

# Country Journal

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## HUNTINGTON

# Wildwater race registration is now open

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Race Director Harry Rock announced registration for the 2026 Westfield River Wildwater Races is now open.

Athletes can visit [www.westfieldriver.org/racer](http://www.westfieldriver.org/racer) to register. Registration fees are \$35 per person and rates will increase on Monday, March 16 to \$45 per person.

This year marks the 71st year of the races, which date back to 1954. The race will take place on Saturday, April 18 with the Expert Race kicking off at 9:30 a.m. from Knightville Dam and ending at the Route 20 pulloff across from the Hilltown Community Health Center in Huntington. The Classic Race will begin at 11 a.m. from the Mass DOT maintenance yard, off of the green bridge on Route 112 in Huntington, and end in Woronoco Center.

A liability waiver must be signed by all participants individually, as each person registers. Race day start times will be given in the chronological order that people register. "If you are the tenth person to register, you are the tenth person to start," Rock explained. "The earlier you register, the earlier you



Submitted photo

Westfield River Race Director Harry Rock with Russell Select Board member Illiyd Fernandez, who is a race volunteer and kayak paddler.

will start." Rock also said that some paddlers like to have several boats of family or friends paddling together. For this to work, Rock suggests they organize a day and time for everyone to register at the same time. "Chances

are very good that your start times will be next to one another, or very close," Rock said, adding that it is very difficult for race officials to change recorded start times once people are registered and asking groups to please plan ahead.

There will be classes for solo canoes, tandem canoes, kayaks and Stand Up Paddleboards. Tandem canoes need to designate a team captain who will register the team with their team name. The captain will pay for both themselves and their

team partner. The team partner then needs to go online, search for their team name and complete their information and liability waiver. They do not have to pay, as their captain will have

RACE, page 3

## BLANDFORD

# Select Board plan to change office space

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

The Select Board discussed cleaning up and potentially re-arranging office space at the Town Hall at their Monday, Feb. 2 meeting.

This will be discussed at the department heads meeting, which will be the last board meeting of February, on Monday, Feb. 23.

### Inclement weather policy

The next week, on Monday, Feb. 9, the board refined the inclement weather policy with some slight modifications. If Gateway Regional School District is closed for a second day in a row due to weather, the Select Board Chair will notify the Administrative Assistant if the Town Hall will be closed also, on the second day; Cara Letendre and Joann Martine, respectively. If the building is to be closed, Martin will notify departments.

PLAN, page 6

## HUNTINGTON

# Select Board discuss contract with Treasurer

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

The Wednesday, Feb. 11 Select Board meeting opened with an appointment with first year Treasurer Ryan Mailloux to discuss his Fiscal Year 2027 employment contract and review progress on goals that had been established in his FY 2026 contract.

Mailloux has requested \$34,000 in salary for the coming fiscal year. His current salary of \$25,000 covered 46 weeks and would have been \$28,261 for a full year contract. "For the most part, I do think things are going well," Mailloux said, adding that it was a little more of a heavier lift than he had originally thought. He said, "This job is just as much work as the other towns he serves and Huntington's wages are not comparable to what the others are paying him."

To date, the town has upgraded their accounting program to Vadar, which Mailloux said will be less redundant and has less room for errors. He has developed new time sheets



Treasurer Ryan Mailloux

and is rolling them out one department at a time. Booth noted that other goals had been accomplished including correcting health and dental elections and deductions and Mailloux is correcting the employees that should be enrolled in and contributing to Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, a retirement option for public employees who don't qualify for a public pension but who also can't get social security.

### Other business

In other business, the board unanimously approved applicants to the Strategic Economic Development Plan Working Group: Laurie Martell, Linda Hamlin, Brett Bourman and Robert Hebert. They also selected participants for the FY 2027 Tax Work Off Program, which enables veterans and senior citizens to work off \$500 of their annual property tax bills through unpaid service to the town. As there was one more applicant than available slots, they drew a name for an alter-

nate, who could participate if any of the others are in arrears on tax or water bills by Monday, March 2. If any participants are behind, they will be disqualified and the alternate will take their place.

The select board is also dealing with citizen complaints concerning two issues: a truck hampering egress into Integrity Trailer on Route 20, and two, continued discussion on a complaint about junk cars on private property, in violation of a recent bylaw change in town.

### Federal grant

It was announced that Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger received a Federal grant to replace fire hoses. Three different quotes were received and the lowest bid was by Industrial Protection Services, LLC with a quote of \$30,170, unanimously approved by the board. According to Ellinger, the funding was awarded through a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), which supports fire departments nationwide with critical equipment, training and safety improvements. "We were fortunate to secure AFG funding specif-

SELECT BOARD, page 2

## HUNTINGTON

# Single article received grant, Taxpayer funding was no longer needed

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

On the surprise recommendation of Select Board Chairman Roger Booth, the voters attending a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 11 voted down a warrant article.

The article sought to secure funding through available funds or by borrowing to fund the Basket Street Water Main Extension Project to address PFAS showing up in a homeowner's well at 51 Basket St. This house is closest to the former town landfill on the same street and the Poly-Fluoro Alkyl Substances or "forever chemicals" is likely leaching from it.

The warrant article for the meeting read, "To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money for the purpose of funding the Basket Street Water Main Extension Project, including all incidental and related costs, which expenditure may be reimbursed through an Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) grant; and to the extent that the appropriation hereunder



Turley Publications photos by Wendy Long

Huntington Finance Chairman Eric Jensen and Tighe & Bond's Zach Chornyak discussing the latest word from Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on use of grant funds to cover the Basket Street Water Main project. Voters were able to vote down the single warrant article authorizing use of stabilization funds and borrowing to front the project costs, which is no longer necessary.

may include monies from the Stabilization Fund, to accept the last paragraph of G. L. c40 Section 5B and dedicate any grant funds received

for said purpose to the Stabilization Fund Account #825590.006; or take any

GRANT, page 2



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# HUNTINGTON

## Turkey incident spreads over social media

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – On Monday, Feb. 2, a Huntington resident noticed a turkey walking along a roadway in Northampton.

In other media interviews, the woman, who is not being named by any media outlets due to the backlash against her in both towns, said she assumed the turkey was domesticated and lost. She loaded it in her vehicle and brought it to her home in Huntington, fearing its presence along a busy roadway might result in harm to the animal or drivers.

Little did she know that the turkey, known by area residents as “Sandwich,” had celebrity status in Northampton and had reportedly lived near Cooley Dickinson Hospital since April of 2025. On Thursday, Feb. 5, Northampton resident Katrina Beaumier noted on Facebook that she hadn’t seen the turkey in several days. Another person responded that a photo of the turkey had been seen on SnapChat and that the turkey had been relocat-

ed to Huntington, launching a crush of outrage on social media from both Northampton and Huntington residents.

After speaking with the Huntington resident, Beaumier posted that the woman hadn’t known the turkey was well-known and cared for by people in Northampton. She was sorry she had moved the animal. Despite everyone’s anguish about the missing bird, Beaumier called for people to understand that a mistake had been made, the woman was sorry and to bring down the temperature of social media posts on the matter. “None of that is helpful to the situation, and we already live in a cruel world,” Beaumier wrote in her update.

Also on Feb. 5, the Massachusetts Environmental Police received a report about the relocation of Sandwich the turkey. “After consulting with MassWildlife, MEP was advised to leave the turkey in the new, natural habitat rather than returning it to its original location,” explained Danielle Burney, Director of Communications. Burney also said that it is illegal to

transport wildlife and to possess a wild turkey without a permit (MGL 131 Sec 25).

“This is an ongoing investigation and no other information can be provided at this time,” Burney said of this incident, including whether or not the Huntington resident will be fined.

Burney said that turkeys are extremely common in residential areas across Massachusetts where they can easily find food, such as seed from bird feeders or from intentional feeding by residents. MassWildlife discourages the public from feeding wildlife, including turkeys.

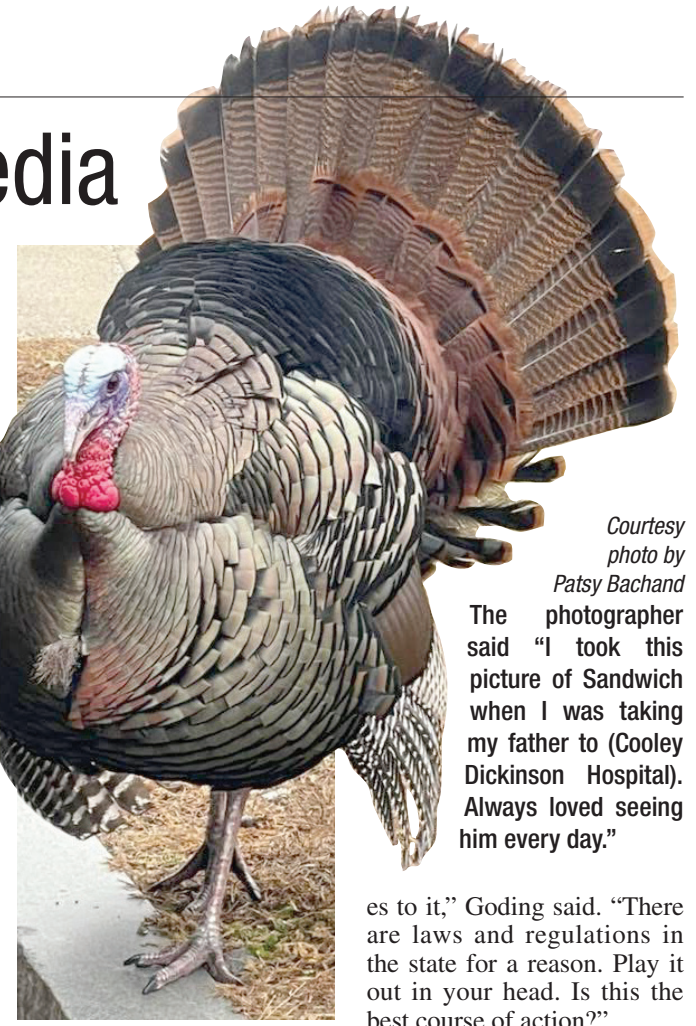
Turkeys that are fed by people eventually become indifferent, or habituated, to humans. In some cases, turkeys can then develop aggressive behavior towards people. This change in behavior can happen over time when turkeys repeatedly receive food in close proximity to people and lose their natural fear of humans. Once bold behavior is established, it is very difficult to change.

Huntington Police Chief Brian Kowal said he had been

made aware of the situation when he received a voicemail from a Huntington resident on Tuesday, Feb. 10. “As of right now, Environmental Police have been investigating and have not brought us in,” Kowal said. “We would be happy to help if they bring us in.”

Lisa Goding, Director of It Takes a Village, had seen the social media posts about Sandwich being taken from Northampton and found the situation upsetting. “I cannot speak to why she took the turkey. I really cannot,” Goding said in an interview, which took place after she contacted the *Country Journal* on the matter. She said she had driven by the person’s home and had seen Sandwich, reporting that it appeared to have a damaged wing and was favoring one leg. But another resident had seen it a few days later and its condition seemed improved.

Goding said that Kathy Gaynor of Urban Wildlife Rehabilitation and Tufts University were both prepared to take the turkey if directed to by MEP. Two



Courtesy photo by Patsy Bachand  
The photographer said “I took this picture of Sandwich when I was taking my father to (Cooley Dickinson Hospital). Always loved seeing him every day.”

es to it,” Goding said. “There are laws and regulations in the state for a reason. Play it out in your head. Is this the best course of action?”

The woman, who brought the turkey to Huntington and Beaumier both declined to be interviewed for this article. The Huntington woman has changed her name on social media as a result of reported threats and the notoriety from this incident.

“When we take an action, even when the intention is good, we need to realize that there are consequen-

\$500 rewards have been posted for the return of the turkey to Northampton, which if completed by a citizen could also be grounds for legal action by the state.

### SELECT BOARD

from page 1

ically for hose replacement to ensure operational readiness and firefighter safety without placing additional burden on the town budget,” Ellinger noted.

#### Sen. Paul Mark

Also, the town received an email from Senator Paul Marks office, indicating a possible earmark for the towns of Rowe and Huntington for culverts and road improvement projects totaling \$2.75 million and requested in 2022. Highway Superintendent Brad Curry will follow up with the

Senator’s office staff on this.

#### DEP grant

Saving the best for last, Zach Chornyak, Vice President in Tighe & Bond’s Water Business Line was joined by Mailloux and Town Accountant Richard Buley to discuss the latest findings around funding for the new water line on Basket Street. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection awarded the town of Huntington an Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities grant of \$700,000 toward

the work needed to bring the town’s water line up Basket Street, because PFAS had shown up in the homeowner’s well water closest to the former landfill. While work on that project was urgent and had begun immediately, the contract award was dated Wednesday, Nov. 12. Initially, it was believed that the work that took place before Nov. 12 might not be reimbursed or might have reimbursement delayed until a grant amendment could be processed. The town learned of this after already paying

over \$200,000 in invoices. It was also thought that the town would have to prepay all invoices for work that took place after Nov. 12 before receiving grant funds, although it was believed those funds would come in a more timely manner. A Special Town Meeting had been scheduled for this same night to see if the voters would approve using funds from its stabilization account and/or take out a loan to cover those upfront costs and not create a cash flow problem for the town.

However, Chornyak told the select board that MA DEP would not require copies of paid checks in order to reimburse the town for work that has taken place after Nov. 12; invoices would suffice. It is expected that those funds would come back within a few weeks of submission, meaning that the town will not need to bond or use stabilization account funds to cover these costs in the interim.

After all of the project costs are covered, Chornyak said there will be about

\$95,000 left in the grant, which can be used to cover some of the additional well testing that will continue to take place.

#### Executive Session

The board also held part of the meeting in executive session to “discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.”

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### GRANT

from page 1

other action relative thereto.” It took longer for the meeting to reach its required minimum quorum of 25 voters than it did to complete the vote.

A quorum was reached at 7:11 p.m. and moderator George Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance, before turning things over to Huntington’s Tighe and Bond contact, Zach Chornyak for the latest information from Massachusetts Department Environmental Protection. Chornyak secured a \$700,000 Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to help the town cover the cost of bringing the water main line up Basket Street for affected homeowners both now and in the future.

The contract was awarded on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025, but due to the urgent nature of this matter work was already underway. The town had already incurred and paid out over \$200,000 in costs ahead of Nov. 12 and it was initially believed that those expenses would only be paid out of the grant after approval of a grant amendment. It was also believed that the town would have to front the costs of work that took place after Nov. 12 and wait for reimbursement. As a result, town officials had decided to recommend a combined use of

stabilization funds and borrowing in order to cover the upfront cost of this work and not incur a cash flow problem within the town.

However, Chornyak had received confirmation ahead of the Special Town Meeting from DEP that the town could submit the invoices, not copies of paid checks, on work that took place after Nov. 12 and grant funds would be sent to the town, which could then pay its vendors. Chornyak said they could expect about a two-week turnaround.

“Long story short, I don’t think we need to follow through with this request,” Chornyak announced.

As such, Booth recommended a no vote on the warrant article, which was resoundingly provided by the voters. Not having to borrow to front the costs of this project will save the town an estimated \$24,000-\$28,000 in interest.

According to Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin, an informational meeting was held the previous week to provide background information to voters and allow additional time for questions and concerns. That meeting was attended by 13 people and almost all were members of the Select Board, Finance Committee, Water and Sewer Commission and Board of Health.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:17 p.m.

## HOUSING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

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If you need to make improvements to your roof, windows, siding, plumbing, electrical, lead paint/ asbestos removal, heating system, septic system repair/ replacement and/or other program eligible improvements, please fill out the following form and return to Joe Hagopian at the PVPC (address appears below). ALL information received is strictly confidential and will be maintained in the Springfield office of the PVPC. If you have questions, please contact PVPC Senior Planner Joe Hagopian, at (413) 781-6045 or jhagopian@pvpc.org

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Single/Multi Family (Please Circle One) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Improvements Needed: \_\_\_\_\_

My household income is not greater than (circle one according to your household size):

1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
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Return to: Joe Hagopian, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street - 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104 or via email at: jhagopian@pvpc.org

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# CHESTER



*Submitted photos*  
Above, The children made homemade Valentine's and put them in the decorated mailboxes. They also enjoyed a sweet treat. Left, Maya Giglia holds up the pictures in the book she is reading. Right, Maya Giglia reads to children at the special Valentine's story time at the Hamilton Memorial Library in Chester.



## Library lists upcoming classes

CHESTER – Free Tai Chi and Qi Gong classes sponsored by the Hamilton Memorial Library welcomes all ages and abilities.

These classes will be held at Chester Town Hall at 15 Middlefield Road, in the auditorium. Classes will be

held on the last Wednesdays of the months: Feb 25 and March 25 with a start time of 4:30 p.m. and ending at 5:45 p.m.

People may sign up by calling the library at 413-354-7808 or emailing the instructor at wellnesseduca-

tion123@gmail.com. They should leave their name, email and phone number.

If they have any questions about the content of the program, they should email the teacher at wellneseducation123@gmail.com.

## RACE

*from page 1*

already paid for both. If the partner is asked to pay, this indicates that they have inadvertently created a second registration that they need to delete and search again for their team captain's registration to attach themselves to.

As in the past, instructional clinics will be held on Saturdays, April 4 and April 11, where paddlers can learn more about proper clothing, paddling equipment, proper paddling technique, self-rescue after capsizing, and how to correctly run the river and cross the two portages.

An after race celebration will take place at Strathmore Park between noon and 4 p.m., with awards being handed out around

3 p.m., based on when the final paddlers are off of the river. There will be two food trucks on site, including the North Elm Butcher Block offering burgers, brisket and pulled pork sandwiches and La Veracruzana providing Mexican fare. D. J. Keven Crane will provide music and announcements throughout the afternoon. All are welcome to attend. Prizes for top finishes in each race and class will be awarded, along with prizes for best costumes and best team names.

Popular viewing spots with parking, porta-potties and trash bins include the Expert Race start line at Knightville Dam and the Expert finish line at the

Rt. 20 pulloff across from the Hilltown Community Health Center in Huntington, which has again graciously offered their parking lot for spectator and racer vehicles. Classic Race viewing spots include that same pulloff, the Main Street Bridge in Russell with parking on Frog Hollow Road, the Route 20 Whipperton pulloff, and from Strathmore Park requiring a hike down to the river. Spectators are not allowed at the Classic Race start or finish as there is no room for spectator vehicles at either location.

Questions may be sent to Rock by emailing races@westfieldriver.org or calling 413-564-9863.

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## GUEST COLUMN



## I'm still working; Why didn't my benefit amount increase

Dear Rusty:

*I have been working somewhat consistently since commencing my Social Security benefit income. I've been collecting since my full benefit age of 66, approximately. I'm now 81 and customarily, in about October of each calendar year, Social Security notifies me of additional benefits from my additional work. Not this year.*

*I earned some \$18,000-\$19,000 in 2025. SS advised I did not meet some 35-year formula. I thought that formula just applied to the original benefit calculation. Otherwise, one seems cheated given the SS taxes paid on income received after applying for benefits without any consideration for that income. Please advise me.*

**Signed: Feeling Cheated**

Dear Feeling Cheated:

For Your Information, your Social Security benefit is always based on the highest 35 years of your lifetime earnings with your early years' earnings automatically adjusted for inflation. And that formula continues even after you start receiving benefits. Social Security will look at your earnings each year to see if your recent earnings are among your highest. If so, they will automatically recalculate your benefit to give you a higher amount and pay you retroactively to the first of that year.

Apparently, in past years, your more recent earnings were among the highest over your lifetime, which is why you received those notifications in the fall of each previous year saying your benefit was adjusted based upon recent earnings. That you didn't get a similar notification this year, means that your earnings in 2024 were not among the highest over your lifetime, so no adjustment to your monthly benefit was appropriate.

Now, to clarify, those annual notices you received in the past always referred to the pre-

ceding year – that is, if you received a notice in October 2024 of a higher SS benefit, that was a result of your 2023 earnings. If you got no such notice in October of 2025, that means that your 2024 income was not among the highest over your lifetime. And your 2025 earnings of \$18,000 - \$19,000 will likely not be among your lifetime highest either, so you probably won't get a notice next year either.

It's important to understand that your contributions to Social Security, i.e., the SS payroll taxes you pay while working, are not put into a separate account for you – rather, they are used to help pay benefits to all beneficiaries.

In other words, just contributing to SS with payroll tax from your work earnings doesn't necessarily mean you get a higher benefit. Your SS benefit is always based upon the 35 years in which you earned the most, including recent years if you continue to work. So, you weren't "cheated" that is simply how the program works your SS benefit is always based on your highest 35 years of work earnings, including recent years, with earnings from the early years adjusted for inflation.

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

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If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com), or call us at 413-283-8393.

Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.

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## OPINION

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Digital teen dating violence common

Dating violence is more common than we may think, especially among teens.

In fact, according to [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org), one in three teens in the United States will experience relationship abuse before becoming adults. Unfortunately, it can be hard for teens to identify abuse, especially when the abuse is digital. Digital abuse includes tracking a partner's movements, pressure to send intimate photos, threats to share intimate photos, demands to share passwords or to follow or unfollow certain people on social media.

These behaviors can leave young people feeling trapped and unable or afraid to reach out for help.

Fortunately, there are things we can do about it. Start by talking to the teens in your life. Do they think it's okay for a partner to ask for passwords, track location or monitor social media activity? Let them know they can come to you for help. You – or your teen – can always call, text or chat with a love is respect advocate to identify extra precautions when using technology.

A few things you can do to improve safety: Check privacy settings to limit who can see posts and location. Turn off 'Find My Phone' and other location-sharing

settings. Check for tracking devices (air tags, smart-watches or shared accounts) or Spyware installed on devices. If you suspect spyware on a phone, do a factory reset on the device or seek professional tech support. Keep in mind – tracking devices can also be placed in vehicles or on items like your purse or cell phone.

Here are some things you can do if someone is being digitally abused:

Take screenshots of any communications you do not consent to. Save anything that documents controlling behavior including texts, photos, messaging or social media. This information may be critical and may allow you to obtain a restraining order in Massachusetts.

If someone shares an intimate photo without consent, immediately notify them. For example, "I do not consent to you sharing the image of me [add description {such as the date and any other identifying factors}]. I want you to delete it as I do not give you permission to share it." Keep a record of your notification to them.

If someone is controlling an account, change passwords and enable two-factor authentication.

When considering digital health, it can be helpful to remember these three A's:

Awareness of their online behavior - are they on their phone more than usual - laughing, smiling, texting - then something shifts. They become withdrawn, anxious or more secretive.

Accept what they tell you by listening, being supportive even if you struggle to understand their decisions. Being judgmental may make them less likely to ask for help when they need it.

Allow them to make up their own minds if possible. Abuse is about power and control and making decisions for them can add to the disempowerment they experience from a partner.

For more tips, see [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org) or contact Hilltown Safety at Home, 413-693-9977. Thank you for all you do to support Hilltown teens, especially in February, Teen Dating Violence Awareness month.

*Signed by members of Southern Hills Domestic Violence Task Force:*

**Lindsey Maxwell**  
**Kim Savery**  
**Phil Barry**  
**Melissa Reid**  
**Trooper Brendan Schutter**  
**Stephanie Conway**  
**Mark Ames**  
**Victoria Arbuckle**  
**Mary Krol**  
**Monica Moran**  
**Donna Larocque**



### GUEST COLUMN

## What are shallots, anyway?

Shortly after the two part column on growing onions, I received a question about shallots.

My friend was looking through a seed catalog and wanted to know the ins and outs of growing them. This topic was a fun one for me because it required some research.

Can you believe that the Garden Lady has never grown shallots before? There is an explanation why, with part of the reason being that I am not what you'd consider a fancy cook, and shallots have their

place in fine dining. The other reason is that admittedly I never understood the point of shallots – aren't they just small onions? Why would you buy something special for a recipe if you had a good old fashioned onion in the pantry?

As all the cooks in the audience gasp, let me qualify that statement with the fact that now I know better.

Shallots are slightly different plants from onions scientifically. Whereas the onion goes by the name *Allium cepa*, shallots are what you would call a cousin, with the Latin name *Allium cepa* gr. *Aggregatum*.

Although the flavor hints of garlic (who is another more distant cousin), shallots are sweeter and more mild than onions, and are a staple in French and Asian cuisine where they can be used raw or cooked. Think delicate sauces or vinaigrettes.

GARDEN, page 9

## Country Journal TEAM



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## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, 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 or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Mail letter to Country Journal, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or mail your letter to: [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com).



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@ Country Journal

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## Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com).

Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by **noon Friday** to be considered for the following Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the

newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's

Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Country Journal.

# OPINION

## HILLTOWN HISTORY

### Turning Up the Heat on Long Johns

By Deborah Daniels  
Correspondent

Have you been watching those critter tracks outside? Four footers leaving some revealing footprints. Finding you have some neighbors you didn't know about huh? And what about roof gawking, something we New Englanders have to do with 18 inches of snow laying about.

Which leads me to the question of have you been wearing your Long Johns? You know your woolies, thermals, union suit, long underwear? Well dig them out because these arctic temps put personal insulation a top priority. You would do well to wear them if you're going outside and maybe even on the inside if your roof is threatening to collapse.

What's the history on Long Johns? If you watched the TV show "Rawhide" then you saw Wishbone (the actor who played the cook) forever prancing about the chuck wagon in his union suit. Children watching the show thought that this was just what old time cook's wore on mule trains. Those were Long Johns Wishbone had on, his flannel underwear, a one piece garment worn under your shirt and trousers to keep you warm in cold weather. Those long johns were originally made of red flannel with buttons down the front and a flap in the back for outhouse use. The backside was also known as the butt flap, access hatch, drop seat and fireman's flap among other cruder names.

They were worn by prospectors, miners, loggers, railroad workers and cowpokes. You might be surprised to learn that women engineered the union suit in 1875 to get rid of the tight corset and bustle worn under their petticoats. It started as a knit flannel waist shirt and drawers all sewn into one piece and named the

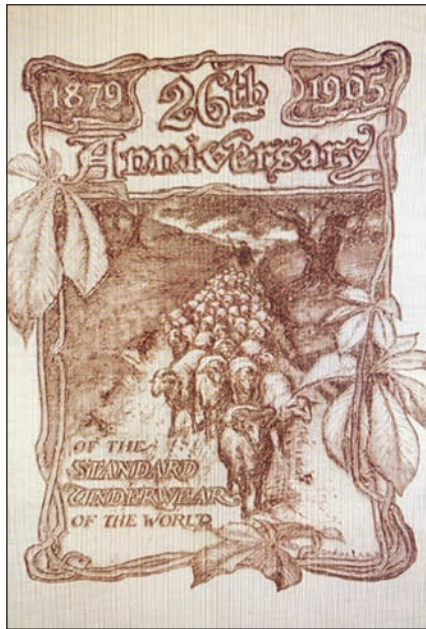


Man wearing Long Johns as leisure wear, taken from the internet.

"Emancipation Suit." Susan Taylor Converse of Woburn, designed it and gave it this name. All that freedom and warmth. To say women burned their corsets might be a bit extreme, but women welcomed the Emancipation Suit.

That is one theory behind the origins of the union suit name. The two halves of underwear top and bottom were now united.

The British claimed to have first manufactured the union suit in Derbyshire, England where there have been knitting mills since 1784. John Smedley owned the Lea Mills there and claimed he created the union suit which he named after the American heavyweight boxing champ John L. Sullivan aka Boston Strong Boy (boxing champ from 1882-1892). It was modeled after the suit he wore in the boxing ring. The company is still in business today making Long Johns. The French knitters claimed their longues jambes were first and designed to protect your outer clothing from sweat, body oils and grimey stains. That is where the term Long Johns was thought to come from,



Courtesy photos

Left, 1887 photo of an advertisement of Jaeger, maker of underwear for the world, showing a herd of sheep. Above, members of the Breckenridge Fire Dept., Colorado wearing Long Johns with shorts over them, preparing to exercise.



Military woman washing her Long Johns in a pot.

longues jambes meaning long legs in French.

Technically the union suit was one piece of long underwear and long johns were made of two pieces: a top shirt and long pants. They were made of wool and flannel. Flannel is woven wool that is napped by rubbing the fabric with a fine metal brush that scuffs the wool, creating a softer texture. Wool for Long Johns was selected because it was warm and absorbed moisture thereby protecting the body from the cold. Only it was itchy. American GIs cursed the itchy Long Johns they were issued during WWI (1914-1918) and again in WWII (1939-1945).

That problem was finally solved when the wool was spun into longer threads and blended with synthetic fiber that wore much softer on the skin. Longer thread also resisted pilling and denoted better quality wool. Merino wool topped the list for warmth and softness. Red flannel was used to make early Long Johns because it was said to be easy to wash, but probably more importantly because it hid stains well. Remember, bathing was not a daily occurrence.

Later the red flannel Long Johns became associated with the rugged outdoors and with strong-men like Paul Bunyan. That kept a positive twist on wearing



Valentine long johns contrasted with one pair of hunting long johns, part of an advertisement for Indera/ Hanes/Alaskan Hardgear and Carhartt long underwear.

Long Johns. On a cold winter night who doesn't want to pull on their flannels and tuck in?

It was George D.Munsing (1858-1921) who invented a method of plating wool fibers with silk and cotton fibers to make union suits more comfortable. He was born in Ludlow. He went on to create the company Munsingwear located in Minneapolis, Minnesota where from 1890-1920 the flagship product was the itch less union suit. He located specifically in Minnesota because of the cold weather, which he knew would command warm underwear. Apparently the 30,000 garments produced per day was not enough as he diversified

into making women's underwear in 1920. Munsingwear still exists only it is under the Perry Ellis International, Inc. company.

It must be mentioned that Hamilton Carhartt (1855-1937) the founder of the workwear clothing company, opened his factory in Detroit in 1889 making union suits for construction and railroad workers. It was not just denim and duck canvas work clothes, but foundation undergarments as well. After all the proper foundation of a pair of Long Johns keeps the world warm and ticking in the wintertime. Nowadays we jump into our union suits and head for bed where we do sleep tight.



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## News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows.

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



**First Congregational Church of Blandford**  
Pastor Ciprian Droma  
91 Main St., Blandford, MA 01008  
413-848-2052  
Sunday service 10 a.m.

**First Congregational Church of Chester**  
334 Skyline Trail, Chester, MA 01011  
Pastor Susan Borsella  
Service with Live Music: 10 a.m. - Sunday  
Coffee and Sweets Social:  
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

**First Congregational Church of Williamsburg**  
Rev. Jack Kraaz  
4 North Main St., Williamsburg, MA 01096  
413-268-7557  
burgychurch@gmail.com • burgychurch.org  
Facebook:  
First Congregational Church of Williamsburg  
YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w  
Office Hours: Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 12 noon  
Days and Hours of Services: Sun. at 10 a.m.

**Hilltown Community Church**  
Dr. Robert Perreault, Senior Pastor  
55 Main St., Russell, MA 01071  
413-275-3232  
Office: 413-862-3341  
hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com  
hilltowncommunitychurch.com  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/p/Hilltown-Community-Church-61580281487624/  
Sunday Mornings 10 a.m.

**Holy Family Parish**  
Rev. Ronald F. Sadowski, known as Fr. Ron  
5 Main St., Russell, MA 01071  
413-862-4418  
Office Hours: No set times.  
Please call, leave a voice message or email: holyfamilyrussell.org  
parish@holyfamilyrussell.org  
Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.  
Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. & 11 a.m.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY



# Your Community Church

**New Boston Congregational Church**  
4 Sandisfield Rd., PO Box 81  
Sandisfield, MA 01255  
Services held twice monthly, check website: www.newbostoncongregationalchurch.org

**Pioneer Valley Assembly of God**  
Pastor Javier Melendez  
63 Old Chester Rd., Huntington MA 01050  
413-667-3196  
pvagliffe@gmail.com  
www.pioneervalleyag.org  
Facebook: Pioneer Valley Assembly of God  
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m.

**Pioneer Valley Mennonite Fellowship**  
Deacon Jerald Reinford  
400 Huntington Rd., Russell, MA 01071  
(413) 297-6037  
Sunday worship at 10 a.m.  
Visitors appreciated.

## WESTHAMPTON

# Westhampton Public Library announces upcoming events

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Public Library, 1 North Road, is open

Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m.. Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

To place a request for curbside pickup, people may email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386.

Recurring programs include computer help with Bob Miller second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon, knitting group Mondays at 6 p.m., Yoga Mondays at 6 p.m., Scrabble group Tuesdays at 2 p.m., book group Tuesdays at 2 p.m., walk-in wellness with Westhampton's Public Health nurse first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30

a.m., and coffee and chat Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon. Deborah will be filling in for Teri and leading Slow Yoga classes in March.

Energy advocated office hours are Wednesday, March 25 at 1 p.m. and Tech Connect drop-in tech help Thursday, March 26 from 2-4 p.m.

For children and teens programs are CFCE Playgroup: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., story time with Emily Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and music with Naomi Wednesday, March 4 at 3 p.m. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Public Library and the Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring this fun music and movement series for preschool-aged children and their families.

After school pro-

grams are a rotating schedule of after school fun at Westhampton Public Library every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult, or sibling 12 years of age or older. LEGO Club meets first Thursdays, March 5 at 3:30 p.m.; open crafting second Thursdays, March 12 at 3:30 p.m.; Switch happy hour third Thursdays, March 19 at 3:30 p.m.; Comics Club fourth Thursdays March 26 at 3:30 p.m. and Teen Craft Nights third Thursdays, March 19 at 6 p.m.

This month's craft will be pressed flower bookmarks. To sign up, teens should email Emily at ewayne@cwmar.org.

Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Public Library and the Lyn Keating Programming Fund

for sponsoring all afterschool children and teen programming.

Tech connect devices are available for checkout. Thanks to a grant from the Northern Hilltown Council on Aging and Tech Connect: Success for Older Adults, the following devices are now available for a three-week loan: Android Galaxy Tablet, Casio Keyboard, Kindle Paperwhite Ereader and HP Chromebook Laptops. For more information, people may visit <https://tinyurl.com/439y6p3d>.

Author Maureen Groden will visit on Thursday, March 5 at 6 p.m. The author, Maureen Groden, RN, is a hospice nurse. Participants will hear about her new book "When a Loved One is Dying: Conversations About Care,

Connection and Coping." When faced with a loved one's serious illness, many families find themselves overwhelmed, uncertain and afraid. In this compassionate guide, the author offers a sympathetic and deeply human glimpse into one of life's most challenging passages. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event. People may stop by the library and receive a 30% coupon code for the book if they wish to purchase it ahead of time. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Public Library and the Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring this event.

Visual mending circle meets on Thursday, March 12 from 6-8 p.m. Instead of fretting about that hole in a favorite

sweater, turn it into visual art. Participants will join library staff to explore the exciting and creative world of visual mending. Using the book "Mending Life: A Handbook for Repairing Clothes and Hearts" as a reference guide, they'll practice sashiko mending and plain weave darning together. Special thanks to the authors of "Mending Life" Nina and Sonya Montenegro for providing instructions for this program. And, special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Public Library and the Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring this event. All materials will be provided and registration is required for this event. To register, people may email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386.

## BLANDFORD



COA Director Margit Mikuski table hopped with coffee. She is shown with Ted and Cosette Cousineau.



Sue Racine, COA Board Member, chats with diner Stephen Hart; in the background serving is Judith MacKinnon.

## Council on Aging enjoys Valentine's Day lunch

BLANDFORD – St. Valentine's Day luncheon, albeit a day early, was a well-received treat for diners. The herbed baked cod and fixings prepared all for the cherry pie bar dessert.

The next lunch is Friday, Feb. 27, for a pasta treat with homemade meatballs, roasted Brussels sprouts, garlic bread and Gelato with fruit

topping. There is no charge for the COA lunches, but Director Margit Mikuski asks that patrons consider a \$5 donation to keep the program going.

Diners should call the Town Hall at 413-848-4279, ext. 400 and leave the name and number of people attending.



Decked out for St. Valentine's Day, Chef Joann Martin enjoys the cherry pie bar dessert.

Photos courtesy of Sue Bloomrose

## PLAN

### Energy Projects Siting and Engagement Committee

The board received Trae Jellinek's resignation from the Energy Projects Siting and Engagement Committee.

Jackie Coury told the board that the town has filed a petition to intervene for the Energy Facility Siting Board, Department of Public Utilities hearing on Eversource's request for zoning bylaw exemption. She said, "Now is the time for everyone to contact legislators." She added that it is important to understand the challenges, and consider safety.

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera said that it was good to have the intervenor status because it gives the town a "seat at the table." But that the Eversource substation project is already an approved project; a "re-existing, pre-approved use" and the "seat at the table" gives the town the opportunity to learn more and get more information.

### Contract

The board approved a contract amendment made on Feb. 9 with Drummy Roseanne Anderson, the architectural firm for the library expansion project.

There is no increase in cost.

### Eversource issue

Coury brought up another Eversource issue, the town's checks to the company have been returned because the reference for the invoice was a date rather than the account number. This will be corrected.

### Ambulance calls

The Hilltown Community Ambulance reported that between October and December 2025 they responded to 15 calls and made 11 transports, "mostly medical."

Finally, Coury proposed any application that

is energy related should be reviewed by everybody, not just the Planning Board and Building Commissioner.

Ted Cousineau said that each project has its own Owners Project Manager who, he believes, should be communicating with EPSEC.

### Veteran's Services

The board met at their next evening, Feb. 10, with Joe Henning who is responsible for Veterans' Services for the town's resident military veterans. The upshot of the lengthy discussion was that the Select Board would like to know what are the specific responsibil-

ities Blandford has for its veterans. Henning referred the board to Mass General Laws, Chapter 115 and the Hero Act for information. Cousineau said, "We need a list of responsibilities." The town budgets \$10,000 annually for services for veterans, what sort of things can it be used for.

Henning suggested cutting the budget to \$5,000. Coury said she thought it was Henning's job to communicate with the veterans. Henning suggested more information could be on the town's website, but "the bottom line is services are on an

individual basis." During the course of the hour-long discussion, Select Board members repeated the request for the town's responsibilities.

Henning will also provide the board with the Valor Act. He said, "Getting vets motivated is something else." He said he has tried.

Coury said, the town "wants to understand what you do and what we should do." Cousineau said, "When the vets are not getting a response or a response that they need, we (the town) need to step up and watch and see how Henning is reacting."

from page 1

## CHESTERFIELD

### GORGEOUS DAY MAKES FOR GREAT WINTER HIKING



A small brook trickles along a trail in Chesterfield.



Tracks show the way along this trail in Chesterfield this past weekend.

Turley Publications photos by Deborah Daniels

## Town clerk lists census, dog license and election information

CHESTERFIELD – Town Clerk Sandy Wickland reports the annual street listing (census) forms and dog license forms have been mailed out to each household and need to be returned to the clerk's office.

If residents have not received these, they should call the town clerk's office at 413-296-4741 or email townclerk@townofchesterfield.com to get one sent to them. They should provide their name, correct mailing address or an email address so that the forms can be sent to them.

By returning the street listing it will keep voters

active on the voters list and from the information gathered from these completed forms, we get the number of residents for many programs for senior residents, the number of children that may be attending school currently and in the future, and it gives us a count of veterans. All this information is very helpful for towns to apply for many programs helpful to all residents.

Dog licenses are required each year for any dog six months or older and the current licenses expire Tuesday, March 31. They should return these documents with the proper infor-

mation to license their dogs (a current rabies certificate and the fee \$10 for intact dogs and \$5 for spayed or neutered dogs and a stamped, self-addressed envelope) to get the licenses mailed back to them.

A Rabies and Microchip Clinic will be held in Williamsburg on Saturday, March 14 at the Fire station, 16 Main St., from 10 a.m. – noon. This is for dogs and cats and is open to all other towns as well. Rabies shots are \$26 each, microchipping is \$68. There will not be a Rabies Clinic in Chesterfield this year.

Town Election nomina-

tion papers are now available from the Town Clerk for the Monday, May 4 annual election. To run for office a candidate must be a registered voter of Chesterfield and take out a nomination paper and gather at least 25 signatures from registered voters of Chesterfield. Papers must be returned to the clerk's office no later than Tuesday, March 16 by 5 p.m.

The following positions will be on the May 4, election ballot. Positions are for three years unless noted otherwise. The name of the current office holder is shown next to the open seat.

Positions include Select

Board -Patricia (Trish) Colson-Montgomery, current holder; Assessor – Mary Ann Severance-Rys, current holder; Library Trustee – Jennifer Peotter, current holder; Board of Health –Margaret (Peg) Whalen; Planning Board (three seats for three years – Daniel Henshaw, John L (Jack) Lyons, Eileen McGowan, current holders; Planning Board (two seats for two years) -one vacancy because of the death of Fred Drake and the other is because current member Sarah Hamilton is leaving her term early; Town Clerk – Sandra (Sandy) Wickland, current holder; Tax Collector

– Lenore (Lennie) Pittsinger, current holder; Treasurer – Margaret (Meg) McWherter, current holders; Chesterfield/Goshen School Committee– Don Willard III, current holder; Constable – Daniel Blair, current holder and Tree Warden – Christopher Ryan, current holder

Any registered voter may apply for a Vote By Mail application by contacting the clerk's office or visiting online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voting-information/vote-by-mail.htm>.

People may call or email the Town Clerk if they have any questions.

## BECKET

### BAC accepting art submissions

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, is accepting submissions for fine art in all mediums: drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, mixed media, for its exhibition season from April through September.

Selected artists will

be featured in the Arts Center galleries alongside three other artists in one of several group shows. One piece will be selected for the season's Poster Award and that artwork will represent the Becket Arts Center on its seasonal promotional poster. The winning art-

ist will be awarded \$300 as well as a solo show in August. Submission fee is \$25 and \$20 for Becket Arts Center members. Deadline for submissions is Sunday, March 1. People may visit [becketartcenter.org/2026callforart](http://becketartcenter.org/2026callforart) for more information.

### Becket Arts Center holds fundraiser

BECKET – On Friday, Feb. 20, the Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will hold a Flannel Fundraiser to help support the Arts Center's year-round programming.

There will be food, fun and lots of flannel-wearing. Flannel is required; dancing shoes optional. Rounders Revival, a

Berkshire group known for its uplifting acoustic renditions of American folk and country, will provide the music. Katie Herbst (rhythm guitar and vocals), Graham Sturz (lead guitar and vocals), Dave Brown (mandolin and resonator guitar) and Matt Shomphe (bass), along with other musicians will contribute

to the evening's community vibe.

In that same spirit, participants are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for the Becket Food Pantry to the event. Tickets are \$15 for non-members and \$10 for members. For more information, people may visit [becketartcenter.org](http://becketartcenter.org).

### MassDOT announces I-90 bridge repairs

BECKET – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces bridge repairs on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 20 in Becket.

The work is scheduled now through Friday, Feb. 20 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day and will require lane closures.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and advanced message

boards will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com)

to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear realtime conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

## WORTHINGTON

### Special town Meeting on Feb. 24

WORTHINGTON – A Special Town Meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. in the R.H. Conwell School, 147 Huntington Road.

The warrant contains six articles. The first article if approved would adopt to allow a voice vote, which is not unanimous, but is clearly a 2/3 majority to be declared by the moderator as approved.

Articles 2 to 5 are all money related have both Select Board and Finance Committee recommendation.

They include appropriation and transfer of \$7,110.10 from the Police Part-time Wages account to Police Department expenses and the appropriation and transfer of \$701.75 from the Recording Secretary Wages to the Election Expense account to cover the cost of the Special Town Election on Nov. 8, 2025.

Article 4 asks voters to appropriate and transfer \$572.57 from the Tent account to the Accounting and Treasury Software accounts to pay outstand-

ing balances due. Article 5 if approved would transfer \$54.70 from the Fire Department Operating Expense account to pay a Fiscal Year 2025 Rockwood Ag-Grid bill.

The final article is a Citizen's petition and asks voters to amend the Worthington Zoning By Law by adding a new section: Temporary Moratorium on large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations and Battery Energy Storage Systems.

## WESTFIELD

### Stanley Park history explored

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park of Westfield in collaboration with the Westfield Athenaeum invites the community to step back in time during a special Stanley Park History Program on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. The program will be held at the Westfield Women's Club, 28 Court Street, Westfield.

Local historian Robert Brown will lead an engaging discussion on the origins of Stanley Park, tracing its beginnings in 1949 and highlighting the people, vision, and preservation efforts that shaped the park into the cherished community space it is today. Brown earned a Westfield Preservation Award from the Westfield Historical

Commission in 2023.

Attendees will also enjoy a screening of the 8-minute documentary, Stanley Park: Rooted in the Past, Growing for the Future, which captures the park's history, mission, and enduring impact. Stanley Park staff will be on site to answer questions about the park, upcoming programs, and ways to get involved during the upcoming season. Light refreshments will be served.

This free program is open to the public. For questions or additional information, please contact the Development Office at 413-568-9312 ext. 108 or email [development@stanleypark.org](mailto:development@stanleypark.org).

### Alzheimer's Support Group meets Feb. 25

WESTFIELD – Alzheimer's Association Support Group meets on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. in Armbrook Village Senior Living and Memory Support Community, 551 North Road. Caregivers and family members are invited to enjoy a light dinner and to share their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with their loved ones. The public is welcome. To join this group, people may call 413-568-0000 or email [reception@armbrookvillage.com](mailto:reception@armbrookvillage.com). Groups are held on the last Wednesday of the month.

## SCHOOLS &amp; YOUTH

## Hampshire Regional High School announces honor roll

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional High School list the students making the honor roll.

**Ninth grade first honors**

Ninth grade students making the honor roll are: Elizabeth Barry, Erin Benard, Elaina Bigda, Samantha Black, Jadon Buell, Leila Doolittle, Jacqueline DuCharme, Talya Eiseman, Jocelyn Fasoli, Trinity Fellows, Isabella Fini, Ryan Garvey, Lexie Gauger, Samantha Gay, Aiden Goyette, Willow Gutermuth, Noah Haryasz, Hayden Johnson, Saoirse Keane, Margaret Kugler, Natalie Labrie, Sophia Lashway, Anna MacLachlan, Felicity Manganelli, Ethan Neylon, Connor Perkins, Abigail Phelan, Mackensie Provost, Shane Radon, Kacey Reed, Maeve Reynolds, Hazel Scully-Henry, Addison

Thomas, Amay Torres Mor, Aurelia Tosh, Sadie Wasiuk, Ethan White, Amelia Woz and Tarlo Zerbach.

**Tenth grade first honors**

Tenth grade students making first honors are Logan Andrades, Declan Butler, Ace Charette, Amanda Clemeno, Ada Corner, Brianna Day, Sasha Dengate, Kalin Dubai, Rosemarie Estelle, Gabrielle Falkowski, Alana Hanke, Colleen Hearn, Grant Jennings, Logan LaPointe, Samantha Law, Charlotte Letendre Letendre, Eleanor Miller, Jacob Moran, Charlotte Niswonger, Mason Normandin, Hobbes O'Sullivan, William Overtree, Luke Pickard, Caroline Puttick, Torin Rowlett, Maya Rudnitzky, Colton Shadrick and Madelyn Zannotti.

**Eleventh grade first honors**

Eleventh grade students making first hon-

ors are: Alyssa Barcomb, Kathleen Barry, Emmett Bastek, Madeline Bresnahan, Kai Calabretta Rek, Emma Chateauneuf, Lily Connor, Alexa Cortis, Owen Cubi, Raegan Dubai, Ryanne Dubai, Natalie Dunlap, Nadia Easton, Harrison Farrar, Leo Florek, Amelia Gilman, Xavier Greenberg, Rachael Hickox, Isaiah Isa, Katelyn Krause, Magdeline Lashway, Addison Miklasiewicz, Thomas Moore, Shayne Moynahan, Catalina Ocampo, Hailey Paszko, Caroline Payson, Nicholas Roy, Aria Simonelli, Brielle Stine, Eleri Tomsovic and Sophia Tremblay.

**Twelfth grade first honors**

Twelfth grade students making first honors were: Phoebe Bowser, Keegan Butler, Colin Cahill, Alexandra Henrichon, Layce Mancuso, Carlea Manley,

Lucy McVey, Joseph Moro, Augusts Niswonger, Reese O'Connell, Caitlyn Packey, Evelyn Palmer, Andrea Paszko, Lauren Pellegrini, Oscar Schiff, Corinne Somes, Elisabeth Sturtevant, Rachel Theroux and Lucia Winters.

**Ninth grade second honors**

Ninth grade students making second honors are: Roman Andruchuk, Madison Bannish, Ethan Benard, Gabriel Carrasquillo, Raquelle Denoronha, Danny Diaz, Lauren Filipek, Sage Fisk, Emersen Florek-Grader, Anthony Giannetti, Jaymes Goddard, Talia Goddard, Mason Hean, Tanner Hunsicker, Thomas Janik, Madison Johnson, Emma McDonald, Vivienne Mendes, Bryce Meunier, Noa Nabut, Teagan Noel, Damian Pasiut, Mason Pedersen, Avrianna Rodriguez, Sienna Steffenhagen, Emmett Stith,

Nicholas Theroux, Jax Waddell, Brody Watkins, Ava Westcott and Brooke York.

**Tenth grade second honors**

Tenth grade students making second honors are: Dexter Bonczek, Colby Cabrini, Juliette Cerone, Isaac Clark, Lucas Domina, Judah Jensen, H. Kellogg, Elsa Kelly, Kameron Locke, Moira Long, Owen Moylan, Jamison Parrish, Fiona Reynolds, Lukasz Robak, Karaghan Rogalski, Patrick Schmidt, Grace Scoble, Keira Tataro, Katelyn Theroux, Malcolm Todd, Olivia Whittaker and Joseph Wright.

**Eleventh grade second honors**

Eleventh grade students making second honors are: Elyse Campbell, Julia Caputo, Aidan Conklin, Francis Dunn, Kason Fellows, Kyle LeBeau, Hayden Miller, Austin

Mullaly, Grayson Noel, Clare Norris, Autumn O'Malley, Vanessa Reese, Emmett Schatz, Allison St. Pierre, Finch Stahl, Isaac Stith, Madeline West and Benjamin Zajac.

**Twelfth grade second honors**

Twelfth grade students making second honors are: Pom Sonika Ang, Ava Bourbeau, Parker Christy, Eleanor Cleary, Gabriel Couture, Isabelle Couture, Jayden Hamel, Eamonn Hilnbrand, Sarah Hultman, Braylon Jarrett, Rylee Joseph, Efreim Korytoski, Madelyn Layman, Abigail Provost, Logan Rourke, Tristan Somes, Bridget Sullivan, Avery Tudryn and Paige Walsh.

**Thirteenth grade students**

Thirteenth grade student making second honors is Jonathan Rodriguez.

## MONTEREY

## Bidwell House Museum to host online program

MONTEREY – The Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, will hold an online program on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. on the life of a Continental soldier with Asher Lurie.

Members are free. Non-members are \$15. Only one registration is required per household. Lecture will be held via Zoom. The Bidwell House Museum is excited to present the first of two off-season Zoom programs about the Revolutionary War era, a timely topic in 2026, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

This talk will be followed by a lecture in late March about life in New York City during the British occupation of 1776-1783. Asher Lurie will explain the experiences of a soldier in the Continental Army from 1775 to 1783 including their hardships, how they fought, drilled, dined and marched and the purpose of the items they carried on their backs. This talk will highlight the evolution of an army that lost many early battles against one of the world's best armies and went on to become capable of going toe-to-toe with British regulars.

Asher Lurie is the Executive Director of the Hopewell Museum in Hopewell, New Jersey. Before coming to the Hopewell Museum, he was the chief of Historical Interpretation at the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton, New Jersey. At the Old Barracks, Asher organized the annual recreation of the Battle of Trenton, which is also the largest event that takes place annually in Trenton. During his



Submitted photo

Asher Lurie will present a talk via Zoom on the life of a Continental soldier on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.

tenure at the Barracks, Asher focused on quality of interpretation and programming, which dramatically increased visitation at large scale events.

The lecture will be held via Zoom. Registration via the Museum event page is required, <https://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org/event/the-life-of-a-continental-soldier/>. Details for how to access the event will be sent via email a few days in advance.

The Bidwell House Museum grounds-194 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, self-guided trails and picnic sites-are open every day, dawn until dusk, free of charge. The program of events can be found by visiting the museum's website at [www.bidwellhouse-museum.org](http://www.bidwellhouse-museum.org).

## EASTHAMPTON

## Easthampton Theater presents 'Enchanted April' in March

EASTHAMPTON – The Easthampton Theater Company presents "Enchanted April" by Matthew Barber from the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim Saturday, March 14 through Sunday, March 22.

The play will be shown at the Williston Theater, 19 Payson Avenue.

For more information, people may visit [easthamptontheater.com](http://easthamptontheater.com) or email [info@easthamptontheater.com](mailto:info@easthamptontheater.com).

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## High school students invited to take part in juried art show

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Clark Art Institute, Living the Change Berkshires and Cooler Communities invite Berkshire County high school students to participate in a juried installation of student art about climate change.

Submissions are due Friday, March 6. The exhibition, How Shall We Live: Berkshire Youth Artists Explore Their Relationship with the Earth in the Time of Climate Change, is on view April 18-25 at the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St. In its fourth year, the initiative encourages local youth to pair art with

the environment as they consider ways to appreciate and protect the natural world. Following the closure of the show at the Clark, it will be on view at Pittsfield's City Hall and Sheffield's Dewey Hall from late April through June.

Submissions can be 2-D or 3-D but must express students' ideas on climate change and inspire others to care for the environment. Both individual and collaborative submissions are accepted. Students are asked to respond to one or more elements in the following prompt:

In the age of climate

change, What does nature provide? What are the earth's needs? What matters most? What is resilience? Where do you find guidance and inspiration?

For further submission information, people may visit [clarkart.edu/education](http://clarkart.edu/education) or call 413 458 0429.

The Clark hosts a free, public reception to celebrate the opening of the show and the work of participating student artists on Saturday, April 18 from 2:30-5 p.m. in the Lunder Center's Hunter Studio. Advance registration is encouraged. People may register at [events.clarkart.edu](http://events.clarkart.edu).

## COLLEGE NOTES

## Elms College lists December graduates

CHICOPEE – Elms College announce the students, who graduated in December 2025.

Local students graduating are Rebecca Boszko of Huntington, a Bachelor of Science degree and Aisha Rasheed of Westfield, a Master of Science degree.

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. It was founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

## MIDDLEFIELD

## Council on Aging announces this week's lunch menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Council on Aging lists the meal choices for the lunch on Wednesday, Feb.

25 in the Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Drive.

Menu choice inc At 1 p.m. they will be showing

a DVD by the Middlefield Memories Project, which will be stories of Marge Batorski's life as told by her daughter,

Sara Foley and son, Mark Doane. It will be part of a series of seven interviews that the would love to share.

## PITTSFIELD

## Berkshire Botanical Garden to host springtime bulb show

STOCKBRIDGE – A springtime tradition continues at Berkshire Botanical Garden, 5 West Stockbridge Road, from Friday, Feb. 20 through about Friday, March 20 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. with The Bulb Show.

People may step inside the Fitzpatrick Conservatory and they'll find a bright, fragrant retreat from winter's chill. Hundreds of bulbs fill the space from beloved tulips, daffodils and grape hyacinths to more unusual varieties that surprise and delight.

The Bulb Show, a trib-

ute to beauty, renewal and the quiet rhythm of the seasons, is free and open to everyone. Eric Ruquist, BBG's director of horticulture, calls the Bulb Show the Garden's annual "gift to the community," a blend of artistry and horticultural craft.

Creating this burst of color begins quietly in late summer, when the horticulture staff selects and orders the season's bulbs. Planting begins in the fall in the Lexan Greenhouse tulips first, then daffodils and finally the smaller bulbs that

round out the collection.

From there, the bulbs spend weeks in cool rooms beneath the Center House, where temperatures remain close to 42°F to simulate winter. Tulips need about 15 weeks of chilling, daffodils 12 and grape hyacinths ten. Staggered planting ensures a steady succession of blooms throughout the month-long show.

As their chilling period ends, the bulbs move back to the Lexan Greenhouse to "wake up." Over several weeks, they send up shoots, leaf out and eventually burst

into color. Before they're displayed in the Fitzpatrick Conservatory, each pot is topped with moss, pine needles or nut shells and the display team adds finishing touches including succulents, branches, even small stumps, to create depth and contrast.

When the show opens, the conservatory becomes a bright, fragrant haven. Its intimate scale invites visitors to lean in close for a fully immersive, "face-in-flowers" moment. The 2026 Bulb Show is sponsored by Webster Landscape.

## Berkshire Environmental Action Team to hold pipeline webinar

PITTSFIELD – Rosemary Wessel of Berkshire Environmental Action Team and Cathy Kristofferson of Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast will present an instructional webinar on gas transmission pipeline infrastructure and permitting, as seen in currently proposed projects in the Northeast.

The webinar will take place on Thursday, Feb. 19 from 7-8:30 p.m. Participants will learn about current pipeline proposals such as the Constitution and AGT Enhancement, what pipeline systems are made of, how different kinds of projects require different kinds of public input in the permit process and what they

mean for the energy landscape here in New England.

Registration is required by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/Pipelines101-webinar>. There has been a marked increase in gas transmission pipeline proposals in the Northeast. With the re-proposal of the Constitution Pipeline in Pennsylvania and New York, and expansion of the AGT pipeline system in eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, it's time to look at what these large pipelines are made of and understand their impacts.

Constitution pipeline would be a new direct supply line from the fracking fields of Pennsylvania into New York, and specifically states in its permit applica-

tions that its purpose is to make more gas available in New England. On its own, Constitution does not bring gas to New England but when it was originally proposed back in 2013, it led to more large pipeline project proposals across Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

"There are differences between interstate pipelines and those contained in just one state. They also vary depending on the size of the project and other factors such as environmental impacts. Sometimes larger pipeline systems are proposed in stages, with the main project proposed first, then add-ons proposed later. It's important to understand

what all the pieces of a pipeline system are to see how a proposed project could impact your area," says Rosemary Wessel, Director of BEAT's No Fracked Gas in Mass program.

"The federal permitting process can be complex and overwhelming for those new to interstate pipeline expansion projects. We will cover that and how the public can engage and participate," says Cathy Kristofferson of Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast.

Register for the webinar at <https://tinyurl.com/Pipelines101-webinar>. People may learn more at [thebeatnews.org](http://thebeatnews.org) or email [rose@thebeatnews.org](mailto:rose@thebeatnews.org) with questions.

## OBITUARIES

### Roland Duane Pease

1934-2026

CHESTER – Roland Duane Pease, 91, known to most as Duane or R. Duane, died Feb. 5, 2026 at Noble Hospital with family by his side. Born on May 4, 1934 in Pittsfield, Duane was the son of the late Roland S. Pease and Bessie L. (Blake) Pease.

He grew up in Middlefield and often shared tales of his wonderful childhood living on the farm with the extended family that included his parents, grandparents and uncles. His parents eventually moved to the house across the road (Harry Pease Road, named after his grandfather) which enabled him to continue to thrive in the sphere of that extended family that by then included cousins, who were also lifelong friends.

A consummate storyteller, Duane often shared detailed experiences of his childhood, working “in the woods,” his Navy days and myriad adventures throughout his 91 years. Always the joker, he would good-naturedly tease anyone he got to know and was fond of ending the teasing with a joke, a laugh and a quick exit.

One of the stories Duane told was about working with his father logging with horses in his teens. He loved the outdoors and while the work was hard, he loved it, too.

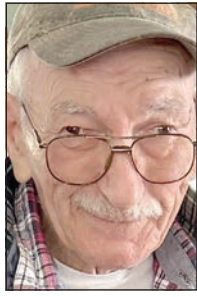
He attended Chester High School, but pulled a

prank on the principal, earning a “vacation” after which he said he just never went back to school. He went to work full-time logging and joined the Navy in 1953. Earning the rank of Gunner’s

Mate Third Class Petty Officer (E-4), he served on the USS Roosevelt and USS Coral Sea, both aircraft carriers, in the Mediterranean. He was Honorably Discharged in 1959.

Particularly in his younger years, Duane had a reputation as being “spirited” and was up for any challenge. The infamous race from downtown Chester to Becket was town talk for years as Duane, having a beverage with a buddy at the former Lute’s Rendezvous, challenged the fellow to a foot race from there to the former Bonnie Rigg, a distance of over four very uphill miles. With a line of cars behind him, urging him on, Duane won the race and was at the bar having another beverage long before his opponent arrived.

It was during his Navy years that he met his beloved “Bride” Kayin Norfolk, Virginia. They lived in Middlefield and after his Navy discharge moved to their house in Chester where they raised their family and Duane lived until his passing. His work through the years



focused mainly on the lumber industry and he spent a large part of his career as a foreman for Kelly Enterprises (formerly Kelly Hardwood) in Pittsfield and Becket, where he ran their pallet shop and sawmill.

After 25 years there, he went into business for himself as the president of Peasewood, Inc., a logging and firewood business. He eventually worked as a heavy equipment operator for J.H. Maxymillian in Pittsfield, then for the State of Massachusetts on the MassPike from which he retired. Once asked what he did for recreation, Duane responded, “work” as he loved being busy and productive. Even in his later years, he continued part-time in the lumber business buying timber lots for a small company, work he continued until his death. The woods were his absolute favorite place to be.

Duane also served the town of Chester as Tree Warden, then on the Chester Select Board for many years. He loved “town politics” and while his official duties ended years ago, he could still be found stopping into various offices at town hall or the highway department to share his thoughts on how things should be done. Duane was a highly intelligent, equally

stubborn, old-school “man’s man” with a love of reading. He loved history and was well-versed on both the American Civil War and World War II and a soft heart. An animal lover, Duane’s favorites were the four St. Bernard’s he had throughout his life. A tall strong man, Duane felt a kinship for that large but sweet breed.

Duane was predeceased by his bride of 59 years, Kay J. (Bailey) Pease; his sister Beth A. (Pease) Fuller and brother-in-law and close friend, Clarence A. “Butch” Bailey. He leaves behind his longtime companion and friend, Carol Stenico and his sons, Russell D. (Becky) of Springfield, Allen D. (Paige) of Charlotte, North Carolina and daughters, Barbara Pease Huntoon (Tom) of Chester, Karen Ann Pease Beam (Rick) of Shelby, North Carolina and Lindsay Woodbury of Chester. He also leaves 11 grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Per his request, no services will be held and Duane will be buried with military honors at Pine Grove Cemetery in Middlefield in the spring. Donations may be made in R. Duane Pease’s memory to the Chester Fire Department, Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011 or the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 351, Huntington, MA 01050.

## DEATH NOTICES

### ALWARD, DAVID B.

Died Feb. 9, 2026  
Life Celebration Gathering Feb. 27 2-4 p.m.  
at Chester Fire Station 1

### PEASE, ROLAND DUANE

Died Feb. 5, 2026  
No funeral service  
Burial will be in the spring

### TINNEY, KEITH E.

Died Feb. 13, 2026  
Services will be private

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## Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.*

### Keith E. Tinney, 71

Keith E. Tinney, 71, of Montgomery, passed away peacefully on Feb. 13, 2026. Born in Westfield on March 19, 1954, he was the son of the



late Wendell and Dorothy (Hall) Tinney.

Keith attended local schools. Keith dedicated 19 years of his career to Monson Developmental Center before retiring. He was known for his gentle nature and kind heart. An avid animal lover, Keith found great joy in nature and music, simple

pleasures that brought him lasting happiness throughout his life. To cherish his memory, Keith leaves his beloved wife, Barbara (Blando) Quen

Quenville of Montgomery, and his sister, Debbie LaPorte of North Carolina.

Services for Keith will be private and held at the convenience of the family. Donations in Keith’s name may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association. www.firtionadams.com.

Sept. 16, 1957 –  
Feb. 9, 2026

David B. Alward was born in Norwood and grew up in Walpole. The youngest of six siblings, he was active in sports and exploring the local woods. David excelled in academics and hockey at Walpole High School.

David earned a full scholarship to Cornell University. He majored in engineering and rowed lightweight crew. Graduating with honors he was accepted into The University of Massachusetts School of Polymer Science and Engineering and earned his Ph. D. in 1985.

Dave’s professional

### David B. Alward, 68

career began at Monsanto Company, where he worked as a research scientist specializing in electron microscopy and rheology. He also worked at 3M, Solutia, Cytec, Bayer and Eastman.

David loved the woods, mountains and sky. He backpacked almost every trail in the White Mountains with his brothers and his wife, Sue. He was a private pilot and loved flying all over New England with family and friends. He skied in the Swiss Alps and had many scuba diving adventures. His greatest adventure was in Tibet



where he ascended the north slope of Mount Everest to 19,706 feet via the Rongbuk glacier.

Dave’s favorite personal achievement was earning The President’s Hundred Marksman Award in 2017. He also served as a firefighter for many years in the Chester Volunteer Fire Department.

Despite his accomplishments, David had a quiet and humble personality, loving, well-loved and loyal. He was someone you could always talk to about any challenge you faced. He would apply his analytical skills and humane qualities to aid, advise or simply lis-

ten and provide comfort. We were never alone with David as a sibling and friend.

Dave leaves behind his wife of several years, Sue Vollrath and their dog, Ranger.

He also leaves his siblings, Cathy King, Joe, Johnny, Bobby and Jimmy Alward and friends Warren, Wally, Bob, Andre, Richie, Nate, Tom, Mark and Charlie.

A Life Celebration gathering for David will be held Friday, Feb. 27 from 4-6 p.m. in Chester Fire Station 1. Donations may be made to the Chester Volunteer Firefighters Association, 15 Middlefield Road, Box 8, Chester, MA 01011

## GARDEN

from page 4

I laugh when I picture all of the onion family members sitting around at a party. You’d have the gregarious onion, the boisterous garlic and then the cultured shallot, wearing a beret and speaking with a French accent.

I’m not sure why my mind went there, but it was a fun digression.

In terms of culture, shallots are similar to onions in that they can be grown from both sets or seeds. Seeds would be started indoors anytime now through March. Transplants or sets are best planted in the garden as soon as the ground can be worked, usually early April.

Although shallots mature smaller than onions, spacing should still be four-six inches apart so that they can size up to their full potential. They are shallow rooted, so supplemental watering is a must.

When foliage reaches 12 inches, apply a mulch around the base of each plant to help conserve moisture and cut down on weed competition. Until that point, cultivate

carefully by hand or pull individual weeds as they pop up.

Like onions, scallions begin to “bulb up” around the time of the summer equinox. Top dressing with fertilizer at that time is a smart idea.

As summer draws to a close, shallots will exhibit a similar die back as onions, whereby the tops begin to fall over, indicating they are ready for harvest. If the weather cooperates, sun cure on the ground or garden path for a few days, then move indoors to a spot with good air movement to finish the curing process.

Once necks have shrunk and dried, cut the tops off to about one inch above the bulb and store in mesh bags as close as you can to the freezing mark with ample humidity. One interesting fact I learned from Fedco Seeds (www.fedcoseeds.com) is that if you don’t have a room that cold, humidity can be adjusted to make up the difference for proper storage.

For example, best case scenario dictates that shallots

need 34 degrees at 66 percent humidity. Say the coldest you can get your storage spot is 55 degrees, well then they would like 45 percent humidity. The closest you can get it to add up to 100 the better.

I wonder if this theory holds true for other crops in storage. My squash and pumpkin aren’t the happiest this year, so maybe I will look into how to manipulate the environment to avoid some of the shriveling I am seeing.

Anyhow, I hope you had a few chuckles reading this column and that you might feel inclined to give shallots, that cultured onion cousin, a try this gardening season.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

## WILLIAMSBURG

### Authors to give book talk

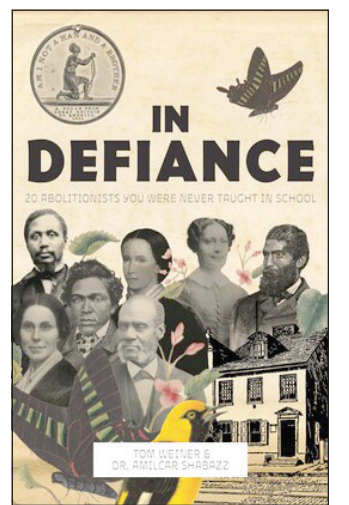
WILLIAMSBURG – The Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., will hold an authors book talk with Tom Weiner and Dr. Amilcar Shabazz on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. in the Hawks-Hayden Community Room.

Authors, Tom Weiner, a Northampton-based writer, educator and anti-racist activist and Dr. Amilcar Shabazz, professor in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at UMass Amherst, treasurer and former President of the National Council for Black Studies, will speak about their book,

“In Defiance: 20 abolitionists You Were Never Taught in School.”

The book brings to light the often-suppressed stories of those who risked everything to end enslavement. The book profiles 20 Black and white men and women, highlighting their courage, activism and unwavering commitment to freedom.

Amid ongoing efforts to erase history, these stories serve as a powerful corrective- meant to challenge, inspire, and ignite action. The book weaves both author’s perspectives into the narra-



tive, emphasizing the importance of learning from the past.

### Rabies clinic takes place March 14

WILLIAMSBURG – A rabies clinic will be hosted and held at the Fire Department, 16 Main St., on Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m.-noon.

It is open to people

from all towns. All pets must be leashed or crated. Cats and dogs welcome. Cost is \$26 rabies vaccine and \$68 microchip with membership optional. People should bring current

rabies documents. Cash and checks will be accepted.

A veterinarian will be on site South Deerfield Vet. People may email Kelli with questions at aco@townofchesterfieldma.com.



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\$20-\$22 per hour based on experience. 6 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us). Position is open until filled.  
Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **PART-TIME PROGRAM ASSISTANT** for the Senior Center. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535**; or by email to: [selectmen@northbrookfield.net](mailto:selectmen@northbrookfield.net).

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.  
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**WILLIAMSBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Williamsburg Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 7:00 PM** via zoom, Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8859354972>; Meeting ID: 885 935 4972

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York), on the application of Dan Banister, Highway Superintendent c/o Town of Williamsburg Highway Department

24 Main Street, Williamsburg, MA 01096. The applicant is requesting an Order of Conditions for work on all Town owned roads in Williamsburg, MA (Road ROW). Work will include but not be limited to: Maintenance and repair of existing roadways, vegetation removal, sediment removal and replacing, repairing, and/or retrofitting drainage structures.

Project Location: All Town owned Roads

Any interested person wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time

and place designated. A copy of the application and plan may be inspected at the Williamsburg Town Hall in the Conservation Commission Office, 141 Main Street, Haydenville, MA 01039 or contact the office by phone at **413-268-8416** or by email at [hilltownconcom@gmail.com](mailto:hilltownconcom@gmail.com) or [conservation@burgy.org](mailto:conservation@burgy.org)

Joe Rogers, Chair  
Williamsburg Conservation Commission  
02/19/2026

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**Project Description:**  
Westfield  
**Intersection Improvements at Southampton Road (Route 10/202), Servistar Industrial Way, and Barnes Airport Drive.**  
**Project File No. 612600**

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Westfield, MA.

**WHERE: Westfield City Hall City Council Chambers Second Floor 59 Court Street Westfield, MA 01085**

**WHEN: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 @ 7:00pm**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The proposed project consists of intersection improvements at Southampton Road (Route 10/202), Servistar Industrial Way, and Barnes Airport Drive. The intersection is proposed to be reconstructed as a roundabout. Bicyclists and pedestrians will be accommodated with an 8-foot wide shared-use path around the outside of the roundabout in accordance with applicable design guidelines.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible

for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, **Project File No. 612600**. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please

contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR  
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
02/12, 02/19/2026

**Gateway Regional FY '27 School Budget Public Hearing**

In accordance with Chapter 71 Section 38N of the Massachusetts General Law the public hearing for the 2026-2027 Gateway Regional School District budget will be held in the Perform-

ing Arts Center at the Gateway Regional Middle/High School Complex located at 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050 on **Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** Reference: Massachusetts Newspapers Publishers Association website: [masspublicnotices.org](http://masspublicnotices.org) 02/19/2026

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

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|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>CLUES ACROSS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cut quickly</li> <li>5. A way to state clearly</li> <li>11. River in NE Scotland</li> <li>14. Expansive</li> <li>15. Lacking social polish</li> <li>16. Amount of time</li> <li>17. Frame</li> <li>19. Automobile</li> <li>20. Toadstools</li> <li>21. High school dances</li> <li>22. Utilize</li> <li>23. Experimented with</li> <li>25. One-sided</li> <li>27. Acquisitive</li> <li>31. Potted plants</li> <li>34. Everyone has one</li> <li>35. Kalahari Desert lake</li> <li>38. Unidentified flying object</li> </ul> | <p>39. People 65 and over</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41. Small amount</li> <li>42. Daughter of Acrisius</li> <li>44. Ornamental box</li> <li>45. Government agents</li> <li>46. Uncertain</li> <li>49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish</li> <li>51. Treeless plains</li> <li>55. One's sense of self-importance</li> <li>56. Consumer advocate</li> <li>60. Type of lounge</li> <li>61. Body part</li> <li>62. Can be persuaded</li> <li>64. Woman (French)</li> <li>65. Ready and willing to be taught</li> <li>66. Arab ruler title</li> <li>67. Unhappy</li> <li>68. Gradually went away</li> <li>69. Able to think clearly</li> </ul> | <p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Brushed</li> <li>2. Small water spirit (Germ.)</li> <li>3. Heroes</li> <li>4. Monetary units</li> <li>5. Some don't want to share theirs</li> <li>6. Free-swimming invertebrate</li> <li>7. Litigates</li> <li>8. Outer</li> <li>9. Parallelograms</li> <li>10. Uneasy feelings</li> <li>11. Cross</li> <li>12. A way to remove</li> <li>13. Pages can be dog-__</li> <li>18. Ukrainian city</li> <li>24. A citizen of Denmark</li> <li>26. Month</li> <li>28. Hindu queens</li> <li>29. Group of chemicals</li> <li>30. Rider of Rohan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31. Wet dirt</li> <li>32. Southwestern Russia city</li> <li>33. Observed</li> <li>36. Angry</li> <li>37. Drivers' licenses</li> <li>39. Musical composition</li> <li>40. Auction</li> <li>43. They __</li> <li>45. Women</li> <li>47. Be filled with love for</li> <li>48. Thick-soled sock</li> <li>49. Appears</li> <li>50. Old World lizard</li> <li>52. The leading performer</li> <li>53. Protein</li> <li>54. "Gunga Din" script writer</li> <li>57. Art __, around 1920</li> <li>58. __ Blyton, children's author</li> <li>59. Abnormal breathing</li> <li>63. A place to rest</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|---|

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>ARIES</b><br/>Mar 21/Apr 20</p> <p>You have the cosmic green light to start that major project you've been planning or to take a leap in your career, Aries. Trust your intuition—it's sharper than ever.</p> | <p><b>CANCER</b><br/>Jun 22/Jul 22</p> <p>Cancer, a feeling of emotional security empowers you to tackle any professional challenge with grace and confidence. You are totally centered right now, so go for it.</p>               | <p><b>LIBRA</b><br/>Sept 23/Oct 23</p> <p>Relationships are the key to your happiness this week, Libra. Expect delightful interactions, smooth negotiations and the forging of beneficial alliances.</p>                  | <p><b>CAPRICORN</b><br/>Dec 22/Jan 20</p> <p>Your professional reputation is soaring. Key figures at your job are recognizing your dedication and leadership. Expect exciting opportunities for advancement.</p>                     |
| <p><b>TAURUS</b><br/>Apr 21/May 21</p> <p>Abundance is knocking, Taurus. Your hard work is translating into tangible rewards, and you may receive unexpected good news regarding finances or resources.</p>         | <p><b>LEO</b><br/>Jul 23/Aug 23</p> <p>Leo, you are radiating charisma this week and attracting positive attention wherever you go. Use this incredible visibility to network or showcase your talents.</p>                        | <p><b>SCORPIO</b><br/>Oct 24/Nov 22</p> <p>This week is all about your own transformation, Scorpio. You feel a surge of internal power and clarity that allows you to confidently pursue deep, personal goals.</p>        | <p><b>AQUARIUS</b><br/>Jan 21/Feb 18</p> <p>Your network is buzzing with opportunities, Aquarius. Collaborative efforts are highly favored, and you'll find incredible support for your most innovative ideas.</p>                   |
| <p><b>GEMINI</b><br/>May 22/Jun 21</p> <p>Your mind is sparkling, Gemini, making you the most magnetic person in the room. Use this vibrant energy to connect, share ideas and lead discussions.</p>                | <p><b>VIRGO</b><br/>Aug 24/Sept 22</p> <p>You'll find great satisfaction in clean, organized work that earns sincere praise this week, Virgo. Your dedication is about to unlock a significant reward. Surprises are in store.</p> | <p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b><br/>Nov 23/Dec 21</p> <p>Your sense of optimism and love for exploration is fully charged, Sagittarius. Even if you can't take a trip, your mind is open to exciting new philosophies or ideas.</p> | <p><b>PISCES</b><br/>Feb 19/Mar 20</p> <p>Pisces, your intuition is a superpower that guides you toward fulfillment and emotional satisfaction this week. Embrace your artistic side and allow your imagination to lead the way.</p> |

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# SUDOKU

**Fun By The Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

**Here's How It Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

## Chester Library hosts geology program

CHESTER – Inspired by nearly a decade of local history exploration James Higby has proven himself to be a local expert on geology in the Chester area.

A resident of Chester since 2017, Higby has been a hiking companion many times when Elizabeth Massa, now president of Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers, first ventured out into the vast roadless wilderness that includes Gobble Mountain, Mount Gobble and Round Hill Mountain in Chester and Becket. This is the area that the first Western Railroad was built and where emery was first found in the world. It is also the place where people get lost.

The rich geological and industrial history here is like nowhere else, so much so it is studied by geology students at UMass. Higby is enrolled in the Geographic Information Support Team Master's Program at UMass Amherst leading him on his journey to create excellent maps of the area and gain even more knowledge.

He shared his knowledge at the Hamilton Memorial Library, which houses the HuldaBurdick Mineral Collection in it's

museum. The Hilltown Hikers offers educational events at various locations in Western Mass because it's not just about the hik-

ing here, it's about history hiking.

People can visit the museum during special events including Chester On

Track in May. The museum holds this exquisite collection containing minerals from all over the world and even dinosaur tracks.



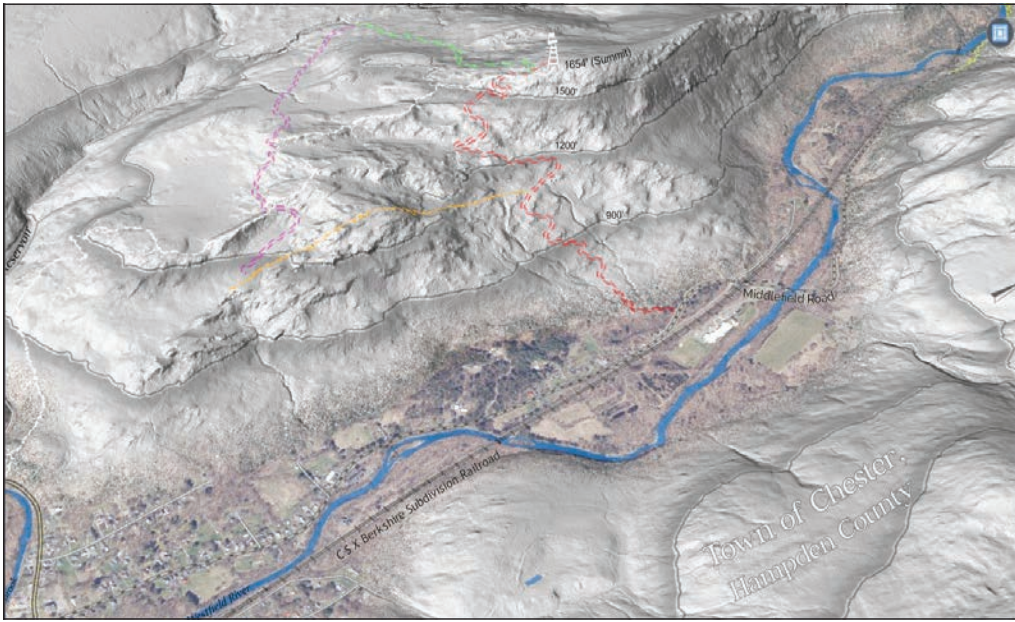
The Snow Emery Mine was located on Gobble Mountain.



James and Wayne hold up the Geological Map of the Chester quadrant.



Submitted photos Above, this is a sampling of the unique minerals in the Hamilton Memorial Library mineral collection Left, This is part of the map that James Higby submitted for the Arthur Robinson print map award in the 53rd CaGIS map competition.



Attendees of the program at the Chester library were fascinated by the maps that James brought.



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Location: 2 Packard Park (General Worthington, MA 01098)  
Phone Number: 413-238-0300  
Website: HilltownRealEstate.com  
Hours of Operation: By appointment only  
Owner/Manager Name: James D Adams  
Agent: Amy Coyne  
Agent: Erik O. Cubi

**How long have you been in business since 19...**

**What makes you stand out from the competition?**

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Location: Rte. 112, Huntington  
Phone Number: 413-667-3426  
Hours of Operation: Mon.-Fri. 8am-6pm, Sat. 8am-4pm  
Owners/Manager Name: Darryl Fisk

**How long have you been in business?**

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**What makes you stand out from the competition?**

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**Describe your product or service.**

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**Why do you enjoy this business?**

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