State, local officials come together

By Edson 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 of area residents, attended the grand opening of the art gallery and ceramics center.

The grant application will seek money for economic development and public health improvement initiatives in the downtown area.

“The Hartmans are very well known and have a great reputation in Ware and the region,” said Edson Kennedy, 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.”

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Nostalgia returns to Quaboag

By Emma Monahan
Staff writer

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

“Back to the 80s” to be performed

By Emma Monahan
Staff writer

“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 New Braintree Road, Warren. Tickets can be purchased at the door for $15 general admission and $5 for seniors and students.

“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 yearbook. The show takes viewers back to the 80s through music and dance and is performed by about 40 students.

“Corey is looking to end his time in high school. He’s looking back on the 80s and all the good times he had,” said Corey, “I’m excited for people to see this.”

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According to the Centers for Disease Control, 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 public health emergency after nearly three dozen cases have been confirmed since mid-January. Nearly all of the confirmed cases so far have occurred in an area of southwest Washington that borders Portland, Oregon. Except those two people identified as either children or teenagers, and 30 are known to have been vaccinated. Another large outbreak of measles is currently ongoing in certain portions of New York City, with more than 60 cases diagnosed since October 2018. Three 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 vaccinated.

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. Unimmunized travelers can bring measles into communities here, said Klatte.

People with compromised immune systems are at highest risk for development of measles complications. Common complications include ear infections, croup (a swelling in the throat area), and more serious ones such as encephalitis (swelling/neurologic damage occurring in 30 percent of those infected) and brain swelling/toxicologic damage (occurring in up to 1,000 cases). According to the CDC, for every 1,000 children who get measles, one or two will die from it.

On February 19, 2019, a 9-year-old girl in New York City was diagnosed with pertussis (whooping cough), a vaccine-preventable disease. The girl contracted pertussis from an unimmunized child visiting a country that has recently declared a state public health emergency after an outbreak of measles. Studies have shown that people who get vaccinated are 60% less likely to become ill from pertussis.

When the projects were a little short of money, the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts stepped in with a grant to finish it because it is a project that provides community programs which it said were needed. “It was a healthy doing, to improve peoples’ health,” said Selectmen Chairman John Carroll. “If you give money to the right people, this is what happens.”

The Offender:[Censored Line] the Revolving Door: What to know about the measles

What to know about the measles

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 Dress as a TV Character Day.

WASHINGTON – Winter Carnival is almost here, and leading up to Tuesday’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 Fred and Velma from “Scooby Doo,” as McCormicy and John Soltys dressed up as Tom and Jerry from “Sunday Funday,” as part of Dress as a TV Character Day.

A WARREN student explained 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 face 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 4 days after the rash onset.

The Baystate pediatrician noted that the majority of the cases have been confirmed since mid-January. Nearly all of the confirmed cases so far have occurred in an area of southwest Washington that borders Portland, Oregon. Except those two people identified as either children or teenagers, and 30 are known to have been vaccinated. Another large outbreak of measles is currently ongoing in certain portions of New York City, with more than 60 cases diagnosed since October 2018. Three 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 vaccinated.

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For more information on Baystate Children’s Hospital, visit www.baystatehealth.org/ped.