

"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new." – Albert Einstein

# 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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## HILLTOWNS

### Community groups celebrate the Week of the Young Child

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

April 6 – 12 marks the Week of the Young Child, an American celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, with a goal of providing “hands-on, collaborative activities encouraging movement and healthy lifestyles through music, food and art.”

Area families, who have young children, are invited to take part in this remarkable week. Locally, the week is being organized as a region-wide collaboration that includes area businesses, family day care providers, the Appalachian Mountain Club at Noble View, Gateway Regional School District, Hilltown Family Center, the Huntington Recreation Committee, Westfield Infant Toddler Services and area town libraries.

While the WOYC has always been cause for celebration and recognition, this year’s collaboration is unprecedented. According to Gateway’s Director of Pupil Services Kurt Garivaltis, it grew out of a partnership that formed last year to apply for a Commonwealth Preschool Partnership

**YOUNG CHILD**, page 2

## Wild New England Weather



These croci were taken in Wyben.

Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel



Watson Park in Blandford had fallen limbs from a weekend ice storm.

Turley Photo by Mary Kronholm

## BLANDFORD

### No major incidents during ice storm

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Highway Department Superintendent David Waldron reported that there were “no major incidents” as a result of the weekend ice storm.

There were a few trees or branches on wires and branches down on roadsides. The Journal learned of a tree on the wires on Curtis Hall Road and another tree on Herrick Road that demolished a resident’s mail box, but did not land in the road.

The Gibbs Road culvert work is finished and is working.

#### Tree cutting

Tree cutting on Gore and North Blandford Roads first set for this week has been rescheduled.

Tree Warden Maark Boomsma attended the meeting and said there were just branches down. There are some down in Watson Park that will need a day to a day and a half’s work in the park and Boomsma will take care of that.

Looking forward, tree work can change after every storm. Boomsma takes care of “dead or dying” trees and suggested that the Highway Department and he work together. Waldron said they both have the same problem, “funding”.

Waldron suggested for next year’s budget a separate line item for \$25,000 for police details and this would “extend the budgets” of both highway and tree warden so they would not have to

**ICE STORM**, page 6

## BLANDFORD

### Eighth grader Aubrey Hultay presents class civic project to Select Board

Gateway Regional eighth-grader Aubrey Hultay presented the Select Board with her classroom Action Civics Project: constructing a new exit on I-90 in Blandford.

Civics teacher Christopher Mosher asked all the eight grade civics students to come up with a problem, which exists in the Hilltowns that can be fixed. Of the many issues brought to the group, which included potholes, bring in new businesses, gun regulations, it was the idea of new Blandford exit that

captured the class vote.

Hultay said that State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli spoke to the students and told them it was, in his opinion, a great idea. Hultay said that the cost would not be as high as there is already “an exit there.” Her list of pros and cons included the attraction of more businesses to town, affording the local teens more job opportunities as well as too much



Aubrey Hultay

heavy traffic, noise.

She wants the Select Board to bring it to a vote again and said, “The last vote was very close.”

The Select Board agreed to have a non-binding question on this year’s local election ballot since there is ample time. Questions to be on the local ballot must be made prior to 35 days before the election according to Town Counsel Mark

Reich and Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo.

Reich suggested the board consider asking for a vote at Town Meeting as well. This would be an “informational” vote as “The town cannot authorize an exit on its own,” he said. The question would be asking the Select Board for authorization to pursue the exit.

Chair Cara Letendre said, “Even if we (the Town) vote yes on it, it doesn’t mean it’s going to happen.” Reich said,

**AUBREY HULTAY**, page 6



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# HILLTOWNS

## YOUNG CHILD

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Initiative grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. "This is so nice to see and underscores the deep commitment our team manifests on behalf of children and families," Garivaltis said.

"Our partnerships with Westfield Infant Toddler Services and the Hilltown Family Center are evolving exactly as we had hoped when we applied for this grant," Garivaltis hopes to hear soon about whether or not their grant was funded, but expects the collaboration will continue either way.

Ongoing activities include story walks, play groups, a home visiting program and special for the WOYC. a children's art show throughout the area. Four story-walks were created by a Regional Literacy Collaborative that includes Coordinator Susan LeBarron and ParentChild+ Coordinator Christine Bresnahan, both from the HFC, town library directors Nicole Daviau (Blandford), Amanda Loiselle (Huntington), Dawne Piers-Gamble (Russell), Laura Stinette from the Appalachian Mountain Club at Noble View and Gateway schools librarian Bill Brown.

Story walks are outdoor installations that feature the pages of a children's book. As families move through the story walk, they read a complete

story. They can then visit that library or outdoor center to make a craft based upon the story. There are new stories and crafts each month. HFC manages three sites, Huntington, Russell and AMC and Daviau manages one at Watson Park in Blandford.

Weekly playgroups are also offered through the Hilltown Family Center and are coordinated by Susan LeBarron. These are for children from birth through age 5 and take place at the Family Center on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-noon.

A play group is also offered at the Worthington library on Mondays, with an 8:30 a.m. slot for infants and a 9:45-11 a.m. slot for toddlers. All play groups are free of charge and do not require registering in advance.

The ParentChild+ is a free home-visiting program where a trained visitor brings brand new books and toys each week to the homes of children aged 18 months to 3 years old. The goal is to support the parent as their child's first, best teacher and to help the parent get their child ready for school. New families are welcome to take part. For more information on this program, people may call Coordinator Chris Bresnahan at 413-303-6071 or emailing cbresnahan@hchcweb.org. The Hilltown Family Center and ParentChild+ program are both

sponsored by the Hilltown Community Health Center, under the direction of Kim Savery.

Preschool artists' work will be displayed during the WOYC at area businesses. Artwork is being collected from the HFC playgroups, Gateway preschool classrooms, Westfield Infant Toddler Services, located at the Gateway complex and area family child care providers.

At press time, businesses that will be displaying artwork in their exterior windows that week include the Blandford General Store; Gray Catbird Gift Shop and Pottery Studio, Comfort Kitchen, and Main St. Styles in Huntington; Carms Restaurant in Chester and the Russell Inn. Any business not listed but wishing to take part may contact Stephanie Conway, Gateway Preschool Coordinator by calling 413-685-1017.

A variety of special activities will take place throughout the week. Kicking off on Saturday, April 6 will be a family hike at the AMC Noble View Outdoor Center at 635 South Quarter Road in Russell. Dawne will lead an "I Spy Signs of Spring" hike from 10 a.m.-noon, which will be an easy family hike of 1.8 miles using an out and back route. Together, hikers will look for and identify signs that spring is finally here.

Families are invited to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the center after the hike. They must register by April 3 by visiting outdoors.org, by emailing dawne4amc@gmail.com or calling 413-862-6221. They may also sign up at the Russell Library.

Also on Saturday at 9:45 a.m. will be Kindergarten Countdown at R. H. Conwell Elementary School in Worthington, for Worthington children who will turn age 5 on or before Sept. 1. This event is co-sponsored by the school and Hilltown Family Center.

Kindergarten Countdown will feature the Ecotarium's hands-on "Build Your World Program." Children will use the engineering design process to explore forces and motion in small groups by planning, testing, building and improving a way to cross a model river using only simple materials. Families will also meet the staff at R. H. Conwell Elementary School and will take home backpacks with a book, the Berkshire Museum's "In Kindergarten" activity book that helps children understand the kindergarten day, and other transition information.

To register, people may call Lisa Ouellet, Administrative Assistant at 413-238-5856. Children who are not eligible for kindergarten in the coming school year will be registered if space is available.

A special music-themed story hour for young children will be held at the Huntington Public Library on Monday, April 8 at 11 a.m. This event will include a craft to celebrate youngsters; a light snack will also be served.

A "Stuffy Stomp" will be held at Russell Public Library on Tuesday, April 9 from 11 a.m. to noon. Join Ms. Dawne by bringing your favorite stuffed animal to the library where all will move to songs and verse.

On April 9 and 10, Porter Memorial

Library in Blandford will host their weekly Book Squirms story times, which include songs, stories, sensory play and socializing for kids ages 0 - 5 and their caregivers. The Tuesday program is at 4 p.m. and the Wednesday program is at 10:30 a.m. Families are invited to sign young children up for the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, and will get a free book to keep. The week before, children can come and learn about eggs and all of the different animals that come out of them: chickens, caterpillars, birds and even alligators. Children will work on building scissor skills, gluing and tracing at the craft table. They can also visit the science station with butterfly chrysalis and moth cocoons, using magnifying glasses to explore!

Three events are scheduled for Thursday, April 11. Hamilton Memorial Library in Chester will hold their weekly story time and creative movement starting at 11 a.m. Russell Public Library will hold a guided story walk from 11 a.m. to noon, featuring the book "Up in the Garden, Down in the Dirt." This will be followed by fun in the dirt inside the library.

The second of four Kindergarten Countdown events will also be held on Thursday starting at 9:45 a.m. at Chester Elementary School, 325 Middlefield St., in Chester. This event is for children who will be eligible for kindergarten in the Fall 2024 (meaning that they turn 5 on or before Sept. 1) and living in Blandford, Chester or Middlefield. People may call Jen Jakubasz, Administrative Assistant at Chester Elementary School at 413-354-1360 to register for this free program. See the information on the event at R. H. Conwell Elementary School, earlier in this article, for a complete description.

Two additional Kindergarten Countdown events will be scheduled at Littleville Elementary Schools, with dates still to be determined. Kindergarten Countdown is made possible by the Hilltown Family Center and Gateway Elementary Schools and is made possible by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant by the Mass. Dept. of Early Education Care and by Mass Cultural Council's Local Cultural Council in Middlefield.

On Friday April 12, the HFC will present the Wildlife on Wheels program at Stanton Hall starting at 10:15 a.m. Forest Park Zoo in Springfield will visit with five live ambassador animals, who are selected on the day of the event but may include anything from rabbits to reptiles, birds or even hedgehogs. This event will include information for families on upcoming preschool and kindergarten screenings at Gateway elementary schools. The event is free of charge and no pre-registration is needed.

The Week of the Young Child concludes Friday evening, with a free movie night at Stanton Hall starting at 6 p.m. Shown will be the film "Migration," which follows a family of ducks, who try to convince a reluctant dad to go on "the vacation of a lifetime." This event is sponsored by the Huntington Recreation Committee.

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## Allen Bird Club presents 'Life at Woodland Ponds'

SPRINGFIELD – On Monday, April 1 at 7 p.m. the Allen Bird Club of Springfield will host the presentation, "Life at Woodland Pond" in the Tolman Auditorium of the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards St.

In this program, photographer and naturalist Bill Platenik will use his captivating images and charming narration to lead viewers on a visual tour of nature at three Hampden County ponds where Platenik has quietly observed birds and other wild-

life for the beauty, joy and insight they bring. Progressing through the seasons, this presentation reveals mysteries and relationships seen only by those keen observers willing to sit, wait, and watch as scenes unfold.

The Allen Bird Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing Greater Springfield area birders together since 1912. This presentation is open to the public free of charge. For more information, people may visit www.AllenBirdClub.org.

# HUNTINGTON

## HUNTINGTON SENIORS ENJOY ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON



Wild Thyme Band performs at the Council on Aging St. Patrick's Day luncheon on Saturday, March 16.



Aimee Burnahm serves food to Bob and Jean Wall. Submitted photos



About 70 folks enjoyed corn beef and cabbage dinner and Irish music by Wild Thyme.

# Huntington Public Library offering bread making and writing workshops

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – “Sourdough Brandon” is just one of the special guests at the Huntington Public Library in April.

A full calendar of events includes a bread baking workshop with “Sourdough Brandon,” a memoir-writing workshop with author, Lara Tupper, along with regular book club, drop-in painting, weekly story hours and teen game night. Free spring Lego kits are being given out while supplies last.

Activities kick off on Tuesday, April 2 at 4:30 p.m. with the “What’s Your Story?” workshop on writing their memoir. This free writing workshop with author, Lara Tupper, is sponsored by the Huntington Cultural Council and registration is required.

Tupper has authored three published books: a collection of short stories called “Amphibians;” “Off Island” which she dubs a “fictional re-imagining of Paul Gauguin’s travels” and an autobiographical novel about songs at sea called, “A Thousand and One Nights.” She also co-wrote a screenplay adaptation for the third



Lara Tupper



Sourdough Brandon

book with filmmaker Greg Eismín. “Amphibians” won the Leapfrog Global Fiction Award and “Off Island” was a finalist for the Housatonic Book Award, 2022 Nicholas Schaffner Award for Music in Literature, the 2022 UNO Press Publishing Lab and the 2021 Orison Books Fiction Prize. Tupper has traveled the world and is also a jazz/folk singer. She lives in Maine with husband and musician, Bobby Sweet. People should call 413-512-5206 or email library@huntingtonma.us to register.

On Tuesday, April 9 at 6 p.m., HPL hosts Sourdough Brandon who will teach you how to make, maintain and store a sourdough starter. He lives in Western Massachusetts and hosts a website and food blog at [sourdoughbrandon.com](http://sourdoughbrandon.com). In a recent interview with The Sourdough

People, a company in California, he said, “I am passionate about the process, constantly learning new techniques and helping others bake at home...I understand how daunting starting can be so my goal is to support fellow home bakers, guiding them like a friend in the kitchen.” This program is sponsored by

the Friends of the Huntington Public Library and also requires registering ahead of time by calling 413-512-5206 or emailing [library@huntingtonma.us](mailto:library@huntingtonma.us), as the instructor will provide a free sourdough starter to each to take home.

The Book Club pick for April is “Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt. Tragedy is no stranger to Tova Sullivan, whose son disappeared in a boating incident years ago and whose husband recently died. To cope, she has taken the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, where she bonds with a cantankerous octopus, who might know what happened to her son. Copies of the book may be picked up at the library, while available, ordered via interlibrary loan or borrowed through Libby. The club will meet on Thursday, May 2 at 4:30 p.m.

HPL is also taking part in the Week of the Young Child, an area-wide collaboration to celebrate young children and their families. They will host a music-themed story hour and craft on Wednesday, April 8 at 11 a.m.; a light snack will be provided.

Teen Game Night will take place on Saturday, April 13 from 4-7 p.m. Teens aged 13 - 18 are invited to come in for pizza, soda and games. They may bring their own games to play.

Weekly activities include drop-in painting on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and children’s story hours on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

# HCAA to hold information meeting April 18

HUNTINGTON – The Hilltown Community Ambulance Association, Inc. will hold a town information meeting on Thursday April 18 from 7-8 p.m. in Stanton Hall, 28 Russell Road.

People are invited to attend a town information meeting in association with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Hilltown Community Ambulance Association staff and Board of Directors. This informational meeting will discuss the challenges faced by the rural ambulance association serving six member communities: Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Montgomery, Russell and Worthington.

With the upcoming annual town meetings in the communities it is imperative to get the scope of operations of HCAA and the intricacies of what it entails to provide services to their six member communities, with a total population of 8,192 as of the last census and a radius of 189 square miles.

In order for HCAA to provide the much needed advanced life support and services to the Hilltown residence, they need support at the upcoming annual town meetings. Refreshments will be served.

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

### in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



## Primroses serve double duty

This week's column was half done when I received a text from a good friend who I haven't seen in a few months.

She had just read last week's article and was reaching out to congratulate me on my impending delivery. What? If I were having a baby, my name may end up in more than just the local paper- try the Guinness Book of World Records.

Anyhow, I accidentally sent an old column in, not the one I revamped in honor of my first born's birthday. I am sorry you all missed out on a few new things I had to say about the Gerber daisy, but I hope this gave you a good laugh.

Another dear friend visited Cape Cod this past week. She left the morning that we had some freezing rain and light snow.

Later in the day I received a picture in a text message that said, "at least it's spring somewhere!" I chuckled as I looked at the pretty Polyantha Primroses (*Primula* spp.) planted outside of an establishment, almost beckoning tourists to jump start the busy season!

I countered her picture with one of my own, a picture of a primrose in my garden, just greening up but still weeks away from flowering. Why not take a closer look at this double duty plant, just in time for Easter giving.

What exactly do I mean by double duty? Pick one up at the grocery store to enjoy indoors this spring and then plant it in the garden.

Better yet, purchase a primrose as an Easter hostess gift and it will be a spring harbinger for years to come – a memory of you! Even though they are usually sold in small pots, it's hard to miss their brightly colored flowers poking up through basal foliage.

They come in almost every color of the rainbow. Like the infamous pregnancy gift from last week's column, primroses also fall into the happy plant category!

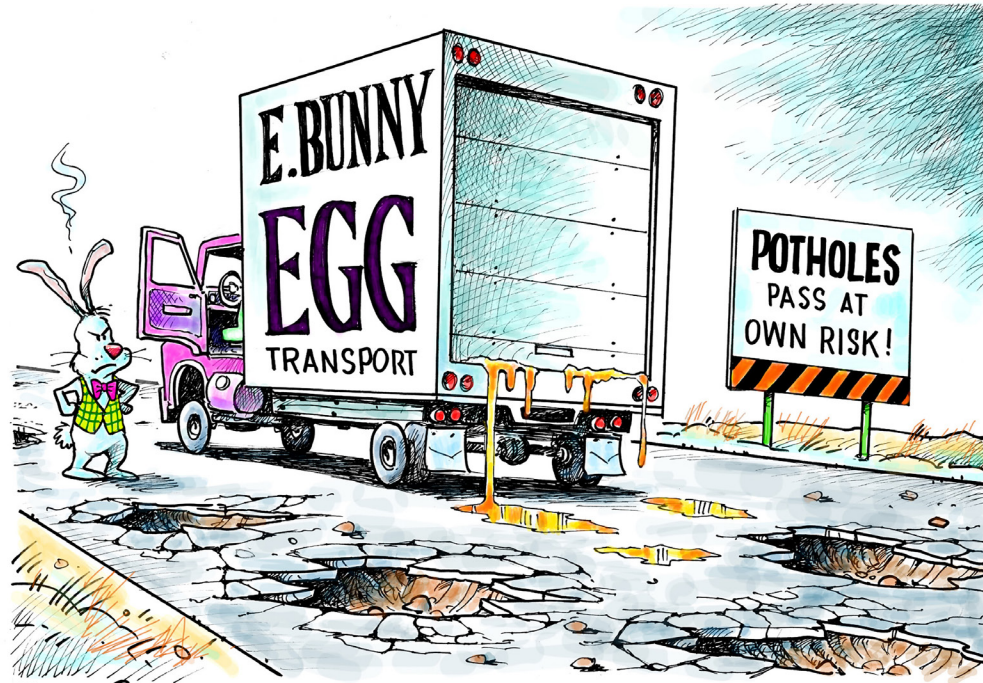
Many types of primrose make great garden plants; check the label to make sure the one you purchase is hardy before planting it outdoors. I have had a clump of primroses

GARDEN, page 5

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



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## GUEST COLUMN

## Veteran uncertain about Social Security and healthcare coverage



Dear Rusty

*I'm not sure what I should sign up for in terms of Social Security; I am 64 and I am still employed full time and intend to stay employed until age 70.*

*I am retired from the Navy and receive military retirement payments and have military TriCare, as well as medical, dental, eye and life insurance through my employer. I don't want to lose benefits, but I also don't want to take Social Security until it reaches the maximum at age 70 (I think that is correct?). I will turn 65 in four months. Can you advise me?*

Signed: Uncertain Veteran

Dear Uncertain Veteran

First of all, thank you for your service to our country. From what you've shared, and since you're still working full time, not claiming Social Security yet is a smart decision. If you were born in 1959 your Full Retirement Age is 66 years and 10 months and, if you claim SS before your full retirement age, you'll be subject to Social Security's earning test, which would likely make you ineligible to receive SS benefits at this time.

The 2024 earnings limit (limit changes yearly) when collecting Social Security early is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). If you significantly exceed the limit, SS will declare you temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less.

The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. So, if you're now employed full time and plan to stay so until age 70 and you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for someone your current age), delaying until age 70 to claim

Social Security is how to get your maximum Social Security benefit.

As for your healthcare coverage as a veteran: TriCare requires you to enroll in Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage and Part B coverage for outpatient services at age 65, but you do not need to take Social Security when you enroll in Medicare. You must, however, enroll in Medicare at age 65 or you will lose your TriCare military healthcare coverage.

You could choose to delay enrolling in Medicare at 65 because you have "credit-able" employer coverage, but if you do so you will lose your current TriCare coverage and need to rely solely on your employer healthcare plan. In that case, you would still be able to enroll in both Medicare and TriCare-for-Life without penalty prior to your employer coverage ending and have coverage under both programs thereafter. I suggest you contact TriCare directly at 1-866-773-0404 to discuss your personal TriCare coverage after age 65. You can also go to [www.TriCare4U.com](http://www.TriCare4U.com).

Whenever you enroll, Medicare will be the primary payer of your healthcare costs and TriCare will be the secondary payor. Your vision, dental, and prescription drug coverage would be through TriCare (Medicare does not cover those services) or acquired separately. Just remember, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to have TriCare-for-Life coverage after age 65.

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

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## Election letters to the editor welcome

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that

Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

paper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

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

# OPINION

## HILLTOWN HISTORY

### Whiting Street watched money grow

By Deborah Daniels  
Correspondent

Just who was Whiting Street? True he left a trust fund for many Hilltowns to use to help residents in need since 1878. How did he do that? Whiting Street, that is his name folks, was a frugal investor who tended to his fortune just as he tended his father's wheat field growing up in Holyoke.

He dedicated his life to earning money, but he himself was never able to spend it. Here's his story. He was the first son of Glover Street born in Wallingford Connecticut in 1790. His father relocated the family to West Springfield where Whiting went to school. Two more brothers and two sisters were added to the family and they moved again to a Holyoke farm.

Here they put down roots and Whiting worked as a farmer and helped pay for the family farm with bushels of wheat. He next became a freight boat man on the Connecticut River. There he worked loading flat bottomed boats to ferry supplies such as flour, tea, spices and pottery/earthenware from Hartford Connecticut to "Jed Day's" landing in South Holyoke.

The return journey would take lumber and farm products from the Connecticut River Valley back to sell in Hartford. Sometime between 1820 and 1846 he became an investor in this trade. It was speculated that here he made his nest egg money for which he later used to speculate and invest with.

His brother, Alpheus, also invested in this cargo trade but sold his shares to Whiting because he shared the local farmers' distrust of the boat trade.

They were right the boat trade was short lived. The railroad came in with fast reliable cargo service and shut the river trade down in 1846. By then Whiting had turned his eyes to investing in paper manufacturing. The Parson's Paper Company, one of the leading producers of paper in the world in 1890, was just down the river in Holyoke. He was such a shrewd investor.

He later turned to investment banking with the Hadley Falls Bank according to newspaper accounts after his death. He lived humbly in a farmhouse near the Connecticut River, just below where Mountain Park was located. He dressed plainly and never showed any sign of wealth. He shared his house with his two sisters and one brother, all unmarried. Only one brother married.

The sisters took meticulous care of the house and cooked meals. Whiting ran a general store from his house for summer travelers selling sugar, molasses, codfish, mackerel and it was rumored he sold rum. He never missed an opportunity to make money. He was known to be a penny pincher by the locals. Kids would vie to work in his garden; then get paid three cents for two days hard work.

The man was in the words of my



The Whiting Street granite building built by his estate in 1885, is located at 32 Main St. Holyoke. It was used by the paper industry and destroyed by fire in 1977.

father tighter than the bark on a tree. Later when asked what was he going to do with all his money? He replied he could only hope that they, who inherited it would have as much fun spending it as he had in earning it.

Whiting never married. He had one grand nephew, Whiting Bradley Street, who he was fond of and three nieces as the only next of kin when he died.

He fell and broke his hip at the age of 87 years. He was told it would never heal. He spent his last year of life watching the River from his bedroom window. Oh and he listened and granted the wishes of the multitude of people writing to ask for his financial help.

He left an estate valued at \$500,000 in 1878. He donated money in his will to all local churches, colleges and hospitals. He set up a trust fund for local towns, some 22 towns and two cities, to use for a charity fund. The cities of Northampton and Holyoke each got \$45,000 from this fund and the other towns got from \$750 to \$6,000 each. Yes Conway got \$2,000 and Granby \$1,750, Worthington, Cummington and Ashfield got \$1,500 each, Chesterfield and Huntington got \$1,000 each, Plainfield and Goshen got \$750 each.

The money was to be given to low income town residents, who were experiencing short term needs to put it in today's terms. Well that money grew exponentially as it was watched over by trustees initially, then turned over to each town to be managed.

You may go to your town Whiting Street Fund web page and learn how to apply for funds and see the accounting of the money as well as who the board members are who govern the distribution. Don't forget to thank Whiting Street for his "I can't solve your problems but I can make a small difference in your life" attitude with his will bequests to all these towns, still paying



The Whiting Street Reservoir stone arch was built in 1912. It was the entry to the dam, which was a site visited by local day trippers.

Submitted photos



Whiting Street sandstone and earthen dam is pictured in 1903.

out over 100 years later.

Oh and he did leave money to his nieces and his favorite nephew. However his nephew failed to be guided by "frugality, temperance and competence" in his affairs in order to qualify for a huge inheritance that was set up by Whiting. He was well taken care of by the trustees, but not as generously as he could have been.

Are you familiar with the Whiting Street Reservoir? There is a popular 3.8 mile hiking loop around this reservoir in Holyoke. It is named after Whiting Street. It was built in 1888 to dam up the Roaring Brook, which empties into the Connecticut River to supply Holyoke with drinking water, being the first of three dams for this purpose.

It used to have a stone arch over the road leading to the Reservoir that was a landmark for local day trippers visiting the area. It was partly removed

by the construction of Route 91 in 1963. Also of note is the old road to Mountain Park, the amusement park that was built here in 1897.

It started as a deer park and theater then morphed into a trolley park with a roller coaster in 1929 and later a bigger amusement park with many rides in 1952. It was the thrill of my childhood to be taken there by my big sister. Not to be dismissed either is the road to the Mt. Tom downhill ski area that was nearby. What was this the original entertainment alley of western Massachusetts?

What would Whiting Street who could never play or enjoy his money think of this pleasure and entertainment area that was built on land where he used to live? There you have the twists and turns of Whiting Street's fabulous fortune. It must have been difficult for this saver to get the spend formula right?

## GARDEN

blooming for years now that originally started out as a potted plant.

If it's been growing indoors for a while, be sure to let it harden off a bit before planting it in the ground; a partly shady spot with moisture retentive soil is best.

Typically, primroses need to be divided every three years or so, evident by die-out that begins in the center of the plant. Simply separate a chunk from the outer portion of the

plant and replant it in rejuvenated soil.

I prefer to do this early in the season, but it can also be accomplished right after flowering has ended. In the heat of the summer, and especially in drier soils, the plant can look a little yellow and ragged.

Keeping it well watered helps.

One year, when money was tight, I divided a plant and potted up one of the divisions and gave it to my sister in law as a hostess gift. She still has it

growing in her garden, and every once in a while, will send a picture of it happily blooming.

I've tried in earnest to grow Japanese Primrose (*Primula japonica*) but something in my soil apparently isn't right. I will probably buy another one this year and hope beyond hope to eventually end up with a stand of them like they have in the display gardens at Positively Perennials.

The sea of whorled flowers in

light and dark pink is arboretum worthy.

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.

from page 4

## BLANDFORD

### PARTICIPANTS IN STOP THE BLEED CLASS EARN CERTIFICATES



Instructor Cate Snape, left, demonstrates techniques to stop bleeding to Bret Hartley, Don and Mary Brainerd and Chris Cappa. There were 11 participants at the March 23 Stop the Bleed Class.



Blandford Council on Aging was represented by Judith MacKinnon, Lloyd Martin, Joann Martin, Linda Barnard, Mary and Don Brainerd. All display their certificates for completing the course.

*Turley photos by Mary Kronholm*

## CHESTER

### Chester COA lists events

CHESTER – On Friday April 5 and 26 at 12:30 p.m. the Council On Aging will be holding their monthly movie days.

Popcorn and drinks available. On Monday, April 8 at 12:30 p.m. the COA will be meeting for their monthly board meeting. People are encouraged to come with ideas on how to improve the Senior Center. On Tuesday, April 9 at 10 a.m. the COA is having their Tea/Coffee Party. People should bring their favorite tea and enjoy some time with friends.

On Wednesday, April 10 at 12:30

p.m. the COA will have a guest speaker. Sandy Ward is coming to talk about how to prepare for funerals. On Wednesday, April 17 at 12:30 p.m. the COA is having their monthly pot luck. During the pot luck there will be a guest speaker. Terry Olbrych from Norcom Mortgage will be joining the group to talk about reverse mortgage possibilities for those who could use some help with paying for a mortgage.

On Wednesday, April 24 at 12:30 p.m. our own Lois Kiraly will be giving a talk on the behavior of birds for the upcoming spring season.

There will be guest speakers, question and answer session. Residents are urged to attend this forum to help save the Chester Municipal Electric Light Department. Light refreshments will be served.

### Informational Public Forum to be held on April 10

CHESTER – The Chester Municipal Electric Light Department will hold an informational night on public power on Wednesday, April 10 at 6 p.m. in the Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road.

## MIDDLEFIELD

### Middlefield lists upcoming meetings

MIDDLEFIELD – On Monday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. the Conservation Commission will meet at Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail, to discuss town road projects.

On Thursday April 4 at 6:30

p.m. there will be Westfield Wild and Scenic presentation on current initiatives and future projects at the Town Hall. On Saturday, April 13 at 10 a.m. there will be a Special Town Meeting in the Town Hall.

### AUBREY HULTAY

*from page 1*

“The Turnpike is outside the jurisdiction of the town.”

Firefighter John Carrington told the board that the possibility of having an exit in Blandford might enhance the funding possibilities for a new Fire House. Hultay will go back to Moser with the request that the students craft language for the ballot question.

On Hultay’s horizon is a college education, UMASS, the U. S. Air Force and a Jeep Wrangler.

In other business, Water Department Supervisor Gordon Avery approached the Select Board at Monday, March 18 meeting regarding the need for tree work on Jethro Jones Road. The renovations to the Water Filtration Plant will begin soon and

large equipment will need to pass safely.

Avery told the board when asked if he had spoken with Tree Warden Mark Boomsma that he had been trying to reach him since October regarding tree maintenance on the road and has had no response. He has a quote for \$4,500 to do work on a mile of the road. Board Chair Cara Letendre said the cost should come from the Tree Warden budget, but the board does not have the authority to confirm another department’s use of funds. The issue will be on the agenda for Monday, March 25.

The board then turned its attention to the Special Town Meeting warrant.

### ICE STORM

*from page 1*

use their tree funds for police detail. Boomsma proposed an independent firm that specializes in road detail to save money. Chair Letendre directed Town Administrator Michael Szlosek to look into that.

Regarding the Water Department’s request to have trees cut back on Jethro Jones Road, Boomsma said that there are no visible impediments for large truck traffic.

Boomsma said he could only see about a day’s worth of work, and he could arrange for that. While the road is a town road, albeit gated, Boomsma asked how the board felt about spending money on a road only used by the Water Department. He is not opposed to the work and can have the work done after Watson Park. Most of the growth is “sapling” sized.

Board member Theodore Cousineau asked if Waldron could do anything to widen an area of Blair Road for safety. Waldron’s immediate response was that he did not “have enough money.”

#### Ballot tabulator

The Town Clerk’s office and Election Warden Jennifer Girard asked for the board’s support to purchase a ballot tabulator which will count votes, reduce the time and cost of future elections and assure the voters’ ballots. This would replace the town’s hand-crank ballot box. Girard said it is important to order the equipment now so the town would have it for the September and November elections.

Girard said “We will order the equipment and ... be over budget,” while Szlosek said he was uncomfortable as Chief Procurement Officer making such a purchase without knowing the funding source. He will schedule a meeting with the Finance Committee. He said the machine “works well” and it will take “training not only for the poll workers but for the citizens as well.”

#### Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Szlosek met with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission regarding the road study done about four years ago. The cost would be \$16,000 and it was decided to put the study off for a year and apply for a grant to cover the cost rather than take the money out of Ch. 90 funds.

#### Meetings

There are also joint transportation meetings for improvement plans which Szlosek will attend.

There was a meeting to discuss property action plans, mandatory recommendations including protecting water damage, high hazard activities, personal protective equipment, a risk manager, and an investigation program in place for ‘near miss and accident’ plans; these will protect employees in high-risk occupations. He suggested highway, fire and water, and said “certainly the Town Clerk’s office doesn’t need to be part of these plans.”

#### Travel plazas

The leases on the travel plazas is expiring and there will be work done at both plazas during the next year. “It’s going to be pretty extensive work,” said Szlosek. Cousineau asked if the town is owed money from any of the vendors and Water Commissioner Gordon Avery said MacDonald’s on the westbound plaza has a bill of almost \$200,000. According to Avery the property owner, the state, is liable for the debt.

#### Other business

The Town Clerk’s office, along with election official, did, however, participate in a workshop on election security put on by the Secretary of State’s office Election Division at no cost to the town.

Letendre asked Szlosek to include the Water Department in future meetings.

There was meeting last week with the water department and Avery has made a schedule and budget to use the remainder of the grant funds.

Letendre asked that Szlosek call a meeting of the building committee with the OPM.

Also she suggested he contact Dr. David Hopson to see if he would be interested in participating in the union negotiations.

The board also signed the contract for work on the patio at the Porter Memorial Library contingent upon receiving an extension for the grant funds.

The board would like to replace the mulch and plastic edging for the playground and looking to next year’s budget, funds for remediating the lack of water drainage from the area. Waldron will ask an engineer what can be done with the water and then make the fix.

Carrington complimented the Chester/Blandford Police Department that was most helpful over the weekend with the storm and multiple medical calls.

In other business, the board appointed Firefighter John Carrington as the town’s representative to the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association.

George Reichert asked the board about a plan for Watson and Bicentennial parks and was told by Letendre, “when spring comes.” The maintenance of the parks is going out for bid this year.

He also learned that the Resilient Road project public hearing date has not yet been set, some assessment of town buildings has been done, and a plan for the parks was made when Joshua A. Garcia was the Town Administrator.

A building assessment was to have been done but Letendre said there are no immediate plans to review all town buildings. Post Office building maintenance and the sprinkler system are on the board’s radar.

He volunteered to assist Select Board member Jeff Allen at Bicentennial Park.

The grant for shared nursing services is going to be renewed according to the Board of Health.

## RUSSELL

### Recreation Committee to hold Easter Egg Hunt

RUSSELL – The Russell Recreation Committee will be holding their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30 at 10 a.m.

The hunt will be held at the Russell Elementary School, 155 Highland Avenue, rain or shine. People should arrive on time for the hunt. Free raffle prizes will be given away. This event is open to Russell residents and their families, children aged 12 and under.

Participants should bring their own Easter basket to collect the eggs. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance.

### Russell Public Library announce events

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library invites families to join Appalachian Mountain Club leader, Ms. Dawne, the librarian for an “I Spy Signs of Spring Hike” on Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m.-noon.

They will hike to a vernal pool at Noble View Outdoor Center, 635 South Quarter Road, Russell. The hike is rated as an easy 1.8 mile, out and back route. Families are invited to bring a picnic lunch to have at the View following the hike. This is a good hike for families with children. Register at outdoors.org or by email dawne4amc@gmail.com, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the Russell Library, by Wednesday, April 3.

On Saturday, April 13 from 1-3 p.m. adults may come to “Stamp Camp.” They will create four handmade greeting cards with Kim Bean. There is a \$7 supply fee. Participant number is limited to 15. People should register by email rpldirector@townofrussell.us, call 413-862-6221

and leave a message or come in and sign up at the Library by April 8th.

Week of the Young Child Activities will be held April 8-12 for toddlers and preschoolers. Activities include: Tuesday, April 9 from 11 a.m.-noon with Ms. Dawne for a “Stuffy Stomp.” Children should bring their favorite Stuffy to the library. On Thursday, April 11 from 11 a.m.-noon Ms. Dawne will lead a guided story walk of “Up In the Garden, Down In the Dirt.” This will be followed by fun in the dirt in the library.

During school vacation, on Tuesday Tuesday, April 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the program will be Tap the architect from within for cardboard construction. On Thursday, April 18 (10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. they will create spring vases with repurposed jars and tissue paper.

Teens and Tweens will meet Wednesday April 17 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. where they will learn to do origami with Librarian Montana.

Children may join Ms. Dawne for all things frogs on Saturday, April 20 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.. They will make frog masks with long bug catching tongues, read “The Wide Mouth Frog” and eat frog eggs complete with frogs. They should register by email rpldirector@townofrussell.us, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message, or come in and sign up at the Library by April, 17th.

The library has children’s instant cameras to checkout, Chromebooks for adult use and a new printer can copy, print, scan and fax in color. New books, movies, and magazines are arriving weekly.

The Russell Public Library would like to thank everyone who joined us for Russell History with Bruce Cortis. This was the library’s most successful event to date. The library appreciates Bruce’s knowledge on all things Russell and the work of Sue Maxwell in preparing the Russell History Room opening for this event.

## WILLIAMSBURG

### Grange offers potluck and program

WILLIAMSBURG – The Williamsburg Grange invites the public to attend a free program on Saturday April 6 at 7 p.m.

The program features the 150 year history of the Grange in Massachusetts presented by State Grange Historians, Amber and Randy Vaill. Photos and

a display of artifacts from the State Grange’s Library Museum will be presented. A community potluck dinner will be held before the program at 6 p.m. in Grange Hall located at 10 Main St.

People may call or text at 413-896-3230 with questions.

## OTIS

### Council on Aging lists April events

OTIS – The Otis Council on Aging list events for April.

Exercise Class is held very Monday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The Food Pantry is open every Wednesday from 9-11 a.m.

On Monday, April 1 hair cuts with Linda Lewis takes place from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. People should call 413-269-0100 for an appointment. The COA Board meeting is held on April 1 at 2:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 3 there will be a jewelry making class with Beth. On Thursday, April 4 the COA sponsors out to lunch at Tucker’s Restaurant, 625 Collage Highway, Southwick.

On Monday, April 8 Foot Care by nurses will take place at the center from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. People should call 413-269-0100 for an appointment.

On Friday, April 12 there is a trip to The Culinary Institute of America. The bus departs the Town Hall in Otis at 7:15 a.m. and Big Y in Lee at 7:45 a.m.

People should call Diane Dyer at 413-269-6335 or email ddyer555@hotmail.com for information.

On Wednesday, April 17 there will be a pot luck in the gym. The theme will be spring flowers. People should bring a flowery center piece for all to enjoy. They can be fresh flowers or artificial or maybe something just sunny.

On Thursday, April 18, the CHP Wellness van will be at the town hall from 10 a.m.-noon. On Friday, April 19 is Brown Bag from 10 a.m.-noon. On Earth Day Monday, April 22, the COA encourage all to support and be stewards of the Earth.

The Otis seniors are booking a spring trip to The Aqua Turf Club on Tuesday, May 7. The show is Debbie Boone “You Light Up My Life” performs “Reflection of Rosemary,” a tribute to her mother-in-law, Rosemary Clooney. All are welcome to participate in this trip.

### Grief and Loss Support Group meeting to be held April 10, everyone welcome

OTIS – The Otis Council on Aging holds a monthly support group for those struggling with grief or loss on Wednesday, April 10 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Otis Town Hall, 11

North Main Road.

Everyone is welcome. For more information, people may call the Otis COA at 413-269-0100, extension 5.

## PITTSFIELD

### ‘Rock and Bowl’ fundraiser benefits food pantry April 12

PITTSFIELD – South Community Food Pantry to hold “Rock and Bowl” fundraiser on Friday, April 12 from 5-8 p.m. in the Common Room at Zion Lutheran Church, 74 First St. to offset tremendous increase in food insecurity

Tickets are \$15 to \$100 and may be purchased online by visiting southcommunityfoodpantry.org. Sponsors are Crescent Creamery and in partnership with Berkshire Art Center and Zion Lutheran Church. The “empty bowl” style event will take place at the Common Room at Zion Lutheran Church, which has an accessible entrance and plenty of parking across the street.

Seatings at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$100 early entry, ceramic bowl and soup (get the bowl they want), \$40 Ceramic bowl and soup, \$15 just soup and \$5 just soup for children.

Full-price tickets include a beautiful handmade ceramic bowl crafted by a local artist, soup and bread from local restaurants, a special selection of desserts; live entertainment by Code Blue Duo and an activity for all ages facilitated by Berkshire Art Center.

Higher Bar will provide a complimentary refreshment station; special drinks including wine and beer and mocktails will be available for purchase.

There will be a “chance” auction for 20 plus amazing items and a 50/50 raffle.

Tickets and information are available by visiting southcommunityfoodpantry.org/events/rocknbowl24. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

For more information about the food pantry and the “Rock & Bowl” event, people may visit southcommunityfoodpantry.org, call 413-464-8042, or email info@southcommunityfoodpantry.org.

### BEAT presents native plants program

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire Environmental Action Team will explore ways to promote sustainable biodiversity through intentional gardening and the cultivation of native plants that support native pollinators and wildlife.

This free and open-to-the-public event will be held on Wednesday, April 17, from 6-8 p.m. on the lower floor of the Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield’s Public Library, 1 Wendell Avenue. Starting with a social gathering and a chance to review the available prizes that will be given away at the end of the night, the event will feature a recorded presentation by Doug Tallamy, an esteemed entomologist, ecologist and author, where he discusses his book “Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens.”

Following the viewing of Tallamy’s talk, Jim McGrath, the Open Space and

Natural Resource Program Manager of Pittsfield’s Parks, will outline plans for native plantings in downtown Pittsfield.

Bruce Winn, a Berkshire Community College Professor and BEAT board member, will discuss ongoing efforts to transform BCC into a “pollinator campus,” while Terri Stiffler, also a BEAT board member, will lead a discussion on “No Mow May.” The evening will conclude with a giveaway of prizes, which include gift certificates from local businesses.

People may RSVP for this event through Eventbrite; register by visiting [www.tinyurl.com/Native-Plants-Pollinators](http://www.tinyurl.com/Native-Plants-Pollinators).

This event is sponsored and organized by Berkshire Environmental Action Team, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Pittsfield. People may learn more by visiting [www.thebeatnews.org](http://www.thebeatnews.org).

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# WORTHINGTON

## ICE COATING SPARKLES IN SUNSHINE



This photo was taken in Worthington after the weekend ice storm.  
Turley Photo by Deborah Daniels

## RH Conwell Elementary School to hold kindergarten countdown

WORTHINGTON – The Hilltown Family Center will bring the Ecotarium’s Build Your World Program for Worthington children eligible for fall 2024 kindergarten on Saturday, April 6 at 9:45 a.m. at R H Conwell Elementary School.

The Hilltown Family Center will provide backpacks with a book and transition materials. Registration is required by calling Lisa Ouellet at 413-238-5856.

Three and four year old children will be registered if space is available.

This event is made possible through a collaboration with the Hilltown Family Center. Funding is provided by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and a Mass Cultural Council grant through the town of Worthington.

# NORTHAMPTON

## Forbes Library lists events

NORTHAMPTON – The Forbes Library, 20 West St., will hold on Thursday, March 28 from 3:45-5:15 p.m. Dungeons and Dragons campaigns for children age 9 plus and is limited to six participants per session.

Registration is required by calling the Children’s Desk at 413-587-1010 or stop in and sign up. On Friday, March 29 from 4- 5 p.m. Kid’s Gaming Club is held. Children ages 7-12 meet in the Community Room to hang out with other young gamers and play the library’s Nintendo Switch

On Tuesday, April 9 from 6-7 p.m. and on Wednesday, April 10 from 10:30 a.m.-noon is Family History Help for those who want to get started on a family tree. People may book an appointment with Brian Tabor, former Forbes circulation manager and genealogist and learn how to use the library’s genealogy databases such as Ancestry, Heritage Quest and American Ancestors. They should email archives@forbeslibrary.org

to book an appointment.

The Hampshire Room for Local History is also open on Thursdays-Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for appointments and drop-in research.

Drop-In Tech Help happens Tuesdays from 2-3:30 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. People may drop-in tech help session. They should bring their device or use one of the library’s computers. For more scheduling options, they may make a one-on-one appointment with a library staff member.

A Conversation with Author Ilyon Woo and Clothing Historian Lynne Zacek Bassett (HYBRID, Unitarian Society of Northampton and on Zoom) will be held Tuesday, April 9 from 6:30-8 p.m.

In the Hosmer Gallery, exhibit include Playing with Paper by Laurel Rogers, Shapes of Water by Lee Thomson and Still Life Paintings by Steve Levin.

## Coolidge Museum presents program on Indian Citizenship Act

NORTHAMPTON – There will be an in person or live stream via the Forbes Library You Tube Channel at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X-oMVR7SQ\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X-oMVR7SQ_U) in the Coolidge Museum at Forbes Library, 40 West St. on Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m.

The program, 100 years after the Indian Citizenship Act, how has Native American life changed?, will include Kathleen A. Brown-Pérez (UMass Amherst), Margaret Bruchac (University of Pennsylvania),

Rebecca Hamlin (UMass Amherst) and Kiara M. Vigil (Amherst College). The discussion will be moderated by Bill Scher, Vice President of the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum Standing Committee.

Coolidge signed a law that read: “That all non citizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United

States be, and they are hereby, declared to be citizens of the United States.” One hundred years after Coolidge’s enactment of what became known as the Indian Citizenship Act, how has the law influenced the quality of life of America’s indigenous peoples? Have the legal rights of citizenship proven to be beneficial? Or was the law part of an assimilationist policy that created new obstacles to cultural preservation? To explore the legacy of the Indian Citizenship Act, the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum is convening a panel of scholars with deep knowledge of Native American history and culture.

Recording will be available on You Tube following the program. For questions or accessibility needs, people may email Coolidge@forbeslibrary.org or call 413-587-1014.

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**Correction**

An article in the Country Journal about mapping incorrect information first named Brenda. She with her run High Sugarho Worthington

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# BECKET

## Critically-acclaimed choreographer Pam Tanowitz to receive 2024 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award

BECKET – Jacob's Pillow announced critically-acclaimed American choreographer Pam Tanowitz will receive the 2024 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award.

Tanowitz will accept this award at Jacob's Pillow's Season Opening Gala in the Berkshires on Saturday, June 22. The Jacob's Pillow Dance Award is presented each year to an artist of exceptional vision and achievement and carries a cash prize which the artist can use in any way they wish.

Tanowitz, who creates "sublime dance theater of the highest caliber" (The New York Times), is an influential collaborative and creative force, admired for her abstract treatment of classical and contemporary movement ideas, informed by rigorous research.

Tanowitz has created or set work for New York City Ballet, The Royal Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Paul Taylor American Modern Dance, Juilliard Dance, Ballet Austin, and more. She has been commissioned by Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival as well as The Joyce Theater, The Kennedy Center, The Barbican Centre, Vail International Dance Festival, New York Live Arts, Guggenheim Works and Process and many other leading arts institutions.

This summer, her work "Secret Things" will receive its U.S. premiere at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival from July 3-7, commissioned and performed by The Royal Ballet of the United Kingdom in

the company's only U.S. engagement this year. Tickets to this engagement go on sale to the general public on April 11.

Based in New York City, Tanowitz is also an Assistant Professor of Professional Practice at Rutgers University and is the first-ever choreographer in residence at the Fisher Center at Bard. In 2000, she founded Pam Tanowitz Dance, an accomplished company of world-class artists working across disciplines.

The Season Opening Gala in June marks a return to Jacob's Pillow for Tanowitz. Following her Pillow debut on the outdoor Henry J. Leir Stage as part of the Inside/Out series in 2009, Jacob's Pillow welcomed Pam Tanowitz Dance into the former Doris Duke Theatre for Festival 2016.

Tanowitz expressed her thanks for receiving this year's Dance Award with a nod to the past as well as the future. "I am very much a dance history lover, and I am honored to be a part of the continuum of history at Jacob's Pillow," she said. "When I make my work, from day one, I never think of myself in a vacuum; I try to see the whole timeline of dance, and where I fit in. A lot of what drives my work is the constant question to myself of what has been done before, what I can do that is different, and what perspective I might add to history."

Tanowitz added that she has many more dances to make. "Some will succeed, and some won't," she said, "but an

opportunity that allows me the chance to make more dances is something I am grateful for. So, I am grateful for this honor from Jacob's Pillow."

Tanowitz joins a list of Jacob's Pillow Dance Award honorees that include Misty Copeland, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Dormeshia, Ronald K. Brown, Annie-B Parson and Paul Lazar, Bill T. Jones, Merce Cunningham, Kyle Abraham, Michelle Dorrance, Camille A. Brown, Liz Lerman, and Faye Driscoll, among others. The Jacob's Pillow Dance Award was established in 2007 and is philanthropically supported by an anonymous donor.

Alongside the presentation of the Award, the Jacob's Pillow Season Opening Gala will include The School at Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Ballet Performance Ensemble, performing a world premiere by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa. Additionally, in honor of the 100th Anniversary of George Gershwin's iconic Rhapsody in Blue, the Gala will feature tap dancer and choreographer Caleb Teicher and pianist Conrad Tao in their highly acclaimed interpretation. This will be the second time the Pillow has showcased the creative collaboration between Teicher and Tao, whose work More Forever was developed in the Pillow Lab and had its world premiere at the Pillow in 2019.

In-person tickets to the Season Opening Gala are now on sale. In addition

to in-person event tickets for the one-night only performance, dinner and dancing, the Gala performance will be livestreamed and accessible through a "choose what you pay" model. To learn more about the Gala, people may visit [jacobspillow.org/gala](http://jacobspillow.org/gala).

Tanowitz holds degrees from Ohio State University and Sarah Lawrence College, where she clarified her creative voice under former Merce Cunningham dancer and choreographer Viola Farber. She immersed herself in dance by working in administration at the New York City Center while also studying the Center's archived dance videos and developing her own work.

The Award, presented each year to an artist of exceptional vision and achievement, carries a cash prize of \$25,000 which the artist can use in any way they wish. In commemoration, the honoree also receives a custom-designed glass award sculpture by Berkshire-based artist Tom Patti, whose work is in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum and other major arts institutions around the world.

The remaining funds support the Pillow's commitment to the research and development of new work in the recently launched Pillow Lab. Year-round residencies at the Pillow Lab offer free housing, unlimited use of studio space, and access to the Pillow's rare and extensive Archives and resources.



This is one of entries in the coffee bag competition, which will be available in an online auction. Submitted photo

## Becket Arts Center to hold masquerade ball March 29

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center will host a Masquerade Ball on Friday, March 29 from 7-10 p.m. Snow date is Saturday, March 30.

In addition to small bites and beverages, the evening will feature dancing and an exhibition of 36 unique art pieces created out of coffee bags. The best

coffee-bag artist will be awarded a \$100 prize and all the entries in the coffee-bag competition will be available in an online auction. Tickets for the Masquerade Ball are \$20 for BAC members, \$25 for non-members. For more information and to see what you can do with a coffee bag, people should visit [becketartscenter.org](http://becketartscenter.org).



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This is one of the masks, which will be worn at the Masquerade Ball on Friday, March 29 from 7-10 p.m.

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## GOSHEN

# Goshen Council on Aging announces upcoming events

GOSHEN – The Council on Aging monthly local lunch will be an outing to the Williamsburg Snack Bar on Tuesday, April 9.

Participants will meet there at 11:30 a.m. and join together for a lunch of their choice from their menu (\$15 maximum). They should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 by Tuesday, April 2 so they can let the restaurant know how many people to expect. Suggested five dollar donation appreciated.

Tai Chi classes will be held on Tuesdays, April 2, 9 and 23 from 9-10 a.m. at the Goshen Town Hall with with no class on April 16 and 30.

The interim teacher is Janet Clark. Participants will work on their strength, balance and peace of mind. All are welcome.

On Wednesday, April 3 Crafts Group will meet in the upstairs Dining Room or the Library at the Goshen Town Hall from 1-3 p.m. People will bring whatever craft or needlework project they are working on. The group has some very talented people in the group, who are willing to answer questions and give helpful advice and tips.

Lena Garcia will be teaching a

drawing class on Thursday afternoons 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. People can sign up at [www.lenagarcia.com](http://www.lenagarcia.com) or call Kerry at 413-268-9354 if people need assistance. They will get a supply list once registered.

On Friday, April 5 Community Connections Group from 10-11 a.m. in the dining room on the second floor of the Town Hall. This month the group will have James Kitchen, a musician and artist from Chesterfield, who will delight with a variety of musical instruments both old and new.

On Saturday, April 6 there will be a Tech Connect Fair at New Hingham School at 30 Smith Road in Chesterfield from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Residents of all towns are welcome. They are sure to learn something new about technology that they can use in their daily life. Door

prizes are given away every half hour.

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. Please may email Joan with questions and/or for the zoom links at [joan@bybhealth.com](mailto:joan@bybhealth.com).

On Tuesday, April 16 and 23 Highland Valley Elder Services lunch pick up is from the Goshen Town Hall from noon-12:30 p.m. The HVES lunch are on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month. The meal choices on Tuesday, April 16 are meatball stroganoff or lasagna and on Tuesday, April 23, the meal choices are minestrone soup or sausage and onion quiche. The meals also include milk, vegetables and a dessert. If people have not signed up and would like to for May, they 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, April 17 games group will be from 1-3 p.m. and continue on the third Wednesday of each month.

They meet in the dining room on the second floor of Town Hall or sometimes the library. There are many different games to play. All are welcome.

Goshen residents are able to sign up for this service of medically based foot care with Piper Sagan through the COA in Cummington at 413-634-2262 or Williamsburg at 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, P/V people should contact her directly at 413-522-8432 for in-home service.

The Goshen Council on Aging will be hosting a trip to the Worcester Red Sox on Wednesday, May 15 for the 11:15 a.m. game. The seats will be under cover along the first base line. More details to follow, people may call or email Kerry if they are interested.

People may call Henrietta Munroe at 413-268-7465 if they need any durable medical equipment free of charge. A variety of items to loan are available.

## CHESTERFIELD

# Informational 'Tech Connect Fair' to be held on April 6

CHESTERFIELD – The Northern Hilltown Consortium of Council on Agings, which includes Westhampton among the seven hilltowns is holding a very informative and fun "Tech Connect Fair" on Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at New Hingham Elementary School, 30 Smith Road.

People 60 or older are welcome to drop in any time during those hours at the school located in Chesterfield. This is a wonderful opportunity to both improve digital literacy and better understand real world uses for the computer and digital devices.

There will be light snacks and gift door prizes every half hour. In addition, attendees can expect the following: Florence Bank demonstration of online banking, AARP presentation on senior tech ideas, Northwest District Attorney Office sharing consumer protection information, Comcast presenting on internet connectivity, tables staffed by people teaching about the use of iPhones and Android phones and streaming services for TV, virtual reality demonstrations with glasses, Digital picture frames, use of artificial intelligence in our daily lives, talks on managing passwords, using accessibility features on phones and computers and tech terminology.

The Northern Hilltowns Councils on Aging in Chesterfield, Worthington, Plainfield, Cummington, Goshen, Westhampton and Williamsburg, received a significant grant from the

Executive Office of Elder Affairs. This funding lets the COAs offer resources and services to people 60 and older in the seven hilltowns for a limited time.

The Tech Connect program will lessen the digital divide by increasing digital literacy in the seven rural communities. Goals include help installing Whip City or Comcast delivered high-speed internet to households without service, help arranging for low cost internet service for eligible households and senior housing communities/public spaces and providing free or reduced cost laptops/tablets for those without working technology to connect to the internet.

Northern Hilltowns Consortium of Councils on Aging is also creating a Digital Volunteer Team of hilltown residents to meet technology needs in the towns. Knowledge and skills of various types are needed for many purposes, not all involving technology. People would like to volunteer in whatever ways they are able to contribute should call Gail Lucey at 413-296-5548.

The Northern Hilltowns Consortium of Councils on Aging is a collaborative group of seven COAs in rural Western Hampshire County. The Consortium includes the town Councils on Aging of Williamsburg, Westhampton, Chesterfield, Worthington, Goshen, Cummington and Plainfield.

To learn more, people may call Amy Landau, Westhampton COA Director, at 413-203-9808.

## HAYDENVILLE

# Congregational Church holds Easter soup and bake sale

HAYDENVILLE – The Haydenville Congregational Church, 143 Main St., will host its annual Easter soup and bake sale on Saturday, March 30 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

People can stock up on delicious homemade soups and baked goods for

Easter. Frozen soups are available in pint and quart containers to be reheated at one's convenience. There will be baked pies, cakes, cookies and more and don't leave without some of their famous Hot Cross Buns.

## EASTHAMPTON

# bankESB to host two free shred days

EASTHAMPTON, – bankESB invites customers and members of the community to two free Shred Days at local offices.

Dates are Saturday, June 8 from 9-11 a.m. or until the trucks are full at the Agawam office, 770 Main St., Agawam and Saturday, June 22 at the Easthampton office, 241 Northampton St. from 9-11 a.m. There will be two trucks at the Easthampton shred day.

No appointment is necessary. Local residents can reduce their risk of identity theft by bringing old mail, receipts, statements or bills, cancelled checks, pay stubs, medical records or any other unwanted paper documents



containing personal or confidential information and shredding them safely and securely for free. A professional document destruction company will be on site in the bank's parking lot and can accept up to two boxes of documents per person.

# bankESB Hometown Financial Group wins Top Workplaces Award

EASTHAMPTON – Hometown Financial Group, parent company of bankESB, Abington Bank and bankHometown, announced it was named a winner of the 2024 Top Workplaces USA award by Energage.

Top Workplaces USA celebrates organizations with 150 or more employees that are dedicated to building an exceptional people-first culture. Winners are chosen based solely on employee feedback gathered through an anonymous, third-party employee engagement survey, issued by Energage, a leading provider of technology-based employee engagement tools.

More than 42,000 organizations across the country were invited to participate in the Top Workplaces USA survey. Results are calculated by comparing the survey's research-based statements, including 15 Culture Drivers that are proven to predict high performance against industry benchmarks.

"We're honored to be nationally recognized as an employer of choice for the second time in three years, and especially humbled that this honor resulted from positive feedback from those who know us best: our employ-

ees," said bankESB President and CEO Matthew S. Sosik. "Every day, I'm inspired by our compassionate, dedicated, and talented group of employees, who demonstrate passion for unlocking the full potential of our customers, our communities, and each other. We try hard to foster a work environment that's inclusive, innovative, team-oriented, and fun, and this honor proves that our employees believe we're doing it right."

"Earning a Top Workplaces award is a badge of honor for companies, especially because it comes authentically from their employees," said Eric Rubino, Energage CEO. "That's something to be proud of. In today's market, leaders must ensure they're allowing employees to have a voice and be heard. That's paramount. Top Workplaces do this, and it pays dividends."

Hometown Financial Group, Inc. is a \$4.7 billion mutual multi-bank holding company headquartered in Easthampton and is the parent company of the family of banks that includes bankESB, bankHometown and Abington Bank as well as Hometown Mortgage.

# MONTGOMERY

## Music in Montgomery series happening every Thursday

MONTGOMERY – The April lineup for the weekly concert series at Montgomery Town Hall, 161 Main Road, announce the “Music in Montgomery” series takes place every Thursday afternoon starting at 3 p.m.

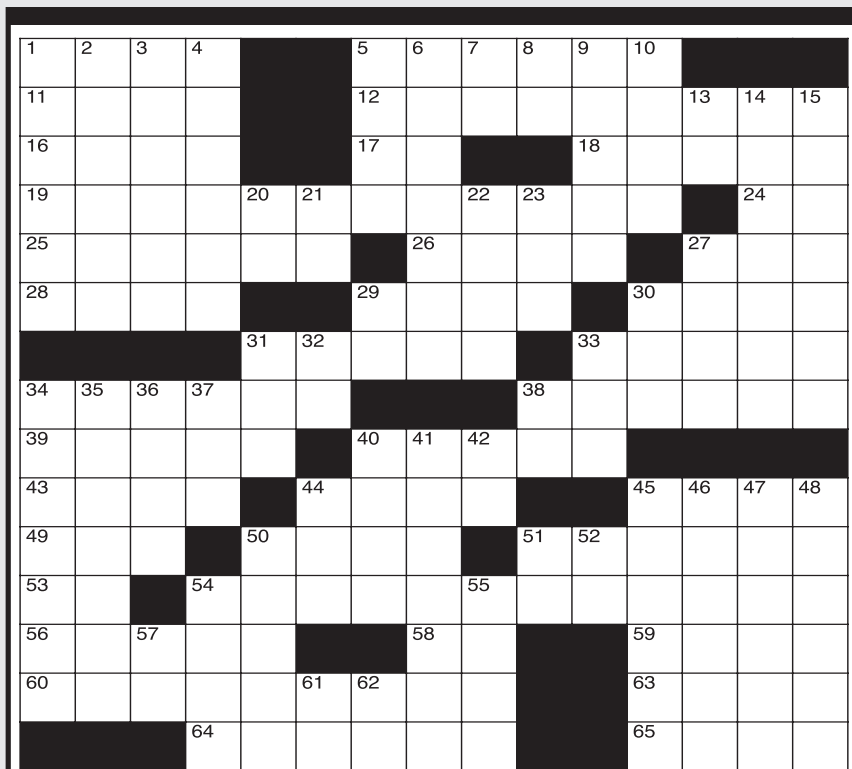
April opens with Ravenwood on

Thursday, April 4, consisting of four vocalists plus violin, mandolin and guitar. Jerry and Kara Noble return on Thursday, April 11, promising great music and stories across the decades. Ed Bentley and Friends are scheduled for Thursday, April 18. Larry Southard on vocals and guitar finishes the

month on Thursday, April 25.

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



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Database management system
- 5. Medical procedures
- 11. \_\_\_ Clapton, musician
- 12. Defender
- 16. Exert oneself
- 17. Indicates position
- 18. Quay
- 19. Atrocities
- 24. A way to address an adult man
- 25. Ends
- 26. Unable
- 27. Taxi
- 28. Gratuities
- 29. A famous train station
- 30. Japanese persimmon
- 31. Sours
- 33. Beneficiary
- 34. Baseball official
- 38. Confused situation
- 39. Unworldly
- 40. Yemen capital
- 43. Type of soil
- 44. Beloved beverage \_\_\_-Cola
- 45. Lying down
- 49. \_\_\_ Angeles
- 50. Fail to amuse
- 51. Collapsible shelter
- 53. Commercial
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Lordship’s jurisdictions
- 58. It cools your home
- 59. Dismounted
- 60. Charge in a court of law
- 63. One less than one
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Famed garden
- 5. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 6. Observed
- 7. “Westworld” actor Harris
- 8. Belonging to me
- 9. Shoelace tube
- 10. Takes to civil court
- 13. Early multimedia
- 14. Produces anew
- 15. Horse races
- 20. Of I
- 21. Equally
- 22. Changes color
- 23. A place to stay
- 27. Town in Galilee
- 29. Mathematical figure
- 30. Klingon character
- 31. They \_\_\_
- 32. Atomic #58
- 33. Showed up extinct
- 34. Loosen grip
- 35. Unpleasant smell
- 36. Innermost membranes enveloping the brain
- 37. Esteemed college “league”
- 38. Partner to Pa
- 40. Small American rail
- 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 42. Sodium
- 44. Military figure (abbr.)
- 45. Lighted
- 46. Paid to get out of jail
- 47. All of something
- 48. Ohio city
- 50. More abject
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Scientific development (abbr.)
- 54. Monetary unit
- 55. Scored perfectly
- 57. A punch to end a fight
- 61. The Golden State (abbr.)
- 62. The Beehive State (abbr.)

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Show a picture of
- 2. Small sultanate
- 3. Unfortunate incident
- 4. A way to ski

## THIS WEEK’S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, communication with a spouse or a loved one is vital this week; otherwise, you risk arguments for no reason at all. Sit down and have some frank conversations about your needs.

**CANCER**

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, many elements of your life are starting to level out this week. That can be a comfort to you because you seemingly have been running around for some time and could use a break.

**LIBRA**

Sept 23/Oct 23

While you should be mindful of your goals, you also can support those around you as they pursue their own. Serve as inspiration to people in your life right now.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec 22/Jan 20

High energy may have you swinging at the fences every time you try to tackle something. You may want to dial things back and take a more measured approach.

**TAURUS**

Apr 21/May 21

When you face adversity you should rest assured that you can handle anything that is thrown at you. Although, you may need a little help from some close friends or family.

**LEO**

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, others have nothing but good things to say to you this week. Bask in their kind words and adoration, and use this as motivation for future endeavors.

**SCORPIO**

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, this is a good time to start tackling some projects around the house that have been put off for some time. Redecorating and remodeling can be an inspiration right now.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan 21/Feb 18

Various transitions in your life could temporarily disrupt your daily activities, Aquarius. You’ll find a new groove soon enough that will feel comfortable and provide you with what you need.

**GEMINI**

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, others may not understand who you are and could make assumptions that are inaccurate. They may just need some more information to get a clearer picture.

**VIRGO**

Aug 24/Sept 22

With no big events on the horizon, you may want to manufacture one to have a reason to party, Virgo. Start planning your guest list and come up with a fun theme to get behind.

**SAGITTARIUS**

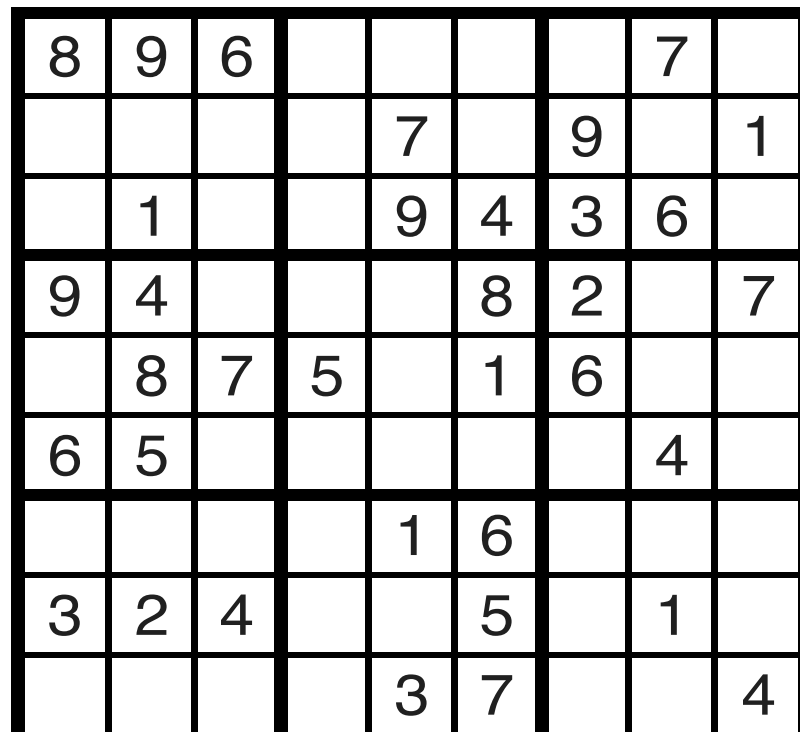
Nov 23/Dec 21

Take a step back and reevaluate your approach to a situation because the way you have been doing it just hasn’t yielded the results you expected. Take suggestions and tips.

**PISCES**

Feb 19/Mar 20

Don’t take stock of what all the naysayers have been dishing out, Pisces. You know yourself better than others and recognize what you are able to accomplish. Get started on plans.



## SUDOKU

**Fun By The Numbers**

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

**Here’s How It Works:**

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

**answers**

4	6	5	7	3	2	8	9	1
9	1	7	5	8	6	4	2	3
3	2	8	6	1	4	9	7	5
8	4	1	9	2	7	3	5	6
9	3	6	1	4	5	7	8	2
7	5	2	8	6	3	1	4	9
5	9	3	4	6	8	2	1	7
1	8	6	2	7	9	5	3	4
2	4	7	3	5	1	6	9	8

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# SCHOOLS & YOUTH

## HCC hosts free legal clinic and CORI-friendly job fair on April 4

HOLYOKE – Western Mass CORE at Holyoke Community College, in partnership with Western New England School of Law’s Center for Social Justice, MassHire Holyoke and Enlace de Familias will host a criminal record expungement and sealing clinic and CORI-friendly job fair at HCC on Thursday, April 4 from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

The job fair portion will be in the PeoplesBank Conference Room on the third floor of the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Avenue. The legal clinic will take place in classrooms on the second floor or the Kittredge Center and in the adjoining HCC Campus Center.

The event is free and open to the public and will provide an opportunity for people with criminal records to get free legal advice, learn about the criminal record expungement and sealing process, obtain a free copy of their CORI report (criminal offender record information), and connect with potential employers and community and college resources.

The event coincides with the national recognition of April as “Second Chance Month,” a time to reaffirm the importance of helping people re-enter society after being incarcerated.

Pre-registration for the event is recommended but not required. People should visit [hcc.edu/CORI](http://hcc.edu/CORI) to register. People should bring a Massachusetts photo ID.

## Karly Diltz inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA – Karly Diltz of Westfield was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.

Diltz was initiated at Michigan State University. She is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year.

Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter.

Only the top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10% of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.



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# WESTHAMPTON

## Dog licenses expire March 31

WESTHAMPTON – The Town Clerk reminds residents that 2023 dog licenses expire on Sunday, March 31.

Licenses can be renewed in person on Wednesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. or by mail. People may call the Town Clerk at 413-203-3080 with questions. Mailing address is 1 South Road, Westhampton, MA 01027. Dog license renewal forms are available by visiting the website at [westhampton-ma.com](http://westhampton-ma.com).

## Westhampton to hold caucus April 8

WESTHAMPTON – The town will hold a caucus on Monday, April 8 at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall, 1 South Road.

The purpose of the Town Caucus is to make nominations for the following offices. A successful caucus is achieved when all available positions are filled with nominees.

The following candidates are either up for re-election or open.

They are Selectboard for three-year term Maureen Dempsey; Board of Assessors for three-year term Walter Morrey; Planning Board for three-year term Donald (Pat) Coffey; Finance Committee one-year term vacant; Finance Committee for two-year term vacant; four positions for Finance Committee for three-year terms Tad Weiss, Richelle Hurd, Marilyn Witherell and Carla Lussier; two positions

for Library Trustees for three-year terms, Caralyn Whipple and Angela Griefen; Westhampton Elementary School Committee for three-year term Ian Stith; Hampshire Regional School Committee for three-year term Scott Johndrow; Moderator for one-year term Benjamin Warren; Tree Warden for one-year term Tom Jenkins and Constable (Center District) for three-year term Robert E. Miller.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

### GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40) on **April 15, 2024 at 6:30 PM** at the Goshen Town Offices to review a Request for Determination filed by Daniel and Ruby Hutt for work at 36 Main Street. The work to be reviewed is the replacement of the existing farm stand shed and tent with a 12' x 40' prefabricated shed. 03/28/2024

### Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice

At its regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday, April 8, 2024, at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) received from David Hopson for the removal of an existing septic system and installation of a new 1500 gallon septic tank and 15 foot by 12 foot leach field within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland at 55 Woronoco Road (Lot 421-0-34.1). The Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended). Plans and additional information are on record in the Office of the Conservation Commission. Nicolas Pietroniro, Conservation Agent Town of Blandford Conservation Commission 03/28/2024

al information are on record in the Office of the Conservation Commission. Nicolas Pietroniro, Conservation Agent Town of Blandford Conservation Commission 03/28/2024

### Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice

At its regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday, April 8, 2024, at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the application of David Waldron c/o Town of Blandford Highway Department, 114 Otis Stage Road, Blandford MA 01008. The applicant is requesting an Order of Conditions for work on all Town owned roads in Blandford, MA (Road ROW). Work will include, but not be limited to: Maintenance and repair of existing roadways, vegetation removal, sediment removal and replacing/repairing existing drainage structures.

Project Location: All Town owned Roads

The Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended).

Plans and additional information are on record in the Office of the Conservation Commission.

Nicolas Pietroniro, Conservation Agent Town of Blandford Conservation Commission 03/28/2024

### Chester Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

The Chester Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 5:45 pm** at the Chester, MA Town Hall regarding a Special Permit Application for a glamping permit on a parcel less than ten acres, which will allow the Chester Foundation (Chester Railway Station) to continue to operate a rental in the historic caboose on their property located at 10 Prospect St., Chester, MA 01011 03/21, 03/28/2024

### The Commonwealth of Massachusetts TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG Office of the Zoning Board of Appeals Haydenville, MA LEGAL NOTICE

Public Hearings will be held starting at **4:30 PM on Tuesday, April 23, 2024** in the Williamsburg Town Offices, 141 Main St., Haydenville, MA to consider the following applications:

4:30 PM- The application of Jeffrey Ovitt, 9 Goshen Rd., Assessors Map C, Lot 57.0, for a variance as required by Section 9.0a, and a Special Permit required by Section 12.0e of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Williamsburg, to rebuild a new non-conforming home to replace an existing non-conforming home in regard to front lot setbacks.

5:00 PM- The application of Richard & Diane Karowski, 47 Goshen

Road, Assessors Map C, Lot 129.1, for a Special Permit as required by Section 5.10a, to change an existing agricultural building into a residence.

5:30 PM-The application of Adin & Llama Maynard, 61 Adams Rd., Assessors Map E, Lot 45, for a Special Permit, as required by Section 12.0e of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Williamsburg, to allow a rebuild of an existing seasonal camp structure to the specifications as included with the application and for personal use only by the adjacent property owner.

Gerald Mann, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals 03/28, 04/04/2024

### TOWN OF WORTHINGTON Worthington Public Schools P.O. Box 247 Worthington, MA 01098 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET FOR FY25

Pursuant to MGL 71 section 38N, the Worthington School Committee will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM** at **R.H. Conwell Elementary School, 147 Huntington Road, Worthington** and via **Zoom** to consider the proposed school district budget for fiscal year 2025.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86538182694?pwd=ND>

J4Y1U5dnRiREhseHFD bHIHNVVUUT09 Meeting ID: 865 3818 2694

Passcode: 088178 Dial by your location +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 865 3818 2694

Passcode: 088178

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/keFnSmC9Ou>

Copies of the proposed budget are available in the main office of the R. H. Conwell Elementary School and will be available online at the link below on March 25, 2024:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KD-fMXoR9eyGQSHDK-FiiFnx7oLZypB2q7?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KD-fMXoR9eyGQSHDK-FiiFnx7oLZypB2q7?usp=share_link)

Alison Todd, Chair 03/28/2024



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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

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## SERVICES



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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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# OBITUARY

## Pearl I. (Coburn) Lynds, 93

CUMMINGTON – Pearl I. (Coburn) Lynds, 93, of Cummington, passed away on Saturday, March 23, at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, surrounded by family.

Pearl was born in Pittsfield on April 14, 1930 to Paul Coburn and Edith (Mougin) Coburn. She was a life long resident of Cummington and graduated from Smith Vocational High School in 1948.

Pearl was known for being very active in and dedicated to her community throughout her life. She was a long-time member of the Council on Aging, advocated for the construction of the Cummington senior housing project, volunteered at the town historical society and local 4-H groups and was an active member of the Cummington Village Congregational Church.

Pearl also enjoyed spending time giving tarot card readings, tending to her flower gardens, working on needlework projects and completing jigsaw puzzles.

Pearl was predeceased by her husband, Floyd “Cardy” Lynds, brother Neil Coburn, and son, Rodney Lynds. She is survived by her son, Theodore “Ted” Lynds and his wife, Cynthia, daughter in-law, June Lynds; grandchildren Coleman Lynds and his husband Michael Pizziferri of Weymouth, Daniel Lynds of Easthampton, and Sara Lynds and her partner Alexander Rae of Amherst; brothers, Ernest Strong and his wife Joan of Cummington and Kenneth Strong and his wife Linda of Florence and many nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be held at Czelusniak Funeral Home, 173 North St., Northampton, from 3-5 p.m. on Thursday, March 28 and funeral services will be Friday, March 29 at 10 a.m. at the Village Congregational Church, 32 Main Street, Cummington.

Please go to [Czelusniakfuneralhome.com](http://Czelusniakfuneralhome.com) for online condolences and tribute book.

## DEATH NOTICE

### LYNDS, PEARL I. (COBURN)

Died March 23, 2024

Calling hours March 28 3-5 p.m.  
Czelusniak Funeral Home Northampton  
Funeral Service March 29 at 10 a.m.  
Village Congregational Church, Cummington

**OBITUARY POLICY:** Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, a 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). Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

# REGION

## Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival runs April 4-11 celebrating anniversary

SPRINGFIELD – The Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival presented by the Springfield Jewish Community Center, celebrates its 18th anniversary with a one-week festival of cinema that kicks off Thursday, April 4 and runs through Thursday, April 11.

PVJFF continues its tradition of bringing the best of independent Jewish film to Western Massachusetts, with 10 in-person screens at seven venues throughout the three-county region. This year’s lineup offers an eclectic mix of films from all genres and for all gener-

ations, including comedies, dramas, and documentaries. Along with the screenings, audiences will enjoy live question and answer sessions with filmmakers and expert speakers.

The festival opens on Thursday, April 4 with Ayelet Menahemi’s Seven Blessings, Israel’s official entry for the Academy Awards for Best International Feature Film. In this bittersweet dramatic comedy, a boisterous Moroccan-Jewish family reunites for a cross-cultural wedding that surfaces old wounds and secrets. The film swept the Israeli

Oscars, with 10 wins, including Best Film.

As always, the PVJFF features an array of enlightening and engaging documentaries: Rabbi on the Blink, Remembering Gene Wilder, Deadly Deception at Sobibor, The Monkey House and Running on Sand.

Ticket prices are \$12 for adults, \$11 for students and seniors (65+). Tickets can be purchased online at [springfieldjcc.org/pvjff](http://springfieldjcc.org/pvjff), by phone at 413.739.4715 or in person at the Springfield JCC. Tickets are sold at the door subject to availability;

advance purchase is recommended as films do sell out. For information, trailers, and show times, people may visit the film festival online at [springfieldjcc.org/pvjff](http://springfieldjcc.org/pvjff).

The Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival is a nonprofit arts festival, presented by the Springfield Jewish Community Center with support from the following major sponsors: Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, The Totsy Foundation, Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

# Classifieds

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### TOWN OF HAMPDEN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The town of Hampden Highway Department is seeking to fill a full-time skilled worker/truck driver position. All applicants must possess a valid Class B CDL, 2B Hoisting License, OSHA 10 Certificate of Training, and a copy of current driving record. Applicants must have the skills and knowledge necessary to perform general road and grounds maintenance and the ability to operate and maintain all associated tools and equipment. The capability to perform maintenance/repair on trucks and equipment, welding, and the use of other garage tools, along with light construction and snowplowing experience, would be beneficial. Please call the Hampden Highway Department (413) 566-8842, or email [highway@hampdenma.gov](mailto:highway@hampdenma.gov) for inquiries and application/resume submittals.

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# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

## Hikers find another 'lost' quarry

BECKET – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers found Keefe's Granite Quarry in Becket State Forest on a recent hike.

It is one of the early quarries of several we have found both in Otis and Becket that have sparsely been written

about in the history books. Keefe's Quarry still in excellent condition has existed lost in the Becket State Forest.

Timothy Keefe purchased the mining rights to this land from the owner James Turner, in 1882. Turner was one of the most proficient granite industry

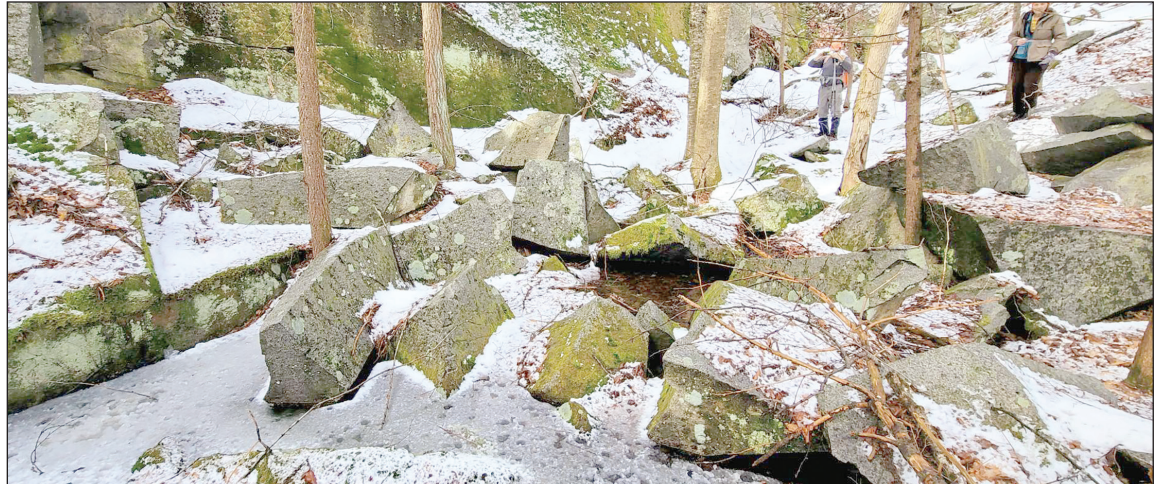
miners here in the southern Hilltowns, a direct descendant of those who originated granite quarrying of the money making vein that crosses both Becket and Otis.

Two pits were quarried and a staging area/workshop was located on the

mountain above the Walker Brook valley. The old road is barely recognizable as it connected to the original Mitchel Road and the Chester and Becket Railroad. It appears that the stone was transported out of the quarry by oxen.



Tom Hofman takes a photo of the boulder with numerous drill marks.



Hilltown Hikers explore the lower pit of Keefe Granite Quarry.

Submitted photos



The upper pit of the Keefe Granite Quarry is in Becket State Forest.



Here is another view of the lower pit of Keefe Granite Quarry. A hiker inspects drill marks on a boulder.

## REGION

# Quilt guild announces spring show

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD – The Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild was formed in 1988, and since then, has been an amazing addition to the community where lovers of quilting can come together.

"The Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild was originally formed in 1988 by six quilters who met at Calico Stitchery. Enthusiasm was so great that in less than six months the space was outgrown, and they moved to the Agawam Baptist Church," Elaine Conway said.

Since then, the guild has over 60 members, and meets once a month on the first Wednesday, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Elks Lodge #61, 440 Tiffany St.

The guild meets together to learn new quilting techniques from the occasional speaker, or a workshop will happen. At the end, there's always a show-and-tell for members to talk about their recent projects.

Conway, the secretary and publicity person for the group, is very excited to announce that the guild will be hosting a special "Up, Up and Away" Quilt Show the first weekend of May, on Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, May 5 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The cost of admission is \$10, and groups of 10 or more are eligible for a discount by calling Janet at 413-267-9997.

"The main attraction is going to be the 82 quilts and quilted items on display for people to enjoy and look at. We will have a ballot for people to vote for their favorites, with ribbons given for the winners," she said.

The show will also feature a beau-

tifully made raffle quilt made by members of the guild, along with tables of quilted items the guild members made to sell. There will also be a basket raffle.

The guild will also include its famous Hot Air Balloon for display. The balloon part is made of quilts the guild has made, and is composed of 24 panels total, 12 on top, 12 on the bottom.

"It's our pride and joy," Conway said of the Hot Air Balloon. It was made in 2012, and to this day is a treasured part of the guild and its foundation.

**"The main attraction is going to be the 82 quilts and quilted items on display for people to enjoy and look at."**

– Elaine Conway

The show raises funds for the guild to buy supplies for the quilts, as well as providing speakers and workshops to enhance quilting skills for those who attend.

But that's not all the Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild does.

"We donate to shelters across the Pioneer Valley," Conway said.

The beautifully made quilts are donated to organizations that help people in need, including the Springfield Rescue Mission.

They also donate quilts and quilted items to veterans organizations, foster children organizations, and before COVID, brought quilts to people recovering from surgeries.

"We want to serve the community and also bring an awareness of quilting to the general public and encourage people who may be interested in quilting to go ahead and do so. We are open to men and women," she said.

The upcoming April meeting will focus heavily on prep-work for the Quilt Show, and the members will put together the baskets for the raffle and any other finishing touches.

Conway started quilting in 2014 and joined the guild in 2018 at the recommendation of a friend after falling in love with the craft, and the guild itself.

"My favorite part is the camaraderie with the people who are a part of the guild," Conway said. "I think that there is always something to learn from one another."

The guild and its members want to open their doors to the community and let them know that anyone with an interest in quilts or quilting is welcome – no requirement for skill level.

"Joining the guild has given me a chance to improve upon my quilting skills, while at the same time making lifelong friendships," Conway said.

You can join the guild at any time, and the cost for a yearly membership is \$30. A guest can be brought by an existing member for \$5, and it will go toward membership if they choose to join.

"We started with the formation of the guild because of its desire to give back to the community," Conway said. And it does, in many, many ways.

For more information about the Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild, visit [pvquilt.org](http://pvquilt.org) or follow them on Facebook.



This year's Quilt Show raffle quilt, made by the Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild, has beautiful shapes and colors.

Submitted Photos



One of the Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild members finished and shared their vibrant animal quilt at this past meeting.