

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Voters approve 27 articles at STM

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARREN – Voters made decisions on 29 articles in an hour and half at the special town meeting held in the auditorium of Quaboag Regional Middle High School last Thursday evening.

Two of the articles on the warrant failed to pass, including Article 13, which asked voters to place a question on the election ballot to change the Board of Assessors from an elected to an appointed position, and Article 14, which asked to use Free Cash to purchase a new chime system for the Town Hall.

Voters passed all of the other articles on the warrant.



THEY'RE ONLY TEMPORARILY APPOINTED, AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO RUN IF THEY WANT TO STAY."

Laurie Stockley
TOWN CLERK

Board of Assessors

Article 13 asked voters to place a question on the annual town election ballot to change the Board of Assessors positions from elected to appointed, with the Board of Selectmen acting as the appointing authority.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said if the article was passed at the special town meeting, the question would then be placed on the town election ballot for voters to decide on.

This article also appeared on the warrant for the annual town meeting held back in June, and failed to pass by four votes.

Ferrera said the Board of

Please see **WARREN STM**, page 5



Katherine Sherbrooke, the author of "Leaving Coy's Hill", was welcomed to the Warren Public Library to give a talk about her new book.

Library welcomed author of 'Leaving Coy's Hill'

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Last week the Warren Public Library welcomed Katherine Sherbrooke, author of "Leaving Coy's Hill".

The book is about the life of Lucy Stone, a local pioneering feminist and abolitionist who worked hard and risked a lot for several causes. Sherbrooke described the book as talking

about who Stone was and what she left behind in pursuit of these causes such as women's rights and anti-slavery movements.

Sherbrooke wanted to write a book about someone she didn't have enough information about. She feels as if Stone was a person who was kind of forgotten and almost erased from history.

To Sherbrooke, Lucy Stone was a woman of incredible firsts, including being a recipient of a college degree.

"There were details of her life that captured me," Sherbrooke said. "I need to understand more about her."

Throughout the author's talk Sherbrooke would explain the steps she took to research more about Lucy Stone, her work, and her life. There was a photograph of a wall of notes in Sherbrooke's office that she shared in her presentation.

Please see **AUTHOR**, page 11

Selectboard hears quarterly reports from department heads

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – The Selectboard heard quarterly reports from department heads at the Nov. 19 meeting.

Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer Anna Marques gave an update on the status of the Mary Lane Hospital property, and said Baystate Health is still in the process of working

with the Building and Fire departments to meet requirements.

"They had submitted a plan, I reviewed it and the Fire Chief... is looking into it now," she said. "There's a site visit in the very near future like within a couple days."

During the site visit, the Building and Fire departments will go over the engineer's plans for approval in order to secure permitting.

"Now it's in daily commu-

nications with the Building Department," she said.

Selectboard member Terrance Smith suggested the town look into having one of its police officers attend the site visit and record the walkthrough on a body camera, in order to provide a visual of the property's layout and condition.

Marques also gave an update on vacant properties in town. She

Please see **REPORTS**, page 7

Draft economic plan presented by PVPC

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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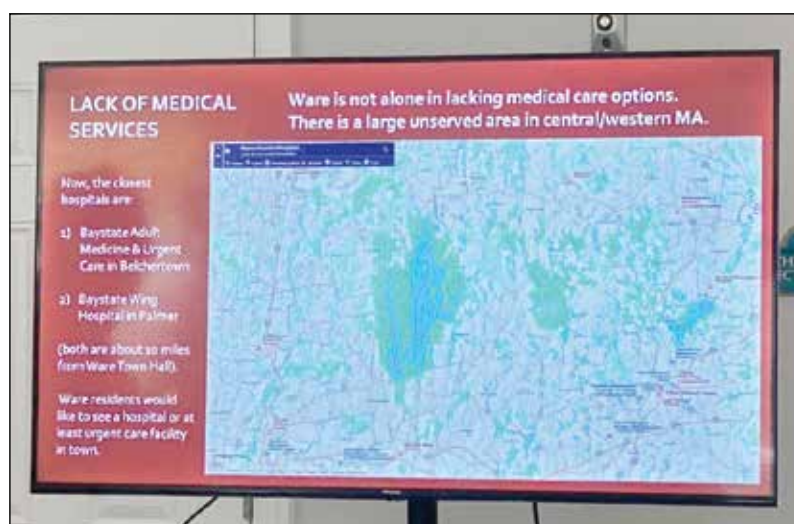
WARE – Members of the Ware Business and Civic Association & Beyond met at Cedarbrook Village for a presentation of a draft economic development plan.

Forming the plan is representatives of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The PVPC is the primary designated regional planning body for the Pioneer Valley region,

which encompasses 43 cities and towns in Hampden and Hampshire counties.

Talking about the draft economic development plan for Ware is PVPC Director of Economic and Municipal Collaboration, Eric Weiss. The background and purpose of this draft plan is the town of Ware wishes to support and sustain a multi-faceted economic base that meets the current needs of the

Please see **DRAFT**, page 6



A slide featuring a zoning map while talking about the lack of medical services in the surrounding area. Ware is one of several towns without a medical service.

Board signs CR for land near Patrill Hollow

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – The Select Board continued discussion about the acceptance of a conservation restriction on 90 acres of land adjacent to East Quabbin Land Trust's Patrill Hollow Preserve.

At the Nov. 12 meeting, Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the town's attorney and the land trust's attorney reviewed the board's proposed changes to the language in the conservation restriction, as discussed at a previous meeting. This included removing language permitting agrotourism and green energy structures.

The question about whether or not the town would be held liable in the event someone were hurt or injured on the town's open space was raised by Select Board Chair Kelly Kemp and Clerk William Tinker at the prior meeting.

Caggiano said she also contacted the town's insurance provider regarding concerns the Select Board members had about liability for open space proper-

ties. She said it appears that coverage of the town's open space would be a minimal increase to the town's policy at approximately \$1,000 a year.

Tinker asked EQLT's Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw how the land trust had contributed financially to the town's emergency services to cover the cost of any responses, and he referenced a 911 call from lost hikers in 2020. He said seven different agencies responded to the call and that the services weren't free.

Tinker said the police have requested electric mountain bikes to be funded by the land trust, in order to respond to calls in remote areas. He said the bikes would be used to access trails that could not be reached with emergency vehicles.

Henshaw said she was not made aware of the incident Tinker referenced, and said emergency personnel have passcodes to unlock bollards on the rail trails. She said the land trust has not received a formal request to provide electric mountain bikes to emergency personnel.

Please see **LAND**, page 3



The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center had a 20th anniversary celebration on Nov. 19. The celebration had light refreshments and cupcakes.

Senior Center celebrates 20th anniversary party

By Ryan Drago
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BARRE – The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center celebrated 20 years of operation during a special anniversary party held last week.

The 20th anniversary party took place on Nov. 19 and the turnout was spectacular.

Dozens of residents from Barre and Hardwick came together for a special celebration featuring delicious 20th anniversary themed cupcakes. These desserts were highlighting the Barre blue and white, and light refreshments were available thanks to the dedicated staff of the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center.

In attendance was Betty-Jo O'Brien, director of the Senior Center. O'Brien was excited to see all the seniors come together for this special anniversary celebration.

"This anniversary is good for the Senior Center," O'Brien said.

"It brings us together, giving us a better connection."

O'Brien took the role of director seven months ago and has enjoyed her role strongly. O'Brien feels the participation and events that have been going on at the Senior Center have really "ramped up" as the community has reconnected during the 20th anniversary celebration.

O'Brien said the experience at the Senior Center has been great with everyone working together, seniors are having fun with their activities, and everyone is always collaborating. O'Brien and the Senior Center are appreciative of the continuous support from town officials and Council on Aging board.

To highlight the special occasion, the Senior Center displayed certificates and vintage newspaper articles highlighting the history of the Senior Center over the last 20 years. What many of the seniors

Please see **CELEBRATE**, page 15

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COMMUNITY

Tree and Wreath Festival
Dec. 7-8

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Indians face Amherst

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POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Ware Selectboard votes to keep single tax rate

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – The Board of Assessors recommended the town retain a single tax rate for all taxpayers at a tax classification hearing held during the Selectboard’s meeting.

At the Nov. 19 meeting, Interim Principal Assessor Kate Winkler said the town has a relatively small commercial, industrial and personal property tax base, and if the town adopted a split tax rate, the residential tax rate would only decrease by 1.4% and the commercial, industrial and personal property would increase by 8%.

Winkler said overall, there was an increase in property values, with single family homes going up by 11.6%; two-to-three family homes, 9.3%; and commercial properties, 7.8%.

“The Board of Assessors is recommending a single tax rate,” Winkler said.

Selectboard Clerk John Desmond agreed with the Assessor’s recommendation, which the town has always retained. He said a split tax rate would place a “huge burden” on the businesses and would be unfair.

Selectboard Chair Nancy Talbot agreed with Desmond and said the single tax rate was in the town’s best interest.

The Selectboard unanimously voted to retain the single tax rate for the upcoming year.

Comments and concerns

Desmond talked about the Boston Post Cane, and how it used to be handed out to the oldest citizen in town. He said it has been about 15 years since this happened and he would like to start it up again.

“I think it’s a nice tradition that we give to the oldest person in town,” he said.

Desmond said if the cane can’t be located, the Selectboard could ask Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School students to recreate it.

Talbot said the town gave out replica canes that were made at the school and the Selectboard will research how many are left and how they were presented to citizens.

Desmond also suggested the town update its road plan that lists each road’s condition and schedule for repair. He said the existing document is 10 years old and should be updated with the help of the Pioneer Valley Planning Condition.

“If we can get this plan together, it would not only address the roads, but the water lines and sewer lines under them,” he said.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said PVPC does a pavement management plan, but they do not cover utilities. Desmond said the town has information about the utilities already, which could be merged into the pavement management plan.

Plowing of unclaimed roads

At the recommendation of the Director of Planning and Community Development, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works, Building Commissioner and Fire Department, the Selectboard approved the annual list of unclaimed subdivision roadways to be plowed and sanded this winter.

Approved roads include Coldbrook Drive, Hillside Terrace, Lee Road, Walter Drive, Wildflower Drive, Briar Circle and Williston Drive.

Bel Air Drive was not recommended for plowing due to ongoing issues

with the roadway and High Meadow Lane was also not recommended for plowing and sanding.

After discussion, the Selectboard voted to remove High Meadow Lane from the list of unclaimed roads to be considered as it was determined to be a private driveway.

Remaining ARPA funds

Beckley said all remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds must be obligated by Dec. 31.

He provided a list of the projects approved by the Selectboard and some recommendations for use of the funding including social services, façade improvement, replacement pumps for the wastewater treatment plant, the U.S. 250th celebration, Town hall windows, repaving the Town Hall parking lot and Buckley Court pump repair.

Talbot suggested money be obligated to provide Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades to the Town Hall. Smith also recommended considering obligating ARPA funding to cover any contingency for the Grenville Park bathroom construction.

Town Manager’s report

Beckley said the Community Development Authority and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission are holding a public hearing for their past programs, including the 2021 Community Development Block Grant.

“That can be moving toward closing out,” he said. “The last piece of that is the façade program.”

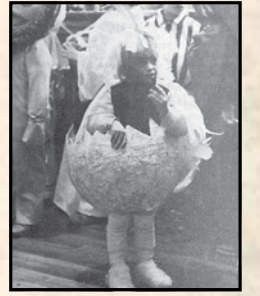
He said the townwide winter parking ban goes into effect on Dec. 1 and runs through March 31. Residents

Please see **TAX RATE**, page 11

Are You Old News?



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



File Photo

Last week’s photo from 1977 showed Damien Goudreau dressed as a chick bursting out of its egg. Goudreau won third place for his costume at the Halloween party held at Town Hall. If you recognize the folks in this week’s photo, please send their names and your full name to pouimette@turley.com.

First Congregational participates in White Christmas festivities

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St., will host an open house on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. during the town’s White Christmas celebration.

The kitchen opens at noon and the menu includes: a plentiful and delicious hot turkey sandwich with stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce, hot dogs and chili dogs, homemade chicken soup and corn chowder, chicken, egg and ham salad sandwiches, homemade pie - apple, blueberry and pumpkin, a variety of hot and cold drinks.

They will also offer a huge gift card raffle, a concert by a performance by the Hardwick Memorial Handbell Choir at 3 p.m., a Christmas carol sing along with free cookies and cocoa at 4 p.m., “Find-the-Elf” for the kids, free door prize raffle and a bountiful baked-goods table.

A special treat this year, is a raffle for a gorgeous handmade quilt. The pattern name is Pineapple Blossom and measures approximately 61 inches by 71 inches.

DJ Mic will be spinning Christmas tunes, and the atmosphere will be festive and cheery. The church is a wonderful place to be to welcome in the holiday season.

Call the church for more information at 508-867-7078.



The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield will be raffling off this handmade quilt during its open house on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., held in conjunction with the town’s White Christmas celebration.

Submitted Photos
This quilt features a “pineapple blossom” pattern and measures 61 inches by 71 inches.

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.

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For any questions reach out to:
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*You will always be able to stay completely anonymous at Palmer for Tomorrow, we will never ask or share your name or your story.

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

Christmas on the Common

Sunday, Dec. 8th 2-6pm

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Pineapple Express celebrates grand opening

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Pineapple Express celebrated its grand opening during a ribbon cutting ceremony last Thursday.

Pineapple Express is a cannabis home delivery company delivering products locally and across the commonwealth.

Owner of Pineapple Express Kaily Hepburn was excited to have this grand opening celebration with friends, colleagues and members of the community. When asked about the name behind the company, Hepburn said it brings a happy vibe when people say the name.

"It makes everyone smile when you say it," Hepburn said.

Joining Pineapple Express during their grand opening ceremony is representatives of the company, Weedmaps. This company is a cannabis technology platform providing integrated solutions for cannabis consumers and businesses.

The company had a booth set up inside the Phillips Plaza parking lot in Ware providing merchandise and information.

The Pineapple Express booth also provided merchandise along with a raffle and a turkey giveaway through Big Y. Pineapple Express hosted a Thanksgiving can drive during the grand opening event.

The grand opening also featured CremeBru.LA LLC of Amherst offering a variety of crème brûlée desserts ranging from vanilla, maple, and pumpkin spice.

Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce CEO James Przypek welcomed Hepburn and her com-



Kaily Hepburn cuts the ribbon during the special grand opening celebration of Pineapple Express.



pany to the business community and presented her with an official citation from the state.

"We look forward to seeing growing partnerships," Przypek said. "We're stronger here together."

For more about Pineapple Express, visit pineappleexpressma.com, email kaily@pineappleexpressma.com or call 413-277-0277. Pineapple Express also provides educational materials for their customers.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

LEFT: Kaily Hepburn, left, received the official citation during the grand opening of her business, Pineapple Express.

Task force continues to develop healthcare model

By Paula Ouimette
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pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Judi Korzec, chair of the town's Healthcare Task Force, updated the Select Board about the task force's progress to address rural healthcare needs.

Korzec said the task force continues to grow, and that the Planning Board recommended that a member of the Master Plan Steering Committee be added to the task force.

"Which seems to make a lot of sense, considering you need healthcare in your master plan," she said.

Korzec said the Finance Committee would be involved with the task force on an "as needed" basis, rather than appointing one of its members. She said the task force is also looking to add a community member seat, or someone from one of the local churches.

"Having worked in this industry for a long time, when we're working in rural and less advantaged communities, it's very helpful to have that," she said.

Korzec said it is now clear that the Mary Lane Hospital property is owned by Baystate Health, and is not tied to the Gilbert trust.

"That was voted on by the Mary Lane board; it is owned by Baystate," she said.

The will of Lewis Gilbert did set up the zoning of the property, which states it "shall be healthcare forever more."

Korzec said the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital want to ensure that the land is only

used for medically related purposes. She said there has been push back from Baystate Health, and the town of Ware would like to see some of the land used to generate tax income.

She said the buildings at Mary Lane Hospital continue to get destroyed and there is little the town of Ware can do other than to ensure safety is maintained. She said the Fire and Building departments are working with Baystate Health to make sure this is taken care of.

"They're trying to get an outside contractor for inspection, etc., to maintain the safety. Apparently, a lot of the demolition was done outside of what was supposed to be done," Korzec said.

Korzec said the Gilbert trust, which lists the village of Gilbertville, is thought to total around \$7 million, with annual dividends of about \$300,000. She said it is not a "big dollar amount...but it's something."

Korzec said the trust was not used as intended by Baystate Health, with the disbursements going to its Springfield location rather than Mary Lane or Wing hospitals.

"This is going to become a big deal and a lawsuit," she said.

Korzec said there are smaller trusts associated with Mary Lane Hospital, but they are not directly tied to Gilbertville, such as the Gilbert trust is.

Korzec said the town of Ware has been working with an outside attorney to review all of this information and it has been a slow-moving process.

Please see **TASK FORCE**, page 12



Weedmaps had a booth providing merchandise and information on their services.



CremeBru.LA LLC of Amherst was one of the vendors who attended the grand opening.

The grand opening took place in the parking lot of the Phillips Plaza in Ware.

Free vaccine clinic offered on Dec. 4

WARE – A free COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinic will be held in the E2E Building, 79 Main St. on Wednesday, Dec. 4 from 3-6 p.m.

Walk-ins are welcome, but registration encouraged by visiting <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/cdrmaguire?site=e2e-building-ware>

Vaccinations are available for ages 6 months and up. Patients

aged 12 and older will receive a \$75 gift card after vaccination. Only 100 gift cards are available per clinic.

COVID/flu vaccines will be provided at no cost; individuals with insurance are asked to present their plan information. Identification is not required for vaccinations and no one will be turned away.

LAND from page 1

Henshaw said the land trust properties are open to the public and meet state standards for being posted. Detailed maps of the trails are available online and posted on kiosks at trailheads.

Henshaw noted that the town is featuring the land trust's trails and properties in its ecotourism mapping.

"The trails that are on East Quabbin Land Trust properties are a key component of that, so the town is promoting the use of the trails and of course the rail trail," she said.

Henshaw said the land trust worked with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to create the language for liability which was also reviewed by town counsel.

She said the landowner that is donating this land has a deadline of Dec. 31 in order to qualify for the state's Conservation Tax Credit program. This donation, along with two others that are

being reviewed by EEA, would be added to existing land trust properties if accepted by the Select Board.

"All of these are being donated by the landowner to promote conservation within the community," she said.

She said the land trust has worked closely with the town's Conservation Commission in preparing these conservation restrictions.

Conservation Commission Chair Bill Zinni talked about his commission's role in this process and the benefits open space brings to the community, promoting hiking, biking, fishing and hunting. He said the town currently holds seven conservation restrictions.

"I would like to see the beneficial aspects of these lands credited," he said.

Select Board Vice Chair Eric Vollheim made a motion to sign the amended conservation restriction, which was not seconded.

Resident Bill Cole questioned

why the amended conservation restriction would place tighter limitations on how the land was utilized versus the other conservation restrictions. The amended conservation restriction prevents the placement of solar panels on the land for agricultural use.

Tinker said by allowing agrotourism on conservation restricted land, the land trust is getting an "unfair advantage" over taxpayers.

"They're not paying property taxes; they're not contributing," he said.

Resident Erik Fleming questioned why the board was prohibiting the acceptance of the amended conservation restriction after the land trust worked to resolve the board's concerns about language in the agreement.

"They've done what you've asked them to do, and now you're not acknowledging them through a vote," he said.

Vollheim said he would make another motion to accept the conservation restriction and Kemp said she didn't feel he

should, as he had potential financial gain from another conservation restriction that was anticipated to come before the board in the future.

"I don't have any financial gain about this conservation restriction," Vollheim said. "I've stayed away from this conversation, but I have an interest in the town."

He questioned if he would need to resign from his seat on the Select Board in order for conservation restrictions to be accepted going forward.

"I'm in a brutal situation here," Vollheim said.

Resident Jerry Reilly said he agreed with Fleming about the land trust having addressed the board's concerns.

"You've had your objections withdrawn," he said. "So why can't you vote on it?"

Vollheim made his motion again and Tinker seconded it. The vote passed with Vollheim and Kemp in favor and Tinker opposing.

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viewpoints

Finding William Lewis

Journals chronicle the life of 19th century Barre man

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – At a recent program hosted by the Sturbridge Historical Society at the Publick House, Christie Higginbottom and Bruce Craven explored the life of a 19th century man, as told through his extensive journals.

Higginbottom said she and Craven were at an antique show in Tolland, Connecticut in 2012 when they found a wooden trunk filled with pass book journals. All of the journals were written by the same person, William Lewis.

“Each journal listed the town he lived in at the time, including Barre and Hubbardston,” Higginbottom said. “Bruce convinced me that we needed to buy them... there were 99 pass book journals.”

Higginbottom said the antique dealer had bought the journals from a woman’s estate in Barre, which was being divided by her son, Frank Patterson.

“We had assumed it was where Lewis lived, but it wasn’t,” Higginbottom said.

After getting in contact with Patterson, Higginbottom and Craven were invited to visit the Barre house where the journals had been discovered, and try to learn more about Lewis. When they arrived, Patterson had found another 44 journals.

“We now had a collection of 143 pass-book journals,” Higginbottom said.

Upon a second visit to the Patterson house, Higginbottom and Craven were surprised with the discovery of over 200 receipt books, which also belonged to Lewis – now bringing the total documents compiled by the tradesman and farmer to over 300.

Using their decades of experience working at Old Sturbridge Village, Higginbottom and Craven set to work to transcribe all of the documents and learn more about Lewis, and what life was like in the 1830s and beyond.

“What his records show us is how he found himself,” Higginbottom said.

Lewis made his first journal entry on March 11, 1836, when he was 17 years old. Born in Vermont on Feb. 14, 1819, Lewis became an orphan by the time he was 14.

He apprenticed with his uncle, Charles Mixer, in Rindge, New Hampshire, learning the skills of tanning and currying from age 13 until 17.

Lewis wrote about his trade, noting, “It is true that it is a wet and dirty business tanning hides.”

Higginbottom said almost any town with a wet, marshy area had a tannery and they were known for their noxious odors. Hides were soaked in manure from chickens, dogs and other animals over the winter.

“He tanned for a good part of his life,” Higginbottom said of Lewis. “Tanning was a business that put a great deal of physical stress on him.”

Lewis endured a lot of challenges throughout his life, including a tough economy and the Panic of 1837.

“He kept trying to work to become independent,” Higginbottom said.

Lewis attended district school until he was 18, and he wrote in his journal that he missed being a student. He started keeping a journal as a way to improve his handwriting and composition, and also as a way to battle loneliness.

“He used his journal as his confidante,” Higginbottom said.

When Lewis turned 21, he began keeping his own accounting books to keep track of money coming in and going out.

In 1838, Lewis made his way to the commonwealth, after spending the first part of his life travelling between Vermont and New Hampshire. He worked in Northborough and Dorchester, before returning to Vermont.

In the spring of 1840, Lewis moved to Templeton, where he earned \$15 a month tanning and currying for Daniel Swan. Lewis also worked for Albert A. Payne in Leicester (where Higginbottom and Craven live) at a tannery located near the Spencer line.

“It was not one of Lewis’ favorite places to live,” Higginbottom said of Leicester, due to the fact that it didn’t have a Methodist church, which was of great importance to Lewis.

“I think this provided William with the closest thing to family, since he left his uncle’s home in Rindge,” she said.

Lewis wrote in his journal about walking a distance of 21 miles to attend worship.

While living in Leicester, Lewis attended his first Methodist camp meeting for six days in Southbridge, hearing the words of prominent black preachers, John Newton Mars and Samuel Snowden in crowds of thousands of people.

“He continued to attend camp meetings and the church continued to be an important aspect of his life,” Higginbottom said.

Lewis also attended a lecture by abolitionist and civil rights leader Frederick Douglass, which was a moving experience for him. Douglass was exactly one year

Please see LEWIS, page 13



The last of the autumn questions for the Garden Lady

Lori, a reader of the column, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: “I put my garlic cloves in three weeks ago and they have sprouted! The variety is a German White hardneck. Will they come back in the spring?”

Thank you for your question! It is not uncommon for garlic to send up shoots when fall weather is warmer than normal, much like ours has been.

Typically, the shoots survive the winter just fine, and will resume growth come spring time. To be on the safe side, I would mulch around your plants with straw or chopped up leaves to provide some insulation.

Once spring arrives, pull back the mulch and provide some fertilizer that is nitrogen rich to give the shoots a boost. A sprinkling of blood meal, fish emulsion, or composted

manure would all do the trick.

Push the mulch back in place; it will help to keep weeds down. Garlic hates competition in this arena.

Early on, ample water and nutrients make the big fists of garlic we all want to see at harvest.

Hardneck garlic is typically the garlic grown in our area. Unlike softneck garlic, it needs the cold to complete its life cycle. It has fewer, but larger cloves.

Cloves from hardneck garlic are more pungent than softneck, but don’t last quite as long in storage. Softneck don’t grow stiff scapes as stems but have leaves that at harvest can be braided together to make a nice kitchen decoration.

Often you will see these garlic braids for sale at craft shows or in catalogs.

Michele, who gardens in Ware, has a question about tidying up her hydrangea bushes.

“The flowers at the tips of the branches of my blue hydrangea bushes have all browned and look unappealing. Some of the leaves are hanging on too. Altogether it’s not a pretty sight. Can I cut down the branches to the ground? In effect, cleaning up the plant by the easiest way possible? It will sprout again when spring arrives, of that I’m sure.”

I know exactly what you are talking about. From where I am writing, I can see my own hydrangea and it looks just as “pretty” as yours sounds!

Rest assured that the leaves will fall off. The flowers, on the other hand, will stick around awhile. Wind and wet weather will eventually cause them to degrade and fall

SNAP provides benefits beyond food

As we end a record year for inflation, Massachusetts residents’ budgets are stretched tight.

What many may not realize is how Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits can provide significant relief for families during the holiday season enabling them to allocate more of their food budget toward festive meals and shared experiences across the Commonwealth.

At its most basic level, the SNAP makes it possible for people to purchase the food they want, where and when they choose.

SNAP is the largest of the federal assistance programs and provides ten times the amount of food as food banks. It’s designed to expand with need through a pre-established distribution network, retail grocers.

However, lesser known is how enrolling in SNAP also automatically assures residents’ eligibility for other benefits, including discounts for the MBTA, select cultural institutions and shows, utilities, education, and childcare programs, all of which can help to offset holiday costs.

“When residents think of SNAP, the first thing that often comes to mind is the program’s former name, food stamps,” said Khara Shearrior, Senior Director, SNAP Outreach Programs at Project Bread, the leading statewide food security organization that operates the FoodSource Hotline connecting residents to nutrition support, like SNAP. “Not only does this lifesaving resource give residents the purchasing power to shop for healthy, culturally relevant and kid-friendly foods where and when they choose, but it also offers additional savings for residents to focus on other aspects of their lives, from getting to and from a job, to pursuing an education to exploring the Bay State’s arts and culture scene. We want residents to know that when you enroll in SNAP for nutrition relief, you access so much more.”

Utilizing SNAP for savings outside of grocery stores is not a new concept, however too many residents are unaware of the additional discounts these benefits afford.

As of July 2024, more than a million people – over one in seven residents – in Massachusetts use SNAP. Nearly one in four households are using SNAP, and 68% of those households have a gross countable income of less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Not only does SNAP fulfill the immediate need for food for many families living below the poverty line, it also puts money back into



the economy for all Massachusetts residents. Every \$1 of SNAP benefits generates at least \$1.50 in economic activity, which supports local communities and creates jobs.

There are over 5,000 retail establishments across the Commonwealth that accept SNAP and have more regular hours than food pantries.

Here are some additional ways in which SNAP benefits can help Massachusetts residents save:

Utilities – as heating bills rise this winter, SNAP users can access savings on gas & electric bills, as well as internet service.

Admission to museums – when kids are out of school and residents need something to do as a family, exclusive discounts can help make group outings possible.

Entertainment – similarly, individuals and families can catch a discounted holiday favorite show at places like ArtsEmerson, Boston Ballet, Boston Symphony Orchestra and more.

Transportation – SNAP recipients ages 12-25 may be able to use their benefits to purchase MBTA Youth Passes.

Winter Farmers Markets – SNAP users are eligible for the Healthy Incentives Program which offers additional funds to purchase

away from the plant.

If you don’t want to wait that long, feel free to cut the flower heads, and just the flower heads off. You see, most hydrangeas bloom on old wood.

Newer varieties – those bred in the last 20 years or so, often bloom on both new wood and old wood, so you’d never really want to cut them all the way down because you would be missing out on an opportunity for flowers to form. In case you don’t follow my logic, flowers can form on the new growth the plant puts out in the spring, and the old growth from the previous year. Lots of gardeners remarked about what an amazing year it was for hydrangeas. So many flowers!

We attribute that to a mild winter last year and ample rainfall. I’m uncertain what the droughty fall will do, if anything, to next year’s show.

I also wonder if hydrangeas put on a banner year one year, if the following year will be sparser because they are in recovery mode? I know it happens that way for fruit trees, my Asian pears for example, but not certain if it works the same way with flowering shrubs.

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

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

Send opinions to:
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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

Beware of health care cons during open enrollment

If you are adding or changing your Medicare or Healthcare.gov coverage during open enrollment, watch out for unsolicited calls claiming to “help” you find the best deal.

Unfortunately, scammers see this open enrollment period as a chance to trick people out of money and personal information.

Open enrollment for Medicare runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7; Medicare Advantage open enrollment is from Jan. 1 to March 31 or within three months of getting Medicare; Healthcare.gov open enrollment begins Nov. 1 with Dec. 15 as the last day to enroll or change plans for coverage starting Jan. 1, and Jan. 15 as the last day to enroll for coverage starting Feb. 1.

How this scam works

The Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker frequently receives reports of scam calls and texts pretending to be from Medicare.

In one report, the target reported that a caller pretended to be an agent “asking if I got a new updated Medicare card in the mail. He then verified my name and mailing

address. Then he wanted me to get my old card and read off info to him, such as the date on the lower right side of the card. When he asked me to read my card number, I told him I cannot.”

Another consumer reported being targeted through a text message and shared the following: “I received a text saying that my health benefits were about to expire, and I needed to call the number to renew. Then, the representative told me I had to pay, and my bank had to verify with them...That’s when I knew it was a scam.”

If you stay on the line, these callers allege they can enroll you in a better plan than what you currently have, according to Scam Tracker reports.

This new plan is cheaper, and you can keep all the same services. To get started, all you need to do is provide some personal information, such as your Medicare ID number and your Social Security number.

No matter how good the deal sounds and how convincing the caller seems, don’t do it. The call is a scam, and sharing personal information will expose you to identity theft.

How to avoid similar scams

Be wary of anyone who contacts you out of the blue. Healthcare.gov and Medicare provide legitimate help for determining which plan is right for you.

These people – sometimes called Navigators or Assisters – cannot charge for their support. If someone asks you for payment, it’s a scam.

You will also need to contact them on your own. They will not call you first.

Be wary of free gifts and “health screenings.” Keep a healthy level of skepticism any time a broker offers you free gifts or other special deals.

Never sign up with a broker who offers you an expensive sign-up gift in exchange for providing your Medicare ID number or additional personally identifiable information. Other times, brokers offer free “health screenings” to weed out people who are less healthy.

This technique is called “cherry picking” and is against Medicare rules.

Please see SCAMS page 12

CDAC reviews open space, recreation strategies

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Community Development Advisory Committee met to discuss open space recreation findings for the town's Master Plan.

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission's Principal Planner Sarah O'Brien shared that the first chapter of the Master Plan will be out for community review soon. The best source for residents to review is warrenmasterplan.com.

"This chapter really focuses on how people can enjoy Warren's environment," O'Brien said.

The first key finding is improvements for existing recreational options. One of the areas the CDAC talked about that should be added to the list is the small park off Albany

Street and Main Street in West Warren.

The other area is a conservation area off Washington Street. The CDAC also believes there is potential for adding hiking trails to the area of Tyler Memorial Park.

One of the first strategies to execute this key finding is redesign parks, including Cutter Park. CMRPC suggests some of the parks could add more amenities to the park including Americans with Disabilities Act approved walk-throughs, sidewalks and parking lots. Other amenities for public events include concerts and farmers markets.

The Parks & Recreation department have put on fun events at Dean Park in West Warren including vendor fairs and concerts throughout the summer.

Another idea for an amenity

would be a dog park. Warren has many dog owners and want to provide a space where dogs can roam freely in a fenced in park.

The CDAC would then discuss the potential for more open space and recreational use over in Comins Pond. The area would be excellent for picnic settings along with being a public beach.

For Dean Park, the committee was looking at the possibility of having a soccer field added for more organized sporting events. The park currently has enough space for two ball fields, one for softball and for baseball.

O'Brien feels having more organized sports promotes a low cost to get tourism going. Many people travel for sports games, especially when their kids are playing. Dean Park does have a basketball court, but is in need of a makeover.

Another key finding O'Brien discussed was natural beauty and the opportunity for expansion. Since starting the drafting for the Master Plan, O'Brien always saw Warren having many natural beauty elements.

Strategy one is about a lot of private land in the town and it is well preserved. Much of the vacant land is not used for any purpose.

CDAC Chair Jeremy Olson spoke on possibly working with private land owners forming a partnership with the Town for use of privately owned land for recreation. According to Olson, these private owners could receive a tax break for allowing use of their land.

Trails were discussed a lot during the Nov. 20 CDAC meeting and O'Brien feels Warren has many

Please see **CDAC**, page 11



Submitted Photo

Auditor Mia McDonald visited Jean DiRico's accounting class at Quaboag Regional High School earlier this month.

Accounting students enjoy visit from senior auditor

WARREN – On Nov. 12, Mia McDonald, a 2022 graduate of Westfield State University and currently a Senior Auditor at Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C., visited Quaboag Regional High School teacher Jean DiRico's accounting class.

Her presentation was an incredible opportunity for stu-

dents to learn directly from a professional in the field, gaining valuable insights into the world of accounting and auditing. The students found her visit engaging and inspiring-truly a memorable experience that deepened their appreciation and understanding of accounting in the real world.

Light the Night holiday decorating contest Dec. 13-15

WARREN – Warren Parks & Recreation Department's Light the Night holiday decorating contest will be held in Warren and West Warren on Dec. 13, 14 and 15 from 5-9 p.m.

Maps and voting information will be available for drive-thru pickup on Dec. 13 from 5-8 p.m. at the Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High St., at the front entrance door. See Santa and Mrs.

Claus, enjoy hot chocolate and some goodies provided by the Parks & Recreation Department.

On Dec. 14 and 15, maps and voting information will be available outside the Shepard Municipal Building (second entrance) and on the Parks Department's Facebook page.

Voting will be open from Dec. 13 at 5 p.m. through Dec. 18 at 11:59 p.m.

WARREN STM from page 1

Assessors positions are "critically important" to the town's financial stability.

Currently, the board has two members, one which was elected by write-in vote at the annual town election and the other that was appointed by the Selectmen to fill a vacant term. The appointed Assessor will only serve until the annual town election in the spring, when they can opt to seek re-election for a full term.

"They're only temporarily appointed, and they would have to run if they want to stay," Town Clerk Laurie Stockley said.

Assessor Debra Hardy was elected as a write-in candidate at this past election, and she said the amount of training and learning required for the position is challenging if candidates aren't serving full terms.

"One year isn't enough and we

end up keep paying for people to learn that position," she said.

Several residents questioned why people didn't want to run for this position or to get involved with their local government.

Ferrera said the town always looks to appoint the "best and the brightest" candidates for each role. He said by shifting the position to appointed, it would focus on a model of "the professional, not the politician."

After a motion passed to move the question, voters failed to pass Article 13 by a vote of 21 in favor and 38 opposed.

Articles 17 through 21 approved transfers from various line items to pay for services, and required training for the Assessors.

Article 20 approved the transfer of \$8,374 to pay for additional training in Vadar, CAI Technologies Mapping Software and Catalis APRO5 and Article 21 approved the transfer of \$15,000 for training.

Town Hall chimes

Article 14 asked voters to approve the transfer of \$19,000 from Free Cash to pay for a new chime system in the Town Hall, including upgrades to the electrical wiring and the disposal of the existing system.

Several residents asked why the Board of Selectmen would present an article that would make improvements to the Town Hall, which the same board deemed unsafe three years ago.

Resident Peter Krawczyk commented on the current condition of the Town Hall, including its peeling paint, vegetation overgrowth and a fire escape that is not secured to the building.

"The rest of the building is falling down," he said.

Resident Bev Soltys said in 2021, the board had given the Police Department 30 days to vacate the building, which was then extended to 60 days, and now

indefinitely. The Building Inspector at that time had said that occupancy of the Town Hall should be prohibited after conducting an inspection.

When this inspection occurred, the Selectmen had expressed concerns about the structural integrity of the Town Hall's clocktower.

"What has changed?" Soltys asked. "Now, we don't want to put any money in the building, but we want to fix the bells? What about the windows?"

Ferrera said the Selectmen proposed the article after hearing interest from residents who enjoyed hearing the Town Hall's chimes.

"Currently, the chime system is not functional to be controlled on a timer," he said.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair David Dufresne said a new chime system could be adjusted, including its volume and chime tone.

"The old system is failing," Dufresne said. "We don't know how much longer it would last."

Dufresne said he would like to see the tradition of the chimes continue in town.

The Finance Committee voted against recommending the article. Article 14 failed to pass with 17 in favor and 43 opposed.

Senior Center repairs

Ferrera said the transfer of \$25,000 from Free Cash combined with a state earmark secured by state Rep. Todd Smola in the amount of \$50,000, would pay for the replacement of the Senior Center's roof.

Voters approved the transfer with 38 in favor and 18 opposed.

He said he is hopeful that the bids for the project will come in lower than the town is budgeting for.

Ferrera said the new roof would be the latest in several upgrades to the building, which includes weatherization and a new

heating and cooling system, paid for through a Green Communities grant.

Stabilization accounts

Ferrera said the town's Free Cash was certified in the amount of \$1,288,587. Voters approved Articles 1 and 2, which transferred \$425,000 and \$275,000 to Stabilization and Capital Stabilization, respectively.

This brings the approximate balance of the Stabilization account to \$2.4 million and Capital Stabilization to \$883,000.

Ferrera said these are "the highest reserves the town has ever seen."

NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

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Board discusses PILOT policy for nonprofits

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Select Board members reviewed a draft Payment In Lieu of Taxes policy presented by Clerk William Tinker, that would allow the town to enter into financial agreements with nonprofit organizations.

At the Nov. 12 meeting, Chair Kelly Kemp said some of her concerns about the policy include the percentage rate being high at the base rate, and the “catch-up” surcharge. She said some of the language in the policy is redundant.

“I don’t think it’s a bad idea to try to put something in place,” she said. “I think other towns have benefited from it...I think 5% is a lot and I don’t know if I’m comfort-

able with a ‘catch-up’ surcharge.” The base rate, Tinker said, is based off of 5% of the nonprofits’ annual gross revenues, including tuition, donations, grants and other income sources. This PILOT program would be voluntary.

Board members agreed to change the language in the policy from 5% to “up to 5%.”

Vice-Chair Eric Vollheim said it’s a great idea to negotiate with the town’s nonprofits for a PILOT agreement, but he urged the Select Board members to have other boards and committees weigh in on it, as it was more similar to a proposed bylaw rather than a policy.

He said having more input would help to avoid future problems.

Tinker said the board should first adopt the policy, then bring it

to other boards and committees.

“I see this as just dragging the feet,” Tinker said.

Kemp agreed with Vollheim about discussing it with other boards and committees, including the Board of Assessors, Planning Board, Finance Committee and the town’s financial team. Conservation Commission Chair Bill Zinni requested that the Conservation Commission be included in this discussion.

The Select Board will continue this discussion after getting feedback from other boards and committees.

Tax classification hearing

The Board of Assessors recommended the Select Board retain a single tax rate for all classes of property.

Board of Assessors Chair Lucinda Childs said having a split tax rate (where a greater tax burden is placed on commercial, industrial and personal property taxpayers) was not warranted and would only have a “relatively small benefit” for residential taxpayers.

The single tax rate is estimated to be \$13.50 per \$1,000 valuation. If the town had opted to have a split tax rate, residential taxpayers would have a rate of \$12.552 and commercial, industrial and personal property taxpayers would have a rate of \$19.73.

“There wouldn’t be enough income from the commercial,” Vollheim said of the split tax rate. “Because there’s not that much.”

Board of Assessors Clerk Jennifer Kolenda said the commercial properties only make up 8.72%

of the town’s tax base, versus residential at 91.27%.

“So predominantly residential, very little commercial, industrial and personal property,” Kolenda said.

She said the neighboring towns of Ware and Palmer have retained single tax rates, even though they have a larger commercial base than Hardwick does.

Kolenda said the Board of Assessors does not recommend a split tax rate as it would be an unfair burden on nonresidential taxpayers. The Select Board voted to retain a single tax rate.

Mapping project

Meg Haight updated the board about an ongoing ecotourism mapping project the town is participating in. Using a grant from Central

Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, the town has begun developing phase one of a “story map.”

She said the map will be available both in print and digitally, and will highlight areas of interest including nature preserves, trails and more. After reviewing community input, CMRPC will finalize the draft of the map.

“By the end of December, we will have this map completed,” Haight said.

One thing that came up during phase one was whether or not trails that pass through private property should be included on the story map, including the Dougal Range, also known as the Bugle.

Please see **PILOT**, page 12

The Centered Place hosts food drive fundraiser

WARREN – The Centered Place yoga studio in Warren is hosting a food drive and fundraiser to support The Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry in West Brookfield as well as two Massachusetts food banks.

Donations of food and household items for The Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry can be brought to The Centered Place at 286 Bridge St.

The most needed food items include non-perishable food such as regular sized canned proteins (meats or beans), dried beans, grains, peanut butter or other nut butters, cookies, crackers, breakfast cereals, coffee or decaf, and canned or packaged soups. Household items that are most needed include paper towels and toilet paper, soap and other cleaning supplies.

Alternatively, food and donations can be brought directly to the Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry on Wednesday mornings between 10-11:30 a.m. and Thursday evenings between 7-8 p.m.

Note that on the week of Thanksgiving, the pantry will be open Tuesday morning instead of Wednesday morning, and will be closed on Thanksgiving. The Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry is located at 36 North Main St., in the back of the First Congregational Church in West Brookfield.

Donations can also be mailed to: The Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry, 36 North Main St., West Brookfield, MA 01585.

Each month The Centered Place hosts a fundraiser for a dif-

ferent charitable organization. The fundraiser for both November and December supports the Worcester County Food Bank, a non-profit organization that provides donated food to those who need it.

The Centered Place has a Facebook fundraiser where you can donate to the WCFB: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/1116376256580110/>. Donations can also be made directly to the Worcester County Food Bank website at <https://foodbank.org/>.

Another food bank that you can support is the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, which serves Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin and Berkshire counties. You can donate to this food bank online at <https://www.foodbankwma.org/>.

The Centered Place yoga studio has served the local area since 1988. It was founded by Nancy A Nowak, who co-directs and teaches along with her husband, Phil Milgrom. The studio was voted Best in Yoga by readers of the former Sturbridge Times.

The physical address of the studio is 286 Bridge St. in Warren. The web address is www.thecenteredplace.com.

Hardwick’s Christmas on the Common is Dec. 1

HARDWICK – Christmas on the Common will be held on Sunday, Dec. 1 from 3-5:30 p.m.

There will be visit with Santa, local vendors, food truck, gingerbread house contest, Christmas parade, raffle, hayrides and the Christmas tree lighting at 5 p.m.



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Eric Weiss of Pioneer Valley Planning Commission provided a presentation of the Draft Economic Development Plan for the Town of Ware.

DRAFT from page 1

town and is also adaptive to future trends.

This plan will help Ware identify existing conditions that affect the local economy. The plan will also assess the Town of Ware’s economic development constraints and opportunities and will outline recommended implementation strategies to expand and deepen the local economic base.

Weiss mentioned growing up in Belchertown he is aware of the neighboring town and its current conditions and potential growth. After doing these strategic economic development study, Weiss wants to “bring info back to Ware” and share it with community members.

One of the amenities Ware is currently lacking is a medical service. According to the study, Ware residents would like to see a hospital or at least an urgent care facility in town. Weiss said Ware is not alone in lacking medical care options.

“A large unserved area in central and western Massachusetts,” Weiss said.

One of the current potential redevelopment sites is the Ware Millyard. Several of the buildings on site dates back to the late 19th century. The area is currently zoned as mixed-use district. There is a new study to begin soon regarding the Millyard Redevelopment Plan.

The Country Bank building off Main Street in downtown Ware has potential to be redeveloped and the current owner is seeking potential medical or urgent care use. The Mary Lane Hospital site has potential. However, there are differing opinions on future of some of the buildings and property.

Downtown Ware is viewed as an area with numerous assets. Some of those assets include the millyard housing several businesses and also could house residential along with additional commercial businesses. Ware has a phenomenal arts organization, Workshop13 Cultural Arts & Learning Center.

“Downtown has good bones,” Weiss said. “Has a true Main Street.”

One of the services that has potential to grow in Ware and surrounding areas is the expansion of a passenger rail service. Weiss provided a map in the presentation to show the Pittsfield-Boston rail service. There are nearby stops in Chester and Palmer. There is significant potential for new growth and a need for long-term planning.

Weiss would then go over the action plans and strategies to live up to those action plans. Strategies include supporting local business to start up and grow, enhance collaboration internally and with key stakeholders and continue to create a vibrant downtown. Ware has many activities throughout the year that involved downtown and main street. The town wants to look into what other pop-up activities they can provide and could take place in vacant storefronts.

The action plan also includes developing priority sites for new activities. This strategy involves conducting feasibility studies for high-potential sites and pursue developers for current vacant properties.

PVPC also wants to promote Ware as a recreation destination. The final strategy PVPC discussed was review and update the zoning bylaw to support economic development.

After the presentation by Weiss and senior planner Lori Tanner, the presentation would turn to members of the community and WBCA & Beyond for questions and shared ideas. Weiss mentioned it is good to see a good amount people come out for this presentation and figure out how to improve the Town.

Several members brought up the possibility of providing a form of childcare as well as after a transportation service such as Uber or Lyft. One of the most recent additions to downtown of Ware is the Recovery Center of HOPE.

Representing the recovery center is program director, Julie Lutz who describes the recovery organization as a “positive presence”. The space is available and provides support along with social events and activities.

Quabbin Wire & Cable Co Inc. are prepared to celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2025. Ware School Superintendent Michael Lovato attended the presentation and shared some news about recent activity in the schools. Many students applied to colleges and recently about \$500,000 in scholarships were given.

The host of this economic development plan meeting, Cedarbrook Village is currently hosting a toy drive that is currently going on until Dec. 3. That same day, Cedarbrook Village will be hosting the Very Merry Dickens Carolers at 1pm.

WBCA & Beyond President Dan Flynn thanked representatives of PVPC for providing this presentation of the draft economic development plan. Weiss says PVPC is looking to complete the final draft by the first day of the year 2025.

For more information about the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, visit www.pvpc.org.

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December 2024

Quabbin Health District Public Health Nurse Newsletter

Kirsten L Krieger RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse

Andrea Crete MPH, RS, Director of Public Health

Email: kkrieger@towofware.com

Online: www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com

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Why supporting local small businesses matters

REGION—The holiday season is a time of year when shopping takes center stage. While online giants and big box retailers seem to be everywhere, offering an endless array of products with the convenience of low prices, small businesses provide a range of benefits that go far beyond the ease of a mouse click or mountains of merchandise. Shopping local retailers is more than just a transaction — it is crucial for maintaining the economic foundation of local communities. Let's take a look at the many ways it pays to shop small businesses during the holidays and all year long.

- **Strengthen the local economy:** A large percentage of the money spent at small businesses stays in the community. That's because these businesses often are owned and operated by local residents who are invested in the community themselves. Various studies indicate that for every \$100 spent at a small business, roughly \$70 stays in the community.

- **Enhanced customer service:** Owners and employees of small businesses have a keen interest in keeping customers happy. They often do so by providing superior customer service.

Tailoring recommendations, exhibiting a willingness to accommodate special requests, offering a more engaging shopping experience, and being more friendly and connected with regular customers sets many small businesses apart.

- **Support the community:** Small businesses serve the community through the products and services they offer, and many give back in other ways as well. Small, locally owned businesses often sponsor schools, sports teams and charities. This helps foster a sense of belonging in the community.

- **Innovative offerings:** Small businesses are not beholden to corporate policies or franchise restrictions, so they can more readily bring new life to existing ideas and trends. Small businesses can offer customers different options that larger retailers cannot match.

- **Job creation:** Small businesses employ a significant percentage of the workforce and frequently provide jobs that might not be available in larger corporate settings. The U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy says small businesses have generated 12.9 million net new jobs over the past 25 years, accounting for



It pays to shop small businesses during the holidays and all year long.

two out of every three jobs added to the U.S. economy. Keeping residents working helps strengthen local communities. There are numerous benefits to shopping at small businesses this Small Business Saturday and throughout the year. Such firms help to establish a

more resilient, diverse and bustling local community.

Support Small Businesses!

Shop Local This Saturday.

REPORTS from page 1

referenced a meeting she and the Health Department director had with the Attorney General's office a year ago to address seven problem properties.

She said as of today, the Attorney General gave both departments an update about the properties.

Marques said one was a burned down trailer home that the Attorney General's office wants to allow more time before pursuing receivership; another a Church Street property the office is working to gain receivership for; and the third a Pleasant Street property the office is working to pursue a historical rehabilitation receivership.

This past summer, Marques said her department's intern Nicholas Bousquet worked to help compile a list of vacant properties in town by contacting the Water Department to determine whether or not properties had water connected to the building or not.

"Every time there's a water shut-off, that was data that we collected. It's a good indication that the property is vacant," she said.

Marques said packets were sent to the current owners of those properties, explaining the vacant property registration process with a form to return to the town. A copy of the town's vacant and/or unkempt property bylaw was also included in the packet.

"This was a bylaw that was revised recently because we already had the unkempt portion but as we found out, the vacancy was a big issue as well," Marques said.

She said the reason for the vacant property registration was to ensure that the town had accurate contact information for property owners. She said her department has received 14 completed forms back; 28 were returned as "undeliverable;" and she received phone calls stating that five properties were occupied and not vacant.

"We found that there were too many cases where we did not know how to reach someone quickly enough," Marques said.

She said there are currently 70 properties on the vacant property list and more will be added as the town becomes aware of them.

Marques said her department addresses unkempt property concerns as written complaints come in.

She said a vacant property on Otis Avenue that was occupied by a squatter has been an ongoing issue for the department. The building had a water leak and the units were uninhabitable.

Marques said it was difficult to remove the squatter due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a change of ownership for the building. She said with the help of the property's new owner, various departments and code enforcement, they were able to find a new home for the squatter and were able to empty the building.

"There were some health issues with this person, and it was more complicated than just kicking someone out," she said.

After the property was vacated, the property owner reopened one of the apartments and moved a tenant in. She said after a long process, all four units were able to be occupied

and are code compliant.

"This is something we focused on for a couple years, and there's finally an end to it," Marques is.

Marques gave a list of recent structure fires over the past four months, including one caused by a lightning strike and others by unattended cigarettes outdoors. During the post-fire inspection, Marques noted that two of the buildings didn't have enough egress and addressed it with the owners.

She said a cooking fire occurred earlier that day and while there wasn't a lot of damage to the building, it was found to have been illegally converted from a four unit building to a six unit building. This situation is being addressed by Marques, the Board of Health and the Fire Department.

Marques said a mobile home had an explosion caused by propane stove a couple of months ago. She said the mobile home is 50 years old and it is unlikely to be habitable again.

During this quarter, the Building Department had 240 drop-in meetings with members of the public, received 128 building permits and acted on 106 building permits.

Health department report

Director of Public Health Andrea Crete gave an update on the Health Department's inspections conducted from July to October.

"A lot of food and housing inspections have been conducted," she said.

This includes 37 routine food establishment inspections and 25 housing inspections, including re-inspections. She said all of

the food establishment inspection reports are posted on the Quabbin Health District's website.

Crete also provided a list of Title 5 inspections, broken down into new construction versus upgrades and repairs of existing systems. She said the inspector had more new soil evaluations in the past four months than repairs and upgrades, but that most of the septic plan design reviews and inspections were for upgrades of existing systems and repairs.

Crete said the town's Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger holds monthly wellness clinics at the Ware Senior Center, Quabbin Wire & Cable Co., Recovery Center of HOPE and Cornerstone Recovery (Gadara Center).

"She collaborates with a wide variety of different entities just for advocating for public health needs in the community and for making

those connections," she said.

Crete said Krieger also conducts CPR and First Aid training throughout the year, with 28 people being certified this past quarter. Krieger had also offered multiple opioid and overdose response training with naloxone.

Crete said the town hosted two COVID-19/flu vaccination clinics with the support of Big Y Pharmacy. The town is also part of the Vaccine for Children program and were able to provide elementary school students with their childhood vaccines.

Crete said the town is extending its harm reduction services for those who use substances, including needle exchange, alcohol preparation wipes for disinfection, a small sharps container, naloxone, fentanyl test strips and a list of resources to aid with recovery. She said the health district collects the

full sharps containers for disposal.

Hygiene kits are also being assembled for homeless individuals, providing a toothbrush and hair and body care items to maintain hygiene. This initiative is paid for through grant funding.

Crete said representatives from the town of Hardwick expressed interest in joining the Quabbin Health District, which covers the towns of Ware, Belchertown and Pelham, but no formal request has been made to the health district's board.

Other department reports

The Selectboard also reviewed and accepted written reports submitted by the Board of Assessors, Town Clerk and Planning and Community Development.

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Submitted Photos by Derick Veliz
Over 500 nativities will be on display at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



This is just one of hundreds of nativity scenes displayed at Nativities From Around the World.

Nativities From Around the World displayed Dec. 5-8

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The 15th annual Nativities From Around the World held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 108 New Braintree Road (Route 67) will be displayed for four days, Dec. 5-8.

Dates and times include Thursday, Dec. 5 from 4-8 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 6 from 4-8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 8 from noon-2 p.m.

There will be over 500 nativities displayed this year and all will be in settings of various Christmas themes. Some are old, some are new, some are classic and others modern.

It is always amazing how many ways the human spirit and artistry can portray the central theme of Christmas, the birth of Christ.

There is never a charge of any kind, nor any donation or solicitation for any event at the Church,



The 15th annual Nativities From Around the World will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in North Brookfield, Dec. 5-8.

including the Nativities display. All are warmly welcomed. The Church is located 2.2 miles north of the North Brookfield town center.

Weir River Jazz performs 'Frosty's Favorites' Dec. 1

HARDWICK – Weir River Jazz will present "Frosty's Favorites," a big band concert in the sanctuary of the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St. (Route 32) in Gilbertville on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m.

Come join the musicians to hear the great sounds of a tra-

ditional Big Band playing your favorite seasonal melodies. This concert is open to the public and there is no charge for admission.

This concert is sponsored in part by the Mass Cultural Council and Country Bank for Savings. Donations to the Friends of the Stone Church are always appreciated.

Annual Stuff a Cruiser toy drive is Dec. 8

HARDWICK – The South Barre Rod and Gun Club, 2626 Barre Road (Route 32), will host the annual Stuff a Cruiser event to benefit the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department's Christmas for Kids Program on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

This event helps give kids in the Hardwick and New Braintree communities a wonderful Christmas holiday.

Ware Tree & Wreath Festival is Dec. 7-8

WARE – What do the most amazing unicorn tree ever, a unique shotgun shell wreath, and a couple of lively gnomes have in common?

They'll all be raffled off along with many, many other wreaths, holiday themed items, and trees at this year's Ware Tree & Wreath Festival on Saturday Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St.

There will also be a door prize table, holiday music, an incredible bake sale, 50/50 raffle and a table with Ware books, T-shirts, and memorabilia, all to support the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum. There will be free children's activities including decorate a cookie and make a craft.

This year, the event will feature dancers from Limelight Dance Center on Sunday in the early afternoon.

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

In-person drop off is Friday, Dec. 6 between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Great Hall in the Ware Town Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Visit warecenter-meetinghouse.org for more information or to make a donation online.



Lorrie Willette and Joanne Ritter stand with a tree they decorated for last year's event.



Submitted Photos
Rita Lee is shown during last year's Ware Tree & Wreath Festival with her grandson Brendan.

Christmas for Kids begins, donations requested

WARE – The Ware Police Department and the Ware Fire Department have started their 21st annual Ware Christmas For Kids program for the 2024 holiday season.

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

The program recognizes all

holiday observances.

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

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

Country Bank hosts 'Stuff the Cruiser' event Dec. 7

WARE – Country Bank, 155 West St., will host a Stuff the Cruiser event with the Ware Police Department on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m.-noon.

This annual event collects new, unwrapped toys from the community that benefit local children in need this Christmas.

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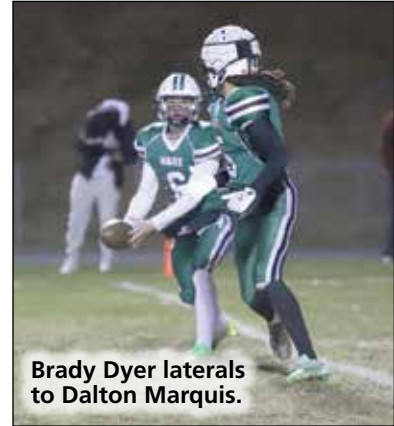
WARE – On Friday, Nov. 15, Ware was in nonplayoff action in Week 10 against Amherst Regional, a school they rarely see. The larger school was too much for the Indians as they drove down the field on their first two possessions and scored quick touchdowns. They rode that momentum to a 40-0 victory. Ware was 7-3 heading in their Thanksgiving Day matchup with Quaboag.



Enrique Burton makes a block on the offensive line.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli Dalton Marquis follows his blockers.



Brady Dyer laterals to Dalton Marquis.



The defensive lines makes a charge.



Nathan Luxon makes a block for the Indians.



Nate Harmon looks for the sack.

MIAA seeks to throw out judge's decision

Minnechaug, Monson unaffected by appeals

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Minnechaug Regional High School and Monson High School filed injunctions at the beginning of the month with the Hampden Court Superior Court.

The schools were appealing a ruling from the MIAA that forced the schools to take forfeits for Western Mass. tournament games because of a procedural issue that was not followed by Minnechaug, Monson, Pathfinder Regional, and several other schools in the region.

According to information sent by the MIAA to member schools, they were supposed to input games to their schedule on the Arbiter website used to track results and formulate tournament data.

Those games, which were not yet known due to the how the schedule is structured, were simply supposed to feature the

Please see [MIAA](#), page 10



Veanna Salvatore attempts to clear the ball away.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli Ellie Poulin fights to stay in possession.

Deep playoff run for Quabbin ends in quarterfinals

UXBRIDGE – On Saturday, Nov. 9, the Quabbin Regional High School field hockey team traveled to Uxbridge for the quarterfinals of the Division 4 state

tournament. Unfortunately, the Panthers were facing the defending three-time state champions. Uxbridge didn't disappoint, winning a 6-0 decision on a sun-

splashed morning on their high school turf. Quabbin's season finished with an overall record of 10-9-2.



Haley Ayer passes up to Maria Hamm.



Audrey Niles tries to make her way up the field.



Maria Hamm passes up the field.



Makenzie Casey defends the Quabbin goal.



Madelyn Bagg heads toward the right sideline as she crosses midfield.



Maddie Potvin tries to get to the ball before an opponent.

Cougars fall in state tournament

WARREN – Earlier this month, Quaboag girls soccer suffered from a long layoff as they were shut out in their only state playoff game. The Cougars faced Granby and lost 2-0 on Nov. 6. Granby would advance in the tournament while Quaboag's season ended with a 7-10-1 record. The Cougars did face Granby in an independent game near the end of the regular season, falling 1-0.



Brielle Gerulaitis clears the ball ahead of pressure. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Lauren Grover heads the ball forward.



Olive Moulton heads the ball into the offensive end of the field.

sports

Pioneers fall to South Hadley

SOUTH HADLEY – In nonplayoff action for Week 10, South Hadley football defeated Pathfinder 27-9. The Pioneers would actually score first with an Anthony Arventos 15-yard run. In between that score and a safety in the third quarter, South Hadley scored 27 points. Julius Hebenth had two touchdown runs for the Tigers. Chase Pecia and Lincoln Belsky also had scores. South Hadley faced Holyoke on Thanksgiving while Pathfinder hosted Belchertown.



ABOVE: Jacob Kokoski goes for a tackle.



Anthony Arventos scrambles around looking for an open teammate.

Tyler Rondeau heads on a run.



Jarrett Skowyra heads toward the sideline while carrying the ball.



Brandyn Wilson makes a block for the Pioneers.

T-Birds, Blues, announce long-term extension

SPRINGFIELD – Last month, the Springfield Thunderbirds and St. Louis Blues announced the extension of their affiliation agreement through the end of the 2030-31 season. The deal further solidifies the long-term future of the American Hockey League in Springfield, one of the league's charter cities.



"We are thrilled to continue our richly rewarding long-term partnership with the St. Louis Blues," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "The Blues and Thunderbirds share similar core values regarding player and staff development and maintaining a deep commitment to their communities. Our collaboration has enabled us to grow our franchise both on the ice and throughout the region. We cannot wait to see the next generation of Blues stars hone their talents in Springfield in front of the best fans in the AHL."

In the first three seasons as the Blues' AHL affiliates, the Thunderbirds have experienced tremendous success on and off the ice. In 2022, the team captured the Richard F. Canning Trophy as Eastern Conference Champions, reaching the Calder Cup Finals for the first time in club history. The T-Birds received the AHL President's Award as Team of the Year that same year.

"On behalf of our local ownership group, we are proud to announce an extension of our affiliation agreement with the St. Louis Blues. I want to thank Blues Chairman Tom Stillman, General Manager Doug Armstrong, and the

Blues staff, as well as our President Nate Costa and his team, for building a culture of cooperation and success that is unparalleled within the AHL. This agreement will ensure that AHL hockey has a home in Springfield for many years to come," commented Paul Picknelly, Thunderbirds Managing Owner.

The club built upon their success last season, posting a franchise-record 20 sellout games, including a 14-game sellout streak to end the campaign. 2023-2024 also marked the T-Birds' eighth consecutive season of attendance growth (6,321 fans per game).

"First, I want to thank Springfield Thunderbirds President Nate Costa, the local ownership group under managing partner Paul Picknelly, and the entire team and staff for their continued dedicated efforts and support and belief in our City of Springfield," said Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno. "Special thanks and appreciation to the St. Louis Blues organization for their continued strong commitment to our local T-Birds! Both organizations are class acts that share a strong emphasis on community and fan engagement and putting a quality product and team on the ice."

Since the start of the partnership, the Blues have also promoted several Springfield staff members to the parent club in St. Louis. Most notably, Drew Bannister became the first T-Birds coach to earn a promotion to an NHL bench when he was named the Blues' head coach on May 8.

"Springfield provides a first-

class environment for players in the Blues organization to develop on and off the ice and continue their progress toward the NHL in a well-established, supportive market with strong, experienced leadership," said Blues Assistant General Manager Ryan Miller.

In addition to Bannister's rise to the NHL, 26 players have skated in games for both the Thunderbirds and the Blues, including young stars Jake Neighbours, Zack Bolduc, Matthew Kessel, Joel Hofer, Scott Perunovich, and Zach Dean.

"This is an exciting day for both the St. Louis Blues and the Springfield Thunderbirds organizations," said Thunderbirds General Manager Kevin Maxwell. "This agreement provides stability for our players and staff, and it will continue to offer our fans the chance to identify with our prospects and follow their careers as they graduate onto the Blues."

The affiliation extension assures Springfield's continued tenancy in the American Hockey League, which dates back to 1936. The City of Firsts has had an active AHL franchise on the ice every season since 1954.

"The city of Springfield has been a cornerstone of the American Hockey League for more than 80 years," said AHL President and Chief Executive Officer Scott Howson. "Hockey in Springfield has experienced a renaissance since the arrival of the Thunderbirds. Stability with an NHL affiliate is very important for AHL clubs, and we're pleased that Springfield's partnership with the St. Louis Blues will continue to bring excitement and entertainment to the fans of Western Massachusetts."

Offense scores big in Week 10 win over North Middlesex

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—After falling behind early in a non-playoff loss at Marlborough High School six days earlier, Quabbin football coach Wayne Page certainly didn't want to see a repeat performance in the final home game of the season.

The Panthers, who built a 24-0 halftime lead, coasted to a 48-20 victory over the North Middlesex Patriots in another non-playoff game held at Alumni Field, last Thursday night.

"We didn't start out very well in last week's game at Marlborough and they took it to us," Page said. "We really wanted to start a lot faster in tonight's game. We took control of the game early in the first quarter, and we never took our foot off the gas until late in the fourth quarter."

It was the first meeting on the gridiron between the two teams since the Panthers squeaked out a 40-35 road victory during the 2016 season.

Last Thursday's home win improved the Panthers season record to 7-3, which tied the 2016 squad for the most wins in the history of the football program.

"These kids have worked very hard, and they deserve to have this record," Page said. "I'm very proud of them."

Quabbin senior Bryce Venne set the tone by returning the game's opening kickoff to the Patriots 14-yard line.

Following two short runs by senior Luke Salvadore and junior Chase Talbot, senior quarterback Jaxon Warburton called his own number in the huddle. He scrambled 11 yards up the middle into the end zone less than two minutes into the opening quarter.

Salvadore made the score 8-0 by scoring another rushing touchdown on the two-point conversion play.

The Panthers offense got the ball right back when Venne recovered a fumble on a lateral pass at the Patriots 36.

Eleven plays later, Salvadore plowed his way into the endzone on a fourth and goal play from the two with 3:33 left in the opening quarter. Warburton also ran into the endzone on the conversion play.

Quabbin entered the second stanza holding a 16-0 lead.

Following another fumble recovery by senior Ryan Wreschinsky, Talbot scored the Panthers third rushing touchdown of the game following a 68-yard scamper with 11:29 remaining in the first half.

Salvadore scored again on the conversion play.

The Patriots offense did move the ball down to the Panthers six-yard line before back-to-back 15-yard personal foul penalties pushed them back 30 yards. That drive ended following a 34-yard missed field goal.

After Quabbin was forced to punt for the first time, Talbot intercepted a pass, and he returned it about 20 yards to the Panthers 38.

The home team failed to score during that series, and they held a 24-0 halftime lead.

The visitors from Townsend did get on the scoreboard when senior John Kelley returned the



The offensive line blocks for Quabbin.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Jaxon Warburton shovels a pass to Wes Sanderson.



Luke Salvadore attempts a run for the Panthers.



Bryce Venne returns the ball on a kickoff.

second half kickoff 70 yards down the left sideline for a touchdown.

Any hopes that the Patriots might have had about making a comeback didn't last very long.

With 9:30 remaining in the third quarter, the Panthers took a 32-6 lead when Salvadore sprinted into the endzone on a 29-yard run. Warburton scored on the conversion play.

Then Quabbin junior Wes Sanderson intercepted a pass and returned it 25 yards for his team's fifth touchdown of the game. He also caught a shuttle pass on the two-point play for another TD.

"We probably don't win tonight's game without the turnovers. I thought the defense played an awesome game," Page said. "Coach (Mike) Besaw did a very good job of putting together a very good defensive game plan."

While Besaw is the Panthers defensive coordinator, Page, who was a quarterback at Grafton High

School, calls the offensive plays.

Another key defensive player for Quabbin is senior Cole Wilson, who has made more than 80 tackles this season which broke the team record.

Late in the third quarter, North Middlesex sophomore QB Colin Taylor completed a 3-yard touchdown pass to senior Brady Reardon. The duo hooked up again for another touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

Quabbin's final touchdown of the game was a 34-yard run by Warburton with 7:27 left in regulation.

Because the Panthers were leading by 34 points at the point, the scoreboard clock was kept running the rest of the game.

The Panthers will be looking to break the school record for wins in a season when they travel to Gardner High School on Thanksgiving morning.

MIAA from page 9

school and opponents TBA (to be announced). Those fillers in the schedule would eventually be filled with Western Mass. tournament games, or nonplayoff games if teams did not qualify.

Those filler games were supposed to be on team schedules by mid-September. Because the procedure was not followed, the MIAA imposed forfeits on the schools that did not follow the rule. Under the MIAA's ruling, Minnechaug and Monson, which had soccer teams in the Western Mass. tournaments, would have to take losses affecting their standing for the state tournament. If the schools won, they were still able to advance in the tournaments. Monson girls soccer

reached the Western Mass. finals. Pathfinder boys soccer did as well. Minnechaug girls soccer made it to the semifinals.

An injunction was filed by Monson and Minnechaug, seeking to not have the athletes punished for an administrative issue. Judge Tracy Duncan granted the injunction, and both schools had their forfeits changed to whatever their actual results were.

Minnechaug boys soccer benefited the most from the change, securing the No. 5 seed in the Division 2 state tournament. The changes had the ability to affect schools such as Agawam, Ludlow, Holyoke, and Chicopee Comprehensive in Division 2. Monson's injunction affected seedings for schools such as Granby, Quabog, Palmer, and

Pathfinder. Pathfinder did not appeal to a court, and was defeated on the road in the first round of the tournament.

The injunctions also led to delays in the state tournament starting in the case of field hockey and girls volleyball.

Northampton and Pioneer Valley Regional also won injunctions, though the MIAA is appealing those rulings. They are appealing despite the fact the tournaments have already concluded. The MIAA is not commenting on the court cases.

No schools from Western Massachusetts made it to the state finals in boys soccer, girls soccer, or field hockey.

sports

Volleyball World Congress elects new president

HOLYOKE – The 39th FIVB World Congress unanimously elected Fabio Azevedo as the new FIVB President, ushering in a pivotal era for the global volleyball community. Azevedo will serve an eight-year term, building on the achievements of his predecessor, Dr. Ary S. Graça. During his campaign, Azevedo outlined his Strategic Vision 2024-2032, focused on advancing volleyball's professional standards, expanding its global reach, and doubling the sport's current 800-mil-

lion-strong fanbase through innovative engagement and the global volleyball movement. Following his inauguration, Azevedo announced 2018 IVHF Inductee Hugh McCutcheon as the new FIVB Secretary General. McCutcheon, a former Olympic medal-winning coach for the USA men's and women's national volleyball teams, brings extensive experience to the role. With this dynamic leadership team, the FIVB is set to elevate volleyball's global prominence and growth.

Tough start hurts Railers in loss

PORTLAND, ME – Worcester was outshot in a fateful and fatal first period, 21-1, and outscored by the Maine Mariner 4-0, on the way to a 5-2 defeat.

Lincoln Hatten and Cole Donhauser had the Railers goals. It was the first ECHL goal for Hatten, the first in a Worcester uniform for Donhauser. It was also shorthanded.

Drew Bavaro, Patrick Guay, Bennett Stockdale, Wyllum Deveaux and Evan Vierling had the Portland goals. Former Railers forward Jimmy Lambert had three assists for the winners.

Hatten scored from in close at 3:35 of the second period to make it a 4-1 game, Donhauser assisting. Donhauser scored unassisted with a wrist shot from the right wing at 19:29 of the third period to make it 5-2. He was plus-2 for the night.

Henrik Tikkanen made 33 saves for Worcester. Ryan Bischel had 27 for the Mariners.

Bavaro opened the scoring with a power play goal at 6:30 of the first period, just before the Railers would have gotten Jordan Kaplan out of the penalty box. He snapped a 40-foot wrist home from above the circles.

Guay made it 2-0 at 9:02. He finished off a 2 on 1 break, converting a pass from Lambert. Stockdale scored a little more than a minute later with a shot from the left circle. Deveaux scored on a deflection at 16:23 to make it 4-0 on the scoreboard.

The Railers actually won the last 40 minutes, 2-1. Vierling had the only Maine goal in that span, scoring on the power play at 16:40 of the third period, but there was no way Worcester could climb out of its early hole.

AUTHOR from page 1

One of the interesting facts about Lucy Stone is that her power of revolt came from her father, who was also an abolitionist.

"Leaving Coy's Hill" is a timeless story of women's quest for personal and professional fulfillment within society's stubborn constraints. Many guests who have read the book brought copies for Sherbrooke to sign afterwards.

Though it is based on true events, Sherbrooke says "Leaving Coy's Hill" is a historical fiction on the life of Lucy Stone. While conducting some research for another book Sherbrooke happened to come across a random google search that happened to be about Lucy Stone.

As said prior to the presentation, Sherbrooke feels as if the state has forgotten who Lucy Stone is. The town of Warren does have a park named after her, but many don't seem to understand the work behind Lucy Stone and how her presence and pursuits of equality changed the course of history.

A powerful reminder of those accomplishments is the Boston Women's Memorial on Commonwealth Avenue.

TAX RATE from page 2

can get a parking sticker from Executive Assistant Nicole Croteau to allow them to park overnight in municipal parking lots.

PVPC and the Planning Department will host a discussion about updating the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

"That plan discusses hazards from manmade to mostly natural... talks about climate change and the impacts it would have on the community of Ware and how that will be prepared for and addressed," he said. "That plan is a necessity in order to seek Hazard Mitigation funds afterward."

CDAC from page 5

options. One of those options is to connect Warren with a trail to the Mass Central Rail Trail, which has opened a lot of trail space in recent years. The closest neighboring town Warren can connect with is Ware if they want to be a part of the rail trail.

O'Brien wanted to know if Warren had the potential of a riverwalk trail. In the area of Stacy Exposition Service, Inc. has more woods just off to the side of the Quaboag River. Olson said it's the same area in Town where the town wants to place a sidewalk that connects Warren to West Warren.

Another strategy focuses on raising capacity for recreation. Outside the Shepard Municipal Building is an unused field that could be a spot for sporting events or other recreational activities. The field is well maintained but not used for events.

The CDAC thought the field would be perfect for movie nights or even a touch truck event would be great in any area in town.

The town gets a lot of good feedback for the small community events they offer. One of the favorites a town resident shared at the meeting was a petting zoo.

"Our little community is a happening place," Olson said. The last strategy O'Brien went

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks League reached week two of the second round during their 2024-2025 candlepin league season.

This past league night featured some high scores and close matches. One of the matches was between the Mailmen and Last in Line.

In game one, Last in Line defeated Mailmen by a score of 363-357. In game two, it was a close match as Mailmen defeated Last in Line by two points, 354-352. In game three, the Mailmen had a strong finish thanks to the scoring efforts of Aaron Halbedel and Bryan Surprise. The Mailmen won 425-358 as Halbedel finished with a 148 and Surprise bowled a 121.

Total pinfall was won by the Mailmen with a final score of 1136-1073.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Sherbrooke shared a photo of the 1865 Suffrage Petition that was signed by Stone, Anthony and Stanton. The three had a falling out and continued their work by going in different directions.

Stone at the time felt she had to move on and support herself, which is what inspired Sherbrooke to come up with the title "Leaving Coy's Hill."

Towards the end of the presentation Sherbrooke talked about the bust of Lucy Stone that is located at Oberlin College. Her Dorchester home was near Pope's Hill, and it is no longer standing. However, the plaque in dedication to her is still on site.

Sherbrooke would end the presentation with hearing the feedback of her readers. Many of them shared a lot of information about what they have learned and gave Sherbrooke some positive feedback about her book.

"Leaving Coy's Hill" is available online and can be found in all book stores. The Warren Public Library will be offering an open house and refreshments during the Town's Tree Lighting on Dec. 6.

Pole hearings

A representative from National Grid petitioned the town to install a joint ownership utility pole on West Main Street and another on Church Street.

The Selectboard approved the placement of both JO utility poles.

Moment of silence

The Selectboard held a moment of silence to recognize the passing of the town's former Veterans Service Officer, Richard Sterndale.

Resignation

The Selectboard accepted the resignation of Cheryl Haigh from the Council on Aging. Her term was due to expire on June 30, 2025.

over was continue to promote existing offerings. The formalizing of current trails is part of that strategy, but how can the town of Warren promote their events more effectively.

A popular recreation activity residents talked about in surveys and gatherings is a pickleball court; a popular request according to comments from the residents. The area being looked at for a potential pickleball court is the old basketball court next to the fire station.

The next subject CMRPC will discuss for the Master Plan is natural culture resources.

The team who won the first round, Gutter Mouths, bowled against Team BK. In game one, Team BK defeated the Gutter Mouths by a score of 403-381. Paul Nothe of Team BK bowled a 120 to start the match.

In game two, Team BK won the second game by a score of 374-352. Nothe continued bowling well by following up with a 114. Mark Fitzpatrick of Team BK bowled a 104 in game two.

In game three, Gutter Mouths got a victory over BK by a score of 366-350. Nothe finished with a series of 315, his high series of the season to go along with his high single game of 120.

Total pinfall was won in favor of Team BK, 1127-1099.

The Daft Kings bowled against Compression in the second week of round two. In game one, Daft Kings defeated Compression 376-354. Matt Bertelli and Dave Cobleigh of Daft Kings bowled matching 104 games during game one.

In game two, Compression got a victory over Daft Kings 359-350. In game three, Daft Kings won the last game 363-351.

Final score was 1089-1064 in favor of Daft Kings.

Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes is located at 1446 North Main St. and can be reached by calling 413-289-0013.

Hardwick Co-Op hosts food and sock drives

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Farmers Co-Op, 444 Lower Road, will be collection food donations for the Tri-Parish Food Pantry and new socks to benefit veterans through HomeFront Strong, now through Dec. 15.

People who bring in five non-perishable food items during this time will receive 5% off their purchase that day.

For every two pairs of socks that you buy from Hardwick Farmers Co-Op, the Co-Op will donate a pair to HomeFront Strong. People may also bring in new men's, women's and children's sized socks to be donated to HomeFront Strong.

PVPA to hold supplemental lottery to fill openings

SOUTH HADLEY – Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School has reopened the application for the current 2024/2025 school year for grades seven, nine, 10 and 11.

A special lottery will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 17, with accepted students beginning to attend PVPA at the beginning of the second semester, on or around Jan. 23, 2025.

PVPA offers an arts-focused, college preparatory education, with over 70 arts classes in dance, music, theater and visual arts available to students in grades seven-12. As a public charter school, enrollment in PVPA is free and open to all Massachusetts students, no audition is required.

If more applications are received than spaces available, admission will be determined by the lottery on Dec. 17.

Applications can be submitted until the deadline on Dec. 15 at 11:59 p.m. Applications are available at www.pvpa.org/admissions.org.

The lottery will be open to the public via a Zoom link that will be shared on the PVPA website, and emailed to all applicants.

While most grades are currently full, PVPA has identified openings in grades seven and nine. Applicants for grades 10 and 11 will be included in the lottery if

openings are available and the waitlists for those grades are exhausted.

All applicants will be notified by email at least a week prior to the lottery.

The applications for the 2025/2026 school year, open to all grades seven-12, will open Nov. 1.

All interested families are welcome to visit the school for a tour. Available dates and registration can be found at www.pvpa.org/admissions.

PVPA is a publicly funded charter school authorized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, enrolling students in grades seven-12. PVPA offers a college preparatory curriculum that provides all students with a broad exposure to the performing arts programs.

Per MA General Laws, Chapter 76: Section 5, shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in the English language or academic achievement.

Please contact PVPA by emailing admissions@pvpa.org with any further questions.

Baystate Wing Auxiliary selling Lotto calendars

PALMER—The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is currently selling their January 2025 Lotto Calendars. The one-month calendar, which costs \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Drawings will begin on Feb. 3.

For over 65 years the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has been actively supporting local healthcare through its sponsorship of special events and sales from the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop located on the first floor of the hospital.

The calendars are on sale at the

Baystate Wing Hospital gift shop. Funds raised by the annual Lotto Calendars support the Auxiliary's scholarship program and their philanthropic efforts that benefit Baystate Wing Hospital.

Whether looking for something special for a patient, a gift for a special occasion, or an item for the home, the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop offers many unique, hand-selected items. For more information about the Lotto Calendar visit the gift shop located on the first floor of the hospital or call 413-370-8169.

Holiday Craft Fair to be held Dec. 7

WARE – A Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Ware Junior Senior High School gym.

Admission is free and food is available to purchase. There will be over 50 vendors, fundraising

and raffles.

This is a very exciting one-day shopping event of handcrafted, homemade, home baked, and one of a kind treasures made by local talent.



We hope this holiday finds you surrounded by those you love and hold dear. Thank you for giving us so much to be grateful for this holiday season and all year; we appreciate your loyal support.

WARE RIVER NEWS

Main Street
Ware, Massachusetts 01082
413-967-3505
www.warerivernews.turley.com

public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Nov. 10-19, the Ware Police Department responded to 13 miscellaneous calls, 16 administrative calls, nine traffic violations, 19 emergency 911 calls, five harassments, seven motor vehicle accidents, three thefts/larcenies, three trespasses, seven damage/vandalisms, two safety hazards, three frauds, 11 animal calls and 30 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Sunday, Nov. 10
2:25 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, West Main Street, Investigated
8:31 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered
3:57 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Route 9, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
6:25 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, North Street, Services Rendered

Monday, Nov. 11
10:48 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Dispatch Handled
1:48 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Services Rendered
1:53 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Greenwich Road, Investigated
2:01 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Beaver Lake Road, Dispatch Handled
4:31 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Dale Street, Services Rendered
8:21 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Eagle Street, Services Rendered
9:05 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Pleasant Street, Services Rendered

Tuesday, Nov. 12
7:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation/Warning Issued
10 a.m. Safety Hazard, Laurier Avenue, Removed Hazard
12:49 p.m. Abandoned 911

Call, MassPike, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
12:51 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Gareau Avenue, Services Rendered
3:11 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Maple Street, Assist Given
5:21 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Babcock Tavern Road, Dispatch Handled

Wednesday, Nov. 13
3:53 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Upper Church Street, Dispatch Handled
9:43 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
12:58 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Otis Avenue, Report Made
4:05 p.m. Fraud/Deception, West Main Street, Advised
4:44 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Doane Road, Arrest Made
5:11 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Main Street, Report Made

Thursday, Nov. 14
12:54 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Services Rendered
9:54 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, High Street, Services Rendered

Friday, Nov. 15
8:56 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, Babcock Tavern Road, Services Rendered
11:59 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Gould Road, Services Rendered
2:49 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Prospect Street, Report Made
3:47 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Services Rendered

Saturday, Nov. 16
11:39 a.m. Fraud/Deception, Palmer Road, Investigated
1:25 p.m. Harassment/Stalk, Walnut Street, Arrest Made
7:59 p.m. Harassment/Stalk, North Street, Services Rendered

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.

8:30 p.m. Hazmat, North Street, Services Rendered
8:48 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, West Street, Report Made
10:53 p.m. Citation/Warning Issued

Sunday, Nov. 17
12:35 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, West Main Street, Services Rendered
7:42 a.m. Harassment/Stalk, North Street, Services Rendered
9:10 a.m. Trespass, South Street, Assist Given
11:49 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, West Main Street, Investigated

Monday, Nov. 18
9:32 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, West Main Street, Report Made
9:58 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, High Street, Services Rendered
12:24 p.m. Harassment/Stalk, North Street, Advised
2:46 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Church Street, Services Rendered
4:21 p.m. Breaking and Entering, Convent Hill Road, Services Rendered
4:33 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered

Friday, Nov. 15
7:34 a.m. Bleeding, Old Douglas Road, Transported to Hospital
3:25 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Old West Warren Road, Officer Spoke to Party
6:10 p.m. Falls, Chapel Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Nov. 16
8:57 a.m. Parking Issues, Milton O. Fountain Way, Citation Issued
9:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
12:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Little Rest Road, No Fire Service Necessary

Warren Police Log

During the week of Nov. 10-17, the Warren Police Department responded to 153 building/property checks, 61 community policings, 17 emergency 911 calls, four motor vehicle accidents, one trespasser, one illegal dumping, one animal call and 16 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Nov. 10
4:32 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, A Street, Peace Restored

Monday, Nov. 11
12:55 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Bemis Road, Transported to Hospital
1:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Grove Street, Gone on Arrival

8:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Report Filed

Tuesday, Nov. 12
2:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Grove Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, Nov. 13
8:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
12:48 p.m. Harassment, Old West Brookfield Road, Report Filed
7:36 p.m. Harassment, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
7:36 p.m. Seizures, Jones Street, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Nov. 14
4:25 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Gilbert Road, Investigated

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www.turley.com

Call Dan today 413.297.5886 or 413.283.8393

Town to hold public engagement event for Hazard Mitigation Plan

WARE – Residents, businesses, and surrounding community members are invited to provide input on the Town of Ware Hazard Mitigation Plan at a public meeting on Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

Attendees will learn about what the Town is doing to prepare for natural hazards and the impacts of climate change and have the opportunity to share ideas and concerns.

The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to assess Ware's risks from natural hazards and climate change impacts, and provide an action plan to reduce the Town's vulnerabilities. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is being completed by the Town with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and is funded by the Federal Emergency

Management Agency.

Upon completion, the plan will be submitted to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and FEMA for review and approval. A FEMA-approved HMP makes the community eligible for federal and state mitigation grant funding.

The meeting will include a discussion of natural hazards and climate impacts in Ware, and the hazard mitigation planning process. Municipal officials and PVPC staff will be available to answer questions and respond to input about this project.

The meeting provides an opportunity for community members to share feedback that will be incorporated into the plan. All members of the public, representatives from surrounding communities, and other interested parties

are invited to attend the event.

For more information about this event, please contact PVPC's Mimi Kaplan at mkaplan@pvpc.org or call 413-781-6045.

About the PVPC

Since 1962, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has been the designated regional planning body for the Pioneer Valley region, which encompasses 43 cities and towns in Hampden and Hampshire Counties.

PVPC is the primary agency responsible for increasing communication, cooperation, and coordination among all levels of government as well as the private business and civic sectors to benefit the Pioneer Valley region and to improve its residents' quality of life.

WestMass ElderCare partners to serve free Thanksgiving dinner

CHICOPEE – WestMass ElderCare is proud to announce its continued partnership with the Knights of Columbus to bring Thanksgiving meals to those in need.

For the 47th year, the Knights of Columbus will open their dining room at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee from noon-2 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day to serve a free, hearty Thanksgiving dinner. Additionally, meals will be delivered to individuals who are unable to leave their homes from 8 a.m.-noon.

This cherished tradition welcomes everyone, with no questions asked. "Come one, come all" is the message behind the initiative, which has been serving thousands of people each year. Before COVID-19, the event served as many as 3,400 people, and while participation dipped slightly last year, the organizers expect a significant increase this year, especially as families grapple with rising food prices.

The Knights of Columbus work tirelessly year-round to make this event possible, holding fundraisers to ensure that

the Thanksgiving meal, which includes over 1,000 pounds of turkey and all the classic fixings, is fully funded.

Ron Grenier, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, shared his enthusiasm for the event, saying, "We look forward to it all year. All of us here feel great about it. More people in our organization get together to help out. We have a great time doing it."

"We are honored to be part of such a long-standing tradition that brings comfort and community to so many," said Lisa Lovell, Director of Nutrition at WestMass ElderCare. "The Knights of Columbus' generosity is inspiring, and together, we're able to reach people across the region to ensure they feel cared for this Thanksgiving."

For those unable to attend in person, meal deliveries are available within the community. To order a meal for delivery, please contact the Knights of Columbus by calling 413-533-0938 or WestMass ElderCare at 413-538-9020 by Nov. 20.

If you would like to volunteer to help deliver meals, please

contact the WestMass ElderCare Nutrition Department.

This annual event is a testament to the strength of the community and the dedication of those committed to ensuring everyone can enjoy a warm meal this Thanksgiving.

About WestMass ElderCare

WestMass ElderCare (has been serving the needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers in western Massachusetts for 50 years. Through its comprehensive services, WMEC aims to support individuals in maintaining their independence and dignity at home and in the community.

About Knights of Columbus
The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization dedicated to serving communities through charitable initiatives. Each year, the Knights host events to support local families, including their long-standing Thanksgiving meal service in Chicopee.

Veterans eat lunch free at Ware Senior Center

WARE – Now through May 31, 2025, veterans of the U.S. armed services can enjoy a homemade lunch for free at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

This meals are provided by the generosity of former Ware Selectboard member John Morrin, the Ware Veteran Fund and the Ware Veterans Carnival.

For veterans to take advantage of this offer they must call the Ware Senior Center 413-

967-9645 by noon the business day before they wish to come for lunch and place their name on the list. Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.-noon.

Menus and more information are available on the Council on Aging page of townofware.com or by stopping by the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

SCAMS from page 4

Guard your government-issued numbers. Never offer your Medicare ID number, Social Security number, health plan info, or banking information to anyone you don't know.

Go directly to official websites. If you want to make changes to your healthcare plan, go directly to Medicare.gov, Healthcare.gov, or your employer's health insurance provider. Don't click on links in suspicious messages.

Contact your employer directly. If you receive an unexpected email about benefits policies, ask your employer about it before you click on anything to make sure it's legitimate.

Find more consumer tips at BBB.org.

TASK FORCE from page 3

Korzec said the task force has received the healthcare needs survey from Ware and the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment from Baystate Wing Hospital. She said the CHNA is a federally funded assessment that determines the healthcare needs of the communities.

"We are close to being approved for having one for this

area," she said.

Korzec said the town of Hardwick was not included in the 2022 CHNA, which covered the towns of Ware, Palmer, Monson, Willbraham, Belchertown and Ludlow.

"We were never even considered when these things were done," she said.

With the completion of the CHNA, the town will be eligible to apply for a number of grant opportunities.

PILOT from page 6

Haight said at this time, indigenous people's sites have not been included on the story map due to the lack of data.

"We don't have enough good information at this point," Haight said. "When we do updates...it think that's an issue that maybe the town would like to acknowledge."

She said the story map will be updated each year, and will include listings for local businesses. Active schools, including Hardwick Elementary School and Eagle Hill School, will not be included on the map due to safety and security measures.

Haight said there are also a lot of private residences that

are of historic significance to the town, that could possibly be included on the map.

Special election date

A special election to vote on the debt exclusion for the purchase of a new firetruck will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, with polling hours from noon-6 p.m. at Hardwick Elementary School, 76 School House Drive, Gilbertville.

Recognition of citizen

The board presented Jacob Stukuls with a certificate of appreciation for this dedicated service to the town and his work at the Hardwick Recycling Center.

"On behalf of the town of

Korzec said she met with the CEO of Point32Health, a private equity group that has bought out insurance groups such as Harvard Pilgrim and Tufts, in addition to Health New England, a subsidiary of Baystate Health.

"This is going to create some challenges for healthcare in our area if we don't make sure whatever we design gets covered by their plans," she said in terms of creating a rural healthcare model.

Hardwick, do we present this gesture of gratitude with great admiration," Kemp read from the certificate.

Appointment

The board appointed George Barroso to the position of working foreman on the Highway Department.

MVP grant

Vollheim said he and Town Administrator Justine Caggiano are applying for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant in order to hire a grant writer and to install air conditioning and solar panels at Hardwick Elementary School, which is also the town's emergency shelter.

He said expressions of inter-

This model would require a 3,000 square foot building to include a small urgent care, satellite pharmacy, triage, van and satellite units, emergency personnel, strategic placement of AEDs and more. Korzec said she has discussed the creation of a satellite pharmacy with CVS.

"We're building a complete rural model because we will not have a hospital to depend on," she said.

est have been accepted by the MVP grant program and they will know more about the application process in the spring.

Holiday events

The Police Department will hold a toy drive on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the South Barre Rod & Gun Club, and Christmas on the Common will be held the same day, starting at 3 p.m. with a parade from Korzec's farm on Barre Road to the common.

Poinsettias

Kemp thanked everyone who has donated to purchase poinsettias to be delivered to the town's senior citizens.

obituaries



Fans cheer on Quabbin Regional High School's Unified Basketball team.

QRSD celebrates Unified Basketball team's season

From the desk of Colleen Mucha,
Superintendent of Quabbin Regional School District

BARRE – Celebrate our students and their strengths with us! The Quabbin Regional High School Unified Basketball Team has had a wonderful season where the stands have been filled with parents, families, teachers and staff, fellow student athletes, and friends. QRHS was recently awarded the following recognition:

“Congratulations to Quabbin Regional High School for receiving National Banner recognition from Special Olympics North America! Your school has been selected from a national certifying body for achieving standards of excellence in the areas of inclusion, advocacy and respect! The athletes, partners, students, coaches, volunteers, teachers, staff and administration at Quabbin Regional HS have all played key roles in creating a social climate where everyone feels included and respected for who they are. We are honored to have such a strong and fully inclusive school as yours recognized for the hard work and dedication you demonstrate

daily to continuously grow and strengthen your program. Your school and leadership team are a model for other schools, and we look forward to new heights you will reach tomorrow and in years to come!

You are 1 of only 19 schools in Massachusetts and among 202 schools nationwide to achieve this status for the 2023-24 school year. Well done, Quabbin Regional High School!”

The Quabbin Regional Unified Basketball team has 22 athletes all with a variety of strengths and skills that they bring to the team.

Some of the strengths of our players are as follows: Kylie has an insane outside shot, and Johnny has fierce defensive tactics. Chad has a fast pass and an eye for open players. Ryan is strong to the hoop and Emma is our anthem specialist. Hemily has a nose for the ball while Simon is a master of the underhand layup. Tyler has become a crowd favorite, and his shooting percentage is through the roof this year. Chris is always positive and comes to every game and practice with a giant smile on his face.

We can't say enough about our partners to the athletes. Most participate in other sports during the

winter and spring seasons and are integral to the success of the program.

Their enthusiasm for the program is contagious - both on and off the court.

Walter Nutter, Oakham School Committee member shared, “Watching these athletes compete, in their own joyful way, is entirely heartwarming. These kids have so much fun, and are filled with pride when they make a basket, raising their hands in the air and sporting a thousand megawatt smile. They are tuned into the crowd and look to see us cheering when they make a play. They happily share the ball with both their own teammates and opponents too. They don't get caught up on the score, they simply want to play. Their excitement is contagious.”

Our banner will be delivered to us soon and we plan to celebrate with our entire school community. We hope you will join us to recognize our inclusive athletic programming. Be on the lookout for more information from the district in the upcoming weeks.

We are proud of you Quabbin Regional Middle High School for your ability to truly see one another and celebrate each other's strengths. Stay Unified!

Elizabeth Blanche Lagimoniere, 70

WARE – Elizabeth Blanche Lagimoniere, 70 of Ware, died in the morning hours of Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024, in her home with her family with her.



She leaves her four children, Robert Lagimoniere and his wife Jennifer of Springfield, Michael Lagimoniere and his wife Kayla of Columbus, Mississippi, Angel Lagimoniere of Ware, and Mark Lagimoniere and his wife Meghan of Ware; 14 grandchildren, Patrick, Kenny III, Cassie, Amanda, Tyler, Andrew, Joe, Xavier, Majka, Kazmiry, Brynn, Sophia, Taylor and Samantha, and three great-grandchildren, Michael, Kenzly, and Thomas. She also leaves her sister, Kathy of Columbus, Mississippi. She was predeceased by her husband, Kenneth Lagimoniere, Sr. in 2022, her son Kenneth Lagimoniere, Jr., as well as her brother Robert Becker and infant sister Cheryl Becker.

Elizabeth worked in the mills in Ware in her younger years, and later as a clerk at Dollar Tree and as a manager at Family Dollar. She was dedicated to

Death notices

Lagimoniere, Elizabeth Blanche
Died Nov. 20, 2024
Services Dec. 12, 2024

Rohan, Richard Bryant
Died Nov. 20, 2024
Services Dec. 7, 2024

loving and supporting her family members and took pride in her work.

Over the years, she held the title of Treasurer, Secretary, and Chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 123 in Ware. She is a fondly remembered CCD teacher at the former Mt. Carmel Church and found much spiritual purpose in her role.

She enjoyed playing cards, caring for her puppies, and decorating custom cakes for the people she loved. She took joy in spending time with her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, reading them books, and playing games.

Elizabeth adored cardinals, believing them to be a symbol of hope and love from departed family members.

A Funeral Service for Elizabeth will be held on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. In the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware. Calling hours will be held in the funeral home from 4-6 p.m. prior to the service.

An online tribute book is available at charbonneauhf.com.

Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Richard Bryant Rohan, 89



WARE – Richard Bryant Rohan, 89, of Ware passed away peacefully on Nov. 20 in the comfort of his home surrounded by his family.



Richard was born July 20, 1935, to the late William and Mabel (Clark) Rohan, he was the youngest of two brothers and two sisters and he was 5 years old when the family moved from the town of Enfield in the Quabbin. He graduated from Ware High School in 1954 and served his country honorably in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam Conflict where he was a First-Class certified airman airplane mechanic.

He was a stand out three sport athlete at Ware High School and also played on the traveling baseball team for the Air Force. Richard retired from the Monsanto

Corporation as a lab analyst where he worked many years.

Richard was a loving family man who enjoyed spending summers at the Cape with his family and friends. He was a member of the Foundry AC Club and the Ware Grange. He was an avid supporter of all the New England sports teams.

He leaves his beloved wife of 66 years Martha Maxine (Reynolds) Rohan. His daughter Maevae O'Brien and Richard Durepo; sons Sean and Cullen Rohan; granddaughters Ashlenn Ellis and her husband Dustin and Annie Dobbins and her husband Jeremy; great grandsons Keegan and Tucker Dobbins; Grandson Charles Chabot. He also leaves a nephew, Eric Kmiec and his wife Jennifer; his niece Donna Rohan as well

as several cousins and family in Vermont, along with close friends, Christian Felix and family. Richard was preceded by his grandson, Andrew O'Brien; his brothers William and Donald Rohan; his sisters Catherine Kmiec and Mildred Rohan; uncle Carol Rohan and nieces Paula and Debbie Rohan.

Richard's family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Baystate Hospice for the compassionate care they provided him.

A Celebration of Life Service for Richard will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the United Church of Ware, 49 Church St. Richard's burial will be held privately by his family.

In lieu of flowers please make donations in his memory to: Baystate Hospice, 30 Capital Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089. Ludlow Funeral Home has been entrusted with his arrangements.



Players run down the court during a basketball game.



A basketball player prepares to take a shot at the hoop.



Players use teamwork to score points.

LEWIS from page 4

older than Lewis, each sharing a Feb. 14 birthdate.

By the early 1840s, Lewis's health went on a great decline and he sought the help of his uncle, Jabez Smith, who was a farmer in Wilmington, Vermont. Lewis lived there while he recovered and helped with the farm-work.

“Working on his uncle and cousin's farm reintroduced him to farming,” Higginbottom said. “Farming was something he really wanted to do.”

As his health returned, so did Lewis to the tanning business; living and working in Hubbardston from 1843-1851.

“It was stressful for his health, and he developed migraines, which he had for the rest of his life,” Higginbottom said.

It was here that Lewis faced conflict with his church's minister, who was very strict.

“The conflict with the minister led to psychological conflict and he sunk to a low point, where he may have considered suicide,” Higginbottom said.

Lewis recorded his marriage to Abby Louisa Kemp on Aug. 14, 1845 with an entry in his journal that stated, “I am now

a married man and I am placed under new obligation,” a week after the two were wedded.

In 1848 the couple welcomed their only child, a son, Collins Winslow Lewis. Higginbottom said it is likely that Collins was born with a cleft palate.

She said Collins left home when he was in his 20s and neither of his parents ever had contact with him again.

Lewis gave up tanning in 1851 and moved to Barre. It was around this time that the Lewis family took in Abby's niece (also named Abby), after her parents died when she was 7 years old.

In 1855, Lewis started a book lending business, carting novels throughout the towns of Barre, Petersham, New Braintree and Hardwick. Books were lent out for 10 cents each.

Lewis' detailed journals helped Higginbottom and Craven collect valuable data about what books were popular at the time, and who was reading them. One of the most in demand novels was “12 Years a Slave” by Solomon Northup.

“We discovered most of his customers were women,” Higginbottom said.

Lewis and his family relied heavily on supplemental income,

with Lewis seating chairs, haying and farming, and Abby sewing bed ticks. The couple also took in peddlers as boarders.

In 1857 Lewis bought his first cows and started a milk route, logging in his journal, “Went to an auction and bought a cow. The first I ever owned.”

“He had a five mile milk route in Barre year-round using a wheelbarrow,” Higginbottom said.

In 1860 Lewis bought his first farm on West Street, located on land that is now part of Stone Cow Brewery. His farm was about half of the average size of a farm in the town at 34 acres and cost \$1,650.

“What he did with it was astonishing,” Higginbottom said of the farm.

Lewis continued to keep detailed records of his life, noting how much milk each cow produced, including the cow's names.

“There were many Lucy's,” Higginbottom said, which was the name of Lewis' sister.

Lewis also kept a journal to record his pear tree orchard, complete with a map of all 174 trees.

In 1871, C.H. Osgood built the first of two “glass house” greenhouses on the Lewis farm,

and the couple added the sale of plants and flowers, as well as eggs and poultry, to the farm's offerings.

Lewis' wife Abby was incredibly fond of flowers, Higginbottom said, and had won many awards at the town's agricultural fair. She died on Feb. 6, 1894, followed by her husband on Feb. 5, 1897.

“William was 77 when he died,” Higginbottom said.

After his wife's death, Lewis was cared for by his best friend, James N. Patterson and his wife. When he died, his personal effects were entrusted to his friends, which is how they ended up in Frank Patterson's possession.

The couple is buried in Glen Valley Cemetery on Valley Road in Barre.

Lewis' obituary, which was printed in the Barre Gazette on Feb. 12, 1897, paid homage to his journal writing: “It was his custom to keep a written account of his daily life and actions, and after his death his executor found a small trunk in which was nearly one hundred pass books each closely written, and covering the every-day life of this singular man for nearly fifty years.”

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| CLUES ACROSS | 40. More (Spanish) | CLUES DOWN | 36. Large beer |
| 1. Long piece of squared timber | 41. ___ and Venzetti | 1. Piece of felted material | 37. Deep, red-brown sea bream |
| 5. Emaciation | 42. Exclamation at the end of a prayer | 2. Ancient Greek City | 38. Partner to cheese |
| 10. "Bewitched" boss Larry | 43. Hawaiian dish | 3. Aquatic plant | 40. At a deliberate pace |
| 14. Combining form meaning "different" | 44. Aggressively proud men | 4. Potentially harmful fungus (Brit. sp.) | 41. Gurus |
| 15. Current unit equal to 10 amperes | 45. Fellow | 5. Body art (slang) | 43. Of each |
| 16. Older | 46. Mark Wahlberg comedy | 6. One who follows the rules | 44. Angry |
| 17. Large, stocky lizard | 47. Mock | 7. Ordinary | 46. Popular beverage |
| 18. Ringworm | 48. When you expect to get somewhere | 8. Honorably retired from assigned duties and retaining one's title | 47. Flower cluster |
| 19. Actor Pitt | 49. Songs | 9. Relaxing space | 49. Blocks |
| 20. Indian hand clash cymbals | 52. Pair of small hand drums | 10. Japanese socks | 50. Those who benefitted from efforts of relatives |
| 22. Data at rest | 55. Play | 11. Indian city | 51. Polio vaccine developer |
| 23. Jeweled headdress | 56. Sword | 12. Rip | 52. A (usually) large and scholarly book |
| 24. Indicators of when stories were written | 60. Evergreens and shrubs | 13. Icelandic book | 53. Popular soap ingredient |
| 27. Check | 61. Filmed | 21. Satisfies | 54. NBAer Bradley |
| 30. Cigarette (slang) | 63. Italian Seaport | 23. Where golfers begin | 57. Popular movie about a pig |
| 31. Arctic explorers (abbr.) | 64. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea | 25. Small amount | 58. Musician Clapton |
| 32. Yearly tonnage (abbr.) | 65. Pores in a leaf | 26. Snag | 59. Not a sure thing |
| 35. Delivered a speech | 66. U. of Miami mascot is one | 27. Determine the sum of | 61. Recipe measurement (abbr.) |
| 37. A place to bathe | 67. Snake-like fishes | 28. A distinctive smell | 62. Father |
| 38. Postmen deliver it | 68. Pretended to be | 29. Exposed to view | |
| 39. Surface in geometry | 69. Body part | 32. Stain or blemish | |
| | | 33. Small loop in embroidery | |
| | | 34. River herring genus | |

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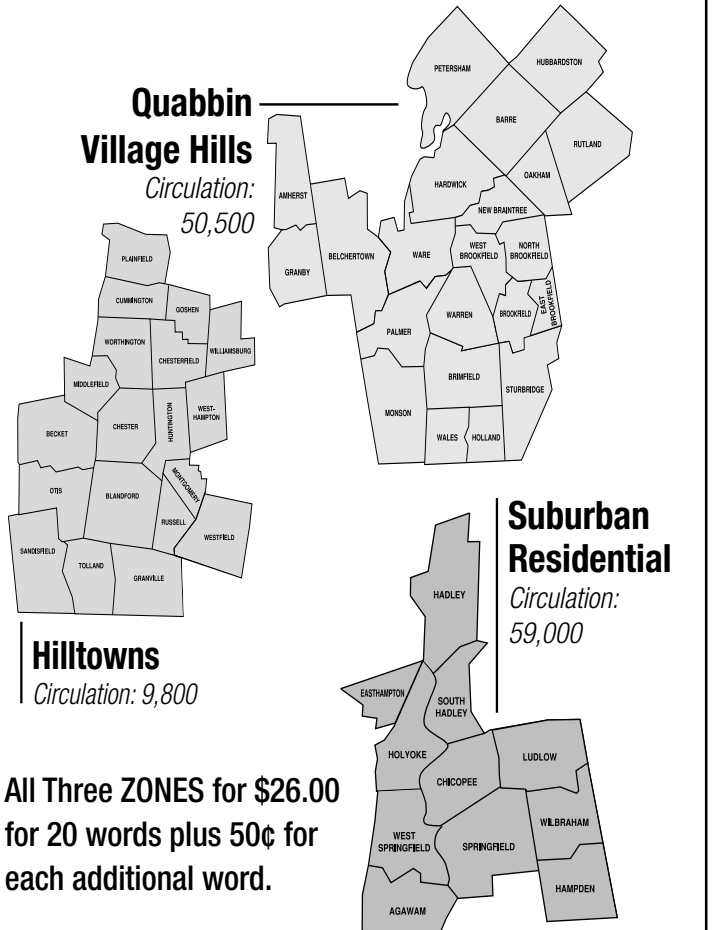
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public notices

Town of Warren Tax Classification Public Hearing
In accordance with MGL Chapter 40, Section 56, the Board of Selectmen will hold a tax classification hearing on **Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 6:00p.m.** at the Shepard Municipal Building, First Floor, Selectmen's Meeting Room located at 48 High Street, Warren. The Board of Selectmen will meet with the Board of

Assessors to hold a public hearing to consider the tax allocation options available to the Town under property tax classification. The Board will determine to have a single or split tax rate and whether to adopt an open space discount, a residential exemption, and small commercial exemption. Taxpayers are invited to present oral or written testimony at the hearing. Any written testimony should be emailed

to selectmen@warren-ma.gov or mailed to the Board of Selectmen, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083 by no later than 4:00pm on the day of the hearing. 11/21, 11/28/2024

Town of Hardwick Board of Health Notice of Public Hearing
The Board of Health of the Town of Hardwick will hold a public hearing to discuss proposed updates to the town's Well Regulations. **Date: December 12, 2024**
Time: 6:45 PM
Location: Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA
Purpose: The purpose of this hearing is to gather public input on the proposed changes to the well regulations, which include new requirements for well construction, maintenance, water quality testing, and the permitting process.

A copy of the Draft Regulations is available upon request to boh@townofhardwick.com

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide their input. Written comments may also be submitted to the Board of Health office at the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building or via email at boh@townofhardwick.com

For more information, please contact the Board of Health Administrative Clerk at (413)477-6197 x 108. By Order of Board of Health Town of Hardwick, MA 11/21, 11/28/2024

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by ADCC100, LLC to Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC, dated June 14, 2024 and recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds on June 17, 2024, in Book No. 15159, at Page 318, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at public auction at **2:00 PM, on December 17, 2024** on the mortgaged premises being known as 32-34 South Street, Ware, MA, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:
A certain tract or parcel of land, with building(s) located thereon, situated on the easterly side of South Street in said Ware, in the County of Hampshire, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at the Northwesterly corner of land formerly of Willard Gage; thence Northerly on said South Street seventy-four (74) feet, more or less, to the Southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of Samuel Walker; thence East twenty-four (24) degrees South one hundred (100) feet; thence South eighteen (18) degrees forty (40) minutes West seventy four (74) feet and to the land now or formerly of Gage; thence West eighteen (18) degrees North to land now or

formerly of said Gage one hundred (100) feet to the place of beginning. Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of Depina & Sainlt investment LLC, dated May 24, 2024, recorded on June 17, 2024 at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book No. 15159, at Page 313. The above described premises will be sold **SUBJECT TO** and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, covenants, conditions, building and zoning laws, to any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, water and sewer charges, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, if any. **TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of \$7,500.00 DOLLARS shall be required to be made to the mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier's check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding.

The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier's check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording. The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee's Sale or its publication. **OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF**

THE SALE.
Dated: November 17, 2024 (signed:) Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC Present Holder of said Mortgage By its Attorneys, Barsh and Cohen, P.C. Neil Cohen, Esquire Attorney for the Mortgagee 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021 (617) 332-4700 11/21, 11/28, 12/05/2024

TOWN OF WARE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Selectboard will conduct a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 6:40 p.m.**, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA, to hear a dangerous dog complaint regarding one dog owned by a resident of 8 Desantis Drive, Ware, MA. All interested parties are invited to attend. Nancy Talbot, Chair Selectboard 11/28/2024

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.
visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



Photos and memories were displayed during the Senior Center's 20th anniversary celebration.



One of the billiards tables had dozens of photographs of seniors enjoying their fun events throughout the year.

CELEBRATE from page 1

enjoyed reviewing were all the photographs and portfolios of all the memories formed at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center.

Many of the seniors were scrolling through all the binders to find some old friends and family members. The two pool tables were covered up for a display of all the highlights and events that have occurred at the Senior Center or highlights of members of the Senior Center and the two communities.

One of the group photos was a group of the Barre Golden Age Chorus back in the early 1980s. There was also a newspaper article on Bill Robinson going skiing in Barre.

Another article featured in one of the binders was about the Council on Aging sponsoring the walking club. This club featured seniors taking walks at Quabbin Regional High School.

Nov. 19, 2004, was the grand opening of the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center and it was only appropriate for the center to host its 20th anniversary on the very day in 2024. Twenty years later the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center is going strong and has a lot in store moving forward.

The Senior Center is getting ready to host its Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 26 and there will also be a Christmas party on Dec. 3.

The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center provides services to senior citizens from the towns of Barre and Hardwick. Recently, the Senior Center has added a new health & wellness room.

The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center is located at 557 South Barre Road in Barre. The senior center can be contacted by calling 978-355-5004 or emailing coa@townofbarre.com.



The recognition certificate awarded to the Senior Center back in 2004 was displayed during the 20th anniversary celebration.



A story of Bill Robinson hitting the ski slopes in Barre.



Many seniors reviewed the binders and books to find some old friends and family members who have graced their presence at the Senior Center.

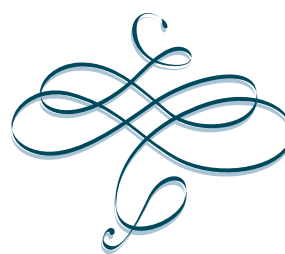


A front page article of the Barre Gazette recorded the grand opening of the Senior Center back in 2004.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center had binders of photos and articles highlighting all the many years of events and memories that many seniors today remember.



This photograph showed the Barre Golden Age Chorus from 1980-1982.

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Chicopee Register

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The Holyoke Sun

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The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Deadline for photos and forms is Monday, December 16, 2024

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