

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Selectboard reviews articles with FinCom and Moderator

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Selectboard met jointly with the Finance Committee to review articles on the annual meeting warrant with Town Moderator Kathleen Coulombe

The total proposed fiscal year 2025 budget is \$37,037,461, and Town Manager Stuart Beckley's recommended budget is \$37,041,442.

"We're still tweaking it today," he said at the April 30 meeting, adding that the figures should match by the time they get to the motion for the article.

### Water infrastructure articles

Article 18 asks voters to transfer \$125,000 from Water Enterprise Reserves for the design of the refurbishment of the water tanks on Church Street and Anderson Road.

Infrastructure Asset Improvement Committee Chair Matt Palladino said, "we as a committee believe the first steps in improving our water system... improving and refurbishing our existing infrastructure. Therefore this request is to partner with Tighe & Bond and develop a plan for rehabilitation including a comprehensive analysis, the current state of the tanks and also recommendations for required maintenance now as well as future preventive maintenance."

Article 19 asks voters to transfer \$500,000 from water reserves and borrow the remainder to reach the approximately \$2 million total cost. "We did receive a recommen-

Please see **ARTICLES**, page 3

## Community Reading Day



Community Reading Day took place at Warren Community Elementary School with members of the community who read inspiring stories to students.

### Students and staff welcome guests readers at WCES

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The community came together during Warren Community Elementary School's Community Reading Day.

To start off a fun day, the school provided beverages and pastries for the readers who are community members that look forward to reading stories to students in kindergarten-sixth grade. All the community readers gathered at the school library for refreshments as they await their escorts to the classroom.

Coordinating Community Reading Day is literacy coach Linda Beaudry. For years, Beaudry has enjoyed seeing the

connection made between students and members of the community through reading.

"It is good to get community members in the school," Beaudry said. "Talk about their roles in the community."

Students not only get to hear stories read to them by these community members, but also hear their own stories about what they do to help the community. There were a total of 18 community members reading to the students of WCES and consisted of regular readers and first time readers.

Leona Wrobel has been participating in community reading for WCES since the very beginning.

Wrobel is a lifelong resident of Warren and part of the Warren Senior Center. Wrobel formerly served on the Board of Selectmen and is the former owner of the Warren Spa.

Please see **READING**, page 8



All students got into the stories as did these kindergarten students.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

## Balloon twisting with Polka Dottie

Parks & Rec. hosts workshop for children

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Warren Parks and Recreation department welcomed Kristy Collins to teach a balloon twisting class.

Collins is also known by her clown name "Polka Dottie" because of her polka dot attire. Based out of Worcester, Collins arrived in Warren and taught her third balloon twisting class.

Her first class took place at the Worcester Public Library and she received a lot of positive feedback. Therefore, the balloon twisting classes would continue and residents of Warren got to enjoy it.

Flooding the tables with extra balloons, Collins knew there were going to be periodic balloon pops. There was a table of instructions on how to properly do certain balloon twists.

As a gift, Collins brought bal-



Kristy Collins aka Polka Dottie taught a balloon twisting class at the Shephard Building in Warren.

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

loon twister kits for kids to take home and practice.

In addition to the kits, Collins brought clown noses to spread more clowning cheer while teaching balloon twisting.

"Encourage more clowning

around here," Collins said.

Collins will soon be working for Clowning For Kidz Foundation that is based out of West Warren.

Please see **BALLOON**, page 7

## Local businesses help to clean up Ware road

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – A good deed recently happened thanks to local businesses in Ware.

ZM Painting, LLC and BRL Landscaping, Inc teamed up and removed a pile of garbage that has been building up over time off Old Belchertown Road. Both businesses operate and have shops on Old Belchertown Road and took action to keep the road in town clear of any piles of garbage.

Zach Martowski, proprietor of ZM Painting LLC, first witnessed the discussion about the pile of garbage on a Facebook post. Martowski reached out to Brian Ligawiec of BRL Landscaping to see if he would be willing to partner up and split the cost to remove the items.

Painting crew of ZM Painting helped out and loaded the garbage that weighted about

a ton. Over 30 tires, pallets, and mattresses were part of the garbage.

Alongside each other, the two local businesses were able to successfully clear up the road and split the costs of dumping over 2,000 pounds worth of garbage.

Martowski shared that he has helped with cleaning up communities in the past, including his own neighborhood. One of his friends started an organization called Make Mass Fishing Spots Great Again, a nonprofit group that helps with cleaning up local fishing spots in area towns.

This group was one of the initial reasons Martowski continued to offer his service to help clean up the community when needed.

ZM Painting LLC operates in Massachusetts and Connecticut, offering residential painting, commercial painting

Please see **CLEAN UP**, page 7

## FinCom and BOS discuss FY 25 omnibus budget

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee held a joint meeting to discuss the fiscal year 2025 omnibus budget and review articles for the annual and special town meetings.



**I WANT TO GIVE A SHOUTOUT AND APPRECIATE THE HARD WORK THAT ALL DEPARTMENTS DO."**

**MADELINE WITASZEK**  
FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

### Omnibus budget

At the April 25 meeting, Finance Committee Chair Madeline Witaszek said the town's total budget is \$11,552,478, which is a 2.82% increase over last year. She said this increase was "reasonable" given contracts negotiations and step increases for employees.

"I want to give a shoutout and appreciate the hard work that all departments do," she said. "They pretty much brought their budgets and basically asked for what they really needed."

Board of Selectmen Chair David Dufresne agreed with Witaszek and said the town is in a "decent financial situation." He also credited the Finance Committee with ensuring that departments adhere to their budgets.

"Everybody's working together," he said.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said they were able to save about \$9,000 in the Council on Aging budget by combining the van driver with a part-time custodian position.

He said it was a struggle to hire a van driver, and have them certified to move disabled people in the van, along with CPR/First Aid.

"Certification may take a few months' time and then you lose people on a part-time job on that," he said.

Ferrera said he suggested combining the position with part-time custodian, to be able to provide stable work for the employee during the certification period.

"We were able to combine the part-time position into one, and save money," he said.

Ferrera said vocational education costs increased this year. The cost of transportation is estimated to increase by about 3%, but the final numbers won't be in until after the annual town meeting.

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School bud-

Please see **BUDGET**, page 5

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# community

## Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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



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Submitted Photo

lunch prepared and served by students in the school district.

## Quaboag and Country Bank hold first responders luncheon

WARREN – Recently over 20 first responders consisting of State Troopers, local EMS, firefighters, police officers and Community Emergency Response Team members converged at Quaboag Regional High School.

There was no emergency, fire drill, or lock down drill this time but a luncheon for the first responders sponsored by the Quaboag administration and Country Bank for Savings. The luncheon was a way to say “thank you” to the first responders for all they do in helping keep the students and staff in the Quaboag Regional School District safe.

With close to 700 students and staff in the building at Quaboag Regional on

any day school is in session there are many safety issues and concerns that the administration, Safety Committee, and local first responders have to be aware of and address.

Many are aware of the obvious safety drills such as fire drills, lock down drills, and bus evacuations that take place throughout the year but much of school safety is behind the scenes planning. Planning comes in the form of many meetings of the Safety Committee to write and update the district’s safety plan and to coordinate with the local and state first responders.

Foremost in this planning are Superintendent Stephen Duff, Safety Committee Chairperson Eric Urban, Warren Police Chief

Gerald Millette, Warren Fire Chief Adam Lavoie, West Brookfield Police Chief Nathan Hagglund and West Brookfield Fire Chief Richard Lapierre.

So as a way to express that gratitude, the Quaboag administration along with Country Bank sponsored a luncheon for first responders at Quaboag Regional.

The luncheon and food were prepared and served by eighth grade students in Mr. Salvatore’s Honors Civics classes and sixth grade Leadership Club Students from West Brookfield and Warren Community elementary schools. Students also made hand drawn thank you placemats and a banner to decorate the tables and cafeteria that officers later took to hang in their offices.

## Free performance of John Morello’s ‘Dirt’ is May 8

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Public Schools, District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance are presenting John Morello’s free one-man show, “Dirt” at North Brookfield Elementary School on Wednesday, May 8 at 6 p.m.

Through the portrayal

of relatable and memorable characters, Morello gives voice and reassurance to those who sometimes feel as though they are not heard or understood. He explores the challenges and decisions that young people face every day through the lens of mental health, substance use, bullying and self-esteem.

Informational resources

will be shared prior to the performance, starting at 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

A meet and greet with Morello will be held in the North Brookfield Jr./Sr. High School at 7 p.m.

All are welcomed and encouraged to attend this free community event.

## 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 1992 showed Brookside Mart employees Cindy Kakule (left) and Deborah Cote with shamrocks they sold to raise money for Jerry’s Kids. Each shamrock represented a dollar to fight muscular dystrophy. 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).

## Quabbin Community Band begins rehearsals

BARRE – Rehearsals for Quabbin Community Band will start on Monday, May 6. Rehearsals run from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will be held at the Barre Town Hall, corner of Mechanic and Exchange Streets. Musicians should bring a stand and bring their friends and family members, who play instruments.

This is Margaret Reidy’s third year as conductor. Each year, the band grew in numbers and competence as a band. All musicians are encouraged to be part of this community group of folks from their early teens to those in their 70s.

Rehearsals start Monday, May 6 and end Monday, Aug. 5 and are from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall. There are two exceptions: Monday, May 20 rehearsal will be held at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., in the band room under the direction of

Toni Brown and there will be no rehearsal on Monday, May 27 due to Memorial Day holiday.

The Quabbin Community Band will play in the Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 27. Upcoming contests are Sundays, June 16, 23 and 30 at 6 p.m. at South Barre Common Bandstand, Nornay Park, Main Street. The remaining Sunday concerts July 7, 14, 21 and 28 and Aug. 4 at 6 p.m. will be in the Harding Allen Bandstand on Barre Common.

The Sunday, Aug. 4 concert will celebrate Barre’s 250th anniversary including alumni band members. The Quabbin Community Band will also play during the Barre 250th parade on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 1 p.m.

For more information, people may email Julie at [julie@mhof.net](mailto:julie@mhof.net) or call or text 978-257-1192.

## Participants wanted for Ware’s Town Wide Tag Sale

WARE – The Town Wide Tag Sale to benefit the Ware Center Meeting House, a 1799 historic building in the first center of Ware, will be held Saturday, June 8 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

The proprietors of the Meeting House have been working on the restoration of this building for over 25 years. It’s open to the public on alternate Sundays in the summer, during an educational day for third graders, and during special events.

Sign up at [warecentermeetinghouse.org](http://warecentermeetinghouse.org) or send a check for \$15 to Ware Center Meeting

House P.O. Box 1401, Ware, MA 01082. Payment must be delivered by June 1.

Once registered, put your number on your house for shoppers to find you. Those shopping the tag sale can come pick up a list of streets having tag sales at the Ware Center Meeting House after 8 a.m. on June 8 and have fun shopping.

This is a rain or shine event. For more information or questions, email [janicehills110@gmail.com](mailto:janicehills110@gmail.com).



The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com), or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

## Ware Grange presents Kids’ Corner workshops

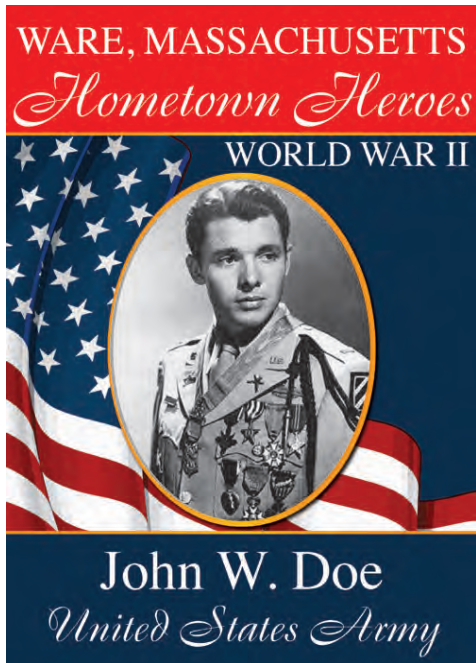
WARE – This year Ware Grange is holding fun and educational gardening workshops for kids.

The first Kids’ Corner at Ware Grange will be “Planting Seeds!” and will take place on Saturday, May 11 at 9:30 a.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road. Kids’ Corner workshops are led by local preschool teacher, Jen McNally.

Kids will learn about the life cycle and needs of plants and will start seedlings they can bring home and plant in their own yards. There will also be crafts, coloring and snacks.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at [waregrange.org](http://waregrange.org) for more information.

## HOME TOWN HERO Pole Banners to Honor Ware Veterans



Name of Veteran \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Cost is \$75 per side • Limited Quantity  
Make Checks payable to the Town of Ware

### Sponsor Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

For more information contact Dan Flynn  
413-297-5886 • email: [dflynn@turley.com](mailto:dflynn@turley.com)

Visit us at  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## WARE SCOUTS BSA TROOP 281 Sponsored by AMVETS Post 2577



The Jubilee Cupboard  
20 Park Street, Ware  
Saturday, May 4, 2024  
Collection 9AM-Noon

Please donate non-perishable foods to help our community thrive

### Suggested Donations

Canned vegetables, fruits, meats, tuna or chicken  
Dried or canned beans, rice, cereal or pasta  
Canned juices, shelf stable milk (dried or canned), baby food  
Ready to Eat canned or boxed meals

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## FOR RENT

### Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094  
Accepting applications for immediate occupation. The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and “Barrier Free” accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT**  
413-477-6496  
TDD (800)439-2379





## Ware Senior Center news

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

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

### ACTIVITIES Monday, May 6

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Care with Allison Williams, LPN. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.  
10 a.m. Scat  
11:30 a.m. Lunch

### Tuesday, May 7

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing  
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Care with Allison Williams, LPN. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.  
9-10 a.m. Meet with Donna Farmer, State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's Chief of Staff and Jared Griggs, Constituent Services Coordinator for State Sen. Peter Durant. Walk-ins welcome.  
9:30 a.m. Quilting Club  
10 a.m. Scat  
11:30 a.m. Lunch Mother's Day Party

Music by Noah Lis. Tickets are \$5 on sale April 29-May 3. Limit 100, nonrefundable after May 3.  
5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking (\$3 per class)  
6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

### Wednesday, May 8

9 a.m. Tai-Chi  
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Care with Allison Williams, LPN. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.  
10 a.m. Scat  
10-11:30 a.m. Office Hours, Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Region DPH Nurse  
11:30 a.m. Lunch  
2:30-3:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

### Thursday, May 9

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing  
9 a.m. Senior Spring Walk. Meet at Senior Center.  
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners  
10 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Scat  
11:30 a.m. Lunch  
2:30 p.m. Art Class

### Friday, May 10

8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mobile Dental Hygiene Clinic with Manda Day. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Scat  
10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Brown Bag Program  
11:30 a.m. Lunch  
1 p.m. Chair Yoga  
6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

### LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

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

### Monday, May 6

Cinco de Mayo, Beef Taco Salad, Spanish Rice, Mexican Corn, Dessert of the Day  
**Tuesday, May 7**  
Mother's Day Party, Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Veggie of the Day, Music by Noah Lis, Dessert and Entertainment by Friends of the Ware Senior Center

### Wednesday, May 8

Hamburg Gravy on Toast, Veggie Salad, Dessert of the Day

### Thursday, May 9

Chicken Pot Pie, Garden Salad, Dessert of the Day

### Friday, May 10

Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Potato Wedges, Dessert of the Day

## 'Mamma Mia' takes the stage in North Brookfield

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – For the first time in its history, the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield will be performing a production of "Mamma Mia".

The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield is a nonprofit organization that has been creating and presenting local community theatre for over 40 years. Bringing opportunity and community through a variety of shows, events and programs.

Throughout the month of May, the auditorium of North Brookfield Elementary School will be full of singing, laughter and applause as local theatre stars take the stage and bring a familiar story to life. The show features over 30 cast members consisting of Theatre Guild regulars and first-time performers making their debut on stage.

"Mamma Mia" is a musical written by British playwright Catherine Johnson and based on songs by Swedish pop group ABBA. The story is a romantic comedy contrasting the dreams and aspirations of a 1970s girl and a 1990s girl.

As many musical followers know, "Mamma Mia" is the story of Donna, an independent single

mother and her daughter Sophie, who is about to get married and have the wedding of her dreams. However, Sophie wants her father to be at the wedding.

If only her mother could tell her who her father is.

Directing the production of "Mamma Mia" is Jay Valencourt, the vice president of the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield. Valencourt is also portraying the role of Sam Carmichael, one of the presumed fathers of Sophie.

Valencourt mentioned that their spring musical is one of the Theatre Guild's biggest shows of the year. The cast and crew have been rehearsing since February and Valencourt has witnessed a lot of hard work, excitement and dedication put into this production.

"We have a lot of fun," Valencourt said. "I still have the theatre bug."

Joining Valencourt on the creative team is Director of Choreography Erin Smith. Growing up with a theatre family in southern California, Smith has always enjoyed listening to cast recordings, dancing, choreographing and performing.

Smith is excited to be back working with the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield and be surrounded by a talented group of performers and creative staff.

Many cast members who are

### SHOW DATES:

Friday, May 3 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, May 4 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, May 5 2 p.m.  
Friday, May 10 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, May 11 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, May 12 2 p.m.

also a part of the ensemble are also students of North Brookfield High School. Some of them starred in the Theatre Guild's recent production of "Willy Wonka".

One of the performers making their debut is North Brookfield Police Chief Mark Smith. The newcomer to the stage will be portraying the role of Bill Austin in "Mamma Mia" and has been given a lot of encouragement and support.

"I'm the new guy and they made me feel like family," Smith said.

Smith is excited to be making his debut on stage and hopes to make his fellow cast members proud. He has always appreciated theatre arts and those brave enough to get on stage.

Playing the infamous Donna Sheridan in "Mamma Mia" is Sarah Priestley. This show will be Priestley's debut with the Theatre

Guild of North Brookfield but brings a lot of experience and charisma to the stage.

Priestley has performed in shows for the Gilbertville Players and the Barre Players and is ready for a new adventure with the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield.

For a world of laughter, love and music check out "Mamma Mia". The shows will take place at North Brookfield Elementary School at 1 New School Drive.

Show dates are Friday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, May 5 at 2 p.m., Friday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 12 at 2 p.m.

For tickets, visit [www.onthestage.tickets/show/theatre-guild-of-north-brookfield/65f0a580c652930e3fe1ac60/](http://www.onthestage.tickets/show/theatre-guild-of-north-brookfield/65f0a580c652930e3fe1ac60/) and the same link to learn about the cast, crew and the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield.

Merchandise is also available online through the on the stage link. Merchandise consists of mugs, T-shirts, sweaters, posters, bags and water bottles.

Merchandise sales help support the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield. A percentage of sales goes directly to fund future activities and programming.

## Friends of the Ware Library to hold annual Book Sale

WARE – The Friends of the Ware Library will be holding their annual Book Sale Monday, May 6 to Saturday, May 11 at the Young Men's Library Association, 37 Main St.

The proceeds help to fund library programming.

This annual Book Sale is the major sale of the year featuring many popular hardcovers, paperbacks, children's books, and DVDs for sale. Everything is reasonably priced, with most items costing \$1 or less.

The sale will be held during

regular business hours: Monday from noon-7 p.m.; Tuesday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wednesday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, closed; and Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Any questions please call the library at 413-967-5491.

## Scouting for Food drive this Saturday

WARE – Ware Scouts BSA Troop 281, sponsored by AMVETS Post 2577, will host its Scouting for Food drive on Saturday, May 4 at The Jubilee Cupboard, 20 Park St., from 9 a.m.-noon.

Please donate non-perishable foods to help the community thrive. Suggested donations include canned vegetables, fruits, meats, tuna or chicken; dried or canned beans, rice, cereal or pasta; canned juices, shelf stable milk (dried or canned); baby food; and ready-to-eat canned or boxed meals.

## Annual Book Hunt will be May 4

WARE – The Ware Historical Commission's annual book hunt is on Saturday, May 4 with a rain date of May 11.

The commission is hiding books all over town, but especially in our historic places. Keep your eyes open, as they'll be hidden "in plain sight."

People can start looking after 9 a.m. the day of the book hunt.

## ARTICLES from page 1

ation from the engineer today, to postpone this article...perhaps until the fall when they will have a more specific number," Beckley said.

Palladino said if the town is going to move forward with the project with required and preventative maintenance, it will require capital investment.

"I think it's a worthwhile effort to move forward with this request to keep the momentum," he said.

Finance Committee Chair Ken Willette said the town is in a good position to seek bonding for this project. Repayment for borrowing would be paid out of the water's enterprise fund.

Willette said there is a possibility that the engineering design studies may come back with a higher figure for the project and could require them to ask for more funding at future town meetings.

"We're reacting to the priority needs with urgency, because there is urgency," Willette said.

Article 20 asks voters to appropriate money to develop a plan for the town's water system in relation to the pending PFAS regulation from the EPA.

Palladino said PFAS are found in many everyday items, which end up as litter on the street and make their way into the ground.

"The \$50,000 would be used for a study to identify our current levels of varying PFAS types and devel-

op a plan to gain compliance with the new EPA stricter drinking water limits which were just released earlier this month," Palladino said.

### Bylaw amendments

Article 16 seeks to amend the general bylaws by adopting stormwater bylaws.

Beckley said the town has been doing a study of the Muddy Brook area and the Conservation Commission has set standards for stormwater runoff.

"Whether it's running off of a parking lot or off of a rooftop, it is not being directly discharged into the sewer system and therefore into the Ware River, that it's going through some treatment, or going across some ground or through a garden. So, it sets the standards by which the Conservation Commission will review how the stormwater is being kept out of the system," he said.

Beckley said this amendment is in addition to the Department of Environmental Protection's standards.

Article 17 asks voters to amend zoning bylaws to the floodplain zoning overlay. This amendment would cause the town bylaw to match state parameters.

Beckley said the Planning Board will hold a hearing on May 2 to determine whether or not they will recommend this article.

### Articles using ARPA

Beckley said the Finance Committee suggested splitting the costs for projects outlined in the following articles using American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Article 21 asks voters to fund masonry repairs at the Ware Senior Center with \$75,000 from free cash and \$60,000 from ARPA.

Article 22 pertains to a feasibility study for roof repairs at the Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School.

This article is recommended to be dismissed, due to the Massachusetts School Building Authority needing to approve the study and its amount prior to a town meeting vote. It will appear on a special town meeting at a later date once the MSBA's grant process opens up.

Article 23 will also be dismissed.

Article 24 will ask voters to appropriate funds to design restroom facilities at Grenville Park in the amount of \$20,000, paid through ARPA.

Article 25 will ask voters to appropriate \$200,000, including \$120,000 from free cash and \$80,000 from ARPA to upgrade the electrical system at the Town Hall for code compliance.

### Charter review

Article 26 seeks to establish a Charter Review Committee in order to review and update the town's charter. If approved, the committee will have six months to complete the review.

## St. Aloysius Catholic School to host 3rd annual 5K for Play

WARE – For many years the children of St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville have been dreaming of a safe, interactive, engaging playground.

The Spaghetti Supper held at St. Mary's on April 6 was incredibly successful and the beginning phases of installation will begin in the coming weeks, but more money is needed to truly complete the Joe C. Knight Memorial playground.

The 5K for Play will be held at Grenville Park on Saturday, May 4, beginning at 9 a.m. This is a family friendly event, walkers and runners of all abilities and ages are welcome.

There will be games, raffles, music by DJ Brian, and Mass Appeal Pizza.

"Registration is open for participants and we are seeking donors. Any donation you

can make, no matter how large or small, is greatly appreciated. This is sure to be another fun family event!" said Kayla Casiello, St. Aloysius office manager, parent, and chairperson for the event.

Registration is \$10 per person (ages 9+); \$5 per person (ages 4-8); and children 3 and under are free. You may choose to purchase a 5K T-shirt for an additional \$20 for adult sizes and \$15 for youth sizes.

Those interested in registering, becoming a sponsor, or making a donation can do so at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Ware/5KforPlay>. You may also call the school directly at 413-477-1268 or email chairperson Kayla Casiello at [k.casiello@staloyuscs.com](mailto:k.casiello@staloyuscs.com) with any questions you may have.



**hardwickcrossing.com**  
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Pro Shop 774-261-2634

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**All Mother's Golf FREE on Mother's Day**  
*Dinner Specials Available*

**All Mom's Receive a Free Dessert with Dinner**


**BOOK YOUR EVENT WITH US!**

**PLEASE DONATE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS**

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 123 in Ware is collecting items for donation to hospitalized VETERANS at the Edward P. Boland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Northampton (LEEDS).

**Items may be dropped off at the American Legion Building at 45 Maple Street in Ware on Memorial Day (May 27th) from 9:00 am to 3 pm. Pick up of donated items can be arranged by calling Michele at 413-544-1996.**

- ✓ Personal hygiene products (men & women)
- ✓ NEW clothing (men & women)
- ✓ NEW shoes (men & women)
- ✓ Blankets ✓ Walmart gift cards
- ✓ Non-perishable foods
- ✓ Scrabble dictionary ✓ Uno cards
- ✓ Pre Fab wood pieces for Art Therapy (seasonal signs; bird houses; wood boxes; etc.)
- ✓ Adult coloring books
- ✓ Gel pen sets ✓ Crayola felt pen sets



**WE APPRECIATE YOUR KINDNESS.**

*Monetary donations are also accepted and will be used solely for purchasing items listed above.*

Please make checks out to **American Legion Auxiliary Unit 123.**  
Send donations to **American Legion Auxiliary Unit 123, PO Box 123, Ware, MA 01082.**





## Minister wants to maximize Social Security benefit

### Dear Rusty:

I want to apply for Social Security, but I want to make sure I get all the benefits I have earned.

I am a veteran with a 10% disability rating (not sure if that matters). I am 68 years old. I am a minister and have been exempt from Social Security taxes for most of my income since I was about 30, but I still have the 40 quarters needed.

I have also worked off and on in the secular workplace and continued paying Social Security taxes.

One hears a great deal about those who want to "help" us apply for Social Security, but which turn out to be a scam or want a fee. How do I apply and maximize my benefits with my unique situation?

*Signed: Seeking Answers*

### Dear Seeking:

Don't worry about fees here at the AMAC Foundation – there is never a fee for the services we provide as we are non-profit. And I want to thank you for your military service, you may find the "For Veterans" section at our AMAC Foundation website interesting at [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org).

### To your question

Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit. At 68 years old, your Social Security benefit payment has been earning Delayed Retirement Credits since you reached your Full Retirement Age of 66 years and 4 months in July 2022.

That means that your benefit, if you claim now, will be about 13% more than it would have been had you claimed at your FRA. FYI, if you continue to delay, your SS benefit will continue to grow by 8% per additional year you delay, up to the month you turn 70.

At that time, your SS benefit will be 29% higher than it would have been at your FRA. Nevertheless, if you wish to claim a smaller amount now, you can do so in a couple of ways:

You can call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or your local SS office to request an appointment to apply. They will most likely set a date/time to call you to take your application over the phone, they discourage office visits these days.

Once you have applied, it typically takes a month or two to process your application, but they will pay your benefits effective with the month you say you want them to begin. Note, they will likely also offer you six months of retroactive benefits but be aware that if you accept that offer your monthly payment will be permanently reduced by 4%.

You can apply for your SS retirement benefit online at [www.ssa.gov/apply](http://www.ssa.gov/apply). Applying online is, by far, the most efficient method, as shown in this short video: [www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/icclaim\\_r01.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/icclaim_r01.htm). However, to apply online you will need to first create your personal "my Social Security" online account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Once you have your personal online account set up, you will be able to see what your SS retirement benefit will be now and at future ages should you plan to wait longer to claim.

Your SS retirement benefit will be based on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security FICA taxes were withheld or self-employment earnings on which SS payroll taxes were levied.

In any case, your SS benefit will be based on your lifetime earnings record contributing to Social Security, as well as your age when you claim. You'll get your maximum benefit based on those factors.

Although your situation is somewhat uncommon, it is not exceptionally unique. Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit and, because you are a member of the clergy, you are not subject to Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision, a rule which reduces SS benefits for those with a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security.

In other words, your SS benefit will be based entirely on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security payroll taxes were withheld and your age when your benefit starts.

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



## What to do when and how to do it

The last few gorgeous days got us all outside and into our home landscape.

Maybe you looked at this or that and said "Now what do I do?" Here is a column straight from the archives to best guide you through the next oh so fun (and busy) weeks in the garden.

DO remove spent blooms from spring flowering bulbs. Once "deadheaded" the bulb won't expend energy making seeds, instead, it will store it and delight you with an even healthier stand of flowers next year.

DO NOT cut, braid or otherwise alter bulb foliage. It may not be the prettiest, but as long as it is green, (and to some degree even when it is yellowish) it is photosynthesizing, making a storehouse for next spring's blooms.

DO turn under your covercrop of winter rye now, a few weeks prior to planting your vegetable garden. Plant residues will have a chance to break down without stealing valuable nutrients from newly transplanted seedlings.

DO NOT add fresh manure to garden plots

as it will burn plants. Be sure to compost it for at least six months prior to use. Make your compost pile "hot" by balancing the amount of green and brown ingredients and by turning it regularly. The result is a near neutral weed-free source of organic matter.

DO prune spring flowering shrubs soon after blooming. Forsythia and lilac for example, bloom on the previous season's wood. By pruning once their blooming period is complete you will allow enough time for regrowth without sacrificing next year's blooms.

DO NOT prune fruit trees now. Better to wait until the trees are dormant. You can, however, rid apple trees of pencil sized or smaller water sprouts in mid summer. Simply grab one with your hand and give it a quick jerk. Removing a small portion of the branch from which it grows will likely prevent future sprouts in this area.

DO begin to harden off homegrown seedlings and garden-bound indoor plants over the course of the next few weeks. By gradually acclimatizing plants to the outdoors you will likely prevent transplant shock and other maladies such as sunscald and windburn. Start off with a few hours outside each day, working up to all day and overnight. Then, as long as the threat of frost has passed the plants can successfully be planted in the ground.

DO NOT plant pepper seedlings until the soil has sufficiently warmed (usually by the first week in June). Research indicates that planting peppers in cold soil will stunt plants and reduce yields. You can warm the soil where peppers (and other heat lovers) are to grow by laying down sheets of IRT mulch a couple of weeks prior to planting. Then simply cut holes in the plastic and plant as normal.

DO cut asparagus with a knife just under the surface of the soil. In established plantings you can harvest spears for about six weeks. Leave those that are thinner than a pencil. Although we wish the season could go on forever, allowing foliage to form will only return energy to the roots, making for tasty shoots next spring!

DO NOT allow weeds to take over the strawberry patch! Applying a mulch of shredded leaves, composted sawdust or pine needles will not only keep the weeds at bay, but it will feed the plants and keep developing berries clean at the same time!

DO sow grass seed soon, before crabgrass has a chance to take hold. Or better yet, sow seed in late August, or early September, when this dreaded weed is near done its life cycle. Water sown areas daily to promote timely germination.

DO NOT rototill patches of perennial weeds; you are merely spreading them about the garden! Better to hand weed, digging out the roots completely. After planting is complete mulch around plants to cut down on future weeds, conserve moisture, and add organic matter to the soil. When applying mulch around trees and shrubs remember to pull it back, away from the trunk to prevent girdling.

DO have fun in the garden this spring!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



Great blue heron on nest

The great blue heron returned to its nest last week.

Last week, I finally saw a great blue heron on a nest located in a dead tree on the beaver pond, which abuts my hayfield. It built the nest two years ago and this year will be its third season on the well built stick nest.

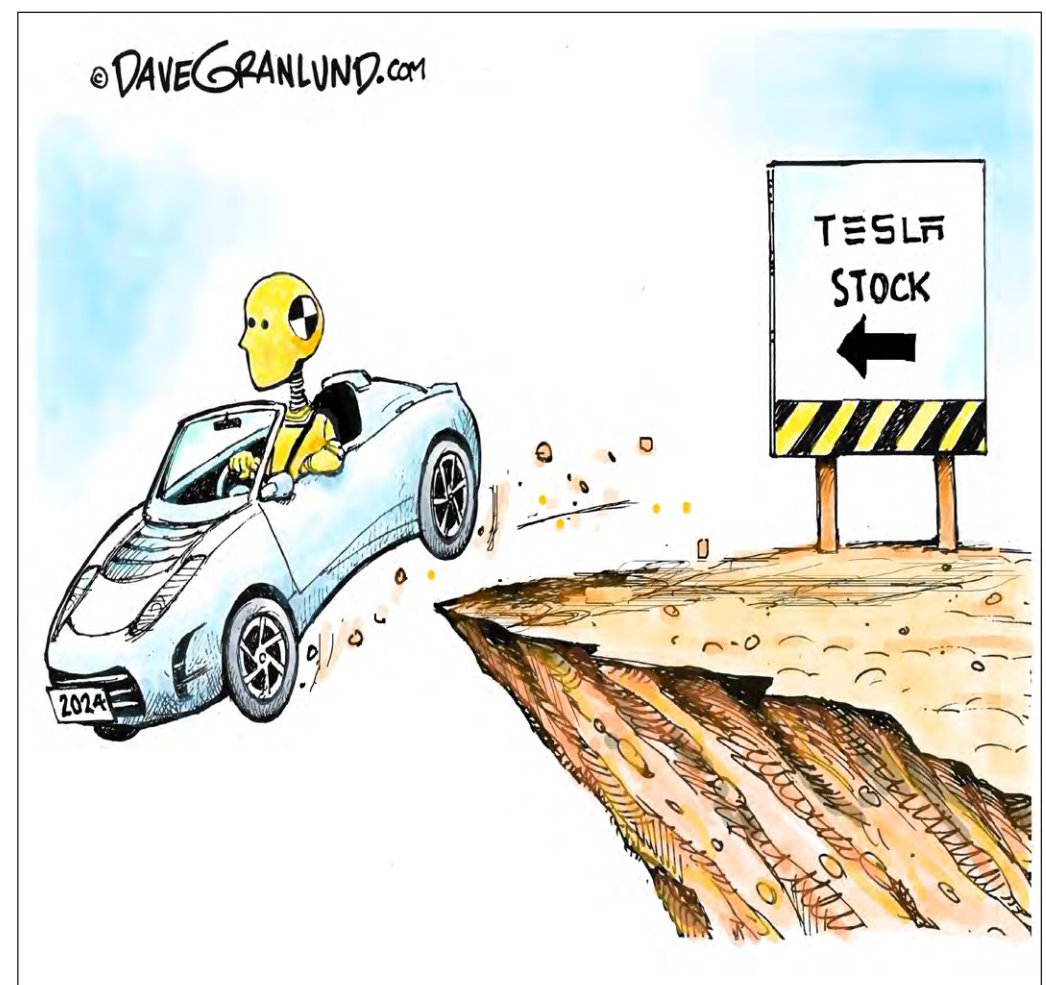
At first, I saw it perched on a branch near the nest. For the last few days, it has been in the nest.

The great blue heron is 50 inches tall and is the largest and most widespread heron. The body is grayish-blue, has a white head and a black stripe over the eye.

The immature heron is similar the the adult except its head has a solid black cap, which turns to white after two years. There is also a rare white morph of this heron, but it is limited to Southern Florida. Its legs and bill are orange yellow rather than dark like the more common dark morph.

Fortunately, I can see the bird in the nest from the road so I do not disturb it when I watch it. I hope it is successful in rearing its young. It takes 28 days to incubate the eggs and 55 days for them to fledge. The female lays three to seven eggs in a large, platform nest of sticks lined with finer twigs and vegetation. The nest is placed in a tree 30 to 70 feet above ground. Herons raise their young in either small colonies in isolated areas or singly like this pair.

Great blue herons feed in shallow water by standing or walking slowly, then grabbing mall fish, frogs, birds and aquatic insect with its bill. They can feed in deeper water by plunging or swimming. They also hunt on land for small animals.



They inhabit marshes, swamps, river and lake edges, tidal flats, mangroves and other water areas. They make a guttural "frahnk" or short "rok, rok" given during aggression. Both sexes do bill clacking.

### Mass. Audubon sightings

Berkshire County sightings included a sandhill crane in New Marlborough, nine long-tailed ducks at Lake Pontoosuc in Pittsfield and 11 at Stockbridge Bowl in Stockbridge, a northern goshawk at Bridges Pond in Williamstown and 20 American pipits at Ashley Falls.

Franklin County hosted small flocks of red crossbills including 24 at the Montague Sandplains Wildlife Management Area in Montague, nine at gate 29 at Quabbin Reservoir in New Salem and eight at Satan's Kingdom WMA in Northfield.

Hampshire County had a Say's phoebe at the Quabbin Reservoir Visitor's Center in Belchertown, four common goldeneyes at the Windsor Dam in Belchertown, 22 glossy ibises on Old Ferry Road in Northampton, an American bittern on Moody Bridge Road in Hadley, 21 red crossbills at the Podick and Cole Conservation Area in Amherst, a

Lapland longspur in the Northampton East Meadows and an American coot at Great Pond in Hatfield.

Hampden County spotting were five upland sandpipers at Westover Air Base in Ludlow, nine red-necked Grebes at the Congamond Lakes in Southwick, 15 chimney swifts at the Stebbins Wildlife Refuge in Longmeadow and a green heron in Holyoke.

Worcester County included a black-headed gull, two glossy ibises, a solitary sandpiper and 20 red crossbills at the Bolton Flats WMA in Bolton, two sandhill cranes at the Winimusset Meadows WMA in New Braintree, two black vultures at Adams Farm in Athol and an orchard oriole at Crane Swamp Conservation Area in Northboro.

The most unusual sighting on Friday, April 19 was a black-capped petrel in Cape Cod Bay spotted from a whale research vessel. This species is everywhere quite rare and in relatively inshore waters it is even more unusual.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### St. Aloysius families thank playground supporters

#### To the editor,

St. Aloysius Catholic School family would wholeheartedly like to thank the members of this community for their outpouring of support at the recent Spaghetti Dinner, hosted by the Knights of Columbus Council #183 and held at St. Mary's Hall.

We owe our success to our many sponsors, those of you who bought and sold raffle

and dinner tickets or donated your time and services. We especially want to thank Father Piotr Pawlus for use of the venue, the Eddie Foreman Band for providing the music and the K of C for all of their hard work feeding such a big crowd.

All in all, over \$33,000 was raised towards the Joe C. Knight Memorial Playground. Students returned from April break very excited to see the first piece of equipment

installed on the school grounds.

Again, thank you to all who worked so hard for the benefit of our students.

On behalf of the St. Aloysius Catholic School Spaghetti Dinner Committee:

**Megan Morrison  
Jenn and Bill Moryl  
Joanne Barbale and the rest of the  
St. Aloysius Catholic School Family.**

Read the Ware River News online at [www.warerivernews.turley.com](http://www.warerivernews.turley.com)

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## OPINION POLICY

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

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

**The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.**

## Turley Election Policy

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

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



# Car shows, climbs and cruisin'

Palmer Motorsports Park announces new sponsor

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – Get ready to start your engines, as car show season prepares to shift into high gear, bringing with it a new collaboration between Palmer Motorsports Park and Stonewall Insurance Group.

Palmer Motorsports Park is revving up for its ninth season since the track opened and has recently teamed up with Jeff DeMarey, president of Stonewall Insurance Group in Wilbraham to put on three benefit car shows.

“The track is going to be a great partner,” DeMarey said.

Helping to bring them together was the Pioneer Valley’s “King of Cruise” himself, Bruce Marshall of The Valley’s Classic Hits 97.7 FM/1250 AM.

Marshall will be live broadcasting from all three benefit car shows, in addition to over 20 other shows and regular weekly cruise nights across the region.

On Wednesday, May 22, the first of this year’s All Wheels Car Show returns to Palmer Motorsports Park to benefit the Palmer Food Share and the Jubilee Cupboard Food Pantry, as well as DeMarey’s nonprofit organization, Springfield to Boston Education Foundation. Gates open at 3 p.m. and the show runs from 4 p.m. until dusk.

Palmer Motorsports Park Club Director Al Sandy, said the All Wheels Car Show (which will also be held on Wednesdays, July 10 and Aug. 21) is not only a way to support local charities, but also allow the public to experience the thrill of Whiskey Hill.

Admission to the All Wheels Car Show is \$10 per car, or three nonperishable food items. The track is located at 58 West Ware Road.

DeMarey, like Sandy and Marshall, has always had a love for classic and vintage cars which he has used to shape his career in the insurance agency under Stonewall Insurance Group, which he founded in 2008.

Stonewall is an independent insurance agency that provides



Submitted Photo

The Wilbraham Hill Climb, the oldest hill climb in America dating back to 1908, will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

coverage for home, auto, boat and business, and specializes in classic and collector car insurance.

DeMarey enjoys sharing his love of cars with his customers and those around him, which inspired him to start the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation five years ago. The foundation strives to educate students on all levels about antique transportation, including maintenance and repairs.

“It just keeps growing and growing,” he said.

DeMarey and his foundation are also the driving force behind the Wilbraham Hill Climb, the oldest hill climb in America that is steeper than Pike’s Peak. The climb ascends Monson Road, with a 23% grade and a 700 foot elevation gain.

First started in 1908, the hill climb was a way for auto manufacturers to test and show off their cars. The cars were timed over a measured mile, with the Knox Automobile clocking the best time in the inaugural event with 1 minute and 8 seconds, with an average speed of 52.9 mph and Stevens-Duryea winning the most events with seven victories.

“They all used it as a test track,” DeMarey said. “It was also bragging rights.”

By the 1950s, the hill climb had stopped up until 2013 when Wilbraham resident George Holman brought it back for the

town’s 250th anniversary celebration, keeping it going bi-annually up until the pandemic.

In 2022, Holman asked DeMarey to take over as chair of the event, and together they decided to make it a bigger, community event by partnering with the local high school, vendors, museums, food trucks, as well as offering a plant and craft sale.

“The event is just a lot of great fun and gets the community involved,” he said.

This year, the Wilbraham Hill Climb will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., rain or shine.

The hill climb itself will take place from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., starting at 26 Monson Road and ending at 252 Monson Road in Wilbraham, with the winners announced at 2

p.m. The plant and craft sale will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on the lawn of Wilbraham United Church.

A car show featuring over 350 show cars of all makes, models and eras, including unique and rare cars, will be held along Main Street and at Wilbraham Monson Academy from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Seven auto museums from across the northeast are also planning to attend the event.

Food trucks will be parked between 467-480 Main Street from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and spectator parking is available at Minnechaug Regional High School.

Sandy said Palmer Motorsports Park will be doing a demo run of the hill climb with some of its drivers and racecars at this year’s event, including Sandy himself and a number of champion drivers.

Find Marshall at area car shows and cruise nights includ-



Submitted Photo

Pre-1959 vehicles get ready to face a 700 foot elevation gain as they vie for the best time up Monson Road in Wilbraham.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Palmer Motorsports Park’s Club Director Al Sandy (left) is shown with Bruce Marshall of The Valley’s Classic Hits 97.7 FM/1025 AM and Jeff DeMarey, president of Stonewall Insurance Group and founder of the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation.

allow the town to purchase the train station at 947 Main St., for use by the Parks & Recreation Department.

Ferrera said there is a possibility that the property could be purchased using Community Development Block Grant funds.

The Board of Selectmen recommended the article, saying it would be an asset to the town and increase parking downtown. The Finance Committee did not recommend the article and the Capital Planning Committee has not voted on it yet.

Finance Committee members said they could not recommend the article without the cost of the property and the amount funded by CDBG, but said that could change at town meeting when those numbers have been received.

The Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen recommended all eight articles on the special town meeting warrant.

Article 20 asks voters to amend the town’s bylaws to change the Cable Advisory Committee from a revolving fund into a PEG special revenue account.

Article 30 will ask voters to

& Recreation.

Article 13 asks voters to approve the transfer from Sewer Rebuild Clarifier Account in the amount of \$52,795.87 for the replacement of the scum pump at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ferrera said the total cost of the scum pump is \$85,000, but that a forgotten line item brought to his attention provided a means to pay for it.

“We proposed taking that money that’s been sitting out there and merging it with the free cash on article 12 to come up with the \$85,000,” he said. “It’s been sitting on the books for a long time.”

Article 18 asks voters to establish a special stabilization account with \$50,000 from Capital Stabilization for the replacement of the Fire Department’s Engine 2. If approved, this would become a five year funding project.

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allow the town to purchase the train station at 947 Main St., for use by the Parks & Recreation Department.

## Hardwick annual town election is May 4

HARDWICK – The Town of Hardwick’s Annual Election will be held on Saturday, May 4, at Hardwick Elementary School, 76 School House Drive and the polls will be open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Selectboard voted to opt out of vote by mail for this election, so those who have previously submitted a vote-by-mail application will not be receiving a ballot for this election.

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 54 § 86 & 89, those who are unable to vote during polling hours may request an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk’s office no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, April 29.

The deadline for in-person absentee voting is noon on Thursday, May 2.

## Family Fun Day with Music is May 18

HARDWICK – Artists and volunteers will host a free Fun Day with Music for children and families from 10 a.m. -1 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St. (Route 32) in Gilbertville.

Greg Brown of the BIG RanDom Band and entertainer Seth Newton will demonstrate instruments and music making. Activities will include a scavenger hunt, keyboard games, a singing circle, and a kazoo marching band.

Open to all ages, the program is geared to children in grades K-8 and is free. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Kathy McCrohon by calling 508-404-7552 or emailing info.kmcd@gmail.com. Youth under age 8 must

be accompanied by an adult.

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. produces free Fun Day programs for families as part of its mission to preserve and protect the Gilbertville Stone Church Cultural Center and to facilitate its use by and service to the community.

All are welcome at this free event.

**About FOSC**  
Friends of the Stone Church receives major funding from the Mass Cultural Council’s

Cultural Facilities Fund in partnership with MassDevelopment. Currently in the process of stabilizing the stone tower of the venue, FOSC welcomes donations from the community at www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.



## BUDGET from page 1

get increased 10% to accommodate one additional student.

For the Quaboag Regional School District’s budget, the town’s minimum local contribution decreased for FY 25, but the above minimum local contribution increased by 26% (or \$768,919). Transportation costs decreased by 15.5%.

“The overall assessment for the contribution above and transportation, went down .02%,” Witaszek said.

## ATM articles

The annual town meeting warrant has 33 articles, including articles 3 and 4, which will ask voters to approve the hiring of a new full-time firefighter/EMT with a salary of \$46,813 and a new full-time police officer with a salary of \$59,724, respectively.

Articles 5 and 7 will also ask voters to create new positions in town, including an Alternate Building Inspector and a part-time administrative assistant for Parks

& Recreation.

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# region

## Rev. Richard and Gail Pryce House opens in Oakham

By Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM – When Rev. Richard Pryce retired from the ministry, he and his wife, Gail, began attending the Oakham Congregational Church.

Thus began the Rutland couples association with the Oakham community and Dismas Farm, located on Lincoln Road. Chris Drolet, who was bringing a meal on Wednesday, to those living at Dismas Farm, asked the couple if they would like to prepare a dish and come with her to supper with the clients at the farm.

They said yes and their long time relationship with those living at the farm began. They not only brought a meal to the clients, who were in recovery, but offered them support.

The Dismas motto is “we are family.” The Pryces are a second set of parents, grandparents and of course, friends to the Dismas Family.

On March 1 the Dismas family honored the couple by dedicating its newest building in town, a home for those who “graduated” so to speak from the farm to apartment living by naming the place the Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House.

The couple made the ribbon cutting a family affair. Their daughter, Joanne Bedard and her daughter, Abigail were there in

support. The couple’s two sons, John and Mark Pryce and two grandsons travelled from out of state to attend the event.

Oakham residents also came out in large numbers. Dismas staff made sure there was plenty of food and even made cookie replicas of the new Pryce House.

Clients and staff made postcards and each visitor received a packet of those to take home. The postcards depicted scenes at the farm such as the tractor, the hoop house for growing plants, crops, a view of the farm and more.

In wholesome relationships, both sides benefit. Not only have members of the Dismas family benefitted from the Pryce’s ministry at Dismas Farm, the people at Dismas Farm ministered to them as well. When the Pryce’s lost their beloved dog, they received comfort and concern from their new “family.”

The next day after the ribbon cutting, the Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House had six occupants move into their new home.

Dismas purchased the duplex and added two more bedrooms, one on each side of the house. They also added new windows, doors, siding, stairs and deck.

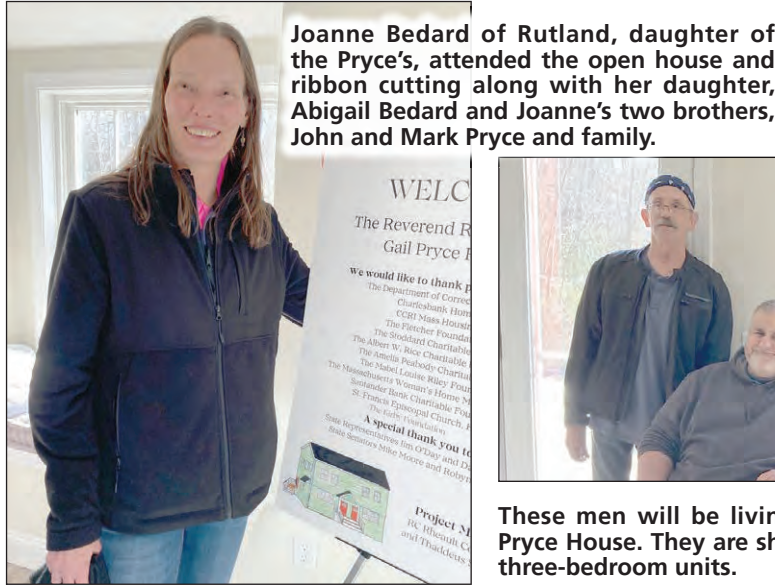
The two units are identical and have a downstairs kitchen, one bedroom, bathroom and living room. The upstairs has two bedrooms and a bathroom.



The Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House located on New Braintree Road in Oakham officially opened recently/ The building owned by Dismas is similar to the other houses the nonprofit owns in Worcester. They also own Dismas Farm on Lincoln Road in Oakham.



Turley Photos by Ellenor Downer  
Richard and Gail Pryce talk to some of the many attendees to the open house and ribbon cutting ceremony at the Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House, located on 158 New Braintree Road in Oakham on March 1.



Joanne Bedard of Rutland, daughter of the Pryce’s, attended the open house and ribbon cutting along with her daughter, Abigail Bedard and Joanne’s two brothers, John and Mark Pryce and family.



These men will be living at the Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House. They are shown in the kitchen of one of the two three-bedroom units.

## Veera Patel named Young Women in Public Affairs award winner

Dana Burton, Scholarship Chair for the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley, is pleased to announce that Veera Patel is this year’s Young Women in Public Affairs scholarship award recipient.



Veera Patel

Patel is a senior at Minnechaug Regional High School where she is president of the National Honors Society, plays on the Girls Varsity Volleyball team, and is involved with Student Council, Key Club, International Club, and World Care Club. She also enjoys volunteering at community organizations and working with and mentoring youth in sports and social skill building.

Zonta’s mission is to build a better world for women and girls through service and advocacy. When asked about her thoughts on this mission, Patel noted that while she is proud of her Indian culture and background, she is aware that the role of women in many Indian societies is secondary.

“Through my own leadership efforts here in America, my ambition is to inspire other females, not only Indian, to learn how to stand up for themselves and know their value,” Patel said.

Looking forward, Patel would like to pursue the fields of business finance and law.

The Young Women in Public Affairs Award recognizes young women, ages 16-19, for demonstrating leadership skills and commitment to public service and civic causes and encourages them to continue their participation in public and political life.

As an awardee, Patel will be presented with a certificate of accomplishment and a check for \$1,000 to use toward college expenses.

She is also eligible to compete for the Zonta District 1 and Zonta International award of \$5,000.

### About Zonta

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley (www.zontaqv.org) is part of Zonta International - a global community that works for gender equality, empowerment of women, access to all resources and a life free of violence. Since 1923, it has provided more than \$41 million to empower women and expand their access to education, health care, economic opportunities, and safe living conditions.

More information on all of Zonta’s education awards is available at: [zonta.org/web/Programs/Education](http://zonta.org/web/Programs/Education).

## Ware Grange hosts monthly workshop series

WARE –Ware Grange will host free workshops monthly from May through October, ending with the annual Pumpkin Carving event.

This year’s workshop series for adults will include the following dates and topics:

Thursday, May 23 at 7 p.m. - Equip Yourself for Success  
Friday, June 14 at 7 p.m. - Cottage Garden Biennials and Perennials

July (date TBA) - Upcycling in Your Garden

August (date TBA) – Houseplants

Friday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. - Unique Heirloom Plants

Kids’ Corner at Ware Grange will be held as follows. All Kids’ Corner workshops, except the Pumpkin Carving, will be held on Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

May 11 - Planting Seeds

June 22 - Backyard Bugs

July 20 - Moo, Cluck, Baa, Farm Animals

Aug. 10 - Fun at the Fair

Sept. 7 - Leaves, Nuts, Cones, Trees and More

Monday, Oct. 28 at 6pm - Annual Pumpkin Carving

All workshops will take place at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware. For more information, visit [WareGrange.org](http://WareGrange.org), or contact them at [waregrange@comcast.net](mailto:waregrange@comcast.net).

## Quabbin Visitor Center lists free upcoming May events

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free programs in May.

The Quabbin Interpretive Services program operates the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, offering public and school education programs, teacher workshops, and general information about DCR’s water supply resources and watershed management, the history of the Quabbin Valley and wildlife of the area.

Staff members are available to assist with visitor information and services. An automated telephone system, 413-323-7221, provides 24 hour access to current information on fishing, hunting, programs,

rules and regulations, and public access.

All ages are welcome to these events. Email [QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov](mailto:QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov) with questions or to be added to the mailing list

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the Quabbin Watershed.

Space is limited.

To register for any of these events, visit [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events).

Exploring Quabbin Park

On Saturday, May 11 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., exploring Quabbin Park via the Tower Trail and Webster Road Trail at Quabbin Reservoir, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown.

The hike will begin at the Tower

Trail parking area which is located just inside the Middle Gate off Route 9 in Belchertown.

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/KeEppMjMkDSjMFz8>)

Participants will hike up to the Observation Tower and take in the scenic view. The tower is currently closed indefinitely for repairs, so people won’t be able to go inside.

Hikers will then utilize a connector trail down to Webster Road, and then loop back to where they began. The trail to the tower gains 475 feet of elevation.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ce6482df-ca1943e78057b9bf42c06a5c>,

Quabbin’s Hidden History

On Sunday, May 12 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. learn about Quabbin’s Hidden History: Webster Road

on this approximately .5 mile easy hike.

Meet at the Hank’s Meadow parking lot.

(<https://goo.gl/maps/4Ri-Eq17PCNEf6s9E7>)

Quabbin’s ghost towns are hiding in plain sight - if you know where to look. This two-hour guided interpretive walk will teach you how to read the natural landscape as you uncover clues that reveal the hidden history of Webster Road.

Explore old cellar holes and historic stone walls, get to know some native and invasive plants, and learn more about the families who lived in the town of Enfield a hundred years ago.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8fa0a8815fd-1474c801926220047b22f>.

## Tri-Parish church seeks vendors for tag and craft sale

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church announces their 18th Annual Plant and Bake Sale, on the Hardwick Common on Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each day.

This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite and connoisseur perennials plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants and

herbs in time for spring planting. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman’s Farm of New Braintree, Howe’s Farm of New Braintree, Tracie’s Greenhouse of Ware, the Hardwick Farmers Co-op of Hardwick and private gardens.

A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The event is held

rain or shine.

The church is also seeking vendors for their annual tag and craft sale to coincide with the plant and bake sale. Spaces on the Hardwick Common will be offered for \$35 each. Applications may be obtained by emailing Marguerite at [mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com](mailto:mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com) or calling 413-477-6942.

People should reserve their space early. All are welcome.

## United Church holds turkey dinner May 6

WARE – United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., will hold a drive-up turkey dinner on Monday, May 6 from 5-6 p.m.

Take out only, no need to reserve a dinner. The cost is \$15 per meal with cash or check accepted.

Park on the church side of Church Street side and stay in your car and a runner will come and take your order.

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	<p>FRIGIDAIRE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR <b>\$999<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$1,599.99</p>	<p>HOTPOINT WASHER OR DRYER <b>\$469<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$599.99</p>	<p>MAYTAG DRYER OR WASHER <b>\$569<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$699.99</p>	<p>WHIRLPOOL FRENCH DOOR BOTTOM FREEZER <b>\$1599<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$2,699</p>	<p>10 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER <b>\$499<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$599.99</p>	<p>20 CUBIC FOOT UPRIGHT FREEZER <b>\$799<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$999.95</p>
	<p>LG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. <b>\$699<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$899.99</p>	<p>AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1533CBAS • Stainless Steel <b>\$599<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$699.99</p>	<p>GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWSS06SNWW <b>\$749<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$999.99</p>	<p>20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER <b>\$899<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$1099.99</p>	<p>LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE <b>\$729<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$999.99</p>	<p>OVER THE RANGE MICROWAVE <b>\$199<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$279.99</p>

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Members of ZM Painting and BRL Landscaping of Ware helped clean up garbage that was dumped on Old Belchertown Road.

**CLEAN UP** from page 1

and snow removal. ZM Painting can be reached by calling 413-297-1403 or emailing info@zmpainting.com.

Partnering up with ZM Painting is BRL Landscaping Incorporated. Operating the business is Brian Ligawiec who was aware of the dumping spot off Old Belchertown Road.

According to Ligawiec, the garbage spot on Old Belchertown Road has been a dumping spot over the years.

Ligawiec recalled his grandparents, who lived off Old Belchertown Road, going to pull up some of the garbage. One time, his grandparents picked up an old television set from the garbage pile.

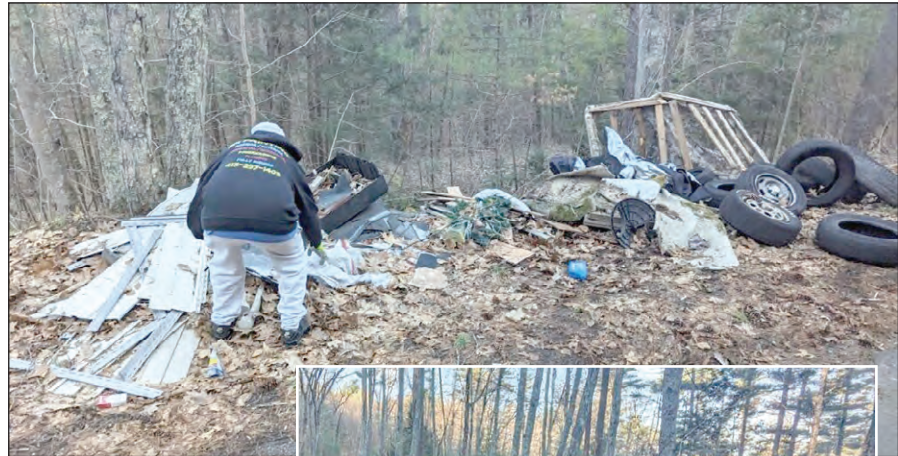
Like Martowski, Ligawiec has

done clean ups in the past. The BRL Landscaping shop is off Old Belchertown Road as well.

The spot of garbage got overwhelming, and it was only a matter of time to act.

With five crew members including Ligawiec and the ZM Painting crew, the group loaded up their trucks to clean up. "Expense doesn't matter, we're just happy to do it," Ligawiec said. "A positive experience and collaborative opportunity."

BRL Landscaping Inc offers hard-scaping and landscape design services in Worcester, Hampden, and Hampshire counties. More information about BRL Landscaping can be found on www.brllandscaping.com or by calling 413-813-9182.



ABOVE: The garbage that was removed consisted of tires, metal, mattresses and pallets left behind over time.

Submitted Photos

RIGHT: Truckloads of garbage were removed from Old Belchertown Road.



## Giant Tag Sale kicks off season May 11

PALMER – St. Paul's of Palmer's annual Giant Tag Sale & Thrift Shop season kicks off on Saturday, May 11 at its Fellowship Hall from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The tag sale will feature a great selection of gently used (and hardly used at all) items. All items are priced exceptionally low as the church has a wonderful large inventory.

There promises to be a large selection of housewares, furniture, decorative pieces, sporting goods, tools, books, glassware, holiday decorations, linens, as well as toys and games. Home electronics and clothing are not being offered.

The Giant Tag Sale & Thrift Shop will be open each Saturday from May to October from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. During the Brimfield flea market dates, it is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

June Bacon of St. Paul's Church has organized the tag sale for over 20 years. She says that St. Paul's gives back to the greater community as, "The money raised from our tag sale helps us to continue support other critical Palmer area non-profits by providing them with free or reduced rent space in our facilities, including Palmer Food Share and the Quaboag Childrens Center. We also love the fact that our tag sale helps get gently used goods into the hands of people who can use them. Everything is offered at very low prices to the community during these economically difficult times."

The church gratefully accept donations of used items. Please contact St. Paul's by calling 413-283-8185, or emailing StPaulsUUChurch@gmail.com if you would like to make a tag sale donation, or would like more information.

More details can be found at St. Paul's website: www.StPaulsPalmer.org.

## Quabbin Visitor Center lists First Thursday hikes

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, is hosting First Thursday Habitat Hikes each month.

All ages are welcome at these programs; however, dogs are not allowed anywhere at Quabbin Reservoir.

Hikes will vary in location and intensity and may focus on an individual species or on a more general area. For more information and to register visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir or email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

Gate 37 Forest Walk to Wetlands  
A 1.5-mile east Gate 37 Forest Walk to Wetlands will be held on Thursday, May 2 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (https://goo.gl/maps/wPedFYxiN5Qp8sVv9)

Meet at Gate 37 off Route 122 in the North of Quabbin Reservation. Parking is limited.

This Habitat Hike will be a short walk down a forest road to a stunning wetland habitat. It is a little over 1-mile round trip.

Please wear appropriate footwear and protect yourself against ticks.

Register at: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c3936c4d26c8443694b6b3fc0beb97d4.



The first balloon animal students got to learn how to make was a dog.

**BALLOON** from page 1

Clowning for Kidz is a non-profit organization that invests in the future of children. The Foundation was formed in 2008 for the sole purpose of helping children in need, under the age of 16, through the art of clowning.

Collins is looking forward to joining the parades Clowning for Kidz participates in.

The balloon twisting class took place in the gymnasium of the Shepard Municipal Building. The class was free for kids ages 9 and up.

Warren Parks & Recreation sponsored the event and members Sue Ramsey and Lisa Boucher were in attendance to witness the creativity behind balloon animals.

Collins' business is called The Birthday Girl, providing balloon animals, face painting and more fun. The Birthday Girl is also available for private parties, fundraisers, and festivals.

The first animal balloon kids and their parents got to learn how to make was a dog. Pinching and twisting the balloon helps make up the shapes of the balloon animals.

Some of the twists Polka Dottie taught include a lock twist and a loop twist.

A paper copy of the instruction were provided with a picture example of each animal balloon.

The next animal to make was a turtle. This animals balloon of a turtle, when completed, can be worn as a bracelet.

As the class continued, many kids were wearing their balloon turtle bracelets.

The tougher design that was next to make was a monkey. Collins taught kids how to do an ear twist to make up the ears of the monkey. In addition, after the monkey was made, Collins would teach the kids how to make a tree for the monkey to hand on to.

The combination of the monkey and the palm tree would make up a hat.

Collins wrapped up the class with an instruction on how to make a balloon sword. If you'd like to have Polka Dottie at your next event, call 508-335-4973 or email at kristy.collins@gmail.com.

The Birthday Girl can be followed on Facebook and Instagram (@TheBirthdayGirlWorcester).

For future activities and events, visit the Warren Parks & Recreation page on Facebook or on the warren-ma.gov website and go to the quick links box and select "Activities and Events."



This fun family activity got kids involved with learning how to make balloon animals.



The balloon animal of a turtle can be worn as a bracelet.



Polka Dottie had gifts for guests to take home and practice making balloon animals.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

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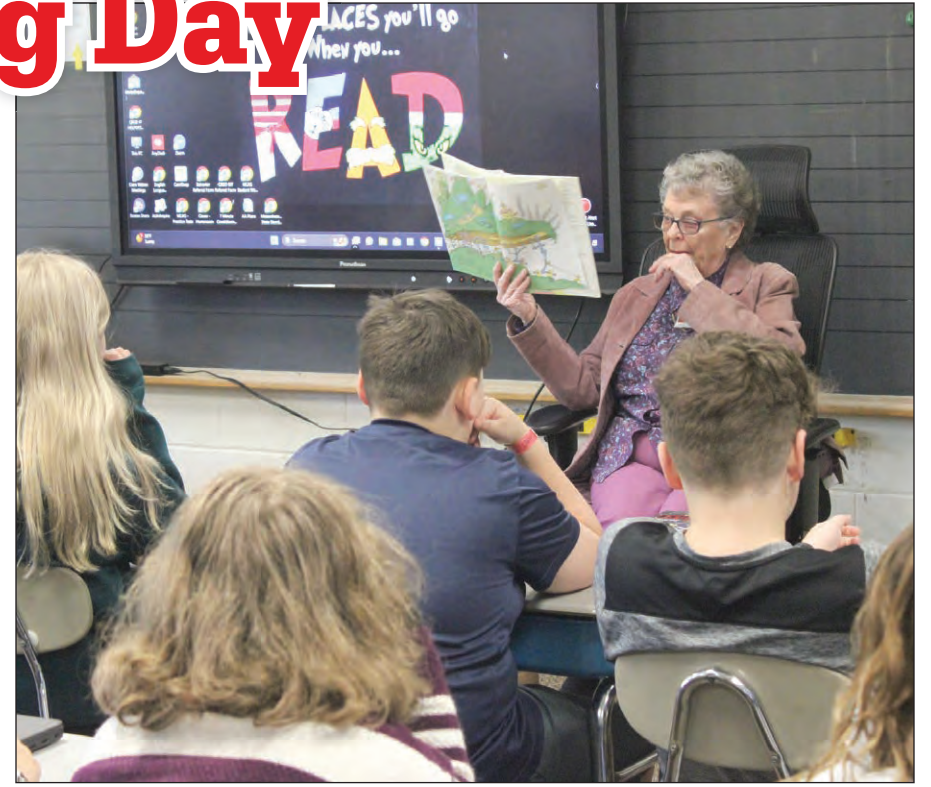
# Community Reading Day



Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff read to Mrs. Morin's second grade class.



Adelfa Hegarty is a literacy consultant holding her certificate of participation for Community Reading Day.



Leona Wrobel has been a reader at Community Reading Day for many years. Wrobel read "Oh, The Places You Will Go".

## READING from page 1

Another returning community reader is Sylvia Buck of the Historical Commission.

WCES Principal Kevin Slattery and Dean of Students Brian Guimond joined the community readers in the library and welcomed them to the school. Slattery has witnessed the success and enjoyment of community reading day in his nine years of being a part of WCES.

Getting Community Reading Day is a team effort every year and is made possible by the members of the school community and has been coordinated by Beaudry.

"Linda pulls it all together," Slattery said.

Beaudry thanked office secretaries Amanda McDermott and Annette LeClair for their additional support in setting up Community Reading Day.

Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff was one of the readers and knows how great of a program it is to get students involved more with reading.

"It is important for all our kids," Duff said. "Important to the staff and the parents of our community."

One of the first-time readers at the WCES Community Reading Day is State Senator Jake Oliveira. For his first year at WCES, Oliveira was reading "Each Kindness" to Caitlyn McGibbon's fifth grade class.

Town Manager Jim Ferrera is a first-time reader and looks forward to meeting the students at WCES. Ferrera read "Enemy Pie" and hopes to share more information with the students regarding his role in the community.

"Meeting the students, sharing history about the town," Ferrera said.

Making connections is essential when students get to meet community members in their town. Students and their families can get more involved with reading after connecting with the community members who want to inspire read-



Warren Fire Chief Adam Lavoie read "Hooray for Reading Day" to first graders.

ing and education in the communities they support.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie has been participating in Community Reading Day ever since becoming the town's fire chief 12 years ago. It is one of Lavoie's favorite events of the year.

"My favorite part is to be with the kids," Lavoie said.

Students of all grades at WCES arrived at the library and kindly escorted each reader to their classrooms.

The students who greeted the community readers at the library volunteered to bring them to their classrooms. Some brought signs with the readers' names on them.

After Community Reading Day was over, the readers returned to the library and were given special gifts from WCES.

One of the gifts was a certificate of participation with their names on them and acknowledging their time at community reading day. Another gift was a WCES branded coffee mug with a cougar paw on it.

Warren Community Elementary



Warren Town Manager Jim Ferrera was reading "Enemy Pie" to a fifth-grade class and this was his first year participating in the school's Community Reading Day.



Community readers received gifts for their time at Warren Community Elementary School, including a WCES coffee mug.

school would like to thank this year's participants of the 2024 WCES Community Reading Day.

This year's community readers were Assistant Superintendent of Schools Madeline Smola, community member and former WCES teacher Karen Kurr, Jessica Shimansky of North Brookfield Savings Bank, Warren Public Library Assistant Rowan Bernstein, Warren Fire Chief Adam Lavoie, Phil Milgrom of the Centered Place, Sylvia Cummings of West Warren Public Library and Warren Cultural Council, Superintendent Stephen Duff, Director of Student Support Services Dr. Kirsten Esposito, Warren Tax Collector Kerry Schmidt, Chief of Police Gerald Millette, State Sen. Jake Oliveira, Town Manager Jim Ferrera, State Rep. Todd Smola, Sylvia Buck of the Historical Commission, QRMHS Music Director Jim Joinville and community member Leona Wrobel.



Jim Joinville is the music director of Quaboag Regional Middle High School and he read a story to Mr. Howe's sixth grade class.



Community readers never stop reading as they look over the books over coffee in the school library.



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# SPORTS

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Jack McKeever makes the easy throw to first.



Nathan Kaczuwka sends a pitch home.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Octavio Cotaj fields the grounder to first.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com

## Ware squeaks out win in extra innings

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WARE—With the sun setting in the west and a full moon rising in the east, Ware sophomore second baseman Olivia DiRienzo promptly ended the rivalry softball game versus Palmer with one swing of the bat.

DiRienzo hit a bloop single into shallow left field with two outs in the bottom of the eighth inning scoring sophomore catcher Madisyn Slattery from third base. It gave the Lady Indians a wild 13-12 walk-off victory, which took more than three hours to complete, last Monday (April 22).

“I haven’t been hitting the ball very well so far this season,” said DiRienzo, who also beat out an infield hit during the fourth inning. “I was just hoping to get a base hit in that at-bat. Getting the game winning base hit really means a lot to me.”

While Olivia DiRienzo will be playing several more softball games against the Lady Panthers before she graduates in 2026, her older sister, Mia, faced the Lady Panthers for the final time at home during the regular season.

“I’m very happy that my younger sister had the game winning hit in today’s game” said Mia DiRienzo, who had a bases clearing double in the fourth inning. “It was a crazy game, but this is a very big win for us.”

Mia DiRienzo, who started at first baseman, is the only senior listed on the Lady Indians varsity softball roster. She’s also one of the captains, along with junior starting pitcher Abigale McQuaid, junior centerfielder Shelby Hogan,



Maia Lamothe goes for it despite the traffic around third base.

and Slattery. “It’s so weird being the only senior on the softball team,” she said. “The other three captains always help me make decisions. They help me out a lot.”

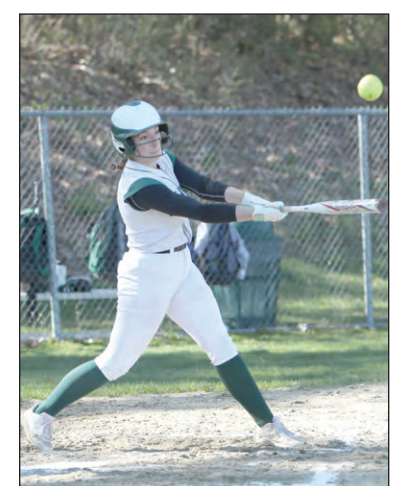
The Lady Indians had a 4-2 overall record, which was also their record against their Suburban West League opponents.

“We’re a very young team, and we’re starting to play well,” said Ware head coach Charlene Vallee. “We held a five run lead in our last game, but we wound up losing. We played a lot better in today’s game.”

Palmer, who squeaked out a 16-15 a win in the first meeting against Ware a year ago, had a 2-3 overall record and a 1-2 league record.

“This was a back and forth game. Neither team gave up,” said Palmer head coach Heather Korzec. “It’s a bummer that we wound up losing the game in extra innings, especially after having a two run lead.”

In their previous two games, Palmer scored 38 and 13 runs.



Madisyn Slattery has great concentration as she connects with this shot.

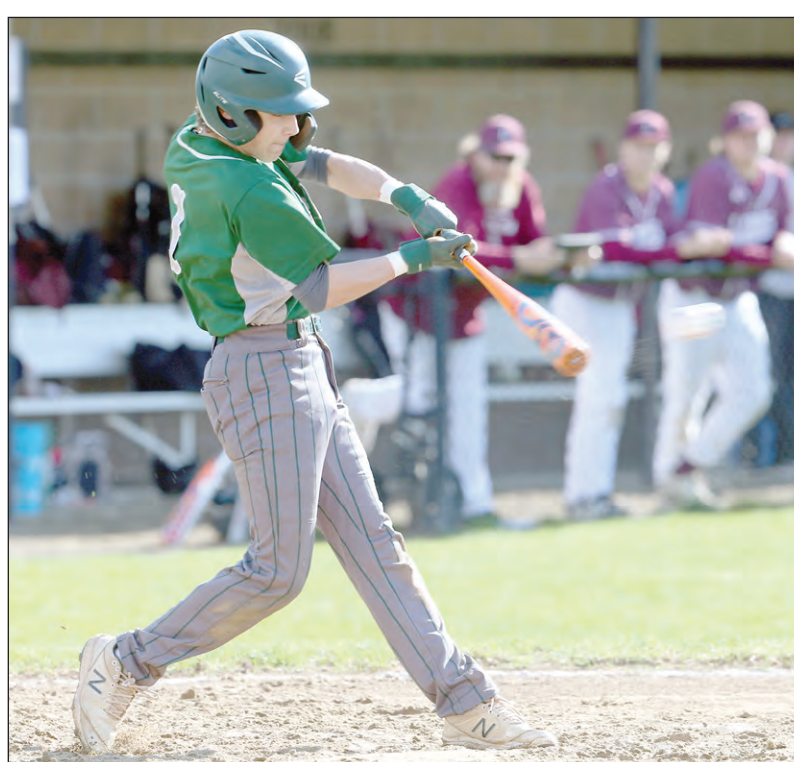
Please see **WARE**, page 10

LUDLOW – Last Wednesday afternoon, Ware’s offense and pitching had no trouble with host Ludlow in a 9-0 shutout. The Indians offense got shutout down in the following two games, unfortunately, with a 4-2 loss against

Taconic High School, and a 3-1 loss against Frontier. Ware’s pitching have been consistent all season long despite a couple of tough-luck losses. The Indians are 6-3 and face Southwick on Saturday evening at 7 p.m.



Troy Dufresne slides safely into second base.



John Mumper swings and connects.



Bailey Burke competes in the long jump.



Chris Howes looks for a long distance with his jump.



Luke Salvadore makes his way down the lane. He is a partner for the program.

## Cougars set to face Ware at Polar Park

WARREN – Quabog Regional High School’s baseball team will have the opportunity to play a game this Monday night at Polar Park, the new home of the Boston Red Sox Triple-A team, the Worcester Red Sox. Polar Park opened in 2021 after the minor league team moved from Pawtucket, R.I.

Minor league ballparks have been very popular for high schools to play games at. In Western and Central Massachusetts, Hartford’s Dunkin’ Park has also been very popular. Several Western Mass. teams have had games at the Double-A ballpark.

Quabog will be facing neighboring rival Ware in this special game. Ware has already been in a professional ballpark, facing Monson at Dunkin’ Park on April 19.

Tickets are available for the Polar Park game on Monday, May 6 by contacting the school or any member of the Quabog High School baseball program.

## Unified track in action at Quabbin Regional High School

BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Unified Track was in action

at Quabbin Regional High School. The Panthers hosted Wachusett Regional for a meet. The Panthers will have a few

more meets this season, the third in the program. The league meet will move to North Middlesex this season. Quabbin hosted the league meet the past two years.



Ryan Morin throws the javelin.  
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



RIGHT: Olivia Gregory with partner Aubrey Raposa competes in the 100 meter.



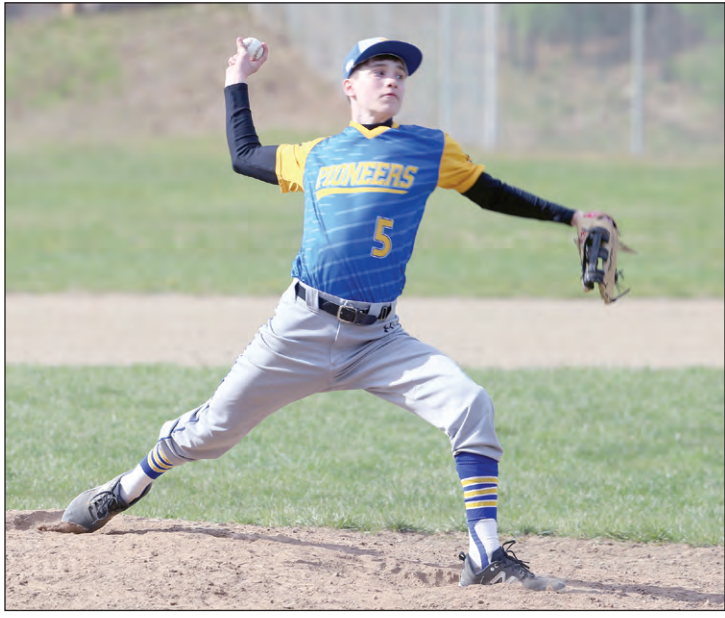
Baylee Garcia runs in the 800 meter.



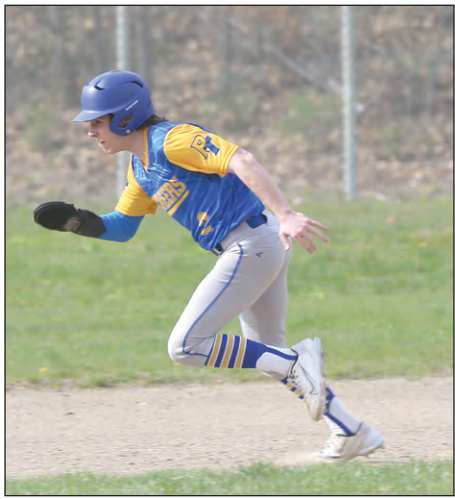
Reese McKeever safely grabs possession of second evading the ball and the two Panthers.



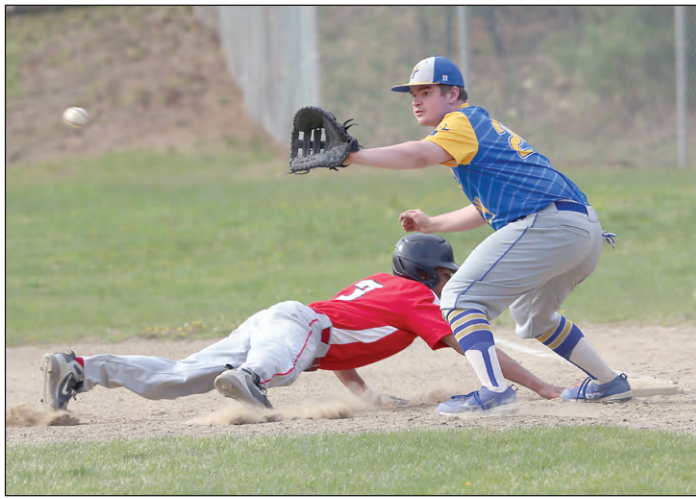
# sports



Andrew Sullivan delivers a pitch for the Pioneers.



Zander Auffrey heads for second.



Camron MacDonald catches a pickoff throw to first.



Hunter Griswold gets dirty as he slides safely into second.



Branden Hnietcki slides into an opposing player.

## Pioneers walk off in wild matchup

PALMER – It took almost three weeks for Commerce and Pathfinder to finally matchup last Saturday afternoon at St. Joe's Field. Pathfinder scored a run in the bottom of the eighth for a 17-16 win. In the win, Brayden Mega had three hits and three runs scored. Hunter Griswold and Miguel Velasquez had two hits and three RBI each. The Pioneers are now 5-1 on the season despite limited action due to several rainouts this month.



Annabelle Magill sends a return hit in first singles action.



Camryn Orsini goes for a backhand.



Carlee Rich competes in third-singles for the Panthers.

## Quabbin gets by Clinton

BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon, the double teams helped lead Quabbin girls tennis to victory over Clinton 3-2. Both dou-

bles teams were winners along with third singles Carlee Rich. It took three sets, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2, but Farrah Wojcik and Kalina

Dyer were winners. Elizabeth Matheson and Madelyn Stauder swept their match 6-1, 6-1.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks made it to their final regular week of league candlepin bowling.

These series of matches will conclude the final round and will determine the third qualifier for the playoffs.

As of April 16, The Champs R Here are in first place at 27-9. In the running Acres is in second place at 25-11. Team BK is in third place at 24-12. The remaining teams are mathematically eliminated from playoff contention.

Compression and Life is Good have already qualified for the playoffs.

One match took place between #1 seed Champs R Here against #2 seed Acres. In game one, Acres defeated Champs R Here by a score of 398-382. Matt Bertelli and Paul Tereso of Acres each broke 100 in the opening game (Tereso 101, Bertelli 106). Stephen Manolakis of Champs R Here began with a 114.

In game two, Champs R Here defeated Acres 375-362. Manolakis led the team with a 113.

In game three, Champs R Here defeated Acres 385-367 to win a total of three points and secure the last playoff spot. Manolakis finished with a 109 and a series of 336.

The final score is Champs R Here at 1142 and Acres at 1127. #3 seed Team BK bowled against Last in Line. Team BK won the first game 353-345. In game two, Last in Line won 367-354. Vinny

Navarro bowled a 112 to lead Last in Line to a victory. Mark Fitzpatrick of Team BK bowled 118.

In game three, Team BK won the last game by a score of 378-361. The final score was Team BK at 1085 and Last in Line at 1073.

The two playoff teams, Compression and Life is Good, bowled each other in the last week of round three. In game one, Compression took the first game from one of their playoff opponents 361-345.

In game two, Compression won again by a score of 352-341. Jason Dominick of Compression led the team in the second game with a 104.

In game three, Compression won for a three-game sweep over Life is Good. The score in game three was Compression at 364 and Life is Good at 357. The final score was Compression at 1077 and Life is Good at 1043.

As a result of winning three points against Acres, Champs R Here are the winners of round three and will be in the playoffs. Compression, Life is Good and Champs R Here will compete against each other in the final week of the season for the league championship.

The remaining four teams who didn't receive a playoff berth will compete in a consolation roll off.

Monday Night League Playoffs

The final two teams who made it to the final week of the season are Tag Team and the Four Stooges. After three competitive games, Tag Team prevails and are the 2023-2024 candlepin league season champions for Monday nights.

Tag Team consists of John Havens Sr, John Eckart, John "JT" Terault and Nick Maslon. The runner ups of the season, The Four Stooges, consist of Dave Chambers, Rich Chambers, Joe Grant and Marc Pelissier.

## Olympics lead to change in HoopHall induction

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced it will move its Enshrinement Ceremonies from Aug. 16-17 to Oct. 12-13 to accommodate requests of the vast global basketball community amid an extensive and expanding summer schedule, highlighted by the 2024 Summer Olympics. The date change will continue to position the Hall of Fame event as a successful, well-produced stand-alone event not compromised by potential production conflicts.

"The Hall of Fame appreciates the input from friends across the basketball community and the recommendations of our production partners regarding a schedule adjustment for our Enshrinement Ceremonies," said John L. Doleva, President & CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "We understand the importance of the burgeoning Olympic basketball events to our broader constituencies and regret any inconvenience caused by the change. This one-time move to October assures that we are best positioned to once again create a great experience for our guests and deliver viewers a first-class presentation to celebrate our esteemed Class."

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at Mohegan Sun on Saturday, Oct. 12, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala. The Class of 2024 and returning Hall of Famers will then assemble in Springfield, for the annual events taking place at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and Springfield's Symphony Hall on Sunday, Oct. 13.

Please see **HOOPHALL**, page 11

## T-Birds put bow on successful season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds completed a historic season in style on Saturday, hosting a 14th consecutive sellout crowd inside the MassMutual Center. The capacity crowd for the finale also marked the 20th time during the 2023-24 season that "the Thunderdome" hit its maximum occupancy.

Both the 14-game sellout streak and the 20 total sellout crowds set Springfield AHL hockey records, and those were merely two statistics from a year full of shattered records and overwhelming support from the fanbase. The Thunderbirds' ticket sales department saw distinct growth in numerous categories, including group ticket revenue (up 30% from 2022-23), season ticket revenue (up 15%), and total full-season tickets sold (up 5%).

"The support this franchise has received from day one has been indescribable," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "It takes so many factors for an American Hockey League franchise to succeed, and our front office staff is right up there with the best in the business. Their tireless efforts, coupled with the passion and energy of the Thunderdome crowd, made this historic season a reality. We have no intention of slowing down either, which should make our fans so excited for what will come."

Of the 6,321 fans who attended Thunderbirds games on average last season, about 25% were members of various groups participating in a wide variety of in-game experiences, from Premium Suite and

Executive Perch parties to on-ice activities like national anthem performances and high-five tunnel teams. Springfield's front office staff efforts helped the club generate the eighth most group tickets sold in the league.

"We have long worked at making Thunderbirds games a life-long memory for fans of all ages," said Costa. "In the process of doing that, we have been able to showcase members of our community, which has led to amazing opportunities for these groups to have a huge audience and grow their followings. Performing at Thunderbirds games has become a checklist item for thousands in this area, and we take great pride in that."

This season, the T-Birds saw an average of 93.1% of all seats filled inside the MassMutual Center, the highest average attendance to capacity in the AHL's Eastern Conference and second-highest in the league. Such successes in filling the arena directly led to the Thunderbirds' corporate sales department reaching new heights.

In the 2023-24 season, the T-Birds saw a 15% growth in corporate revenue while sitting atop the league rankings in total sponsorship deals. Integrations with sponsors have continued to be showcased across various mediums, from in-arena and in-ice signage to social media post sponsorships and elements of the in-game broadcast production.

"Having widespread support from our business partners is also paramount to success in the

American Hockey League," Costa added. "Our corporate team has fostered meaningful relationships beyond return on investment and emphasized Springfield's pride for the city. Their accomplishments are remarkable when compared to markets of exponentially greater size."

Supplementing the Thunderbirds' success in tickets and corporate business, the franchise experienced a seventh consecutive season of brand development and merchandise growth as the club rose to the top 10 in the AHL in-game night merchandise sales, with an emphasis on creating high-quality product lines across not just the T-Birds brand, but specialty nights as well.

"We are aware of how impactful merchandise can be from a grassroots marketing perspective," said Costa. "Giving our fans the ability to show their pride for specialty evenings like Pink in the Rink, Ice-O-Topes, and Military Appreciation further bolsters our connection between our team and the community."

The Thunderbirds will look to build upon their record-breaking success when the 2024-25 season, the eighth Thunderbirds hockey campaign, gets underway this October. Schedules and single-game tickets will go on sale later this summer. Fans can reserve their seats for Thunderbirds' hockey action in the 2024-25 season with a ticket membership by calling (413)-739-GOAL (4625) or visiting www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

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The deadline for submissions for this sports section is the Monday before publication by noon.

To send in information, contact Sports Editor at 413-283-8393, send an e-mail to sports@turley.com or send it through the mail to: Turley Publications c/o Sports Editor 24 Water St. Palmer, MA 01069

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WARE from page 9

"One of the things that we did during our preseason practices was to have each player take at least 50 swings each day in the batting cage," Korzec said. "I think it's paying off for us now."

The Lady Panthers reached double digits in runs for the third time against Ware despite only having six base hits. They walked twelve times, and another batter was hit by a pitch.

The Lady Indians banged out a total of eleven hits and drew ten walks.

The score was tied 10-10 entering the seventh inning.

Both teams were set in order during that frame for the only time in the game.

Palmer senior catcher Lily White, who had hit a home run leading off the sixth inning, and

junior second baseman Ava Swist drew back-to-back walks leading off the top of the eighth inning. Both base runners crossed the plate following wild pitches.

In bottom half of the inning, Palmer junior righty Jayda Prado retired the first batter that she faced on a comebacker. Then Hogan singled to right field, but she was thrown out trying to steal second base by White.

Prado and her teammates couldn't record the third out.

McQuaid, who blasted a home run to center with one out in the third inning, kept the game going a little bit longer with a walk. She advanced to third base following a throwing error by the catcher. Then Mia DiRienzo grounded a single up the middle into centerfield scoring McQuaid. After going to second base on a passed ball, DiRienzo crossed the plate

with the tying run when Slattery hit a flyball double to left field. "We were able to put-together a couple of hits in the eighth inning," said Mia DiRienzo, who was also teammates with her younger sister on the soccer pitch. "My sister never had a game winning hit in a softball game before today. It was great."

Then Olivia DiRienzo stepped into the righthanded batter's box and became the hero of the game.

"Today's game was a lot of fun," Valle said. "Even though we were trailing by two runs in the bottom of the eighth inning, I still had a lot of confidence in my players. We had the top of the order coming up. Olivia had the key hit, and this was our first walk-off win of the season. We're looking forward to playing Palmer again at their field in a couple of weeks."



# sports

## Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

For questions, email [info@baystategames.org](mailto:info@baystategames.org) or call 781-932-6555.

## Quabbin League wants to fill remaining roster spots

Rosters spots are dwindling, but there are still some spots available as the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball has begun its season. There are still several open spots to get filled despite the season being underway.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalley-baseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalley-baseball.org) to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league.

The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley used as well some expansion to the surrounding area this season. The league does not play on Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekends.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team. The league can also prorate registration at this point. Simply contact a league board member. Contact information is located at the registration link.

### HOOPBALL from page 10

The updated schedule of events for Enshrinement 2024:

- Saturday, Oct. 12, at Mohegan Sun (Uncasville, Conn.)**  
Enshrinement 2024 Autograph Session  
Enshrinement 2024 Press Conference  
Enshrinement Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala
- Sunday, Oct. 13, in Springfield**  
Enshrinement Ceremony VIP Reception at Springfield Marriott  
Enshrinement Ceremony Red Carpet Show at Symphony Hall  
Enshrinement Ceremony at Symphony Hall



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## QUABBIN STUDENTS CLEAN-UP FOR EARTH DAY



Quabbin Regional High School students participated in a town-wide cleanup this past Saturday.



Members of the Quabbin Regional High School Student Council and the Horticulture Club helped clean up South Street in Barre from the Common to the High School.

LEFT: Students enjoying a treat made especially for Earth Day by Curious Cravings Bakery.

## Ortona named Ware Branch Manager at MSB

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank is pleased to announce the recent promotion of Shannon M. Ortona to Ware Branch Manager.

In addition to her new role, Ortona will continue to serve as the Bank's IRA Administrator. She is now based out of the Ware Branch located at 136 West St.

"We are pleased to share the news of Shannon's much-deserved promotion," stated Dan Moriarty, President and CEO of Monson Savings Bank in a press release. "Her dedication and pursuit of excellence have earned her this new position as a Branch Manager. Watching her professional development over the past 11 years she's been with our team has been a pleasure. I am certain she will continue to deliver value to Monson Savings Bank and aid our clients in reaching their goals."

Ortona is a lifelong resident of western Massachusetts and currently resides in Palmer. Ortona is enthusiastic about being part of the communities that make up western Massachusetts

and is currently a Board Member of the Ware Business Civic Association.



Monson Savings Bank announced the promotion of Shannon Ortona to Ware Branch Manager.

Prior to joining the Monson Savings Bank family 11 years ago, Ortona began her banking career with Chicopee Savings Bank. After five years with Chicopee Savings, where she held the positions of Full Time Teller, Senior Teller, and Head Teller, Ortona was excited to accept the position of Monson Savings Bank's Ware Branch Customer Service Associate Supervisor.

During her tenure with the Bank, Ortona has earned positions of increasing responsibility. She became the Assistant Branch Manager of the Ware Branch and became a Certified IRA Specialist through Ascensus.

Prior to her most recent promotion, Ortona worked as the Wilbraham Assistant Branch Manager.

In her new role as Ware Branch Manager, Ortona will draw on her extensive experience and knowledge of retail banking. She will be responsible for planning, organizing, and directing the Ware Branch's operations.

Ortona will also aim to foster an environment of teamwork within the branch and provide her team with a high level of leadership. She will work with customers to conduct various banking transactions and help them to reach their financial goals.

"I am excited to be back at our Ware Branch! It's where I started with Monson Savings Bank and it's nice to be back 'home' where I started my journey with such a great team!" said Ortona. "The Monson Savings Bank team has offered me so many opportunities to grow over the years. The people I work with want me to grow and push me to be the best version of myself, and in turn I hope I strive to do the same for them. I am thrilled to be a part of our team's growth!"

Ortona continued, "in my new role, I am most looking forward to helping our customers and getting to know the Ware community a little bit better. One of my passions in life is helping others, this can mean simply holding a door for someone or opening a bank account for a small business just starting out."

To contact Ortona, please call 413-725-4545 or email [sorton@monson-savings.com](mailto:sorton@monson-savings.com).

## Medicare 101 educational event is May 22

BARRE – The Barre Senior Center will be hosting an educational presentation on Thursday, May 22 at 12:30 p.m. at the senior center located at 557 South Barre Road for current beneficiaries and for those who will soon be eligible for Medicare.

The information is specific to Massachusetts. The session will run from 1 to 1.5 hours, including time for questions.

The presentation will be conducted by Ed Spater, a licensed insurance agent, who will explain the basics of Medicare including:

Why it's important to evaluate your current Medicare coverage each year

The pros and cons of each of your Medicare coverage options

What to consider when deciding which Medicare coverage option is right for you

Ways to save money and get better Medicare coverage in 2024

For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call 774-271-5199 or 711 for TTY callers.

### How is your retirement income taxed?

Once you're retired, you will likely need to draw on several types of income for your living expenses. You'll need to know where these funds are coming from and how much you can count on, but you should also be aware of how this money is taxed — because this knowledge can help you plan and budget for your retirement years.

Here's the basic tax information on some key sources of retirement income:

- Social Security** – Many people don't realize they may have to pay taxes on their Social Security benefits. Whether your benefits will be taxed depends on how much other taxable income you receive from various sources, such as self-employment, stock dividends and interest payments. You'll want to check with your tax advisor to determine whether your income reaches the threshold where your Social Security benefits will be taxed. The lower your total taxable income, the lower the taxes will be on your benefits. The Social Security Administration will not automatically take out taxes from your monthly checks — to have taxes withheld, you will need to fill out Form W-4V (Voluntary Withholding Request). Again, your tax advisor can help you determine the percentage of your benefits you should withhold.

- Retirement accounts** – During your working years, you may have contributed to two basic retirement accounts: an IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan (such as a 457(b) plan for state and local government employees or a 403(b) plan for educators and employees of some nonprofits). If you invested in a "traditional" IRA or 401(k) or similar plan, your contributions may have been partially or completely deductible and your earnings grew on a tax-deferred basis. But when you start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA or 401(k), the money is considered taxable at your normal income tax rate. However, if you chose the "Roth" option (when available), your contributions were not deductible, but your earnings and withdrawals are tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.

- Annuities** – Many investors use annuities to supplement their retirement income. An annuity is essentially a contract between you and an insurance company in which the insurer pays you an income stream for a given number of years, or for life, in exchange for the premiums you paid. You typically purchase a "qualified" annuity with pre-tax dollars, possibly within a traditional IRA or 401(k), so your premiums may be deductible, and your earnings can grow tax deferred. Once you start taking payouts, the entire amount — your contributions and earnings — are taxable at your individual tax rate. On the other hand, you purchase "non-qualified" annuities with after-tax dollars, so your premiums aren't deductible, but just like qualified annuities, your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis. When you take payments, you won't pay taxes on the principal amounts you invested but the earnings will be taxed as ordinary income.

We've looked at some general rules governing different sources of income, but you should consult your tax professional about your specific situation. Ultimately, factors such as your goals, lifestyle and time horizon should drive the decisions you make for your retirement income. Nonetheless, you may want to look for ways to control the taxes that result from your various income pools. And the more you know about how your income is taxed, the fewer unpleasant surprises you may experience.

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# public safety

## Ware Police Log

During the week of April 21-30, the Ware Police Department responded to 29 miscellaneous calls, 44 administrative calls, nine traffic violations, 15 emergency 911 calls, three thefts/larcenies, two outside fires, three frauds/deceptions, four harassments, two damages/vandalisms/mischiefs, three trespasses, two breaking and entering/burglaries, one safety hazard, three motor vehicle accidents, five animal calls and 20 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

**Sunday, April 21**  
2:01 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised  
6:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
12:24 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Demond Avenue, Could Not Locate  
4:35 p.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, Church Street, Could Not Locate  
4:40 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Convent Hill Road, Could Not Locate

**Monday, April 22**  
12:17 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Dispatch Handled  
7:55 p.m. Assault, Sunny Hill Drive, Services Rendered

**Tuesday, April 23**  
9:15 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Wrin Street, Dispatch Handled  
10:14 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Aspen Street, Report Made

4:19 p.m. Outside Fire, Palmer Road, Extinguished  
5:15 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Palmer Road, Unfounded  
9:04 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, River Road, Advised

**Wednesday, April 24**  
3:19 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Convent Hill Road, Services Rendered  
8:29 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised  
10:14 a.m. Safety Hazard, Pulaski Street, Services Rendered  
11:40 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Park Street, Services Rendered  
2:07 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, West Street, Services Rendered  
10:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Investigated

**Thursday, April 25**  
5:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Monson Turnpike Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
7:47 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Clifford Avenue, Advised  
8:57 a.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, Park Street, Services Rendered  
2:45 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Main Street, Investigated  
5:37 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made  
7:29 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Main Street, Advised  
11:06 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Convent Hill Road, Services Rendered  
11:07 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Buckley Court, Investigated

**Friday, April 26**  
1:46 p.m. Outside Fire, Big Tree Drive, Extinguished  
2:18 p.m. Drugs, West Street, Services Rendered  
6:11 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Vigeant Street, Advised  
6:25 p.m. Theft/Larceny, South Street, Investigated  
9:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Arrest Made

**Saturday, April 27**  
12:43 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Valley View, Services Rendered

**Sunday, April 28**  
2:01 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Canal Street, Arrest Made  
Arrest: Elizabeth T. McKeich, 38, West Palm Beach, Florida  
OUI-Liquor or .08%, 2nd Offense; WMS Warrant; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Alcohol in Motor Vehicle, Possess Open Container of  
5:07 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Dispatch Handled  
8:14 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Hillside Village, Advised  
8:40 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Wrin Street, Investigated  
10:03 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Investigated

**Monday, April 29**  
2:27 p.m. Faud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered

## Warren Police Log

During the week of April 21-27, the Warren Police Department responded to 122 building/property checks, two community policings, 13 emergency 911 calls, one harassment, one illegal dumping, one structure fire, one safety concern, three motor vehicle accidents, two animal calls and 51 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

**Sunday, April 21**  
1:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
10:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
12:01 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Mechanic Street, Referred to Other Agency  
12:56 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, South Street, Transported to Hospital  
3:47 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Winthrop Terrace, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
4:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
4:46 p.m. Illegal Dumping, South Street, Investigated  
9:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Citation Issued

**Monday, April 22**  
12:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
4 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Bemis Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
8:55 p.m. Fire/Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

**Tuesday, April 23**  
3:56 p.m. Falls, Reed Street, Transported to Hospital  
5:15 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital  
10:39 p.m. Structure Fire, Main Street, Unfounded

**Wednesday, April 24**  
8:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning  
8:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
8:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Criminal Complaint  
9:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
11:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Criminal Complaint  
2:55 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Ware Road, Investigated  
9:33 p.m. Safety Concern, Pulaski Street, Report Filed

**Thursday, April 25**  
4:15 a.m. Harassment, Crescent Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
9:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
9:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
10:23 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Curtis Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
10:26 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Old West Brookfield Road, Referred to Other Agency

**Friday, April 26**  
5:06 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Bacon Street, Transported to Hospital

**Tuesday, April 23**  
3:56 p.m. Falls, Reed Street, Transported to Hospital  
5:15 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital  
10:39 p.m. Structure Fire, Main Street, Unfounded

**Wednesday, April 24**  
8:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning  
8:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
8:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Criminal Complaint  
9:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
11:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Criminal Complaint  
2:55 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Ware Road, Investigated  
9:33 p.m. Safety Concern, Pulaski Street, Report Filed

**Thursday, April 25**  
4:15 a.m. Harassment, Crescent Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
9:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
9:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
10:23 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Curtis Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
10:26 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Old West Brookfield Road, Referred to Other Agency

**Friday, April 26**  
5:06 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Bacon Street, Transported to Hospital

*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.*

9:49 a.m. Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
12:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
1:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
5:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Chapel Street, Arrest(s) Made  
Arrest: John M. Tetreault, 34, West Warren  
Warrant  
10:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

**Saturday, April 27**  
9:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning  
11:04 a.m. Fire/Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
2:49 p.m. Fire/Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of April 22-29, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 76 building/property checks, 32 directed/area patrols, nine radar assignments, 11 emergency 911 calls, three assist other agencies, nine citizen assists, three fires, three complaints, two animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, April 22**  
8:45 a.m. Assist Citizen, Greenwich Road, No Action Required  
9:29 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Lower Road, Gone on Arrival  
9:45 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital  
6:05 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosed, North Road, Officer Handled

**Tuesday, April 23**  
9:17 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Broad Street, Officer Handled  
10:16 a.m. 911 Welfare Check, Turkey Street, Investigated  
10:55 a.m. Assist Citizen, Parker Court, Negative Contact

11:49 a.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, Spoken To  
2:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital  
2:39 p.m. Assist Other Agency, North Road, No Action Required  
4 p.m. Assist Citizen, Parker Court, Officer Handled  
5:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Arrest(s) Made

**Wednesday, April 24**  
9:09 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Street, Transported to Hospital  
11:06 a.m. Assist Citizen, Parker Court, No Action Required

**Thursday, April 25**  
2:27 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled  
7 p.m. Assist Citizen, Parker Court, Officer Handled

**Friday, April 26**  
7:52 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Upper Church Street, Investigated  
10:16 a.m. Assist Citizen, Church Street, Services Rendered  
11:04 a.m. 911 Fire/Brush,

Thresher Road, Extinguished  
1:44 p.m. 911 Fire/Brush, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
4:24 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

**Saturday, April 27**  
1:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
3:49 a.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, Broad Street, No Action Required  
11:54 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Barre Road, Officer Handled  
12:13 p.m. Unattended Death, Main Street, Officer Handled  
2:39 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Broad Street, Transported to Hospital  
5:50 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled  
10:13 p.m. 911 Complaint, Barre Road, Investigated

**Sunday, April 28**  
1:24 p.m. Disturbance, Hardwick Road, Investigated  
1:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

## DV training conducted for local police depts.

WARE – Attorneys from the Northwestern District Attorney's Office and Community Legal Aid, survivors of domestic violence, and domestic violence advocates from Valley Human Services at Behavioral Health Network in Ware recently presented a training for Ware, Warren and Hardwick police.

Two domestic violence survivors shared what the police did that helped, what they wished the police didn't do and what they wanted the police to know.

Catherine Kay, Senior Supervising Attorney, Community Legal Aid for Victims of Crime, shared information about protective orders and Northwestern Western District Attorney Office's Erin Aiello, Lead DV Prosecutor spoke about high-risk factors, trauma informed lens, body camera and witness intimidation.

Local services and positive outcomes from police referrals



Submitted Photo  
The Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force facilitated a training for law enforcement in Ware, Warren and Hardwick.

were shared by Andrew Howard, Assistant Director DV Services, BHN and Ashley Higgins, Civilian Police Advocate, BHN.  
For more information about the

Task Force see [www.waredivtaskforce.org](http://www.waredivtaskforce.org), visit the Task Force on Facebook, or email [wrvdvtaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:wrvdvtaskforce@gmail.com).

## Scammers impersonate toll collection services in text message scam

If you have been on a road trip, then you're probably familiar with modern tolling systems allowing you to pay your toll fees online.

If you anticipate paying for any outstanding tolls, watch out for this text message phishing scam where fraudsters impersonate toll collection services, trying to trick consumers into paying for fake outstanding tolls.



### How this scam works

You receive a text message from what appears to be a state tollway collection service, like the Illinois Tollway or the Florida Turnpike. The text message says you owe a road toll fee of around \$12, but you need to pay it immediately to avoid a late fee of \$50.

The message includes a link to settle your balance, which appears to be from the state's toll service, making the message look legitimate. However, if you click the link and provide your personal and payment information on the website, scammers could now have access to that information, and you may have lost some money.

The Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker has received reports of text messages that appear to be from toll collection services. One consumer recently shared, "I received a text message that stated I owed funds from using a tollway.

It was not specific and since I do not use a tollway I knew it was a fraud. I deleted the message right away and blocked the number, but I believe it had included a web link."

Another consumer shared, "I was sent a text message that I owe the Florida Turnpike fee of \$12.51 or face a late fee of \$50. I nor my husband have been anywhere near the Florida Turnpike."

### How to avoid similar scams

Verify your outstanding toll balance with the legitimate agency. Instead of clicking on the link in the text message, go to your web browser, find the toll service's actual website, and log in to your account to verify if you have any outstanding toll payments.

Another way to verify this is by calling the toll service's customer service line.

Do not call the phone number that texted you or any phone num-

bers included in the text message. Instead, find the toll service's legitimate phone number on their website.

Know the warning signs of a fake text. If you receive an unusual text message, there are several things to look for to help you identify if it's fake.

Read BBB's tips on spotting the red flags of fake text messages. Don't click on links or download files that are unexpectedly texted to you. It may be hard to identify if a link sent in a text message is safe. Scammers can disguise a URL to appear legitimate when it isn't.

Block the number and delete the message. Do not engage with the scammer if you think you received a fake text message. Instead, block the phone number and delete the text message.

Refusing to engage and blocking the phone number can help prevent scammers from contacting you again.

If you receive a text message impersonating a road toll collection service, report it. You can file a report with BBB Scam Tracker at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) to help warn others about this new scam.

In addition, file a report with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at [ic3.gov](http://ic3.gov).

## Tips offered for safe electrical vehicle charging

As electric vehicles enter our roadways, the National Fire Protection Association® has introduced a series of free resources, guidelines, and information to help raise awareness about EV fires and safe EV charging practices at home.

According to the International Energy Agency, global sales of electric vehicles exceeded 10 million in 2022 and are expected to grow in the coming years. At the same time, consumer concerns about the fire safety risk of EVs are increasing. Lithium-ion batteries, the most widely used and reliable source of energy for electric vehicles, are central to questions about safety.

"It is widely known that electric vehicles provide environmental and cost-effective benefits," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA in a press release. "However, as fires involving EVs are reported in the news, concerns about the risks they pose persist. Through advocacy efforts that highlight our new online resources and information, NFPA is working to better educate the public about the risks associated with EVs and other devices that use lithium-ion batteries, along with ways to use them safely."

The new online resources from NFPA feature more detailed information about lithium-ion batteries, EV maintenance, and what tips consumers can follow to stay safe when charging their electric vehicle at home.

Resources for safety educa-

tors and consumers, including a safety tip sheet and social media cards, are all free and downloadable. A free training course is also available to the public that helps address some of the common concerns and myths about owning an electrical vehicle, including safety features, charge types, and battery life.

NFPA recommends these tips when charging electric vehicles at home to help prevent fires:

Before charging an electric vehicle at home, have a qualified electrician check your electrical system to see if it can handle charging.

Install charging equipment in safe locations. Keep away from busy areas and things that could catch fire.

Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

Read and follow all manufacturer directions.

Check chargers and cords for damage before using. Never use if damaged.

Do not use more than one plug or extension cords with the charger.

Keep charging items out of reach of children and animals when not in use.

Cover charging station outlet to keep water out.

Learn more about electric vehicle fire safety, find training information, and download the free safety tip sheet at

[nfpa.org/evsafetyinfo](http://nfpa.org/evsafetyinfo).

Information on the safe use of smaller devices that use lithium-ion batteries such as computers, smart phones, e-bikes and e-scooters, can be found at [nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety](http://nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety) and [nfpa.org/ebikes](http://nfpa.org/ebikes).

### About the NFPA

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).





# region

## State awards HCC \$1.46 million to build nursing workforce training program

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College and its partners have been awarded a state grant worth nearly \$1.46 million to create a certified nursing assistant to licensed practical nurse training program to help area hospitals meet their workforce needs.

Earlier this month, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced a total of \$3.9 million in Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success grants for six initiatives representing employers and collaborative organizations across the Commonwealth.

The lion's share of that money - \$1,457,143 - will go to an HCC-led training program to assist 86 unemployed or underemployed individuals transition from jobs as nursing aides to positions as licensed practical nurses.

The grants, funded through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund and distributed by the Commonwealth Corporation, aim to increase sustainable wage career pathways for Massachusetts residents facing employment barriers and improve the competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses by enhancing worker skills and productivity.

HCC's partners in the grant include Baystate Medical Center, Baystate Wing Hospital, MassHire Hampden County, Springfield Works, and the National Fund for Workforce Solutions.

"We are delighted about the Commonwealth Corporation's award to HCC and our many partners in this unique and innovative career pathway in nursing," said HCC President George Timmons in a press release. "Healthcare is one of the largest industry sectors in our region, and it continues to

grow. We hope that this pathway for licensed practical nurses will help create more family sustainable incomes for nursing assistants looking to advance in this exciting and rewarding career."

The multi-stage program will first train individuals as nursing aides, then help them obtain jobs at area hospitals while they continue their training in HCC's LPN program, all the while providing them with wrap-around support services. HCC already has an existing framework for CNA training through its Jump Start program, which is designed for individuals receiving public assistance.

"Every individual in Massachusetts should have access to quality job training, and our employers should have access to the skilled talent they need to do business," said Governor Maura Healey. "Our workforce is our greatest competitive strength. The latest round of Workforce Success Grants is another example of our administration's commitment to expanding opportunities and expanding our lead."

The grants were announced Dec. 18 by Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Lauren Jones during a graduation event at the Boston-area African Bridge Network, which received \$498,655.

To help leverage the state grant for the HCC-led project, the National Fund for Workforce Solutions invested \$200,000 to incorporate the voices and lived experiences of participants in the design of the program to advance equitable employment outcomes.

"This is an amazing achievement," said Anne Kandilis, director of Springfield WORKS/Working Cities Challenge. "Sometimes we focus on the grant itself, but the 18

months of hard collaborative work that goes into proposing something this big is important to lift up too."

According to the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the grants are part of a strategic investment in the Massachusetts workforce to develop programs that support individuals facing barriers to employment, such as lack of formal schooling, language literacy, or past involvement with the criminal justice system.

"Investing in our workforce and our businesses is investing in the Massachusetts economy and puts the state in a position to succeed," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "These grants help organizations attract workers who may be unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing barriers to employment and provide the necessary skills they need to thrive. These grants will help us achieve our workforce development goals, expand our skilled talent pool, and strengthen our competitiveness."

The six grant-funded initiatives aim to train and hire 384 individuals over three years.

The Springfield-based Entrepreneurial & Business Collaborative also received a grant worth \$630,998 to prepare 90 individuals for jobs in the hospitality industry. The group is partnering with the Northampton Brewery, Granny's Baking Table, River Valley Market, Tandem Bagel Company, and Puerto Rico Bakery II.

Other grant recipients include the Training and Upgrading Fund in Quincy (\$717,220), Cambridge College, Inc., in Boston (\$436,062), and Cape Cod Regional Technical High School District in Harwich (\$225,425).

# obituary

## Margaret "Peg" J. (Learned) Stacy

Margaret "Peg" J. (Learned) Stacy died peacefully in Cape Coral, Florida surrounded by her family on March 11, 2024.

She was predeceased by her parents Howard and Elizabeth Learned of Springfield, Vermont and two sisters Joan and Jan.

During her formative years the family moved numerous times until finally settling in Monson. It was there that she met and married Leroy Stacy of Monson, eventually settling down in Ware on Beaver Lake where she enjoyed sailing and having her family over for countless fun times.

She leaves two children, daughter Diana Pluta and her husband David of Cape Coral, Florida and Leroy "Chip" and Jacklyn Stacy of Wilbraham, four grandchildren, Kelly Pinette and husband Gary of Cape Coral, Florida, Kara Pluta of Yulee, Florida, Matt Pluta of West Palm, Florida, and Devan Stacy and wife Caroline of Arlington, and four great-grandchildren, Luke, Trey, Layla, and Aria.

She spent a majority of her adult career working as an Advertising Manager for Turley Publications until retiring at age 62. She loved spending time with family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, loved traveling and was an avid New England Sports fan.

A private family service will take place this summer.

### Death notice

Stacy, Margaret "Peg" J. (Learned)  
Died March 11, 2024

Ware River News

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## Library hosts Mary Lane Hospital talk with Steve Granlund

HARDWICK – The Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville, will host resident Steve Granlund to talk about Mary Lane Hospital on Thursday, May 2 at 6 p.m.

Granlund will talk about the closure of Mary Lane Hospital and its impact on the community. He has done extensive research on this issue and will share what he's learned.

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## BOAT hosts third annual Umbrella of Wellness Fair

BELCHERTOWN – The third annual Umbrella of Wellness Fair will be held this spring at Chestnut Hill Community School.

This event, hosted by Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together, will be free and open to the community on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The mission of the Umbrella of Wellness Fair is the augmentation of holistic well-being within the community through education, engagement, and empowerment.

A schedule for the Umbrella of Wellness Fair activities and mini workshops will be released by the second week of April and posted on the BOAT Facebook page, local social media forums, and in the Belchertown Sentinel.

Main Stage speakers include Zara Phillips, performance and storytelling from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Laura Stack, founder and CEO of Johnny's Ambassadors 2-3 p.m., in the CHCS Auditorium.

Phillips is a singer and songwriter, actor, author, and activist. As an adoptee herself, much of her work is centered around the adoption world and is focused on improving understanding of the lifelong impact of adoption. She is a mother of three and is married to musician Richard Thompson, whom she tours with as harmony singer.

Phillips was raised in Totteridge, North London, and

was adopted as a baby. She found her birth mother at 24 and after a lifelong search, her birth father at 51.



Zara Phillips is one of the main stage speakers for the third annual Umbrella of Wellness fair to be held on Saturday, May 4 at Chestnut Hill Community School.

She was always singing and writing as a child, which led to her becoming a harmony singer in the 1980s, with acts like Bob Geldof, Matt Bianco, David Essex and Nick Kamen.

After a spell of addiction, she became sober at age 22, and devoted more of her time to her own music, writing and activism. Her 2006 CD "When The Rain Stops" and "You me and us" 2011 were produced by

Ted Perlman.

Her new album "Mediation KitKats" is available on CD and all streaming platforms. Her 2008 Film "Roots Unknown" won Best Homegrown Documentary at the NJ Garden State Film Festival.

Her 2008 book, "Mother Me" describes the unfolding of an adoptee raises a family of her own. Her song "I'm Legit", co-written with Darryl McDaniel's of DMC, has been a huge hit in the adoption world and beyond.

"Beneath My Father's Sky", a one woman show that Phillips wrote and performed, was the winner of Best Direction at NYC United Solo festival in 2014, and was also performed in LA, San Francisco, Connecticut, and in London in 2016. Additionally, she has been presented with an "Angel in Adoption" award

2015. She has facilitated workshops with adopted families and mental health professionals.

Her book "Somebody's daughter" published by John Blake/Bonnie Publishers, was released February 2018 in the UK and August 2018 in the USA. She has written and performed a play with the same title in England and the US in 2022 and a production of a film version of the play will be released in early 2024

For 30 years, Stack was best known in the business world as "The Productivity Pro." Her career as a keynote speaker, bestselling author of eight books, and corporate spokesperson came to a screeching halt on Nov. 20, 2019, when her 19-year-old son, Johnny, died by suicide after becoming psychotic from dabbing high-THC marijuana concentrates.

Stack responded by forming the nonprofit, Johnny's Ambassadors, to educate parents, teens, and communities about the dangers of today's high-THC marijuana on adolescent brain development, psychosis, and suicide. Her platform now brings prevention education to drug prevention conferences, community groups, and schools to stop youth marijuana use.

Johnny's story has been told in People Magazine, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Epoch Times, the Inghram Angle, the Untold Story with Martha MacCallum, PBS, and Dr. Phil. Stack is the recipient of the Drug-Free America Foundation's Moxie Award for protecting youth from substances, the Leadership in Advocacy Award from the National Speakers Association, and the American Association of



Submitted Photos  
Laura Stack, founder and CEO of Johnny's Ambassadors, holds a photo of her late son, Johnny.

Suicidology's Loss Survivor of the Year Award. L

Stack is a powerful speaker who brings Johnny's personal warning and solid research together in her book, "The Dangerous Truth About Today's Marijuana: Johnny Stack's Life and Death Story". Described as a force of nature with unstoppable drive and unwavering purpose, Laura is determined to get teens to #StopDabbing.

Please come out to see all the great activities, workshops, and presenters and visit the Welcome Table. As a free community program, you will receive a Umbrella of Wellness tote bag, free raffle tickets for BOAT giveaways (last year there were over 50), and a token worth \$10 at one of the five food trucks.

For more information, please contact Kris Hoag, DFC Program Director by emailing [khoag@belchertownps.org](mailto:khoag@belchertownps.org).

## Step out for Project Bread's 56th Walk for Hunger set for May 5

BOSTON – The Walk for Hunger, Project Bread's annual fundraising event and the Commonwealth's largest and oldest day of community action against hunger, is seeking walkers for the celebration.

The one-day event is set for Sunday, May 5 on the Boston Common, and will feature fam-

ily-friendly activities along the 3-mile loop.

In its 56th year, Project Bread invites you to help raise more than \$1.3 million to support the leading statewide food security organization's approach to permanently solve hunger, which includes working year-round across policy initiatives, pro-

grams, and hunger prevention measures to ensure food access for all children and families in Massachusetts.

Likeminded anti-hunger organizations can enroll in the nonprofit's co-fundraising program, The Commonwealth, forming teams to raise money to support their own work, while also fur-

thering Project Bread's statewide effort.

To register for the event and create a personal or team fundraising page for the Walk for Hunger or to make a donation, visit [projectbread.org/walk](http://projectbread.org/walk) or email [walk@projectbread.org](mailto:walk@projectbread.org).

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### CLUES ACROSS

- Lions do it
- In favor of
- Rest here please (abbr.)
- Pulpits
- Leisure activity
- Fertility god
- Financial obligations
- When you anticipate getting somewhere
- Spanish river
- Sporting events
- Type of tree
- Ceased to be
- Persons
- Synthetic resin
- Relates to photochemical reactions
- Father
- Former Cowboys coach
- City in Finland
- Run batted in

- Got through
- They darken skin
- In a harmful way
- Form of weaving
- City of Angels hoopster
- Caucasian language
- Syngman \_\_\_ Korean president
- Sun up in New York
- Paddled
- Fishes
- Affirmative
- Nimble
- Doctor of Education
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- A small island

### CLUES DOWN

- Cool!
- Hebrew unit of measure
- Swedish rock

- College army
- Favor over another
- Called it a career
- Egg-shaped wind instrument
- Israeli statesman
- Hurries
- Slog
- Midway between south and southeast
- Benedictine monk
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Family of regulator genes
- Surrendering
- Political action committee
- S. American plant
- Long-term memory
- Bark
- Breathes in
- Take hold of
- Everyone has one
- Valentine's Day color
- Drivers' licenses and passports
- Outer walls of castles
- Enters with force
- One thousandth of an inch
- Deceased Chinese politician
- Sugary secretion of plants
- Expressed pleasure
- Shelter
- Utilizes
- 48 Forest resident
- Fashion accessory
- A sharply directional antenna
- Kristofferson, actor
- A bad place to end up
- MLBer Gordon



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413-213-5470

#### HELP WANTED

**BRIMFIELD ANTIQUE MARKET.** May 15-18, seeks food service help. This is a fast paced gig. Email contact information to [emaysfoodservice@gmail.com](mailto:emaysfoodservice@gmail.com)

### HELP WANTED

**CLASS A DRIVER.** Trialex dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

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#### DRIVERS

**INTERSTATE BATTERIES IS SEEKING A DRIVER** for deliveries in Western Mass area. Qualifications include: clean driving record; ability to lift heavy weights; stable job history; good communication skills; high work standards & strong self-organizational skills. Apply in person **8am-5pm M-F 9am-12pm Sat. 230 Chauncey Walker Street (Rte 21) Belcher-town**

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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.

## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: MONDAY AT NOON  
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## public notices

**Notice of Public Hearing Ware Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE V-2024-01**  
NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Zoning Board of Appeals, per the powers given under M.G.L Chapter 40A, will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 7:05 PM** on the application of Daniel and Amy Luksha, for a Variance (V-2024-01). Applicant is requesting variance relief from the size requirements for proposed attached accessory dwelling unit under Section 4.8.D.7, of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Zoning Board of Appeals as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.  
**SITE LOCATION:**

**2 Quarry Street, Ware, MA.** Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 14785, Page 260. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 18-0-01. Zoned: Rural Residential (RR).  
A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk's office and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.  
**WARE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
Lewis Iadarola, Chairman  
05/02, 05/09/2024

**Notice of Public Hearing Ware Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE V-2024-02**  
NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Zoning Board of Appeals, per the powers given under M.G.L Chapter 40A, will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 7:15 PM** on the application of Erik Stuberovskis, for a Variance (V-2024-02). Applicant is requesting variance relief from the setback requirements for proposed accessory structure under Section 5.2.2, of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Zoning Board of Appeals as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.  
**SITE LOCATION:**

**Ware, MA.** Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 7035, Page 060. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 49-0-31. Zoned: Beaver Lake Residential (BLR).  
A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk's office and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.  
**WARE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
Lewis Iadarola, Chairman  
05/02, 05/09/2024

**Hardwick Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing**  
Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board per Hardwick Zoning Bylaw, Sections 3.2.1.d and 4.0 will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 6:45PM** at the **Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01301**  
This Hearing is regarding the application for Special Permit by Laura Haney for the keeping of horses on a parcel of 5 acres or more at 87 Off Ruggles Street in the village of Wheelwright. All interested parties are asked to attend.  
Interested parties may also view this Legal

Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>  
Hardwick Planning Board  
Jenna Garvey, Chair  
04/25, 05/02/2024

**SEE MORE PUBLIC NOTICES ON PAGE 15**

**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.



# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WARE HOUSING AUTHORITY

**Description:** The Ware Housing Authority (WHA) is seeking a qualified and experienced housing administrator for the position of Executive Director. The Authority's portfolio includes 86 units of Ch. 667 Elderly/Handicapped, 23 units of Ch.705 Family and 61 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. The candidate should be familiar with both the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program requirements.

**Minimum Requirements:** A minimum of 2 years' experience in public or private housing management, community development, public administration, non-profit administration, or a related field that demonstrates strong management and organization skills. Knowledge of the principles, practices of state and federal public housing management programs, capital improvement planning, technology systems, maintenance, and finances desired. Strong organizational and personnel management skills desired. One year of experience overseeing at least three staff persons or as a significant project team leader or program administrator strongly preferred.

Possess excellent written and verbal skills for an ability to communicate effectively with local officials, boards, residents, service providers and funding agencies. Experience working with the public, as well as individuals of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator (MPHA) desired or obtained within one year.

Must be proficient in Word, Excel and Outlook. Familiarity with centralized public housing wait lists (CHAMP), housing software, HUD and EOHLC databases and reporting systems desired. Other preferred credentials include graduation from an accredited two to four-year college or university and a passion for the mission of affordable housing.

The maximum salary is \$94,975 and is dependent upon experience, education, and certifications in accordance with EOHLC Executive Director Salary Schedule. The required work hours are 37 1/2 hours per week and the position includes excellent benefits. The candidate will be subject to qualification verification prior to employment.

To apply in confidence please submit a cover letter and resume to **Kenneth R. Martin, Consultant, at kenmartin1208@gmail.com with "Ware ED position" in the subject line.**

The deadline is no later than the close of business on May 24, 2024. Late applications shall not be considered. More detailed information will be required of applicants that advance to the next level of consideration.

Diverse applicants are encouraged to apply.  
The Ware Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Hardwick Planning Board**  
**Notice of Public Hearing**  
Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board per Hardwick Zoning Bylaw, Sections 3.2.4.u and 4.0 will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 7:00PM** at the **Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01301**

This Hearing is regarding the application for Special Permit by Amanda Shea to have a dog kennel for 15 dogs at 1163 Petersham Road. All interested parties are asked to attend.

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

Hardwick Planning Board  
Jenna Garvey, Chair  
04/25, 05/02/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Hampshire Probate and Family Court**  
**15 Atwood Drive**  
**Northampton, MA 01060**  
**(413)586-8500**  
**Docket No.**  
**HS21P0634EA**  
**Estate of:**

**Andrew E. Stallone**  
**Also known as:**  
**Andrew Eric Stallone**  
**Date of Death:**  
**07/29/2021**  
**CITATION FOR**  
**PETITION FOR**  
**ORDER OF COM-**  
**plete Settlement**  
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Karen R. Andreacci of Mount Joy, PA and John Andreacci of Mount Joy, PA** requesting that the court

enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, First, Second and Final Accounts of the Special Personal Representative and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**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 05/23/2024.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 25, 2024

**Mark S Ames**  
Register of Probate  
05/02/2024

**Ware Housing Authority,**  
**20 Valley View**  
**Ware, MA 01082**  
**ADVERTISEMENT**  
**TO BID**  
**Project Number**  
**EOHLC# 316098**  
The WARE HOUSING AUTHORITY, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for replacement of existing fire alarm control panel and heat detectors with

addressable type at Valley View 667-1 & Valley View Annex 667-2.

The estimated cost is \$84,228

**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID.** Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 online at [www.bid-docsonline.com](http://www.bid-docsonline.com).

Bid Deadline is May 10, 2024 at 1 p.m.

A pre-bid walkthrough is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 11:00 AM.

Meet outside the Community Building, 20 Valley View, Ware, MA. 05/02/2024

**Public Hearing Notice**  
**Planning Board**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to an Order of Remand from the Worcester Superior Court (Yarashus, J.), dated April 9, 2024, in **Copart of Connecticut, Inc. v. Planning Board of the Town of Warren**, Case No. 2185CV01353, that the Town of Warren Planning Board will hold a public remand hearing on **Monday, May 13, 2024, at 7:15 P.M.** at the Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High Street, Selectmen's Meeting Room on the Special Permit and Site Plan Approval Applications filed by Copart of Connecticut, Inc., 14185 Dallas Parkway, Suite, 300, Dallas, TX. The Applications proposed an extension of the pre-existing nonconforming automobile junkyard/salvage yard use, which includes storage of junk/scrap vehicles and parts, within the various parcels shown on the plans submitted by

## public notices

Copart of Connecticut, Inc. and located at 600 Old West Warren Road, Warren, MA. The land is shown on the Assessors' Map 15-0-52, 15-0-54, 15-0-47, 15-0-47.1, 16-0-3, 16-0-4, and 16-0-7. The owner of said property is Copart of Connecticut, Inc.

The Planning Board previously voted to grant the Applications with Conditions of Approval. This Decision was filed with the Town Clerk on December 15, 2021. Pursuant to an agreement between Copart of Connecticut, Inc., and the Town of Warren, and in accordance with the requirements of M.G.L. c. 40A, § 17, the Planning Board has agreed to hold a further public hearing on the Applications for the purpose of issuing an Amended Decision.

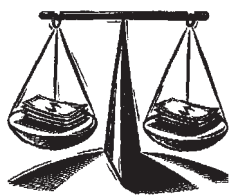
Said public hearing is being held in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 17, and the requirements of the Town of Warren Zoning Bylaw. Copies of the Applications

and related documents are on file in the Planning Board office and may be viewed during regular Planning Board business hours. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated above. All interested parties are invited to attend.

The meeting may be accessed remotely via Zoom, please go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86927064530?pwd=RjjV0V2NHJJeG5UWnY4cittQINIQT09>

Meeting ID:  
869 2706 4530  
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Warren Planning Board  
05/02, 05/09/2024

SEE MORE PUBLIC NOTICES ON PAGE 15



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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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## Connect with your local rivers with C4R

C4R, the Chicopee 4 Rivers watershed council, is launching into 2024 bringing continuity to our caring four local rivers (Swift, Ware, Quaboag and Chicopee) with water quality monitoring/bacteria for recreational health, fun paddles, and Blue Trail care efforts.

C4R has posted a schedule of these on its website, [c4rivers.org](http://c4rivers.org).

C4R is looking for a few committed sampling volunteers for sites in Warren, Ware and Belchertown. Sampling is done twice a month, early on Thursday mornings in June, July, August and

September. Training and all needed materials are provided.

Interested in helping? Email [chicopeewatershed@gmail.com](mailto:chicopeewatershed@gmail.com).

To help C4R continue with its effort, support and join them by visiting [www.c4rivers.org](http://www.c4rivers.org).



## \$6 million intimate partner violence intervention study approved

BOSTON – A Veterans Affairs Boston researcher was approved for \$6 million in funding by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to study a comprehensive, personalized intervention for patients who have experienced intimate partner violence, commonly known as IPV.

The study is co-led by Dr. Katherine Iverson, clinical research psychologist at the Women's Health Sciences Division of the National Center for PTSD and VA Boston Healthcare System, investigator at the Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research, and associate professor of psychiatry at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, and Dr. Melissa Dichter, a researcher at the VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion, and associate professor in the College of Public Health at Temple University.

It will test whether Recovering from IPV through Strengths and Empowerment – RISE – or brief advocacy counseling, which is the most common intervention, is better for improving self-efficacy and mental health symptoms, such as depression, among patients with past-year IPV at VA healthcare facilities.

RISE was developed for patients experiencing IPV, to provide them with an individualized, motivational and flexible intervention that addresses safety planning, IPV health effects and warning signs, coping and self-care, social support, sexual violence over the lifespan, and connecting with resources and moving forward.

"Early research on RISE suggests it's effective at improving patients' self-efficacy and depression symptoms," said Dichter in a press release. "However, it's not known how well RISE works compared to what patients typically receive for IPV intervention in healthcare settings. That's what we want to find out."

The five-year study will randomly assign patients to either RISE or brief advocacy. Participants will answer questions about self-efficacy and depression

symptoms before receiving treatment, 12 weeks later, and every three months after that for one year. Researchers will compare which intervention – RISE versus brief advocacy – worked better to increase self-efficacy and decrease depression symptoms.

More information is available at <https://www.pcori.org/research-results/2024/rise-versus-advocacy-based-enhanced-care-usual-patients-experiencing-intimate-partner-violence>

"IPV is more common among military Veterans, so there's a particular need for more personalized, structured and comprehensive interventions among this group," said Iverson. "What we learn from this study is likely to be helpful for improving health outcomes among Veterans, and among the general population, as well."

The study was selected by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, or PCORI, through a competitive review process in which patients, caregivers and other stakeholders join scientists to evaluate proposals. The award has been approved pending completion of a business and programmatic review by PCORI staff and a formal award contract.

"This project was selected for PCORI funding not only for its scientific merit and commitment to engaging patients and other healthcare stakeholders, but also for its conduct in real-world settings. It has the potential to answer an important question about IPV interventions and fill a crucial evidence gap," said PCORI executive director Dr. Nakela Cook. "We look forward to following the study's progress, and working with Dr. Iverson, Dr. Dichter and their team to share its results."

PCORI is an independent, nonprofit organization authorized by Congress with a mission to fund patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research that provides patients, their caregivers and clinicians with the evidence-based information they need to make better informed health and healthcare decisions.



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