

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Downtown arts spaces



Local and state officials were on hand last Friday for the official ribbon-cutting of ArtWorks and ClayWorks, a co-operative venture between Quaboag Valley Community Development Corp. and Workshop13. QVDC Executive Director Sheila Cuddy, center, cut the ribbon.

## State, local officials come together

By Eileen Kennedy  
Staff writer

WARE – State, local and non-profit representatives celebrated the creation of an art gallery and a ceramics studio that began as an idea over a cup of coffee.

ArtWorks, an art gallery for area artists, and ClayWorks, a ceramics studio, were opened in December and January respectively, after the Quaboag Valley Community

Development Corporation and Workshop13 put in for and received grants to bring them to Main Street.

Officials from MassDevelopment, a quasi-public agency that provides money for economic development projects, and the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, a nonprofit that makes grants to improve the health

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Turley Publications staff photos by Eileen Kennedy  
Workshop13 Director Marie Lauderdale shows off a piece of art to visitors at ClayWorks and ArtWorks before a ceremony held Friday to thank everyone who made the arts spaces possible.

## Land Trust leads solar farm talks

By Karen A. Lewis  
Correspondent

NEW BRAINTREE - Similar to the windmills that have been appearing in and around the Cape, solar farms have been sprouting in and around Massachusetts and people have been growing concerned.

Last Thursday evening, the East Quabbin Land Trust invited members of local municipal boards and interested citizens to get together for a meeting at the New Braintree Town Hall, the first of its kind, to discuss all areas related to commercial solar development in Central Mass.

With more than 40 people in attendance, some from as far away as Charlton, information was shared, questions were asked and issues were brought up related to the complex journey of this growing renewable energy source of solar power.

Led by EQLT Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw, with special guest Kaitlin Kelly, of the Mass. Department of Energy Resources, the two navigated through questions, information sharing and audience feedback.

"In the past, residential developments were the greatest threat of land conservation," Henshaw said, who shared EQLT is a land conservation organization that values the vital role of actively-managed farms in the communities. "Today with the real impacts of climate change affecting our communities, the need to produce more renewable electricity is warranted, but not at the price of other essential needs of human existence."

Henshaw began by polling the crowd to get a sense of the commercial solar development exis-



Turley Publications correspondent photo by Karen A. Lewis

Kaitlin Kelly, manager of Solar Programs from the Mass Dept of Energy Resources, speaks to those in attendance about commercial solar development.

tence in the area and found there were at least eight residents from surrounding communities present.

Between planning board members and other municipal people in attendance, the information was readily available, and through calculations it was determined that Charlton with 20 commercial solar developments in existence, five planned and producing 50 megawatts of electricity was the largest, followed by Spencer with seven solar farms, sitting on 125 acres of land, with a megawatt usage of 34.7, along with eight additional sites approved and two pipelines, came in second.

The town of Barre with eight operating commercial solar developments, one additional in the works, sitting on 60 acres of land producing 15 megawatts was the third largest, based on those in attendance.

Please see **SOLAR**, page 3

## Belfry Ball proceeds to help Stone Church

By Karen A. Lewis  
Correspondent

BARRE - It was a night of coming together in celebration as the Friends of The Stone Church welcomed over 80 guests to their Belfry Ball last Saturday evening at

Hartman's Herb Farm in Barre.

For the fourth year in a row, the annual dinner and silent auction, one of the major yearly fundraisers for the FOSC, has become a night for many to look forward to in January.

"The Hartmans are very wel-

coming and this event gets us out of the house," said Debi Terrien from Hardwick, who has attended the event for the last three years. "It's an easy place to be and a nice thing to do in January."

Please see **STONE CHURCH**, page 5

## Nostalgia returns to Quaboag

"Back to the 80s" to be performed

By Emma Monahan  
Staff writer

WARREN - Quaboag Regional Middle High School is set to perform "Back to the 80s" this weekend with an enthusiastic cast and crew.

Director James Joinville talks highly of the musical and the students putting it on. "It's a fun, lighthearted show that families can enjoy. Where parents can be brought back to the 80s and experience it with their kids," he said Tuesday in his school office.

Written by Neil Gooding, "Back to the 80s" tells the story of Corey Palmer who, in his 40s, reflects on his senior year of high school while browsing through his year book. Now taking it back to the 80s, Corey is looking to end his time in high school on a high note before the prom by getting the girl next door and facing the class bully.

"It's a good cheesy," says Joinville, "It's family oriented and a great comedy."

Around 40 students are participating, whether they are actors, stage hands, or a part of the orchestra.



Turley Publications courtesy photo

"Back to the 80s" will be performed on Feb. 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. at the Quaboag Regional Middle Innovation School, 284 Old West Brookfield Road, Warren. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students.

Joinville said getting students involved is easy because there is a core group in the school who have a true love for theater. The students put in the same amount of heart and passion as any athlete would toward a sport.

Senior Alyssa Peabody has been participating in these productions since she was a freshmen. She plays Eileen, a charming but nerdy student who's just trying to fit in with

the popular girls. Having a passion for the arts, she says she's learned a lot throughout the last four years.

"I'm excited for people to see

Please see **NOSTALGIA**, page 7

## CDBG public hearing set for Feb. 12

WARREN – Warren will hold its Community Development Block Grant public hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 7:15 p.m., at the Shepard Municipal Building at 48 High St. A snow date of Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 7:15 p.m., has been scheduled if needed.

The grant application will seek funds for comprehensive public works improvements to Moore Avenue and Lombard Street. Previous planning and engineering studies have determined that the area needs new potable water mains, sewer repairs, drainage system upgrades, new curbing and road and sidewalk reconstruction. The public hearing will offer residents an opportunity to comment on any proposed project identified as a priority in the town's community development strategy.

## DOWNTOWN SHINES BRIGHTLY



Turley Publications courtesy photo by Above the Law Ariel Photography

WARE – The sun coming up over Ware was captured as it brightened the town early in the morning.



Michael Hakim, M.D. and Elam Safi, M.D. welcome  
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TV CHARACTERS ARE ALL PART OF THE COMPETITION



WJSHS faculty were happy to get into the spirit of Dress as a TV Character Day.



WJSHS students Devin Slattery, Travis Orszalak and Dylan Slattery dressed as Winnie the Pooh, Tigger, and Eeyore for Winter Carnival competition for Dress as a TV Character Day.



Ware Junior Senior High School students Olivia Vadnais, Lilly Jeffery, and Jackie Dugay all dressed as Betty for the TV show "Riverdale," as part of the competition for Winter Carnival, which will take place on Feb. 2. Percentage of students taking part in themed dress-up days counts toward winning points.



WJSHS students Brooke McCormick and John Soltys dressed up as Fred and Velma from "Scooby Doo," as part of Dress as a TV Character Day.

WARE – Winter Carnival is almost here, and leading up to Saturday's competitions between all four high school classes is dressing up as different characters during the week at Ware Junior Senior High School. The percentages of participating students each day is tabulated as part of the competition. On Tuesday, it was Dress as a TV Character Day, and both students and faculty had fun with it.

Plenty of students took part in Dress as a TV Character Day at WJSHS on Tuesday.



Selectmen Chairman John Carroll, seated at left, and Town Manager Stuart Beckley at right both spoke during the ceremony.

ARTWORKS from page 1

of area residents, were on hand as investors and to be thanked for their roles in making the projects possible. "Welcome to Ware," said Selectmen Chairman John Carroll. "If you give money to the right people, this is what happens."

QVCDC Executive Director Sheila Cuddy thanked MassDevelopment, HFCM officials, Ware town officials and employees as well as Workshop13 volunteers for bringing the spaces together. She also thanked Country Bank President and CEO Paul Scully for helping to vision a use for the space and for the bank's donation of the building so it would have a location.

Scully said he asked Cuddy over their occasional cup of coffee one day about using the space for an incubator of businesses, and the art and ceramics centers evolved from that discussion. "One thing led to another," he said, with Country Bank happy to be part of it.

Cuddy said the art centers, along with the existing Education to Employment Center, or E2E, run by Holyoke Community College, are "bringing back vibrancy to downtown." Country Bank also donated the space for E2E.

Cuddy also thanked Tracy Opalinski, a Ware selectman and a board member of the Ware Business & Civic Association and the Edward and Barbara Urban Foundation, as she introduced her and asked her to speak. Cuddy said Opalinski was a great catalyst for change and was willing to work to make things happen.

"It's a new dawn and a renaissance for downtown Ware," Opalinski said. "This will impact our rural economy and increase the pride we have in our town of Ware."

Cuddy also introduced Town Manager Stuart Beckley by saying he had been as a planner in Easthampton who had helped revitalize the town through the arts community. "He works tirelessly on behalf of the town of Ware," Cuddy said.

Beckley said if one visits downtown Ware at night these days it is clear there is an increasing amount of light on that side of Main Street, with Dioguardi Jewlers having made over the former Friendly's restaurant, the addition of HannaDevine's restaurant at Main and North streets, the new Lost and Found Mercantile store, the E2E Center and now the art centers. "Change is coming, and this is going to be a great Main Street," he said.

When the projects were a little short of money, the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts stepped in with a grant to finish it because the arts and a place that provides community, such as an arts center, have been shown to improve peoples' health.

Cuddy said after talking to HFCM officials, it was refreshing to find an attitude that grants are matches to be made, not contests to be won.

"You have chosen to make your home here, and a sense of place is important," said HFCM President and CEO Jan Yost. Investing in the centers is important "not only because it offers jobs and cultural experiences, but it's most important because it can be a social hub for the community, and because a connected community is a healthy community." Following the ceremony, officials went outside to formally cut the ribbon on the building at 69-71 Main St.



QVCDC Executive Director Sheila Cuddy spoke during a ceremony to celebrate the opening of ArtWorks and ClayWorks on Main Street, and to thank all who made it possible.

What to know about the measles

SPRINGFIELD – When it comes to the measles, the recent news isn't good. Thanks to a vaccine which became available in the 1960s, the disease was virtually eliminated in the United States in 2000. Now things are different. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 349 cases of

measles were confirmed across 26 states and the District of Columbia in 2018. "When it comes to measles....you must vaccinate," said Dr. J. Michael Klatte, a pediatric infectious diseases specialist at Baystate Children's Hospital. Washington state recently declared

a state public health emergency after nearly three dozen cases have been confirmed there recently. Nearly all of the confirmed cases so far have occurred in an area of southwest Washington that borders Portland, Oregon. All except one of those people infected are either children or teenagers, and 30 are known to be unimmunized. Another large outbreak of measles is currently ongoing in certain portions of New York City, with more than 60 cases diagnosed since October 2018. Those cases have been traced back to an unimmunized traveler visiting a country that is currently experiencing a large outbreak. Most of the cases in New York City have also occurred in children who have not been immunized.

Also, according to the CDC, measles is spread so easily between people that 90 percent of those without immunity will become infected simply by being near someone who has the virus.


"Once again, the current outbreaks in Washington state and New York bring attention to those who are hesitant to have their child vaccinated, not just for measles, but for any disease. And, what we do know about the current outbreak is that the majority of cases are people who were not immunized for measles, including both children and adults," said Klatte.

The Baystate pediatrician noted that severe reactions are extremely rare, while mild side effects from the shot can include fever, mild rash, and swelling of glands in the cheeks or neck.

Symptoms of measles occur 10 days to two weeks after exposure, and may initially resemble other viral respiratory infections (with fever, cough, runny nose, and red eyes). A rash occurs, however, on the skin about two to four days after the initial symptoms develop. The rash appears first on the head, and then moves downward. It gradually disappears in the same pattern in which it appeared, and lasts about 6 days before completely disappearing. People with measles are contagious from 4 days before the rash appears until four days after the rash's onset.

Children less than 5, adults older than 20, pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems are at highest risk for development of measles complications. Common complications include ear infections, croup and diarrhea, while more serious ones can include pneumonia (occurring in 30 percent of those infected) and brain swelling/neurologic damage (occurring in 1 per 1,000 cases). According to the CDC, for every 1,000 children who get measles, one or two will die from it.

For more information on Baystate Children's Hospital, visit [www.bay-statehealth.org/bch](http://www.bay-statehealth.org/bch).



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