

# Country Bank supports communities with annual donations

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, proudly reported over \$900,000 in donations for 2024.

The bank's philanthropic efforts supported local non-profits across its communities, with 462 organizations receiving grants throughout the year.

In addition to financial contributions, Country Bank team members dedicated 1,958 hours of volunteer service, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to giving back. Furthermore, 39 team members served on 95 non-profit boards and committees, actively contributing their time and expertise to advance these organizations' missions.

Recognizing the importance of financial literacy, Country Bank hosted seven Credit for Life Fairs for more than 2,000 high school seniors, educating them on credit, budgeting, and the long-term impact of financial decisions. Additional classes were conducted at various schools across the region and Christina's House, a home for



Submitted Photo

Country Bank donated over \$900,000 to 462 nonprofit organizations last year.

women and children who are homeless or near homelessness.

As part of its annual Season of Difference campaign, Country Bank partnered with the WonderFund to support those

involved with the Department of Children and Families system throughout central and western Massachusetts. Through this collaboration, the bank contributed over \$20,000, reinforcing its commit-

ment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families.

Among the organizations receiving support were Junior Achievement, EcoTarium, Main South CDC, Venture Community Services, Why Me/Sherry's House, Boys & Girls Clubs, Behavioral Health Network, Way Finders, HomeFront Strong, United Way of Pioneer Valley and Central MA, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Worcester County Food Bank, Juniper Outreach, Square One, Friends of the Homeless, along with 22 senior centers and 23 food pantries across the region.

Mary McGovern, President and CEO of Country Bank, emphasized the bank's dedication to its communities. "At Country Bank, our commitment to enriching the communities we serve is at the heart of everything we do. We take great pride in supporting organizations that make a meaningful impact, whether through financial contributions or the dedication of our team members. Giving back isn't

just part of our mission—it's a responsibility we embrace to help strengthen the places we call home and make a difference in the lives of those we serve."

### About Country Bank

Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking customers through financial solutions with FDIC and DIF insurance for added security. Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8 billion mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 banking centers and two business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge, and Worcester.

With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at country-bank.com.

## Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

WARE – The Recovery Center of HOPE and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance will be hosting a Community Cold Weather Drive to benefit local individuals and families facing hardships.

They will be accepting new and gently used gloves, mittens, scarves, sweaters, blankets, base-layers, jackets and coats and new beanies and socks.

Items will be collected through the spring and can be dropped off at the following locations: Town Hall, 126 Main St., Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Recovery on Main, 78 Main St., Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.; Ware Library, 37 Main St., Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Recovery Center of HOPE, Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

## Quabbin students selected for Project 351 Ambassadors

BARRE – Each year, eighth grade students from communities across the commonwealth are selected to participate in Project 351.

Project 351 shares. "We are a youth-led, school-based movement for positive change. We believe inside every young person is a brave, bold leader with dreams of a better world and the skill, passion, and creativity to achieve their vision. The program is designed to meet the demand for high quality, enriching service opportunities that respect and reflect the unique gifts and world changing aspirations of young people."

Project 351 Ambassadors are from left, Robert Tobin, Aiden Pagan, Jacob Rosario, Chloe Richardson, Zoey Salvadore and Isabelle Wentworth.



## public notices

**TOWN OF WARREN  
NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC HEARING  
New Liquor License  
Tropical Vibes & Grille**  
TOWN OF WARREN  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
of a NEW OF LIQUOR  
LICENSE The Warren Board  
of Selectmen as the Local  
Licensing Authority will hold  
a public hearing on **Thursday,  
27, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.** at the  
Shepard Municipal Building,  
48 High Street, West Warren  
pursuant to MA Gen. Laws  
Chapter 138 § 15A, on the new  
Application for licenses; for  
Tropical Vibes and Grille located  
at 2162 Main Street West  
Warren, The manager is Pierre  
Cadet.  
02/13, 02/20/2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
THE TRIAL COURT  
COMPLAINT TO  
FORECLOSE TAX LIEN**  
[seal] No. 21 TL 000203  
Queenie O. Giles, Otis  
Giles, Jr., also known as Otis  
Clarence Giles, and Joshua  
Giles, also known as Joshua L.  
Giles, all deceased, all formerly  
of Worcester, Worcester County,  
and said Commonwealth; Mossy  
Giles, also known as Theodore  
Moss Giles and Theodore M.  
Giles, Sr., deceased, formerly  
of Guilderland in the State of  
New York; Sheila Boykin, Tracy  
Edmonds, Emma Nelson, Jamie  
Picard, Tavie Johnson, and Taj

Johnson, also known as Taj C.  
Johnson, all now or formerly of  
Worcester, Worcester County,  
and said Commonwealth; James  
Giles, also known as James  
Edmonds, now or formerly of  
Dudley, Worcester County,  
and said Commonwealth; Greg  
Giles, also known as Gregory M.  
Giles, now or formerly of Ware,  
Hampshire County, and said  
Commonwealth; Joshua Lee  
Giles, now or formerly of Saint  
Cloud in the State of Florida;  
Theodore M. Giles, Jr., now or  
formerly of Schenectady in the  
State of New York; or their heirs,  
devisees or legal representatives:

A Complaint has been filed  
by the Plaintiff Tallage Brooks,  
LLC. 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 parcel of land with any  
buildings thereon, containing  
about 0.179 AC being described  
as parcel 60 0 176 in the office  
of the Assessors, Town of Ware  
identified in book and page  
7073-313, Hampshire Registry  
of Deeds.

**To respond to the  
Complaint, you or your attorney  
must take these steps by  
the Deadline to Answer, which  
is the twenty fourth day of  
March in the year two thousand  
and twenty-five.**

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  
Ware River News a newspaper  
published in Ware.

Witness, **GORDON H.  
PIPER**, Esquire, Chief Justice  
of said Court, this Twenty Ninth  
day of January in the year two  
thousand and twenty-five.

Attest with Seal of said  
Court.

**Deborah J. Patterson**  
Recorder

Plaintiff's Attorney:  
Daniel C. Hill, Esq.,  
6 Beacon Street,  
Suite 600,  
Boston, MA 02108  
Tel: (617) 494-1220

02/13/2025

**TOWN OF WARE  
Department of Public Works  
Legal Notice  
Invitation for Bids  
FY 2025 & 2026  
Hydrant & Valve Replacement  
Contract: DPW-25-02**

The Town of Ware will receive  
sealed bids for furnishing materials  
and services as needed for the  
period from April 15, 2025, to  
June 30, 2025, and July 1, 2025  
to June 30, 2026.

The bids are for the replacement  
of Fire Hydrants and Hydrant  
Valves including related work.  
Specifications and Bid Forms  
are available at the Town of  
Ware, Town Manager's Office,  
126 Main Street, Ware, Massachusetts  
01082. Bids shall be  
submitted in a sealed envelope  
addressed to the Town of Ware  
and marked "FY 2025 & 2026  
Hydrant & Hydrant Valve  
Replacement Contract". Bids will  
be received at the Town Manager's  
office **until 11:00 AM,  
March 27, 2025** and at which  
time they will be publicly opened  
and read.

A bid deposit equal to 5%  
of the total bid amount must  
be submitted with all bids, the  
bid deposit may be in the form  
of a Bid Bond from a Surety, a  
Certified Check, Treasurers or  
Cashier's Check. This contract  
shall be awarded to the lowest  
responsive and responsible bidder  
as defined in MGL Chapter  
30, Section 39M c. If the Bidder  
is a corporation, state your correct  
corporate name and the state  
of incorporation. If Bidder is a  
partnership, state names and ad-

resses of partners. If Bidder is  
a trust or other legal entity, state  
the correct names and addresses  
of trustees or names and address  
of those legally authorized to bid  
and enter into contracts. Contractors  
are required to comply with the  
Commonwealth of Mass. Department  
of Labor and Industries Prevailing  
Wage Rates in accordance with  
Mass. General Laws, Chapter 149,  
Sections 26 and 270. The Town of  
Ware is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative  
Action Employer. Failures to  
follow the instructions, meet the  
criteria, or agree to the terms  
and conditions contained in this  
IFB may be cause for rejection  
of the bid as non-responsive. The  
Town reserves the right to reject  
any and all bids, wholly or in  
part, and to accept any bid or part  
thereof and to waive informalities,  
when at its sole discretion it is  
deemed to be in the best interests  
of the Town and to the extent  
permitted by law.

Stuart Beckley  
Town Manager

02/13/2025

**TOWN OF WARE  
REQUEST FOR  
PROPOSALS  
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICE  
PROGRAMS**

The Town of Ware is seeking  
proposals from qualified social  
service organizations and agencies  
to include in their Community  
Development Block Grant (CDBG)  
application. Activities eligible for  
funding include a range of social  
services that

meet the needs of low and moderate-income Ware residents.  
Agencies providing the following  
services are encouraged to submit  
proposals; adult education/GED  
preparation, literacy programs,  
job training, domestic violence  
prevention, services for seniors,  
emergency food, family/youth  
activities and other social service  
programs.

The Town of Ware may choose  
to fund all, any or none of the  
proposals submitted. Agencies  
or organizations identified for  
inclusion in the Town's grant  
proposal will be required to submit  
additional information as part  
of the full CDBG application to  
be submitted to the Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Housing and  
Livable Communities (EO-HLC).  
Programs funded by EO-HLC  
are expected to begin in the fall  
of 2025. The Pioneer Valley  
Planning Commission (PVPC) is  
assisting the Town in the coordination  
and administration of its  
community development programs.  
Please contact Erica Johnson to  
receive a request form or with any  
questions regarding this program  
at (413) 781-6045 or  
ejohnson@pvpc.org.

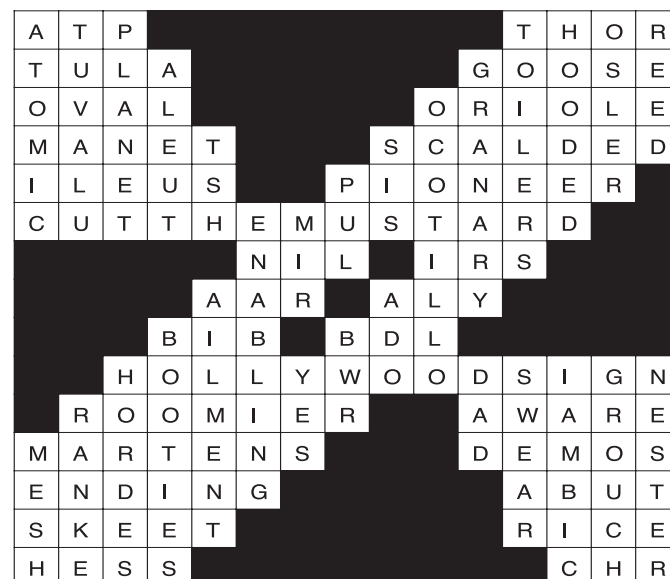
All proposals must be submitted  
by mail or e-mail to the Pioneer  
Valley Planning Commission,  
60 Congress Street – 1st Floor,  
Springfield, MA 01104, or  
ejohnson@pvpc.org by 2:00 p.m.  
Thursday, March 6, 2025.  
02/13/2025

## NEWS & FEATURES

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

For more information on news or community features for The Ware River News, please email [warerivernews@turley.com](mailto:warerivernews@turley.com).

A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)



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