlund brought up a letter written by Dr. Grace, regarding money held in trust, which was sent to Attorney Patricia Davidson.

“Since that time I have not heard a word about it,” Granlund said.

Granlund said Grace objected to Baystate Health's use of the money, as Grace believed it was not the original intended use of the trust.

Talbot suggested that Granlund direct his concerns to Baystate Health.

Resident Ann Bigda requested discussion be added to a future agenda if the opening of Baystate Health's Convenient Care, would prevent other health-care entities from opening in town.

Resident Denis Ouimette asked for an update regarding the brownfield cleanup for former Ware Gas Co. lot on Monroe Street. He said it's been almost two years since the town received \$500,000 in grant funding to clean up the site.

Beckley said the next step is the request for proposal process, and to complete the scientific study of the contents of the ground. He said there is about two and a half years remaining in the grant.

Beckley said the Planning Board will focus on getting the RFP out for the next step.

Resident Richard Starodoj brought up the prospect of purchasing the lot adjacent to the Town Hall, which is for sale. He said its purchase could protect the space around the Town Hall.

“I think it would be wise to purchase this lot next door especially for access to the building for maintenance and just space,” he said.

Starodoj also shared concerns about the lack of lighting at Three Mile Bridge during the construction. He said it is dark, which makes nighttime travel difficult.

He also spoke about the traffic light at the intersection of West Street and Main Street.

“It seems like the timing and the sequencing is not ideal for the traffic that goes through here,” he said. “It seems to primarily be con-

cerned with passing traffic eastbound through Route 9 through the main street, and traffic going west...for some reason it gets a red light and stops.”

Starodoj said the main traffic flow is from Main Street to West Street and vice versa, but the lighting sequence is not adjusted for that. He asked if it could be adjusted to accommodate the flow of traffic and prevent backups that are occurring.

Beckley said the state highway department will require a traffic study to change the lighting sequence.

### Town Manager's report

Beckley said the town and East Quabbin Land Trust's Mass Trails grant program application to connect the Mass Central Rail Trail through the Pelski property to Grenville Park has been approved. He said the project is before the Conservation Commission, and that the Natural Heritage Program wants to conduct a study of the giant rhododendron in the area.

He said bids will go out and construction of the trail extension should be done by June 30, 2026.

Beckley said the Building Commissioner has requested access to the vacant buildings on Main Street to conduct an asbestos study prior to demolition. He said the access has not been provided at this time.

He said there are several bidders to demolish the buildings.

Beckley said Healthy Quaboag's Nisha Humayun has accepted another position and Sawyer Blake will take her place as Project Coordinator for Community Health.

Beckley gave an update on the CodeRed system, and said if people haven't been receiving these phone calls from the town, they will need to register for the notification system again.

Beckley said the Department of Revenue raised concerns about the town's conversion of software that works to get out the tax values and bills.

“We've had over a year of complications with converting from one system to another,” he said.

Beckley said the state is working with the town to address the issue and send out the third quarter bills.

### Annual license renewals

The Selectboard approved

a list of liquor, common victualler, entertainment and automobile class I, II and III license renewals for 2026.

The town sent a liquor license renewal to Aspen Street Rod & Gun Club but has not received renewal paperwork. The club has closed and its building is currently up for sale.

Talbot said the license is set to expire on Dec. 31. If the license expires, there will be an open license available for businesses to apply for.

### Letter of support

Beckley said a letter has been drafted to send to state legislators to consider increasing state aid to towns.

The Selectboard approved the letter to be sent to state legislators.

## Ham radio exam session offered Dec. 30

WEST BROOKFIELD – Are you curious about amateur (ham) radio? Maybe you've always wanted to chat with people around the world, help out during emergencies, or just explore a fun and welcoming hobby?

Here's your chance to take the first step.

On Tuesday, Dec. 30 at 5:30 p.m., the Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club and their team of volunteer examiners will be holding an exam session at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

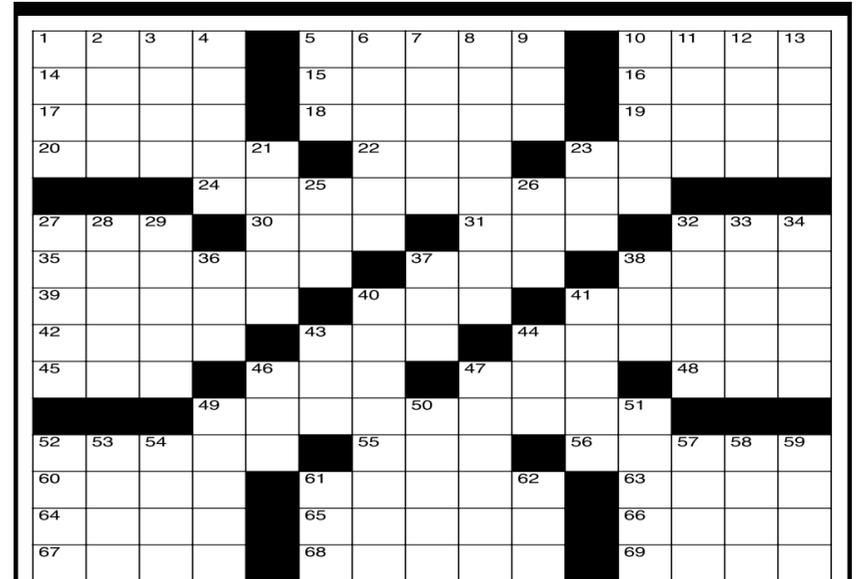
The exam fee is just \$15 and to help to make the eve-

ning go smoothly, please bring: a legal photo ID (driver's license, passport, etc.), your FCC supplied FRN number, a pen or pencil and a simple calculator (if you like).

If you're upgrading an existing license, please bring a copy of your current license (and any Certificates of Successful Completion of Exam, if you have them).

No need to pre-register-just show up a few minutes early and we'll take care of the rest.

Questions? Email the club at quaboagvalleyarc@gmail.com.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Light cavalry
5. Coconut palms
10. Rounded knob
14. Central Japan city
15. Sandwiches
16. Shape produced by a curve
17. Ancient region in modern-day Syria
18. French modernist painter
19. Grandmother
20. Mammary gland of cattle
22. Rocky peak
23. Secret plan
24. Songs to one's lover
27. More (Spanish)
30. Father
31. Chinese principle underlying the universe
32. Ballplayer's accessory
35. Together
37. A person's brother or sister
38. Evil spirit
39. Monetary units
40. Partner to cheese
41. About Sun
42. Group of like-minded people
43. After B
44. Seaside room
45. Recipe measurement
46. Partly digested food
47. Flat-faced dog
48. People of southern Africa
49. Salts
52. Beard lichens
55. Sanders is one
56. Fencing sword
60. Ethnic group of Albania
61. Metric weight unit
63. Italian seaport
64. Longtime late night host
65. Extremely angry
66. Miami mascot
67. Mid-month day
68. Marked for omission
69. Body part

### CLUES DOWN

1. Two-toed sloth
2. Fat from a pig's abdomen
3. Romanian city
4. Specifies
5. Rounded, glaciated valley
6. Spoke
7. Collection of sacred books
8. Extravagantly theatrical
9. Very fast airplane
10. Forearm bones
11. Ancient kingdom
12. Legitimate: \_\_ fide
13. Semitransparent gemstone
21. Counsels
23. Head honcho
25. Cool!
26. Touch lightly
27. Extract money via taxation
28. Dyes
29. Cloying sweetness
32. Sodas
33. Coastal village in Guam
34. Chemical ring
36. The bill in a restaurant
37. Car mechanics group
38. One-time presidential candidate Dole
40. Health care for the aged
41. Wise persons
43. Passage with access at one end
44. Make a wound
46. America's spies
47. Roof of the mouth
49. Plants of the lily family
50. Pinkish-red color
51. Vaccine developer
52. Mottled citrus fruit
53. A place to store garden tools
54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
57. Popular Hollywood pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. A move exposing one to danger
61. Historic Spanish soldier
62. CNN's founder

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Submit resume and letter of intent to: www.schoolspring.com

**REAL ESTATE**

**FOR RENT**

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE** by babbling brook, l-shaped 2bdrm. ranch, 2full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone 774-262-6667.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS  
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Palmer, MA 01069

**EARLY DEADLINE**

In observance of **NEW YEAR'S** for Dec. 29-Jan. 2 newspapers there will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!**  
Place your advertisement no later than **Friday, Dec. 26 at 3 p.m.**

A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 • 413-283-8393 • www.turley.com

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

Handyman Services  
**Walker Home Improvement**  
Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!  
**(413) 687-5552**

**FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER**

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON  
or call: 413-283-8393

|                  |                    |    |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| <b>CATEGORY:</b> |                    |    |                    |
| 1                | 2                  | 3  | 4                  |
| 5                | 6                  | 7  | 8                  |
| 9                | 10                 | 11 | 12                 |
| 13               | 14                 | 15 | 16                 |
| 17               | 18                 | 19 | 20                 |
| 21               | Base Price \$26.50 | 22 | Base Price \$27.00 |
| 23               | Base Price \$27.50 | 24 | Base Price \$28.00 |
| 25               | Base Price \$28.50 | 26 | Base Price \$29.00 |
| 27               | Base Price \$29.50 | 28 | Base Price \$30.00 |
| 29               | Base Price \$30.50 | 30 | Base Price \$31.00 |
| 31               | Base Price \$31.50 | 32 | Base Price \$32.00 |
| 33               | Base Price \$32.50 | 34 | Base Price \$33.00 |
| 35               | Base Price \$33.50 | 36 | Base Price \$34.00 |
| 37               | Base Price \$34.50 | 38 | Base Price \$35.00 |
| 39               | Base Price \$35.50 | 40 | Base Price \$36.00 |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

**GREAT VALUE!**  
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!  
Make checks payable to Turley Publications

# public notices

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**  
Premises: 88 West Street, Ware, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Thomas Hubbard to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. d/b/a TPOGO its successors and assigns and now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation, said mortgage dated March 22, 2024, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 15094, Page 194, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated December 23, 2024, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 15314, Page 312, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated August 6, 2025, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 15496, Page 282, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **January 8, 2026 at 11:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Certain pieces of real estate situated in WARE, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, known and designated as 88 West Street, being more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the northwesterly corner of the tract herein conveyed at an iron pin on the southerly side of said street; thence SOUTHERLY on line of land formerly of the Murdock Estate about one hundred (100) feet to land formerly belonging to the P.J. Crowe Estate; thence EASTERLY on land formerly of the P.J. Crowe Estate about fifty (50) feet to land formerly of Fred Burge; thence NORTHERLY on land formerly of Fred Burge one hundred (100) feet to West Street; thence WESTERLY on West Street to the place of beginning.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated March 11, 2024, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book

15091, Page 191.

**TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

**TENTHOUND (\$10,000.00)** Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.  
275 West Natick Road,  
Suite 500  
Warwick, RI 02886

Attorney for  
Freedom Mortgage Corporation  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
Telephone: (401) 234-9200  
MLG File No.: 25-01046  
12/18, 12/25/2025, 01/01/2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT COMPLAINT TO FORECLOSE TAX LIEN**  
[seal] No. 18 TL 000124

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and to John H. Blair and Anna M. Blair, both deceased, both formerly of Ware, Hampshire County, and said Commonwealth; Cheryl Blair and Daniel Blair, both deceased, both formerly of Indianapolis, in the State of Indiana; CSX Transportation, Inc., successor to The New York Central Railroad Company and the Boston and Albany Railroad Company, a duly existing corporation having an usual place of business in Jacksonville, in the State of Florida, in care of its Resident Agent C T Corporation System, a duly existing corporation having an usual place of business in Boston, Suffolk County, and said Commonwealth; or their heirs, devisees, legal representatives, successors and assigns:

A Complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff Town of Ware. The Complaint asks the Court to enter a judgment ending any

ownership rights or interests in the land described below. The Complaint is about a parcel of land located in the Town of Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, described in the Complaint as follows:

A certain parcel of land consisting of approximately 2 1/4 acres of land with buildings thereon situated on the westerly side of Gilbertville Road, now or formerly owned by John J. and Anna M. Blair and recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 1686 page 62.

**To respond to the Complaint, you or your attorney must take these steps by the Deadline to Answer, which is February 9th, 2026.**

First, prepare a written Answer. You may write your own Answer or use the form or the online guided interview program on the Court website. Second, file your Answer with the Land Court Recorder's Office, or in the Assistant Recorder's Office at the Registry of Deeds where the land is located, or using the Court's online eFiling system. Third, serve a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff by mail or e-mail.

**If you do not answer the Complaint by the above Deadline to Answer, this Court will find you in default.** You may lose the chance to answer or dispute the facts listed in the Complaint or pay the taxes owed. You may lose all ownership rights or interest in the land described above. If a judgment of foreclosure is entered, you will lose ownership of your property. If the property is worth more than the amount owed to cover the tax debt and foreclosure costs, you may be entitled to receive any remaining funds (excess equity) from the Plaintiff.

It is ordered that this citation be published right away, once in The Ware River News a newspaper published in Town of Ware.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Esquire, Chief Justice of said Court, this Eighteenth Day of December in the year two thousand and twenty-five.

Attest with Seal of said Court.  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder

Plaintiff's Attorney:  
Amy J Megliola Esq,  
1350 Main Street, Suite 210,  
Springfield, MA 01103 Tel:  
(413)732-3600  
12/25/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS25P0801EA Estate of:**

**Lori Ann Larzazs-Supczak Date of Death: 08/11/2025 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 **Lynn E. Garceau of Haverhill, 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 **Lynn E. Garceau of Haverhill, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without 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 01/21/2026. 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**

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: December 16, 2025  
**Mark S Ames**, Register of Probate  
12/25/2025

**Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle Under G.L. c. 255, Section 39A**

Notice is hereby given by REGIN'S REPAIR 19 CHURCH ST GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on **12/30/25 at 10:00AM** at: Regin's Repair 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keepers lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle

2009 Subaru Forester  
Registration#/State: 3KZD21/MA  
VIN: JF2SH63649H711995  
Name and address of owner:

Bradley Thane  
27 Morse Ave., Apt. 1  
Ware, MA01082  
2017 Yamaha YZFR3  
Motorcycle  
Registration#/State: none  
VIN: MH3RH06YXHK017063  
Name and address of owner:  
Misael Enamorado Ramos  
27 Studley Ave.  
Brockton, MA 02301  
Maya Gidopoulos & Dennzel Davis  
20 Sorel Rd.  
Ware, MA 01082

By: James M. Regin  
Dated: 12/8/2025  
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A  
12/11, 12/18, 12/25/2025



**PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE**

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

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

**visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)**

**ADVERTISING SALES HELP WANTED**

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

**Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.**

Send resume & cover letter to:  
Jamie Joslyn  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Email:[jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

**NOTICE**

**ERRORS:** Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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

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# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

**Town of Warren Town Accountant**

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**  
Full-Time – Town Benefited Position  
32 hours per week, Monday to Thursday

The Town of Warren is actively seeking a qualified professional to fill the position of Town Accountant. The Town is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Accountant to join our team. Strong organizational skills, excellent customer service skills, municipal finance and Vadar experience preferred. A complete job description can be found on the Town's website [www.warren-ma.gov](http://www.warren-ma.gov).

Please email or mail your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, [townadministrator@warren-ma.gov](mailto:townadministrator@warren-ma.gov) or by mail to 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083.

Salary range is negotiable from \$60,000 to \$64,500 and is based on relevant work experience, certifications, and educational background. Position open until filled, with a first look at resumes starting on December 22, 2025.

*Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

**EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES**

New Year's will bring early deadlines for all ads & legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of Dec. 29, 2025 - Jan. 2, 2026:

- Friday, December 26 at 2 PM for January 1 issue**
  - Country Journal
  - The Register
  - Wilbraham-Hampden Times
  - Agawam Advertiser News
- Monday, December 29 at 2 PM for January 1 issue**
  - Sentinel
  - The Journal Register
  - Ware River News
  - Barre Gazette
- Tuesday, December 30 at 2 PM for January 2 issue**
  - Quaboag Current
  - Town Reminder
  - The Holyoke Sun
  - Chicopee Register

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**GERMAN** from page 4

more. This act not only beautifies the tree, but strengthens familial bonds. Children as well as adult family members love to decorate the Christmas tree. In my family, my father always put on the lights and the angel for the top of the tree. My mother then placed her favorite ornament on the tree, followed by me and my brother.

**Advent calendars**

For young children, the days in December leading up to Christmas seem to take forever. For adults, the shortening days of the year make long nights that never end. Advent calendars, another German Christmas tradition, help make the time pass from the first day of the month to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Advent, the arrival of a notable person, thing or event, in the Christian tradition noted the four Sundays leading to Christmas.

Advent calendars display the dates, Dec. 1 to Dec. 25 and often have pockets or tiny doors to hold a piece of candy or other small treat. There are advent calendar made of wood or some other durable materi-

al other than paper, which can be used year after year.

Embodying the spirit of German precision, the Advent calendars stand as a testament to Germany's cultural dedication to celebrating the holiday season.

**Advent wreath**

The Advent wreath is another German tradition adopted by many other countries. Many Christmas churches throughout the world observe Advent with the lighting of a different calendar for the four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

The candle for the first week of Advent is the Hope or Prophet's Candle. The second week is the Love or Bethlehem candle. The third week is the Joy or Shepherd's Candle and is and the final week is the

Peace Candle. The candle in the center of the wreath is lighted on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Some wreaths have purple candles for the first, second and fourth Sundays and pink or rose colored for the third Sunday. The center candle is usually white. Although some wreaths have candles of a single color such as red, blue or

white.

The circular shape of the wreath represents the eternal nature of God. The evergreen branches represents the everlasting life found in Christ.

**Christmas Eve candlelight service**

Candlelit church services for Christians on Christmas is a cherished tradition for Germans over time. Worshipers gather as the night deepens and hold a lighted candle. Many churches for safety sake use battery powered candles. On church in Central Massachusetts has a crystal candle lite chandelier, which they light on Christmas Eve.

**Christmas Eve**

Christmas Eve or Heiligabend is known as the "Night of Wonder." For Germans and Scandinavian countries Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 holds a special place in the hearts of its people, as it marks the cherished tradition of the Holy Evening. This is the big gift-giving day. The eve also includes a feast.

**Christmas Carols**

Singing Christmas Carols is another German tradition. During the festive holiday season, cherished carols

such as "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night) and "O Tannenbaum" (O Christmas Tree) evoke a profound sense of nostalgia and camaraderie among celebrants. Singing is an important part of the holiday season.

**Christmas pyramids**

Christmas pyramids or Weihnachtspyramiden are wooden structures adorned with intricately crafted figurines. As the candles placed at their base flicker, an age-old mechanism sets these pyramids into gentle motion, creating a mesmerizing dance.

**Lebkuchen and Stollen**

German Lebkuchen and Stollen are two baked items that are part of their Christmas tradition. Lebkuchen is a soft, nut filled ginger cookie. Stollen is a rum soaked spice cake.

**Traditional Christmas drink**

Feuerzangenbowle is another German tradition. This drink concoction involves a theatrical presentation that starts with a sugarloaf, drenched in rum, being set ablaze. The sugarloaf melts and drips into a steaming bowl of spiced wine, resulting in the popular holiday drink.



The Advent wreath is made with evergreen boughs shaped in a circular. It has four candles often three purple and one pink candle with a white candle in the middle. Many wreaths use the same color candle such as blue, red or white.

**Christmas Pickle**

Incorporating a whimsical touch into the age-old tradition of adorning Christmas trees, some German households infuse a delightful element of surprise by discreetly concealing a pickle ornament amidst the lush evergreen boughs. This quaint custom, known as the "Christmas Pickle," has been a cherished holiday practice for generations. Children delight in the hunt to find the "Christmas Pickle."

**Nativity Play**

During the Christmas season, children eagerly participate in Krippenspiel, a

Nativity play that reenacts the timeless story of Jesus's birth. They are complete with shepherds, angels and a humble manger. Many Christian churches hold Christmas pageants during the holiday season.

**Other Christmas traditions**

On St. Nicholas Day (Nikolaustag), Dec. 6 shoes are filled with surprises. St. Nicholas comes bearing small, but cherished gifts and delectable sweets. The day before, Dec. 5 marks the beginning of Krampusnacht in certain regions of Germany, where the ominous Krampus, the dreaded counterpart of the adored St. Nicholas is unleashed. Krampus roams the streets, punishing misbehaving children who end up on their lists of naughtiness.

**Christmas Markets**

In the realm of German Christmas traditions, one cannot omit the enchanting Christmas markets, affectionately referred to as "Weihnachtsmärkte." They offer an array of holiday foods ranging from sizzling bratwurst to sugary roasted almonds as well as handcrafted gifts, carved wooden toys and ornaments

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 140 Main St., Spencer  
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**AVAILABLE NOW - HOLLAND, MA**

Beautifully maintained Colonial with beach rights! Nestled in Massaconnet Lake Estates, this charming 3-bed, 2.5-bath home blends comfort and convenience. Sun-filled living room w/ bay windows and hardwood flooring. Updated kitchen offers stainless-steel appliances, tile backsplash, and ample cabinet space. Formal dining area opens to a private deck, perfect for entertaining. Spacious primary suite w/ a walk-in closet and ensuite bath. Two additional bedrooms and another full bath complete the second floor. Fresh paint throughout, new flooring, and brand-new laundry room. Tantasqua school district, private yard, paved driveway with ample parking, and close proximity to Routes 84, 20 and the Mass Pike! Available for \$439,900.

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**exp REALTY**  
 130 W. Main Street  
 Spencer, MA 01562

**Michelle Terry**  
 Broker  
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**362 Sewall St. Ludlow, MA 01056 (413) 589-7308**

**PALMER HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.**  
**LUDLOW HOURS: Hours vary, please call**

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 bondsandandgravel.com  
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 508-885-2480

**JARS Café & Bakery**

23 Summer Street  
 North Brookfield  
 MA 01535

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**NO ENTRANCE FEE**

Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. Asking \$288,000. See listing on MLS # 73433198

**NO ENTRANCE FEE**

Brand New Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 37 Gauthier Rd., Barre. This is a 55 and better community. This home features an open kitchen/living room concept, perfect for family gatherings. Two large bedrooms on opposite ends of the home. Master bedroom has a walk-in closet and large attached bathroom. Just off the kitchen is a laundry area with door leading to back deck and yard. There is a monthly HOA fee which includes water, sewage, rubbish removal, and taxes. All exterior and interior doorways are 36" wide. Asking \$194,000. See listing on MLS # 73397436

**NO ENTRANCE FEE**

Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 32 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. Includes large carport and two large garden sheds. Approx. living area 1,000 SqFt. Asking \$139,900. See listing on MLS # 73398863.

**Call Today!**  
 978-355-4438  
 978-355-3454  
 paulraymondvarney@gmail.com

**WATERWHEEL REALTY**  
 Paul Varney Sr.  
 Real Estate Broker and Owner