

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Residents voice concerns about town officials, hospital demo

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Resident Keith Kruckas said he has “a great concern” with allowing Selectboard member Terrance Smith to vote on any town matters until the issue of his residency is resolved.

At the Aug. 22 Selectboard meeting, Kruckas also questioned why a third person was not appointed to the Board of Registrars.

Kruckas said in the six years he was on the Selectboard, he never heard about a third person needing to be appointed to that board. Selectboard Chair and Town Clerk

Nancy Talbot serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Registrars, which has two other members.

“I find it a huge conflict and ethical thing to have the chair of the board overseeing any kind of hearing or participate in any kind of hearing to do with that,” he said. Talbot said the vacancy on the

Board of Registrars has been posted on the town’s website since the third member resigned. The position needs to be appointed by the Selectboard, usually from candidates recommended by the Democratic Town Committee.

The town does not currently have a Democratic Town Committee. Talbot said the position

is open to any Democrat who is a registered voter in the town.

Talbot said an attorney will be present at the Aug. 28 hearing to help guide the Board of Registrars, following a complaint filed by Selectboard Vice-Chair Josh Kusnierz. The hearing will determine whether Smith is eligible to serve as an elected or appointment

official while he is temporarily living out of town.

Kruckas also discussed an audit being conducted of the Town Hall, something that has been ongoing for five months. He said the former accountant has been coming in on Saturdays since the audit began.

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 3



### Athletes enjoy summer soccer camp

WARE – Ware Soccer Club held its annual Summer Camp at Memorial Field last week, with a large group of young athletes learning and developing skills with the help of a team of coaches led by Herb Foley.

This is the fourth year the club has held the camp following a hiatus, and this year, the Summer Camp included an extra day as interest in the sport continues to grow.

“It’s gotten a little bigger and bigger,” Foley said of the soccer camp, with many returning players. “We want kids to come back and help out with the camp.”

Many of those players become coaches, like Jess Burke, who played in the Ware Soccer Club since she was a young child before playing for Ware High School.

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Thomas took the ball to the goal during Ware Soccer Club’s annual Summer Camp at Memorial Field last week.

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

## Board hears results of ADA self-evaluation plan

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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WARREN – Representatives from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and the Center for Living and Working shared information gathered from the town’s Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

At the Board of Selectmen’s Aug. 22 meeting, CMRPC’s Connor Robichaud was joined by Mike Kennedy and Jim Mazik of the Center for Living and Working. Robichaud said CMRPC subcontracts with the Center for Living and Working to help communities with these plans.

Robichaud said the work to complete this plan was funded through a grant received from the Massachusetts Office of Disability.

Kennedy is the ADA Accessibility Specialist for the Center for Living and Working and he shared some of his findings and recommendations from the self-evaluation.

He said the town does not currently have a commission on disability, nor does it have record of previously having had one. He recommended the town establish a five-member commission.

Kennedy said Karen Dusty is listed as the ADA Coordinator on the Massachusetts Office of Disability website. He recommended that her position also be listed on the town’s website and bulletin board to be more accessible to residents.

He said the town does have a nondiscrimination document, but it should also be posted for residents to find easily. Kennedy also suggested creating an ADA Coordinator webpage with links to important documents.

Kennedy said the town has a general grievance procedure; but it has not adopted an ADA grievance procedure.

Kennedy also recommended adding nondiscriminatory language to job descriptions.

“The job description should have some kind of statement saying it’s an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on basis of disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations so they can do essential functions of the job,” he said.

Kennedy said the town’s website is accessible for those who use screen-readers.

Mazik outlined some of the areas in town that need changes

Please see **WARREN**, page 7

## Task force will look at bringing healthcare to Hardwick

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Resident Judi Korzec gave the Select Board an update on a healthcare project she has been discussing with the Board of Health and others.

At the Aug. 26 meeting, Korzec said there are five pillars to the project, which she hopes will bring healthcare to Hardwick and its surrounding towns.

These pillars include the demolition status of Mary Lane Hospital in Ware, the Gilbert Trust, the model for healthcare in the community, grant funding and location identification.

“The Mary Lane demolition’s a really big deal,” she said. “When it was decided that Mary Lane was being brought down, it’s really interesting that Hardwick was not really brought into these discussions.”

Korzec said Baystate Health not only shut down Mary Lane Hospital, but it also sold all five health plans it was managing to a private equity group.

“This is not just about ‘we don’t have a building anymore,’” she said. “We’re going to have a lot of people in town that are actually not getting to have their healthcare accessible in the same way...it’s a really serious situation out here.”

Korzec said there is a demolition delay for the buildings on the Mary Lane Hospital property, and that Ware residents are fighting against what their town has already agreed to, due to a number of issues including cost, liability and asbestos.

“I get it, it’s a big fight,” she said.

Korzec said the demolition delay is “ultimately delaying the inevitable.”

Korzec said it’s important that the people of Hardwick pay attention to the various trusts tied up in Mary Lane Hospital, including the Gilbert Trust and the Paige Trust. She said the Mary Lane Hospital property is tied to the trust.

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## Ware Grange hosts its 77th annual fair

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The 77th Annual Ware Grange Fair took place over the course of two days on Aug. 23 and 24.

All events are run by the Grange and its faithful members. There was a total of 81 exhibitors, with 19 new exhibitors this year. The grange had a total of 347 entrants, 252 adult entrants, 95 youth entrants.

There were 134 agricultural entries and 213 non agriculture entries.

Rosette winners: Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources - Special Agriculture Rosette for the adults was Blanche Carlson of Ware for the Vegetable Display. The first place Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources Special Agriculture Rosette for the youth was Lukka Hastings of Palmer for chicken eggs.

Hastings proudly held his ribbon alongside the dozen of eggs he entered into the fair. He is 7 years old and also won a prize for one of

Please see **GRANGE**, page 6



Submitted Photo by Randy Vaill  
Lukka Hastings of Palmer holds his ribbon for chicken eggs at the Ware Grange Fair.

## CDA reviews CDBG grant application

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Community Development Authority reviewed their application results for the fiscal year 2024 Community Development Block Grant program.

At the Aug. 19 meeting, the CDA members spoke with Erica Johnson of Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to review an update on their CDBG application. One of the fundable projects the CDA was looking to use the grant for was a splash pad at the town’s community swimming pool.

According to Johnson, when applying for a CDBG grant, the town would also need a strong infrastructure project. Johnson said the town’s application for a CDBG grant did not score well.

Johnson said she was surprised by this, and the reviewers took

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

# The Centered Place offers free hybrid yoga presentation

WARREN – Megan McDonough will be giving a free presentation titled “Yoga and the Science of Happiness” at The Centered Place and via Zoom, Wednesday evening Sept. 11, from 7:15-8:30 p.m.

McDonough is the founder of Wholebeing Institute, a global educational organization based in Hardwick that teaches the science and practice of living life to its fullest – physically, emotionally, intellectually, relationally and spiritually.

In this presentation, she will draw on research from the modern, evidence-based sciences of positive psychology and neuroscience and she will go beyond western science to share what yoga has to say about fulfillment and happiness. Yoga is also an evidence-based science and one of the world’s greatest and oldest wisdom traditions and practices.

McDonough said in a press release, “We are always striving to live this human life with less suffering and more joy. We want happiness and peace.”

She will guide you in an exploration of what constitutes true happiness and how to experience more of it.

The Centered Place yoga studio has served the local area since 1988. It was founded by Nancy A Nowak, who continues to co-direct and teach along with her husband, Phil Milgrom.



Submitted Photo  
**Megan McDonough will present “Yoga and the science of Happiness” at The Centered Place in Warren and via Zoom on Sept. 11 from 7:15-8:30 p.m.**

The studio was voted Best in Yoga by Sturbridge Times readers for several consecutive years up to when the magazine was discontinued.

To register for this event, or for more information, email [phil@thecenteredplace.com](mailto:phil@thecenteredplace.com) or call 413-436-7374. Masks are welcomed.

If you have been exposed to COVID-19, follow CDC recommendations. If you have COVID symptoms or test positive for the virus, you can still join us by attending online

# 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.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com).

File Photo  
Last week's photo from 1977 showed Librarian Grace B. Hanson with JoAnn Crevier, Libby Robinson and Brie Kelly checking out the new audio visual material at the Paige Memorial Library. JoAnn (Crevier) Bousquet correctly identified the photo. 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).

# 200th anniversary of Marquis de Lafayette's Farewell Tour of the U.S. is Sept. 3

STURBRIDGE – This year marks the bicentennial celebration of the Marquis de Lafayette's Farewell Tour of the United States in 1824.

Throughout that year-long tour of all 24 states, Americans honored Lafayette with a parade and great fanfare at almost every stop he made. Local craftspeople also produced many types of commemorative memorabilia, such as the pictured drum, baby shoes, and ribbons, now in the Old Sturbridge Village Museum Collection.

When Lafayette toured the state of Massachusetts in 1824 his final stop was in the Town of Sturbridge, where he was greeted by a martial band, the Town's artillery company, and thousands of civilians.

their cannon, and the musicians from the Uxbridge Grenadiers.

There will be a triumphal arch, toasts by costumed interpreters from Old Sturbridge Village, fife and drum music, as well as performances by the OSV Singers and Dancers. Experience the closest thing to the actual events that took place in 1824 here in Sturbridge.

This ceremony is free and open to the public.

This commemorative event is part of The American Friends of Lafayette's 2024-2025 Bicentennial Tour, which will take place across the 24 states that Lafayette visited on his Farewell Tour. For more details about The American Friends of Lafayette and other Bicentennial Tour programming, please visit [lafayette200.org](http://lafayette200.org).

**Commemorative ceremony**  
Join the Sturbridge Historical Society and Old Sturbridge Village on Sept. 3 at 6 p.m. for a commemorative event on the Sturbridge Town Common, the exact ground where Lafayette stopped. An actor portraying Lafayette will be greeted by costumed interpreters portraying veterans of the Revolution, members of the Sturbridge Artillery, who will stand by with

**Banquet at the Publick House**  
At 7:30 p.m., there will be a banquet commemorating Lafayette's visit to Massachusetts and New Hampshire at the Publick House, which is one of the buildings that Lafayette actually visited in 1824. The dinner is the Publick House's distinctive “Yankee Dinner Buffet.”  
Alan Hoffman, President of

American Friends of Lafayette and translator of the account written by Lafayette's secretary, will reflect on the contrast between the original tour and its just completed recreation. There will be an additional discussion of Lafayette's human rights record.

Members of the Colonel Timothy Bigelow chapter of the DAR will do a presentation on “Lafayette and the Ladies.”

Tickets are \$75 per person and pre-registration is required. Limited spaces are available.

To purchase tickets, go to the website for The American Friends of Lafayette, search under Events for Sturbridge Publick House Banquet.

For more information, visit the American Friends of Lafayette at [www.friendsoflafayette.org](http://www.friendsoflafayette.org) or learn more about the planned 24-state bicentennial events at [www.lafayette200.org](http://www.lafayette200.org).

For a detailed summary of each city and town Lafayette visited in 1824, and speeches given, visit Peter Reilly's blog at [www.lafayetteMA1824.org](http://www.lafayetteMA1824.org). Reilly is the Chairman of the Massachusetts committee organizing Lafayette's tour across the Commonwealth.

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# Town Clerk shares voting information for State Primary

WARREN – Polling hours for the State Primary election will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 3 from 7 a.m.- 8p.m. at the Shepard Municipal Building.



– WARE –

# Town Clerk lists polling hours for State Primary

WARE –Voting which will take place in the Town of Ware prior for the State Primary on Tuesday, Sept. 3 with polling hours from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Voting will take place in the auditorium of the Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St. and parking is available across the street in Veterans Park or on Main Street.

Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk, Nancy J. Talbot by calling 413-967-9648 extension 103.



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

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**WB&CA**  
Ware Business & Civic Association

# and Beyond!

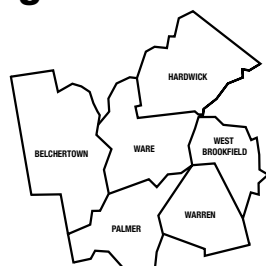


Ware Business & Civic Association now includes the communities of Palmer, Belchertown, West Brookfield, Warren and Hardwick. Businesses and organizations from those towns are welcome to join!



# JOIN TODAY!

Visit [warebca.com](http://warebca.com)  
email [warebca@gmail.com](mailto:warebca@gmail.com)



Ready to take your business to new heights while having a blast? Join us on this exciting ride! Let's be partners in growth and partners in fun.

# Join Our Small-Town Business Development Adventure!

Are you a small business owner looking to boost your community presence and connect with fellow entrepreneurs? Look no further! Welcome to the heart of our towns' growth and success - the Ware Business & Civic Association...and Beyond!

## Our Mission

We're not just any organization – we're a community catalyst! Our mission is clear: foster camaraderie among local businesses, creating a vibrant hub that transforms our town into a must-visit destination for all. We're here to ignite connections, inspire growth, and spark innovation.

## Why Join Us?

Referrals are just the beginning! As a member, you'll enjoy the spotlight on your business within our close-knit community. Think of us as your business's ultimate cheerleaders, making sure your unique offerings shine bright.

## A Legacy of Achievement

Since 2011, our committee has been making waves. We're not just about meetings – we're about momentum. From securing endorsements for local businesses to orchestrating events that turn visitors into regulars, we've been shaping our towns' destiny, one success story at a time.

## Events that Sparkle

Who says business can't be fun? Picture this: quarterly membership nights that blend networking with laughter. We're all about community, after all – and a little friendly competition in the bowling alley or at the axe throwing yard never hurt anyone.

## Network that Expands

With a sprawling member base, joining us means getting in on the action. Your business won't just get noticed; it'll become a star in our constellation of local talent.

## An Investment in Success

For just \$120 per year, you're securing your spot in our thriving business ecosystem.

## Seamless Entry

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# PROGRAM MEETING

Wednesday, September 11, 7 p.m.

Work days

Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
September 7, 14, 21 & 28

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## Town Clerk lists State Primary information

**HARDWICK** – Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos reminded voters that the town’s polling location is at the Hardwick Elementary School, 76 School House Dr., Gilbertville, with the entrance being the side door to the gymnasium.

Those with mobility issues can reach out to his office to ensure they have ease of access to the front of the building.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024.

# School Committee reviews student handbook updates

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**WARE** – The School Committee met prior to the start of the school year to discuss new updates and reports.

Superintendent Michael Lovato spoke with the committee about updates to each school’s student handbook updates. He said the handbook was out of date and nearly 100 pages long.

“We do a lot of repeat of policies,” Lovato said. “We’re making the handbook more available.”

There are several changes made to the new yearbook regarding clubs and activities as they’re no longer available at the schools.

Behavioral contracts were added and were signed by parents, students and staff.

These contracts apply to students and their commitment to abide by using appropriate language in classroom settings, no refusal of work, no physical harm to students and staff and several other expectations. Lovato mentioned that expectations were already in the handbook, but in the past some were just not being followed.

At Ware Junior Senior High School one of the biggest changes to this year is the attendance policy. Lovato mentioned that student attendance is essential and the policies should be handled accordingly.

“We need to respond to situations appropriately,” Lovato said.

There are also zero tolerance policies in place as well, but the handbook needs to be approved before the start of the school year. Once approved, the principals of each school will share highlights of the handbook for all parties to be aware, from teachers, parents and students.

Committee Chair Brian Winslow wanted confirmation the handbook features a policy where students must leave for early dismissal to go to a game. Lovato confirmed that there is.

Lovato then discussed how the district will handle missed work and teachers will provide some parameters about make-up work. When it comes to makeup work, the Department of Elementary and

Secondary Education has rules about what is required for students making up missed work.

Lovato will talk with the teachers regarding distributing missed work to students, especially if a student is absent over a certain period of time. A protocol will be in place to ensure that students get make-up work during extended absences.

The School Committee voted to accept the attendance policy and the student handbooks.

**Superintendent’s report**

Lovato shared that the schools have been busy in preparing for the new school year to begin. Many new positions have been filled and there are a couple positions still available, including a couple of

teacher positions.

School activities are starting as well. Many students are preparing for sports including football and soccer.

“We’re ready for day one,” Lovato said.

Committee member Michael DuBois thanked Lovato and the school community for their countless hours of work throughout the summer as the new school year approaches.

“You’re not done working when there’s no students,” DuBois said.

The School Committee will have one more meeting at the end of August. They will also be doing walkthroughs of all the buildings starting with Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School.

## Friends of Ware Town Hall host autumn porch pot fundraiser

**WARE** – The Friends of Ware Town Hall are planning another of their “famous” Sunday afternoon fundraising workshops at Bemis Nursery in Spencer on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 1 p.m.

The project for this workshop will be a beautiful four-foot long straw broom decorated with colorful dried flowers. The broom is suitable for hanging on a protected front door or a wall or door inside the home.

The fee is \$35 per person, payable in advance with all supplies and hands on instruction provided

by Bemis Nursery located at 29 North Brookfield Road, Spencer.

Make plans to attend this fun workshop with a group of friends and/or family and send your check for registration to: Friends of Ware Town, P.O. Box 692, Ware, MA 01082

Be sure to include a phone number where you can be reached and the names of any others who will be attending with you. The reservation deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 3.

All are welcome to join the Friends for an afternoon of laughter and creativity.

## Rep. Berthiaume, Sen. Durant list office hours

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume’s Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant’s, District Liaison, Jared Grigg and Kim Mongeau, communications director, invite constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with.

People may call Donna if they would like a private meeting at 774-402-4742. Scheduled office hours include on Tuesday, Sept. 10 from 9-10 a.m. at the Senior Center in Leicester and

from 10:15-11:15 a.m. at Howe Village in Spencer. Rep. Marsi’s staff Tammy will be joining them that day.

Office hours include on Wednesday, Sept. 11 from 9-10 a.m. at the Town Hall in New Braintree, from 10:15-11:15 a.m. at the Senior Center in North Brookfield and from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in East Brookfield.

Office hours include on Monday, Sept. 16 from 9-10 a.m. in the Senior Center and Town Office in Hubbardston, from

10:15-11:15 a.m. in the Senior Center in Barre and from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the upstairs level of Town Hall in Oakham.

Office hours on Thursday, Sept. 19 include from 9-10 a.m. in the Senior Center in Ware, from 10:15-11:15 a.m. in the Town Hall in Hardwick and from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Senior Center in West Brookfield. Office hours on Monday, Sept. 19 are from 12:45-1:45 p.m. in the Town Hall in Brookfield.

## Ware Grange lists upcoming September workshops

**WARE** – Ware Grange’s next gardening workshop, “Unique Heirloom Plants,” will be held on Friday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

The presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly “In the Garden” column for Turley Publications.

Participants will learn about a wide array of heirloom plants that have interesting names, shapes or usage. From unique flowers to strangely shaped seeds or fruit, these heirlooms aren’t your average run of the mill plants, and for good reason.

The next Kids’ Corner at Ware Grange will be “Leaves, Nuts, Cones, Trees and More!” and will take place on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 9:30 a.m. at the Grange Hall. Kids’ Corner workshops are led by local preschool teacher, Jen McNally.

In this workshop, kids will learn about trees and their leaves, nuts and cones through stories and songs. There will be activities to learn about the importance of trees.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information about upcoming workshops.

### WARE BOS from page 1

“I brought it up for years about what goes on here on the weekends, and there’s clearly stuff going on,” he said. “It is time for change, and we need to start holding people accountable to what’s going on here. There is clearly a problem and I think it’s like blatantly obvious.”

Kruckas said he wanted to know why the former accountant would be in the Town Hall while the audit is going on. He also wanted to know how Talbot could run the hearing to determine the validity of fellow selectboard member Smith’s residency in town.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the auditor found all of the records they were looking for about three weeks ago, and is behind in completing the report.

“They should give us the report of their findings soon,” he said.

Hardwick resident Stephen Granlund shared concerns about communication being “slow walked” to town counsel, KP Law, by Beckley.

Granlund said he called KP Law Attorney Nicole Costanzo, and requested approval from the Selectboard to communicate directly with KP Law and provide information he has gathered regarding the proposed demolition of Mary Lane Hospital.

Beckley said all parties involved are working toward securing healthcare for the area.

Beckley said he spoke to Costanzo, inquiring about the pro-

cess of a cease and desist on the demolition of Mary Lane Hospital. He said Costanzo has delegated research of the cease and desist to another attorney in the firm with information to be provided at the Aug. 26 Historical Commission meeting.

Kusnierz made a motion to allow Granlund to communicate directly with KP Law, with a spending limit of \$5,000 for attorney fees. He said he believed having Granlund speak directly with town counsel would be more efficient.

Selectboard members voted in favor of Kusnierz’s motion, with Smith abstaining.

Granlund also brought up concerns about a lack of posted meeting minutes, which he said are a requirement of open meeting law.

“I’m not in this ever to make anybody look bad, I don’t want the town to have to pay a fine,” he said.

**Town Manager’s report**

Beckley said bulky waste day will be held in the parking lot of the Ware Public Schools on Nov. 2 and a hazardous waste collection at ReSource Waste Services of Ware on Oct. 26.

He said hazardous waste collection is free, but bulky waste will have fees per item. A flyer outlining the cost of bulky waste items will be sent to each household.

Beckley said the director of maintenance

position will be filled the following Monday and he is reviewing applications for the position of administrative assistant for the Department of Public Works.

Beckley said the bridge over Muddy Brook on North Street has been recommended for partial closure.

“The town has known this is coming, and has an earmark from the state legislature to repair,” he said. “That repair should happen next spring and summer.”

Beckley said the damaged bathrooms at Grenville Park tested negative for asbestos and can be demolished by the DPW. The debris can be disposed of at ReSource Waste Services of Ware per the town’s Host Community Agreement with the company.

**Vacant properties**

Beckley said 71 letters were sent from the Building Department to suspected vacant property owners. He said of those letters, 14 came back unanswered.

“It will take some follow-up, particularly with letters that were returned,” he said.

**Candlelight vigil**

Julie Lutz, program director at the Recovery Center of HOPE shared information about a candlelight vigil that will be held at Veterans Park on Friday, Aug. 30 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Prior to the vigil, all are welcome to meet at

the center’s 52 Main St. location from 5:15-6:15 p.m. for food and fellowship.

“We’re hosting a candlelight vigil in honor of Overdose Awareness Day,” Lutz said. “This will be an opportunity for people to gather and unite.”

Lutz said many people in the community have been impacted by the opioid epidemic. She said there will be many speakers, prayers and a time to share the names of loved ones lost to overdose.

She said they will have tables of resources set up for residents as well.

**Safe Streets grant**

Beckley said the Safety Action Plan was created under the Safe Streets for All grant program and looked at all of the crash and accident data collected over the years.

It highlights sections of road and intersections where bikes, pedestrians and vehicles have been involved in accidents. The plan creates strategies to improve these areas.

Beckley said a list of the top eight priority areas was created, which include the North and Church street ends of Pleasant Street, sidewalks on Gould Road, various pedestrian and motorist improvements to West Street, an intersection on Babcock Tavern and the intersection of Belchertown and Anderson roads.

He said once the Selectboard approves the adoption of this plan, the town can apply for grants.

The Selectboard will review the Safety Action Plan and take action on it at a later meeting.

**Revised HCA**

A representative from Cedar Roots, LLC came before the Selectboard with a revised draft of their existing Host Community Agreement, removing the fixed 3% impact fee, due to changes in the Cannabis Control Commission’s requirements.

She said the draft HCA now reflects that the town can levy up to a 3% impact fee, but has to be able to tie the fees to a specific impact of the business.

The Selectboard approved the revised HCA with Cedar Roots, LLC.

**Resignation**

The Selectboard accepted the resignation of Nicholas Bousquet from the Community Development Authority. Bousquet will be attending college this fall, but he will continue to serve on the Agricultural Committee.

“I think Nick is a role model to a lot of his peers to step up and be part of his town’s government and help out where he could,” Kusnierz said.

## Community Clean Up will be held Sept. 28

**WARE** – Keep Ware Beautiful will host a Community Clean Up on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Participants should meet on the front steps of the United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., to pick up equipment and trash bags before taking part in the townwide clean-up.

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## Retiree asks about his Social Security

Dear Rusty:

I retired with a (gross) \$4,600 per month Civil Service Retirement System annuity from the U.S. Postal Service in December 2022. I am 66 and will attain Full Retirement Age in November of this year.

I know at that point I will not be subject to the "earnings" test, but I will be affected by the dreaded "government offset." I have earned enough quarters and will be eligible for a small social security benefit.

First question: will my Social Security benefit just be reduced or will it be eliminated? Second: will it make a difference if I apply in November or when I turn 70? I am currently working part-time and paying Social Security FICA taxes.

Third: if my SS is being eliminated, do I even have to apply? Fourth and last: I am married, filing jointly and my wife is currently receiving SS benefits (only). Could I also be affected by the "windfall" provision if my wife predeceased me?

Thank you in advance for your service as a Social Security Advisor.

Signed: Upset to Offset and Downfall to Windfall

Dear Upset:

You are correct that when you reach your Full Retirement Age in November you will no longer be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. But if you apply for your Social Security to start in November, your SS benefits will be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision due to your non-covered CSRS pension because you didn't pay into SS while earning your CSRS pension.

As you may know, only those federal employees, who retired under CSRS are affected by WEP; newer Federal employees, who retire under the more recent Federal Employee Retirement Program group are not affected.

Because of your CSRS pension, your Social Security benefit will be reduced, but not eliminated. The amount of reduction will be based on the number of years of non-government employment you had where you paid into Social Security. Usually, those who have spent a lifetime earning a pension without contributing to SS, but who have a separately earned SS pension, will see their SS benefit cut approximately in half.

To answer your second question, your benefit will, indeed, continue to grow if you wait until you are age 70 to claim Social Security.

Benefits taken after one's FRA earn "Delayed Retirement Credits," which add to your final benefit amount. Your benefit will still be reduced by WEP, but your final amount will be more because you waited longer to claim.

Regarding your third question, your SS benefit will only be reduced, not eliminated, so it's always worthwhile to apply. Otherwise, you are forfeiting Social Security money you are entitled to.

And lastly, if your wife dies before you, your CSRS pension will also cause another provision called the Government Pension Offset provision to apply. The GPO will reduce your surviving spouse benefits by 2/3rds of the amount of your government CSRS pension, which will likely eliminate any spousal benefit you are entitled to except the so-called "death benefit," which is a one-time lump sum \$255 benefit paid to a surviving spouse).

*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 [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



## Next year I will not...

It's just about now when I feel, to some degree, embarrassed to be called the Garden Lady.

You see, my garden is not as well kept as I'd like it to be. I skimped in a few areas that I shouldn't of.

As my oldest is about to enter her last year of high school I reflect back on the year of her birth, and how dismal my garden was that year. It was the first summer without a dog to keep critters at bay. We had a whole family of woodchucks eat pretty much everything in the garden.

I consoled myself by saying that I was growing a human that year and not a bunch of vegetables.

While responsibilities have changed in the fact I am no longer changing diapers or zipping up avocado and sweet potato in the blender, I'm still pretty busy with the kids and that has taken priority over a tidy garden. Usually it comes down to getting out what you put in and honestly, the garden has pretty much been on it's own since mid June. Gasp.

Maybe you can relate. So, the column

today will be about what I plan to do better on next year, especially since I don't anticipate life slowing down anytime soon.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, skimp on fertilizer. My nature is to be frugal, but I will go back to the statement above of getting out what you put in.

I know that 12-foot squash vines probably need more sustenance than the few shovels of compost I put in their hills. This is evident by how pale the leaves are.

Contrast that to the self-sown decorative squash plants that grew in my compost pile comprised mainly of chicken bedding and manure. They are unbelievably healthy, replete with numerous healthy fruit.

My soil test did indicate that nitrogen was low, and I did intend to go back when I bought that new bag of blood meal and amend it further but alas I did not. Next year I will not skimp on fertilizer.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, skimp on mulch. When I looked at what was left for mulch from the previous year I figured I had enough to get by.

Wrong. Part of the reason the yard looks like a jungle is because I should have mulched thicker. Mulch serves several purposes. It covers bare soil and prevents weed seeds in the soil from seeing the light of day, germinating and turning into a nuisance.

Mulch also breaks down over time into organic matter then humus, and feeds the soil. It also helps to conserve moisture.

Until this week we didn't really need help with that, but the abundance of rain, added to not nearly thick enough mulch, surely made for numerous weeds! Next year I will not skimp on mulch.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, let the weeds take over. The first two "will nots" relate to this paragraph entirely.

I prepped the garden and knew I should till in the old strawberry plants. I looked at a few sparse blossoms and thought, "I may get a few berries, I'll leave them in place and till them in later."

Well, the berries were few and far between but the surrounding weeds took over. Then the necrotic squash plants grew all over the weeds and the strawberry plants so I'm forced to wait until the first frost to deal with the whole mess.

I'm not sure who said it first, but it's a smart diatribe: "Do not put off until tomorrow what can be done today."

With all this said I must cut myself some slack, and if you failed anywhere along the line with your garden, you should as well. Our gardens are a work in progress and although I wish I had done a better job, I did OK.

We enjoyed some yummy green beans and I froze some kale, I did make tomato sauce on a couple of occasions and hopefully will have another chance at it and maybe I'll get a few butternuts to eat.

I know for sure I'll get some nice decorative squash, thanks to the composted chicken manure. Live and learn I guess.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.*

## GUEST COLUMN

### Alternative criteria for lung cancer screening

BOSTON – A researcher at VA Boston, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center helped develop alternative lung cancer screening criteria to identify people who would benefit significantly from screening, but are excluded by current criteria, according to research published Aug. 20, in "Annals of Internal Medicine".

"We found these high-benefit groups include those who smoked for a long duration, but at a lower intensity, those with heavy smoking who quit more than 15 years ago, and those from some racial and ethnic minority groups," said Dr. Lauren Kearney, lead author of the study, research fellow at VA Boston's Center for Healthcare Organization & Implementation Research, pulmonary and critical care fellow at Boston Medical Center, and instructor at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine.

Researchers used responses to the National Health Interview Survey from more than 58 million smoking adults from 1997 to 2018, to study whether alternative criteria could better identify high-benefit persons and whom this would include. They used fast and frugal tee algorithms to develop an alternative set of simple criteria.

The researchers then compared the alternative criteria with U.S. Preventative Services Task Force, or USPSTF, criteria, evaluating their ability to identify high-benefit people. They also looked for where the selected populations overlapped and where the alternative



criteria overcame USPSTF criteria limitations.

Results suggest that the alternative criteria have higher sensitivity and specificity in identifying high-benefit people, and is substantially more sensitive in identifying high-benefit people in racial and ethnic minority populations than the USPSTF criteria. Analysis showed inequity in current USPSTF criteria, which has poor sensitivity for identifying high-benefit Black people for lung cancer screening.

The researchers also believe that, beyond the lung cancer screening context, their

approach could be useful for other cancer screening and prevention modalities.

"The alternative criteria produced more effective screening, led to better support of ethical risk management, and substantially reduced racial disparities in lung cancer screening eligibility," explained Kearney. "The alternative criteria are also easy to remember and represent a feasible way to improve current lung cancer screening eligibility criteria."

The research is available at <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M23-3250>.

BOSTON – Researchers at VA Boston, Harvard Medical School, and Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine recommended expanding traumatic brain injury screening among women veterans to include interpersonal violence in a paper published Aug. 14, in the journal "Brain Sciences".

"Women veterans often experience traumatic brain injury from causes unrelated to deployment, but current TBI screening focuses on deployment," said Dr. Michelle Pebole, lead author of the study, and research fellow at the Translational Research Center for TBI and Stress Disorders, known as TRACTS, at VA Boston Healthcare System, and the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. "Improving the effectiveness of TBI

screening tools for women veterans is critical, given the physical and mental health disparities they face because of these injuries."

The study examined the utility of the current Veterans Health Administration, or VHA, TBI screening tool for women veterans, comparing it to a comprehensive TBI assessment, the Boston Assessment for TBI-Lifetime, known as the BAT-L. Ninety women veterans were included in the study.

Overall, the BAT-L identified 27 non-deployment TBIs not captured by the VHA screen, most frequently resulting from physical assault.

The study findings suggest that screening for lifetime TBIs from a variety of origins – including partner violence, military sexual trauma and accidents – instead of exclu-

sively focusing on deployment-related TBIs would benefit women veterans. The study also found an under-identification of TBIs in clinical care, which suggests that more liberal screening and referrals for comprehensive TBI assessments in polytrauma clinics, women veteran-specific care clinics, or research settings may improve care for women veterans.

"Future work with larger samples of both veteran and civilian women is needed, and could also address intersectional issues in TBI, such as race, ethnicity, age and socioeconomic status," noted Pebole. "This could help us understand the utility of screening tools for detecting TBIs among all women."

The research is available at <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-3425/14/8/814>.

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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.

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# Pathfinder Tech welcomes new principal

Former teacher reflects on his career path to administration.

By **Marcelo Gusmão**  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com



Submitted Photo  
Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School welcomes its new principal, Ryan Rege.

PALMER – The nine towns serviced by Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School welcomed Ryan Rege as the new principal as Interim Principal Brenda Turner stepped down from the position she has filled for the last year.

Rege was born and raised in Chicopee, and comes from a family of educators.

“Education was always a topic at the dinner table in my family,” Rege said. “Both my parents were teachers and then administration. My father’s side goes back four generations in education; my great-grandfather was the first principal of Chicopee Vocational School, before it was Chicopee Comprehensive School.”

Though education is “in Rege’s blood,” as he put it, he said that as a young person he didn’t expect to follow in his family’s footsteps. He started his professional career working in restaurants as a dishwasher, and rose to the positions of line cook and eventually sous chef until a chance meeting sent him on the path to education.

“I ran into a family friend who, at the time, director at the Valley West School in Chicopee,” Rege said. “He asked if I would be interested in coming in to substitute, as

they were short-handed. I did that for a few days and loved working with students. After that, I didn’t look back.”

Rege went from a full-time position in Behavioral Intervention to a Culinary Arts position at Chicopee Comprehensive High School. After working in Chicopee for four years, he moved to a culinary arts position at Pathfinder in 2013, where he taught for four years before becoming a Vocational Director.

“I started as a vocational teacher, so that was the trajectory I was on,” Rege said. “Just being in a vocational school and seeing the incredible things students are doing was eye-opening for me. From then on, I knew that was the career I wanted; I wanted to stay in vocational.”

Rege got an associate’s degree from Holyoke Community College,

and pursued a bachelor’s degree from Westfield State while teaching at Pathfinder. He received a master’s degree in Teaching and Curriculum from Fitchburg State University in 2019.

Now, after some time out of the district, Rege has returned to Pathfinder to become principal of the school. He’s been taking some time over the summer to get to know the faculty, the staff, and the superintendent.

“I’m thrilled to be back here, everyone’s been incredibly welcoming,” Rege said. “I love this school, and it’s been a great transition for me.”

The new principal said he’s spent the last month and a half in a “deep dive” in getting data and meeting with administration to get ready for the first days of school, “which are coming up quickly,” Rege added.

Rege said his plan is to take the time to listen and see what the school has been doing really well while he looks for opportunities to grow.

“That’s the name of the game in education, there are always areas where you can do better, and we really strive for that,” Rege said. “Everything we do moving forward will be through lens of the school’s mission statement and making solid, data-driven decisions for the school.”

Rege talked about the struggles for this generation’s students

“I hate to go back to COVID, but we certainly are seeing the effects of it in our students,” Rege said. “We have had, and will continue to have, a focus on students’ social and emotional health. We want students here to feel safe and

comfortable, and do our very best to make sure that’s the case.”

Rege said that this has been achieved thanks to Pathfinder’s robust support staff, and he looks forward to continuing those practices, as well as policies like the Beyonder pouches for students to keep their phones, which Rege said, “by all accounts, has made a huge difference.”

Rege said that he considers himself a collaborative-type leader, and that he likes to get a lot of input to make an educated decision. He said he focuses on making decisions supported with data.

“It’s hard to argue with solid data when making decisions,” Rege said.

Rege said that he looks forward to helping the students in Pathfinder’s nine towns prepare for careers as professionals in any career of their choosing, including vocational and academic pursuits.

“As long as students graduate searching for truth, prepared for careers in the future, as well as any failures or opportunities for growth, I think we’ve done our job here as educators,” Rege said. “I’m looking forward to helping students end up in a career they love. We want students heading out of here as critical thinkers that are able to find careers they’re happy and successful in.”

Finally, Rege was excited to announce that he has met Pathfinder’s mascot and support dog, Scout.

“He’s such a cute little guy, we’re really excited to have him around,” Rege said. “He was in my office yesterday, and he really puts a smile on everyone’s face.”

## News from Ware Public Schools

From the desk of **Michael P. Lovato**  
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Ware community,

I am thrilled to welcome your students back and to share our strategic plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

This plan is designed to elevate the quality of education and ensure that every student has a voice in their learning journey. This plan is a collective effort, with each school developing a structured and systematic approach tailored to meet the specific needs of their students.

This customized strategy will help us achieve our ambitious goals and bring transformative changes across our district. Your school principals will also be sharing the details of their individual school plans.

### Improving Student Attendance and Academic Achievement

Our goal is to increase average daily attendance to over 95% and reduce chronic absenteeism by 5%. We will implement targeted strategies to boost attendance and support academic success.

However, simply getting to school is just the first step. By fostering active engagement in every instructional period and ensuring all classes maximize their time actively discussing each of the day’s learning goals, we aim to ensure that students demonstrate one or more years of academic growth on our district’s I-Ready assessments.

### Fostering Robust Academic Discourse

To improve learning outcomes through academic discourse, we will enhance the number and quality of questions asked during lessons. Through our current professional development partnerships, we have developed a tailored approach to increase student-initiated questions and foster deeper critical thinking from pre-K through high school.

Our singular instructional focus will be to nurture inde-

pendent thought and sophisticated expression among students, enabling them to better demonstrate and explain their learning on assessments, articulate their understanding at home, and apply their knowledge to any career path they choose to pursue.

### Implementing High-Quality Instructional Materials in Mathematics

To provide every student with a consistent, high-quality educational experience, we will be rolling out the newly adopted HQIM curricula district-wide this academic year. We will be implementing i-Ready in grades K-8 and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in grades 9-12.

This initiative will streamline our professional development processes and, over time, significantly enhance our students’ academic outcomes in mathematics.

### Maximizing the Benefits of Co-Teaching

We are excited about our investment in co-teaching, which allows us to better meet the diverse needs of our students. This year, we will focus on evaluating the current services and models at each school site to better understand their strengths and identify areas that need improvement to support students with special education needs.

A comprehensive study will be conducted by district personnel to develop a training and sustainability plan for the future, ensuring that our co-teaching model continues to evolve and succeed.

### Strengthening Parental Involvement

We are committed to increasing parental involvement in our students’ academic journeys. All staff members will regularly reach out to families, sharing positive updates about students’ growth and encouraging open dialogue.

This increased engagement, focused on student strengths and

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 7

## WNE announces local graduates

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University held its undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 19 at the MassMutual Center, celebrating the Class of 2024.

The keynote speaker, esteemed journalist Latoyia Edwards, talked about the importance of bringing passion and intensity to one’s work without overshadowing what’s most important: family.

“If you don’t remember any piece of advice that I give you this morning, remember to never take anyone who loves and supports you for granted,” Edwards said.

Local graduates include Ryan Anthony Wawro of Ware, who graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in finance and a minor in accounting; and Travis Jacob Orszulak of Ware who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in finance.

## WNEU names President’s, Dean’ list students

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 540 students who have been named to the President’s List and over 670 students to the Dean’s List for the spring 2024 semester.

Local students earning President’s List honors include Shawn Santiago of Ware, who is working toward a bachelor’s degree in law and society; Jason Desantis of Ware, who is working toward a bachelor’s degree

in computer science; Tori Crevier of Ware, who is working toward a bachelor’s degree in marketing communication/advertising; and Seraya Dauksewich of Ware, who is working toward a bachelor’s degree in marketing communication/advertising.

Local students earning Dean’s List honors include Caitlin Cunningham of Ware, who is working toward a bachelor’s degree in psychology; and Ryan Wawro of Ware, who is working toward a bachelor’s degree in finance.

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# Hardwick

## West African Drumming Workshop



Jafar Manselle and the Wendell Warriors held a drumming workshop inside the Town House.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

## Library holds drumming workshop in Town House

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library proudly presented the West African Drumming Workshop at the Town House.

Leading the workshop was Jafar Manselle and the Wendell Warriors. Library Director Julie Bullock made a nice introduction as the workshop took place in the upstairs hall of the Town House.

“We’re thrilled to have Jafar Manselle and the Wendell Warriors,” Bullock said.

Manselle and the Wendell Warriors began the workshop with a drumming performance using djembe drums. The djembe drum is a percussion instrument that originated in West Africa in the 12th century and is a hand drum where players use their bare hands.

All the drums were provided for the workshop and supported by a grant from the Hardwick Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

After the performance by the drumming group Manselle shared some history behind the djembe drum and its history in West African culture.

The djembe has three basic sounds which Manselle taught the guests during the workshop. The bass is the middle of the drum, the tone is the sound you make when hitting the edge of the drum and a high pitch is when the player opens their fingers to slap the edge of the drum.

Manselle says playing the djembe bring out a lot of rhythm and is tied to “instrument, dance and song in West Africa.”

Manselle would teach guests how to play and sing the song “Funga Alafia” on the djembe. Manselle believes it is easier to way what you want to play first before applying it to the instrument.

“Say what you play helps in the long run,” Manselle said.

While teaching the three simple sounds to the workshop participants, Manselle would repeatedly use the words “bass” and “tone” to help them practice.

“Sing first, then play,” Manselle suggested to the audience. Manselle believes drummers who play best are players who play at the same time as the other players.

“Playing together, same time, same feel-



Library Director Julie Bullock tried out the djembe during the workshop.



Jafar Manselle, shown in the center of the drumming circle, provided simple hand drum styles on the djembe drum.

ing, same speed,” said Manselle.

The workshop predominantly consists of the newcomers practicing the song and then

would play on the djembe drums. Manselle also suggested the drums are best played when the player tilts the drum and holds firmly with their legs.

Manselle wanted the players to practice enough to better understand the rhythms before the finale of playing alongside the Wendell Warriors.

“Rhythms can be easy if you make them,” Manselle said.

After practicing the five parts on the djembe drum the workshop participants would join Manselle and the Wendell Warriors for a finale. Bullock would jump in and practice with Manselle and the other participants to learn the five parts on the djembe.

All five parts practiced were now to become a part of one final performance as the djembe drum circle would loudly play in the hall of the Town House. Manselle had the idea of the workshop participants playing alongside the Wendell Warriors in the finale.

“We want to perform a tremendous ending for you, but want to play with you,” Manselle stated prior to the finale. After confirming with the Wendell Warriors that they are ready, Manselle would lead the finale and play with the workshop crew.

The guests had a lot of fun and gave Manselle and the Wendell Warriors a nice round of applause for their performances on the djembe drums.



This award-winning Lego sculpture was created by Lukka Hastings.

GRANGE from page 1

his Lego sculptures.

Massachusetts State Grange - Special Agriculture Rosette adult prize went to Roberta McQuaid of Hardwick for her Floral Arrangement.

Massachusetts State Grange - Special Agriculture Rosette youth prize went to Scout Taricanno of Brimfield for their Wildflower Arrangement. Taricanno is 10 years old and also made an incredible scarecrow that was on the stage inside the Ware Grange.

Ware Grange Fair

Special Rosette for an Outstanding Non-Agriculture Entry Adult prize went to Durinda Mlynarski of Ware for their Bird House.

Ware Grange Fair Special Rosette for an Outstanding Non-Agriculture Entry from the youth went to Eden Fanelli of Hardwick for their Poster Display. Ware Grange Fair Special Rosette for Best of Show in the Fun Dog Show was won by Blanche owned by Susan Adams of Warren.

The Ware Grange was hosting several raffles over the course of the couple days the fair was taking place. There was a 50/50 raffle, basket raffle and penny sale for visitors to participate in.

Proceeds from these raffles help the Grange maintain their grounds and help with upkeep of the building. The baskets were generously donated and baked goods were provided by members of the Grange.

The fair keeps to tradition, but Ware Grange secretary Randy Vaill said the Grange is “always happy to have new people”.

One of the new art forms displayed in this year’s fair was diamond dot artwork. There is also Legos, watercolors and many artistic entries that were exhibited inside the Ware Grange. Many adults and youths participated in agricultural and non-agricultural contests. First, second, third place and participant ribbons were awarded.

The Ware Grange has always had a good working collaboration with the Ware Center Meeting House as they gave guests a space to park their cars near the Grange on the field of the meetinghouse. The Meeting House and Museum was opening up as well throughout the duration of the Grange Fair.

The Grange Fair had many new features this year. One of them was a dog show. The winner of the dog show was Blanche and her owner Susan Adams of Warren. The dog show was a lot of fun and could possibly be a new annual attraction at the Grange Fair.

The Grange also featured a gaming tent for kids and adults. Games featured were lucky duck match, cornhole toss, disk drop and spin



This watercolor painting of a jellyfish was made by Hannah Ventura and won first prize.



The Grange provided hot dogs and other treats throughout the Grange Fair.

the wheel. Helpers John, Lauren and Sara were running the fair games and handed out cute prizes to the lucky winners.

Another kid activity was a Plushie Parade Party. Each kid would bring their favorite plushie and march in a parade together all around the grounds of Ware Grange. There was also a photo booth for kids to pose with their plushies.

For food the Grange hosted a new course in the form of a BBQ dinner that includes pulled pork, brisket and chicken. For years, the Ware Grange would offer ham and beans during the fair, but this year changed it up with a BBQ experience.

The fair also featured a pie eating contest, which has been a popular event at the Ware Grange Fair for years.

The annual fair is very much enjoyed by hundreds of Ware residents every year and the Ware Grange looks forward to having it again in 2025.

Anyone in Massachusetts can enter exhibits during the fair. The Ware Grange always welcomes new exhibitors.

The Ware Grange has many activities and workshops for adults and kids throughout the year. Information about the Fair and the Grange can be found on www.waregrange.org.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

SEE MORE GRANGE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.

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Monday - Thursday



# Planning Board identifies concerns about Solar Project

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Planning Board had a public hearing regarding two solar projects going on in Ware.

At their Aug. 15 meeting the Planning Board met with neighboring residents near 278 Osborne Road and representatives of Melink Solar Development to discuss ongoing concerns with the projects.

The first was about Ware Solar Location at 278 Osborne Road which has a site plan that the applicant first applied for back in 2019. Part of the project involves a housing structure and a garage structure.

Planning Board Chair Kenneth Crosby had asked to review documents and maps of the structures that don't seem to have clarity on what the company is planning to build.

"We don't know what this foundation is for," Crosby said.

In February of 2021 the Planning Board unanimously voted to allow a subdivision plan for Melink Solar Development and their solar project but at some point, there were changes to the plan, which neighboring residents of the worksite of Osborne Road claimed they weren't informed about.

The Planning Board said they have no evidence if the planning department sent notices out to the public about the subdivision change.

es.

Representing the applicant was Business Development Partner Jeremy Chapman, alongside the virtual attendance of CJ Bertin and Attorney TJ Recupero.

Recupero after hearing about the residents' concerns and believing the address is not eligible for solar, said "This is a restarted public hearing. An address changes when a permit is issued."

Although the address for the project is identified as 278 Osborne Road, the property is technically now on Hardway Circle. There has also been a new solar bylaw added to Ware since the original application which was approved by voters at a Town Meeting.

Vice-Chair Richard Starodoj believes these projects such as the special permit and site plan are intertwined, but wants to know with the new addition to the solar bylaw is the applicant still valid to operate under the original application.

"Should it carry on or have changed," Starodoj asked.

Crosby and the rest of the Planning Board members wanted to know what's going on and where over the course of the last three to five years did there become such miscommunication between the departments, peer reviewers, the residents and the applicant.

Starodoj suggested once this matter is resolved, all parties do

a better job documenting what is being done and be well in detail of what work is being done on the site.

Chapman agreed with the Planning Board and believes bringing in a peer reviewer would benefit all parties involved to be on the property to give a more updated look at the property and show the adjustments made to the project.

One of the concerns from several of the residents is there is a runoff of water going into their properties instead of drainage into the road. The water is ending up in the backside of some properties.

Engineer CJ Bertin shared site plans on screen of basins and explained how drainage will run off appropriately.

"The solar field itself is going to be seeded," Bertin said. "Have a better ability to retain water."

Chapman believes the developer is in good position to successfully complete the project as they intend to review with conservation commissions of Ware and Hardwick and prepared and wished to reintroduce everything about the project during the Aug. 15 meeting and answer any questions from the board and from the public.

"This is a process", Chapman said. "We are willing to do the restoration if needed."

Melink Solar Development provides pre-construction development services for utility-scale solar PV projects, including design, site

review, permitting, and structured finance.

The Planning Board reviewed several legal questions that they have for town council and attorneys that need answers before approving a site plan and special permit to Melink Solar Development.

Crosby said there are too many legal questions and revisions that might need to be made to approve the site plan and award a special permit to the applicant.

The public hearing for Ware Solar Location at 278 Osborne Road was postponed to the next planning board meeting on Sept. 5.

The next public hearing was about a solar facility on Greenwich Road. The applicant is seeking to reopen the site plan and a special permit for the project.

Chapman also spoke on behalf of the applicant for this project and said that once gravel removal is completed, the applicant is looking to add solar to the property. The project is awaiting approval from the Conservation Commission once the plan is finalized.

A peer review will be needed first before being approved by the Planning Board.

Melink Solar Development is interested in purchasing the property once gravel is removed. This hearing was postponed until Sept. 19.

# Barton Associates breaks top 100 largest U.S. staffing firms

PEABODY – Barton Associates, a leading locum tenens staffing agency in the U.S. with nine offices nationwide, was named the 96th-largest staffing firm in the U.S. by Staffing Industry Analysts.

The company climbed 21 spots from last year – a testament to its rapid growth and expanding influence in the country's healthcare staffing industry. The 2024 update of SIA's annual "Largest Staffing Firms in the U.S." list ranks staffing firms across staffing segments (IT, locum tenens, industrial, office/clerical, and more) based on SIA estimates of 2023 U.S. staffing revenue.

A total of 241 companies with an estimated 2023 staffing revenue of at least \$100 million were included in the list.

"We're honored and excited to be ranked among the top 100 largest staffing firms in the United States," said Robert Indresano, CEO of Barton Associates, in a press release. "This accomplishment is a milestone for our company that illustrates the immense trust medical providers and health-

care facilities have in our unique and personalized locum tenens staffing services. Our teams are committed to continuing to build that trust by pushing the envelope and providing innovative solutions to complex staffing challenges in hospitals, clinics, and other medical facilities across the country."

As the physician shortage continues to disrupt continuity of patient care across the U.S., healthcare facilities have become increasingly reliant on locum tenens providers to fill staffing gaps.

Barton Associates recruits locum tenens doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and dentists in a wide variety of specialties, deploying them at healthcare facilities in all 50 states and every U.S. territory on temporary assignments.

"This recognition by SIA emphasizes our dedication to addressing critical healthcare staffing shortages in all corners of the country," Indresano

Please see **BARTON**, page 8

## SCHOOL NEWS from page 5

successes, will help families feel more confident in what Ware provides for their children and will foster more transparent, two-way conversations about their children's needs, supporting our shared goal of student success.

We also encourage parents to ask questions and visit us at any time. Your insights and feedback are invaluable, and we are here to support you and your child every step of the way. Please feel free to contact us or come by to discuss any concerns or ideas you may have.

### Engaging with the Community

In addition to these exciting developments, I will be meeting with students and community members to gather first-hand perspectives on how we can further enhance the quality of education and services we offer. These interactions will provide invaluable insights into how we can continue to improve and ensure our strategies are as effective as possible.

Our strategic plan is more than a roadmap; it is a testament to our community's dedication to educational excellence. The principals at each site will soon present their unique plans to the community and share short videos detailing their initial action steps on the district webpage.

We are genuinely excited about the year ahead and the positive changes our strategic plan will bring. With your continued support and collaboration, we are confident that this will be one of our most successful school years yet. We look forward to working together to make this a transformative and enriching experience for all our students.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our schools and students. With your support, we are poised to make this school year one of our best yet.

## WARREN from page 1

to meet ADA requirements, including the height of parking signage, and van access for parking.

He said there is also abrupt changes to surfaces (more than one-quarter inch) which would need to be leveled. Mazik said the doors to buildings have excessive operating forces, being both hard to open and closing too quickly.

He said this is a common issue found in all of the communities they evaluate. Mazik said stair rails need to be round or oval in shape, for both indoor and outdoor staircases.

Mazik said the bathrooms in town-owned buildings also needed changes, including the height of mirrors and soap dispensers.

He said the town's playgrounds do not have accessibility to playground equipment. The town's sidewalk are also not in compliance.

Mazik said the Fire Stations and Police Station are not compliant with ADA requirements.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair David Dufresne said the town is con-

ducting a feasibility study to build a public safety complex, which if constructed, would address these issues.

"We want to be accessible to everybody," Dufresne said.

### Substance use discussion

The board agreed to use opioid settlement money to bring Chris Herren, a former Boston Celtics player who struggled with substance use and formed The Herren Project, to the Quabog Regional School District.

"This would qualify for the use of those funds," Town Administrator James Ferrera said.

Ferrera said the program will likely be held in the school's gym and be open to all middle and high school students. The program is expected to be held on Dec. 11.

Ferrera said the town will share the cost with West Brookfield. Each town would use about \$2,600 of its settlement money to bring Herren to the school.

Town Administrator's report Ferrera said he and the Treasurer met with the town's Massachusetts

Interlocal Insurance Association representative to discuss the health insurance renewal for retirees. He said the town currently has 11 retirees on the plan.

He said prescription rates have increased and continue to rise. Ferrera said it is something they will have to monitor.

"We have to just keep an eye on that," he said.

Ferrera said he is planning to apply for a risk management grant from MIIA.

"I'm going to be working with a couple different departments to see what some of the needs are to identify some of the criteria that they're really looking for to be successful for our grant," he said.

Ferrera said CMRPC put out a request for proposal for the town common improvement project and received one response from Weston & Sampson.

"We are evaluating the respondent," Ferrera said. "The evaluation is currently underway."

Ferrera said he is working on a memorandum of understanding for a comfort

dog in the town.

He said the new custodian is addressing some of the needs at the Shepard Municipal Building, including cleaning the sign board and clearing weeds along the building. The custodian is also removing junk items from the building.

"With this building and with some of the stuff that's over at the police station...there is a need for a dumpster," Ferrera said.

Ferrera said he is working to fill vacant positions in town.

Public safety complex presentation Ferrera said Tecton Architects will hold their presentation regarding the outcome of the feasibility study for a public safety complex on Sept. 19 during the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

### Appointment

Dusty was appointed to the Conservation Commission to serve a one-year term. Ferrera said Dusty has met all of the requirements of the position.

## NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

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## Your guide to investing in an election year

Investing in an election year presents unique challenges due to increased market volatility and uncertainty surrounding policy changes. As November 2024 approaches, election noise will only increase, making it crucial for investors to maintain focus on their long-term goals.

Based on extensive research and analysis of the past 23 presidential election cycles, our Guide to investing in an election year offers a comprehensive look at how elections have influenced markets. It can help answer some of your most pressing questions, including:

- Is one party better than the other for investors?
- Do politics impact specific stocks or asset classes?
- Are there observable trends from past election cycles?

To discuss these insights, please join me at my next "investing in an election year" meeting.

Investing in an election year  
Date: Tuesday, September 17th , 2024  
Time: 5:30PM  
Location: Palmer Public Library,  
1455 N Main St, Palmer, MA 01069

RSVP:  
Faith Esposito or Hunter Boddy  
413-289-1875  
by September 7th, 2024

Dinner will be provided. Feel free to invite a friend. (Let us know when you RSVP.)

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## Weir River Concert Band to begin its 20th season

The Weir River Concert Band will begin its 20th season on Sept. 11 and the band is always looking for new members on any instrument, any ability level and any age.

The band rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Stone Church Cultural Center, Route 32 in Gilbertville.

The band has a Christmas performance scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Stone Church Cultural Center and a performance on June 8, also at the Stone Church at 2 p.m.

If you'd like to share your musical talent with the band, please contact Joanne Meegan by email at [jomeegan@comcast.net](mailto:jomeegan@comcast.net).

## Vendors needed for Flea Market

WEST BROOKFIELD –The First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St. has been hosting its Flea Market on the town Common for more than 50 years and this year it will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sellers of all kinds are welcome - flea folk, antique dealers, crafters, product vendors, and those emptying out basements

and attics. No food vendors, please.

Spaces are available for \$40 for a 20 by 20 grassy spot. Vendors must bring their own tables and tents.

The church will sponsor a food tent with grilled food, cold drinks and sweet treats. Email to [fcfofwbfleamarket@gmail.com](mailto:fcfofwbfleamarket@gmail.com) for an application.

## Water skiing show comes to Lake Wickaboag

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Saturday, Aug. 31, the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association in conjunction with The Lake Wickaboag Boat Club will be hosting a water ski show.

The Aqua Riders of Holland will be performing on the south end of Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield from 11 a.m.-noon. Admission is

free, lake merchandise and raffle tickets will be available.

Viewing will be from the town beach on Cottage Street in West Brookfield, The Lake Wickaboag Boat Club or from your anchored boat on the lake in the designated area. All are welcome.

Please visit [www.lakewickaboag.com](http://www.lakewickaboag.com) for more information.

# National Dog Day celebrated at Hardwick Winery

By Abby McCoy  
Correspondent

HARDWICK – Aug. 26 is National Dog Day, a heartwarming occasion dedicated to celebrating our beloved canine companions.

Founded in 2004 by Colleen Paige, the same day her family initially adopted their family dog, this annual event not only honors the joy and loyalty dogs bring to our lives but also raises awareness about dogs in need. It serves as a reminder of the millions of dogs in shelters and rescues awaiting

adoption; bringing awareness also encourages responsible pet ownership and supports initiatives like spaying and neutering to help control the pet population.

National Dog Day was celebrated at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery this past Monday. This was the first year they have celebrated National Dog Day but they did not disappoint when it came to the comfort of our furry friends.

Offering water bowls and a welcoming space indoors for patron's dogs to come inside out of the sun. They were also offering Pup

Cups, which is a small cup filled with whipped cream with small dog treats sprinkled on top, they were a hit with many of the furry clientele there.

For human customers the winery had live music provided by musician Lori Brooks, playing from as well as their usual menu of cheese plates and charcuterie boards, not to mention the many special wines the winery stocks.

Hardwick Winery endeavors to celebrate as many creative national holidays as they can, not only to bring patrons to their business

but also bring a celebratory vibe to their community. They have recently celebrated both National Lemonade Day with a special lemonade wine and National Drive Thru Day as a throwback to the times of the pandemic of when that is how they served patrons.

Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, located near the Quabbin Reservoir at 3305 Greenwich Road, is housed in a restored 1795 mansion originally owned by Giles E. Warner.

The Samek family purchased

Please see **DOG DAY**, page 17

CDA from page 1

points off in areas that Johnson believes shouldn't have gotten points taken off.

"The application is very specific," Johnson said.

The CDA would like to get more information and clarity from the state to see what is wrong with their application and projects they were aiming to pursue in use of CDBG. It is a timely matter as CDBG grants have time frames.

"The grant is an 18 month time frame," Johnson stated.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the application didn't score high enough and the town will look into why. The first step is to meet with state reviewers and find out

why the application didn't score well.

Afterwards, the Selectboard will also look into the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds that may supplement the social services.

If the grant is received, the town will be able to do a pool replacement that will include a splash pad. Beckley said the CDBG grant "does not just fund social services." In addition to social services, the town is also looking to support domestic violence outreach, senior outreach programming and adult literacy.

The CDA is also looking into their facade program. A facade program is an incentive program that helps property owners and businesses improve the look of their buildings and storefronts.

The CDA is submitting an application for the state after reviewing the requirements of their Façade Grant from FY 2021.

### QVDC presentation

The CDA members listened to a presentation given by the Quabog Valley Community Development Corporation who shared potential ways to provide additional assistance. The façade program may benefit the Behavioral Health Network who is looking for brick work and sandblasting.

CDA members are waiting for the state to review the façade packet. The CDA will try to decide by December how to use the funds.

The CDA voted to extend the QVDC loan for two years.

BARTON from page 7

said. "As we continue to grow and expand our reach, we remain devoted to connecting highly skilled providers with the facilities that need them most. Our rise in the rankings is not just evidence of our business success, but also of the vital role we play in supporting the healthcare infrastructure of our country."

### About Barton Associates

Barton Associates, headquartered in Peabody, is a leading national locum tenens physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, and dentist staffing and recruiting firm. Learn more at [BartonAssociates.com](http://BartonAssociates.com).

HARDWICK from page 1

She said the goal is to remove Baystate Health as the beneficiary of these trusts, as it is no longer providing healthcare to the region.

"Baystate is pushing back and saying 'listen, we're providing Wing, which is giving healthcare to Ware within 25 miles,'" she said. "Not us."

Korzec said the town of Ware has hired an outside lawyer in addition to their regular counsel. She said the outside lawyer is looking at the trust and town counsel (KP Law) is addressing the demolition.

"What's been uncovered through this trust, Bank of America and Baystate are open to discussion," she said. "The fact of the matter is; it is not meeting the orig-

inal intent of Gilbertville and Ware. It is not."

Korzec talked about the Hardick healthcare model, which she is working on with the Board of Health, Physician's Advisory Board, UMass, UMass Innovation and more.

"We're trying to put a model here in Hardwick and our communities, including New Braintree and Barre, that actually meets the needs of a rural community," she said.

This includes a small urgent care, a satellite pharmacy, vans and mobile units, placing AEDs throughout town and the training of residents.

Korzec said there are 14 specific brands identified to support these activities. Identifying a building to house these services is essential to

moving forward.

She said a request has been submitted to the Health Resources and Services Administration to add Hardwick and surrounding communities to the "healthcare desert" designation in 2025.

"Anybody that's in this, in general, over the last five years, has gotten \$10 million to their town to support these," she said.

Korzec said she will return to the Select Board each month to give its members an update.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano proposed forming a healthcare task force, comprised of one member each from the Select Board, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Physician's Advisory/Board of Health and Korzec. She will reach out to each

board and committee to seek interested members to join the task force.

"There's a lot to oversee here," Caggiano said. "We really need to be watching this and looking out for Hardwick."

Korzec said staying on top of this project to bring healthcare to Hardwick is essential to the well-being of the community at large.

"If we don't have healthcare, we don't have anything," she said.

### Town Administrator's report

Caggiano said she had a meeting with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission along with the Highway Superintendent to discuss grants the town was awarded.

She also went over the possible grants the town could apply for with members of the Capital Planning Committee.

"We can be strategic about the grants we go for," she said.

Caggiano said she also met with both the Fire Chief and Highway Superintendent about using the two earmarks the town received from the state. She said the earmarks are for the Municipal Office Building and to replace three of the town's fire hydrants.

She said there are three vacancies on the Highway Department and applications have been coming in. She said the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Assistant Chief Operator is still

vacant and she encouraged people to apply.

Caggiano said town officials looked at a used firetruck from the town of Wales, but it would not meet the town's needs. She said the Capital Planning Committee did approve the purchase of a demo truck, and the information will now be forwarded to the Select Board and Finance Committee.

"We really did our due diligence," she said.

She said they need to be fiscally responsible, while still being responsible to its residents.

Caggiano said she meets weekly with the Assessor and Building Inspector regarding the three vacant town-owned properties.

### Recognitions

Caggiano recognized Devon Ruud, Director of Facilities at Eagle Hill School for mowing the grounds in preparation for the Hardwick Community Fair.

She said Police Officer Patrick Almstrom, Deputy Fire Chief Nicholas Gaumont and Firefighter Louie Gaumont will be recognized for saving a person's life back in January. They will be honored by the Worcester District Attorney's office on Sept. 23 in New Braintree.

Caggiano also recognized Treasurer/Collector Jess Crawford for taking classes toward earning her Massachusetts Treasurer's certification. She will be eligible to

take the exam next August.

### Special event policy

Board members reviewed and approved an amended special event policy and application that was drafted by Caggiano.

This new application will help applicants and town departments ensure that all requirements have been met.

"Everyone has a section where they'll be kind of responsible for," Select Board Chair Kelly Kemp said. "Which I think is really good so that everyone's on board with the event that's happening."

Caggiano said the policy and application will help keep the special event process equitable and fair for all.

### Appointment

The board approved the appointment of Robert Guevin to the Hardwick Recycling Center.

### EMS contract

The board approved and signed an ambulance contract with the town of Barre after it was reviewed by town counsel.

### Upcoming holiday events

The Trail of Treats will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 5:30-8 p.m., with a rain date of Oct. 27.

Christmas on the Common will be held on Sunday, Dec. 1 from 3-5:30 p.m. with the tree lighting at 5 p.m.



## VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Ware River News ~ November 7, 2024

Ware River News will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to [dflynn@turley.com](mailto:dflynn@turley.com) or drop off a photo to Ware River News, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082. All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 21, 2024.

*There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact before to October 10th.*

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# Rare Books

Local book binder featured at gallery show

By Paula Ouimette  
 Editor  
 pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – Since 1994, Karen Thompson Bullock and her husband, Ron, have owned and operated Old Working Books & Bindery, selling and restoring rare books by using restorative techniques that take both time, patience and a keen eye for detail.

On Friday, Sept. 6 from 5-7 p.m., Bullock will share her work at the West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, 10 East Main St., for an opening reception featuring wine and cheese. “Rare Books” will be on display throughout the month of September.

Bullock’s historic home is also her workspace, after her family moved here in 2002 and shifted their book business online. With four book presses, Bullock can work on multiple books at once, helping give many a beloved text new life.

“Repairs are the most popular,” Bullock said of her client’s request.

The second most popular request is family Bible repair and restoration.

Bullock will be displaying many of her recent projects, including a first edition of H.G. Well’s “The Invisible Man”, which she restored from cover to cover, including each individual page.

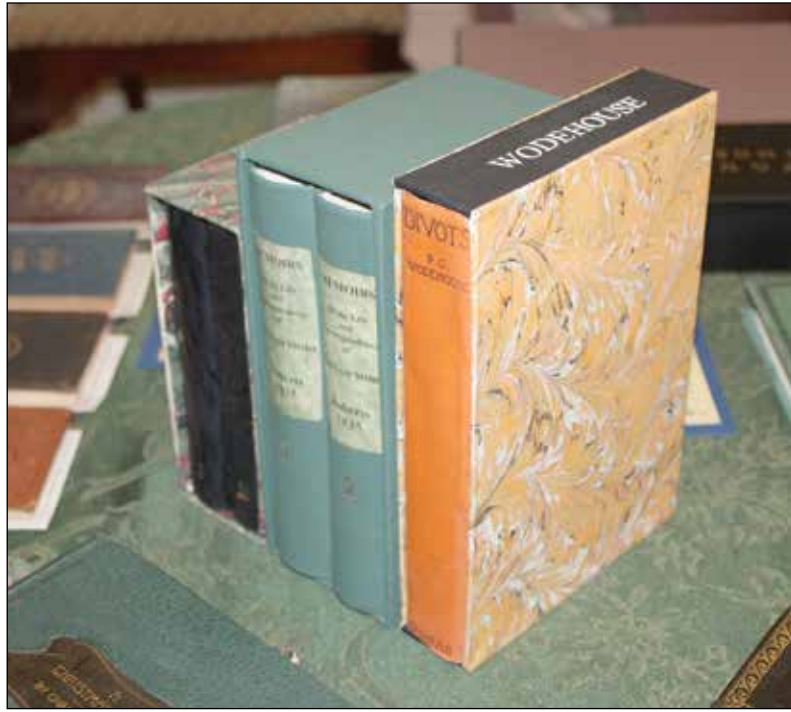
“This is going to outlive anybody,” Bullock said of the book.

A complete restoration includes making repairs to or replacing bindings, replacing the cover and end papers and bleaching the pages to their former brightness.

Bullock said not all collectors are looking to restore their book to like-new condition, some just want to make repairs and allow the book to show its age and wear.

“There’s two kind of collectors – those that want it original and those that want it new,” she said.

Different styles of bindings require Bullock to use a variety



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Karen Thompson Bullock will be the featured artist in “Rare Books” at the West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, opening on Sept. 6. Bullock will share some of her rare book collection, including books she has restored and her handcrafted blank books.

of techniques, including stitching and working with leather. A skill she perfected in her almost two decades of working for Dover Saddlery.

Bullock will also feature her artwork in the “Rare Books,” show, including handcrafted blank books and journals. Each journal comes with one of Bullock’s custom cards, featuring artwork from books that could not be restored.

“If I can’t fix a book, I salvage the pictures,” she said, mounting them on Strathmore stock paper.

Bullock also uses squash prints from the U.K.’s Vintage Paper Co., which applies colorful prints on top of pages from old books. If you look closely, you can still see the words peeking out from underneath the vivid patterns.

Bullock said there will be two hanging pieces in the “Rare Books” show, including a rare Currier & Ives stock print of the twin-screw steamer “Lucania,” which was featured at the New York World’s Fair in 1893.

Stock prints are challenging to find, Bullock said, being more

expensive to reproduce than more readily available “rush” prints. Stock prints are also hand-colored, and Bullock’s print is still in its original frame made by Goodspeed’s Book Shop in Boston. Bullock also has an 1830 Abel Bowen map of the city of Boston.

“These are the only two things in the show I haven’t done anything with,” Bullock said.

Bullock is looking forward to the reception and sharing her love of rare books and paper with the community.

Gallery owner Rebecca Fay described Bullock as “a genius,” for her talent and vision in creating her works of art.

Keeping with the theme of “Rare Books” is a complementary display that will be hung at the gallery during Bullock’s show, featuring framed vintage bird illustrations that Fay received from her friend in Florida.

Fay said her friend is a writer and poet, and also a Vietnam veteran.

“He inherited this pile [of prints] from his sister in law’s



Karen Thompson Bullock used binder’s board and paper to make this Christmas tree decoration.

father and he sent me a box,” she said.

The illustrations were created by noted avian artists Guy Tudor, John Yrizarry, Michel Kleinbaum and David Simon. The originals still have the printer’s marks on them, Fay said.

Fay said she’s spent a lot of time researching the illustrations and found that bird enthusiasts are also book lovers and she thought this would be a fitting secondary display to showcase during “Rare Books.”

“I thought it would be a good combination with Karen’s show,” Fay said.

Other gallery happenings On Friday, Oct. 4 from 5-7 p.m. the gallery will host an opening reception for the second annual Jewelry Show, featuring three local jewelry makers, Jennifer Geldard, Cathe Palo and Cassandra Goldwater.

On Friday, Nov. 15 the gallery will hold its eighth annual Small Works Show with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m.

Gallery hours at West Brookfield Art & Frame are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



“Rare Books” also features Karen Thompson Bullock’s handmade cards, which features artwork repurposed from books that could not be restored.



Karen Thompson Bullock used marbled paper and binder’s board to make these fun maracas.



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Mackenzie posed at the Plushie Parade Party photo booth.



This award winning vegetable display was made by Blanche Carlson.

The Grange Fair featured a bake sale with many homemade goods.

# Seen at the WARE GRANGE FAIR



This scarecrow was created by 10-year-old Scout Taricanno of Brimfield.



This flower arrangement by Roberta McQuaid won Mass State Grange Special Agriculture Rosette.



Residents strolled around the Ware Grange to see some of the entries and award winners in this year's fair.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

SEE MORE GRANGE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6.



Fun games were available at the Grange Fair, including lucky duck match, cornhole toss, disk drop and spinning wheel.



Left to right, John, Lauren and Sara were helping out at the Grange Fair by offering fun carnival games and handing out prizes.



Handcrafted quilts displayed inside the Ware Grange during their 77th annual fair.



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# SPORTS



## Indians face off in scrimmage with Pioneers

WARE – The Ware High School boys soccer team faced neighbor Pathfinder on Tuesday afternoon in a scrimmage. The Indians are coming off a season where they were undefeated in the regular season and

only lost games in the Western Mass. and state tournaments. The Indians were edged in the Western Mass. final against Mt. Greylock and in the second game of the state tournament against Mahar Regional. Coming off 16 wins last year, the Indians will open up the

regular season on the road at Hoosac Valley on Friday, Sept. 6 at 5:30 p.m. Their home opener is on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. against Commerce.



The Indians are looking to follow-up on a phenomenal 2023 season.



The Indians lost just two games all season last year.



Ware boys soccer scrimmages Tuesday afternoon at home.

The boys were runners-up in Western Mass. last year.

Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com

The Indians are getting ready for their season opener next week.

## CENTRAL MASS. TAKES FIELD HOCKEY GOLD

Submitted photo

The Central Mass. Bay State Games Field Hockey team won the Gold Medal, which included Quabbin player, shown here, sophomore Makenzie Casey. The Bay State Games were held from Thursday, July 12 to Sunday July 14. The field hockey showcase consisted of five regions: Metro; Northeast; Southeast; Coastal; West and Central. The Central team went 3-0-1 in tournament play, and played in the gold medal round against the 3-1 Southeast team, beating them 2-1. Some of the local field hockey players were Makenzie Casey, Quabbin Regional HS; Kaitlynn Swistak, Quaboag Regional HS; Alyssa Drapuck, Tantasqua HS.



## Central Mass. wins Bay State Games

### West team falls in bronze medal game

WALTHAM – The Central and West field hockey teams well-represented their regions in the Bay State Games held over the summer. The Central team won the gold while the West team made it to bronze game. Here are some highlights of the tournament.

Central won an early round game against Metro/Northeast 3-1. Central goals scored by juniors Katelynn Swistak (6) and Emma Huslander (2) as well

as sophomore Elly Schofer (8). Metro/Northeast's lone goal was scored by sophomore Lia Arevalo (10) assisted by freshman Addison Aufiero (8). West had a wild tie with Coastal 5-5. Sophomore Adeline Finlaw (3) scored 2 goals and had one assist for Coastal. Sophomore Paige Moreau (8) had both a goal and an assist. Other Coastal goals scored were from juniors Lilly Cook (9) and Summer Silverman (11). Junior Ellia Delisle (15) and

Please see **GAMES**, page 13

## Larger Panthers team looks to take gridiron by storm

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Wayne Page was named as the varsity football coach at Quabbin Regional High School prior to the start of the 2021 regular season.

The Quabbin football team only had 19 players in uniform for the final game of the 2021 campaign, which was a home loss to rival Gardner on the night before Thanksgiving.

When the Panthers kick off the 2024 regular season against the Gardner Wildcats at home on September 12, they'll have more than 40 players standing on the sideline.

"We finished the 2021 season with only 19 players, and we now have 43 players," said Page following a recent preseason practice. "The players have worked very hard during the offseason, and I'm really excited about this season."

The Panthers return a total of 19 starters from last year's squad, which finished with a 5-6 overall record.

"A lot of the seniors were forced to play key roles for us when they were freshmen, so they took their lumps," said Page, who was previously an assistant football coach at both Grafton High School, which is his alma mater, and at Hudson High School. "We're a very experienced team on both sides of the ball this year. We just need to keep working hard at practice."

During Page's first two years coaching at Quabbin, he was a physical education teacher at Hudson High School. He's now teaching physical education at Quabbin,



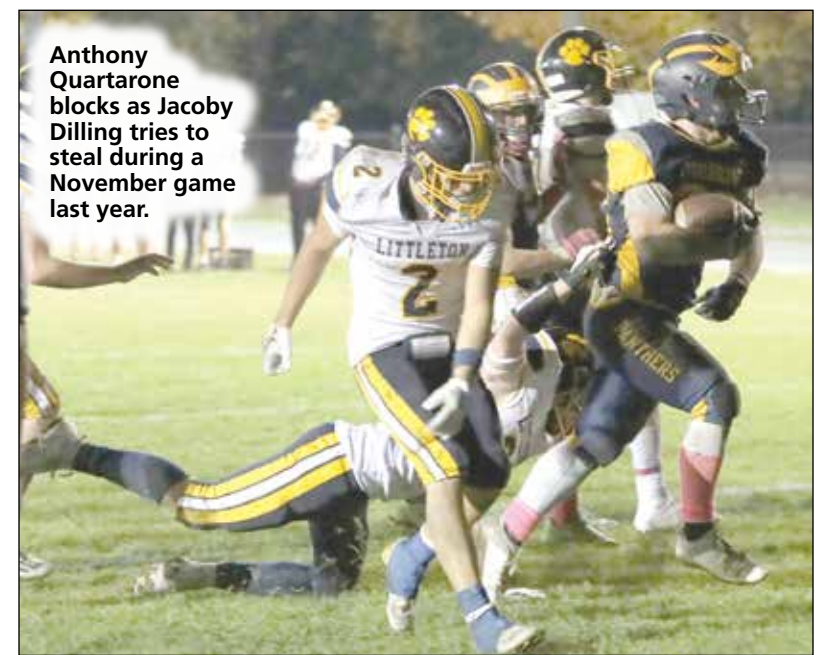
Mike Tobin and Colin Harmon watch as Jacoby Dilling's corner kick scores for Quabbin

which has made things a lot easier for him.

"I was a teacher in another school district during the first two years that I was coaching here, which was very difficult," Page said. "I didn't see the players during the school day, and you can't keep tabs on their grades. Being in the same school building has really helped a lot."

Because Quabbin and Gardner are both members of the Mid-Wach E, they'll be playing each other twice for the third year in a row. The Panthers won both games in 2021 and 2022, but the Wildcats didn't have very much trouble sweeping the season series a year ago.

Please see **FOOTBALL**, page 12



Anthony Quatarone blocks as Jacoby Dilling tries to steal during a November game last year.



Catcher TJ Ryan catches a ball at the plate.

## Former Red Sox prospect leads new baseball camp

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Many sports camps were held throughout Western Massachusetts during the past several months.

The Summer Sendoff Baseball Camp took place on the baseball fields at Spec Pond in Wilbraham from August 19-22. The camp was run by Dustin Brisson, who played Minor League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox.

"I held a couple of private baseball clinics with Doug Clark, who's the WooSox hitting coach, during the offseason," Brisson said. "I spoke with the Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department about holding a baseball camp during the summertime. All these kids just love playing the game of baseball. I really wanted them to have high quality instruction and the resour-

es to be successful."

Brisson was aided at the four day camp by Bryan Barnowski, Ace Adams, Gary Burnham, who was an All-American baseball player at Clemson University, and Dan Gomez, who's the head baseball coach at Western New England University. Minnechaug Regional varsity baseball coach Mike Netkovich worked at the camp for one day. Ray Fagnant, who's the Boston Red Sox Northeast Regional Scouting Supervisor, also attended the camp for a day. Fagnant grew up in Chicopee.

About 40 baseball players between the ages of 6-16 from Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the inaugural baseball camp.

"We have a few kids from South Hadley, Agawam, and

Please see **CAMP**, page 13



Alex Nunlist fields a grounder.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

LEFT: Parker Duquette dives for a barehanded catch.



# sports

## T-Birds announce series of front office promotions

SPRINGFIELD – With Opening Night less than two months away, the Springfield Thunderbirds proudly announced that six veteran front office staff members will take on promotions to their roles for the 2024-25 season.

Last season, the team achieved multiple franchise milestones, including all-time Springfield hockey records in average attendance per game (6,321), sellout games (20), season ticket members, and group sales revenue. The team ended the 2023-24 season by posting an incredible 14 consecutive sellouts.

Jessica Hansen has been promoted to Senior Director of Finance and Human Resources. Hansen, an alumna of Western New England University and a native of Feeding Hills, Mass., has been on the Thunderbirds staff since 2017. In addition to her finance and HR responsibilities, she has been integral in growing the team's in-game charitable presence through 50/50, jersey raffle, and Chuck-a-Puck sales. She has also served a supervisory role in the club's charitable foundation matters and merchan-

dise. Drew Supernor has been promoted to Senior Manager of Brand Development & Merchandise. A Springfield native and Springfield College alumnus, Supernor has grown the Thunderbirds' merchandise revenues each season since the club's inception in 2016 through many unique product lines, such as the team's various specialty night rebrands throughout the year. In 2023-24, the team generated six times greater revenue in merchandise when compared to the final season of the Springfield Falcons in 2015-16. In recognition of his customer service and dedication, Supernor was honored with a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence this past May.

Lauren Blanchard has been promoted to Senior Account Executive, Groups and Experiences. An Agawam, Mass. native, Blanchard joined the Thunderbirds in 2021 and has set multiple team records for group

tickets, including the most sold for a single game. Thanks to Blanchard's efforts and the entirety of the ticket sales department, the Thunderbirds' group sales revenue has grown 77% over the last six years. The department spearheaded the franchise to the 2021-22 President's Award for AHL Team of the Year. Blanchard was also nominated for a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence.

Shae Koharski has been promoted to Manager of Social Media & Digital Marketing. A Russell, Mass. native, Koharski has been with the Thunderbirds since 2021. She has exponentially grown Thunderbirds' social media accounts, as the club has eclipsed 80,000 followers across X, Facebook, and Instagram. Her acumen for social media trends has allowed the Thunderbirds' social media to not only provide fun content for fans, but grow the brand in the marketplace while evolving to current trends.

Lucas Armstrong has been promoted to Art Director. An East Amherst, N.Y. native, Armstrong has been instrumental in creating and implementing the Thunderbirds' graphic design as a "keeper of the brand" since joining the organization in 2019. An industry veteran with over 20 years of experience across professional sports and nationally acclaimed brands, Armstrong's work alongside his creative colleagues was recognized with the AHL's Marketing Campaign of the Year award in 2022 for the club's "We Are 413" tagline.

Steve Brousseau has been promoted to Account Executive, Membership Sales & Service. A Springfield College alumnus and a native of Freeport, Maine, Brousseau joined the team full-time in 2021 after interning for the organization previously. An exemplary builder of relationships with his ticket members, Brousseau will specialize in servicing the Thunderbirds' season ticket members throughout the 2024-25 season as the organization looks to break its season ticket holder record for a ninth consecutive season.



## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The fall/winter leagues will be starting after Labor Day at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes in Palmer.

The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League will be the first league to begin the candlepin league season of 2024-2025. The league is looking to have a full league this season with eight four-person teams.

The defending champions are Life is Good, consisting of bowlers John Havens Sr, Paul Cyr, Jeff Knight, Scott Denault and Jim Plushner. Life is Good took the crown by defeating The Champs R Here and Compression in a three-way playoff battle for the season championship.

Life is Good is aiming to defend their championship in the upcoming season. The league consists of three separate rounds. Each round winner will advance to the playoffs at the end of the season. The opening league night of the season for the Commercial Elks League will begin the Tuesday night after Labor Day.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 North Main St. The lanes can be reached by calling 413-289-0013. Diamond Junction Bowling

Lanes also has leagues on the evenings of Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

### Fall leagues forming at Bogey Lanes

EAST BROOKFIELD – Bogey Lanes is preparing for their fall leagues of the 2024-2025 season.

The candlepin league season goes on from September and ends sometime in April or May. There are leagues available for adults, teens and youth bowlers.

Bogey Lanes will be featuring weekly leagues on Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The Monday Doubles Mixed League will be a bi-weekly league. There is a senior league available for seniors on Thursdays in the afternoon at 1pm.

There are several leagues available for kids and teens. Kids will have a bumper league on Fridays as will be a non-bumper league for kids. There will be a teen league on Wednesday nights at 5 p.m. starting in late September.

For those new to the bowling game and looking for a night out, tryout for some of the leagues available at Bogey Lanes. Bogey Lanes is taking signups at their front desk or by email, info@bogeylanes.com.

For more information about fall leagues call Bogey Lanes at 508-867-6629. Visit Bogey Lanes at 199 North Brookfield Road.

## Westfield State to hold swimming clinics

WESTFIELD – Westfield State swimming and diving coach Matt Nodell will host a Nike Swim Clinic at the Ely Pool on campus on Sept. 7 and 8.

Saturday, Sept. 7 is for co-ed athletes aged 8-12 years old, while Sunday, Sept. 8 is for athletes in the 13-18 year old age groups.

"Participants can expect to learn and practice drills to help them swim easier and faster," said Nodell. "All is done in a fun and

engaging environment with contests and competitions."

The clinics last from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each day, with check in at 8:45 a.m.

The fee for the clinic is \$125 and includes the morning training session, a camp t-shirt and prizes.

For more information or to register online, visit <https://www.usportscamps.com/swim/nike/westfield-state-swim-clinic>

Ely Pool is the home of the

Westfield State University Owls women's swimming and diving team. The pool has recently seen upgrades with new starting blocks, an updated team locker room and records board, and features 1 and 3 meter diving boards. Nodell is starting his second season as the head coach of the Owls. He led the team to a fifth-place finish at the Little East Conference championships and a 3-3 mark in dual meets.



### FOOTBALL from page 11

"We've built a very good relationship with Gardner during the past couple of years. It has been a lot of fun beginning and ending our season against them. The kids love it," Page said. "Gardner is our biggest rival and they're going to be a very good team again this year. Playing them in the season opener will be a huge test for us."

The Panthers and Wildcats are also scheduled to meet on Thanksgiving morning.

The other football teams in Mid-Wach E are Ayer-Shirley, Littleton, Murdock, and Narragansett Regional.

The Panthers homecoming game will be against Narragansett on October 25.

"I don't believe the Quabbin football team has ever beaten Narragansett," Page said. "We'll be playing them in our homecoming game this year. It should be a very good game."

While all the other Mid-Wach E teams are either in Division 7 or 8, the Panthers are one of the 30 teams in Division 6. They'll need to finish the regular season in the top 16 to qualify for the state tournament for the first time.

"We don't play any of the Division 6 teams during the regular season," Page said. "The ranking system does hurt us a little bit, but it's something we can't control. We just want to keep building our football program."

Quabbin's non-league opponents are David Prouty, Quaboag, and Oxford. All three of those games will be on the road.

The only three players that the Panthers lost to graduation are Jake Leazott, Jaxon Kelley, and Ed Guertin.

"Those three guys were our captains last year," Page said. "We're going to miss them a lot this season."

Guertin, who's a freshman member of the Nichols College football team, is the second Quabbin player that Page has coached to play at the collegiate level. Colton Wells is a sophomore on the Western New England University football team.

The Panthers six senior captains this year are Jaxon Warburton, Luke Salvadore, Bryce Venne, Cole Wilson, Travis Wells, and Adam Faulha.

"Our senior captains are hard workers and they're awesome kids," Page said. "They're also very good leaders. I'm hoping their final season playing football for this team is very successful."

Warburton has been the Panthers starting quarterback since the middle of his sophomore year.

Salvadore and Venne are both running backs. Faulha is a fullback and offensive lineman. Wilson is a tight end, and Wells is also an offensive lineman.

The captains are also starters on defense.

Junior Quin Reynolds and senior Ryan Wreschinsky are also tight ends.

The other offensive linemen are sophomore Carter Bassett, senior Zach Zajac, senior Zeke Santoro, and junior Trace Davin.

"It's always very important to have a strong offensive line," said Page, who calls the offensive plays. "If you don't have a good line, you won't be a very successful team."

The Panthers have used the I-formation on offense during the past three seasons, but they'll be using the double wing formation this fall.

"I was waiting for the right personnel to switch to the double wing," Page said. "It was the same formation that I used when I was the quarterback at Grafton High School. It's not a very easy offense to defend against."

A few of the key defense players are junior Chase Talbot, junior Wes Sanderson, and Bassett.

Sanderson will also be handling the punting duties. The Panthers assistant coaches are Mike Besaw, Jay Bergman, Jeysen Sanchez, Shawn Costello, and Steve Tremblay.

# RIVALRY game

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

## PALMER vs WARE

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The Summer Sendoff Baseball Camp was held last week in Wilbraham.

**CAMP** from page 11

East Longmeadow at this camp," Brisson added. "This is a very good group of kids to work with. All of them listen to us and they're having a lot of fun."

The players were split up into two groups.

"We play a lot more games with the younger kids, who are in grades 1-5," Brisson said. "We do more skills with the older kids."

Brisson, who was born in Florida, played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. He also played baseball in the prestigious Cape Cod League and is a member of PeoplesBank, which captured another Tri-County League championship title this summer.

He was drafted by the New York Mets and the Miami Marlins before signing with the Red Sox.

He advanced to Double A before his professional baseball career came to an end due to an injury.

"I was blessed to have the opportunity to play professional baseball," Brisson said. "I'm now doing what I can to give back."

Brisson also owns Forge Athletics.

"I started Forge Athletics back in May," he said. "I want to run more baseball clinics in the future. I'm also looking forward to running this baseball camp again next year."

Barnowski, who lives in Southwick, was one of Brisson's teammates at the Single A level.

Bryan and I were teammates on a Single A team," Brisson said. "His sister and my wife have been friends for 40 years. I met my wife when I went to visit him during the offseason, and we've been married for 22 years. My wife's family is from Wilbraham, and we moved



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

**Wesley Beer lunges for a catch.**

here in 2005. We love living in this community."

Because it rained on the first day, the camp was held indoors down the street at the Soccer City Sportscenter.

"Soccer City isn't really designed for baseball, but we made the best of it on the first day of the camp," Brisson said. "The people there were very accommodating. We were able to use both of their soccer fields. We were able to have a full workout. The only thing that we didn't do was to have a live batting practice. The baseball fields here at Spec Pond is one of the best in the area."

Brisson main goal was to teach the players the fundamentals of baseball. He and his staff also held a meeting each morning to map out the schedule for that day.

"My main goal is to teach the players the basic fundamentals of the game," he said. "I also want to keep the kids active. I really don't

want them standing around doing nothing. We also talked to the kids about mental health."

Brayden Pacifico, who lives in Wilbraham, had a lot of fun at the baseball camp.

"It's awesome being here with my friends at this baseball camp," said Pacifico, who's a centerfielder. "I've learned a lot about baseball from the coaches, who have a lot of experience. Baseball is my favorite sport."

Baseball was also Brisson's favorite sport growing up. He was also a swimmer and a wrestler.

"I always tell kids to play multiple sports," Brisson said. "My daughter, Natalie, who's six years old, plays soccer and is a swimmer. We want her to experience everything. A lot of kids who only play one sport get burned out very quickly."

Brisson and his staff are already looking forward to holding the baseball camp again next summer.

**Fanning captures win in Street Stocks**

THOMPSON, CT — A perfect Wednesday, Aug. 14 afternoon in the quiet corner of Connecticut brought the fans in droves for the annual NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Wednesday night showcase at Thompson Speedway. The Thompson 150 presented by FloSports headlined a seven division card of racing on Wednesday night that also included a fan-favorite visit for the New England Supermodified Series and the five track championship divisions that call Thompson home throughout the season.

The Street Stocks started off the evening's feature racing with Scott Sundeen at the head of the pack. Sundeen powered up looking to nab his first win of the season followed by Al Stone III, 'Leadfoot' Larry Barnett and Corey Fanning nose-to-tail behind him. The lone caution on lap 12 for the spinning Tim Poulin set up a final showdown between Sundeen and Fanning with Corey Fanning powering through to the win with Ryan Waterman making moves to take second and Al Stone III holding on for third.

Following NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour qualifying the Mini Stocks took on the highbanks with Steve Michalski and Rick LaFlesh. LaFlesh got the jump into the lead as heavy-hitters Jared Roy and Kevin Moore battled for second just inches off LaFlesh's back bumper. Roy sling-shot into the lead powering out of turn four under the halfway crossed-flags. Jared Roy would put the peddle down to return to his winning ways followed by Kevin Moore and Ryan Pomposelli.

Rookie Isaiah Newcomb brought the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds to the green flag with Jon Puleo quickly launching the head of the pack. By lap

five, Todd Owen had charged up to second and began stalking the youngster with a few love taps on the bumper. Owen would charge under Puleo to lead lap seven with Puleo left to fend off Keith Rocco for second. Puleo would use the cross-over to lead lap 13 with Rocco and Owen getting physical for second. Content to run 1-2-3, the leaders waited for laps to wind down in their 30-lap main event and took it right down to the checkered flags with Jon Puleo taking his fifth win of the season followed by Keith Rocco and Todd Owen in victory lane.

Bobby Timmons and Jim Storace brought the New England Supermodified Series to green for their 30-lap main event. The heart-stopping move of the race would come on lap 4 as Ben Seitz and Dan Bowes took Storace three-wide, shooting off turn two and down the back straightaway with Bowes coming out with the lead. Coming from mid-pack, Jon McKennedy also rounded Storace to take third, made the long march to take on Seitz and dove underneath to take position on lap 21. With a straightaway lead Dan Bowes took the win just nine lightning-fast laps later followed by McKennedy and Seitz at the line.

Fast time, Mayhew Tools polesitter Patrick Emerling brought the 26-car NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour field to green and quickly shot out front ahead of Craig Lutz. Dave 'Sap' Sapienza brought out the first caution on lap 20 with a flat right rear sending him in the spin-cycle in turn three. Emerling would maintain the lead under the return to green flag racing with a rear-view mirror full of Justin Bonsignore. The leaders would begin taking on lap traffic on lap 53 but remained

settled in for the long-haul strategy. The second caution on lap 60 for the spinning Woody Pitkat off turn two saw the entire field jump pit-side for tires and adjustments in preparation for the second half of the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports.

Patrick Emerling again maintained his lead position by an impatient Justin Bonsignore began to show his hand, diving under Emerling in a look to the near future. Jake Johnson would slam into the turn one wall on lap 76 from mid-pack with an apparent mechanical failure to rerack the field once more. The subsequent restart saw top-5 runner Chase Dowling quickly fall through the field with obvious issues under the hood to swamp a great day for the Tinio Motorsports group as Emerling continued to dominate at the front. The final stretch would see Patrick Emerling dominant the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports for his fifth career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win and first at Thompson Speedway followed by Justin Bonsignore and Craig Lutz.

The AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds and the Late Models wrapped up the Wednesday night racing action at Thompson. Cautions plagued the opening circuits of the SK Light feature, taking out point leader Tyler Chapman and rookie Steve Midford, leaving Meghan Fuller to battle Nick Hovey and John O'Sullivan. Nick Hovey would motor around Fuller for his first win of the season with John O'Sullivan coming home third. The Late Model 25-lap sprint would see Derek Gluchacki charge ahead of the field to take back-to-back wins followed by Nick Johnson and Matt Lowinski-Loh.

**Quabbin League seeking to start fall league**

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eight-game fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.

Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league is looking to have four teams with six "regular season" games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.

The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on or trying out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org). The league is open to all

current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.

**GAMES** from page 11

sophomore Kelsey McCleary (5) each had an assist. Central goals scored by juniors Emma Huslander (2) and Katelynn Swistak (6), sophomore Elly Schofer (8), freshman Makenzie Casey (1), and 8th grader Isabelle Stanley (4).

West then lost the bronze game 3-1. West's lone goal scored by junior Grace Rajpold (13). Coastal's Goals scored by 8th grader Breanna Aveiro (6), sophomore Paige Moreau (8), and junior Ellia Delisle (15). Freshman Maura Kennedy (2) and sophomore Adeline Finlaw (3) each had an assist. Coastal won the bronze medal.

Central defeated Southeast for the gold 2-1. Southeast's lone goal was scored by freshman Ella Marzullo (8). Central's sophomore Elly Schofer (8) scored 2 goals in the final game, one unassisted and the other assisted by freshman Mackenzie Casey (1). Central took home the gold while Southeast settled for the silver.

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# public safety



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

## POLICE AND FIRE PARTICIPATE IN BIKE SAFETY DAY

Members of the Ware Police and Fire departments, along with the UMass Police Department, held a Bike Safety Day for area children on Aug. 15. Each child received a free helmet, decorations for their bicycles, and a chance to ride through an obstacle course.

## Ware Police Log

During the week of Aug. 18-27, the Ware Police Department responded to 18 miscellaneous calls, 30 administrative calls, eight traffic violations, 12 emergency 911 calls, three theft/larcenies, two harassments, three motor vehicle accidents, one damage/vandalism, one safety hazard, one structure fire, two fraud/deceptions, three motor vehicle accidents, four animal calls and 28 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

- Sunday, Aug. 18**  
11 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Coffey Hill Road, Services Rendered  
1:36 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, No Action Required  
3:32 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Fisherdick Road, Advised
- Monday, Aug. 19**  
1:07 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Pulaski Street, Services Rendered  
2:07 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Assist Given  
4:54 p.m. Safety Hazard, Old Belchertown Road, Services Rendered  
6:22 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Services Rendered  
6:36 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Pine Street, Services Rendered  
12:06 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Report Made  
12:29 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
- Tuesday, Aug. 20**  
1:38 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Hillside Village, Services Rendered
- 1:49 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Berkshire Circle, Dispatch Handled  
1:53 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Homecrest Avenue, Advised  
3:12 p.m. Electrical Hazard, Monson Turnpike Road, Services Rendered  
5:30 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Assist Given  
8:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
- Wednesday, Aug. 21**  
12:53 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated  
4:32 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Could Not Locate  
5:16 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Hillside Village, Services Rendered  
5:16 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Could Not Locate
- Thursday, Aug. 22**  
10 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Highland Village, Dispatch Handled  
10:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued
- Friday, Aug. 23**  
12:08 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, East Street, Dispatch Handled  
3:02 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Main Street, No Action Required  
6 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Highland Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
10:33 p.m. Assault, Fisherdick Road, Services Rendered

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Aug. 19-26, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 66 building/property checks, 47 directed/area patrols, eight radar assignments, four traffic controls, 13 emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, three assist other agencies, one motor vehicle investigation, one complaint, one threat, one scam, one safety hazard, one motor vehicle accident, two animal calls and seven motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

- Monday, Aug. 19**  
12:17 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered  
2:12 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosed, Old Petersham Road, Investigated  
3:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Investigated  
3:18 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Petersham Road, Dispatch Handled  
4:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, High Street, Transported to Hospital
- Tuesday, Aug. 20**  
9:22 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled  
11:30 a.m. Scam, Shore Road, Officer Handled  
7:01 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosed, Old Petersham Road, No Action Required  
8:25 p.m. Gunshots, Barre Road, Officer Handled
- Wednesday, Aug. 21**  
11:41 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered  
2:45 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosed, Lower Road, Services Rendered  
3:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Written Warning  
4:12 p.m. Serve Warrant, Hardwick Road, Arrest(s) Made  
9:32 p.m. 911 Threat, Broad Street, Officer Handled  
11:23 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Services Rendered
- Thursday, Aug. 22**  
11:27 a.m. 911 Medical

## Three-day cycling event covers 104 miles of rail trail

NORTHAMPTON – A three-day cycling adventure will cover 104-miles of Mass Central Rail Trail Sept. 20-22, starting in Northampton and ending in Boston. This historic rail corridor is becoming the longest rail trail in New England. Currently, the corridor is 60% finished and its completion is a state priority, expected to bring in

over \$200 million in new revenue to cities and towns it passes through. Once completed, the MCRT will span 120 miles across the commonwealth. "Ride N2B on the MCRT" will make roughly 12 stops along the route with overnight stays in Ware and Hudson. Presentations by local advocates, community leaders and

historians will be made at these stops to spread awareness about efforts to continue the MCRT. The ride will have 12-15 riders for the whole route with other riders encouraged to join for parts of each day. For information about the ride and joining a section, contact Della Penna at craigpd413@gmail.com.

## Warren Police Log

During the week of Aug. 11-18, the Warren Police Department responded to 269 building/property checks, 56 community policings, 23 emergency 911 calls, one harassment, six complaints, two property damages, one motor vehicle accident, two safety concerns, one threat, one trespasser, one missing person, two animal calls and 45 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

- Sunday, Aug. 11**  
3:23 p.m. Harassment, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
8:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
10:05 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
10:14 p.m. Public Assist, Milton O. Fountain Way, Transported to Hospital
- Monday, Aug. 12**  
3:42 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Main Street, Report Filed  
5:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed  
9:48 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Milton O. Fountain Way, Transported to Hospital  
11:08 a.m. Complaint, Old West Brookfield Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
12:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
3:14 p.m. Allergic Reaction, Keys Road, Transported to Hospital  
4:35 p.m. Alarm Activation, Dean Street, Investigated  
7:30 p.m. Power Lines Down, Ware Road, Referred to Other Agency  
7:52 p.m. Property Damage, Carpenter Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
9:40 p.m. Power Lines Down, Old Douglas Road, Referred to Other Agency  
10:09 p.m. Noise Complaint, Pine Street, Report Filed
- Tuesday, Aug. 13**  
3:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
6:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
6:30 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Winthrop Terrace, Canceled  
9:28 a.m. Welfare Check, Winthrop Terrace, No Fire Service Necessary  
9:38 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital
- Wednesday, Aug. 14**  
1:06 p.m. Allergic Reaction, Ware Road, Transported to Hospital  
4:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
7:12 p.m. Noise Complaint, Otis Street, Negative Contact  
7:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
8:32 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Brimfield, Report Filed
- Thursday, Aug. 15**  
8:01 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, North Street, Transported to Hospital  
12:46 p.m. Safety Concern, Otis Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
3 p.m. Follow-up Investigation, Milton O. Fountain Way, Officer Spoke to Party  
4:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
5:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
5:52 p.m. Medical Alarm, South Street, Transported to Hospital  
6:25 p.m. Trespasser, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
8:36 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Investigated  
9:25 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Yankee Drummer Drive, Transported to Hospital
- Friday, Aug. 16**  
1:41 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Main Street, Investigated  
8:20 a.m. Assault and Battery, A Street, Report Filed  
8:44 a.m. Mutual Aid Ambulance, West Brookfield, Mutual Aid Assist  
11:28 a.m. Follow-up Investigation, A Street, Report Filed  
4:45 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Area Patrolled  
6:26 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Spring Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
6:28 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, West Brookfield, Mutual Aid Assistance

- 1:06 p.m. Allergic Reaction, Ware Road, Transported to Hospital
- 4:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
- 7:12 p.m. Noise Complaint, Otis Street, Negative Contact
- 7:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
- 8:32 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Brimfield, Report Filed
- Saturday, Aug. 17**  
8:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
8:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
1:01 p.m. Threats, Milton O. Fountain Way, Officer Spoke to Party  
1:17 p.m. Safety Concern, Quaboag Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
1:18 p.m. Seizures, North Street, Transported to Hospital  
2:11 p.m. Follow-up Investigation, Quaboag Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
4:41 p.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Negative Contact  
4:47 p.m. Property Damage, Main Street, Report Filed  
7:31 p.m. Animal Bites, Spring Street, Transported to Hospital
- Sunday, Aug. 18**  
12:26 a.m. Missing Person, Main Street, Located/Found  
12:59 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
5:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
7:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brook Road, Citation Issued

*Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.*

## Resources offered to educate college students about campus fire risks

As the new school year approaches, college students nationwide are preparing to move into campus dormitories and off-campus housing.

The National Fire Protection Association® and The Center for Campus Fire Safety™ collaborate on the annual Campus Fire Safety Month campaign every September to ensure students, parents, and campus housing staff and administrators have the relevant information and resources they need to make resident living spaces as safe as possible from fires and associated hazards.

The latest statistics, according to NFPA, show that U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 3,331 structure fires each year in dormitories, fraternity houses, sorority houses, and barracks between 2018 and 2022. Fires in dormitory-type properties caused an annual average of 21 civilian deaths, 23 civilian injuries, and \$21 million in direct property damage during that period.

Approximately three out of four fires in these properties began in the kitchen or cooking area, accounting for 58% of the civilian injuries and 11 percent of the direct property damage. Cooking equipment was involved in nearly eight out of 10 fires.

"As students return to campus this fall, many of them will be preparing their own meals. Some will be using kitchen appliances for the first time or cooking food after studying or coming home late from a party," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA and CCFCS Advisory Council member in a press release. "The data tells us



that more education is needed about when and where cooking hazards exist, along with ways to prevent them. Campus Fire Safety Month is a great way to raise public awareness of fire safety on our college campuses."

NFPA and CCFCS offer a wealth of tips and resources for cooking safely in resident housing, including these key messages: If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop. Stay in the kitchen while preparing meals; use a timer to remind you that you're cooking. Keep anything that can catch fire – oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains – away from your stovetop. Further, while cooking remains a leading cause of fires in campus housing, there is growing concern on college campuses about the

increasing number of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries. Alan Sactor, vice president of the Center for Campus Fire Safety, said, "Micromobility devices like e-bikes and e-scooters and smaller electronics such as cell phones, laptops, and tablets are vital to the daily life of college students. However, the mishandling or misuse of these batteries can lead to safety hazards such as overheating, fire, or even explosions. NFPA and the CCFCS are working together to help educate students on how to use, store, and charge these devices safely to reduce the risk of fire." NFPA and CCFCS provide several resources and tips for safely buying, charging, storing, and using lithium-ion batteries to help prevent fires: Please see **CAMPUS**, page 15



# obituary

## Fire Association presents jaws of life tool to town



New Braintree Firefighters (from left), Morgan, Jacob, Jen and Nick display the new jaws of life spreader tool outside of the Town Hall that was recently purchased by members of the New Braintree Fire Association thanks to fundraisers and generous donors. Association members and donors shown with the firefighters are Dody Ayer, Rehab Officer and Association Treasurer; Andrea Letendre; Assistant Chief Rich Glidden; Rick Wine; Deputy Chief Dennis Letendre; Courtney Letendre and Kathy Letendre.

## Xavier A. Kondrat, 19

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Xavier Alexander Kondrat, who departed this life on Aug. 18, 2024, at the age of 19 in Springfield, with the love of his parents surrounding him.



Born on July 27, 2005, in Ware, Xavier was a beloved son, a devoted friend, and a cherished colleague whose impact on those around him was both significant and warmly felt.

Xavier's early years were spent in Ware and Warren, where he attended local schools and formed deep, lasting friendships. His unique charm and fun-loving personality endeared him to many, creating joyous memories that will be treasured by those who knew him.

For the past three years, Xavier was a dedicated employee at Dunkin' Donuts in Belchertown. His hard work and commitment to his job earned him respect and recognition, and he was on the threshold of a promotion to shift supervisor.

His colleagues at Dunkin' Donuts will remember him for his unwavering reliability, cheerful disposition, and the way he brightened their workplace.

Xavier's interests were a true reflection of his spirited nature. He enjoyed playing Dungeons and Dragons with his

## Death notice

**Kondrat, Xavier Alexander**  
Died Aug. 18, 2024  
Services Sept. 17, 2024

dad, Roscoe, and had a heartfelt love for turtles. These passions were a testament to his adventurous spirit and his ability to find joy in the simple pleasures of life.

He is survived by his loving mother Jessica L. Kondrat, his dad Roscoe Thrasher, his grandparents Joseph and Barbara Kondrat, his aunt and uncle, his girlfriend Jasmine Geer, and his friends and fellow employees at Dunkin' Donuts. Xavier was predeceased by a baby brother, whose absence was deeply felt.

In honoring Xavier's memory, his family is planning a celebration of life to be held at Salem Cross Inn, 260 West Main St., West Brookfield, visiting hours will be available to the public Tuesday, Sept. 17 from 3-4 p.m. at Salem Cross Inn. This ceremony will be a testament to the joy and laughter Xavier brought into the lives of those he touched.

Xavier's legacy is one of kindness, humor, and an unyielding spirit that was always willing to lend a hand to those in need. While his time with us was far too short, the impact of his life will resonate with his loved ones forever.

Condolences and memories of Xavier may be shared as the family and friends come together to celebrate the beautiful life he lived.

May Xavier Alexander Kondrat rest in eternal peace.

## 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.*

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)

**NEW BRAINTREE** – This past Monday night, the New Braintree Fire Association presented a new jaws of life spreader tool to the town at the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Association Treasurer Dody Ayer said the association has been hosting many fundraisers in order to purchase necessary equipment for the Fire Department.

"New Braintree Fire Association is constantly fundraising to purchase equipment for the Fire Department, as small towns do not have extra funds in the budget," she said. "We needed this tool for our firefighters."

Ayer thanked resident Rick Wine, who is president and CEO of EP Wine in Barre, for being a major donor in this fundraising effort, as well as Hardwick Crossing Country Club owner Ken Uracius (a New Braintree native) and his general manager, Courtney Letendre.

Hardwick Crossing was the location for the association's



Local businesses also provided financial support to purchase the jaws of life spreader tool, including EP Wine in Barre and Hardwick Crossing Country Club in Gilbertville. Shown from left are Rick Wine, president and CEO of EP Wine and Courtney Letendre, general manager of Hardwick Crossing Country Club.

recent Firemen's Gala fundraiser, which Ayer said was "very, very successful."

Ayer said the association holds fundraisers throughout the year, including the annual Christmas

in New Braintree Craft Fair in December and the Firemen's Gala at Hardwick Crossing, which is already scheduled to be held on March 22, 2025.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

The New Braintree Fire Association presented a jaws of life spreader tool to the Board of Selectmen. Board members are Michael McQueston, Joe Chenevert and Dennis Letendre Jr.

## CAMPUS from page 14

Use only charging equipment that is supplied with your device.

Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.

Stop using your device if the battery shows signs of damage, such as an unusual odor, excessive heat, popping sounds, swelling, or change in color.

In 2023, CCFS launched the Micromobility/Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Reporting Program for fire safety professionals. The program aims to support the development of educational programs, policies, and advocacy efforts to help reduce the risk of these battery fires on college campuses.

For this information and more about the Campus Fire Safety

Month campaign and to find free resources and safety tips, visit [nfpa.org/campusafety](http://nfpa.org/campusafety) and the CCFS webpage.

## About CCFS

CCFS is the voice of over 4,000 campus fire and life safety officials. With its roots in the first Forum on Campus Fire Safety in 1999 at NFPA Headquarters in Quincy, CCFS has advocated for fire safety at the nation's institutions of higher education for over 22 years, incorporating as a non-profit in 2005.

CCFS is a membership-based organization devoted to reducing the loss of life from fire at colleges and universities, both on and off-campus. CCFS members and followers reach throughout North America with growing international membership.

For more information, visit <http://www.mycfcs.org>.

## About NFPA

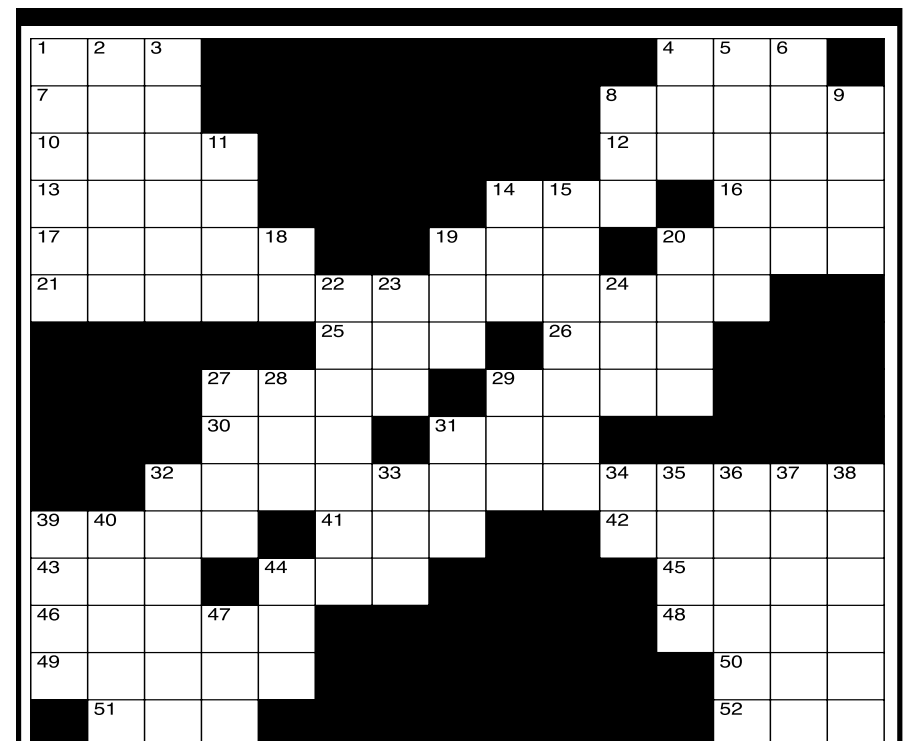
Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, 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/freecaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freecaccess).

## 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.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### CLUES ACROSS

- Microgram
- After B
- Everything
- An unfortunate development
- Coat with sticky substance
- Cylinder of tobacco for smoking
- Minimum interval take off
- Yuck!
- NBA sensation Jeremy
- Where some rockers work
- Midway between northeast and east
- Snake-like fishes
- Groups of homes
- Swiss river
- Useful towel
- "The Wire"

### CLUES DOWN

- Lunatic
- Actress Danes
- Buttock muscles
- The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
- Popular 70s rockers
- Electronic communication
- Trigraph
- Sea eagles
- Low-pitched, resonant sound
- Northeastern US university (abbr.)
- Home of the Bulldogs
- Exclamation of surprise
- Make a mistake
- Advantage
- Monkeys love

- them
- Wood
- Paddle
- Past participle of be
- Tall, rounded vase
- Device manufacturers
- Financial institution (abbr.)
- Paper product
- A type
- Atomic #43
- Red Hot Chili Peppers' drummer
- Behaviors
- Decays
- Walked confidently
- Voice (Italian)
- Class of adhesives
- Bar bill
- One-time aerospace firm

## Warm humid weather ramps up mosquito population

PALMER – If you've been outside recently you may have noticed that mosquitoes are out in full force.

While some mosquito bites will only itch, others can carry potentially dangerous illnesses. In June, the eastern equine encephalitis virus was detected in mosquitoes in Carver, located in Plymouth County for the first time in 2024, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

"Although the communities in our region have not been identified on the warning list, it's still important to take steps to avoid mosquito bites," said Dr. Joe Sills, chief of Emergency Medicine for Baystate Wing Hospital in a press release. "Some mosquitoes carry germs that can make people and some animals sick. In Massachusetts, the diseases linked to mosquitoes are West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus. Most people won't experience symptoms from either virus, but there are important

differences to be aware of."

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, there are over 3,000 different kinds, also called "species" of mosquitoes found in North America. Fifty-one different kinds of mosquitoes have been found in Massachusetts.

Mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide, a gas that humans and other animals breathe out and they can follow a stream of carbon dioxide from as far as 50 feet away.

Mosquitoes need stagnant water to lay their eggs and what most people don't realize is the surprising number of areas around their own house where mosquitoes can find the stagnant water they need. All a female mosquito needs is a bottle cap of water to lay 100 to 200 eggs, once the eggs are laid, they hatch into larvae within 24 to 48

hours, so any temporary body of water that is present for more than a week can be a mosquito breeding habitat.

EEE is relatively rare in humans, although there are occasional outbreaks in certain regions of the country.

Outbreaks of EEE usually occur in Massachusetts every 10-20 years. These outbreaks will typically last two to three years.

The most recent outbreak of EEE in Massachusetts began in 2019 and included 12 cases with six fatalities. The outbreak continued in 2020 with five cases including one fatality.

The risk of getting EEE is highest from late July through September when more mosquitoes are present and active.

"It is possible that some people who become infected with mosquito-borne viruses may not develop any symptoms or in some cases only flu-like symptoms," said Sills. "The incubation period for the virus from the time of an infected mosquito bite to onset of illness ranges from four to 10 days and the illness can last one to two weeks. There is no specific treatment for EEE. Antibiotics are not effective against viruses, and no effective anti-viral drugs have

been discovered for the treatment of EEE. Severe illnesses are treated by supportive therapy, which may include hospitalization, respiratory support, IV fluids and prevention of other infections."

WNV is a mosquito-carried virus most commonly spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Because most people who are exposed to WNV have no symptoms, it is difficult to know exactly how many people have been infected.

People who develop severe illness with WNV are most often reported. Between 2014 and 2023, 131 people were reported with WNV infection in Massachusetts. Eight of these people died. Cases have been identified from around the state.

"The majority of people who are infected with WNV (approximately 80%) will have no symptoms," said Sills. "A smaller number of people who become infected, less than 20% will have symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands. Less than 1% of people infected with WNV will develop severe illness, including encephalitis or

Please see **MOSQUITOS**, page 17





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TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION to individuals with developmental disabilities to and from work, volunteering and other activities in the Belchertown area. Flexible hours Part time 10-20 hours per week M-F Must have a valid driver's license, and clean driving record \$17.00 to start. Apply in person at 442 State St. Belchertown, MA or email ashelton@communityoptionsma.org

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WANTED TO BUY  
ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, knives, cutlery, military, masonic

**WANTED TO BUY**  
DANA WOODS ANNUAL tag sale: Belchertown: George Hannum Rd off Rt 9 (turn at Stop & Shop) Children's clothes, toys, furniture, housewares, tools and more! Saturday, June 10th, 9:00am-3:00pm

**WANTED TO BUY**  
ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, knives, cutlery, military, masonic

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**MOSQUITOS** from page 15

meningitis. There is no specific treatment for WNV infections. People with mild WNV infections usually recover on their own. People with severe WNV infections almost always require hospitalization."

Sills encourages community members to follow The Department of Public Health tips that will help people protect themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes:

**Be aware of peak mosquito hours**

The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning.

**Apply insect repellent when outdoors**

Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.



with its distinctive fan window hiding a "W" for its original owner, stands as a beautifully restored landmark and the centerpiece of the vineyard, which celebrated 25 years in 2022.

Hardwick Winery produces, bottles, and sells their wine in house, with currently 24 different wines to choose from. They have dry wines, sweet wines, even dessert wines, some of which are past and current Big E winners. Hardwick Winery is also

**Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites**

Wearing long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

**Mosquito-proof your home and drain standing water**

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. They can

begin to multiply in any puddle or standing water that lasts for more than four days. If you have a bird bath in your yard, be sure to empty it daily and refill it with fresh water. Remove containers that may hold water in places that are hard to see such as under bushes, porches, decks, or stairs.

Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outdoors so that water can drain out. Clean clogged roof gutters; remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of rain-water.

Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use. Change the water in birdbaths every few days; aerate ornamental ponds or stock them with fish.

Install or repair screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

More information about different types of mosquitoes that can spread the virus can be found on the MDPH website at [mass.gov/dph/mosquito-borne-disease](http://mass.gov/dph/mosquito-borne-disease).

**DOG DAY** from page 8

the deteriorating property in 1997 and spent nearly five years meticulously restoring it while preserving its historical features. They added a modern wing using traditional techniques and built a timber frame barn with oak from the land.

The restoration benefited from local community support, including historical photos and returned artifacts. Today, the mansion,

home to numerous craft fairs, including the Fall Craft & Food Festivals, which usually falls on Labor Day weekend including this year. They also host craft fairs on Memorial Day and a Harvest Fest near Thanksgiving.

Hardwick Winery is open year-round, with regular events and live music. The winery often hosts Paint & Sip events where you can drink some of their many wines and paint items provided to bring home, the

most upcoming one is a Wine Glass Paint & Sip this coming Wednesday, Sept. 4 from 6-7:30 p.m. No walk-ins are allowed for the class but you can register for a spot at [hardwickseptpaintandsip.eventbrite.com](http://hardwickseptpaintandsip.eventbrite.com).

National Dog Day is just one of the many events that cement Hardwick Winery as a staple of the community as they bring joy and passion to our everyday lives.

**public notices**

**Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE SP-2024-13**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **THURSDAY, September 5th, 2024 at 7:05pm**, on the application of Ware Solar, LLC, for a Special Permit Extension (currently SP-2024-13, extending original permit SP-2019-04 and SPR-2019-03) under Section 4.8.3, Large Ground-Mounted Solar Facility, 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 Planning Board 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 Board of Selectman's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, 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: 45 Greenwich Plains Rd., Ware, MA.**

Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 13457, Page 159 and Book 10506, Pg 121. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel 22-0-12 and 22-12-01. 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 PLANNING BOARD**  
Kenneth Crosby, Chairman  
08/22, 08/29/2024

**Notice of Public Hearing Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE RDA-2024-11**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Conservation Commission hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 11th, 2024 at 6:30pm**, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. 131 c40. The hearing will include consideration of a Request for Determination Applicability (RDA) by the Town of Ware for construction of additional parking spaces and walking paths at Grenville Park, 73 Church St., Ware MA 01082. A portion of the work shall take place within the Buffer Zone of the Ware River. Said hearing will be held in the Selectman's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main St., Ware MA 01082. To view the application and related plans, contact the Conservation Office at (413) 967-9648, ext. 120. Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a copy of this legal notice can be found in the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association (MPNA) website: <http://masspublicnotices.org> 08/29/2024

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 57 Warebrook Drive, Ware, MA 01082  
By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Emil Lumbis to Albanc, FSB, and now held by Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A.

**s/b/m Charter One Bank, N.A. f/k/a Charter One Bank F.S.B. s/b/m Albanc, FSB.**

said mortgage dated July 15, 1997 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 5156, Page 1, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on September 25, 2024 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land situated in said Town of Ware, together with the buildings thereon situate, and shown as Parcel 57 on plan entitled: "DEFINITIVE PLAN WAREBROOK VILLAGE, WARE, MASSACHUSETTS": dated May 9, 1972, by Engineer: Bradford Saivetz & Associates, Inc., and recorded with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 83, Page 50, and bounded and described as follows:

**BEGINNING** at a point marking the northwesterly corner of said Parcel 57, said point being 339.76 feet distant, as measured along the easterly sideline of the Way shown on the plan, from a point marking the intersection of said sideline with the northwesterly street line of Eagle Street; thence leaving said sideline

S. 65° 47' 00" E. by Parcel 56, as shown on said plan, 117.43 feet; thence running

S. 24° 13' 00" W. by land now or formerly of Edwin c. and Francis L. Harder, 22.00 feet; thence running

N. 65° 47' 00" W. by Parcel 58, as shown on said plan, 116.99 feet to said sideline; thence following said sideline

**NORTHERLY** by a curve of 100.00 feet, radius 9.38 feet; and thence still following said sideline

N. 24° 13' 00" E. 12.63 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing about 2,582 square feet.

**SUBJECT to a ten (10) foot wide drainage and walkway easement as shown on said plan.**

**SUBJECT to easement rights granted to New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, as set forth in instrument dated May 14, 1973, and recorded as aforesaid, Book 1705, Page 292.**

**SUBJECT to easement rights granted Massachusetts Electric Company, as set forth in instrument dated March 19, 1973, and recorded in Book 1702, Page 201.**

**SUBJECT to Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions as set forth in instrument dated January 7, 1974, and recorded as aforesaid, Book 1752, page 291, if in force and applicable.**

**BEING the same premises conveyed to the mortgagor herein by deed of Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, dated June 30, 1997 and recorded simultaneously herewith.**

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated June 30, 1997 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 5155, Page 349.

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

**FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars** of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

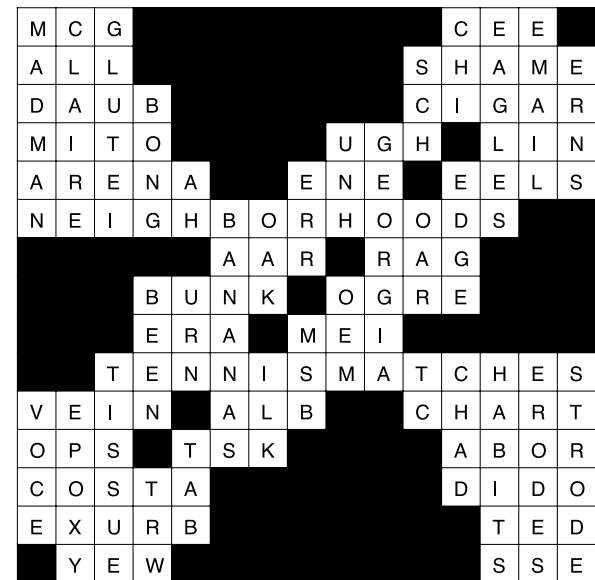
Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A. s/b/m Charter One Bank, N.A. f/k/a Charter One Bank F.S.B. s/b/m Albanc, FSB  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(401) 217-8701  
08/22, 08/29, 09/05/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE**

The Ware Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 6:30 PM** pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. 131 c40. The hearing will include consideration of a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) by VHB on behalf of Massachusetts Electric Company for work associated with the distribution line upgrades and pole replacements along Ragged Hill Road and Gilbertville Road in Ware, Massachusetts. Said hearing will be held in the Selectman's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082. To view the application and related plans, contact the Conservation office at 413.967.9648.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a copy of this legal notice can be found on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website: <http://masspublicnotices.org>. 08/29/2024



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

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

**Job Connection**

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

**TOWN OF WARREN Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Mechanic Position JOB POSTING**



The Wastewater Treatment Plant is seeking a full-time Operator/Mechanic. This full-time position is five consecutive days a week which may include Saturdays and/or Sundays, overtime, holidays, and mandatory on-call. A generous benefit package is available including health insurance in which the Town pays 75% of the premium. Requirements: HS Graduate: preferably 3 years' experience in the operation and mechanic of a wastewater treatment facility or any equivalent combination of education and mechanical experience will be considered. Must obtain a Grade 4 or higher Massachusetts Wastewater Treatment Plant License within the first six months of employment. Must possess a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Potential for advancement and growth.

The pay scale ranges from \$23.28 to \$31.29/hour based on relative work experience, educational background, and professional licenses.

Resumes and Cover letters will be accepted until the position is filled. Please forward your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, [townadministrator@warren-ma.gov](mailto:townadministrator@warren-ma.gov) or mail to 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083-0609.

Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**TOWN OF WARREN FIRE DEPARTMENT JOB POSTING Full-time Firefighter/EMT**



The Town of Warren Fire Department is accepting resumes and cover letters for the position of **Full Time Firefighter/EMT.**

Minimum requirements include high school diploma or GED, non-smoker, valid MA driver's license, and certification as a National Registry or MA EMT. The ideal candidate for the position is progressive in the fire, rescue and EMS field and Firefighter I/II certified. Candidates should be customer service oriented.

**STARTING SALARY \$22.42 PER HOUR**

The employment application may be found on the Town website: [www.warren-ma.gov](http://www.warren-ma.gov) under the volunteer and employment tab. Submit cover letter, resume, copies of all diplomas/certifications/licenses and mail the completed Town application to:

**Warren Fire Department PO Box 608, Warren, MA 01083**

**Application deadline is September 6, 2024**

Successful candidates will be subject to C.O.R.I. check, Physical Ability Testing (PAT). Medical exam and character evaluation.

The Town of Warren is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or age.

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## HELP WANTED

**TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING**  
The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department.  
Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.  
Further information can be found on the Town's website: **www.worthington-ma.us**

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Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.  
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Each player had a chance to defend the goal.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

# HAVING A BALL



Players lined up to take turns kicking the ball to the goal.



Players had to navigate their soccer balls around other players during "ball battle."



Coaches Herb Foley, Aaron Bateman and Jess Burke are shown with players ages 9-12.



Coaches Herb Foley, Kayden Lourake and Paige Leach are shown with the players ages 5-8.



Nikki prepares to kick the ball down field.

## SOCCER from page 1

A graduate of Westfield State University, Burke recently celebrated her one-year anniversary of becoming a nurse at Mercy Medical Center. She also celebrated her fourth year as a coach at the Summer Camp.

Burke enjoys coaching and sharing her love of soccer with the next generation of players.

"We're just playing games and they're catching on," she said. "It's fun."

Another returning coach is Ware High School sophomore Aaron Bateman, who plays on both the varsity and junior varsity soccer teams.

Bateman, who has been playing soccer for about eight years, said the camp is a lot of fun for all involved, and it's also helping to boost interest in his school's soccer program.

"We had a couple of boys move up from last year's camp," he said.

Joining Ware Soccer Club's coaching staff are two Quaboag Regional High School alumni, Kayden Lourake and Paige Leach. Both coaches have lent their talents to the club's summer camp in the past.

Lourake is about to start her sophomore year at Salve Regina University in Rhode Island, studying cultural and historical preservation. She has been playing soccer since she was 6 years old.

"I really enjoy the little kids," Lourake said of coaching. "They're just so kind."

Lourake also coaches a U10 soccer team with Leach, who is an incoming freshman at Westfield State University, majoring in nursing.

Having played soccer for 15 years, Leach recognizes the impact playing a team sport has in developing strength and character.

"It's just really good to see the kids develop; get out of their shell," she said. "And learn a new sport."

Foley thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission for allowing use of Memorial Field, as well as Norm St. Dennis, Quaboag's varsity girls' soccer coach for providing players to help coach the young athletes.

He also thanked the many local businesses who have sponsored the camp, helping to provide team shirts and a pizza party. This year's sponsors include Country Bank, Cluett's, Sunny Side Storage, Integrity Towing, Monson Savings Bank, Lazer's Pizza and Brookside Mart.

"I'm very proud of the camp," Foley said.

Ware Soccer Club is now gearing up for the start of the fall soccer season.

Volunteers are always needed to help with coaching and more. Training is available for people that are interested in coaching.

For more information about volunteering, people may contact Foley at 413-221-1800. People may also visit [waresoccer.org](http://waresoccer.org) or find them on Facebook for information and updates.



Silas gets ready to block a kick from his teammate.



Aaron Bateman demonstrates his dribbling skills.



Players warm up before practicing new skills at Ware Soccer Club's Summer Camp.



Mia winds up for a big kick.



Kayden Lourake explains the rules of the game to the younger players.



Players enjoy a game of "ball battle."



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