

WARE RIVER NEWS

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2024

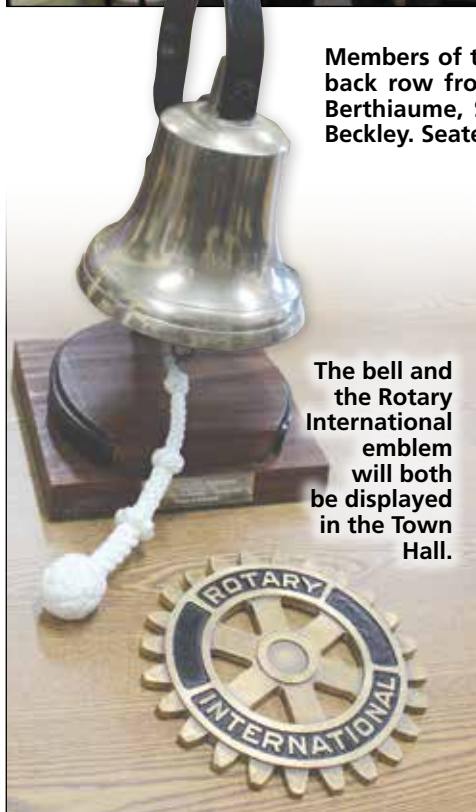
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Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Members of the Ware Rotary Club presented a bell to the Historical Commission at Town Hall on Dec. 19. Shown back row from left are Ray Paradis, Lewis Iadarola, Jeri Vadnais, State Sen. Peter Durant, State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, State Rep. Todd Smola, Claudia Kadra, Lorrie Willette, Wanda Mysona and Town Manager Stuart Beckley. Seated from left are Kathy Deschamps, Phillip Hamel and Lynn Lak.



The bell and the Rotary International emblem will both be displayed in the Town Hall.

Rotary Club members presents bell to Historical Commission

By Sierra Racine
Correspondent

WARE – The members of the former Ware Rotary Club presented a bell they had received from Ware, England to the Historical Commission last week.

On Dec. 19, veteran and Rotarian Phillip Hamel donated the bell to the Historical Commission to be displayed at the Town Hall for the people of

Ware to view. The presentation was attended by Town Manager Stuart Beckley, the members of the Ware Rotary Club, the Historical Commission members, state Sen. Peter Durant and State Reps. Donnie Berthiaume and Todd Smola.

While the bell may not be large in stature, it has an impressive sound that carries a rich history.

The bell was originally presented to the Ware Rotary Club

by Guy Horlock from Ware, England on the 75th Rotary anniversary in October 2003. The Ware Rotary Club was originally formed in December 1927 and in February of 1928 received its Charter from Rotary International, and since then has developed a strong connection with the Rotary Club in Ware, England.

Please see **BELL**, page 6

Volunteers discuss plans to revitalize playground

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – More than 20 people met at the Ware Library earlier this month to discuss plans to make repairs and bring attention to the Ware Dreams Come True Park, which is dedicated to the memory of fallen Ware firefighter Robert J. Beauregard.

“I grew up on that playground, my kids grew up on that playground.”

– Adrienne Clark

“I grew up on that playground, my kids grew up on that playground,” meeting coordinator Adrienne Clark said. “It’s really hard to see it like this.”

Clark was inspired to organize a group of volunteers to assist the Parks Department with cleaning up and making repairs to the park, after vandals spraypainted graffiti on most of the playground’s wooden structures.

The week prior to this meeting, Clark met with members of the town’s Americans with Disabilities Act Commission to talk about ways to make the park more accessible as well. Clark said she will also be approaching local businesses for support and

involvement.

Clark said she inspected the park with fellow volunteer and owner of Pennington Painting, Dustin Pennington, to see what needs to be done to the park. Pennington will be donating his crew’s painting services to the efforts to revitalize the playground.

“It doesn’t really need very much...the potential is definitely there,” Clark said.

Clark is hoping to reuse as much of the existing playground equipment as possible.

Clark said her main concern is why this vandalism keeps happening, and how the town and its residents can prevent it.

“There’s no question whether it needs security or not,” she said.

This includes installing security cameras and adding a police presence, even if it’s just using the area to patrol traffic or turn around in.

“Our goal is hopefully, no later than March 1,” Clark said of making the repairs. “As soon as we’re able to have paint dry and safely have equipment on the site.”

Clark shared her vision for the park, which includes forming a network of people who are willing to get involved in the town

Please see **PLAYGROUND**, page 12

Boards/committees continue PILOT policy discussion for nonprofits

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board continued reviewing a Payment in Lieu of Taxes policy, drafted by board Clerk William Tinker, with members of the Finance Committee.

At the Dec. 16 meeting, Select Board Chair Kelly Kemp said town counsel has also reviewed the draft policy and provided written feedback about it.

Tinker said one of town coun-

sel’s recommendations was that the policy define “tax exempt.” He asked how many nonprofits exist in the town.

Kemp said not including municipal properties, there are 109 properties. This figure also includes state-owned land, the East Quabbin Land Trust, churches, the Gilbertville Public Library and Eagle Hill School.

She said Eagle Hill School is currently in two PILOT programs with the town already. She said originally there was a verbal agreement to pay \$25,000 a year

to the town, before it shifted to multiple properties being placed back on the tax roll and the school paying betterments on the sewer.

Assessor Jennifer Kolenda said the state’s Department of Conservation and Recreation also pays a PILOT to the town for the Quabbin Reservoir, and money comes in from the Department of Fisheries & Wildlife on the cherry sheet. The PILOT payment was \$190,000 and the cherry sheet was \$94,000.

Please see **PILOT**, page 11

Tale as old as time

‘Beauty and the Beast’ brings magic to the Quaboag stage

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Quaboag Theater Department and 21st Century Community Learning Centers program proudly presented a production of “Beauty and the Beast”.

This show wrapping up 2024 was one of the greatest shows Quaboag Regional Middle High School has ever done and featured many talented students in grades seven through 12. There were over 60 students involved that were part of the cast, crew and band and they all really worked hard to bring a great show to the school’s stage.

James Joinville, director of the show and music director, has witnessed a lot of greatness coming out of this show and the students made it possible. With this show featuring a lot of props, costumes, technical components, music and choreography Joinville believes the students worked really hard and executed all of the show’s performances wonderfully.

“It was challenging but the kids worked hard,” Joinville said.

In Joinville’s eyes “Beauty and the Beast” was one of the best shows Quaboag has ever done.

“The shows were unbelievable,”



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

The Quaboag Regional Theater Department and 21st Century Community Learning Centers program proudly presented a production of “Beauty and the Beast”. The Ensemble performed during the song “Gaston”.

Joinville said. “They brought the magic to the stage. One of the greatest shows this school has ever seen.”

Many members of the cast had been performing for their high school for many years, while some are new to the theater experience at Quaboag. Abigail Jolin is a senior at Quaboag and portrayed Belle.

For Jolin, it was a dream come true playing Belle in “Beauty and the Beast”.

“Belle has been my favorite Disney princess since I was a kid,” Jolin said.

Jolin has played lead roles

before at Quaboag, but Belle was one of her favorite characters to play and the whole experience of the show was like being part of a big family.

“This cast was a huge family,” Jolin said.

Madison Schreier portrayed the wardrobe Madame de La

Please see **BEAUTY**, page 7

WBCA holds housing presentation



Will Rhatigan, MBTA Communities Engagement Manager at the Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association gave a presentation about the commonwealth’s housing crisis at the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond’s meeting.

By Abby McCoy
Correspondent

WARE – On Dec. 18, the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond held a meeting at Cedarbrook Village of Ware to discuss updates on the local economy, business developments and ongoing housing issues.

The meeting was opened by WBCA and Beyond President Dan Flynn, who thanked local businesses for their support of recent community events. He highlighted the success of the Wreaths Across America and Holiday Flair drive-through

Please see **ARTICLE**, page 11

Hope Your Season Is Trimmed With Every Happiness

Thank you for filling our year with so many special memories!

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12 Weekly
Community Newspapers



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ACCURACY WATCH

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.

Ware Senior Center news

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, located at 1 Robbins Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
 The thrift store is open each of those days from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations to the store are only accepted by Sue LaBarge, who can be reached by calling 413-544-1574.


- Activities**
Monday, Dec. 30
 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 10 a.m. Scat
 11:30 a.m. Lunch
Tuesday, Dec. 31
 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
 9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class
 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
 10 a.m. Scat
 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 1 p.m. Cornhole
 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)
Wednesday, Jan. 1
Closed for New Year's Day
Thursday, Jan. 2
 9 a.m. Walking Club. Meet at Senior Center.
 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing

- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
 10 a.m. Line Dancing
 10 a.m. Scat
 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 1 p.m. Cornhole
 2:30 p.m. Art Class

Friday, Jan. 3
 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 10 a.m. Scat
 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)
LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.
 All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted
 Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.

- Monday, Dec. 30**
 Chicken Jambalaya, Tanga Cucumber Salad, Dessert of the Day
Tuesday, Dec. 31
 Stuffed Manicotti with Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day
Wednesday, Jan. 1
 Closed for New Year's Day
Thursday, Jan. 2
 Chicken Wings with Rice-Celery, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day
Friday, Jan. 3
 Fish and Chips, Coleslaw, Dessert of the Day

Are You Old News?



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

Email your answers by Monday at noon to pouimette@turley.com.

File Photo
 Last week's photo from 1977 showed Ware Rotary Club members Irving Breslar and Peter Baltren displaying king-size coloring books the local service club was selling.
 If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to pouimette@turley.com.

BHN announces new additions to Executive Leadership Team

SPRINGFIELD – Behavioral Health Network, Inc. has announced two new members of its Executive Leadership Team, Anthony Boswell and Sigfredo Irizarry.

elor's degree from Stony Brook University, a master's degree in organizational leadership from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.



Submitted Photo
Anthony Boswell was recently named to the Behavioral Health Network, Inc.'s Executive Leadership Team.

Boswell joined BHN as Senior Vice President in October. In this role, he will provide strategic leadership across multiple service lines and play an instrumental role in shaping the organization's future direction.
 With extensive experience in mental health leadership, Boswell's expertise will be key in advancing BHN's mission and expanding its impact in the community.
 Prior to joining BHN, Boswell served as CEO of LevinThor, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in management, leadership, and education. He has also held senior leadership positions at mental health organizations in Springfield, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Washington, D.C., further enhancing his diverse experience in the sector.
 Boswell attended the U.S. Air Force Academy and earned a bachel-

or's degree from Stony Brook University, a master's degree in organizational leadership from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.
 Irizarry joined BHN in November as Vice President of Performance Improvement, Applications & Data Analytics. In this position, Irizarry will lead efforts to enhance performance improvement initiatives across the organization, focusing on optimizing applications and leveraging data analytics to improve service delivery.
 His strategic vision and leadership will play a key role in the company's continued success and operational efficiency.
 With 30 years of experience in IT, Irizarry specializes in IT leadership, system information, business continuity, cybersecurity, and process automation. He is an accomplished IT executive, adept at leading diverse teams and developing sustainable IT strategies.
 Irizarry has extensive experi-

ence in managing technical teams, complex system migrations, and cyber security efforts to mitigate risks.

Currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity from Purdue University, Irizarry is enrolled in the CISSP Track. He also holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and management from the International Institute of The Americas.

Steve Winn, President and CEO of BHN, stated, "We are excited to welcome Tony and Sigfredo to our Executive Leadership Team. Their experience and leadership will be key in driving our strategic vision and enhancing the quality of services we provide. These appointments demonstrate our commitment to strengthening BHN's leadership and advancing our mission to deliver exceptional behavioral health services."

Country Bank supports QV CDC with \$10,000 donation

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, announced a \$10,000 donation to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation to help local communities in the region.
 "The Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation is grateful for this generous donation from Country Bank. This donation will help us continue to run our Senior Outreach Program, which helps seniors with prescription pickup, grocery shopping, food bank deliveries and other chores. Country Bank's support is not only an investment in the Quaboag Valley CDC's mission, but an example of Country Bank's commitment to making a difference in the community," stated Melissa Fales, QV CDC Executive Director.



Submitted Photo
 Shown from left to right are Melissa Fales, Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation's Executive Director, Carol Zins, QV CDC Senior Outreach Program Coordinator and Jodie Gerulaitis, Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank.


Seniors with underlying medical conditions can significantly impact their ability to get out safely to meet their everyday needs. The deliveries allow them to remain safely at home while addressing their critical needs.

To learn more about the various support programs the QV CDC offers, visit www.QV CDC.org.

About Country Bank
 Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich

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

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Santa Claus visited Hardwick Playgroup

HARDWICK – Santa Claus may have been busy preparing for his trip to deliver gifts to children around the world, but he still found time to visit his friends at Making Opportunity Count Coordinated Family & Community Engagement’s Hardwick Playgroup last Friday morning.

Children were able to make snowmen crafts, have a visit with Santa Claus and enjoy some songs and books.

Hardwick Playgroup will resume in the new year, on Friday, Jan. 10 from 10-11 a.m., upstairs in the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, 307 Main St., Gilbertville. Please use the side entrance facing the Stone Church.



Santa Claus made a special visit to Making Opportunity Count Coordinated Family & Community Engagement’s Hardwick Playgroup last Friday.



This child thinks about what he would like for Christmas.



Santa Claus visited with children and heard their Christmas wishes.



Santa Claus had time to play with children at Hardwick Playgroup.



Santa Claus gets a high five.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



This child shakes hands with Santa Claus.

Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

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

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

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

Berthiaume and Durant hold office hours across region

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

Upcoming dates include Monday, Jan. 6, East Brookfield Senior Center from 9-10 a.m., Brookfield Town Hall from 10:15-11:15 a.m. and West Brookfield Senior Center from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 8, Ware Senior Center from 9-10 a.m., Hardwick Municipal Offices from 10:15-11:15 a.m., New Braintree Town Hall from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and North Brookfield Senior Center from 12:45-1:45 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 13, Hubbardston Senior Center from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Barre Senior Center from 10:45-11:45 a.m. and Oakham Town Hall from noon-1 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 14, Spencer Town Hall (Tammy Ruda from State Rep. John Marsi’s office will also attend) from 10-11 a.m. and Leicester Senior Center from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

To arrange a private meeting, contact Farmer by calling 774-402-4742.

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.

EQLT holds New Year’s Day walk

NEW BRAINTREE – East Quabbin Land Trust will start off 2025 with a New Year’s Day walk, Wednesday, Jan. 1 at noon at the New Braintree Trail Station Site, 1700 Hardwick Road.

This will be a casual walk on the Mass Central Rail Trail in New Braintree and Hardwick. EQLT will also dedicate the Terry Briggs Memorial Bench in Wheelwright.

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USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC. \$1³⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN STRIPLOIN STEAKS \$7⁷⁷ lb	NEW YEAR'S ITEMS
USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN ROAST LOIN END or RIB END..... \$2³² lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST \$5⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN CHICKEN PARTY WINGS PORTIONS 3 LB BAG..... \$5⁹⁹ ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK BREAKFAST SAUSAGE LINKS FULLY COOKED..... \$2⁴⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BUTCHER WAGON BONELESS DINNER HAM AVERAGE 5 LB \$1⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN ARMOUR COOKED MEATBALLS 4 LB BAG \$9⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. KAYEM BUDDABALL BONELESS SMOKED PIT HAM..... \$3⁶⁶ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN TURTLE CREAM PIE 25.1 OZ. \$5⁹⁹ ea	USDA INSP. HILLSHIRE FARMS POLSKA KIELBASA 14 OZ OR 15 OZ... \$3⁴⁹ ea
		USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP PEELLED & DEVEINED 51/60 CT 2 LB BAG..... \$7⁹⁹ ea
		USDA INSP. FROZEN 5 LB BLOCK JUMBO RAW SHRIMP 6-10 FOR STUFFING..... \$39⁹⁹ ea

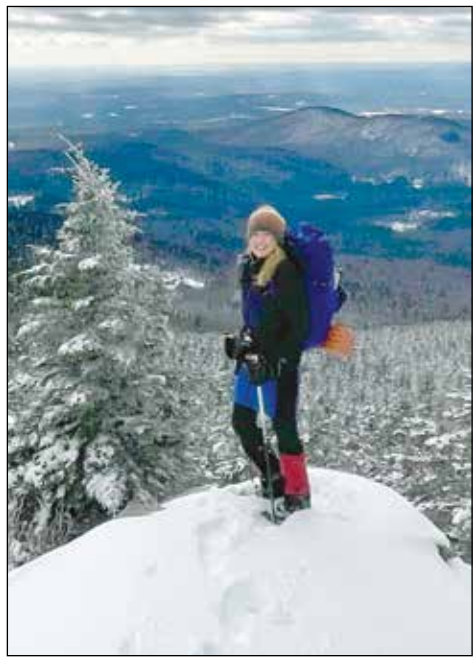
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GUEST COLUMN



Julie smiles brightly at the top of Mount Monadnock.

A wintry hike on Mount Monadnock

By Julie Midura

"I don't think we're on the trail anymore."

Tom and I drove to Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire last week following a recent snowstorm. After parking our car at the trailhead, we made quick work of the road walk to the old Halfway House site, where we had a choice to make.

We could continue straight ahead onto the well packed out and very popular White Arrow Trail, or hang a sharp right onto the lesser used and more difficult to follow Hello Rock Trail.

We paused when we reached the junction. One look in the direction of Hello Rock Trail told us that we would have our work cut out for us if we chose that route.

Not only was the snow much deeper than we expected, but there were no other boot prints in sight. We would be breaking trail.

After not hiking anything strenuous in weeks and feeling less than confident in our ability to tackle some moderate trail breaking, I hesitated for a fraction of a second. I took a deep breath, exhaled slowly, then turned right towards Hello Rock Trail.

No time like the present to see just how out of shape we were!

As we broke through the calf-deep, thick blanket of white that covered the tread-way, the path was fairly obvious- four feet wide and slightly lower than the earth on either side. But we continued forward, undaunted by the fact that we were fairly certain we were no longer on the actual trail.

After all, if we couldn't locate the path, we'd just follow our footprints in the snow back to where the trail was more obvious, and then attempt to find the spot where we had made a wrong turn. In the meantime, we enjoyed moving through the Narnia-like forest of white.

I was in the lead when I stopped suddenly at the base of a very steep rock outcropping. The thought of going up the hill made my heart rate soar.

However, the hope that we might be able to catch sight of the trail from the top and reconnect with the path we were supposed to be on helped assuage my fear. I ignored my rapidly beating heart, slammed my trekking poles into the snow-covered rock, kicked my spike-clad boots into the snow, and hauled myself up.

Only to realize that "You can't get there from here."

Upon reaching the top of the snow covered ledge, we discovered that we were mere feet from a sheer vertical drop-off. At this point, we had three options. Well, in reality, just two, since plunging off the ledge onto the jagged rocks below was never really a viable option to begin with.

One, continue bushwhacking upwards in an attempt to see where we would end up. The hope being that we'd eventually find Cliff Walk Trail. (Tom's idea)

Please see **HIKE**, page 12



Tom takes in the beautiful snow covered view.

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

A Christmas card gardening question

My long-time friend Jane sent a column request via her Christmas card!

"I still read your columns, Roberta. I like the folksy way you write! Can you please provide some tips on keeping my Poinsettia healthy?"

So, out of the archives comes this column, devoted to Jane and you guessed it, the poinsettia.

Every Christmas the poinsettia takes the stage, front and center, in grocery and box store displays. The deep red bracts lure buyers to make them part of their holiday decorating.

Pretty? For sure, but without proper care, the plant won't have a chance past New Year's Day.

Let's learn what we can do to keep this favorite looking its best throughout the holiday season and then some.

It's important that you start off with a healthy plant. Choose a poinsettia with dark green foliage all the way to the soil line. Color should completely cover the bracts on the upper portion of the plant.

Avoid plants whose flowers (located in the center of the bracts) show pollen. If pollen is

evident, the plant is old.

Be wary of those that are displayed in plastic or paper sleeves or even those that are elbow to elbow. Poinsettias need room to spread out, and the longer they are cramped, the more likely it is that their quality will be impacted.

Wilted plants are also best avoided, as this may indicate more than dry soil alone.

Poinsettias are cold sensitive. I was aghast when an out of town florist delivered these to me without a proper covering!

Temperatures under 50 degrees for even a few minutes can damage the plant. Therefore, insert into a bag or protective sleeve for the ride home from the store and do not leave in an unheated car while you run other errands!

Once home, position the poinsettia in a location where it will receive indirect light for at least six hours a day. Avoid drafts, warm or cold, and place far enough away from windows to prevent the foliage from touching cold glass.

Chances are if you are comfortable inside, your poinsettia will be as well. Temperatures from 65-70 degrees during the day to around 55 at night will extend its life.

Check the plant often to see if it needs water. If the soil is dry, water until droplets leak through the drainage holes in the pot. Saucers shouldn't accumulate water. Dump the excess out after each watering so the plant won't reabsorb it and become waterlogged.

Soil that remains soaking wet is likely to cause root rot. A visual indication of this irreversible disease is curled, wilting foliage and bracts. Hold off on fertilizing the plant while it is in bloom.

It's unfortunate that few people keep their poinsettias past the holiday season. My mom tries for repeat bloom each year with varying degrees of success. This year, some bracts are

just starting to turn red!

Here's what to do if you'd like to try it: In early April cut back the plant to eight inches. Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month.

New growth should appear by the end of May. After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks.

Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. At this time you may also wish to repot the poinsettia. Select a pot one size larger, filling around the root ball with a good potting soil.

Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. In greenhouses, growers go to great lengths to withhold light, as even small amounts can delay or stop the plant from setting bud.

At home, putting the plant in the closet for 14 hours each night is your best bet. Most people get on a 5p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts.

Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

Regardless of whether you enjoy the poinsettia for the season or longer, may its colorful bracts brighten your holiday!

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.

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Have I saved Social Security money by claiming at 62?

Dear Rusty:

I had to start collecting Social Security at 62 and I am 75 now.

I believe that in the last 13 years I have saved Social Security money, so I do not know why I cannot draw my full benefits now.

If I had started drawing at 65 at \$1,200 per month, then I would have drawn \$16,400 per year. Instead, I got \$680 per month from 62 to 75 or \$8,160 per year or about \$106,000 over 13 years. Compare that to the age 65 amount of \$14,400 per year for 10 years, which is \$144,000. So, by claiming at 62, at age 75 I have saved the government over \$38,000. It would make seniors lives so much easier if they could draw full Social Security at 75 years old, after getting only part of their SS.

Signed: Second-guessing

Dear Second-guessing:

The difference between benefits claimed at various ages causes many to reflect, as you have done, about what might have been had you waited longer to claim. But there is an error in your calculations. If your age 62 monthly benefit is \$680, your age 65 monthly benefit would have been about \$845, not \$1,200. Thus, at 75 you would have collected about \$101,400 by claiming at 65, vs. the \$106,000 you have received by claiming at age 62. In other words, you still would not have broken even had you claimed at age 65.

Social Security says that it doesn't matter when you claim they say that if you claim early your payments will be less, but you'll get more of them. Where SSA's argument falls apart is when life expectancy is longer. Our experience is that if you wait until your Full Retirement Age to claim, which is age 66 in your case vs. claiming at age 62, you will collect the same amount of total money at about age 78.

In other words, the "breakeven age" for waiting until FRA to claim is about 78. So, you will reach your personal "breakeven age" in about 2 1/2 years, at age 78. And this is precisely why we encourage everyone to understand their life expectancy when deciding when to claim Social Security those who



expect to live longer will, indeed, get more SS money if they delay claiming.

Your benefit is determined by your age when you claim and if you claim before your FRA your monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you claimed at age 62 and your monthly amount was \$680, then in the four years until you reached age 66, your FRA, you would have received about \$32,640. If you had, instead, waited until your FRA to claim, your benefit at age 66 would have been about \$906/month. Collecting \$906/month (at 66) vs. \$680/month (at 62) would make your breakeven age about 78. If you claimed at age 65 instead of 62, your breakeven age would have been about a year earlier (77).

So, have you saved Social Security money? Up to this point, you have not. Since you claimed at age 62, you have collected about \$680/month for 13 years until you were 75 (or about \$106,000). If you had waited until age 65 to claim you would have, instead, collected about \$101,400 - in other words you have received more, so far, by claiming at age 62. But that will change when you reach 77, your breakeven age, had you claimed at 65). Starting at age 77, you will have received less in cumulative lifetime benefits because you claimed at age 62.

Which, again, is why - at the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service - we encourage everyone to consider life expectancy when deciding when to take Social Security. Of course there are other factors too, not the least of which is financial need, but life expectancy is key. And since the benefit you get when you claim is permanent except for annual Cost of Living Adjustments, deciding when to claim Social Security is a decision which affects a lifetime.

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

BBB offers tips to avoid credit card fraud

With so many purchases during the holiday season, it can be easy to miss a fraudulent credit card charge or two - especially if it appears to be from a charity.

The Better Business Bureau reminds people to keep a close eye on their credit card statement this time of year.

How the scam works

You review your credit card statement and notice charitable donations that you don't remember making. No, it's not a memory lapse; you were a victim of credit card fraud.

These unauthorized charity charges may be part of a bigger con, which started when scammers got your credit card information. Your card details may have been shared in a scam or as part of a data breach.

After getting your credit card details,

scammers now need to check whether they are still valid. To do this, scammers often use charity websites to test the stolen numbers.

Scammers do this because they can test with very small donations that are less likely to be disputed. When the charges go through, the scammer knows that your card details are still valid.

Then, they will use your card for bigger purchases or cash advances.

In one recent example, one person reported to BBB Scam Tracker that they were approached by two men claiming to raise funds for a child needing medical services. The person was told they would only be charged \$20, but was actually charged \$2,400.

One person reported to BBB Scam Tracker that after making a purchase from a questionable discount website, their debit card "was pinged for fraudulent charges ranging from

\$2 to \$29 then finally \$67 for a charity. I've had to cancel my debit card, order a new one and block my account."

If you notice unexpected donation charges, be sure to report them immediately. With about 20% of charitable giving happening in December, this con is particularly easy to miss during the holiday season.

How to avoid unauthorized credit card scams

Report any questionable charges immediately. Don't wait until a scammer charges hundreds of dollars to your card.

Contact the Fraud Department for your card issuer; you'll be issued a new card, and your old card number will be unusable for scammers to exploit. Be sure to select a new

Please see **FRAUD**, page 13

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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.

Ware Junior/Senior High School lists first quarter honor roll

WARE – Ware Junior/Senior High School announced the first quarter honor roll for the 2024-2025 school year

Grade 12, High Honors

Michael Devlin, Brady Dyer, Tory Finocchio, Chelsea Foley, Tyson Gordon, Shelby Hogan, Taylor Janson, Lillian Knight, Ami LaPointe, Nathan Luxon, Finn McFaul, Kayla Obrzut, Philip Orszulak, Olivia Owskiak, Gavin Sawabi and Aria Serus.

Grade 12, Honors

Mason Beaumier, Kyla Campbell, Joshua Dulak, Nevaeh Fielding, Jackson Ghidinelli, Lahnai Giles, Nathan Harmon, Alexander Hedge-Hughes, Makayla Hernandez Crehan, Nathan Kaczuwka, Chloe LaGrant, Seaira Maragh, Owen McKeever, Abigale McQuaid, Mia Montalban, Ayden Mulcahy, Leah O'Connell, Brody Paul, Kylee Slattery, Jaykub Tortora, Jenna Tucker and Ashlynn Westbrook.

Grade 11, High Honors

Lillian Aldrich, Damian Brace, Olivia DiRienzo, Jack Gaudreau, Brady Guimond, Kyle Kaczuwka, Kaleb Kanozek, Maia Lamothé, Marek Luongo, Alex Orszulak, Sophia Rheume and Madisyn Slattery.

Grade 11, Honors

Sean Bernier, Ryder Cahalan, Brayden Compton, Isabella Cotaj, Troy Dufresne, Philip Dupell, Jacoby Heredia, Maliah Lee, Nathaly Mercedes Zayas, Ella Przypek, Daniel Ramirez, Destiny Routhier, Paizlea St. Pierre and Nathan Trzpit.

Grade 10, High Honors

Olivia Beaumier, Andrew Bonilla, Thomas Cleveland, Tru Edwards, Reagan Jacobs, Reese McKeever, Jacob McNamee, Edgus John Michael Owskiak, Haylee Tortora and Ohana Wall.

Grade 10, Honors

Andrea Albano, Aaron Bateman, Carly Brown, Andrew Fox, Cam Grushey, Mekhai Johnson, Emily Jones, Troy Jurczyk, Kazmiryr Lagimoniere, Mila Markham and Lucas Schilling.

Grade Nine, High Honors

Sophie Blais, Callie Cygan, Caeleb DuBois, Anna Dulak, Carlea Foley, Aralyn Garcia, Laura Landgren, Mason Lee, Alexandra Marceau, Molly McGrail, Amelia Orszulak, Adalia Rivera Rolon, Alexis Russell, Matthew Skutnik and Adin Taylor.

Grade Nine, Honors

Abigayle Bateman, Demitri Bonilla, Jady-Amy Boulrice, Destiny Diaz, Jackson Haddad, Ian Hogan, Emanuel Lugo, Jack Mason, Logan Millet, Emilliea Plant, Sofia Roman and Zachary Safford.

Grade Eight, High Honors

Braiden Bedore, Lana Bennington, Gloria Cotaj, Joseph Cygan, Raiden Drouin, Dane Dulak, Madelyn Fandrey, Josephine Galeckas, Lucy Hebert, Gabrielle Kaczuwka, Mason Kalafarski, Edmund Klee, Raymond Kularski, Alexandria Mickna, Madison Mitchell, Claire Murphy, Jackson Musnicki, Bentley Parker, Kamila Santiago, Andrew Shaw, Roman Viess, Zoey Wattu, Quentin Wilkins and Adrian Zapata.

Grade Eight, Honors

Austin Barry, Jason Bessette, Zion Calkins, Thanishka Cordero, Macie Cournoyer, Frankee Crehan, Finnegan DeMarco, Anthony Flores, Iris Griffith, Austin Hatch, Crystal Hong, Jennavesia Josephson, Tucker Kinney, Abigail Klee, Daisy Laverdiere, Matthew Martinez, Whyatt Moquin, Laila Perron, Andrew Rheume, Jayliana Rivera and Carter Smith.

Grade Seven, High Honors

Robert Beauregard, Madison Boulrice, James Devlin, Sophia Jolly, Emily Lane, Noah Lane, Myah Provencher, Sage Supka and Sean Taylor.

Grade Seven, Honors

Roman Chadwick, Tanner Corriveau, Isabella Francis, Natalie Hinckley, Nathan Kelly, Quinn Lanigan, Pinyaphut Matin, Alexandria Schmidt and Alana Tolman.

Dog deemed a nuisance after incident

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – A Desantis Drive resident appeared before the Selectboard to discuss an incident where her dog was attacked by a neighbor's dog.

At the Dec. 17 dangerous dog hearing held during the Selectboard meeting, the resident said her dog was leashed and wearing a harness in her driveway, when he saw the other dog coming toward her. When she picked her dog up, the other dog bit her dog on her backend and began shaking her.

The other dog had been tethered in the neighbor's yard, and had broken free.

The resident then grabbed the other dog by the collar, and it released her dog, who was able to get away. The dog then lunged at the resident and knocked her down while she yelled for help.

Another neighbor came over to assist and was able to restrain the loose dog, while the resident collected her dog and went back into her house. The other dog's owner came and collected their dog and the resident, and her husband took their dog to an emergency veterinarian to be evaluated for injuries.

The resident provided photos of the dog that attacked her dog, showing the dog tied to a cable outdoors, without anyone outside. She said the dog was attached to a similar cable when it broke free and attacked her dog.

"We are looking to have the dog restrained with a person out there with it, when he goes out," she said.

The resident said the neighbor was willing to pay for the veterinary bills.

The neighbor said she is temporarily caring for her son's dog, and that she is very sorry for what happened. The dog is licensed in the town of Auburn and is current on its rabies vaccination.

Animal Control Officer Sydney Plante said for right now, this is an isolated incident. She has talked with the ACO from the town where the dog originally lived, and there have been no other incidents related to this dog.

She recommended that the Selectboard require that the dog be on a leash when outside, and not on a cable tether. She said a cage muzzle when outside could also prevent this from happening again.

The Selectboard members determined that the dog was not a dangerous dog, but deemed it to be a nuisance and required that it be leashed and humanely muzzled when outside. The dog will also need to be licensed in the town of Ware.

Discussion of MLH property

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said it has come up many times about what should be done with the buildings and land at the Mary Lane Hospital property. He said a couple of years ago, the Hospital Review Committee recommended against the taking of land or buildings due to liability.

"As part of the Historical Commission review, a lot of talk since the demolition delay has been about the preservation of, in particular, the Wetherby building, which is the original hospital and then the administration building," he said.

Beckley said himself and other have been meeting with Baystate Health, and Baystate has "softened their stance" in regard to demolishing the buildings and redeveloping the property.

He said they have asked Baystate Health if they would be willing to preserve the Wetherby building on a separate piece of land and turn it over to the town; or to demolish all of the buildings and turn over the clean land to the town, as was originally offered.

Beckley said the proposal to accept the entire property as is, with buildings, has also been suggested but this has not been presented to Baystate Health.

He said if there was any taking of the property, it would require town meeting approval.

Beckley said they will go back to HKT Architects, the firm that had previously reviewed the property through grant funding, and get a cost analysis on the work required to reuse the Wetherby

building. "These are all kind of 'what ifs' scenarios with both the town and Baystate," Beckley said.

Beckley said the cost analysis should be completed by early to mid-January to be presented to the Selectboard. He said there are still funds left over in the grant that was previously used.

Beckley said they are still working to find healthcare for the property.

Public hours at Town Hall

The Selectboard approved a change in Town Hall staff's public hours, allowing Wednesdays to be closed to the public (unless by appointment). This change would allow Town Hall staff to be able to work on filing, reporting, balancing and more.

The DPW office would also be closed to the public on this day.

Beckley said this change will be especially valuable to the town's financial department. He said many communities follow this format.

Staff training could also be scheduled on Wednesdays, which wouldn't conflict with public hours.

Once the change goes into effect, the Selectboard will review the decision in six months to see if it has been beneficial.

"I think it would be beneficial for the employees to be able to fulfill their duties as an employee to get their work done," Selectboard Vice-Chair Josh Kusnierz said.

Firefighters contract

The Selectboard authorized a contract with the Ware Firefighters Local 1851 effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027. Selectboard Chair Nancy Talbot and member Terrance Smith abstained from the vote and Kusnierz and Clerk John Desmond voted in favor of it.

Selectboard member Jack Cascio was the only opposing vote.

Water/sewer abatement

Director of Public Works Dennis Morton said an Aspen Street property owner is seeking

a water and sewer abatement after a tenant overfilled a swimming pool, which flooded the building's basement. He said he denied the abatement request, but the property owner requested that it go before the Selectboard.

"I didn't see a whole lot of grounds for an abatement," Morton said. "They were negligent; the water went through the meter."

The Selectboard denied the property's owners request for an abatement.

GPS monitoring in vehicles

Desmond moved to have GPS monitoring systems removed from Department of Public Works vehicles, which was seconded. Both Desmond and Kusnierz voted in favor of removing the systems, with Cascio, Smith and Talbot opposed, which caused the motion to fail.

Selectboard members discussed the need to keep the systems in the vehicles, to not only monitor the fleet vehicles, but to also ensure the safety of the town's employees.

Town Manager's report

Beckley said six new benches have been installed at Veterans Park, made possible from a state earmark. He thanked Greg Harder for his efforts to move the project forward.

He said there were two resignations, one at the Highway Department and the other at that wastewater treatment plant. Both positions have been posted.

Beckley said Town Hall is working with the Recovery Center of HOPE to collect hats, mittens, jackets, etc. to be distributed to those in need.

Flushable wipes

Beckley reminded people to stop flushing disposable "flushable" wipes down toilets as it clogs the wastewater treatment pumps and takes hours to remove them.

Selectboard members discussed the dangers these wipes posed, not only to the town's wastewater system, but also to its employees.

support community journalism



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Function Space Available

Kickoff meeting discusses the Town Common redesign

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectman held a kickoff meeting regarding the new redesign of the town common.

Taking up the task is the company Weston & Sampson, which provides interdisciplinary design, engineering, and environmental services for public and private entities along the east coast.

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission representative Chris Dunphy briefly spoke prior to the presentation in the kickoff meeting and explained how the Community Development Block Grant process works.

The CDBG works through the state and towns and each town compete through an application process to receive grants. The grant Warren received was designed to serve a town with a low to moderate income population.

Dunphy introduced a consultant from Weston & Sampson to hear from the public about the significance of the common, its history and the possibilities of development. With a map presented several residents had questions on property lines. According to Dunphy the property lines are not necessarily clear.

The old train depot is privately owned and is the neighboring property to the common.

The public spoke during the kickoff meeting to help give the consultant some ideas for a design of the common. Parks Department

commissioner Sue Ramsey talked about how years ago the common used to host many public events, such as concerts but had a low attendance. Lately, Dean Park in West Warren has been hosting concerts in the park as well as vendors markets as well.

The problem with Dean Park is it's a bit off grid from the main road, which the common sits on. Recently, Warren had a successful annual tree lighting this year and it seems to grow in participation every year.

One of the major issues with the common is the shortage of parking.

"Parking is a concern downtown," Ramsey said. "We want the ability to hold more events."

Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson spoke during the meeting to share some input on the landscape of the common and the trees that are planted there. Olson is proud that this plan to redesign the common is coming to realization after being discussed for several years.

"It's finally coming around," Olson said.

Some of the trees on the common are well aged but can be pruned out. There are a few trees that can be removed or at least thinned out for space. The new project could create more space the town is looking for to appropriately host more events.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair David Dufresne talked about how successful the Christmas Tree Lighting has been the last couple years and the idea of a farmers market in town being a desired event.

"Many people have been ask-

ing for it," Dufresne said. "The town common is very vital to us right now."

Another idea discussed was a brick walking path for residents to walk through. Historical Commission chair Sylvia Buck talked about the preserved lights from the bridge that can be used to light up the walking path.

With many ideas shared Olson spoke again and wanted to make sure that everyone is on the same page and still believes Warren residents want the town common to still look original.

"Have an open mind," Olson said. "Work towards the endgame and don't criticize an idea."

One big plan is to negotiate with the potential owner of the train depot and work out a deal to help with the parking situation by the common. A committee has been put together to have a series of meetings to determine the direction the town wants to go for the redesign of the town Common.

Key to the Town

For a special presentation, the Board of Selectman presented a key to the town of Warren to Dunphy for his efforts and dedication to helping the town. Though he is not a resident of Warren, the town recognized Dunphy as a friend to the town who has put in a lot of work with CMRPC to help with Warren's community development.

Dunphy is confident Warren is going in a positive direction with their development as a town and appreciated the honor.

"Nothing but good things moving forward," Dunphy said.

Free yoga and meditation class offered Jan. 9

WARREN – Welcome the New Year and experience an inner depth filled with peace and joy with Yoga & Meditation: For Vibrant Health & Peace of Mind on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Centered Place, 286 Bridge St. and via Zoom.

Yoga and meditation are clinically tested for reducing stress and improving health. Enjoy a slower-paced yoga practice with simple poses that are easy and work

like magic. Relieve back, neck and shoulder tension.

Improve mobility, vitality and stamina. Learn how to relax-stay calm and breathe easy even amidst the challenges that come with the holidays and the times we live in.

The event is free and for all ages, 14 and up. No previous yoga experience necessary. Attend in person or online.

Registration is required by calling 413-436-7690 or emailing war-

renpubliclibrary@hotmail.com register. Zoom link will be provided upon request when registering. If attending via Zoom, have a chair handy (folding chair is best).

This workshop will be presented by Phil Milgrom of the Centered Place in Warren, and is sponsored by the Warren Public Library with a grant from the Warren Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the MA Cultural council, a state agency.



Phillip Hamel speaks to the Historical Commission about the significance of the bell.

BELL from page 1

One of the club's traditions was to exchange students with the UK club. This tradition was started in the 1980s by Richard Walker and it continued with Kenneth Simmons, and Lewis Iadarola in 1988 and throughout the years to come.

The students would be exchanged alternating years for one to two weeks and were hosted by Rotarians and families from the community. Later, the adult

Rotarians picked up the tradition when no students were exchanged.

This tradition formed a strong connection between the two clubs and provided great opportunities for students and adults alike.

Additionally, a granite block and bronze plaque were also presented to the Ware Rotary Club in 1979 by Hertfordshire County in Ware, England, as a sign of good fellowship between the two communities.

As this year comes to a close, it

is important to be reminded of the importance of fellowship between different communities and the positive impact it can have on the people who are a part of those communities. These gifts from the UK club are symbols of many years of friendship between the two clubs and a sign of the friendship that can form between different communities and the people within those communities.

The bell will now be displayed in Town Hall for all to enjoy.

CDAC reviews a chapter of Master Plan

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Community Development Advisory Committee met in December with representatives of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to discuss the "Natural & Cultural Resources" chapter for the Master Plan.

Sarah O'Brien of CMRPC was joined by principal planner Michael Maughan-Brown to discuss natural and cultural resources for the town. Maughan-Brown described Warren's resources as "a kind of tapestry" of history of ordinary people.

Maughan-Brown wanted to discuss some of the buildings

in town that have a sentimental value to its residents. The Town Hall is one of them, as well as the Public Library and the First Congregational Church.

Another part of Warren that has sentimental value are the scenic roads and stonewalls, Maughan-Brown said.

"Warren had a lot of land protected under Chapter 61," Maughan-Brown said. "45% of Warren's land has some form of protection."

The first key finding is that Warren has a rich and interesting history. Warren is not a place notable for particular historical events and its history is not pre-occupied with rich or famous individuals or groups.

Maughan-Brown describes it has a site of everyday experiences of generations of Americans who have lived there, made a living from the place and taking care of it. Based off the Warren Master Plan Workshop, the town has a lot of respect for the ordinary artifacts that have formed the backdrop to everyday life for the generations of families that are important to the town.

Key Finding #2 talks about the artifacts Warren has and are worthy for preservation.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission has found over 250 cultural resources from the late 18th century to the 20th century.

Please see CDAC, page 13



Lewis Iadarola talks about the history of the bell.



Lynn Lak thanks the Ware Rotary Club members on behalf of the Historical Commission.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

In this month's online issue

Happy New Year from the Quabbin Health District! Upcoming Events and happenings! Resources in the community!



For the full issue visit:



January 2024
Quabbin Health District
Public Health Nurse
Newsletter

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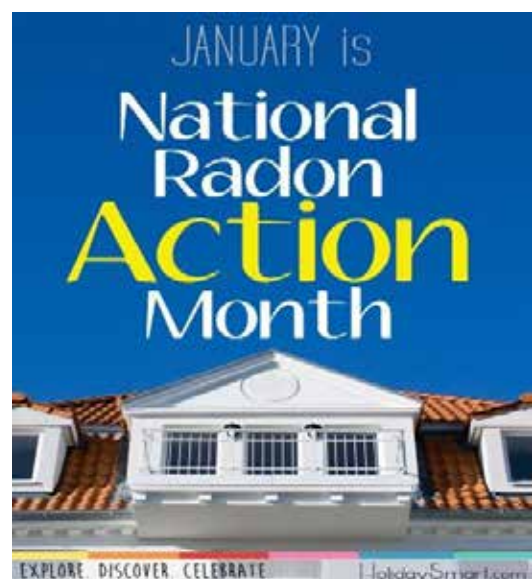


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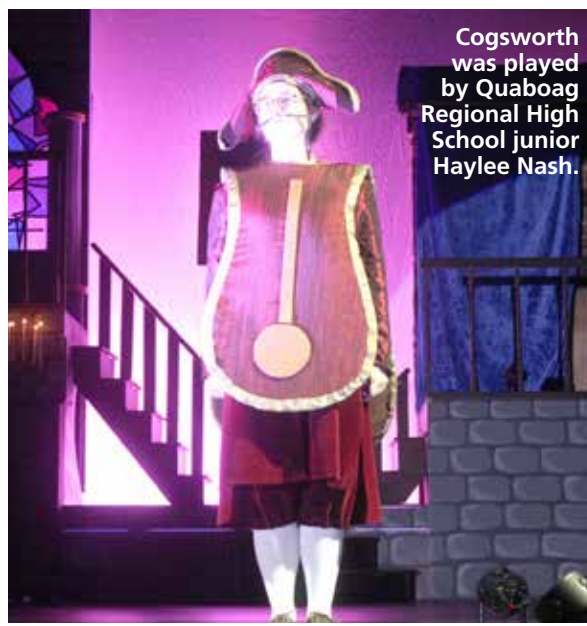
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Maurice met Mrs. Potts and Chip, played by Falon Rice and Kennah Martino.



Cogsworth was played by Quaboag Regional High School junior Haylee Nash.



Maurice came face to face with the Beast as Cogsworth hides.

Grande Bouche and it was her first lead role. Schreier is a junior at Quaboag and has been performing in school plays since the eighth grade. She not only auditioned for the singing wardrobe, but other characters as well.

After finding out she got the role of Madame de La Grande Bouche one of the challenges Schreier faced was trying to find the voice to portray the character. The character brings a lot of energy and Schreier said she wanted to "keep to the original portrayal of the character."

"I find myself within the character," Schreier said. "Keeping the energy was a challenge and I expect to be high energy when acting as that character."

Schreier executed the part wonderfully and also thought her costume for Madame de La Grande Bouche was great. The costume consisted of a lot of makeup and drawers to make up the wardrobe structure.

Schreier enjoyed playing the character and is very passionate about theater and looks forward to do more shows in the future.

Another familiar character in "Beauty and the Beast" was played by Quaboag junior Haylee Nash. She played the role of Cogsworth, the clock, and brought a comical element to the role in "Beauty and the Beast".

Performing in plays since elementary school Nash has always enjoyed performing. She did a lot of studying reviewing movies and plays as well as different actors who played Cogsworth to better understand the role.

One of the challenges Nash faced was studying all her lines as Cogsworth was a character who has much involvement in the story.

"This had the most lines I've gotten before, she said. "The song 'Human Again' I studied over and over."

Nash believes portraying Cogsworth was her best performance to date and she loved her costume for the character. Jokingly, Nash mentioned her clock hand mustache was moving a lot during rehearsals.

Nash looks back on the experience working with the Ensemble and remembers making new friends. Nash is planning on performing more in theatre and pursuing it after high school.

Portraying Mrs. Potts is the talented Falon Rice. Performing since the seventh grade, Rice was living the dream playing role like Mrs. Potts. Rice described it as a comfortable role and being able to perform as a motherly and nurturing character.

After the shows Rice recalled a lot of kids wanting to take pictures with Mrs. Potts. When working with the younger grades, Rice found it important to remind them they're just as important as the lead role characters, even if they don't have speaking lines.

"Accept being important in the show," Rice explained.

Rice recalled being nervous but also the tremendous support from not only fellow cast members but from Joinville as well.

Rice recalled Joinville saying "you got this" prior to approaching the stage. Rice enjoyed working

with all the cast of the show and thought a lot of great talent came together because of it.

"The show reconciled some feelings inside of us," Rice said. "There's upcoming potential in a lot of students."

Rice also enjoyed working on set design for the show and enjoyed working with Kennah Martino who played Chip. According to Rice, the casting was excellent and brought a great vision to life.

Natalia Veliz is a freshman at Quaboag who portrayed the feather duster Babette. This was a role many other students saw Veliz playing. Babette is described as a very flirtatious character and Veliz said she doesn't see herself that way.

However, Veliz mentioned how fun it was playing the character and she loved her costume. One of the components to her role was singing a solo and at first it was scary. It was a learning curve, but Veliz saw playing Babette as her best role to date.

Veliz said she looks up to the older kids who have more experience performing in plays and thought of herself as a role model to the middle school kids who are new to theater.

"I see my seventh and eighth grade self in them," Veliz said. "Be someone they can look up to."

Veliz loved the experience of being a part of "Beauty and the Beast" and thought "everything we worked hard for paid off."

Amarie Martino, a sophomore at Quaboag, portrayed LeFou in "Beauty and the Beast". Martino remembered auditioning for different roles and the Gaston song was part of her audition.

From that point on Martino became LeFou, which came with a combination of acting, singing and dancing. With a lot to learn Martino liked her role a lot as she played a lovable character in LeFou.

The theater is a fun environment for Martino as many of her friends were in the cast as well. What helped Martino execute the role and the musical numbers well was a lot of repetition.

Martino's siblings were in the play as well and her brother Dante and her have done plays together since the seventh grade.

She has every intention to continue performing in theatre and playing LeFou was her first lead ever and most favorite role to play.

"I wouldn't stop now," Martino said.

Amarie's sister Kennah is an eighth grader at Quaboag and she played Chip. Kennah said she had a lot of fun and had the perfect voice for Chip. She was very excited to get the role and loved working with Rice as Mrs. Potts.

"She's very nice," Kennah said. "Glad I got to play her child in 'Beauty and the Beast'."

Kennah also performed in Quaboag productions such as "The Addams Family" and "Freeze Frame". For "Beauty and the Beast" Kennah wanted to get better at facing the audience and facing the character she is talking to.

Like her older siblings, Kennah loved working with them as well. She plans to act more in the future and plans to audition every single year she is at Quaboag.



Belle greeted her father, Maurice, who brought his invention to the stage.



The Ensemble did an amazing job during all the songs in "Beauty and the Beast".



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Belle read as the ensemble sang along.



LeFou danced during the "Gaston" performance.



Madison Schreier played Madame de La Grande Bouche, the singing wardrobe.

The Beast was played by Quaboag senior Parker Chaffee, and it was the first time in his acting career he took on a more serious role.

"I originally didn't know how to do a serious role," Chaffee said. "Tried something new."

Chaffee believes the roles were perfectly casted at the start and "Beauty and the Beast" is his favorite show the school has done.

For Parker, nailing the voice of the Beast was a challenge as well as making that slow transition from being an evil character to a soft and lovable gentle giant. Chaffee recalls on his favorite scenes to do in the play was the waltz with Abigail Jolin (Belle). The scene came together "very naturally" as Chaffee put it and describes it as "an iconic moment" in the play.

Chaffee will be part of the upcoming school production "Clue" but will always be remembered as Beast in "Beauty and the Beast".

After three successful showings of "Beauty and the Beast", Joinville is proud to add another memorable play to the history of Quaboag and their theater department.

The visionary behind the amazing costumes for the show was Christine Taylor. The choreography was organized by Bethany Frances.

There is a lot more in store for Quaboag's theater department and a lot of talented students are on the rise for new and exciting shows.

"There's a lot of talent coming up," Joinville said.



Belle made her way through the town during her opening song.

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Baystate Wing employees donate gifts to local children in need

PALMER – Early this December, employees from many areas throughout Baystate Health collectively donated a variety of toys and other needed items for this year's holiday toy and gift drives.

Joining in this annual effort, Baystate Wing Hospital team members helped brighten the holidays for many local families in need in the communities served by the hospital.

"Our Baystate Wing team looks forward to donating toys and gifts each year," said Karli Barrett, president, and chief operating officer for Baystate Wing Hospital. "The holiday season can be particularly challenging for families facing hardships. Giving not only lifts the spirits of the children we sponsor, it also fosters a sense of community for us all."

Baystate Wing Hospital team members sponsored over 80 children from families living in Ware, Palmer, Belchertown, Brookfield, Brimfield, Warren, Monson, and other surrounding areas served by Behavioral Health Network. The children of various ages, who remained anonymous, shared their wish lists with caregivers from Behavioral Health Network, and the Baystate Wing "elves" did the rest, resulting in more than 1,000 gifts donated.

"We are very grateful to have Baystate Wing as a partner during the holiday season," said Ashley Brooks, Clinical Manager of BHN Valley Human Services in Ware.



Baystate Wing Hospital team members donated toys to families throughout the community.

"Their team makes it possible for us to go above and beyond for our BHN families and the communities that we serve. Our continued partnership has a great impact

on our clients and programs as we continue to grow in the Ware area. We are all appreciative of the support we are able to provide during this time."



Shown from left are Susan Wiktor, executive assistant at Baystate Wing Hospital; Monica Turgeon, EVS supervisor, Baystate Wing Hospital; Mike Sicilano; Logan Sullivan; and John Mancini, Facilities & Engineering at Baystate Wing Hospital.



Shown is Paul Kuc from the Behavioral Health Network.



Submitted Photo
North Brookfield Savings Bank employee Joseph Ribeiro stands inside the West Brookfield Branch to present the West Brookfield Police Department with toy and monetary donations from NBSB's Annual Toy Drive Collection.

NBSB hosts successful food/toy drives during season of giving

NORTH BROOKFIELD – In the spirit of the season of giving, North Brookfield Savings Bank is thrilled to announce the success of its annual Food and Toy Drive.

These initiatives reflect the bank's ongoing commitment to supporting the communities it serves and making the holidays brighter for those in need. Due to the overwhelming generosity of community members, employees and neighbors of NBSB, the Food and Toy Drive made an impact in each of the bank's communities.

During the NBSB annual Food Drive, held from Oct. 1-25, the bank's communities came together to donate 693 non-perishable food items and over \$1,000 in monetary donations. NBSB contributed an additional \$3,000 to further support local food pantries.

These generous donations have had a profound impact this season of giving, providing crucial assistance to individuals facing food insecurity.

The generosity from their communities continued through the annual Toy Drive, which ran from Nov. 1-29. Community members, employees and neighbors stepped up to the plate again, where NBSB was able to collect 388 toys for children in need, alongside \$1,432 in monetary donations.

NBSB contributed an additional \$1,500 to support those who need it the most and bring joy to children in the communities it serves this holiday season.

"Community is at the heart of everything that we do, and the success of this year's Food and Toy Drives is a testament to the compassion and generosity of our customers, employees and neighbors," said Audrey Moulton, Marketing Manager at North Brookfield Savings Bank. "We are proud to hold our annual Food and Toy Drives, making a positive impact for those in need during the Season of Giving."

The bank proudly partnered with the East Brookfield Baptist Church Food Pantry, Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry - First Congregational Church, St. Joseph's Parish Food Pantry, First Congregational Church of North Brookfield, Trinity Episcopal Church - Jubilee Cupboard, St. Francis of Assisi Parish Food Pantry and Palmer Food Share, Inc. through their Food Drive.

During the annual Toy Drive, NBSB proudly partnered with the North Brookfield Police Association's Toys for Joy Program, East Brookfield Toys for Joy Program, West Brookfield Police Association Holiday Toy Program, Ware Police Department "Christmas for Kids" Program, Belchertown Firefighters Association Adopt-a-Family Program and Palmer Lions Club Holiday Toy Program to offer support to the communities they serve through the Toy Drive.

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank's community giving efforts and the convenient banking products and services offered, visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.



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Indians out to perfect start



Justin Grout readies to shoot.

WARE – The Ware High School boys basketball team followed up winning the Franklin Tech Holiday Tournament by notching two more wins last week against Southwick and Renaissance. On the road at Southwick Regional last Monday night, four players scored in double digits in a 72-50 win for the Indians. Jack Goodreau had 17 points to lead all scorers. Brady Guimond was next with 16 points, Justin Grout had 13, and Owen McKeever finished with 10. The 4-0 Indians face Granby on Dec. 30 at 7 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Brady Guimond tries to get around a defender to shoot.



Benjamin Torres looks for an approach to the hoop after getting pressured in the corner.



Kaleb Kanozek tries to keep the ball from going out of bounds.



Brodie Koczur makes a pass around the perimeter.



Owen McKeever makes his way down the court.

Cougars face off with Southbridge

WARREN – Last Wednesday night, Quaboag girls basketball had its home opener against Southbridge. The two teams will meet twice this season. The final score of the game was not reported as of press time. Previously, Quaboag won two games on the road to open the season against one loss and were 2-1 heading into the Southbridge matchup. Quaboag faces Bay Path on Monday, Dec. 30 at 6:30 p.m.



Madeline Potvin sends a long jump shot away.



Juliette Boos tries to get around a guard under the paint.



Naihly Peter goes for the three-pointer.



Quaboag girls basketball faced off with Southbridge last Wednesday night.



Mia Letendre fights for the ball.

Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

Next HoopHall ceremony announced

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced that the Class of 2025 Enshrinement Ceremony will take place on Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield – the Birthplace of Basketball.

The nominees for the upcoming class were set to be revealed on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m. during "NBA Today" on ESPN. The Class of 2025 Finalist Announcement will be Friday, Feb. 14, as part of the NBA All-Star Weekend in San Francisco, and the Class of 2025 will be announced on Saturday, April 5, during the NCAA Final Four Weekend in San Antonio.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, September 5, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, inclusive of the Class of 2025 jacket and ring presentation and the annual Hall of Fame Awards. The Enshrinement Ceremony will take place the following day in Springfield's historic Symphony Hall and will be available to a global audience.

A full schedule of events will be announced at a later date.



Greenly Lagimoniere attempts a three-pointer.



Ciara Green reaches out to grab a rebound.



Addison Doktor goes for a put-back.

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Desiree Croteau makes a pass along the perimeter.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Pioneers jump out to a good start

PALMER – Last Monday and Wednesday, Pathfinder girls basketball was able to put up a pair of wins to get its season started. Last Monday night, the Pioneers opened up the year with PVCIC, defeating the visitors 36-12. Their defense was excellent throughout the game though it took some time for the offense to get moving. Desiree Croteau had 15 points to lead all scorers. The Pioneers defeated Duggan 49-27 on Dec. 18 and are back in action Dec. 27 against Smith Academy at 6 p.m.



Megan Clark approaches the basket for a layup.

Pathfinder gets in early hole, falls to PVCA

PALMER – Last Monday night, Pathfinder found itself in 14-2 deficit very early, and the Pioneer Valley Christian Academy rode that to a 49-37 win over Pathfinder. While Pathfinder was able to muster some more offense in the middle of the game, PVCA finished stronger for the win. Cassian Kowalik had 15 points while Sauri Nieves had 11 points for the Pioneers.



Dustyn Cook goes for the shot with pressure underneath the hoop.



Matthew Vanasse waits for his opponent's jump to finish before taking a shot.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

sports



Robert Tobin eyes the hoop.



Nathan Gingras tries to keep the ball inbound.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Camden Ahearn heads down the court.

Quabbin boys middle school basketball action



Jack LeClair heads down the court.



Lucas Gaspar looks for an open teammate.



Ashton Dahlstrom hustles across midcourt.

BARRE – Prior to the Christmas holiday, Quabbin boys middle school basketball faced Paxton, coming up with a big win. It was Quabbin's final game before taking a break for the holidays. The middle school team is back in action on Jan. 7 against Bromfield.



Middle school girls face Paxton

BARRE – Last Friday afternoon, Quabbin girls middle school basketball hosted Paxton. The Panthers then had two weeks off before returning action in 2025 when they face Bromfield Jan. 7 at 4:45 p.m. on the road.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Aubrey Pope heads for the corner.



Emma Stauder looks to pass as an opponent tries to steal the ball.



Raegyn Wnek dribbles near the arc.



Katy Twarog tries to make a pass under pressure.



Maggie Leander works near the end line.

Railers announce major coaching change

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) and Chief Operating Officer Michael G. Myers have announced that Bob Deraney has taken on a new role within the organization, Head of Scouting, effective immediately. Nick Tuzzolino has been named Head Coach & General Manager of the Worcester

Railers. “Bob has been a part of the Railers family for a number of years,” Myers said. “We can’t thank him enough for his dedication and commitment to this organization over the past several seasons. We look forward to him continuing to work with the team in this new role.”

Tuzzolino becomes the fifth head coach in Worcester Railers history after serving as General Manager & Associate Head

Coach to begin the season. He first came to Worcester in June after he spent the 2023-24 season as assistant coach and director of player development with the Savannah Ghost Pirates. As a defenseman, he played over 500 games professionally between the UHL, IHL, ECHL & American Hockey League from 2007-2023. During his initial retirement, he coached the Buffalo Jr. Sabres of the Ontario Junior Hockey League from

2016-20. “In his time here, Nick has demonstrated his readiness to lead the team both on and off the ice,” Myers said. “He has a wealth of experience in dissecting professional systems and working in pro player development. We’re excited for him to take the reins and continue his work on bringing a winning culture to Worcester.”

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Month

Justin Grout

Ware High School

Grout had an impressive double-digit performance against Southwick on Dec. 16 with 13 points scored.

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

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Thunderbirds fall to Checkers on the road

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-10-2-1) fell victim to a two-goal comeback by the Charlotte Checkers (15-6-1-2) last Wednesday night at Bojangles Coliseum in a 4-3 defeat.

The T-Birds did themselves no favors by taking back-to-back penalties just four seconds apart, resulting in 1:57 of two-man advantage time for the league's top power play. Steve Konowalchuk's team dug in, though, as Vadim Zherenko and the penalty killers did the job to survive the lengthy threat.

Charlotte still rode the momentum from the power play to the game's opening tally by Oliver Okuliar at 4:45 of the first period, giving the Checkers a 1-0 advantage.

After the burst from Charlotte, the T-Birds quickly chipped away on the shot board. At 15:00 of the frame, Dalibor Dvorsky brought Springfield even with his team-leading 11th of the season, cashing in on a rebound at the edge of the crease and driving it past former T-Bird Chris Driedger.

The 1-1 score continued for nearly a whole period of game action until the T-Birds' third and fourth units capitalized on back-to-back shifts.

Tanner Dickinson started the scoring blitz with a wrister from the left circle that glanced off traffic and eluded Driedger at 14:02 of the second period, making it a 2-1 lead for Springfield.

34 seconds later, Mathias Laferriere and Drew Callin entered the offensive zone on a 2-on-1 and took advantage of the situation. Driedger made an initial pad save off a Laferriere shot from the left circle.

However, the rebound kicked right to Callin, who quickly deked to the forehand and put it behind Driedger to give the T-Birds a 3-1 advantage.

Penalties, though, continued to throw a wrench in the T-Birds' plans, and the Charlotte power play finally connected in the final minute of the second as Rasmus Asplund redirected a Trevor Carrick wrist shot behind Zherenko, chopping the lead to 3-2 at 19:21 of the middle frame.

For a second straight night, rookie Ben Steeves provided a clutch tying marker for Charlotte, taking a feed from Okuliar in the right circle and snapping a shot past Zherenko's stick

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 11

Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a

third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches: Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed



Turley Photo by Abby McCoy

Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond members listed while Will Rhatigan from the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association talked about a campaign to build 200,000 new homes by 2030.

ARTICLE from page 1

events, both of which drew large crowds and supported local businesses.

Following Flynn's comments, the Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley provided an update on business licenses for food establishments, car dealerships, and restaurants which have recently been completed. Notably, Snow's Restaurant and Hanna Devine's on Main Street are set to reopen in early winter, which is expected to bring a boost to the local economy.

In addition, a volunteer group of residents and local businesses is working with the Parks Commission to restore the Beaugard Playground near the Reed Memorial Pool. These improvements will provide updated spaces for families and children in the community.

James Ferrera, Warren's Town Administrator, shared positive news for local taxpayers. He reported that the Department of Revenue set Warren's single tax rate at \$14.81 per thousand, the lowest in over a decade. This reduction will stabilize property taxes for many residents, with some seeing a slight decrease.

Ferrera attributed this to careful spending and modest increases in property values, thanking local departments, boards, and commissions for their efforts.

The main part of the meeting focused on the housing crisis in Massachusetts, with a presentation by Will Rhatigan, MBTA Communities Engagement Manager at the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association.

Rhatigan spoke about the state's housing shortage and the need for more affordable homes. He explained that CHAPA's "Our Massachusetts: Homes for a Thriving Commonwealth" campaign aims to build 200,000 new

homes by 2030 to address this crisis.

In Massachusetts, housing prices have risen sharply since 2016. Statewide, prices have increased by 74%, while Ware has seen an 88% increase. This has made housing unaffordable for many, as families now spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs, which classifies them as "cost-burdened."

For some, this number exceeds 50%, placing them in the "severely cost-burdened" category.

This affordability issue is driving people out of the state, particularly those aged 25-45. In 2023, Massachusetts saw a net loss of residents in this age group. Many people are leaving due to the high cost of rent and housing, as well as job availability.

This trend has serious consequences for local businesses, which are struggling with labor shortages. A recent Mass Inc Small Business poll found that 61% of small businesses are struggling to fill open positions, and 65% of business owners said housing costs are a major barrier to hiring.

Rhatigan explained the economic benefits of building more affordable housing. More housing means more residents, which translates to more customers and workers for local businesses. It can also increase tax revenue and lower costs for local services.

Additionally, with more people living close to their jobs, there is potential for more disposable income spent on goods and services.

Despite these benefits, housing in Massachusetts remains expensive due to a long-standing shortage of affordable housing.

Rhatigan emphasized that the state needs to build more multi-family homes to address the growing demand as it is more cost effective to build multi-family homes that will suit more people rather than

single family homes.

Rhatigan outlined both short-term and long-term solutions to improve housing affordability.

Long-term, he suggested reducing zoning and regulatory barriers to make it easier to build housing. In the short-term, he recommended programs to help keep people in their homes, such as rental assistance and first-time homebuyer programs.

Locally, Rhatigan encouraged Ware to adopt the Community Preservation Act, which could allocate a portion of the property tax levy to fund affordable housing. He also recommended creating an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and a Community Land Trust to help fund the creation and preservation of affordable homes.

Rhatigan called on Ware's business leaders and residents to get involved in addressing housing issues at the local level. He pointed out that decisions about housing are made at town meetings, and local leaders have a strong influence on policy. He encouraged business owners to speak up for more housing development by attending meetings, talking to local officials, and advocating for change.

He also stressed that businesses play a key role in improving the community. When local leaders speak up for housing, they help ensure that the town remains vibrant and economically strong.

The meeting concluded with a call for everyone to stay involved in the conversation about housing and the local economy. By working together, Ware's businesses and residents can help create a more affordable and thriving community.

As housing remains a key issue, local leaders are encouraged to continue advocating for solutions that will benefit everyone.

T-BIRDS from page 10

hand at 3:55 of the third, bringing the game to a stalemate, 3-3.

The two teams did not generate much after the Steeves goal, with the two clubs combining for only eight shots in the entire third period, and the tie score carried into

the final three minutes of the game.

Again, discipline proved pivotal, as Tobias Bjornfot drew a high-sticking double minor and a four-minute power play for the Checkers with 2:39 remaining.

The league's top man advantage lived up to their billing in the final minute, as Wilmer Skoog un-

loaded a blistering one-time slapper that found twine with 54 seconds left to give Charlotte the 4-3 lead. Springfield's last-ditch efforts to tie came up empty in the closing moments, and Charlotte completed the two-game sweep of the T-Birds.

PILOT from page 1

"So we get monies from the state both ways," Kolenda said.

Select Board Vice-Chair Eric Vollheim said he would like to see a cost-benefit analysis to keeping land undeveloped.

"It's never been looked at carefully," he said.

Finance Committee Chair Christopher Culross said he believes that any piece of property that is developed will have a negative financial impact on town, as it will increase the number of services needed to meet an increase in population, including education.

"The cost of public education is so incredibly expensive," he said.

Finance Committee member Mark Korzec said they could collect quantitative data regarding the number of students in public school, police and fire calls linked to each nonprofit. He said they should look at that information prior to reaching out to the nonprofits and having a conversation.

"You could just look at that and say, 'where is it costing us?'" he said.

The draft policy seeks up to 3% of a nonprofit's gross revenue, and a catch-up surcharge that goes back six years.

Korzec asked Tinker if this would also apply to revenue collected by churches.

Tinker said churches help the community, and they are exempt

according to the policy's list of qualifying exemptions under article 6, "in-kind contributions and community benefits." He said the churches do not cost or impact the town's services.

Kemp said the policy needs to be more black and white in regard to exemptions. She said she still didn't feel comfortable with the catch-up surcharge, which she said could place a financial hardship on the nonprofits.

Tinker said the nonprofits have the option to refuse to participate in a PILOT with the town, as it is only voluntary.

"We just basically don't want a nonprofit costing the town and the taxpayers money, period," Tinker said.

Kemp said she doesn't think the policy is a bad idea, but that it needs more revision. Members of the Finance Committee also suggested shortening the policy.

"Let's get some other ideas and boil it down and see what we come up with," Vollheim said.

Conservation Commission Chair Bill Zinni said there are plenty of studies and surveys that have shown the economic benefit of open space land, trails and recreational access. He said the state land also provides areas to hunt and fish.

"The people that come to enjoy that stuff, they benefit from our investment, including town investment," he said. "We just spent sev-

eral years improving some trails to attract people and people are using them. The land trust spends plenty of effort and money (their Stewardship Committee) in maintaining the trail network that people enjoy and come here for. These things result in economic benefits for the town."

Zinni said these benefits should be evaluated in addition to a nonprofit's use of town services.

"If we're going to try to evaluate costs in terms of services, we should balance those against benefits," he said.

Zinni shared a recent study that detailed the cost of community services, which showed that residential development costs more in services to the town than it brings in from tax revenue.

"You could view conserving some lands...as avoiding more expense to the town," he said.

Tinker said 33% of land in the town is owned by nonprofits, which includes the land owned by the state.

"It's a pretty big number," Tinker said.

Erik Fleming, who serves on the town's Planning Board, asked since the policy is voluntary, why the board was spending money on town counsel fees to review something that ultimately can't be enforced.

Eagle Hill School's Head of School Erin Wynne said if the board sets the policy as it's drafted

now, the school will not be able to pay it.

"Most people probably don't know that we pay two PILOTs right now...most people probably don't know that we probably pay more taxes than anybody else in town," Wynne said. "Nobody knows that we forgave nearly \$500,000 in the loan when it came to the sewer...people don't know those things."

Wynne said if Eagle Hill School can't pay what is drafted in the policy, she worries the school will be seen in a bad light by the town and vilified.

"So if we're to come up with a new policy that essentially negates the existing policies and we can't meet the guideline that you set, then it's going to be 'Eagle Hill hasn't done what it needs for the town,'" she said.

Kemp said, in her opinion, since Eagle Hill School is already in PILOTs with the town, she doesn't think the policy would apply to them.

Wynne said the school entered into these PILOT agreements with the town in good faith.

Tinker said he believes nonprofits should cover their costs if they are a burden on the town's services, including the number of Eagle Hill School staff who send their children to the local school district.

"If you look at the number that you send to our public school and

just do the math on that, you run a negative on this town," Tinker said.

Wynne disagreed with Tinker and said she does not view the school as a burden, noting that most of those public school students reside in houses that are voluntarily listed on the town's tax roll. She said residents of town also send their children to Eagle Hill School.

Kemp suggested the board host another working meeting to continue discussion about the proposed PILOT policy. The working meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Annual license renewals

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano presented the Select Board with recommendations for license renewals. She said all of the properties have been inspected by the Building Inspector as well as Police and Fire departments.

The Select Board approved the renewal of the following licenses: common victualler - South Barre Rod & Gun Club, Hardwick Vineyard & Winery (as well as an innholder license), Eagle Hill Foundation, Hardwick Rod & Gun Club, DCTF Corp. (Old Furnace General Store), Hardwick Market & Package Store, Mimi's Coffeehouse of Hardwick, Hardwick Crossing, Hardwick House of Pizza and the Whistle Stop Restaurant.

Class II and III auto -L&S

Used Auto Parts, Gillespie Car Care 1, Gagne's Garage, LJ Ostiguy Repair, Motor Specialties Company, Hardwick Auto Sales and Regin's Repair.

Surplus equipment

The Select Board approved a list of surplus equipment from the Highway Department to be auctioned off by the town. Equipment includes a tractor, trackless sweeper and parts, trackless snowblower parts, a 1986 sweeper, a dumper/sander and various vehicles.

Cost of auction services

Caggiano said if the board decided not to auction off the three properties, the town would owe Zekos Group costs for their services in addition to 12%. She is unsure of what the total cost will be.

The properties include the former senior center on Main Street in Gilbertville, the Ruggles Hill Road school and the Paige building, both of which are located off the common.

She said if the town continues with the auction, it will not cost the town anything as the fees will be taken from the auction proceeds.

"It would be a breach of their contract," Caggiano said if the town decided not to auction the buildings.



Members of the Bogey Lanes youth program received their trophies after competing in the 2024 international youth championships.

Trophies awarded to Bogey Lane's youth bowlers

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

EAST BROOKFIELD – It is a fun time to celebrate as the youth bowlers at Bogey Lanes received their awards from the youth candlepin championships.

A total of eight bowlers representing Bogey Lanes competed in the 2024 International Candlepin Bowling Association's Youth Candlepin Championship in New Hampshire. After a weekend of bowling the youth bowlers of Bogey Lanes experienced tremendous success.

The bowlers competed in singles, doubles and team events up in New Hampshire and several bowlers had accomplished a first-place finish. The youth bowlers of Bogey Lanes had a great experience and competed against some of the best up and coming youth candlepin bowlers from all over New England and Canada.

The Girls Division IV team consisted of Dakotah Majka, Emily Black, Maddie Decelle and Grace Kolb. The girls dominated by winning the team division with a total score of 1188. Grace Kolb began the tournament by bowling a 120 in game one while her teammate Emily Black scored 116.

Black finished with a 319 in the team's division and Kolb finished with a 304.

Kolb and Black would also partner up for Girls Division IV Doubles. The doubles tournament consisted of each participant bowling five games each. The team of Kolb and Black rallied and combined for a score of 1019 to win first place in Division IV Doubles.

Black hit over 100 four times out of her five games. Her best games were the last three consisting of 117, 126 and 109 for a series of 542. Kolb had a series



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Emily Black is shown alongside Bogey Lanes youth league Coach Sophia Hearnlaye.

of 477 with her high games being 107 and 106.

Kolb is also the winner of the All Events for Girls Division III. After combining her scores in singles, doubles and teams, Kolb totaled 1275, which was one point higher than the 1274 bowled by Kya Smith from Stars & Strikes Bowling Center in Maine.

Kolb also won the singles tournament in her division with a score of 494 and once again pulled ahead by just one point.

Majka finished in first place for singles in Girls Division II.

For all events in Division IV Girls, the winner of it all was Black. After competing in all the events, Black had a grand total of 1352. Her score surpassed the second place score of 1346, which was bowled by Tatum Lohnes of Pajo's Bowling Alley in Nova Scotia.

By winning all events, Black not only has received several trophies for her accomplishments in the international tournament but

will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship. After this experience, Black has been bowling excellent and remembers this experience as an amazing moment in her bowling career.

"I think it's amazing," Black said. "I was really proud of myself and lucky to be able to win this for not only myself but for my bowling alley."

Black is proud to be a part of this great youth bowling program at the lanes she calls home, Bogey Lanes. Black currently bowls in Bogey's Teen League on Wednesday nights and will return to the lanes in 2025 and will also be returning in 2025 as the defending All Events Champion.

The teens had a fun Christmas party this past Wednesday where they received their trophies from the ICBA Youth Championships. Presenting the trophies was Youth League Coach Sophia Hearnlaye and Bogey Lanes proprietor Dan Luksha.

public safety

Warren Police Log

During the week of Dec. 8-14, the Warren Police Department responded to 190 building/property checks, 36 community policings, 19 emergency 911 calls, two motor vehicle accidents, four safety concerns, one threat, two fires, one animal call and 53 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Dec. 8

9:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 10:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 11:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
 12:08 p.m. Leg Pain, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
 3:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued
 4:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:45 p.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 6:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
 6:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Written Warning
 8:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridge Street, Citation Issued

Monday, Dec. 9

5:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:45 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 11:57 a.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Public Assist
 1:37 p.m. Safety Concern, Old

Tuesday, Dec. 10

12:02 p.m. Sick/Unknown, South Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Wednesday, Dec. 11

6:46 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Milton O. Fountain Way, Transported to Hospital
 8:11 a.m. Falls, Mechanic Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:16 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Yankee Drummer Drive, Transported to Hospital
 2:58 p.m. Falls, Mechanic Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 7:51 p.m. Fire/Power Lines, Brimfield Road, Removed Hazard

Thursday, Dec. 12

2:25 a.m. Fall/Lift Assist, Mechanic Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 7:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 7:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 10:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Criminal Complaint
 10:57 a.m. Falls, Quaboag Street, Mutual Aid Transport
 12:03 p.m. Fire/Power Lines, Reed Street, Investigated
 1:03 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:31 p.m. Safety Concern, Richardson Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:45 p.m. Falls, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Dec. 13

12:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 9:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Citation Issued
 3:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Saturday, Dec. 14

12:54 p.m. Stolen Motor Vehicle, Prospect Street, Report Taken

West Brookfield Road, Public Assist

3:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued
 4:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:45 p.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 6:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
 6:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Written Warning
 8:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridge Street, Citation Issued

Friday, Dec. 13

12:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 9:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Citation Issued
 3:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Saturday, Dec. 14

12:54 p.m. Stolen Motor Vehicle, Prospect Street, Report Taken

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.

Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning

4:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Reed Street, Citation Issued
 4:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 5:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 6:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 6:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Main Street, Report Filed
 6:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Written Warning
 6:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, Dec. 14

8:15 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Coy Hill Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 3:10 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Old West Warren Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:31 p.m. Threats, Pulaski Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:41 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Boston Post Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

12:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 6:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning
 6:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning
 6:49 a.m. Alarm, Barre Road, Investigated
 2:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
 7:30 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Sunday, Dec. 15

10:40 a.m. Fire/Other, Church Lane, Services Rendered
 11:23 a.m. Assist Citizen, Church Street, Dispatch Handled
 11:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, New Braintree Road, Written Warning
 12:56 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Greenwich Road, Arrest(s) Made
 4:44 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 8:12 p.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

Monday, Dec. 16

4:07 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Dec. 9-16, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 57 building/property checks, 44 directed/area patrols, 10 radar assignments, seven traffic controls, 11 emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, two assist other agencies, one safety hazard, one complaint, one stolen motor vehicle, one motor vehicle accident, four investigations, one scam, one fire, five animal calls and 15 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Dec. 9

9:09 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Broad Street, Dispatch Handled
 10:18 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
 12:40 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Report Taken

Tuesday, Dec. 10

1:07 p.m. Investigation, Spring Street, Officer Handled
 5:36 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:11 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Dec. 11

12:54 p.m. Stolen Motor Vehicle, Prospect Street, Report Taken

2:01 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled
 10:23 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Dec. 12

4:53 a.m. Medical Emergency, Fiske Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:37 p.m. Investigation, Greenwich Road, Negative Contact
 2:21 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 4:29 p.m. 911 Carbon Monoxide Alarm, Ruggles Hill Road, Services Rendered

Friday, Dec. 13

6:14 a.m. Fire Alarm, School House Drive, Investigated
 1:37 p.m. Scam, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 9:37 p.m. 911 Complaint, Lower Road, Negative Contact
 11:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
 11:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridge Street, Citation Issued
 11:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, Dec. 14

12:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Watch out for fake coupons on social media

Everyone loves a good deal, and scammers know it. Counterfeit coupons are a popular way for scammers to steal your identity and money. These fake deals are tricking consumers on websites, social media platforms, and in texts and email inboxes. While motives and methods vary, phony coupons often mean serious losses for retailers, consumers, or both.

How this scam works
 Usually, fake coupons are worth much more than real ones, offering steep discounts like 80% off. By using brands' official logos, it's nearly impossible to tell if it's fake

or not. In one variation of this scam, you may be scrolling on social media or checking your email and come across an ad with a coupon or promo code offering a major discount on products at a popular retail store. You click on the link and make a purchase using the promo code. After several days or weeks without your order being received, you find out that the website was fake and your order was never actually received. Your order's "tracking number" may tell you the package was delivered when, in reality, your order never existed. If you try to reach out to the

company to get a refund, you may find that the company's website no longer exists or they refuse to respond to your emails and calls. In another variation of this scam, you come across a website, either through a web search or an ad on social media, for coupons from major retailers. In some cases, getting the "coupons" requires subscribing to a coupon service and paying a monthly membership fee. Once you sign up, the service promises to either send you digital coupons or paper coupons in the

Please see **SCAMS**, page 15

Ware and State Police arrest Ware resident

WARE – On Dec. 17, at approximately 2:30 p.m., officers of the Ware Police Department arrested Ross E. Kendrick of 105 Gilbertville Road for the following charges: aggravated rape (two counts), kidnapping, assault and battery (dangerous weapon), strangulation, witness intimidation and firearm (carry without a license).



Submitted Photo
Ross Kendrick was arrested for multiple criminal charges on Dec. 17 through the efforts of the Ware Police Department and multiple agencies.

As a result of an investigation by the Ware Police Detective Unit and the State Police Detectives from the Northampton District Attorney's Office, an arrest warrant for Kendrick was

issued by the Eastern Hampshire District Court of Belchertown.

Police also obtained a search warrant for Kendrick's residence.

The Ware Police Department was assisted by the Hampden County Special Response Team in making entry into the residence. State Police Crime Scene assisted in collecting evidence of the crimes listed.

Kendrick was held on \$1,000,000 cash bail and was expected to be arraigned at the Eastern Hampshire District Court in Belchertown on Dec. 18.

BBB lists the top 12 scams of the holidays

With the year quickly winding down, the Better Business Bureau has compiled its "naughty list" of the top 12 holiday scams. When shopping or donating this holiday season, watch out for schemes trying to swipe your cash or steal your personal information. You can avoid most of the scams on this list by taking a few simple precautions. Always exercise caution with social media ads promoting discounted items, holiday events, job opportunities, and donation requests, as well as direct messages from strangers. If you are asked to make a payment or donation by wire transfer, through a third party, or by prepaid debit or gift card, treat it as a red flag. Be mindful of these scams that could cut into your holiday cheer:

Misleading social media ads

As you scroll through your social media feed, you often see products advertised. Always research before you buy. BBB Scam Tracker receives daily reports of people paying for items that they never receive, getting charged monthly for a free trial they never signed up for, or receiving an item that is counterfeit or much different from the one advertised. Before ordering, check out the business profile on BBB.org and read the reviews.

Social media gift exchanges

Each holiday season this scheme pops back up. The older

version was called "Secret Sister." Newer versions of this scam revolve around exchanging bottles of wine or bourbon; another suggests purchasing \$10 gifts online. Another twist asks you to submit your email to a list where participants get to pick a name and send money to strangers to "pay it forward." There is even a twist about "Secret Santa Dog" where you buy a \$10 gift for your "secret dog."

In all these versions, participants unwittingly share their personal information, along with those of their family members and friends, and are further tricked into buying and shipping gifts or money to unknown individuals.

It's also an illegal pyramid scheme. Stick to buying your friends gifts from trustworthy businesses, and check BBB.org before you buy.

Holiday apps

Apple's App Store and Google Play list dozens of holiday-themed apps where children can video chat live with Santa, light the menorah, watch Santa feed live reindeer, track his sleigh on Christmas Eve, or relay their holiday wish lists. Review privacy policies to see what information will be collected. Be wary of free apps, as they can sometimes contain more advertising than apps that require a nominal fee. Free apps can also contain malware. Be sure to read reviews as well.

PLAYGROUND from page 1

and create a community action team. "My goal would be to put together a small group of volunteers who are dedicated in keeping the public and community as informed as possible about all events, meetings, concerns and such," she said. "So we can have more community cleanups, and Earth Days and try to bring the town together a little more...our group could act like a bridge for community involvement. It's this kind of active participation that makes our community strong, vibrant and ready to face the challenges ahead." Town Manager Stuart Beckley

HIKE from page 4

Two, turn back and try to find where we zigged when we should have zagged, and get back on the actual trail. (My idea) One of the great things about hiking with a partner is that when one of you has a harebrained, cockamamie, dare I say utterly ridiculous idea, the more rational one can help you dial back the crazy, so to speak. Now I'm not saying that I'm always the logical part of the equation. Quite the contrary. I'm usually the one who likes to push the envelope when we hike together. You know – find out just how much we are capable of.

said the town's Parks Commission have been actively seeking grants to make upgrades to the playground, as well as the adjacent Reed Municipal Pool, which has been closed for a number of years. Beckley said the town was one of almost 3,000 applicants to seek a large Environmental Protection Agency grant, which would replace the pool and add a splash pad. He encouraged Clark to meet with the Parks Commissioners and Parks Manager John Piechota to review the plans for this project. Clark said other volunteers will be attending the Monday, Jan. 6 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting which will be held in the Town Hall in the Selectboard's

In those instances, Tom graciously offers his unsolicited advice, both for the betterment of our marriage, as well as to ensure that we aren't put into a perilous situation by my occasionally wacky ideas. On Saturday, however, it was my turn to be the sensible half of our partnership. With temperatures in the teens, I had no desire to continue bushwhacking in an area where a magnitude of snow had effectively erased the crevices and deep holes surrounding the enormous boulders which were lying in wait to swallow a leg or twist an ankle. And after only mild persuasion on my part, Tom agreed.

Donations sought for Sullivan family

RUTLAND – Pat Sullivan has faithfully served the town of Rutland for more than 13 years. He worked with Rutland Regional Emergency Communications Center as a 911 Dispatch Supervisor, ensuring the safety of residents across Rutland, Barre, Oakham, Hubbardston and Warren. He is currently a firefighter/EMT for the town of Rutland, devoting his life to helping others in their times of greatest need.

On Dec. 17, just hours before his wife Ciara Sullivan, also a former 911 dispatcher, was scheduled to deliver their twins, she suffered a severe medical emergency requiring significant intervention. She has been intubated ever since and their twins were delivered via emergency C-section. Both infants are on ventilators, and updates on their prognosis remain grim. As of Dec. 22, Ciara was undergoing an MRI to determine if there is any brain damage and, if so, the extent of it. There are no updates on the twins at this time.

The Sullivan family is in need of miracles and the support of the community.

The Rutland Fire Department has set up a donation platform to help ease the financial burden on the family during this devastating time. People can visit <https://www.classy.org/.../patrick-sullivan-family/c651509> to make a donation.

Rutland Regional Dispatch Center is asking for the public to mail cards and letters of encouragement to the station: Pat Sullivan, 242 Main St., Rutland MA 01543.

Updates are being made available via the Rutland Regional Emergency Communications Center's Facebook page as well as the Rutland Fire Department facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/RRECCdispatch> <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=rutland%20professional%20firefighters%20local%204878>.

meeting room starting at 6:30 p.m. She would also like to organize a site visit at the park. "I truly believe that Ware's strength lies in its people – people like you who are passionate about this town, who care deeply about our children's future, and who are willing to roll up their sleeves and get things done," Clark said. For more information about the volunteer efforts or to get involved, follow "Community Action – Ware & Surrounding Towns" on Facebook, email smalltownaction@gmail.com or attend any of the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings normally held on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall.

Needless to say, "self-preservation" won over "adrenaline rush" and we turned back, eventually finding the sharp right turn we had missed earlier. And at the end of the day, the summit was reached, views were had, pizza was consumed, hot cider was enjoyed, joy was found. And we lived to hike another day. Honestly, what more could we possibly ask for? See you in the wintry wild places, my friends! Follow Julie and Tom on Instagram @morethanthemountain for more of their hiking adventures.

warren

Selectmen held public hearing to remove 32 public trees

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen met on Dec. 19 to hold a public hearing with Tree Warden Jeremy Olson.

The town held the public hearing after getting an application from National Grid to remove or prune public shade trees. There were 32 town-owned trees identified for possible removal and are located along Southbridge Road and Southbridge Road Extension.

Olson, who serves as the Tree Warden, spoke on the subject of National Grid's application for tree removals on these roads. The warden described all the trees on both roads and identified some as being labeled as "decay" or "proximity."

Olson would then ask the public, which consisted of several residents on the two roads, if anyone had objections to having these trees removed. A few residents spoke before the Board of Selectmen and shared their input as to what their objections are.

The main concern was National Grid having healthy trees cut down. The other concern that was brought was Southbridge Road being a scenic road. For some of the trees, the applicant is worried about gypsy moths coming back.

National Grid representative Joseph King explained the process of three-phase lining. A three-phase line is a type of electrical power system that uses three alternating currents to distribute power to buildings and other facilities.

King believes providing three-phase wiring is more efficient for a vast number of customers.

"The goal is to make sure we maintain safe and reliable power," King. "Maintain what is existing."

According to a study, King said there have been 91 outages in the area off Southbridge Road. This study is based on proximity issues and power outages in the last five years.

Residents of Southbridge Road wanted more detail of the activity of the last couple of years. Also, the residents want to know how many customers a power outage impacts if they happen.

King believes National Grid is only doing what is best for customers and residents and "don't want to cut down trees we don't have to." When asked if any solar is involved with the project, the answer was an immediate no.

To provide more input, tree surveyor Ryan Crest talked about some of the trees identified in National Grid's list. There are some trees that are grown in and are dangerously close towards some of the volt conductors.

During the meeting the idea of possibly burying the powerlines was mentioned, but Crest would

explain some of the hazards with lines being buried. Aside from being too expensive, there could be situations of lines being dug up or mislocated. Crest described it as an arduous process.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair David Dufresne reminded everyone in person at the public hearing is that the road with these trees is a scenic road and fulfills the purpose many residents wanted to live here.

"It a scenic road," Dufresne stated. When cutting trees down "it takes a piece of our town and the reason why residents move here."

The board wished to review more data of what has happened in the last couple years as far as power outages and tree overgrowth. Being a town in New England residents do expect ice and storms coming on an annual basis.

Prior to making a decision the board wanted to recount the number of trees that are viewed as diseased and that residents have no objection of diseased trees being taken down. The board could veto some trees except the ones that are clearly identified as decay or diseased.

The board looked at one photo of a tree off Southbridge Road near Roger's Farm. The tree is marked as a decay. The board didn't know if trimming the tree was an option.

Olson spoke on the operation of tree removal in town and mentioned the limited budget they have when trees are removed.

"We only have \$25,000 a year to cut trees in this town," Olson said. "Only a handful of companies can do that work."

Olson mentioned that all companies who are called up for tree work in town must go through him for authorization. As far as handling the tree off Roger's Farm, the Selectmen trusted the Tree Warden's judgement on the tree.

The board voted to approve three trees off Southbridge Road Extension as this was not a scenic road. For Southbridge Road the three trees and brush cutting as defined by National Grid was approved as well.

Public hearing for CDBG

The Selectmen held another public hearing to review status of projects funded through Warren's Community Development Block Grant for fiscal year 2022-2023 with a \$1,197,000 award.

The public hearing included a discussion of the construction of School Street Improvement Project: Phase Two, The Town Common Improvement Design Project and a potential grant amendment to transfer approximately \$31,000 in unspent FY 22/23 construction funds for use of an engineering design study for Hillside Avenue.

Speaking during this public hearing was CMRPC Principal Planner for Community Development John O'Leary. There are some unspent funds in this CDBG grant and the Town has additional projects to accomplish in phase two of the School Street Improvement Project.

A resident spoke during this public hearing to address some maintenance issues in the area of School Street and the St. Paul Church. The issues included Veterans Park not being well maintained, the handrailing leading to the church has broken off and the resident spoke on how the bottom half of the steps leading to St. Paul Church is owned by the town.

The steps themselves are breaking down and are made of aging concrete. The board appreciates the information and will verify what the town actually owns.

For the park, it is the Parks Department has jurisdiction over the parks and decide what happens with the parks. The board voted to approve the reprogram of \$31,000 for use of an engineering design study for Hillside Avenue.

Proposal by JD McKinney

The Selectboard received a proposal from JD McKinney Logging for a project on Mark's Mountain. Town Administrator James Ferrera shared with the board that several departments have made some comments as to what this project is about. The company itself believes there are town owned lots up the mountain and could have logging work done for a possible access road.

Ferrera said he's "not clear that that town has complete ownership of what is in question here."

The town doesn't want to be left in a vulnerable position if they go forward with the project. Olson believes there could be a lot of mud and rocks on the roads and could fall into people's properties if installing a road is not done properly.

"I recommend we pass," Olson said. "We use it for something else."

The company wanted to move logging trucks through the property, however the mountain slopes are steep. Olson believes it is a great area for green space and hiking trails. The first task is to find out if the area of Mark's Mountain is owned by the town. The Board of Selectmen believes grants can be used to build a parking area, picnic area and help do tree removal and tree pruning.

The Selectmen decided to decline the proposal from JD McKinney Logging, but appreciate them bringing awareness to the town of the area with potential uses in mind.

Edwin Michael Krol, 79

WARE – Edwin Michael "Mickey" Krol, age 79 passed away suddenly in his home on the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2024.



Mickey was born in Ware on Feb. 4, 1945, son of the late Edwin J. Krol and Loretta L. (Bourcier) Krol-Mosher. He was raised and educated in Ware and was a 1962 graduate of Ware High School.

Mickey enlisted in the United States Army on July 19, 1965, and was Honorably Discharged on July 2, 1967, with the rank of SP4 (T). He was proud of his service in the United States Army and was a life-member of the Ware American Legion Post 123 and the AMVETS.

Mickey volunteered many years of service to the Holyoke Soldiers Home and at LEEDS in Northampton.

He loved watching sports, his favorite teams, Celtics, Bruins, Red Sox and Patriots. Mickey loved racing and was a member of Chris Kopec's "pit crew."

He volunteered at St. Mary's Carnival for years and would assist his friend Stan with making Kapusta and pierogi for St. Mary's Church.

Mickey was employed for many years at the Quabbin Reservoir, a job he never forgot. He was a 35-year supervi-

Death notice

Krol, Edwin Michael "Mickey"
Died Dec. 18, 2024
Services Dec. 23, 2024

sor for the Mass Highway, stationed in Belchertown.

Mickey loved Maine and spent time there enjoying the beauty of the state. He was a member of All Saints/St. Mary's Parishes.

Mickey leaves behind his beloved wife of 56 years, Evelyn E. (Novak) Krol, his sister, Janet Berthiaume, sister-in-law Kathy Bourcier and her husband, Phil, and brother-in-law, Paul Novak and his wife Judy (Chenevert) Novak, his last surviving uncle, Donald Bourcier and his wife Barbara, many nieces, nephews, and long-time friends. Mickey loved his dogs, Yoda and Gracie.

His family takes comfort that Mickey has reunited with them in a place where there will be no more parting, only peace, and eternal love and friendship. Calling Hours took place on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, in the Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. A Funeral Mass was offered on Monday, Dec. 23, 2024, in St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., Ware. Everyone met directly in the church on Monday morning. Mickey was laid to rest following mass with Military Honors in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ware.

For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebula-funeralhome.com.

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.

CDAC from page 6

ry. These sources come from town farms, factories, mills, housing and village centers.

Warren has 22 documented archeological sites. These resources reflect the Native American settlement of the region as well as the early industrial development of the modern era.

The third key finding is the number, age, condition and cost of maintenance of the historic artifacts can be challenging. Preservations of historic buildings are costly, and Maughan-Brown believes trying to preserve multiple areas is certainly beyond the capability of a Town with limited financial resources.

Several actions can be taken by Warren to help keep the natural and cultural resources. One is to find grant funding and carry out a Place Making Project that would identify culturally and historically significant places in the town and propose low key place making and signage interventions that would beautifully place and connect them together.

This can be accomplished by pacing, façade restoration, uniform signage, and information boards. The other action is to find and organize activities such as seasonal festivals, farmers markets, anything that draws the public together and visitors.

Other events can be held that highlight the scenic beauty of Warren. For example, Maughan-Brown suggested annual fun runs, bicycle runs, and follow the scenic roads in town.

The CDAC talked about some of the kayaking destinations people love going to Warren along the Quaboag River. Gilbert Road has a lot of potential for development, but it is a scenic road and the town might want to keep that status rather than seeing modern developments.

The CDAC believes a Community Preservation Act is not the best direction Warren can take. CDAC chair Jeremy Olson explained that Warren should focus going in a different direction, but needs to pick the best investment as to what draws in the success they wish to experience in the

future. "Protect what is here first," Olson stated. "Draw a roadmap to success...pick the right investment. Identify something that is obtainable and bring it to a success."

Grant updates

Town Administrator James Ferrera provided an update on grants. One of the grants for Green Communities helped bring Collin's Electrical to complete work at the Senior Center and the Shepard Municipal Building. Weatherization is expected to be done in February and no match from the town was required to get this grant.

A grant for a One Stop program was also discussed for Pulaski Street.

For the Wrights Mill, the town will be having another meeting at the beginning of the year and help set up another public meeting in February. Working alongside Weston & Sampson, the town wants to host the public meeting on the site of Wrights Mill. More details will follow as plans to form this meeting are in progress.

FRAUD from page 4

PIN number as well.

Keep a close eye on charges made to your account. Regularly review your credit card statements and do not discard them. Contact your bank or credit card company immediately if you spot any charges that you do not recognize.

Protect sensitive personal information. Don't make purchases from suspicious online businesses, and stay alert to phishing scams that claim to need your credit or debit card information.

Be sure to maintain updated anti-malware software and a firewall on your computer. Only use secure browsers and shop from secure, trusted sites – while not a guarantee, check for the lock symbol in the corner and the "s" after "http" before sharing your information.

Never enter payment information into a website until you are sure you're dealing with a trustworthy business. Check for the site's privacy and security policies; how are they protecting your information (e.g., encryption) and with whom are they sharing it?

Use your credit card when making online purchases. Credit cards generally offer more protection against fraud; you have the right to challenge any unauthorized charges on your account and the card issuer has an obligation to credit such unauthorized charges back to your account upon timely notice and confirmation.

Any demands for payment through wire transfer or gift cards are huge red flags – just walk away.

If you've been the victim of a credit card scam, report it at BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report goes a long way toward building public awareness about common scam tactics.

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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9.681" x 8"

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\$160 for each additional paper

9.681" x 15.75"

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\$320 for each additional paper

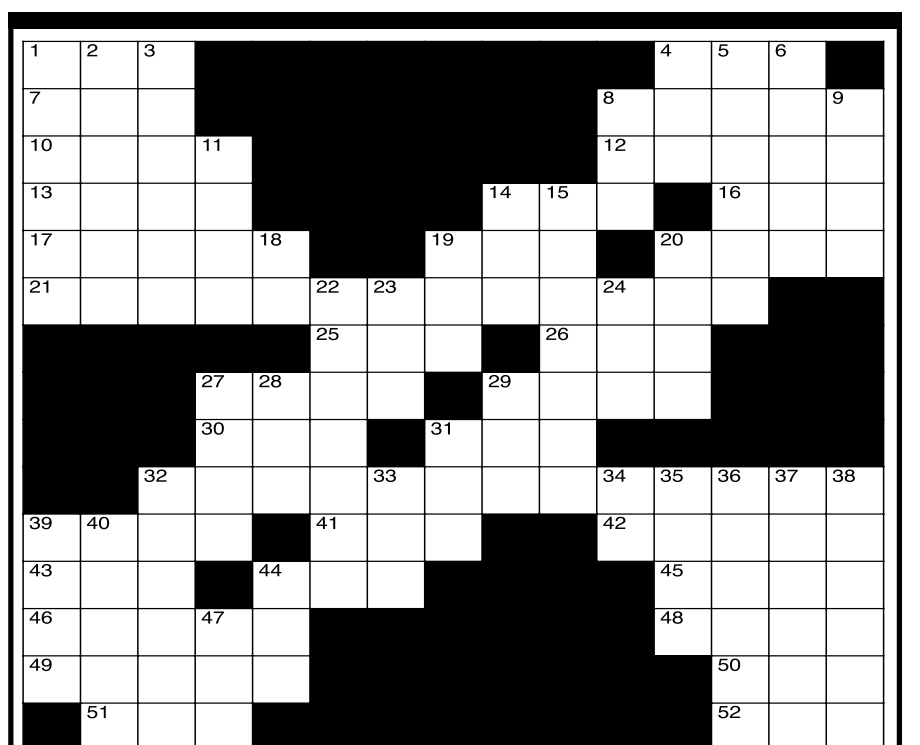


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CLUES ACROSS

- Central processing unit
- Taxi
- Body part
- Papal court
- Young women making their public debuts
- Metal shackles
- Joseph's wife
- Licensed professional
- Partner to cheese
- Mild fruits
- File format
- Province of Indonesia
- Beloved grilled foods
- Bar bill
- Don't know when yet
- Whale ship captain

CLUES DOWN

- Of cadmium
- Deliver a sermon
- Inner regions of a shadow
- Aggressive dog
- Smells
- Twofold
- Former OSS
- Computer language
- Indian groom
- Automobile
- Hairstyle
- Atomic #76
- Guy (slang)
- Ladies' undergarments
- Furniture with open shelves
- Back-arc basin
- Partner to flow
- A type of horse

CLUES DOWN

- Witness
- Possesses
- Split pulses
- Small amount
- Flat-bottomed riverboat
- Not good
- Atomic #31
- Assist in committing a crime
- Chauvinists
- Get away
- One of a people who speaks a Semitic language
- Civil rights college organization
- Combustible dark rocks
- Grocery container
- Central nervous system

History of Holland's 18th century pottery kiln explored

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – At its final meeting of the year last month, the Sturbridge Historical Society presented a program about the John Hinds pottery kiln site, led by Doug Lyon and Mike Forand.

Lyon said Hinds was a previously unknown potter in the town of Holland, whose kiln site was discovered in the 1980s by himself and Forand.

"We came across his site looking for bottles in the woods," he said.

While searching through a cellar hole, they discovered pottery, including flat pieces of fired clay which he said were a bit of a mystery. Lyon brought these pieces to his friend, a curator at Old Sturbridge Village, who had them identified by the late John Worrell, the archeologist at the museum.

Worrell had identified the pieces as kiln furniture, which is only found in kilns. Kiln furniture is also known as saggars, supports or shelves, and was used to stack pottery inside the kiln to keep the pieces from sticking together.

In an article Worrell printed in the Society for Industrial Archeology, New England Chapters, he described the findings: "Thousands of artifacts were excavated and recorded stratigraphically from the Hinds site, the bulk of them being vessel sherds and stacking furniture...Hinds' vessels display some variation, especially in decoration, than do the other potters whose sites have been thus far investigated...In addition to the usual undecorated utilitarian wares, Hinds was producing various slipped wares (painted, trailed, dipped), and some very thin-walled, etched hollowware having metallic black glaze."

"It's just pieces of clay shaped differently to allow the heat to get between the pieces as being fired," Forand said.

"Different types of kiln furniture worked for different vessels."

Lyon said anything could be used as kiln furniture, and Hinds used pressed clay which contained his fingerprints.

"It doesn't look like much," Lyon said of a piece he held up. "And yet I think it's one of the more important pieces that we found because it identified the site as a kiln site."

Lyon said according to records, Hinds was born in 1714 and was originally from Cambridge. In 1750, he held his first deed in Holland (known at the time as South Brimfield) where he is listed as a potter from 1750-1793.

"Now that's significant because John Worrell said that we would probably never see him listed on paper as a potter because people of the time, they were farmers," Lyon said. "Everybody was a farmer... if they did something on the side (like a sawmill, or potting or blacksmithing) you would still see them listed as a farmer."

In 1754-1763 Hinds served in the French and Indian War with his oldest son, and there are several mentions of Hinds in Martin Lovering's book, "History of the Town of Holland Massachusetts".

Until recently, Lyon believed that Hinds had died in 1793 due to a deed which mentioned him as "recently deceased" and his wife, Judith, as a widow. He said Holland's online town records list Hinds, Judith and one daughter as "paupers" as late as 1815, which places his death much later.

Hinds' kiln site was located close to Sturbridge, along the Connecticut border. Now, the kiln site is part of the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary.

While excavating the kiln site, Forand said they discovered countless pieces of pottery sherds, which have been stored at Old Sturbridge Village.

Lyon said they never discovered any intact pottery pieces, as most of them were discarded or broken. Beside the kiln fur-

niture, they discovered kitchenware and tableware.

"We try to guess what it was," he said of the pieces.

A special type of pottery they found at the site was black incised, which they believe could have been Hinds' experimental attempts to create something similar to stoneware or porcelain. This pottery was black, like it had been overfired (intentional or not), thin and carved into.

"It's thin, it's tea cup-like... we only found a few pieces. We've not found it anywhere else other than John Hinds," Lyon said.

He said some of the common pottery items they didn't find at the site included tiles, bedpans, flowerpots and tobacco pipes. He said the lack of tobacco pipes led them to believe that Hinds was probably not a smoker.

Lyon said they also discovered the fieldstone base of the kiln, and were able to determine the kiln's wall by the way the heat altered the rocks, as well as where the fire box and loading door were located.

"Heat would, like it does with clay, it would turn it red," he said.

The kiln itself was more than likely made from brick and Forand said there were many bricks found at the site.

Lyon described Hinds' pottery style as "simple and modest" in decoration, which would have been used for everyday use. His pottery ranged in color from brown to black to yellow and red.

Hinds also used slip to decorate his pieces, which is a white "watery" clay that turned yellow when fired. He would embellish the pieces with loops and dots.

"His slipware is simple and two-color," Lyon said. "Decorative, but simple."

Forand said the kiln site hasn't been fully explored yet, but there have been two separate excavations including the original one in the 1980s with Old Sturbridge Village, and a more recent one with the

permission of the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary.

"There's a lot more there that could be explored and a lot of questions still to be answered," Forand said.

Forand asked the audience to check their records of general store purchases from this time period, to see if there is any reference to Hinds selling his pottery. Forand and Lyon have not found any record of Hinds selling or distributing his pottery.

For more information about the Hinds kiln site, people may visit the Hinds Site Facebook group or read Worrell's article "John Hinds Pottery Kiln" in the Society for Industrial Archeology, New England Chapters, Volume 7, Number 3 from 1987 at <https://nec-sia.org/ne>. Information can also be found on Old Sturbridge Village's website, www.osv.org.

Upcoming programs

The Sturbridge Historical Society will continue its monthly programs in 2025 at the Publick House on the third Thursday of each month, starting at 7 p.m. All programs are free to attend, and the meeting room and refreshments are provided courtesy of the Publick House.

On Jan. 23, Bob Arnold will present about a trip his grandparents took in 1927 in a Model A across the country; on Feb. 27, Rich Paradise will present about covered bridges in New England; on March 27, Bill Reid will present "Notables and Notorious" depicting characters from the Last Green Valley; April 24, Doug Quigley will present on the Revolutionary War; and May 22, Walter Hersee will present on Sturbridge's 1938 celebration of its 200th anniversary.

For more information about Sturbridge Historical Society and its programs, people may join its group on Facebook.

Quabbin Middle School lists sixth grade honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Middle School announces the sixth grade honor roll.

Grade Six, High Honors

Nevaeh Andrews, Ava Blacato, Jaysen Cassano, Ayla Clark, John Cook, Anna Coomey, Grayson Eddy, Colby Hill, Madilyn Houle, Brady Malin, Theodore Minton, Catheryn Racine, Liam Shaw, Zachary Thompson and Brady White.

Grade Six, Honors

Destiny Aiken, Lyric Alves, Aubrianna Babineau, Elijah Baptiste, Zachary Barre, Julianna Bienvenu, Talasyn Boissoneau, Alistair Bombfield, Caleb Caban, Josie Castell, Cameron Charpentier, Charley Chauvin, Ryan Colgate, Ella Critelli, Joey DeMalia, Hannah Dias, Ethan Donaldson, Matthew Flamand, Andrew Fuller, Jude Gomes, Brynnley Gould, Lincoln Graves, Afina Griffith, Joseph Haley, Silas Howe, James Jackson, Adrian Johnson, Colin Kania, Nathan Kearchner, Levi Kniskern, Ryan LaRange, Walker Larson, Marishao Lee, Ilyanna Lynch, Adalyn McHugh, Kayla McHugh, Lucy Merrill, Sawyer Minton, Annaleigh Moncoeur, Nolan O'Connor, Chey O'Shea, Evelyn Palladino, Ximena Palomera-Espinoza, Bryce Pariseau, Bentley Parker, Chloe Phillips, Deegan Pope, Oliver Poulin, McKenna Rengo, Lillian Roohan, Cooper Sampson, Ava Sherblom, Andie St. Clair, Brayden Surprenant, Landon Swindlehurst, Kenzie Thorpe, Regan Toohill, Hana Mae Tousignant and Everett Weisman.

Four local agencies benefit from HCC's 23rd annual Giving Tree campaign

HOLYOKE – For the 23rd year, the Holyoke Community College community collected hundreds of holiday gifts for consumers at four nonprofit agencies through its annual Giving Tree campaign.

On Dec. 12, representatives from the four agencies – Homework House, the Holyoke Veterans Home, WestMass ElderCare, and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children – attended a closing celebration where 302 gifts were distributed.

"Without community partners like you, we wouldn't be able to create moments of joy for our veterans," said Colleen

Strunk-Ackerly, volunteer coordinator for the Veterans Home, formerly the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

Each year during the annual campaign, Giving Trees are set up in designated areas around campus. Participants choose tags from one of the nonprofit agencies based on the age of the recipient and their wish for a gift.

The wrapped gifts are then piled on tables for the closing celebration, when HCC faculty, staff, and students join with representatives from the agencies to share food and stories.

"This is an amazing tradition and

always brings out the best of HCC," said Giving Committee chair Michelle Vigneault.

Brittani Bey, prevention programs supervisor, for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, noted that a lot of the agency's consumers can't afford to buy gifts for their children.

"Many of our families are homeless, don't have family support, and are struggling with their day-to-day needs," she said, "so being part of the HCC Giving Tree allows them just a little peace during this time of year, so thank you."

"This support of Christmas gifts defi-

nately keeps our kids spirits high," said David Haslam, executive director of Homework House, an after-school program in Holyoke. Roseann Martocchia, executive director of WestMass ElderCare, read a letter from one of the agency's care managers, who has been distributing holiday gifts from HCC for 11 years:

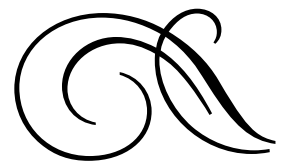
"The Giving Tree program is a blessing," she said. "When gifts arrive and are delivered, the appreciation the consumers have is heartwarming. Some are surprised. All are grateful. It's a wonderful feeling, knowing they were thought of and the community cares."

St. Aloysius Catholic School lists honor roll

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville lists students named to the first trimester honor roll.

Honors

Sophia Adams, Hannah LaRochelle, Rose Theriault, Jackson Boudreau, Alex Velez and Connor Shunaman.



public notices

Hardwick Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board per Hardwick Zoning Bylaw, Sections 3.2.6.1.3 and 5.0 will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:45PM** at the **Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA.**

This Hearing is regarding the application for Site Plan Approval by Bright Planet Solar to install a residential ground-mounted solar energy array of 26 panels at 9.84 kW/DC (7.6 kW/AC) at 78 Ridge Road, Hardwick. A complete copy of the application can be inspected at the Municipal Offices in the Town Clerk's office during posted business hours. All interested parties are asked to attend.

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>
Hardwick Planning Board
Jenna Garvey, Chair
12/19, 12/26/2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage Deed, Security Agreement and Assignment of Leases and Rents, given by Alycar Investments, LLC, to Bluedog Capital Partners, LLC, dated May 31, 2024, and recorded on June 3, 2024 at the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 15147 Page 174 (the "Mortgage") of which Mortgage Bluedog Capital Partners, LLC is the present holder, for breach of conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **1:00 p.m. on January 9, 2025**, on the mortgaged premises located at 22 Church Street, Ware, Massachusetts 01082, a portion of the premises described in the Mortgage,
TO WIT:
22 CHURCH STREET, WARE, MA

A certain tract of land, together with the buildings thereon, situate at the corner of Church and Pleasant Street in Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the westerly side of Church Street with the northerly side of Pleasant Street; thence N. 47°8' W. 86.18 feet along the northerly side of said Pleasant Street to an iron pipe driven in the ground; thence N. 45°40' E. 59.72 feet along land now or formerly of one Grise; thence S. 44°39' E. 84.29 feet along the southerly line of land of said Grise to the westerly line of Church Street as laid out by the County Commissioners in June, 1882; thence S. 3°51' W. along the westerly side of said Church Street, 56 feet to the place of beginning.

Containing more or less and subject to the rights of the public in the sidewalk abutting said premises on the east.

For reference, see deed recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds herewith.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of recorded entitled to precedence over the Mortgage, and subject to all with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The high bidder will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Saulino & Silvia, P.C., 550 Locust Street, Fall River, Massachusetts 02720, or by mail to 550 Locust Street, Fall River, Massachusetts

02720, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said Mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

BLUEDOG CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC.
Present holder of said Mortgage Deed, Security Agreement and Assignment of Leases and Rents,

By its Attorneys,
SAULINO & SILVIA, P.C.
PETER A. SAULINO,
ESQUIRE
Saulino & Silvia, P.C.
550 Locust Street
Fall River, MA 02720
PH: (508) 675 - 7770
12/19, 12/26/2024, 01/02/2025

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

This is a revised Notice of Public Hearing. Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, the Ware Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, January 16th, 2025** during their normally

scheduled meeting starting at **7:00pm** in the Town Hall meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. The purpose of this hearing is to consider amendments to the Zoning Map of the Town of Ware, to change parcels 57-0-167 (Lot 167), 57-0-166 (Lot 166), 57-0-168 (Lot 168), 57-0-169 (Lot 169), 57-0-205 (Lot 205), 57-0-206 (Lot 206) from Highway Commercial zoning to Commercial Industrial zoning.

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means as a courtesy in accordance with the applicable law. Should there be technical issues, the meeting will proceed at the scheduled time. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in Town Hall Meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via Zoom. Go to

<https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

A complete copy of the proposed changes can be found at the Planning & Community Development Department Office and on the department web page at www.townofware.com. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated. All interested parties are invited to attend. Please contact the Planning and Community Development Director with any questions. (413) 967-9648, ext. 118. psmith@townofware.com.

WARE PLANNING BOARD
Kenneth Crosby, Chair
12/26/2024, 01/02/2025

<https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

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Kenneth Crosby, Chair
12/19, 12/26/2024

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, the Ware Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, January 16th, 2025** during their normally scheduled meeting starting at **7:00pm** in the Town Hall meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. The purpose of this hearing is to consider amendments to the Zoning Use Table of the Town of Ware Zoning Bylaw to include "Warehousing" as a permitted use in the Highway Commercial District.

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means as a courtesy in accordance with the applicable law. Should there be technical issues, the meeting will proceed at the scheduled time. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in Town Hall Meeting room, 126

WARE PLANNING BOARD
Kenneth Crosby, Chair
12/19, 12/26/2024

WARE PLANNING BOARD
Kenneth Crosby, Chair
12/19, 12/26/2024

Main Street, Ware MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via Zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

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WARE PLANNING BOARD
Kenneth Crosby, Chair
12/19, 12/26/2024

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12/19, 12/26/2024

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WARE PLANNING BOARD
Kenneth Crosby, Chair
12/19, 12/26/2024

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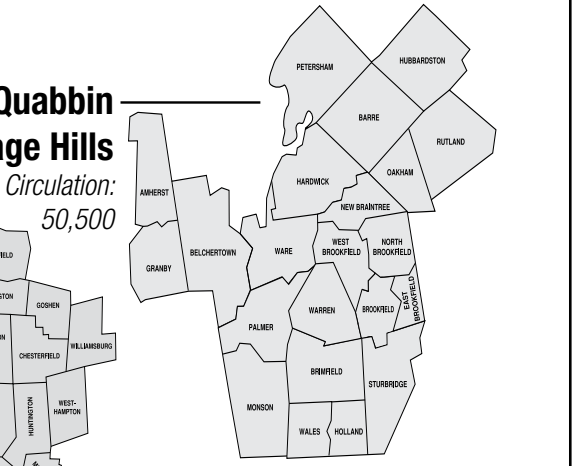
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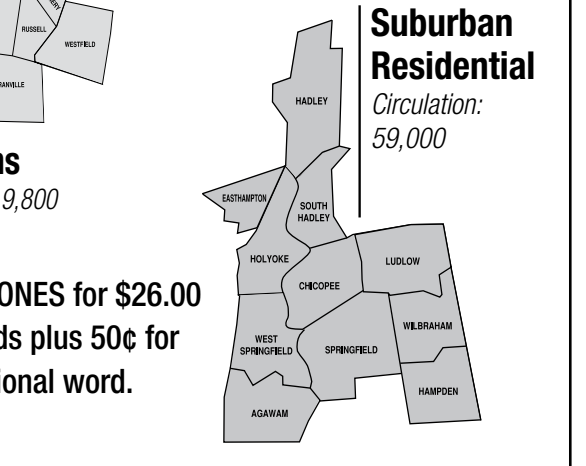
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23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
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27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
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SCAMS from page 12

mail. You may never receive any coupons, or you might receive coupons that are fake. Plus, by signing up, you've handed over your personal details and possibly your credit card information to a dishonest stranger.

You may also come across coupons that offer deals in exchange for sharing a link on social media. Don't do it. The link leads to a

third-party website where visitors enter personal information in exchange for the coupon.

In most cases, after signing up, you never receive any coupons. Instead, you've given your personal details to scammers.

How to avoid similar scams

Don't fall for deals that are too good to be true. Be skeptical. If a coupon is valued near or above the retail price of an item, consider it a red flag.

Check the source of the coupon.

If the coupon doesn't come from a recognized coupon distributor, the manufacturer, or a specific store, be wary. If you aren't sure about a coupon, visit the company's website directly to look for the coupon on their official site or contact their customer service line to inquire about the coupon.

Think before you click on links in emails. If you receive a coupon via email, hover your mouse over

the link without clicking on it to see where it will take you.

If the URL looks like a random assortment of letters and numbers, or if it is a shortened link that doesn't reveal where it's taking you, don't click it. Check the sender's email address to see if it is legitimate.

Only visit official websites to avoid downloading malware onto your computer.

Read coupons carefully. If a

coupon doesn't have an expiration date, if it looks photocopied, or if it contains spelling and grammar errors, you're probably dealing with a fake.

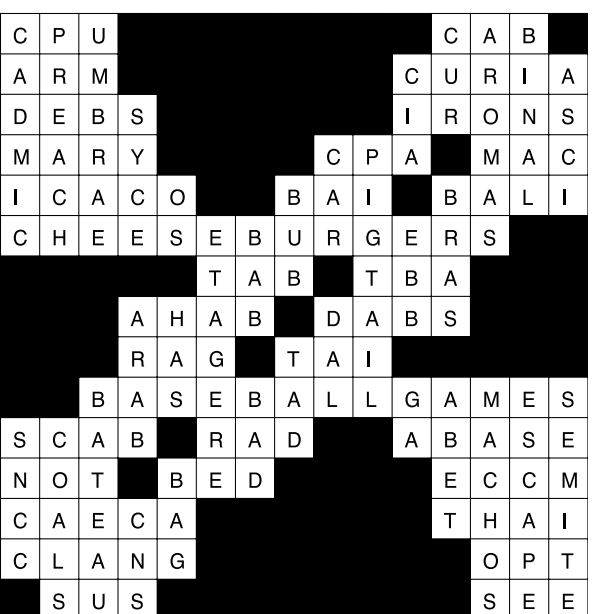
Don't trade personal information for perks. A real business will not ask for your personal information, such as your credit card number or bank account information, in exchange for a coupon or to enter a giveaway.

Promotional offers that ask for

personal information are usually scams. You shouldn't have to pay to receive a coupon either.

Do a search for coupon scams. When in doubt, search the coupon offer along with the word "scam." This will often bring up similar offers that are fake and can help you determine whether a coupon is real or not.

Find more consumer tips to avoid scams at the Better Business Bureau's website, BBB.org.



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