

"The pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again." – Charles Dickens

# Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

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## BLANDFORD



Some of the town officers and visitors who attended "ReMarks and Refreshments" forum on Friday, Feb. 23 at the Blandford Town Hall. Shown from left are Blandford Town Administrator Mike Szlosek, Becket Town Administrator Kathe Waldon, Sen. Paul Mark, Blandford /volunteer Firefighter John Carrington, Blandford Water Superintendent Gordon Avery, Blandford Highway Superintendent David Waldron and Democratic State Committee candidate Marietta Rapetti Cawse.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

## State Sen. Mark hears local concerns

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Sen. Paul Mark and his Constituent Service Director Casey Pease were at the Town Offices to listen to local concerns on Friday, Feb. 23.

Sen. Mark's district is Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire Counties and "Blandford is one and there are 56 others," he said. His office also provided coffee and donuts.

Many areas of concern were mentioned by those

attending. The Blandford Water Department, represented by Superintendent Gordon Avery needs grant money to provide for water main replacement and a back-up water supply. "There is no storage tank," Avery said. His department has a \$22 million wish list. He told Sen. Mark that the Water Department had already received ARPA funds, but this only accomplished what he called the necessary leg-work to move forward.

Select Board member Theodore Cousineau spoke

about the need for a new Fire Station and a new Highway Garage and asked Fire Chief Adam Dolby to respond regarding the Fire Station.

Dolby said, "It's a chicken and an egg" issue; the need for new equipment, but new equipment cannot fit in the existing structure and the cost to downsize new firefighting vehicles is very high." The town is struggling to settle on a suitable location.

Dolby said would like to have a discussion with Springfield Water and Sewer

Commission and Mass Department of Transportation to see if there is a possibility of funding available. "We cover the Pike," he also said. "We need help with getting other parties into the conversation," he added.

Becket Town Administrator Kathe Wardon said that most small towns have the same problem with space. "We're volunteer and it's very easy to forget about those (volunteers) people. It's a million dollar service that

MARK, page 8

## BLANDFORD

### Superintendent delivers update

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Gateway Regional School District Superintendent Kristen Smidy met with Select Board Monday evening, Feb. 26 during their regular meeting.



Krisen Smidy

She told the board about new cyber security that has been instituted. Chester Elementary School has had an upgrade to the transducer to the fire pump, which was not pumping adequately. This has been corrected.

Chester students have been growing a hydroponic garden and Smidy noted their seedlings.

She said there is definitely a shift in schools now for hands-on learning and the district is looking at ways to provide this.

#### School budget hearing

The budget hearing for the district is Wednesday, March 6 and a first look at the budget is online; it is up 3.42 % and Smidy said the district hopes to offset that increase with grants and the new 4% increase in state aid.

Their overall increase is 1.94% while Blandford's statutory increase, based on enrollment, is 5.69% percent. As of February, Blandford had an additional three students. She anticipates that there are five potential vocational students.

There is a need to roll an MSCA payback into a roof replacement account. The vision impaired program is in its second year and there are Gateway students as well as three students from other districts enrolled, and it has generated \$313,000 for the district as "straight revenue," according to Smidy.

#### PVPC

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Community Development Planner Joe Hagopian told the board about the \$449,825 in grants for which they manage and provide administrative work. \$20,325 went towards the Americans with Disabilities Act self-assessment and transition plan while \$312,000 is for housing rehabilitation. PVPC takes \$117,000 for management.

SUPERINTENDENT, page 8

## CHESTERFIELD

### Snowless winter festival highlights impact of climate change



Hannah Christenson greets the Belgian draft horses supplied by the Bisbee family.

Turley Photo by Kathryn Koegel

By Kathryn Koegel  
Correspondent

The town of Chesterfield held a snowless winter festival on Saturday, Feb. 24 to educate the community about the changes demanded by warmer winters.

In 2023 the town received a Municipal Preparedness and Vulnerability 2.0 Grant and a MVP Action Planning Grant that town leaders plan to use to "educate our town's people on the impact climate change has had on our environment," says event organizer and MVP Committee co-Chair Joe Gazillo.

The grants received totally \$156,000 and will be used specifically to

"Get people to engage and get involved with the town and how we as a community can prepare ourselves for climate related disasters," says Gazillo. This also includes an environmental and municipal assessment of six of Chesterfield's properties: the Chesterfield Town Hall, Davenport School, the Chesterfield Fire Station, the Chesterfield Community center, Russell Park and the 6 North road property.

Despite the lack of snow it was a windy, brisk day and participants bundled up to ride the wagon pulled by draft horses from Clay Hill Farm, which is run by Faith

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## HILLTOWNS

# Hilltown markets offer alternative to grocery stores

By Kathryn Koegel  
Correspondent

Drive any road in the Hilltowns of Western Mass and you will see great natural beauty, a river so special it has a designation from the US Congress (the Wild & Scenic Westfield River) and historic villages punctuated with white steepled churches.

And while you will not encounter a single supermarket, if you look closely enough you will find new fangled approaches to the general store of old along with expanded farm stands that are rising to meet local need.

### Moltenbray's

First on our grocery list is Moltenbray's. Darryl Fisk, the owner and butcher (this is the Hilltowns only full-service butcher), who is celebrating his 40th year running the business. The store just went through a renovation and reopened Feb. 26. The aisles are wider, they improved the displays of local fruit and vegetables and increased the size of the meat counter. In true Hilltowns fashion, employees and friends helped out in the painting and reorganizing.

The meat counter now offers a full complement of deli sandwiches, wraps and soups along with meats (they grind their own hamburger each day). A truck comes up from Boston on Fridays (and Wednesdays through Lent) with fresh-caught fish. While Fisk has one of the oldest Hilltowns' names, he grew up in Worcester but took over the store at the age of 21.

His wife is a Moltenbray and the store had been in that family since 1950. The building has housed a grocery since the early 1900s judging by a historic photo he keeps behind the meat counter. In keeping with the trends, "people just don't cook much anymore," says Fisk, the store offers some prepared foods like meatballs and daily soups made in their crock pots. While the selection in the store is small (think the size of a historic general store) they will special order meats and unusual produce if you ask early in the week before the orders go in. He says their clientele come not just from Huntington but Becket, Dalton and Granville.

### Hilltown Mobile Market

Five years ago the Hilltown Community Development Corporation worked with the local Council on Aging and the Hampshire Country Food Policy Council to solve the longstanding issue of local farms not being able to efficiently sell locally and the paradox of residents not having a grocery store or access to produce year round. They ran a mobile farmers market with stops around the Hilltowns but last year they took a lease on the farm stand at Sawyer Farm in Chesterfield.

Their bright, cheerful space sells hyper-local food including meats, dairy and produce from 45 local producers. The program is spearheaded by Hunt Chase of Hilltown Community Development who has experience in both restaurants and local agriculture.

Perhaps the most unusual thing about the Hilltown Market is that there is a refrigerator and freezer of free items. These are not groceries set to expire, but free healthy foods given away supported by a food security grant.

There is no need to prove SNAP/EBT eligibility and it is operated on an honor system. They encourage anyone to use the goods, just pay what they choose. To date the store-based program has given away over \$40K of food. The market itself has given away \$200K of free food and 160 CSA shares to the food insecure in the Hilltowns.

What is most important to the Hilltown Market is the hyper local nature of what they sell. "Ninety-five percent



Darryl Fisk, 40 year proprietor and butcher of Moltenbray's Market in Huntington.

Turley Photos by Kathryn Koegel

of what we sell comes from within 50 miles of our store," says Chase. He cites local farmers like Kinne Brook Farm of Worthington and Holly Berry of Chesterfield that are producing beef from breeds you may not have seen locally before.

Kinne Brook raises Highland Cattle most often associated with Scotland. "The meat is leaner," says Chase. Chicken comes from Reed Poultry in Sunderland which is the only commercial farm for chicken in Massachusetts. They also carry products to appeal to the gourmet market including unusual grains, a diverse array of mushrooms and award winning cheeses from Grace Hill Farm.

As Chase acknowledges, hyper local meat does come at a cost: the price. He cites the cost of local labor, land and the fact that these are not mass production livestock companies. A pound of ground beef from Kinne Brook Farm is \$8.75.

Darryl Fisk of Moltenbray's would like to carry more local meat but has seen that grocery shoppers have a threshold beyond which they are unwilling to pay. "And people prefer fresh meat," Fisk says. "Local producers need to send meat off premises for slaughter and USDA inspection. It comes back frozen in small packages."

### Outlook Farm Barn

Brad and Erin Morse are Hilltowns' raised second-generation orchardists whose family started Outlook Farm in 1962. They currently have 16 acres of primarily apples but some peaches. Their store carries a selection of meat products, produce that is primarily grown by them and features a bakery and cafe. During the summer and fall season they have live music and outdoor tables for barbecue and their homemade unpasteurized fresh and hard cider, beer and wine.

The store features an extensive array of pork products that primarily come from Adams Farm in Athol. They buy the whole pigs that are slaughtered there and come up within days, making the meat much fresher than in a grocery store. They produce their own kielbasa and sausage and contract for locally-smoked bacon. Their building is strategically placed on Rte 66 as you crest a hill coming up from Northampton. Locals stop for the apples and pork products but also food to go as they return from work. They sell entrees like lasagnes and mac n'cheese.

Brad Morse, who runs Outlook with his wife Erin, is optimistic for this year's crop. "Last year was brutal," he says. "We lost all our peaches on Valentine's Day due to a cold snap. So far so good this year." They are looking forward to a strong spring season with their fresh smoked hams ready for Easter dinner.

### Oliver's Farm stand 24/7 Convenience Store

If you drive through Goshen in the northern Hilltowns, or pay attention to Facebook Hilltowns community groups,



Shown are Brian Schick, market crew, Hannah Prkins, market manager of the Hilltown Market and Hunt Chase, director of community programs, Hilltown Community Development Corporation in Chesterfield.



Brad Morse, proprietor and orchardist of the Outlook Farm Barn in Westhampton stands in front of an image of his parents and him at their farm stand in the early 1960s.

you are likely familiar with Oliver's Farm stand owned by Ruby Hutt and husband Dan Hutt. Oliver is their 7.5 year-old child who is featured in the friendly ads.

The store started off in a tent selling their own grown produce but took off during Covid. As Ms. Hutt says, "The concept was always local: we sell over 120 local and regional products from farms to producers and specialty products. All the vegetables are hyper local."

The Hutt's have plans to expand: "I grow greens, kale, herbs. Last year we started raising heritage breed pork which have more back fat and flavor," says Ruby Hutt. The store is currently in a small prefab building and will move into a fully built out store by this September.

The Hutt's are relatively recently arrived, they moved to Goshen from Deerfield in 2016 and very quickly had their son. Dan Hutt was born and raised in Oxford, UK. She grew around farms with a passion for local food. And while she raised horses professionally, the demands of being a mom made her think about solving a local problem: access to groceries.

Oliver's farm stand is seasonal right now (April 1 – November) but when it is open, it operates 24/7 on an honor basis and does take credit cards. She is aware of the pricing challenges and says "We are trying to stay hyper competitive with Valley prices."

She has found that locals – and the many 2nd home owners nearby "are relieved to find local foods all in one place. A lot of people have their 'egg lady' [there are so many eggs sold in coolers by the roadside] or their 'bee

guy'. We bring all of that together and are open when the convenience stores are closed."

Opening a farm stand that has veered into a grocery is not for the faint of heart, she says. "There are lots of logistics. There's all the ordering, payments, bookkeeping and stocking, going to the Valley every day. It's really important that I coordinate with farms that do deliver. It's rewarding and really hard," she continues. "But I get to connect with the farms and meet great people."

Isn't operating on an honor system a big leap of faith for a grocery business? "Occasionally people forget to add something to their bill, but it's not that much. "Our biggest problem with vandalizing is from a bear," she says.

## Towns receive Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants

HILLTOWNS – The towns of Cummington, Goshen, Hatfield, Northampton, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington received FY 24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant awards.

Amounts included: \$10,500 Cummington, \$10,443 Goshen, \$8,879.93 Hatfield, \$19,000 Northampton, \$10,500 Plainfield, \$6,783.30 Westhampton, \$8,326.75 Williamsburg and \$10,500 Worthington.

# HUNTINGTON

## Library hosts storyteller, musician Davis Bates

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Public Library Director Amanda Loiselle announces upcoming activities for the month of March.

Storyteller/musician Davis Bates will headline events planned next month. Weekly activities this month include story hours and drop-in painting. Story hours will take place every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Feed your inner artist this month with drop in painting sessions every Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Teen Game Night is scheduled for Saturday, March 2 from 4-7 p.m. Youth ages 14-18 years old are invited to come in for pizza, soda and games. The library will have various games available and attendees can also feel free to bring their own.

On March 13, adults aged 21 and over are welcome to stop by to paint their own wine glass. All materials will be included.

Grab the grandkids and come on Saturday, March 23 at 11 a.m. for a special program. “Imagine That” will be offered by David Bates, and will include music and stories that celebrate literacy and inspire creativity. Davis’ website reports that Pete Seeger called Davis

“thoughtful, creative, human and a fantastic storyteller.” A Parents Choice Magazine Gold Award was given to Davis for his recording “Family Stories.” He has performed throughout the northeast for 38 years, and supports participants in telling stories from their own family and cultural traditions. All ages are welcome.

The Cookbook Club will meet on Wednesday, March 27 at 5 p.m. The library will have three copies of “Cooking in Season” by Brigit Binns available to borrow. Check one out or choose your own cookbook and recipe to share with the group. Bringing prepared food is encouraged but not required.

Finally, the book club pick for March is “Baby, You’re Gonna Be Mine”, a new collection of stories by Kevin Wilson. At times quirky, imaginative and humorous, Amazon’s review says that the stories “build upon each other in strange and remarkable ways.” Copies can be picked up at the library (while available), ordered through inter-library loan, or borrowed through Libby. The club will meet on Thursday, April 4 at 4:30 p.m.

Director Loiselle welcomes suggestions for clubs or recurring activities at the library. Let her know: she’d love to hear from you.



Award-winning musician/storyteller Davis Bates will be at the Huntington Public Library on March 23.

Courtesy photo of DavisBates.com

# WESTFIELD

## Air National Guard to hold EIS public meetings

WESTFIELD – The Department of the Air Force and the National Guard Bureau have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which analyzes the potential impacts associated with the beddown of new F-15-E-X or F-35-A aircraft at the 104th Fighter Wing at Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport. Public meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 6 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. virtual meeting (visit [www.ANGF15EX-F35A-EIS.com](http://www.ANGF15EX-F35A-EIS.com) and for how to join meeting) and on Tuesday, March 19 in person from 5-7 p.m. at Westfield Intermediate School, 350 Southampton Road.

The Draft EIS is available at the Westfield Athenaeum Library, Westfield City Hall (Mayor’s Office), Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport (Airport Manager’s Office), and online at [www.ANGF15EX-F35A-EIS.com](http://www.ANGF15EX-F35A-EIS.com).

# BECKET

## Athenaeum list upcoming events

BECKET – The Becket and Washington’s Community Library hosts several virtual programs

in partnership with libraries from Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

They include Monday, March 4 from 2-3 p.m. Design A Career That Fulfills You; Tuesday, March 5, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. A Visit with the Lowell National Historical Park; Wednesday, March 11 from 2-3 p.m. How to Power Network; Thursday, March 12 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. The History of Presidential Libraries; Thursday, March 14 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The History of Ireland - 1607 To The Great Famine; Monday, March 18 from 2-3 p.m. Job Hunting Do’s and Don’ts; Tuesday, March 19 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. The History of Willie Nelson; Thursday, March 21 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Creative Couples of London - Elizabeth Siddal and Laura Alma-Tadema; Monday, March 25 from 2-3 p.m. Job Search Strategies 201; Tuesday, March 26 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Armchair Tour of the Phillips House with Historic New England; Wednesday,

March 27 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body - Tips from the Latest Research; Thursday March 28 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The Wonderful World of Bats with Mass Audubon and Friday, March 29 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Aim High - A History of Militarized Space.

Library story time meets on Saturdays. The next story time is Saturday, March 2 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Becket Athenaeum 3367 Main St. Children will hear a story and make a craft. The second Saturday of the month, the creative movement with Laurel Lenski replaces the craft. People may RSVP by visiting [bit.ly/BA-storytime](http://bit.ly/BA-storytime).

Movie night for adults is Saturday, March 2 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The movie starts at 7 p.m. and is “The Holdovers” rated R. Older children 13 plus may attend if accompanied by an adult. People should RSVP by visiting [bit.ly/BA-Mar2-movie](http://bit.ly/BA-Mar2-movie). Popcorn, candy and non-alcoholic beverages are provided. People may bring beverages of choice including alcohol.

## 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 Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.**



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# OPINION

## EDITORIAL



## About Medicare's dreaded 'IRMAA' provision

Dear Rusty

My wife is on Medicare and receiving Social Security benefits each month. We built a house and used money from our investments to pay for it. We knew we would pay taxes on that withdrawal, but my wife got a letter from Social Security saying that because the money we withdrew was listed as income, her 2024 Medicare premium went up over \$500. And since Medicare is taken out of her Social Security, that results in a \$6,000 loss to our budget.

Is there anything that can be done about this situation? We sent a letter to Social Security, but they responded that unless her situation was one of only a few categories (loss of house, divorce, etc.) nothing could be done for the year.

The money was used strictly on another investment, our new house. It wasn't like we took it out and spent it wildly. Can you please advise?

Signed: Frustrated Homeowner

Dear Frustrated

Unfortunately, it sounds like your wife is a victim of the Medicare provision known as "Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount." Each person's Medicare Part B premium, coverage for outpatient healthcare, is determined yearly from their income from all sources as reported to the IRS two years prior. IRMAA sets income thresholds, depending on your IRS filing status and if those thresholds are exceeded you must pay a higher Medicare Part B premium and also a higher Part D premium if you have prescription drug coverage.

Assuming you file your taxes as "married/jointly," if your combined 2022 income as a couple was between \$206,000 and \$258,000 your wife's 2024 Part B premium is \$244.60, instead of the standard \$174.70; if your combined 2022 income was between \$258,000 and \$322,000 then your wife's Part B premium for 2024 is \$349.40; if your combined in 2022 was between \$322,000 and \$386,000, her Part B premium is \$454.20; if your combined 2022 income as a married couple was between \$386,000 to \$750,000 then your wife's 2024 Part B premium is \$559 and if your 2022 income as a married couple was over \$750,000 your wife's Part B premium is \$594. If your wife also has private Part D prescription drug coverage, IRMAA also increases those premiums. Note that the IRMAA thresholds are different for other income tax filing statuses.

As the Social Security office has already explained, you could appeal your wife's IRMAA premium increase if she had a "life changing event," but the list of acceptable life changing events is quite small (see form SSA-44). The only good news is that your wife's Medicare premium will be calculated anew for next year, so her Medicare premium for

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## Corrections policy

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.

## Record warming trend continues...



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Get a head start the old-fashioned way



Just about a week ago I was presenting a Seed Starting Workshop for members at Old Sturbridge Village, and someone asked a question about how seedlings would have been pre-started in the mid-1800s.

It was a logical question considering we have heat cables, supplemental light and greenhouses at our disposal these days. We can grow any number of plants pretty much any time of the year.

How then, did innovative gardeners of old get a head start? Cold frames and hot beds, of course! These season extenders continue to be useful today.

Read on to learn how these are constructed and used successfully.

The easiest way to describe a cold frame

is this: a rectangular box fitted with a window sash. It can be as simple as an old storm window on top of hay bales.

Better yet would be to construct your cold frame to capture as much passive solar energy as possible. We achieve this by angling the window sash 35 to 45 degrees to catch the sun.

The window sash you obtain will determine the size of the frame. Keep in mind that you have to be able to reach inside to work; therefore, it is recommended that you make the box no deeper than three feet.

Construct the frame using rot resistant woods like cedar or redwood. Pine is an inexpensive and readily available option, but should be painted with exterior paint prior to assembly to ensure years of use.

White paint will not only make an attractive cold frame, but one that will reflect light to the plants growing in it. The walls should be at least an inch thick, preferably two inches, to further insulate the plants growing inside.

Locate your cold frame in full sun, fac-

GARDEN, page 5

### Foreign policy rises in public attention



Americans seem to be more interested in foreign policy than usual. Four in 10 U.S. adults named it as an important issue to address in 2024, according to a recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs. That's twice as many as a year earlier.

That sounds right to me. From what I can tell, Americans are paying closer attention to foreign policy than they have for some time.

Part of it, no doubt, is driven by media coverage of the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine. When the media pay attention to a topic, the public pays attention; and when the public pays attention, the media pay attention.

It works both ways.

Of course, what really captures the public eye is the prospect of U.S. casualties, as we saw in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, which killed thousands of Americans. There's been nothing like that yet in the current conflicts, although about 30 U.S. citizens were killed in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel and an estimated 300 Americans were stranded in Gaza by the fighting.

In the AP-NORC poll, 20% of respondents said they were concerned about U.S. involvement overseas, up from 5% a year

earlier. That's a significant increase, and it's reflected by debates in Congress over helping fund the wars.

But whether foreign policy has much of an impact on the 2024 elections is an open question.

Even if Americans follow foreign policy, I don't have the sense that they vote on those issues. Problems at home are more meaningful to most voters, by far.

They're worried about inflation, affordable health care, gas prices and the cost of housing and food. They are concerned about crime and public safety. They pay attention to interest rates, jobs and other economic indicators.

Many Americans are deeply concerned about immigration, especially at the southern border. Immigration is a domestic matter, but it's entwined with foreign policy.

Immigrants and refugees often are fleeing dire conditions in their home countries. We need to work with those regions to address the issue.

I learned early in my time in Congress that foreign policy wasn't something most constituents were eager to discuss. I rarely spoke about foreign policy on visits to the district, where people were more likely to want to know about a local dam project or government actions that directly affected them.

Interestingly, I was most likely to get questions about foreign policy when I spoke at high schools. High school students were well prepared for my visits, and they would zero in on foreign policy issues.

With current issues, most Americans

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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.

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**EDITOR**  
Ellenor Downer  
[countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

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# OPINION

## HILLTOWN HISTORY

### Finding a long ago granite quarry plus portraits on stamps

By Deborah Daniels  
Correspondent

The intrepid Hilltown Hikers found Keefe Quarry. The hikers went looking for this granite quarry listed on a 1917 Chester map, but they never found it. Thanks to Liz Massa, Tom Hoffman and LIDAR, the site was found. It was worth the second search, which required much more bushwhacking than trail hiking. All this without a machete, mind you.

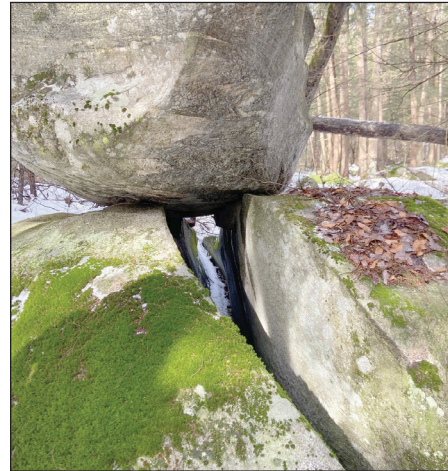
A thorough reconnoitering was undertaken. There was no evidence of steam or air powered drills used on site. Only feather and wedge cut marks were visible on the granite rocks. Separating behemoth rocks of granite from the ledge was accomplished by drilling a hole by hand in the rock, inserting a wedge, called a feather and then inserting a central wedge in the feather and pounding the central wedge into the rock along the intended split line. Feather and wedges were hammered in sequence along a series of holes placed 4-6 inches apart. The wedges were made of steel by local blacksmiths in the early days. No peaceful activity took place here, the woods would have rung with the force of many John Henry's hitting metal into rock to fracture the wall.

The hikers found what we believe to be a road barely evident in the woods with two large six foot granite entry stones that led to a central workstation with square cut stones that acted like tables for sorting. Tumbled all around were great piles of grout, rejected granite slabs and some solid granite cliffs. It was eerie to find these piles of stone once a testament to extreme hard labor now lying abandoned and lost in the woods.

Imagine all the blood, sweat and tears witnessed by the rocks now silenced



The entry granite stone to the Keefe Quarry in Chester. Turley Photos by Deborah Daniels



A split rock and balancing rock seen on the hike.



The feather and wedge cut marks are visible on a slab of granite.

and forgotten by a century of time. We paid our respects and left the quarry to its peace and solitude.

The Hilltown Hikers were further entertained by the rock sculptures Mother Nature displayed as natural split rocks. They saw many of these on this hike.

Switching to a new topic, have you ever wondered who creates those beautiful commemorative stamps? Prepare to be enlightened. There is a committee, Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, whose members are appointed by the Postmaster General that accepts suggestions from the public for who should be celebrated on a stamp. Yes indeed you can make a suggestion to the United States Postal Service for who you think should be the subject of



A stamp of Marilyn Monroe painted by Michael Deas.



This stamp painted by Michael Deas is of James Dean.

a stamp.

They do have criteria that the person or idea should celebrate an American contribution to society, history or culture. Any person suggested has to have been dead for at least three years., which is apparently the time it takes to do a complete background check.

Oh and the process takes a long time, at least three years. An idea for a stamp must go through many committees for acceptance and artistic design. It will be refined many times before going to print. You would all recognize the commemorative stamps that celebrate the Presidents of the United States but there are many, many more themes such as stamps of movie stars, stamps showing different types of transportation, the history

of dance, farming implements, types of planes and rockets to name a few. Your post office has an album of the currently available commemorative stamps from which to choose.

Let me introduce you to Michael Deas, the portrait painter who has painted 25 U.S. stamps. Everyone of his stamps is an absolute humdinger. The all time best selling commemorative stamp is his image of Marilyn Monroe with James Dean running a close second. The first stamp he painted was of Tennessee Williams the writer. The stamp has a streetcar in the background with a tiny figure in the train that is Blanche DuBois, the main character of his famous play, "A Streetcar Named Desire."

Michael Deas has also painted six Time magazine covers, his most famous one was of Ben Franklin. It has become the iconic image of Ben. Deas is not allowed to sign these miniature works of art, more USPS cloak and dagger stuff

HISTORY, page 16

## SECURITY

from page 4

2025 will, if your 2023 joint income is less than the first IRMAA threshold, revert to the standard 2025 premium.

For Your Information, it doesn't matter what you used the money for. Your withdrawal was reported to the IRS as taxable income, which is what caused IRMAA to apply to your wife's Medicare premium for 2024. Many people don't realize that Medicare premiums are higher for those with a higher income, but since your withdrawal was a one-time event, your wife's Medicare Part B premium next year should be much less and her Social Security benefit correspondingly higher.

*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 [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

## CONGRESS

from page 4

were outraged by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and inspired by Ukraine's brave resistance. But, as the war dragged on, it receded from the headlines, and interest in the U.S. has flagged.

Recently, center stage has gone to Hamas' attack on Israel, which killed 1,200 people, and Israel's response, which has reportedly killed 25,000 people in Gaza. The Middle East is almost in a category by itself for public attention.

Many Americans feel strongly about Israel's importance in U.S. foreign policy. Conflicts in the Middle East, and relations between Israel and its neighbors, get more coverage in U.S. news media than news from Asia, Africa or even from Europe.

Wars and conflicts draw news coverage, but other foreign policy issues also matter a lot. Our relationship with China is the most important

bilateral relationship in the world, and problems there can have a global impact.

Climate change is an existential issue that transcends national borders. Trade, terrorism, cybersecurity and global migration require multinational cooperation.

Foreign policy issues may not rise to the top of the public's concerns, but voters – and politicians – should pay attention to them in this election year.

*Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

## GARDEN

from page 4

ing south or southeast. The soil under the cold frame is a "mini plot" that should be enriched as I would any other part of the garden by incorporating an inch or two of compost and a sprinkling of lime and balanced organic fertilizer into the soil prior to use.

The window sash will likely stay shut on overcast days. On sunny days, however, be sure to prop open the window to ventilate the space – it can get quite hot inside and young seedlings could easily be harmed.

The sash can be opened completely (or removed altogether) on very warm days. Don't forget to provide water within the frame – if it is covered it is exempt from the rain.

The cold frame is a great place to start spring greens. There are other uses as well.

Some plants prefer to germinate at cool temperatures and simply won't grow well inside the house, even off the heat cables. Try growing flats of cole crops like kale, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower right in the cold frame – they'll be the sturdiest plants you ever grew!

Likewise, start small pots of sweet peas, pansies, forget-me-nots and bachelor's buttons inside of it; they germinate better in cool soil. Many native perennials need to chill for a month before they are able to germinate- "stratify" these seeds in the cold frame and then move them to the border once they are off and growing.

You can also harden off plants that were started indoors inside the cold frame.

What about getting a head start with heat-loving vegetables, such as tomatoes or peppers? Or even herbs like basil or flowers such as celosia, marigold or amaranths? Here is where the hot bed comes in.

If you have access to free, fresh manure, you are all set. The general idea is to build a mound about two feet tall of manure and bedding materials not older than six weeks and top it with soil you will be growing your seedling in, then top that with one of the frame set-ups described above.

The heat generated from the manure will warm the soil and the surrounding air. Seeds should germinate easily and readily.

It's important not to set up your hot bed too early – mid April to early May is perfect because you will still need to be past the frost free date before planting the seedlings you've grown into the garden. Hot beds take a little trial and error, but are worth the experiment.

When we used them at OSV, the seedlings grown within were always greener and sturdier than those I provided from our fancy greenhouse!

It was fun to think about getting a head start. Soon enough, soon enough!

Over the last decade, tremendous gains have been made in rose breeding, resulting in rose bushes that blend well into landscape plantings and require less maintenance for the homeowner. I still enjoy my heirlooms, and grow the Rugosa to remind me of the beach.

Still others prefer climbers or hybrid teas. Whatever your sweetheart may fancy, indulge this Valentine's Day in a gift that will keep on giving!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

# WESTFIELD

## 'Let's Get Growing: Spring Gardening Workshops' on March 23

By Dalton Zbierski  
dzbierski@turley.com

WESTFIELD – The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association is excited to present the “Let’s Get Growing: Spring Gardening Workshops” on March 23 from 8 a.m. to Noon.

The event will occur at Westfield Middle School and feature eight classes designed to teach and energize gardeners of all skill levels. Rosey Bonner, a member of the WMMGA Symposium Planning Team, offered a glimpse of what can be expected on the fourth Saturday of March.

“Believe it or not, this is our 25th year,” Bonner said. “We will work with all gardeners from beginning to experienced and will continue our mission, which is not only sustainability and the idea of ‘do no harm’ but also rejuvenation and regeneration. We need to help the ecology get back to where it should be. Hopefully, our workshops offer a variety of things that can do that.”

The event is structured so that there are four programs beginning at 8:30 a.m. and another four starting at 10:30 a.m. Attendees will be able to attend two.

One 8:30 a.m. program is “Planting for the Birds in Your Backyard” and will include information on turning your yard into a year-round sanctuary for birds with proper plant selection and placement. The session will be led by Dan Ziomek, the manager at Sugarloaf Gardens in Sutherland.

“He’s known at least in the master gardeners’ circle for being a great pruner, but one other thing in Dan’s background is he’s a birder,” Bonner said. “He even runs a talk show on birding once a week,

so he’s going to put together his mastery of plants and birds and present on planting for birds in your backyard. He’ll be talking about plants that are pretty, plants that are useful and how to bring them together.”

Another 8:30 a.m. program is “Start Your Own Seeds – A Hands-on Workshop”, which will educate gardeners on when and how to start seeds, care for seeds and plant them. Each participant will prepare a peat pot and plant tomato seeds to take home in this session led by Master Gardener George Kingston.

“They’ll learn the nitty gritty for everything from how do you choose seeds; do you get them from a catalog, or do you get them from Costco? What planting medium do you do? When do you transfer? All those kinds of ideas,” Bonner said.

A third 8:30 a.m. program is “Pruning for Better Blooms” and will demystify the “when, why and how” of pruning shrubs to create the best flower show. Led by Horticulturist Jen Werner, a retired professor of Landscape Design Management at STCC, the session will review tools, techniques and specific pruning tips for popular flowering landscape shrubs such as hydrangeas, lilacs and rhododendrons.

“(Werner) is going to be talking about what plants to prune and what not to prune,” Bonner said. “She’ll talk about a variety of bushes and shrubs and how you can prune them.”

The last 8:30 a.m. program, “The Joy of Container Gardening”, is led by Master Gardener Priscilla Touhey. The session will demonstrate how to create your own ornamental container garden for spring, what plants are appropriate

and how to maintain it.

“You can grow everything from vegetables to flowers in containers and make them beautiful,” Bonner said.

One 10:30 a.m. program is “Garden for Life: Using Native Plants in the Landscape” and will be led by Blue Stem Natives Nursery Owner Kristen Nicholson. The session will address the immense value of native plants and discuss why planting natives in your yard is so important.

“You may know a lot about native plants, but you may not. Here are some good ones to start that are good combinations for butterflies or bees,” Bonner said.

A second 10:30 a.m. program is “Essentials for the Upcoming Growing Season 101” and is led by Master Gardener and Green Thumb Guru Ed Sourdiffe. The workshop will help attendees learn what to expect in the spring, how to prioritize and what to do to ensure a successful gardening season.

“(Last year), several people wanted to know, ‘Okay it’s spring, it’s March, what do I do?’ That’s why we put that workshop in,” Bonner said. “How do you open a garden? Do you till or do you not till? If you ever watch Mass Appeal, Sourdiffe is their resident gardener.”

A third 10:30 a.m. program is “Setting Up Your Vegetable Garden for Success”, led by Beth Carmichael, Margery Gerard and JoAnne Palmer, master gardeners and co-leaders of the Full Circle Food Pantry Garden in South Hadley. The workshop will empower attendees to start their own vegetable gardens or enhance their current gardens, helping to improve production and yields.

“A major issue out there is food security and also the cost of food,”

Bonner said, noting the garden produces 2,000 pounds of food every year for the South Hadley food pantry. “Even if you’re able to feed your family, the cost has gone up, so we’re really focusing this workshop along those lines of being able to set up your own vegetable garden for success.”

Lastly, at 10:30 a.m., is “Friend or Foe: Helpful and Harmful Garden Insects and Worms”, led by Entomologist Dr. Olga Kostromytska, an assistant professor at the UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture. The program will discuss both beneficial and pest insects in New England and how to spot invasive species such as invasive worms.

“Rounding out our workshops, (Kostromytska) will be talking about insects that are good, so don’t get rid of them all,” Bonner said. “She’ll talk about which ones are beneficial and which are harmful. She’ll also talk about the hot topic out there, which is the Asiatic Jumping Worms that are destroying our soil and becoming more prevalent.”

In between sessions, the Marketplace Fair will occur. The fair will include information tables on urbs, monarch butterflies, composting, bees and “Ask a Master Gardener”.

“We’ve expanded that break in response to people giving us suggestions for topics, knowing we can’t cover every topic, but how do we share more information. We’re trying to take advantage of that middle piece more; not only get your coffee and look at vendors but get your questions answered,” Bonner said.

One can register for the event online at WMMGA.org. If one registers on or before March 22, the cost to attend is \$30. On the day of the workshop, tickets will be sold for \$40, cash only.

# 3

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## FLORENCE

### Florence Bank supports West Springfield's 250th celebration

FLORENCE – Florence Bank donated \$4,000 to the city of West Springfield to help support four events the city has planned in 2024 as part of a year packed with 250th anniversary festivities.

Florence Bank's backing of the West Springfield 250th Celebration specifically offers support for three 5K races, happening in March, July and November; a 250th Block Party on June 22 and 23, when Elm and Central streets will be closed for activities from dancing to vendors and food trucks; family photo sessions at historic town locations and a golf tournament in July.

Also part of the 250th events in West Springfield in 2024 was a birthday

celebration in Clark Field on Feb. 23, the same day West Springfield was incorporated in 1774; a black-tie ball in May; various ongoing public art projects and a Bright Nights display next winter.

Nikki Gleason, vice president/branch manager in West Springfield, said in addition to the financial support, a team of bank staff will help man some of the events in town. She also noted they are particularly excited to be part of the family photo event on May 11 with photographer Branden Brus, who will capture portraits of interested families who sign up for sessions at a historic town location to be determined.

"I've worked in West Springfield for 13 years, the last five with Florence

Bank at our West Springfield branch, and I believe in the town and in the way it is celebrating this important anniversary," Gleason said. "This is such a diverse community. It's very unique, and I'm pleased that the bank is involved in celebrations that will bring everyone together. It's a great fit for Florence Bank because supporting community events that bring people together is really important to us."

Sarah Calabrese-Dunphy, anniversary committee co-chair, said, "Florence Bank has shown a commitment to the well-being of our town that goes beyond just providing financial services. Through sponsorships, donations and volunteerism, Florence Bank has helped

improve the lives of our local kids, families and the community as a whole."

Since 2007, Florence Bank has had a presence in West Springfield, which was enhanced five years ago, when the current full-service branch opened at 1010 Union St.

To learn more about West Springfield's 250th, people may visit [Westside250.com](http://Westside250.com).

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield and Springfield.

## GREAT BARRINGTON

### Berkshire Green Drinks presents 'Pollinator Paradise Lawns'

GREAT BARRINGTON – Rich Lassar of Nature Works Land Care will present "Pollinator Paradise Lawns" at the March Berkshire Green Drinks on Wednesday, March 13 at 5:15 p.m.

This free hybrid event is taking place online via Zoom and in person at Barrington Brewery, 420 Stockbridge Road in Great Barrington. The in-person social gathering begins around 5:15 p.m.; the presentation and Zoom meeting start at 6 p.m.

People should visit <http://tinyurl.com/March2024-Berks-Green-Drinks> to RSVP, get the Zoom link and for more information.

Rich Lassar is the owner and general manager of Nature Works Land Care, an ecological landscape construction company based in Lee and specializes in creating innovative outdoor living spaces for their clients. It is dedicated to environmentally friendly approaches through all phases of landscape construction, from design to installation and maintenance.

The typical grass lawn is a monoculture that hinders biodiversity and is a detriment to the environment in multiple ways. Yet, it's estimated that between 40 to 50 million acres of land in the U.S. are some form of manicured lawn, i.e.,

mowed grass.

However, transforming lawns into pollinator-friendly spaces that promote native biodiversity is accessible to both homeowners and landscapers. It can be as simple as introducing more diverse species into a lawn or as complex as turning a portion of a lawn into a meadow. Participants will learn different strategies to convert monoculture lawns to habitats that fight climate change and support local wildlife of all kinds.

Berkshire Green Drinks, formerly Pittsfield Green Drinks, is an informal gathering that takes place once a month. A guest speaker talks for about 30 minutes beginning at 6 p.m. and the presentation is followed by a discussion and question and answer. These nights are free and open to everyone with any environmental interest. The drinks aren't green but the conversations are. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join and bring along questions.

Berkshire Green Drinks is sponsored and organized by the Berkshire Environmental Action Team. For more information regarding Berkshire Green Drinks, people may call 413-464-9402 and email Chelsey Simmons at [chelsey@thebeatnews.org](mailto:chelsey@thebeatnews.org).

## HAYDENVILLE

### America Legion to hold 5K road race

HAYDENVILLE – American Legion Post 236, 5 Bridge St., is trying to make a comeback.

Over the years, it has developed a reputation as a bar, not a legion post. "We've served our country, now we want to serve our community." On

Saturday, April 27 at 10 a.m., they are sponsoring Veterans in Motion 5K road race and walk to raise funds to continue their commitment to the community.

To register, people may visit <http://racewire.com/register.php?i=13931>.

## MONTGOMERY

### 'Music in Montgomery' lists performers

MONTGOMERY – Organizers announce the March lineup for the "Music in Montgomery" series, which takes place every Thursday afternoon starting at 3 p.m. in the Montgomery Town Hall, 161 Main Road.

This series is co-hosted by the Montgomery Public Library and by Gray Catbird Pottery Studio. Attendees are invited to bring baked goods to share. Donations are accepted for the refreshments, with money split between the Montgomery Volunteer Firemen's

Association and the Town Library. Donations are also accepted to tip and thank the fabulous musicians, who perform each week.

Featured musicians in March are Eva Capelli and Friends on March 7; Ed Bentley and Friends on March 14; Barry Searle, Sarah Miller and Pete Rzasas on March 21, with Larry Southard closing the month on March 28.

This event is open to all, who are interested. For more information, people may call Dale Rogers at 413-875-5205.

## WORTHINGTON

### Democrats to hold caucus

WORTHINGTON – On Wednesday, March 6 at 6 p.m., Democrats will convene virtually to elect two delegates and one alternate to represent Worthington at the 2024 State Democratic Convention.

The 2024 Convention will be in person at the DCU Center in Worcester on Saturday, June 1.

The caucus is open to everyone; however, only registered Democrats in Worthington may vote and be elect-

ed to be delegates or alternates during the caucus. "Pre-registered" Democrats who will be 16-years-old by Feb. 15 may also participate and run as delegate or alternate.

Youth, people with disabilities, people of color, veterans, members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting [massdems.org/massdems-convention](http://massdems.org/massdems-convention).

## WILLIAMSTOWN

### Clark Art Institute hosts Roy Howat

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Sunday, March 10 at 3 p.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., in the auditorium in the Manton Research Center, presents a free lecture and performance by Roy Howat featuring the music of Belle Époque Paris.

Through music and illustrations, pianist and music scholar Roy Howat explores the rich vein of classical music produced by composers like Debussy, Ravel, Chabrier and Fauré, especially in relation to the writings of Edgar Allan Poe. One of the most frequent discoveries of Howat's research is how meticulously precise and inventive these composers were in their aims and techniques.

Howat, an internationally acclaimed Steinway Artist, is renowned for his expertise in French music. He has shared his knowledge through lectures and masterclasses at American institutions like the Juilliard and Eastman Schools. Holding university positions worldwide, he serves as the Keyboard Research Fellow at London's Royal Academy of Music and is a Research Fellow at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Accessible seats are available. People may call 413-549-0524 or visit [clarkart.edu/events](http://clarkart.edu/events) for more information. Admission to the Clark is free through March.

### Clark Art Institute holds lecture

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30 p.m. the Clark Art Institute's Research and Academic Program hosts "A Less Binary Art History is Possible," a lecture by Kirstin Ringelberg (Elon University / The Kaleta A. Doolin Foundation Fellow).

In this free talk, Ringelberg addresses the once-celebrated (and occasionally reviled) but now largely unknown Belle Époque Parisian artist Madeleine Lemaire (1845-1928). This free lecture takes place in the Clark's

auditorium, located in the Manton Research Center, 225 South St.

For more information, people may visit [clarkart.edu/events](http://clarkart.edu/events). Admission to the Clark is free through March.

The next Research and Academic Program lecture will be presented by Cynthia J. Bogel (Kyushu University / Clark Fellow) and examine motifs on the pedestal of a colossal gilt-bronze Japanese Buddha of the Nara period (710-784). The talk takes place on Tuesday, April 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the Manton Research Center auditorium.

### Clark offers free gallery tour March 1

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Friday, March 1 at 10:15 a.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., hosts the next in its series of free tours of its permanent collection galleries designed specifically to meet the interests of new parents/caregivers and their infants.

Participants should meet at the Clark's main Admissions desk. The program is specially designed to provide new parents and caregivers with a stress-free experience that offers chances to socialize with others who

are caring for young infants. The guided gallery tour offers an informal visit to the Clark's permanent collection free from any concerns about short attention spans or fussy babies. Works by a variety of artists are featured during the casual tour of the collection. This program is best suited for adults with pre-toddlers. Strollers and front-carrying baby carriers are welcome.

For more information, people may visit [clarkart.edu/events](http://clarkart.edu/events). Admission to the Clark is free through March 2024.

# BLANDFORD

## BLANDFORD LIBRARY HOSTS SCHOOL VACATION FUN



Gaven Borhanian plays with slime he made at the library.



Pokemon Club group created Pokemon sun catchers, played trivia, won cards, traded cards and played different styles of Pokemon with library staffer Ashley Nevu, seated. Turley photos by Mary Kronholm



Bryce Maciver makes slime during a school vacation program at the Porter Memorial Library.

## Blandford announces annual town caucus scheduled for March 4

BLANDFORD – The Annual Town Caucus is Monday, March 4 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo will open the meeting to registered voters until someone is chosen to conduct business as well as a secretary.

Offices open for nomination are for

three-year terms unless otherwise noted. They include: Assessor, Board of Health, Cemetery Commissioner, Fence Viewer for two years, Library Trustee, Moderator, Municipal Light Board, two positions for Planning Board, each five-year terms, School Committee, Select Board, Water Commissioner and Tree Warden.

Incumbents are: Assessor, Paul Martin; Board of Health Bret Hartley; Cemetery Commissioner, Stephen Jemiolo; Library Trustee, Mary Kronholm; Moderator, David Hopson; Municipal Light Board, Kim Bergland; Planning Board, Edna Wilander and Paul Martin; School Committee, Keri

Morawiec; Select Board, Theodore Cousineau; Water Commissioner Brad Curry and Tree Warden Mark Boomsma.

All incumbents were asked if they would accept a nomination to seek re-election to their respective positions and all have responded in the affirmative. Other nominations can be made.

## Vendors wanted for Health Fair

HILLTOWNS – Vendors are wanted for a Health Fair set for Friday, May 3 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Sage Road.

“Not only will this be a great opportunity for various providers to network, but also for the general public to see what services and options are available,” said Public Health nurse MaryAnn Deming.

Anyone interested in participat-

ing as a vendor should call Deming at 413-361-8070 or email mdeming@southwickma.gov. The public health nurse grant provides services to cover Blandford, Montgomery and Russell as well as Granville, Southwick and Tolland. Tricia Sedelow is another Public Health nurse affiliated with the program and she can be reached by calling 413-361-8070 or by email at tsedelow@southwickma.gov.



Select Board member Theodore Cousineau and Sen. Paul Mark on Friday, Feb. 23 were at a “ReMark and Refreshments” at the Blandford Town Hall Select Board chambers.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm from page 1

## SUPERINTENDENT

from page 1

### Town Administrator

Town Administrator Michael Szlosek told the board that the town’s insurance would cover inside damage done to the Town Hall because of a roof leak, but unless the roof had storm damage instead of “just being worn out,” any exterior repairs would probably not be covered.

It was suggested to Szlosek by the insurance carrier that the roof be inspected and he and the Building Inspector Jason Fogue will go up on the roof to check on damage.

### Budget reviews

Budget reviews have been scheduled for the next few weeks. If any department has not returned a budget, Szlosek said they should get it to him.

### Other business

The board accepted on the Severe Weather Policy which will be posted on the town’s website.

Several items on the agenda were tabled until the full Select Board was present. Chair Cara Letendre was not in attendance.

## MARK

we provide for free,” speaking about volunteer firefighters.

The Town Clerk’s office suggested additional funding from the state be made available for those offices in smaller communities to help cover the cost of early voting and in-person early voting.

Blandford’s Highway Superintendent David Waldron proposed a “revamping of Ch. 90 funds” and special consideration for letting smaller towns replace their own culverts citing the complications when the state’s Department of Environmental Affairs is involved, and how costs escalate. The discussion lingered on do the towns relinquish control for more funding?

Waldon cited a need for training programs. She also said, “Emergency funding is vital to Western Mass.,”

list was \$3.5 million to repair Yokum Road, a through road essential for emergencies in Becket. Waldron cited a need for funding Beech Hill Road from the Granville town line to Route 23 for \$180,000 and \$560,000 for work on Gore Road.

Sen. Mark commented, “Needs are overwhelming, especially in a small community. I see more of a commitment to small communities,” he said

Referring to health-care emergency west of the Connecticut River, “Most ambulance services a community run and if not in bankruptcy, they’re on the verge,” Dolby said. He mentioned response time as critical for the smaller communities, and that by contracting out to those services in larger cities, the response time is greater. He added that this is a really big concern and that the state has to consider how to fix the problem.

State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga usually participates in “ReMarks and Refreshments,” but was unable to attend Friday’s session due to a death in the family. In closing, Sen. Mark thanked everyone for attending.

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## COA list March menu

BLANDFORD – Council on Aging dining events start on Friday, March 15 with the annual St. Patrick’s Day luncheon at noon in the Town Hall.

Diners will enjoy feasting on a traditional Irish boiled meal of corned beef, cabbage, carrots, with Irish Soda Bread followed by a dessert of Crème de Menthe Cake.

Breakfast is set for Friday, March 29 at 10 a.m. and features eggs Benedict, muffins and breakfast potatoes.

According to the COA, “A suggested donation of \$5 helps keep this program going.”

Reservations must be made by calling 413-848-4279, extension 400 and leaving a name and the number of people who will attend.



# CHESTERFIELD

## NAN CLARK DANCES THE CHESTERFIELD CRAWL



On stage are from left, James Kitchen, Bruce Mandaro, Mark Scarborough, and Dave Christopolis. Nan Clark, front, who turns 95 this year, demonstrated how to dance the Chesterfield Crawl, a song written by fellow Chesterfield resident, James Kitchen at the Chesterfield Winter Festival held on Saturday, Feb. 24 in the town grange. *Submitted photo*

## Chesterfield church to hold breakfast March 10

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Congregational Church, 43 Main Road, will be having its monthly breakfast on Sunday, March 10 from 8-10 a.m.

The cost is a voluntary donation. The menu features pancakes with or without blueberries; French toast; pure Chesterfield maple syrup; free range, organic, farm-fresh eggs any style;

breakfast sandwiches; sausage, home fries; homemade corned beef hash; juice; tea and coffee.

In addition, the special items for this breakfast will be a variety of fresh baked scones – orange almond, maple cream, apricot with white chocolate and walnuts and cranberry orange. There will also be live music from The Rolling Scones during the breakfast.

## Chesterfield church to hold corned beef and cabbage supper

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Congregational Church will be having its annual corned beef and cabbage supper on Saturday, March 9 with dining in, served family style, at 5:30 p.m.

Take-out is available for pick-up starting at 4:45 p.m.. The cost of the supper is \$18 for adults, children ages 4 to 12 are \$9 and children ages 3 and under

eat are free.

The supper will feature home-made, brined corned beef, Irish soda bread, vegetables and gingerbread for dessert. The vegetables are cabbage, potatoes and carrots. The supper will also include coffee, tea and juice. For reservations and take-out orders, people may call Zoe Greenwood at 413-358-6567 or e-mail her at zwgass@optonline.net.

Send Us Your Photos!

countryjournal@turley.com

## FESTIVAL *from page 1*

and Donnie Bisbee, who descend from a family that first put down roots in the area in the 18th century.

The town hall provided a warm respite with free soup, music and information tables from the local ambulance corp, the Hilltown Land Trust and the Hilltown Community Development Corp, whose executive director, Dave Christopolis, played bass in the trio that entertained the crowd.

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Live music by Bruce Mandaro, Mark Scarborough and Dave Christopolis, who also heads the Hilltown Community Development Corporation. *Turley Photos by Kathryn Koegel*



Noah and Emma Berman bundle up for the wagon ride supplied by Clay Hill Farm. She is a special education teacher at Hampshire Regional High School.

think OUTSIDE of the **BIG BOX** SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

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## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

# Colleges and universities announce Dean's list and graduate

### Athletic Director's 3.0 Club American International College Springfield

Dacota Durkee of Westfield, economics and finance major; Daniel Provost of Westfield, sports and recreation management major; Morgan Dunham of Westhampton, nursing major and Maggie Prystowski of Westfield, health science major

### Dean's list Assumption College Worcester

Aidan Boyle of Westfield, Emily Mihalek of Westfield, Rebecca Monti of Westfield, Joshua Nixdorf of Westfield and Cameron Theriault of Westfield

### Dean's list Bryant University Smithfield, R.I.

Joseph Boyer of Easthampton, Tyler Champagne of Westfield, Ryan Cimini of Westfield, Sophia Corcoran of Westfield, Cameron Lisowski of Westfield, Anthony Schabowski of Westfield and Kyle Scherpa of Westfield

### Dean's list Rochester Institute of Technology Rochester, N.Y.

Shaun Thornton of Washington, computer science program; Nate Valeri of Westfield, 3D digital design program; Emma Pedro of Westfield, applied statistics and data analytics program; Kaitlin Price of Westfield, biomedical engineering

program; Caden Matuszczak of Westfield, computer engineering program; Deajah Barbour of Westfield, computing and information technologies program; Ariana Ciaschini of Westfield, cybersecurity program; Emmet Blanchette of Westfield, graphic design program and Wunnam Ziblim of Westfield, mechanical engineering program

### Dean's list Saint Asnelm Manchester, N.H.

Caela Scanlon of Easthampton, Class of 2026 and elementary education major; Elizabeth Swanson of Pittsfield, Class of 2025 and health sciences major and Elyse Eiding of Westfield, Class of 2027 and nursing major

### Dean's list Tufts University Medford

Ruby McElhone Yates of Easthampton, Class of 2025; Natalie Nicoletti of Williamsburg, Class of 2025 and Annika von Schoeler-Ames of Williamsburg, Class of 2026

### Graduate Wilkes University Wilkes-Barre, PA

Nicole Buri of Easthampton, Master of Science in nursing

## Gateway Regional High School announces honor roll

HUNTINGTON – Gateway Regional High School Principal William Sullivan announces the honor roll for the second term of the 2023-2024 school year.

In accordance with the student handbook, honor roll status is granted to students with high academic achievement for a marking quarter.

### First honors

First honors are awarded to students who receive A's in all courses taken. The following students earned first honors for this marking period post graduate, Heather McEwan and seniors: Alexi Bonenfant, Jackson Harding, Abigail Madru, Grace Plumley, Issabella Santiago and Sawyer Wilkinson; juniors: Jesse Balboni, Ivan Chepurensko, Ashley Fisk, Evan Forge, Mason LaBranche,

Olivia MacIver and Cynthea Papillon; sophomores: Theodore DeAngelis-Page, Kathryn Harding, Eliza Mueller, Lily Peloquin, Desmond St. Martin, Ashley Tacke and Michael Whitaker and freshmen: Elle DeMoss, Addison Green, Charlotte Hansen, Anna Niles, Levi Savoy and Amelia Steward-Frey.

### Second honors

Second honors are awarded to students who receive a minimum of two A's and receive B's in all other courses taken. Students earning second honors for this marking period are seniors: Rachael Fitzgerald, Elijah Gilbert, Kai Rahilly and Anna Sakaske; juniors: Madilyn Beneway, Kyleigh Benson and Benjamin Pritchard; sophomores: Jeffrey Antonellis, Bow Briggs, Ana Holmes, Liam Hourihan, Elizabeth Kadzik,

Jake Marchbanks, Grace Renauld and Justin Rucki and freshmen: Jack Boyden, Cameron Hepburn, Dylan Hepburn, Zachary Hess, Brandin Kulig, Cailin Mckellick and Bella Moulton.

### Third honors

Third honors are granted to students who receive a minimum of one A, with B's and no more than one C in all courses taken. Students who earned third honors for the marking term are seniors: Matthew Kadzik, William King and Angela Magyar; juniors: Briana Peloquin and Skylar Radwich; sophomores: Natalie Carroll, Rylan McCaul, Lilliana Mitchell and Max Plumley and freshmen: Elijah Chepurensko, Makayla Fernengel, Leah Fulton and Jackson Renauld.

## R.H. Conwell to hold book bazaar

WORTHINGTON – R.H. Conwell Elementary School, 147 Huntington Road, will hold their annual used book bazaar March 7 through March 9 in the cafeteria.

On Thursday, March 7 and Friday, March 8 during school hours, the book bazaar will be open for students. On Saturday, March 9 from 8 a.m.-noon, it will be open to the public. All books are \$2.

All proceeds from this event go directly to fund student field trips.

Donations of books are needed. To ensure the success of this event, organizers are seeking donations of new and gently used books and audiobooks for preschool through sixth grade students as well as books for family and community members of all ages.

Donations may be delivered to the school Monday to Friday between 9 a.m.-3 p.m. to the donation bin located behind the school near the main parking lot. For more information, people may email [worthingtonpto.ma@gmail.com](mailto:worthingtonpto.ma@gmail.com).

Coaches, Teachers, Parents: Send us your news & photos email: [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)

## CHESTER

### CHESTER LIBRARY HOSTS PROGRAMS DURING VACATION



These youths participate in "My Little Fiend and Me" led by Adrienne Johnson. They also received a snack.



These boys proudly hold up the sock puppets they made at the Hamilton Memorial Library in Chester during school vacation week.



Tammy Merenda gave a falconer presentation at the Hamilton Memorial Library and brought this bird with her during February school vacation.

Submitted photos

## RUSSELL

# Missing Russell man located by police search team

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

RUSSELL – Police Chief Kevin Hennessey said a call came into the Russell Police Department on Wednesday, Feb. 21 about 4 p.m. regarding an 87-year-old male, who had not been seen since about 3 ¾ hours before.

According to Chief Hennessey, the man had not been seen since approximately 12:15 p.m. He was on foot and Russell Police requested assistance from the Massachusetts State Police. The MSP units showed up in full force, as did the Chester/Blandford Police, Blandford Fire Department and the Berkshire Mountain Search and Rescue Team. MSP K-9 unit was also on site.

Russell Police and the MSP set up a command post for the search process.

Chief Hennessey said that information regarding the man had been posted to social media, Reverse 911 and Code Red. Fortunately, a Russell resident's security camera showed him entering the woods nearby. Massachusetts State Police personnel followed up on the lead and located

the man about 8:15 p.m. by following footprints into the wooded area off Route 23.

The man was taken to the hospital for evaluation as a precaution, but he was conscious and alert.

Chief Hennessey did not release the name of the individual due to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act regulations.

## GOSHEN

# Goshen Council on Aging announces upcoming events

GOSHEN – The monthly Council on Aging local lunch will be the Annual St. Patrick's Day celebration on Tuesday, March 12 at noon in the Goshen Town Hall.

The lunch is hosted by Bill O'Riordan. Jerry from Spruce Corner will be serving up the traditional corned beef dinner with potatoes, carrots, cabbage and rye bread. There will also be a new vegetarian Irish stew. Of course, there will be a special dessert. People should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 by Wednesday, March 6 with their meal choice. Suggested five dollar donation appreciated.

This year the special speaker will be Dana Warren, a junior at Hampshire Regional High School. She will talk about her experience growing up Irish and her trip to Ireland.

She will entertain the crowd with Irish tales, songs, and music. There will also be a sing-a-long of Irish songs led by Steve Calderone.

On Saturday, March 9 from 2-3:30 p.m. in the dining room of Goshen Town Hall the COA will host a free writing workshop with Lara Tupper, local published author of three books. Participants will learn practical tips for sustaining a writing habit they can stick with and enjoy. Class size is limited. People should register with Lara at [www.laratupper.com](http://www.laratupper.com) or call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 if they need assistance by Tuesday, March 5. This program is free due to the generosity of the Goshen

Cultural Council and the Mass Cultural Council. Adults of all ages are welcome.

On Saturday, March 15 Pauline Productions, led by Goshen resident Jeanine Haas, is putting on a play named "The Cemetery Club," a comedy by Ivan Menchell. This play ran on Broadway in the 1990s and was made into a major motion picture. It is about a group of friends, who meet monthly for tea to visit their husbands' graves. When one of them meets a fellow she likes, the friendship hits some rough water.

The van from the Hilltown Community Development Corporation has been reserved for those who need a ride and will pick up at the Goshen Town parking lot at 1:15 p.m. The play is at the First Congregational Church of Ashfield and it starts at 2 p.m. The COA will purchase the tickets. They should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 or email at [coa@goshen-ma.us](mailto:coa@goshen-ma.us) by Friday, March 8 if they would like to attend and/or if they need a ride.

On Thursdays, March 21 and 28 from 2-4:30 p.m. there will be a basket weaving class taught by Goshen resident Mickey Malinowski. Participants will learn how to create a beautiful and functional basket in this two part class. All materials provided by the COA and Mickey has generously donated her time and talent. Adults of all ages are welcome. People should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 by Tuesday, March 12 to sign up so they can order materials. Class size is limited.

Lena Garcia will be teaching a drawing class Thursday afternoons starting Thursday, April 4 from 1-3 p.m. starting Thursday, April 4 in the dining room at the Goshen Town Hall. This eight week class is geared toward beginners who would like to learn to draw or would like to grow their skills in drawing.

Participants will work on a variety of skills in an encouraging and relaxed atmosphere. This class is partially funded by a Goshen Cultural Council grant. They can sign up at [www.lenagarcia.com](http://www.lenagarcia.com) and they will get a supply list once registered.

On Friday, March 1 Community Connections Group meets from 10-11 a.m. in the dining room on the second floor of the Town Hall. This month we will have Amy Catanzaro, Au.D, audiologist from Hampshire Hearing and Speech in Northampton. She will talk about the sense of hearing and give tips for how to prevent and manage hearing loss.

On Wednesday, March 6 crafts group will meet from 1-3 p.m. in the upstairs dining room or the library at the Goshen Town Hall. This month they will have all the materials ready for a craft to work on together. People may also bring whatever craft or needlework project they are working on.

Joan Griswold teaches a great exercise class in person on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Goshen Town Hall. She also puts this and other classes on Zoom on the other days of the week. People may Joan with questions and/or for the

zoom links at [joan@bybhealth.com](mailto:joan@bybhealth.com).

On Tuesdays, March 19 and 26 the Highland Valley Elderly Services is held the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month with pick up from noon-12:30 p.m. at the Goshen Town Hall. The meal choices on March 19 are kielbasa with cabbage and onions or chicken piccata. On March 26, the meal choices are Greek salad or chicken salad. The meals also include milk, vegetables and a dessert. To sign up, people should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 to fill out a brief intake form. There is a suggested \$3 donation that is given to Highland Valley Elder Services to offset the cost of the meal.

On Wednesday, March 20 games group will be from 1-3 p.m. and continue on the third Wednesday of each month in the dining room on the second floor of Town Hall or sometimes the library.

Foot Clinics with Piper Sagan – Goshen residents are able to sign up for a foot clinic with Piper Sagan of medically based foot care through the COA in Cummington 413-634-2262 or Williamsburg 413-268-8407. Appointments include assessment of foot structure, health of the skin, toenails, and circulation. Nails are clipped and filed, dystrophic nails are thinned and painful calluses are reduced. Recognizing the importance of this service, the Goshen COA will pay \$10 towards the \$50 fee. Saga also does home visits for \$80. People may call her directly at 413-522-8432 for in-home service.

## SANDISFIELD

# Daniel Manacher Prize for Young Artists accepting applications

SANDISFIELD – The Sandisfield Arts Center announces the third annual Daniel Manacher Prize for Young Artists.

The Call for Art is open through April 7. Up to three artists will be selected as finalists, each receiving \$400 to support their art practice. Winners will be notified no later than June 1. An exhibition of the finalist's work will be held in the fall at the Sandisfield Arts Center.

The contest will be judged by Josephine Halvorson, Professor of Art and Chair of Graduate Studies in Painting at Boston University. Halvorson lives in western Massachusetts and is currently building a studio in Sandisfield.

Eligible artists are those working in painting, drawing, mixed media and sculpture, aged 17-26 years of age, and residing or attending school in Berkshire County. No fee is associated with the application, and all entrants will be judged based solely on the merit of the work presented. Past winners are not eligible to apply. Complete eligibility requirements can be found by visiting the Sandisfield Arts Center website at [sandisfieldartcenter.org](http://sandisfieldartcenter.org).

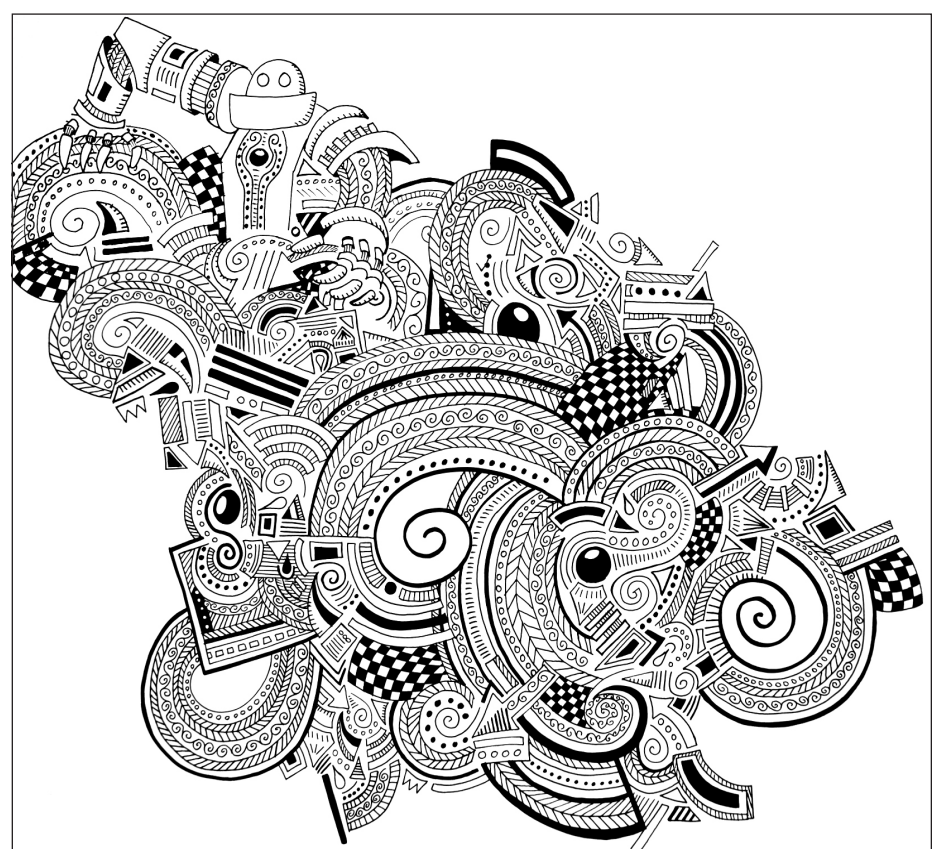
The prize was created by Adam

Manacher and Carol Birnbaum, Daniel Manacher's parents, in memory of their son and his passion for art.

"Daniel worked on different surfaces, always hand-drawn," said his father, Adam Manacher. "He loved interacting with people in their love for art. We hope, with the Daniel Manacher Prize for Young Artists, to inspire other young artists and to assist them as they reach for their dreams."

To apply, artists may visit [sandisfieldartscenter.org](http://sandisfieldartscenter.org). For questions or more information, people should email [gallery@sandisfieldartscenter.org](mailto:gallery@sandisfieldartscenter.org).

The Sandisfield Arts Center, located at 5 Hammertown Rd. in Sandisfield is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with the mission to preserve our historic building and provide cultural and educational programs for our community. The Sandisfield Arts Center is managed by a volunteer board of directors assisted by additional volunteers and generous donors. Programs are supported, in part, by grants from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, Otis Cultural Council, New Marlborough Cultural Council, the Monterey Cultural Council, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



This drawing was done by Daniel Manacher in 2013.

Drawing by Daniel Manacher

# OTIS

## Recreation Commission offers free ski day

OTIS – The town of Otis Recreation Commission and Otis Ridge Ski Area are hosting a free ski day for full time Otis residents on Sunday, March 10. Full time residents may email

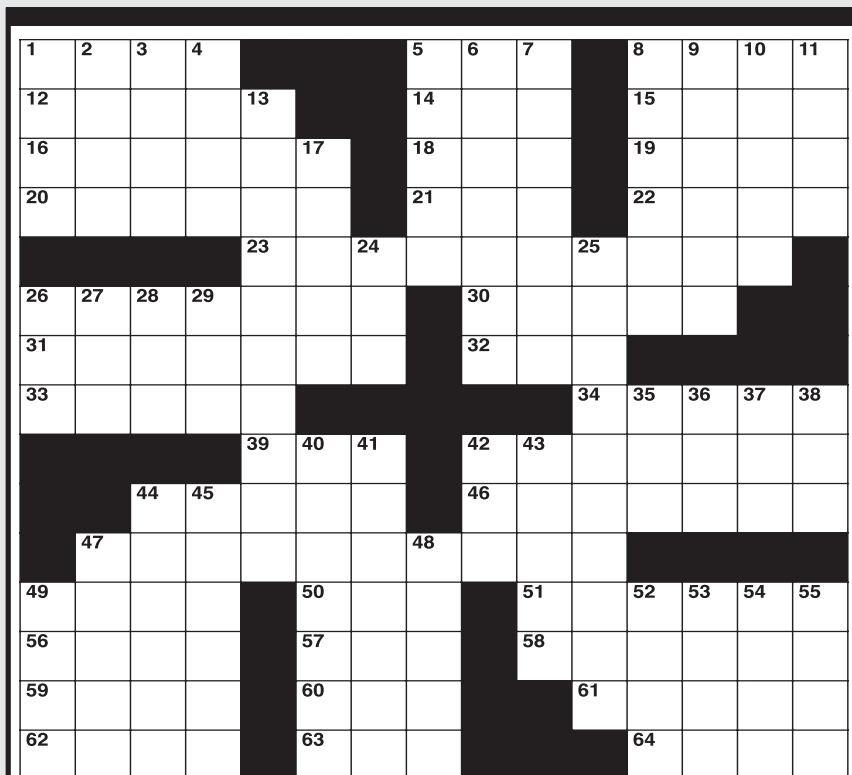
Heather at healthdept@towofotisma.com or call 413-269-0100, extension 129 to schedule an appointment to obtain passes on March 10. Ski rentals will be available if needed.

# MIDDLEFIELD

## Middlefield COA announces lunch menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, on Wednesday, March 6 will serve lunch at noon. The menu is eat in or take out. The choice is roasted turkey with gravy

or chicken a la King and pasta, green peas, dinner roll and pudding with topping. People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal the previous Monday, March 4. Suggested donation is \$3.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Home of Iowa State University
- 5. \_\_\_-fi (slang)
- 8. Mottled green and yellow fruit
- 12. Capable of thinking and expressing oneself clearly
- 14. Sports broadcaster Eagle
- 15. Midday
- 16. Kinsmen
- 18. Cable network
- 19. Simpleton
- 20. Brunch beverage
- 21. Fed
- 22. European capital
- 23. Native inhabitants
- 26. Mechanical device
- 30. Rare geese native to Hawaii
- 31. Bedroom furnishing
- 32. The products of human creativity

- 33. Mass transit option
- 34. Made a mistake
- 39. Sacred sound symbol
- 42. Large N. American reindeer
- 44. Dull and flat
- 46. Partner to huffing
- 47. Written works
- 49. Monetary unit of Serbia
- 50. Midway between east and southeast
- 51. Peninsula of southwestern Asia
- 56. Widely used multiuser OS
- 57. Aggressive dog
- 58. Varnished
- 59. Hindu queen
- 60. Time units, abbr.
- 61. Farm animals
- 62. Capital of Latvia
- 63. Where golfers begin
- 64. Takes to civil court

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. One who graduated
- 2. An inspired holy person
- 3. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 4. A place to store things
- 5. Indian instrument
- 6. Spanish saloon
- 7. Whole number
- 8. Not fastened
- 9. Gives a boost
- 10. Lounges about
- 11. Interested in
- 13. Remove salt
- 17. Type of sword
- 24. Naturally occurring solid material
- 25. Gets involved without being invited
- 26. Feline
- 27. Bobby \_\_\_, NHL champ
- 28. "Kill Bill" actress Thurman
- 29. Hawaiian dish
- 35. Moroccan coastal region
- 36. Baseball statistic
- 37. Long period of time
- 38. Moved earth
- 40. Central Netherlands city
- 41. Take stock of
- 42. Central processing unit
- 43. Distinctive qualities one generates
- 44. Getting stuck
- 45. Loss of bodily movements
- 47. Veranda
- 48. Abrupt
- 49. What cats do
- 52. Expresses pleasure
- 53. Type of cheese
- 54. Professional STEM organization
- 55. Automatic data processing systems

# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**

Mar 21/Apr 20  
Take a few days off from work if you find you have been running yourself ragged, Aries. The pressure to be the best may have gotten to you and you need a rest.

**CANCER**

Jun 22/Jul 22  
Listen to someone's feelings when they come to you and try to vent, Cancer. Exhibit some patience and help this person work through his or her issues.

**LIBRA**

Sept 23/Oct 23  
It is important to take the reins this week, Libra, particularly if you want to get noticed by those in positions of power. You need to be your own best advocate.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec 22/Jan 20  
Are you ready to accept the consequences of your actions? If you go out on your own path when others are warning against it, you will need to confront the consequences on your own.

**TAURUS**

Apr 21/May 21  
Powering through a situation sometimes works, but not if you are feeling ill or injured, Taurus. Prioritize your health right now and take a step back if need be.

**LEO**

Jul 23/Aug 23  
A great opportunity is coming down the pike, Leo. You will have to get your timing correct to maximize its impact on your life. Organize all of the elements you can control.

**SCORPIO**

Oct 24/Nov 22  
Sometimes the hardest thing to do in a situation is to stay silent when you don't agree with things, Scorpio. Keep in mind that others may not be ready to hear your advice.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan 21/Feb 18  
Aquarius, you may be ready to make a big move in your life, but others may not be there with you just yet. You need to find the timing that works for as many as possible.

**GEMINI**

May 22/Jun 21  
Gemini, there are always two sides to every story, so resist the urge to weigh in on a situation between friends right now. Get all of the information first and then stay neutral.

**VIRGO**

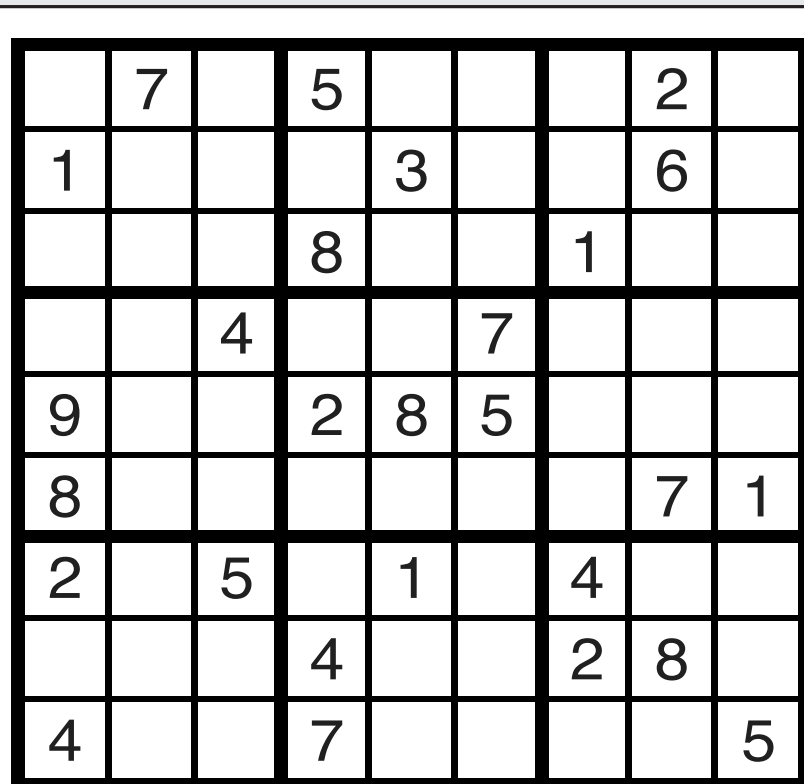
Aug 24/Sept 22  
Advice from a loved one prompts you to reevaluate your plans for the coming weeks, Virgo. Step away from the situation to see how things might work.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Nov 23/Dec 21  
Take ownership of any mistakes you have made and learn from them this week, Sagittarius. That is the only way you can grow as a person and make a difference in others' lives.

**PISCES**

Feb 19/Mar 20  
Pisces, it may not be possible to put blinders on for every situation. However, sometimes it is advisable to look the other way in the name of keeping the peace.



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**answers**

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# OBITUARY

## Edwin D. Cady, 83

HUNTINGTON – Edwin D. Cady, age 83 passed away on Feb. 4, 2024.

Ed was predeceased by his parents Chester Cady, Sr. and Lillian (Thompson) Cady. The Cady family has lived on Goss Hill Road in Huntington for many generations where they managed a dairy farm and engaged in other farming operations. Ed leaves his wife Lorraine (Mandeville) presently of Northampton. She was the love of his life and they have been married for

36 years. He is also survived by his brother Chester Cady, Jr. and his wife Mary (Ford) and their children Lauren Mollison (spouse Brad) and Ryan Cady. Ed's sister, Joyce C. Cook, predeceased him in 1999. She is survived by her son, Jay.

A Memorial Service will be held for Ed at a later date. Donations in memory of Ed may be made to Shriners' Hospital for Children, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104.

# NORTHAMPTON

## Forbes Library announces programs

NORTHAMPTON – Forbes Library, 20 West St., will hold a virtual Lesson from Nature on Life, Death, Renewal and Legacy on Thursday, Feb. 29 from 7-8 p.m.

Within a short span of time, Margie Patlak lost her mother, sole sibling and father. Reeling from those losses, Patlak returned to live in Down East Maine, where she spent her childhood summers. While in mourning and writing about the wilder environment she experienced at her new home, Patlak uncovered many lessons nature was teaching her about the nature of life, lessons that helped her personally heal from her losses.

Patlak's emotionally compelling presentation will be followed by an opportunity for questions, comments, and discussion. This program is presented in partnership with Memorial Hall Library. People should register to attend this virtual program by calling 413-587-1011 or visit the library website at [www.forbeslibrary.org](http://www.forbeslibrary.org).

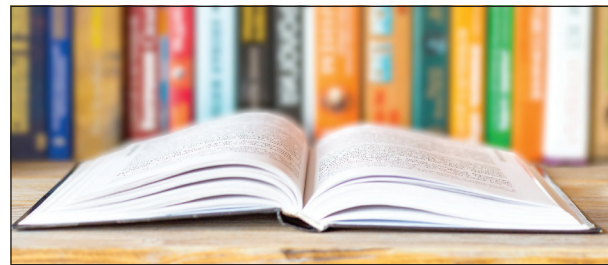
Drop-In tech help is available Mondays and Thursdays from 4-5:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 2-3:30 p.m.

People are invited to drop-in tech help session. They may bring their device, or use one of the library's computers, to have their questions answered

by a knowledgeable volunteer. For more scheduling options, they may make a one-on-one appointment with a library staff member by calling 413-587-1011.

Dungeons and Dragons Club for Kids is held on Thursday, Feb. 29 from 3:45-5:15 p.m. The club meets every other Thursday. This program is for kids ages 9 plus and is limited to six participants per session. Registration is necessary by calling the Children's Desk at 413-587-1010 or visit the library in person to sign up.

Kids' Gaming Club meets Friday, March 1 from 4-5 p.m. Every Friday, children ages 7-12 can come to the Community Room to hang out with other young gamers and play the library's Nintendo Switch. Teens age 12 and up are invited to check out the Teen Gaming Lounge.



## DEATH NOTICE

**CADY, EDWIN D.**

Died Feb. 4, 2024  
Memorial Service at a later date



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[countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24C0050CA**

In the matter of:  
**Marie-Lydia Marlyne Martineau  
aka: Marlene L. Vachula  
aka: Marlyne Lydia Vachula**  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by:  
**Marie-Lydia Marlyne Martineau  
aka: Marlene L. Vachula  
aka: Marlyne Lydia Vachula of Chester, MA**

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Marlyne Lydia Vachula**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00a.m. on the return day of 03/19/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 20, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
02/29/24

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION  
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

**Project File No. 608886**  
A Public Informational Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed North Road & Damon Pond Road Improvements project in the Town of Chesterfield, MA.

**WHERE:**  
**The Community Center  
400 Main Road  
Chesterfield, MA 01012**

**WHEN:**  
**6:00 PM, Wednesday,  
March 13, 2024**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed North Road & Damon Pond Road Improvements project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The project proposes to reconstruct North Road & Damon Pond Road. North Road improvements are proposed from Main Rd (Rte. 143) to the intersection of North Road and Damon Pond Road. Damon Pond Road improvements are proposed from the intersection of North Road and Damon Pond Road to the Goshen town line. The total project length is approximately 2.5 miles. Improvements include full-depth reclamation and multiple culvert replacements throughout the length of the project, including the culvert

at the base of the Damon Pond dam. Horizontal and vertical geometry will be adjusted to improve sight distance and user safety. Finally new pavement markings will be applied within the project limits.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event 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  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
02/29, 03/06/2024**

# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers walk along the original colonial era Ingell Road, now restored to its original historic charm.



Hike leader Stephanie Brown leads the group on the Ingell Road.

*Submitted photos*



The group heads across what was once the vast Ingell Farm.



Rick Holzman stands at the Chapel that H. Newman Marsh built.

## Hikers take walk back in time on Ingell Road

The Chester Hill Association and the Hilltown Hikers joined together for the annual Chester Hill Snow Day on scenic Ingell Road in Chester.

Although here was not enough snow for sledding and snow sports we did take a walk back in time down the road and onto the colonial Ingell Road, which has been restored to its original state. The Hilltown Hikers' walk took them to the H. Newman Marsh Farm, Ingell Cemetery and Marsh chapel, which historically was once the Ingell Farm. The cemetery contains some of the very first settlers of Chester Hill. This property and all of Ingell Road was once the entire Ingell property.

The Chester Hill Association told the stories of long ago on the farm. I am very proud to say, H. Newman Marsh is one of my idols, who's life work encouraged folks like me to join the Chester Foundation,

The Jacob's Ladder Scenic Byway, the Jacob's Ladder Business Association and submit beautiful photos for the Country Journal to promote and preserve the beauty of the Hilltowns. After the walk the Chester Hill Association served hot cocoa and cookies. This event was made possible by Rich and Shelley Holzman and Brian Kovisto who opened up their property so we could learn about its historic loca-

tion and how it has changed over the last one hundred plus years.

H. Newman Marsh Jr., left a successful career in banking in New York City for farming in the southern Berkshires town of Chester. Marsh was born in Washington, D.C., and spent his summers in Maine where he fell in love with New England. In 1981, he traded his executive vice presidency at European American Bank for a homestead in Chester that is called Misty Mountain Farm.

Marsh, a 1948 graduate of Bowdoin College in Maine, served with the Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean War. After his graduation from Bowdoin in 1948, he worked for the National Broadcasting Co. in Washington. Following his service in the Korean War, he turned down an offer by NBC to work in New York City and instead bought the Millstream Farm in New Hartford.

At age 40, he left dairy farming and began a career in banking with the Hartford National Bank in 1964. He joined European American Bank in New York City and completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School in 1975. He was an executive vice president at

European American upon his retirement in 1981, when he moved to Misty Mountain Farm, which he purchased in 1975.

He retired last year from the board of the former Luxo Lamp Corporation, now called IJI Lighting, as a director.

In Chester, Marsh began a second career in farming and community activism.

He purchased the Country Journal, a weekly newspaper serving the Hilltowns of western Massachusetts, in 1981.

On his 400 acres in Chester, he managed a woodlot that was nominated as Tree Farm of the Year in 1995 raised Haflinger horses and Scotch Highland cattle, and produced maple syrup. As founder of the Chester Hill Association, he organized two annual community celebrations a Maplefest held on Chester Hill and a Harvest Festival at Misty Mountain Farm.

In connection with the restoration of the Chester train station, he co-founded the Chester Foundation which runs Chester on Track, a celebration of the community's ties to the railroad. He also co-founded the Northeast Haflinger Association. He was a director with the miniature Theater of Chester. Of his community leadership, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission said in 1995,

Marsh seems to act on the principle that "a community with self-esteem will make well-reasoned, intelligent decisions and simply be a better place to live."

## HISTORY

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and the pay is not financially rewarding according to him.

So why does he do it? Perhaps to get back at the Pratt Institute, the New York art school that belittled his artistic talent when he went there, but more likely because he believes in realistic representational art.

He has surely mastered painting portraits in oil over his 40 years of practice. He has received many awards and accolades as an artist and exhibited his work in many museums including the Smithsonian. He is also an authority on Edgar Allen Poe, who he has painted on a stamp and written a book about. He calls New Orleans home. You can bet it will take more than whistling Dixie to get one of his paintings, but you can buy a miniature work of his art for the cost of a stamp, 68 cents. And that will look good hanging on your envelope. Who would you suggest for a commemorative stamp?



The hikers stop at the Marsh homestead.