

# 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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION



April 9, 2026 | Vol. 47, No. 50 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

## HILLTOWNS



Young children and adults get together at weekly Hilltown Family Center playgroups. Submitted photo

## Hilltowns observe National Week of the Young Child

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

April 11 - 17 marks the National Week of the Young Child and the hilltowns have planned a series of wonderful events to celebrate.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, which sponsors the week to celebrate young children, early learning and the families, teachers and communities that support them. This year also marks the 55th anniversary of the WOYC.

"Hilltown Community Health Centers' (HCHC) Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) programs have had a rich collaboration with the Early Childhood team at Gateway, many of our area libraries and Chester's Country Cuddlers and Blandford's Stage Book Family Daycares in planning this year's events," said

Kim Savery, Director of Community Development for HCHC. "We are especially grateful for funding which Early Childhood Coordinator Joanne Hentnick made available through the Massachusetts CPPI grant funding to Gateway Regional Schools."

Kicking off the week is The Bananias, an engaging and interactive performance for young children (ages 0-7) promising music and giggles for everyone. This will take place on Saturday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m. in Porter Memorial Library, 87 Main St., in Blandford.

On Monday, April 13 a CFCE Playgroup will be held from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Worthington Library 1 Huntington Road, Worthington. This week's group will offer forest animal activities, crafts and a story time for children ages 0 - 5.

Wednesday, April 15 will offer three activities throughout the area. Chesters CFCE play-

group will be held at the Chester Railway Station, 10 Prospect St., in Chester from 10-11 a.m. This will provide the same set of activities as those in Worthington on Monday, just at the opposite end of the region. Stories, songs, crafts and a sensory pool party will take place at the weekly Book Squirms gathering at Porter Memorial Library in Blandford (87 Main St.) at 10:30 a.m. Finally, the Russell Public Library, (162 Main St., Russell will present "How Does Your Garden Grow?" from 5 - 6 p.m. Young children will explore how plants grow in movement, song, story and craft. They should register by Tuesday, April 14 by emailing rpldirector162@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 16 will also offer three activities, starting at the Russell Library at 10 a.m. Weekly story time with Maggie Lufkin is a great opportunity for children (ages 0-4) to listen to stories and participate in fun-filled, age

CHILD, page 2

## CHESTER

## Babcock Brook bridge gets dog lane

Dave Pierce's dog, Major, demonstrates the new dog lane installed on the Babcock Brook Bridge.

Turley Publications  
photo by  
Wendy Long



By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

The bridge near the trailhead to the Keystone Arch Bridges got a recent upgrade to make its passage easier for "man's best friend."

Dave Pierce of the Friends of the Keystone Arches and Tom Hoffman of the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers met up on Thursday, March 26 and got to work. With Hoffman working underneath the bridge and standing in Babcock Brook, the installation took about an hour.

Pierce was emailed about the Department of Conservation and Recreation's work on a similar bridge on the trail to Sanderson Brook Falls, off of Route 20 in Chester. Both are steel "open grate" bridges, which allow snow to melt and drop through into the water below. This prevents the water damage that would occur with a closed, wooden bridge. Many hikers bring their dogs on both trails and the open grate can be difficult on dogs' feet. Often, hikers have to carry their dogs across these

DOG LANE, page 12

## HILLTOWNS

## Race officials offer final advice

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Note: This article references from the Westfield Wildwater Race registration confirmation letter by Harry Rock.

LL Bean always states that there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing, which is very true.

Race Director Harry Rock has issued guidance on the importance of dressing appropriately for this year's

canoe races. Mid-April can offer anything from warm air temperatures to snow flurries but either way the water temperatures will remain cold. If dressed appropriately, cold weather paddling is quite safe. If dressed in cotton jeans and flannel shirts or sweatshirts, paddlers are at risk because there are no heat retention qualities when cotton gets wet.

"Cotton wicks water like an oil lantern," Rock wrote in explaining the con-

cept. "The bottom of their jeans may be the only part to get wet, but soon afterward the entire legs will be wet because of wicked water."

The key to survival in the outdoors is staying dry, Rock notes. And during spring paddling it is also important to stay warm. Rock said that when the combined air and water temperature is less than 100 degrees, a paddler needs to

RACE, page 2

## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

## Select Board meet with Gateway School District officials

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Gateway Regional School District Superintendent Melissa Matarazzo met with the Select Board at the Monday, March 30 meeting.

They reviewed the school district budget with special attention given to school choice and vocational student costs and cuts explained to be the least hurtful to student programming.

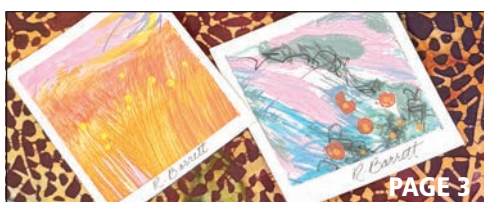
The district see a \$1.5 million dollar increase this year and the town's assessment for the coming year is \$1.78 million dollars. According to Superintendent Matarazzo it is not good to rely on state aid to rural districts because it has been unreliable over time. She told the board that a lesser amount was earmarked for Blandford for the stabilization fund to help offset the lesser amount of

SCHOOL, page 8



Select Board Clerk Ted Cousineau, from left, Chairman Jacqueline (Jackie) Coury, Member Cara Letendre, Gateway Regional School District Superintendent Melissa Matarazzo and School Committee Member Nicole Daviau are shown at the Select Board meeting on Monday, March 30.

Turley Productions photo by Mary Kronholm



Becket.....11	Classifieds.....10	Hilltowns.....2	Puzzle Page.....9
Blandford.....6, 7	Cummington.....11	Huntington.....3	Schools & Youth.....8
Business Directory.....3	Easthampton.....12	Montgomery.....9	Westfield.....8
Chester.....12	Florence.....11	Opinion.....4, 5	Williamsburg.....11
Chesterfield.....11	Goshen.....11	Public Notices.....8	Worthington.....7



# HILLTOWNS

## MassDOT announces upcoming I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces daytime and nighttime bridge repairs, barrier repairs, guardrail repairs and tree trimming on I-90 eastbound and westbound in the towns of West Stockbridge, Stockbridge, Lee, Blandford, Becket, Montgomery and Russell.

All work is weather dependent and will take place at the following locations and times. In West Stockbridge and Stockbridge bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound

and westbound at mile marker 1.3 today through Friday, April 10, from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

In Lee bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound at mile marker 8.8 now through Saturday, April 11 from 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. In Blandford bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 26.2 now through Friday, April 10 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

In Becket tree trimming will be conducted on I-90 eastbound at mile marker 15.4 now through Thursday,

April 9 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

In Montgomery and Russell bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 36.0 nightly now through the morning of Friday, April 10 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m.

Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will

be in place to guide drivers through the work areas.

Drivers traveling through the area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traf-

fic conditions, travelers are encouraged to download the Mass511 mobile app or visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real time traffic conditions and project information before setting out on the road.

Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real time conditions.

Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.



## CHILD from page 1

appropriate activities. From 11 a.m.-noon, stop in at the Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., Chester for a sensory story time that includes stories, songs and hands-on fun with sensory bins and activities. Young children will explore, play and engage their senses in a welcoming environment for young children. The Huntington Public Library, 7 East Main St., will host its monthly game night from 4-6 p.m., but this week will feature games for little ones. Free pizza will be provided to all who register in advance by calling 413-512-5206 or by visiting their website at [huntingtonpubliclibrary.org/events](http://huntingtonpubliclibrary.org/events).

Closing out the week of events on Friday, April 17 at 10 a.m. Forest Park Zoo's Wildlife on Wheels program will be at the Russell Library. The zoo will bring a variety of small animals to meet children aged 0 - 5. The Zoo Educator will bring five animal ambassadors that might include small mammals, various lizards, amphibians, snakes, turtles and tortoises, anthropods, and birds.

Another highlight of the week will be displays of young children's art from the daycare and preschools at area businesses.

Each week the Health Centers' CFCE playgroups provide fun toys, crafts, stories and activities for children 0-5 and their caregivers at three different times. Mondays they meet from 9:30-11:30 at Worthington Library, on Wednesdays play happens from 10 a.m. to noon at Chester Railroad Station, and on most Fridays from 10 a.m.-noon at Stanton Hall in Huntington. On the third Fridays of the month the playgroups alternate between the Russell and Huntington Libraries.

In addition, HCHC supports the ParentChild+ home visiting program which provides a trained home visitor and brand-new books and toys to the families of children 16-48 months in the Gateway Hilltowns and Worthington. Funding for both these programs comes from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

## RACE

strongly consider wearing protective clothing and gear to reduce the risk of exposure and hypothermia.

It is also important to realize that the human body releases heat at a rate of about 25 times faster when it is wet than when it is dry.

There are five means by which the body loses heat. Evaporation is when body heat turns sweat into vapor, which cools the body. Convection is when air or water moves across the skin's surface and pulls heat away. Conduction is direct contact of the body with another object that transfers heat from the body. Radiation is when the body radiates heat outward like a fire, trying to warm up the surrounding environment (air or water). Direct contact of the body with another object which transfers heat from the body to the object. All of these heat loss methods apply to a water based environment such as paddling on a river.

Paddling is a highly active and aerobic sport so there is considerable evaporation from sweat and respiration from heavy breathing. Because you are moving with the current and being exposed to wind, there is heat loss through convection. If you are unfortunate enough to experience an early spring swim out of

your canoe or kayak, then conduction and radiation will cause heat loss from the body.

"You have to think of your body as a furnace that is constantly releasing heat and trying to increase the temperature of the outside environment (air and water) to equal your body temperature," Rock reported. "Because there is no way the body can produce and release enough heat to bring up the temperature of the river equal to that of the body, hypothermia begins to set in, which is the dangerous dropping of your core body temperature," he said.

To combat this, paddlers must wear enough insulated clothing to hold in our body heat as well as protecting it from getting wet. One has to consider the temperatures of the air and water and how long a paddler will be away from dry clothing, hot beverages, food and a heat source.

Weather conditions such as sun, clouds, rain and wind will impact body temperature. Also knowing how your own skills and experience might add to a risk of flipping the canoe during the race is important. Alcohol or other drugs before the race will allow blood vessels to dilate and release higher levels of heat and impair judgment, adding to the risk.

Wetsuits and dry suits are highly recommended when temperatures are cold and there is a strong possibility of flipping one's canoe or kayak. At a minimum, paddling tops and bottoms should be considered for protection against the elements. Synthetic or wool based long underwear, both tops and bottoms should be considered for wearing under paddle jackets and pants.

Even if the air temperature is warm, take the water temperature into consideration in case you do take an unexpected swim. This will rapidly exhaust your ability to generate heat which will result in your core temperature dropping and thus becoming hypothermic. This should directly influence the type and amount of clothing you need to wear.

"Cotton kills" because it has absolutely no heat insulating value when it gets wet, as well as being very heavy. Think of how long it takes for cotton towels or jeans to dry. Consider wearing high-tech synthetic fabrics as well as wool based products which don't wick water, dry quickly and maintain warmth even when wet.

Remember that the head is the area with the largest percentage of heat loss, and wool hats, skull caps, and/or helmets will help keep you

warm. Likewise, in warm conditions, lightweight synthetic skull caps are recommended to help release heat from the head in order to prevent the body from overheating.

Wearing synthetic or neoprene paddling gloves will keep hands warm and to prevent blisters. Wool socks are crucial to wear for warmth under paddling booties or shoes as your feet are generally immersed in cold water in the canoe or kayak for the duration of the race, especially when exiting and entering the boat during portages. There are also waterproof socks that you can wear over your wool socks to help keep the feet warm.

Bottom line, sweatshirts, sweatpants, tank tops and exposed skin are all bad choices when paddling in spring conditions, regardless of how warm the air is. You need to consider the strong possibility of a canoe or kayak capsizing in very cold water. Do not drink alcohol or ingest other drug based substances that would prevent the body from creating and preserving heat. You also need to ensure that you have the best decision making ability possible when taking on a potentially risky activity such as paddling.

Always make sure you are wearing a Coast Guard approved Type III over the shoulder life jacket and that you have an extra paddle and a bailer. It is a good idea to have painters (lines) attached to each end of your boat to help pull it to shore when you have wet exit-

ed your canoe or kayak. There should also be flotation in the canoe or kayak to help with rescue and to limit damage to submerged boats. Helmets are strongly recommended for safety when paddling on a white-water river.

Finally, have a great time. Paddling on the river is a truly fun and enjoyable experience, and if approached correctly with the right equipment and clothing, it will become an outdoor activity that you and your family will want to participate in for years to come.

This year's race on Saturday, April 18 marks the 71st running of the Westfield Wildwater Canoe Races. The Expert Race will kick off at 9:30 a.m. from Knightville Dam and end at the Route 20 pulloff across from the Hilltown Community Health Center in Huntington. The Classic Race will start at 11 a.m. from the Rt. 112 MassDOT maintenance yard in the center of Huntington and end in Woronoco center. There will be classes for solo canoes, tandem canoes, kayaks and Stand Up Paddleboards (SUPs).

Registration for the Westfield River Wildwater Races is open at [www.westfieldriver.org/racer](http://www.westfieldriver.org/racer). Registration fees are now \$75 per person and the last day to register is Wednesday, April 15. Anyone with questions is invited to email [Harry.Rock@westfieldriver.org](mailto:Harry.Rock@westfieldriver.org) or [hrock.ymca@gmail.com](mailto:hrock.ymca@gmail.com). He can be reached by texting or calling 413-564-9863.



## Not Just Septic Work...

**EXCAVATING AND TRUCKING INC.** CALL...413-568-3164




**SEPTIC SYSTEMS  
DESIGNED &  
INSTALLED**

**TANK REMOVAL**

**LAND CLEARING**

**SITE WORK**

**DRAINAGE**

**AND MUCH MORE!**

**CALL TO DISCUSS  
YOUR NEXT PROJECT!**

**Serving Hampden & Berkshire Counties**  
[WWW.COOPEREXCAVATINGMA.COM](http://WWW.COOPEREXCAVATINGMA.COM)



## New Hingham Regional Elementary School

is currently accepting limited school choice slots for Pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade for the 2026-2027 school year!

Located in Chesterfield, Massachusetts, NHRES offers small class sizes (average class size of 14 students), programming including music, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & mathematics), art, ceramics, physical education, and social emotional learning classes for all students, Band/Choir for students in grades 3-6, a 1:1 device program, and community events held monthly.

For more information or to apply, please visit [www.newhingham.org](http://www.newhingham.org) or contact our Main Office at (413)296-0000.

**LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!**

# INFLATION

**PRICE BUSTERS**

**PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN ASSORTED CHOPS.....	<b>\$1.98</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN WINGS TRAY PAK.....	<b>99¢</b> lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS.....	<b>\$2.79</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN THIGHS 10 LB.....	<b>\$1.29</b> lb
USDA INSP. SMOKED PICNIC PORK SHOULDER.....	<b>\$2.22</b> lb	USDA INSP. KAYEM ALL BEEF KIELBASA 14 OZ....	<b>2/\$7</b> ea
<b>SLICED IN OUR DELI</b> USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST.....	<b>\$3.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FARM FRESH LARGE EGGS BOX.....	<b>\$1.79</b> doz
USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE.....	<b>\$4.89</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN • BARBER FOODS CHICKEN CORDON BLEU CLUB PAK 6 PIECES.....	<b>\$8.99</b> ea
<b>SOUP'S ON!</b> USDA INSP. FROZEN PIG FEET.....	<b>\$2.69</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN • BARBER FOODS CHICKEN CORDON BLEU CLUB PAK 6 PIECES.....	<b>\$8.99</b> ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN FEET.....	<b>\$3.49</b> lb	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 <a href="http://www.90meat.com">www.90meat.com</a></p> <p><small>We reserve the right to limit quantities.</small></p> </div> </div>	

**SALE DATES: 4/9/26-4/15/26**

**BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE**

**CORRECTIONS POLICY** If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com), or call us at 413-283-8393. Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.

**NOTICE**

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



## BASIC PISTOL COURSE WITH LIVE FIRE

For License To Carry Permit **\$140**

Call For Class Dates/Details  
**413-537-0620 Matt Marcinkiewicz**  
[muscione@hotmail.com](mailto:muscione@hotmail.com)

# HUNTINGTON

## Rosemary Barrett opens art gallery April 18 in Huntington

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Painter Rosemary Barrett is opening up her new art gallery located at 8 Main St. on Saturday, April 18.

The R. Barrett Gallery will showcase artwork, include space for art instruction and serve as her own studio. Barrett previously had her studio in Holyoke and has relocated her business and home to Huntington.

She is an award-winning artist, who has received awards from art shows, arts organizations and even had an ornament selected for the White House Christmas tree in 2001.

Initially, Barrett will use the gallery to showcase her own oil paintings. She has become known for the series of lotus paintings she's complete and is still creating; previously, she'd become known for her series on boats and birds. In time, she will look at opening up the gallery space to other artists.

"I'm going to see how this goes through the summer and then open up the gallery part to other artists," Barrett said. "Artists are struggling. I want to give them a leg up."

She will also continue to teach and reports that several students from her Holyoke site plan to come to Huntington. She teaches both beginners and experienced artists. Multi-week, two – three hour classes will be offered in oil and acrylic painting.

Barrett has also taught pastel and drawing in the past. Beginners to advanced students will receive instruc-

tion on composition, application and techniques and learn how to apply these concepts to their own work. Barrett likes to keep classes to a maximum of seven students, which allows her to give each student individual attention.

"It's about having the bravery to express yourself," Barrett said, adding that many people were shut off from artistic expression at an early age.

For those who are less sure, she will offer guided projects for beginners who can start with one day seminars. Seminar topics will include working with colored pencils, creating mini-paintings, ornaments, and transferring and painting Barrett's designs onto wooden boxes. As a teacher, she said she has tried to inspire people to do their own thing, but many don't have confidence to do that. So these guided projects are a great way for people who want to paint but don't know how to start.

"I love giving people skills. I can't tell you how many times people go away and say, 'I did this.'" she smiled.

She will also offer a one day workshop in color exploration, which will incorporate collage. "It's a really good way to explain how colors interact with one another and can be applied to everything from home decor to clothing."

Barrett comes from a family of accomplished artists. On her mother's side, she can even trace her artistic DNA back to Shem Drowne, the Boston coppersmith who created the swallow-tailed weathervane atop the Old North Church in 1740 and the grass-



Local artist Rosemary Barrett is opening a studio located at 8 Main St. in Huntington on April 18. She is shown in her new gallery space with an oil painting from her lotus series.

Turley Publications photos by Wendy Long

hopper weathervane on top of Faneuil Hall in 1742, which became the symbol of Boston. It was even used as a loyalty test during the American Revolution, when locals would ask suspected spies to tell them the weathervane image on top of Faneuil Hall.

She began her formal art education at Clark University's school of the Worcester Art Museum. She also apprenticed with Greg Wyatt, and was an Artist in Residence at St. John the Divine in New York City. Her background also includes Trompe L'Oeil and mural painting, which she has done for numerous decorators and clients throughout the world including private and civic commissions in Brussels, Belgium.

In addition to teaching art in her own studio, Barrett has taught children, adults and senior citizens at schools and programs throughout New England and New York covering techniques such as bas relief sculpting, mold making, felting, Trompe-l'oeil and concrete garden sculptures, among others.

For more information on upcoming classes, people may stop in on opening day or contact Barrett by calling 860-671-1023 or emailing rbarrettstudios@gmail.com.

Slowly but surely, Huntington is becoming a destination for artists. Some artists, like Linda Siska and Janice Cormier, have studios in their homes. Barrett joins potter Dale Rogers in a gallery/studio/lessons business model. A new photography gallery is also set to open on Main Street this year.



Local history author Steve Cormier has started a book tour throughout the region for his latest study, "Good Golly...Missed Trolley" about the rise and fall of mass transportation in Western Massachusetts.

Submitted photo

## Steven Cormier holds book tour

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – As previously reported, Steven Cormier will be touring throughout Western Mass over the next six months to promote his new book, "Good Golly...Missed Trolley."

The local historian's latest book covers the rise and fall of mass transit in Western Massachusetts from horse-drawn wagons to trolley cars. Cormier opened up his series on Sunday, March 29 to a full house of over 50 people at the Chester Railway Museum, in a talk sponsored by the Western Mass Hilltown Hikers.

His book stop in Huntington on Saturday, April 25 has changed to Stanton Hall, but will

still begin at 11 a.m. Huntington's presentation is sponsored by the Huntington Historical Society. "I think the Stanton Hall event will be of great interest and accommodating for a good turnout," Cormier said.

Other dates and places are the Blandford Historical Society on Thursday, April 16 at 7 p.m.; the Hinsdale Public Library on Saturday, April 18 at 11 a.m.; the Worthington Historical Society on Sunday, May 17 at 2 p.m.; the Westfield Athenaeum on Wednesday, May 20 at 6 p.m. and the Hatfield Public Library on Wednesday, May 27 at 6 p.m.

This summer, Cormier will speak at the Russell Senior Center on Wednesday, June 3 at 6 p.m.; the West Springfield Library on Wednesday, July 15 and

6 p.m. and the Becket Athenaeum on Wednesday, July 22 at 6 p.m.

In September, the book will be discussed with the author on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10 a.m.; in the Springfield Library; on Sept. 19 at 2 p.m. in the Montgomery Town Library and on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Chicopee Public Library.

Cormier is the author of two previous local history books, "The Life and Times of Parley B. Hutchins" and "The Sacrificial Land" about the building of Littleville and Knightville Dams. Books sell for \$20 and signed by the author. He will accept cash, credit card, Venmo or PayPal. Books will also be available at the Littleville Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 26 from 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

## COA lists upcoming events

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging will host the following events at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

The movie "The Perfect Storm" will be shown on Wednesday, April 8 at 2 p.m. Games and Goodies will be on Tuesday, April 14 from 1-3 p.m. People may join other seniors to play board games and enjoy free snacks. Bonus Fun - Spring Birthdays will be celebrated Tuesday, April 14 at 1 p.m.

Jewelry Beading Class

is Wednesday, April 29 at 1 p.m. People should call 413-685-5283 to register. There is a limit of 15 people for class. On Thursdays in April "A Course in Miracles" offered from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Chair Yoga is Wednesdays from 10-11:15 a.m. Fee is \$5 per class.

Memory Café is held weekly on Wednesday at 2 p.m. The weekly café provides seniors with activities while their caregivers participate in a support group. The café is open to all with and

without memory issues. The café is made possible by a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services through funding under the Federal Older Americans Act and by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Memory Cafe events are free and open to residents of any community. Free snacks are provided at all events. For more information, people may call Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**George PROPANE INC.**  
PROPANE GAS PLUMBING • HEATING  
(413) 268-8360  
TOLL FREE 1-800-464-2053  
Family Owned & Operated  
3 Berkshire Trail West (Route 9), P.O. Box 102, Goshen, MA 01032  
www.georgepropane.com

**ARCHITECT JEFFREY SCOTT PENN**  
77 Worthington Road, Huntington, MA 01050  
Tel. 413-531-1868  
Fax. 413-667-3082  
Email: jpspsed@verizon.net  
new construction, renovation, historic preservation

FEED • PET SUPPLIES • CLOTHING • COAL  
WOOD PELLETS • WILD & CAGED BIRDSEED  
POOL SUPPLIES • MOTOR OILS • FENCING  
LAWN & GARDEN SUPPLIES • FERTILIZER  
**GATEWAY FARM & PET**  
Poulin Grain RED WING SHOES Carhartt  
59 RUSSELL ROAD, HUNTINGTON, MA 01050  
1-413-667-2279 M-F 8am-5pm Sat. 8am-4pm  
TARA GRENIER • PAUL GRENIER

**Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.**  
Water Well Drilling, Water Pump Sales & Service  
Water Testing System Evaluations  
Water System Repairs HENSHAW Hydrofracture to Increase Flow  
800-232-4725 • Fax 413-296-4565  
Charles R. Henshaw  
130 Cumington Rd., W. Chesterfield, MA • 413-296-4725

**Dale's Structural & Carpentry**  
Home Improvement • Additions • Restorations • Repairs  
Post & Beam Repairs  
Sagging Floors - Beams - Columns  
Sill Timbers - Termite Damage  
Foundation Repairs - Piers & Footings  
Chimney Rebuilds  
FULLY LICENSED & INSURED  
Huntington, MA • 413-667-3149  
dalesstructuralandcarpentry.com

**DOWN TO EARTH EXCAVATING INC**  
Highly Regarded Professionals: Complete Site Work, Septic Development and Repairs. Fully Insured.  
413-667-5269  
Paul & Randy LaPointe, Owners Huntington, Mass.

## Penny social benefits Agricultural Fair

HUNTINGTON – On April 11 from 5:30-9 p.m., a penny social fundraiser will be held to benefit Middlefield Agricultural Fair in Stanton Hall, 24 Russell Road.

The doors open at 4 p.m. To preorder tickets or drop off donations, people may call Kathy Brown at 413-667-3279 or Alicia Lord at 413-263-1643. Refreshments will be available for pur-

chase. People can win lottery tickets, tickets to the Middlefield Fair and so much more. For more information, people may visit MiddlefieldFair.org.

**AQUA PUMPS WATER SYSTEMS**  
Water Pumps • Sewer Pumps  
Water Conditioners  
46 Pitcher Street Donald Washburn  
Montgomery, MA 01085 862-3301

**Jeff's Oil Burner Service**  
• Tune Ups  
• Installations  
• Oil Tanks  
Huntington, Massachusetts  
Office 413.667.0245  
Cell 413.530.7037  
jeffsoilburnerservice@hotmail.com

## OPINION

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Recent subscriber likes the local news in the *Country Journal*

I lived in Northampton for 50 years and bought the *Country Journal* at The Outlook in Westhampton. I moved to South Hadley three years ago. When I'm in the hilltowns, I stop to pick up a copy. It's nice to see local news and sometimes I recognize a person.

Since moving to South Hadley, I've developed a habit of picking up the "free"

paper for each town. I know a few people in Belchertown, Granby and Palmer. It's local and I enjoy it.

As people who know me will tell you that I like to make suggestions to make it better for me and maybe you. First, a local paper with local news is very important. Second, some things in all the papers are the same, which is ok.... Maybe. Third I wish there was

a local paper with combined news (*Country Journal*) covering county news, example Hampden County, Hampshire County etc. Fourth, what's wrong with "true gossip"? People like to read about it. Local trivia information can be important to some people (people like to see their name in print).

I did the genealogy work on my father's family. I copy

of the Chester paper from 1990 was saved and handed down as keepsake. As a father's daughter, we knew nothing of my his family except who his parents were on his birth certificate. This hand me down saved paper offered a few clues to be explored. I'm grateful.

The whole newspaper was full of names in the past and recognized by an older

member in the family and he was grateful to receive it.

I'm not sure, but I remember the newspaper covered a wider area and it might have been the paper in the area.

Yes, I'm looking forward to getting the *Country Journal* sent to my South Hadley address.

Rosalyn Burt  
South Hadley

### GUEST COLUMN



## I'll be 65 soon and am working. Must I enroll in Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I will be 65 in October and I am working full-time. My goal is to work until age 67, which is my Full Retirement Age or until age 70.

I heard I have to apply for Medicare Part A only. Is this true or will I be penalized? And do I have to go to the Social Security office to do this or can I do it online? And then will they be still giving me my Medicare through the next five years of working or do I have to pay for something? I will have my own healthcare insurance. Thank you for your help.

Signed: Confused

Dear Confused:

There are two things you should be aware of:

You do not need to claim Social Security benefits when you enroll in Medicare

You do not need to enroll in Medicare at age 65 if you have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, "creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants.

Thus, it is perfectly okay for you to delay taking your Social Security benefits until age 67 (your SS full retirement age) or even until age 70 when you will get the maximum SS benefit you are entitled to. And if you now have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, you can delay enrolling in Medicare until such time as your employer's healthcare coverage ends. When you stop working, you will enter a Medicare Special Enrollment Period, during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Whenever you decide to enroll in Medicare or Social Security, you will not need to visit your local SSA office to do so. You can enroll in Medicare either online at [www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up](http://www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up) or you can call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to enroll in Medicare on the telephone.

Similarly, when you are ready to claim Social Security, you can do so online at [www.ssa.gov/apply](http://www.ssa.gov/apply) or you can call 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply for SS over the phone. To apply online, however, you should first create your personal "my Social Security" online account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Creating your online SS account now at age 65 will facilitate later online enrollment and will also provide you with an estimate of your SS benefit amounts at various ages - e.g., now at age 65, at your FRA of 67 or at age 70. And that should help you decide when it is best for you to claim Social Security.

You should verify with your employer's health insurance provider that they don't require you to enroll in Medicare at age 65. Most employer plans don't, but some do.

You don't need to enroll in Medicare Part A or Part B now as long as your employer's coverage is creditable. And it's okay to enroll in Medicare a couple of months prior to your employer's creditable healthcare coverage ending when you stop working, requesting that your Medicare coverage starts when your employer's healthcare ends. This will ensure that there is no gap in your healthcare coverage. If your employer coverage is creditable, you will not suffer a Medicare Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling after age 65.

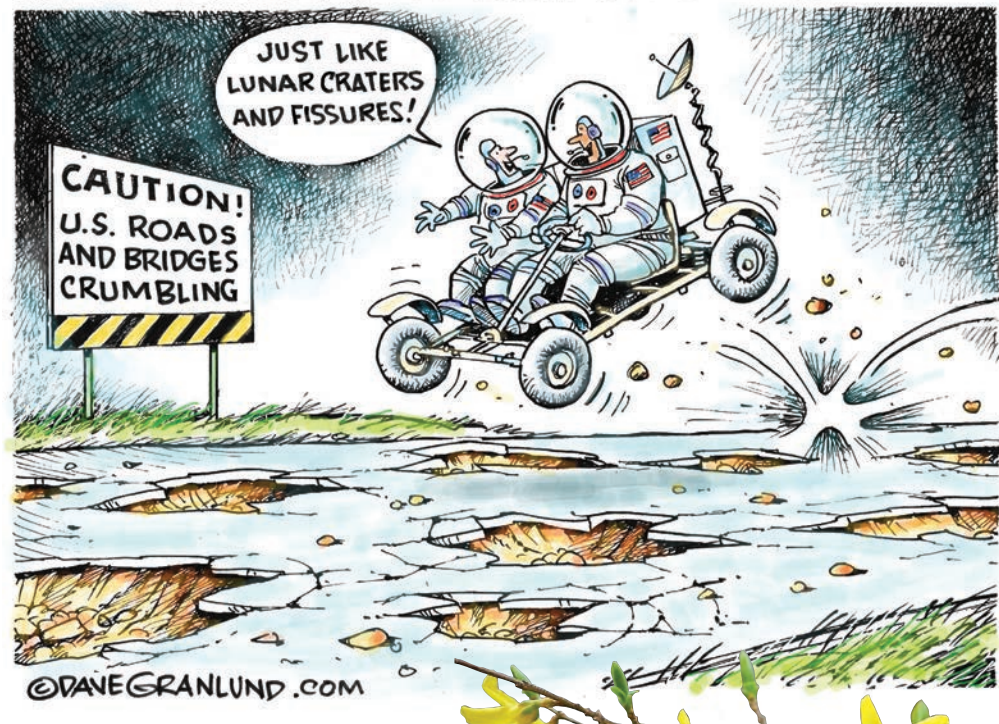
If you claim Social Security benefits at any time prior to your FRA and are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The AET lasts until you reach your FRA (67), after which you can earn as much as you like without your SS benefits being affected.

Whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be required to take Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Medicare Part A is free because you are also eligible for Social Security. But you don't need to enroll in Part A at age 65 unless you also claim Social Security.

Medicare Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is optional if you have creditable employer coverage as explained above. You do not need to enroll in Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium of \$202.90 in 2026 until your employer's creditable healthcare coverage ends, even if you claim Social Security earlier.

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.

### HOW ASTRONAUTS WILL TRAIN FOR RETURN TO MOON...



©DANEGRANLUND.COM

### GUEST COLUMN

## The ins and outs of forsythia

Each year as forsythia bursts into bloom, I am reminded of my dad.

You see, this spring harbinger always blooms right around his birthday. This year would've been a monumental one, as he would have celebrated 100 years!

Although most landscape professionals aren't all that fond of forsythia, it holds a special place in my heart. When it is in full bloom our eyes are lifted away from the still drab lawn and the bare borders to bask at its branches of yellow flowers.

If you are lucky enough to have forsythia growing in your yard, perhaps you will find the following facts interesting, straight from the archives.

Forsythia can be forced into bloom indoors. While it is a little late in the season to fully appreciate this technique, it can easily be

achieved now. As long as temperatures are above freezing, you can harvest the branches. Simply prepare them as you would any other cut flower by removing side shoots that would be under water in the vase. Fill the vase with hot water and just prior to insertion recut the end of the stem on a 45 degree angle to expose as much surface area as possible.

We use hot water because it will move through the plant's vascular system quickly, hydrating it fully. Place the vase in indirect, bright light, and change the water a couple of times

a week. Expect blooms in a matter of days this time of year; if you harvest stems in early March it will take a bit longer to enjoy the flowers.

Forsythia buds are tender. While the shrub itself is hardy to Zone 4, the buds are reliably hardy to only Zone 5.

After an especially cold winter you may see forsythia in half-bloom! The tops of the shrub may be devoid of blossoms, but the bottom chock-full. This generally happens because the lower portion of the shrub was insulated under a snow bank or leaf mound.

GARDEN, page 5



Eastern Phoebe

The Eastern Phoebe is a plump songbird with a medium-length tail. It appears large-headed for a bird of its size. The head often appears flat on top, but phoebes sometimes raise the feathers up into a peak. Like most small flycatchers, they have short, thin bills used for catching insects. The Eastern Phoebe slightly larger than a tufted titmouse.

The Eastern Phoebe is brownish-gray above and off-white below, with a dusky wash to the sides of the breast. The head is typically the darkest part of the upper parts. Birds in fresh fall plumage show faint yellow



By Ellenor Downer

on the belly and whitish edging on the folded wing feathers.

The Eastern Phoebe generally perches low in trees or on fence lines. Phoebes are very active, making short flights to capture insects and very often returning to the same perch. They make sharp "peep" calls in addition to their familiar "Phoebe" vocalizations. When perched, Eastern Phoebes wag their tails down and up frequently.

These birds favor open woods such as yards, parks, woodlands and woodland edges. Phoebes usually breed around buildings or bridges on which they construct their nests under the protection of an eave or ledge.

Bring in bird feeders

The Allen Bird Club of Springfield reminds area residents that early spring means hungry bears. If people enjoy

feeding birds during the winter, it's now time to bring feeders in at night or to put them away entirely until next December. Black bears have an excellent memory and will return to feeders where they find easy meals. When that happens, bears can become a nuisance. FYI, over 50 million Americans purchase more than one billion pounds of bird seed and suet annually.

An excellent way to feed birds year-round is by planting native fruit and seed bearing plants that provide food for wildlife. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's new citizen science initiative, Garden for Birds, offers regionally-tailored tips on the best plants to choose to help struggling wildlife to thrive. This program is free and participation

BIRDS, page 5

# Country Journal

We Want to Hear From You

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

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

The Country Journal (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.



WEB  
[countryjournal.turley.com](http://countryjournal.turley.com)



PHONE  
(413) 283-8393



ADDRESS  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley Publications, Inc.

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

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

ISSN NO. 0747-2471

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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

## ELECTION LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Friday to be considered for the following Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

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

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

## OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

## Trouble with Barberry

By Carol Waag  
Guest Column

I was innocently swinging a pickaxe in my woods.

"Are you digging a grave?" the dog walker asked.

"No. I mean, yes!" I responded brightly.

The dog walker, seeing the pickaxe, was reminded of grave diggers. I guess. Well, it was a sort of grave.

"I'm digging up this darn barberry plant." I added.

"I thought you loved plants" he observed, quite rightly.

I am not in the habit of killing plants. My husband will tell you that I really love plants. He complains that whenever he builds a stone wall (my husband really loves stone) I promptly cover it up with plants. Which is not completely false.

But I like plants so much, especially the plants that naturally grow in our woods, that I am willing to dig up any plant that crowds out the native flora so essential for a healthy ecosystem. Plants like barberry, *Berberis thunbergia*, which was first used in gardens by people who love plants (them again), because they thought it was a pretty shrub. It can be pretty, but its undesirable qualities far outweigh the look of its red berries in summer and red leaves in the fall.

#### What's so bad about barberry?

For starters, barberry is frequently the home of white-footed mice, which are hosts for deer ticks. Half of all white-footed mice carry tick-borne diseases like Lyme disease. The ticks



Natalia Ruiz holds a barberry with massive roots that she had just pulled out of the ground.

get it from the mice. In fact, people who specialize in this sort of thing have shown that the more barberry plants you have, the more tick-borne disease is lurking on your property. And a single tick bite can infect you, your child, or your dog. (I have had Lyme disease myself and it was no picnic, I assure you.)

So I dig up barberry plants whenever I see them (as long as I have permission and gloves) and can make sure that I am removing all the roots because leftover roots can grow a new plant. Fortunately, this is made far easier by the fact that barberry roots are very brightly colored inside, an orange-yellow like turmeric or curry powder, so it's clear where the roots are lurking. But because any remaining roots can grow a new plant, it also helps to return to the scene the next year to check and remove any stragglers. That can be a good time to

plant a native shrub that you really love in its place. One that doesn't harbor ticks.

#### A thorny situation

Another undesirable thing about barberry: it is covered with thorny spines. If you've ever had the misfortune to saunter by a barberry and be attacked by its prickly arching branches, you can relate. The long stems are armored with these spines, which is why mice like to live under barberries. And why the deer and grazing cows or sheep won't munch on it and why it grows rampant in pasture and forest alike.

Sun or shade, dry or stony or moist soil, people will find barberry throughout the Westfield watershed. It's spread by the birds, who eat the berries (although they are not particularly nourishing). What's a homeowner or dog walker to do?

It just so happens that the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Watershed Committee

(WRWSC) would like to help you remove barberry plants on your property to improve the safety of communities and the diversity of the land.

You may have already received a brochure, or you might soon find one in your mailbox. It has lots of photos and information about how to identify barberry in your garden, yard or woods, how to remove it (pickaxe optional, gloves required) and what to eventually replace it with.

This spring and summer the WRWSC will hold more workshops in the hilltowns to demonstrate how to remove barberry. On Sunday, April 12 from 1-4:30 p.m. their will be a workday for rooting out barberry in Worthington. To register and for details, people should visit [westfielddriver@gmail.com](mailto:westfielddriver@gmail.com).

And if you have a bunch of it on your property, they could even bring a workshop to your house, to help with removal. And if you successfully remove



A Barberry bush has red berries and long thorns.

Submitted photos

a barberry? After the waiting period, the WRWSC will reimburse you for a portion of your cost for a suitable native shrub to plant in its place. Now for anyone who loves plants, that's a deal. On Sunday, April 12 from 1-4:30 p.m. their will be a workday for rooting out barberry in Worthington. To register and for details, people should visit [westfielddriver@gmail.com](mailto:westfielddriver@gmail.com).

For more information and to get on the mailing list, people may contact Volunteer Coordinator Meredyth Babcock at [westfielddriver@gmail.com](mailto:westfielddriver@gmail.com) and visit the WRWSC website at <https://westfieldriverwildscenic.org/>

They may check out the latest barberry video that Meredyth made on the WRWSC YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/@wildscenic1/videos>.

## GARDEN

Likewise, the blossoms are also tender – sometimes reduced to mush the morning after a hard freeze.

Forsythia flowers are borne on the previous year's wood. With that in mind, prune as soon as possible after flowering.

Simply cut the oldest stems all the way down to the ground. You can safely remove

up to one-third of the bush in a single pruning session. New growth will emerge over the summer and provide blossoms for next season.

While some books recommend cutting overgrown forsythias down to the ground completely, in my experience, this advice is drastic. The plant will need a couple of years to recover from that approach.

Sometimes you see forsythia pruned into balls or stiff hedges. While some homeowners consider this look appealing, I like to see the bush a little less tame. It's also hard to guarantee flowers throughout such a manicured shape; sometimes part will bloom and the rest will be just foliage. Kind of a weird look. Propagating forsythias is

easy! Do you want more of a good thing? Try layering your forsythias. Take a long, pliable branch and bend it to the ground a foot or so from the main plant. Cover the bend with soil and secure it with a brick or heavy stone. In a few months' time it will root, and by the following spring the new plant can easily be separated from its mother.

Forsythia is easily grown. Perhaps this is why we see so many forsythias in the landscape.

While it will undoubtedly bloom best in full sun, once established, it can tolerate all but the driest of soils and adapts to a range in pH. Also, it is bothered by few pests or diseases.

Roberta McQuaid grad-

uated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

from page 4

## BIRDS

can be cancelled at any time. Information on how to turn a yard into a bird-supporting habitat can be found by visiting [gardenforbirds.org](http://gardenforbirds.org).

#### Common mergansers

My husband and I saw the male and female Common Merganser diving in cedar Lake Sturbridge in between the ice on Thursday, March 19. They were beautiful.

#### Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "In my last email I had reported a broad-winged hawk seen in the yard. I later was looking at some photographs I had taken of the bird and discovered I was wrong, the bird was a red-shouldered hawk. Also it would have been very early for a broad-wing."

He saw crows, blue jays and a red-shouldered hawk on his trail camera as well as raccoons and an opossum.

He also has eight goldfinch visiting regularly. He said, "For most of the winter we have only seen one or two at the feeders. One was starting to show some yellow plumage."

He puts out a coffee can of whole peanuts every day in a tray. He said, "Blue jays, titmice and an occasional red-bellied woodpecker take the peanuts that are usually gone within a couple of hours. Lately the peanuts have been lasting two or three days and I haven't seen any blue jays." He also noted it is "A sign of spring, the chipmunks are out and about and the daffodil leaves have started to emerge, hooray."



Goldfinch

#### Goldfinches

I received an email from a Worthington resident. He said, "Around mid-February each year my bird feeders are inundated by a flock or maybe flocks of goldfinches in their drab winter colorations. It's amazing how many flit in and out of my

feeders. And, when the goldfinches come, they are joined by an equally large flock of pine siskins. They must travel together and they look somewhat similar since the goldfinches aren't yet sporting their bright yellow colors. They usually hang around for a month or so and then

move on further North." He said, "I enjoy watching them at the feeders, the few who decide to spend the summer in Western Massachusetts."

#### Bluebirds

I received an email from a Hampden resident, who shared video from a blink camera she installed inside her bluebird house in 2025. She placed the camera in the birdhouse to keep track of activity and this resulted in two broods of bluebirds successfully hatching and fledging a total of eight young. She said, "The camera helped to keep the sparrows from establishing a nest and gave us close ups of the bluebird families." She also said, "Once September rolled around, it was time to clean and sanitize the birdhouse. However, a downy wood-

pecker found it was a fine place to spend the night. He has continued arriving at sundown and leaving at sunrise the next day. The bluebirds sometimes stop by during the day possibly checking it out for their future nest." She said, "Our hope is the bluebirds return this spring and don't have issues with the woodpecker as well as the sparrows."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to *Barre Gazette*, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

from page 4

## News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



## FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine

2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom  
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

207-607-9333



## BLANDFORD



B-Safe Storage delivered a storage bin for the Porter Memorial Library during the library expansion. *Turley Publications photo by Mary Kronholm*

## Library has storage bin on Town Hall property

BLANDFORD – B-Safe Storage delivered the 8 by 20 foot storage bin for the Porter Memorial Library on Friday morning.

There have already been several trips from the

library with supplies and program materials put in the bin. Highway Department employee Michael Carr was on site with B-Safe Storage employee Bill. The Highway Department dropped stone

and leveled the area and put 6 by 6 foot beams down to keep the bin off the ground.

The unit will be used until the expansion construction is done in November 2027.

## Tom Hendrickson to speak at town committee meeting

BLANDFORD – Tom Hendrickson, Democratic candidate for Third District State Representative, will be the guest speaker at the Democratic Town Committee meeting Saturday, April 11 at 11 a.m. at the Town Hall.

Third Hampden District towns include Agawam, Blandford, Chester, Granville, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Russell, Southwick and Tolland and is currently represented by Republican State Representative Nicholas Boldyga from Southwick.

Hendrickson is a member of the Agawam City

Council. He has been reaching out to Blandford, including attending a recent Select Board meeting as well as several other events in the area.

Hendrickson will host a Meet-and-Greet at the Blandford Country Store from 12:30-1:30 p.m. following the DTC meeting and available to answer questions about his reasons for running.

He welcomes the chance to meet residents from the



Tom Hendrickson

Third Hampden District., according to DTC Outreach Pam Dirschka.

His website states that he is “running for State Representative to give working families a strong voice in our state legislature” and

goes on to say “we deserve an economy and a state government that work for all of us” and he is “fighting for change.” His website is <https://www.tomhendrickson.org/>.

## COA holds senior lunches

BLANDFORD – The Council on Aging lunches in April are the second and fourth Fridays, April 10 and 24 at noon in the COA room at Town Hall.

Chef Joann Martin announced the luncheon menus. April 10 diners will have baked ham, scalloped

potatoes, coleslaw, fun colored deviled eggs and dessert. April 24 the menu is vegetable quiche, crispy mashed potatoes, maple sausage and dessert. The usual beverages will accompany both lunches.

There is no charge to enjoy the meal, but a \$5

donation will help keep the program stable.

People may call Director Margit Mikuski at 413-848-4279, extension 400 to leave a message with their name and number of people attending or email Joann Martin at [jmartin@townofblandford.gov](mailto:jmartin@townofblandford.gov).



A fundraiser lasagna dinner was held for Eve and Pastor Ciprian Droma and family Fiona, Giose and Arianne. *Turley Publications photo by Mary Kronholm*

## Pastor Droma and family to leave the end of April

BLANDFORD – The fundraiser Saturday, March 28 dinner at the Town Hall for Pastor Ciprian Droma and his family was a sell-out event.

According to Elder Stephen Hart, there were 85 tickets available and 90 people were served. There was even an option for take-home when all was said and done; there were some remaining dinners available. Anne Savery-

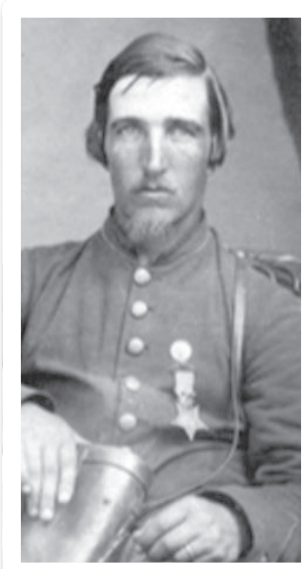
Emo organized and prepared lasagna dinners with salad, appetizer and a choice of chocolate or vanilla cake for dessert.

Sean O’Clair gave the invocation prior to the meal. Pastor Ciprian and his family visited with each table during the course of the evening. Pastor Droma sang and accompanied himself on guitar during dinner. After dinner he asked everyone to join in singing

the first verse of Amazing Grace, which was followed by his talk on the Gospel and a final blessing.

The family is headed to Northern Iraq, but they will stay for a while in Romania, Pastor Ciprian’s home, until it is safe to proceed. Pastor Ciprian, his wife Eve and their three children, Arame, now eight; Fiorinna, five and their son Giosue, four, will be at the parsonage through April.

## Blandford Historical Society... Did You Know?



Charles A. Taggart (1843–1937)

*Editor’s note: The Blandford Historical Society will submit this “Did You Know?” column on a regular basis.*

Here’s an exciting update to the Civil War story about Blandford’s hometown hero, Charles A. Taggart, first published a few weeks ago.

Taggart earned the Medal of Honor for capturing an enemy flag at the Battle of Sailor’s Creek, Virginia, on April 6, 1865, three days before the end of the war. As previously recounted, small pieces of that original flag were later sewn onto a new Confederate flag—one of

Taggart’s prized possessions—now displayed with his military artifacts in our Museum Collection at the Blandford Historical Society.

### Finding A Match

Until recently, the fate of the captured flag itself remained a mystery. That changed when historian Del Thomasson of Georgia, discovered Taggart’s flag story in an online search and contacted the Society to learn more. A specialist in Civil War flags and color-bearers, Thomasson was finalizing an article on the 37th Massachusetts Infantry and one of the Medal of Honor soldiers he was featuring was Taggart.

Intrigued, he began searching for the flag. He soon identified a strong candidate: a flag recorded as captured (assigned number 331) and turned over to the Union War Department, notably missing two cut-out pieces similar to the ones affixed to Taggart’s flag. It is now held in the collection of the American Civil War Museum in Richmond, Virginia. The flag was not originally linked to a specific regiment and had been cataloged for more than a century as “unknown.”

### A Feat to Remember

In addition to confirming Taggart’s account and likely solving a long-standing mystery, we also learned more about what happened on the

battlefield—161 years ago to the day this week.

An account from Taggart’s commanding officer described the dramatic moment of capture in “Deeds of Valor: How America’s Heroes Won the Medal of Honor,” originally published in 1871:



Picture of the Confederate flag among Taggart’s military memorabilia on display at the Blandford Historical Society Museum.

“During a lull in the desperate hand to hand fighting during the memorable day, Private Charles A. Taggart, of Company B, Thirty Seventh Massachusetts Infantry, stepped out about twenty paces to the front of his regiment and up a slight rise of ground, from which place he

saw a squad of about twenty rebels in a low protected spot firing on the men to his right.

Taking shelter behind a tree nearby he fired several shots into their midst, when to his surprise he observed a rebel flag among them. Immediately he started for their color bearer, demanding the surrender of the flag, which he grasped and in the struggle for the possession he found himself assisted by another Union man, who had also seen the colors and who was intent upon their capture.

The two wrested them from the rebel, but Taggart’s

comrade was shot down, while he, taking advantage of an opening, rushed back with the colors into the Union lines. Unfortunately, the Federals took him for a leader of a rebel charge, and it was miraculous that he escaped with but one slight wound on his right leg.”

Thomasson’s articles are available at <https://www.lumpkinhistory.org/collections/uncommon-courage>

Contact us if you’d like to arrange a visit to our Museum Collection and find out more why Blandford is a small town with a big history.



The Confederate flag that Taggart cut the corners from on display in the Civil War Museum in Richmond, Virginia. *Submitted photos*

# BLANDFORD

## Artists participate in local exhibitions

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Local artists Jeri Hamel, Sue Racine and longtime-resident Lucia Sullivan, who now lives in Westfield, will all have their artwork on display at the Rinnova Building at 108 Elm St in Westfield.

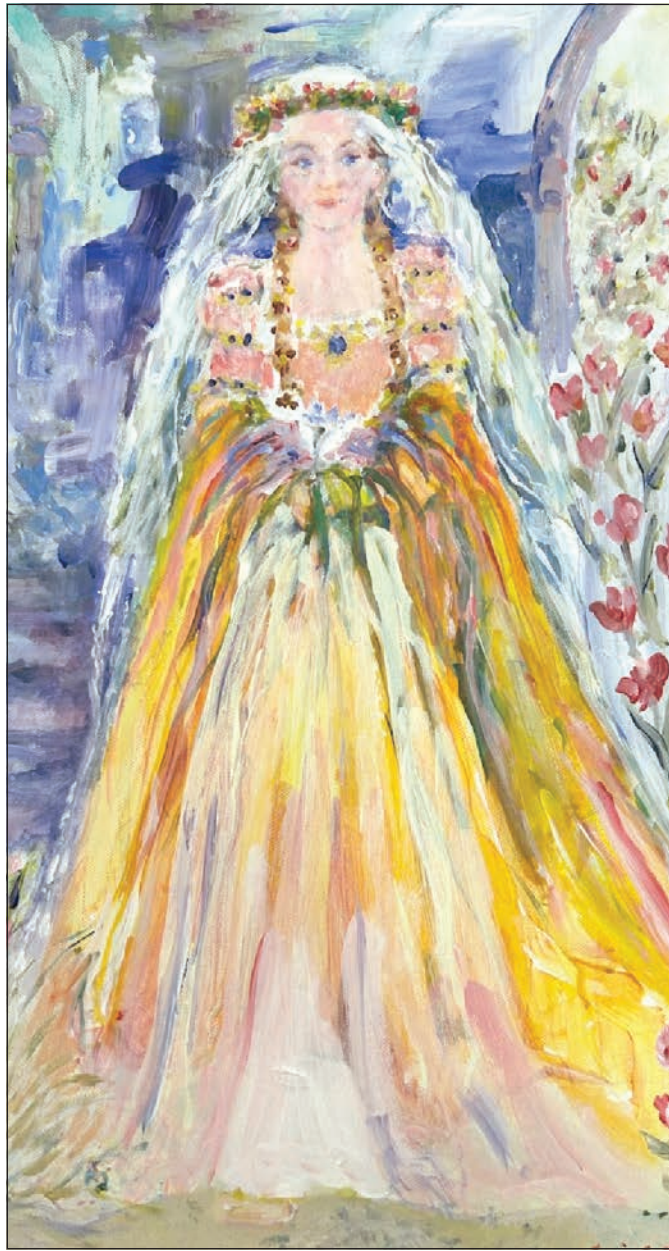
The event is a Westfield on Weekends presentation and the fantasy theme for the artists' work is Magic in the Garden. This exhibition opens Saturday, April 18 with an artists' reception from 1-3 p.m. and will continue through Sunday, May 31. Regular exhibition hours are Tuesday and Wednesday noon-3 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 6-9 p.m. and Saturday noon-4 p.m. The exhibit is closed on Sunday and Monday.

If the regular hours are

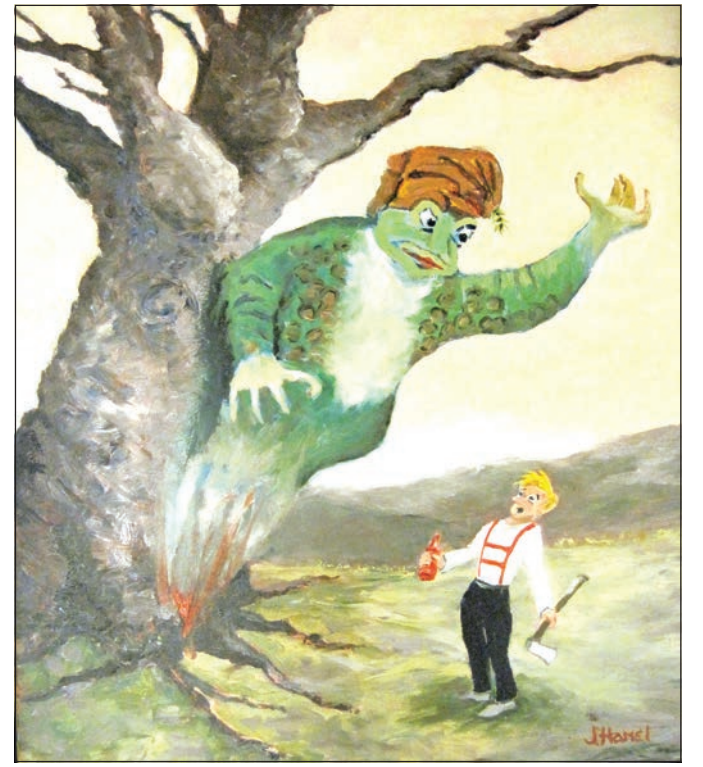
inconvenient, prospective visitors may contact Westfield on Weekends by email at [WOW.creativeartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:WOW.creativeartscenter@gmail.com) to arrange for an appointment or call (413-579-5967).

Hamel and Racine will also have their work at the Southwick Cultural Council's Art Exhibition at the Southwick Town Hall at 454 College Highway in Southwick. Hamel's artwork juried successfully; she has not yet settled on what pieces she will have in the exhibition.

There is an artists' reception with the exhibition on Friday, April 24 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The juried exhibition will continue Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The work of multiple artists will be on exhibit and many pieces will be available for sale.



Lucia Sullivan's Lady Guinevere will be shown at the Westfield on Weekend exhibition beginning Saturday, April 18.



Jeri Hamel's The Spirit in a Bottle from Grimms Brothers will also be exhibited.



Sue Racine's Triple Onions will be part of the Southwick Cultural Council's exhibition. Submitted photos



Sue Racine's spring bike is at the Westfield on Weekend exhibition.

## WORTHINGTON

### Storyteller Mary Jo Maichack presents writing workshop

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Public Library will host professional storyteller Mary Jo Maichack, who will present a workshop in memoir writing for adults of any skill level.

The program will be held on Thursday, April 9 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the library. Admission is free as this program is supported in part by a grant from the Worthington Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and the Worthington Library.

Maichack's degree is in English literature from Middlebury College, part of

which launched her career as a storyteller who performed some 5,000 programs over her career. In recent years, she has offered memoir workshops that have been well-liked and well-attended.

"I love literature, so I create stimulating writing prompts from a broad selection of authors on different themes. These provide inspiration with many facets that writers can relate to and write about as they associate ideas with their own lives. This is helpful in getting writers to write freely without self-criticism. It is always wonderful to hear aspects of people's lives," said Maichack.

Maichack is a partner in Maichack Arts with her husband, pastelist Gregory Maichack. She has served as Director of the Northeast Region of the National Storytelling Center, and won two national awards for her storytelling CDs. In her 35-year career, she has been featured in notable regional storytelling festivals, on PBS live, and from San Francisco to Vienna, Austria. Her website is [www.singingstories.info](http://www.singingstories.info). Her book, "From Stage Door to Classroom Floor," was offered a contract by ABC/Clío/Libraries Unlimited. Registration is not required.

### COA delivers flowering plants

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Council on Aging will be distributing a flowering plant on Monday, April 13 from 11 a.m.-noon at the curbside of the Worthington Congregational church from while supplies last.

### Library Friends to hold book/bake sale April 11

WORTHINGTON – Friends of the Worthington Library will host their annual spring book and bake sale on Saturday, April 11 at the Worthington Town Hall.

Baked goods to sell should be dropped off on Friday, April 10 or Saturday, April 11 by 10 a.m. People

should be dropped off gently used books and audio books on the stage at Town Hall. For more information, people may call Tiffany at 518-253-6233.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

#### Chester Baptist Church

Pastor Dan Herr  
14 Middlefield Road  
Chester, MA 01011  
413-354-7743  
Email: [pastor@chesterbaptistchurch.org](mailto:pastor@chesterbaptistchurch.org)  
Website: [chesterbaptistchurch.org](http://chesterbaptistchurch.org)  
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday Afternoon at 1:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer at 6:30pm

#### First Congregational Church of Blandford

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

#### First Congregational Church of Chester

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

#### First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

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

#### Hilltown Community Church

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

#### CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Community Church



#### Holy Family Parish

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

#### New Boston Congregational Church

4 Sandisfield Rd., PO Box 81  
Sandisfield, MA 01255  
Services held twice monthly, check website: [www.newbostoncongregationalchurch.org](http://www.newbostoncongregationalchurch.org)

#### Pioneer Valley Assembly of God

Pastor Javier Melendez  
63 Old Chester Rd., Huntington MA 01050  
413-667-3196  
[pvaglife@gmail.com](mailto:pvaglife@gmail.com)  
[www.pioneervalleyag.org](http://www.pioneervalleyag.org)  
Facebook: Pioneer Valley Assembly of God  
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m.

#### Pioneer Valley Mennonite Fellowship

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

PLACE YOUR AD IN NEW ENGLAND'S #1 SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDE

CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE (413) 283-8393

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:

MAY 8, 2026

PUBLICATION DATE:

JUNE 2026

Distributed in ALL 12 Turley Community Newspapers!

YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL Summer Activities & Vacation Destinations



## WESTFIELD

# St. Joseph's Church to hold community dinner

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph's National Catholic Church, 73 Main St., is hosting a community dinner on Sunday, April 19 at noon. This community dinner will feature glazed baked ham, roasted potato medley and corn off the cob. Dessert served will be Boston cream pie.

coffee, cranberry juice and bottled water is also included. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Everyone is welcome. To purchase tickets and reserve a place, people should text or telephone Cliff at 413-977-2007. If leaving a mes-

sage, they should provide their name and telephone number. Take-Out Meals-To-Go will be available for pick-up at 12:30 p.m. When ordering tickets, indicate if dinners are To-Go. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, April 16. All community members are welcome.

# Alzheimer's Association Support Group meets April 29

WESTFIELD – On Wednesday, April 29 at 6 p.m. Alzheimer's Association Support Group meet in Armbrook Village Senior Living and Memory Support Community, 551

North Road. Caregivers and family members are invited to enjoy light refreshments and to share their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with

their loved ones. The public is welcome. To join this group, people may call 413-568-0000 or email reception@armbrookvillage.com. Groups are held on the last Wednesday of the month.

# Book sale to be held at Athenaeum

WESTFIELD – The Friends of the Westfield Athenaeum book sale fundraiser is back on Thursday, April 23; Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25. Thousands of gently used adult and children's books, DVDs, and puzzles will be available for sale. Hours will be

Thursday, April 23 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, April 24 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.. On Thursday only, they are offering a \$5 discount coupon for educators (bring ID) and new Friends of the Westfield Athenaeum members joining at the door.

People may visit their website for full details at friendsofwestath.org/2026-book-sale. The Friends of the Westfield Athenaeum is a 501(C)3 not-for-profit organization that supports the programs and services of the Westfield Athenaeum.

## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

### SCHOOL

from page 1

state funding for the district. There are 724 Gateway students total this year. Select Board Chairman Jackie Coury asked if using the lesser amount from the town's assessment was not, in effect, "plugging a hole" with something that is not sustainable. Current School Committee member Nicole Daviau was asked to join Matarazzo at the table. Member Ted Cousineau asked in the long term, "How much can you cut before you lose certification?" Matarazzo does not believe the district is in a place "where we are in danger of losing certification." There will be at least 14 new students from Blandford this fall. Daviau said, as a school committee member, that there was very little notice from the state on funding, so there was very little time to consider options. "There are no good choices," she added. Coury said, "We need to figure this out for the short term." The board acknowledged the resignation of Keri Morawiec from the elected position as GRSD School Committee member and she was thanked and complimented for her service. It anyone is interested in joining the school committee, they should contact the Select Board. The board tabled dis-

ussion of the appraisal of 35 George Millard Road Chapter 61 withdrawal and the Board of Health update as well. **Library request** Wearing the Porter Memorial Library Director hat, Daviau brought to the board's attention the need to locate a place for a storage unit, 8 feet by 20 feet, to be located at the Town Hall to house library supplies and materials. The books will be moved to Town Hall and she said she has shelving provided for this, on loan from the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield. She will coordinate with Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay for location for that, as well as the BetterWorld book bin and the after-hours drop off bin. The storage unit will be on the Town Hall site until the expansion is completed in November 2027. **Paving** Hultay reported to the board that he had quotes for paving the Town Hall parking lot, which is estimated at \$61,756 for what Hultay referred to as a "mill and fill" pavement process. There may be a possibility of using Chapter 90 funds, but this will require additional research. Costs for paving Watson Park Road, using a full-depth reclamation, came in at \$80,695 and for something less than full-depth reclamation, \$66,175. Hultay said this would be a

one-and-a-half-inch base. Cousineau asked about priorities for Ch. 90 funding, which is just over \$1.5 million dollars; Hultay replied that "Watson Park is completely doable." Further discussion was postponed. **Water trailer** Hultay also had a quote for the water trailer (to maintain dirt roads) for \$24,598, which is covered by Ch. 90 funds. He is waiting for an agreement to purchase contract from the town to the manufacturer. The town has in excess of 80 miles of road, but the Highway Department, according to Hultay, maintains 68 miles and of that, in a later interview, said that 14.5 miles of the 68 miles are dirt roads that the Highway Department maintains year-round. **Host Community Agreement** In other business, Coury distributed the host/community agreement to be reviewed by the other two board members; this will be discussed at next meeting. **Public comment** Public comment concerned an objection to changing hunting laws to permit hunting on Sundays. Large wooded areas, which are suitable for hiking, make Sunday the only safe day currently to hike. The suggestion was made to consider increasing the number of deer hunters could harvest.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Town of Williamsburg Planning Board Legal Notice**  
The Williamsburg Planning Board is herewith giving notice that it will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:00PM** at the Town Office Building, 141 Main Street, Haydenville, MA. The hearing is to consider proposed changes to Zoning Bylaw Section 9.1 on the topic of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). The changes are to align Williamsburg's zoning with Chapter 150, Section 7 and 8 of the Massachusetts Acts of 2024. These minor changes will clarify parking requirements and non-conforming lot situations to follow state law. The full text of the proposed changes will be available after April 10 in the Town Clerk's Office and on the town website [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org)  
Stephen Smith  
Planning Board Chair  
04/09, 04/16/2026

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. Probate and Family Court HD26E0007PP**  
To Deborah A. Davignon, Hampden County, Brian J. Murphy, Gallatin County (MT), Dennis G. Murphy, Hampden County, Yolanda Murphy, Hampden County, and to all other persons interested.  
A petition has been presented to said Court by Paul D. Murphy, of Hampden County, representing that they hold as tenants-in-common in an undivided part or share of land lying in Chester, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Two Hundred and Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$280,000.00), and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection in said Court at **Springfield** on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **April 27th, 2026**.  
Witness, **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of said Court, this 2nd day of March 2026.  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**, Register  
03/26, 04/02, 04/09/2026

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Blandford Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 at **6:00 PM on April 24, 2026**. The purpose of this hearing is to present and discuss the proposed replacement of the Blandford Zoning Bylaws pertaining to Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) installations. The proposed new by-laws will include Section VIII 8.1 – 8.15 and Sec-

Form 299 Date: March 24, 2026  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S NOTICE Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32 Town of Westhampton -- Case No. 12168 Special Town Meeting of December 8, 2025 Articles # 3, 4, and 5**

**Attorney General's Limited Authority to Waive Procedural Defects in the Notice of the Planning Board Hearing**  
Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32, if the Attorney General finds there to be any defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment of any zoning by-law relating to the form or content of the notice of the Planning Board hearing prescribed by G.L. c. 40A, § 5, or to the manner or dates on which said notice is mailed, posted or published as required by that section, then instead of disapproving the by-law or amendment by reason of any such defect, the Attorney General may elect to proceed under the defect waiver provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32. Under those provisions, the Attorney General is conditionally authorized to waive any such defect. **Defect Determined in Notice of Planning Board Hearing**  
The Attorney General has determined that the planning board hearing notice relating to the above Articles failed to comply with the notice requirements for such hearing established by G.L. c. 40A, § 5. Section 5 provides in part (with emphasis added):  
No zoning...by-law or amendment thereto shall be adopted until after the planning board in a...town has...held a public hearing thereon...at which interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard.... Notice of the time and place of such hearing, of the subject matter, sufficient for identification, and of the place where texts and maps thereof may be inspected shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the...town once in each of two successive weeks, the first publication to be not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing, and by posting such notice in a conspicuous place in the...town hall for a period of not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing. Notice of said hearing shall also be sent by mail, postage prepaid to the executive office of housing and livable communities, the regional planning agency, if any, and to the planning board of each abutting city and town....In cases involving boundary, density or use changes within a district, notice shall be sent to any such nonresident property owner who has filed such a request with the city or town clerk and whose property lies in the district where the change is sought.

Based on the materials submitted to this Office, we have identified the following defect: the notice of the Planning Board hearing that was posted and published did not contain information regarding where the text, and map if any, of the proposed zoning by-laws could be inspected, as required by G.L. c. 40A, § 5. For this reason, the 90-day period prescribed for the Attorney General's review of Articles 3, 4, and 5 is suspended in accordance with G.L. c. 40, § 32.

**Attorney General's Election to Proceed Under the Waiver Provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32**  
The Attorney General has elected to proceed under the limited defect waiver authority conferred by G.L. c. 40, § 32.

**Suspension of Review of Zoning By-Law Amendments**  
The 90-day period prescribed by law for the Attorney General's review of local by-laws is therefore suspended in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32.

**Posting and Publication of This Notice**  
The Town Clerk shall post a true copy of this Notice in a conspicuous place in the Westhampton Town Hall for a period of not less than 14 days and shall publish a copy once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Westhampton.

**Filing of Claim That Defect in Notice Was Misleading or Otherwise Prejudicial**

Within 21 days of the date on which this Notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Westhampton, any resident of the Town of Westhampton, or the owner of any real property in the Town of Westhampton or any other party entitled to notice of the planning board hearing may file with the Town Clerk a written statement that the notice defect was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. The statement must include the reasons supporting the claim that the defect in the Planning Board Notice was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. This statement must be actually on file with the Town Clerk not later than 21 days from the date on which this Notice is published in the newspaper.

**Town Clerk's Certification of Compliance with This Notice**  
After the expiration of the 21-day period, the Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General a true copy of this Notice with a certification of compliance with the publishing and posting requirements of the preceding paragraph, and a certification that either (a) no claim was filed within the 21-day period, or (b) one or more claims were filed within the 21-day period. The Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General true copies of any such claim(s).

**Resumption of Attorney General's Review**  
Upon receipt of one original copy of this Notice with the Clerk's certification, the 90-day period provided for the Attorney General's review under G.L. c. 40, § 32, shall resume. If no claim is made, the Attorney General has the discretion to waive any such defect; if any claim is made, however, the Attorney General may not waive any such defect.

**Note: By not filing a claim under this provision, a person shall not be deprived of the right to assert a claim of invalidity arising out of any possible defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment, as provided in G.L. c. 40, § 32, and in G.L. c. 40A, § 5.**

Date: March 24, 2026  
04/09/2026

tion XVI 16.1 – 16.13.  
**Section V111 - Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations**  
8.1 Purpose and Intent, 8.2 Definitions, 8.3 Applicability and Permitting, 8.4 General Requirements for all Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations, 8.5 Dimension and Density Requirements, 8.6 Design, Site, and Operational Standards, 8.7 Safety and Environmental Standards, 8.8 Monitoring and Maintenance, 8.9 Special Permit Criteria, 8.10 Outside Consultant Fees, 8.11 Severability, 8.12 Enforcement Remedies, 8.13 Appeals, 8.14 Effective Date and Applicability, 8.15 Waivers.  
**Section XVI - Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)**  
16.1 Purpose and Intent, 16.2 Definitions, 16.3 Applicability and Permitting, 16.4 General Requirements, 16.5 Application Materials and Submittals, 16.6 Design, Site and Operational Standards, 16.7 Special Permit Criteria, 16.8 Decommissioning and Site Restoration, 16.9 Safety, 16.10 Severability, 16.11 Enforcement and Remedies, 16.12 Appeals, 16.13 Effective Date and Applicability.  
Copies of the proposed By-law changes will be passed out at the hearing on April 24, 2026.  
Greg Garfield, Chair  
Blandford Planning Board  
04/09, 04/16/2026

## HELP WANTED

- Produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.
- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines.
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo.

## EXPERIENCED WRITERS & JOURNALISTS

**Send writing samples with resume to:**

GREG SCIBELLI  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
**or email directly to:**  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)



www.turley.com

*Country Journal*

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

# MONTGOMERY

## Greg Maichack holds pastel painting workshop

**MONTGOMERY** workshop. Participants learned to paint Vincent Van Gogh Irises pastel painting. Participants created these wonderful works of art.

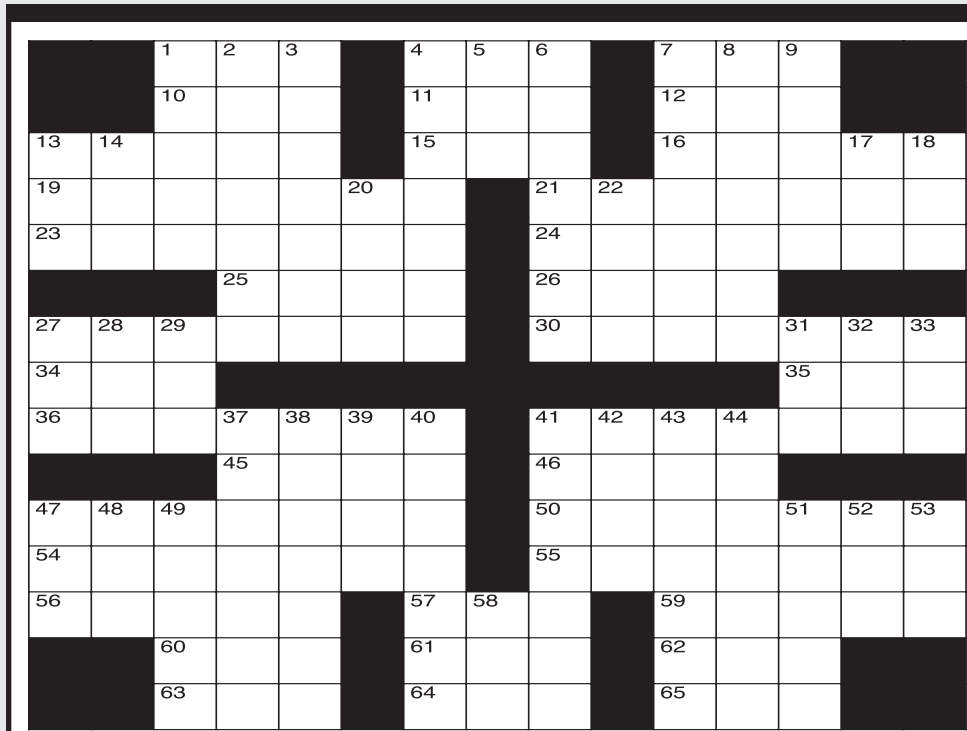


Participants in Greg Maichack's pastel painting workshop at Grace Hall Memorial Library work on drawing an iris.



These participants show off their completed works of art.

Submitted photos



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Health care pros
- 4. A person inhabiting Benin
- 7. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 10. Split pulses
- 11. Frozen water
- 12. Small constellation
- 13. Perennial mountain rice
- 15. Pick up
- 16. Japanese historical period
- 19. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- 21. Unattached
- 23. Fishing port in SE France
- 24. Products for dogs
- 25. One point south of southeast
- 26. Having the skill or resources to do something
- 27. Involve oneself deeply

- 30. Immobile
- 34. \_\_\_ pai dong: Hong Kong food stall
- 35. Move quickly on foot
- 36. Gathered
- 41. A way through
- 45. Another name for Thor
- 46. Sharp dueling sword
- 47. The supreme commander of a fleet
- 50. Seasoned sausages
- 54. Path
- 55. Christian hermit
- 56. Ancient region of Asia Minor
- 57. Where wrestlers go to work
- 59. Roman statesman
- 60. Explosive
- 61. Licensed for Wall Street
- 62. Where golfers start
- 63. Grow old
- 64. Autonomic nervous system
- 65. No seats available

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. A legally binding command
- 2. General feeling of discomfort
- 3. Dribble
- 4. Soft touch
- 5. South American plant
- 6. Clouds of gas and dust in space
- 7. Warm-blooded vertebrates
- 8. Lines created by folding
- 9. Strong belief
- 13. Senior officer
- 14. Adult
- 17. Joint entrance examination in India
- 18. Passports and drivers' licenses are two
- 20. Those who go against an accepted authority
- 22. One point east of northeast
- 27. Journalist Tarbell
- 28. One's mother (British)
- 29. Nowhere to be found
- 31. A way to save for old age
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. The work of a sailor
- 38. Mark with striae
- 39. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 40. Sticky situation
- 41. Monetary units of Spain
- 42. Three-banded armadillo
- 43. Chooses
- 44. More disreputable
- 47. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 48. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- 49. Livestock owners assn. in Spain
- 51. Duplicating machine (abbr.)
- 52. OJ trial judge
- 53. Politician
- 58. Airborne (abbr.)

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**

**Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, you are catching a second wind this week that could rival a hurricane. No one can slow you down right now. Channel this energy into a passion project.

**CANCER**

**Jun 22/Jul 22**  
You are feeling more secure in your skin this week, Cancer. People are flocking to you for comfort and advice because you give off a warm energy.

**LIBRA**

**Sept 23/Oct 23**  
A friend of a friend is about to become a very important person in your life, Libra. It's important to keep your heart open to all possibilities. An unexpected invitation pops up.

**CAPRICORN**

**Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, you are making the impossible look easy right now. Take a moment to see how far you have come and review your accomplishments.

**TAURUS**

**Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, your eye for recognizing the beauty in things or items that are fashionable is unmatched. This week is the perfect time to curate your space or your wardrobe.

**LEO**

**Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, accept recognition for your hard work when it comes your way in the coming days. Don't be humble; take the bow that you have earned over these last few months.

**SCORPIO**

**Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, you don't have to try to impress. People are mesmerized by you. You can use this charm to negotiate for something you want this week. A welcome surprise pops up midweek.

**AQUARIUS**

**Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Your innovative ideas are officially trending around the office or workplace, Aquarius. Don't be afraid to lead the pack, as everyone is just trying to keep up.

**GEMINI**

**May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, the connections in your brain are firing at a rapid pace this week. It is only a matter of time before you solve a problem that has been plaguing you and everyone for weeks.

**VIRGO**

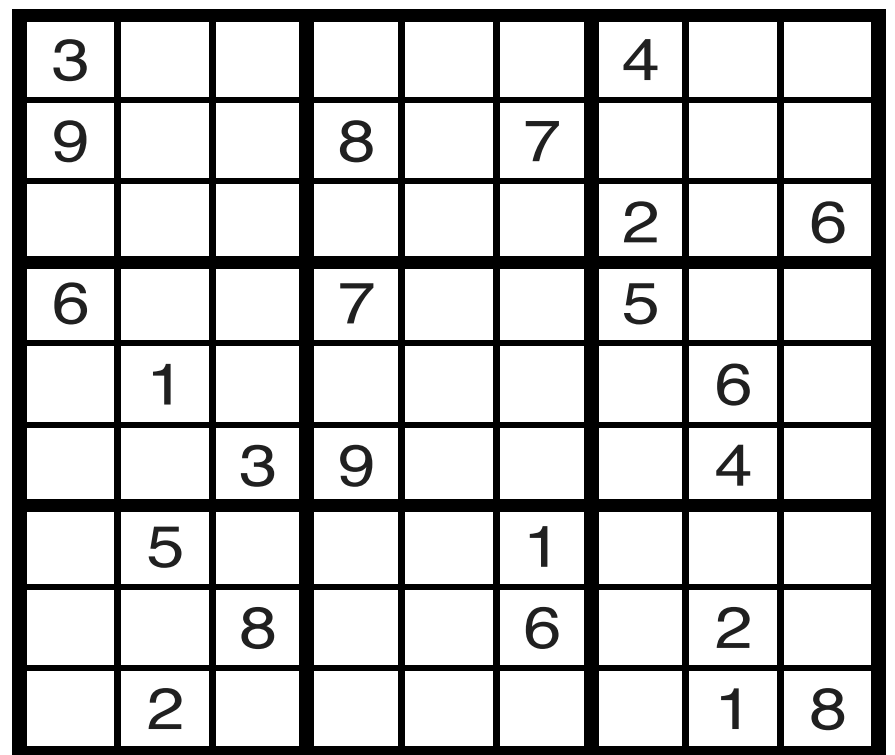
**Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Everything is falling into place for you now, Virgo. Your routine feels like something you can do with your eyes closed. Find the perfect shortcut this week.

**SAGITTARIUS**

**Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Your thirst for knowledge leads you to a new obsession, Sagittarius. Diving into a new hobby, career path or volunteer experience could be the way to go.

**PISCES**

**Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, you are walking on sunshine this week. Your creative output is at an all-time high. Paint, write, sing, or engage in anything else you enjoy.



# 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**

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

**WESTFIELD AUTO PARTS INC**

**AUTO PARTS & SUPPLIES**

**NATIONALLY ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS**

**WHOLESALE RETAIL**

★ Complete Auto Machine Shop Service   ★ Engine Rebuilding Of All Kinds  
 ★ Authorized Caterpillar Hydraulic Hose Dealer   ★ Hydraulic Hoses

Call "DALE"   8-12 BIRGE AVE., WESTFIELD

**Dial 568-8944 or 568-1611   FAX # 568-1554**

Now stocking Car Quest Filters made by WIX, Amalie Oil, Bailing Twine & Tractor Parts

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

**FOR SALE**

**FIREWOOD**

**FIREWOOD**  
Fresh cut & split \$225.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

**WANTED**

**WANTED! CASH for:**

- Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
- Electronics & Audio Equipment.
- Sports Cards.
- 70s/80s/90s Toys.
- Antiques & Collectibles.

Much, much more!  
Call/Text Sam  
413-531-5381

**WANTED TO BUY**

**ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.**

**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES**  
FRIDAY AT NOON

**WANTED**

**ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:**

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688

**OPPORTUNITY**

**BUSINESS FOR SALE**

**BIOLINKS OF NEW ENGLAND**

Grease trap pumping business. Ninety customers, two pump trucks.  
Call Les 413-297-1513

**JUNK REMOVAL**

**ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL**

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.  
Fully insured.  
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

**A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL**

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.  
We load it & take it.  
413-531-1936  
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**SERVICES**

**A B Hauling and Removal Service**

**2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\***

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

**DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS,** plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

**ONE CALL DOES IT ALL HANDY-MAN SERVICES.** No job too small. Call for all your household and property maintenance needs. 413-563-6993.

**ELECTRICIAN**

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured. Master Elec. #20773A. Text/call Luis 413-218-3301.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

**Walker Home Improvement**

Handyman Services  
Licensed & Insured  
Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • and more!  
(413) 687-5552

**SERVICES**

**ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC**  
Fully licensed and insured; Master electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.  
Call John at (413)206-6509  
Every customer gets a free gem stone.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

**CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING**

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Remodeling & Deck Specialists  
Residential/Commercial  
Fully Insured • Free Estimates  
413-351-1147

**SERVICES**

**HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST**

Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor.  
Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING** Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

**HOUSE CLEANING**

**Trusted HOUSE CLEANING in Wilbraham.**

10+ years experience, references available. Reliable, detail-oriented service. Free estimates. Call/Text (Livea) 508.371-5445 today!

**LANDSCAPING**

**A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE**

Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvite Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

**\*\*ALL SEASON\*\*** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789.

**MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING**

Landscape Design and Installation  
Paver Patios, Walkways  
For more services visit  
mattguertinlandscaping.com  
Call or text 413-266-9975  
Insured - Commercial - Residential

**MASONRY**

**STOP WET BASEMENTS**

**ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING**

All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

**PLUMBING**

**GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

**SERVICES**

**RUBBISH REMOVAL**

**BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL** Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

**TREE WORK**

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.** Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

**DL & G TREE SERVICE** - Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

**H & H TREE SERVICE** All phases of tree care. Call Dave 413-668-6560 day/night.

**TUNE-UPS**

**LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR**

**A&M TUNE-UPS**  
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.  
Work done at your home.  
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT  
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

**STUMP GRINDING**

**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING**  
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

**AUTO BOATS**

**17' STARCRAFT ALUMINUM BOAT.** 1994 w/90HP 2-stroke Evinrude motor. Trailer w/spare tire, in great shape. \$4000. Verne, 413-539-8246.

**PETS**

**GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS.** Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F. Ready, w/shots. Now \$1,200. 413-218-2321

**HELP WANTED**

**CANNABIS CULTIVATION AND PRODUCT MANUFACTURING FACILITY (HOLYOKE)**

Holyoke Wilds, a licensed cannabis cultivation facility in Holyoke, MA, is seeking reliable individuals for general cultivation and product manufacturing positions. Duties include assisting with plant care, trimming, cleaning, product manufacturing and other general tasks within the facility.  
**Start Date:** Within the next few weeks to months  
**Pay:** Varies based on experience. Ranges from \$16 to \$20 per hour.  
**Requirements:** Applicants must be 21 or older and eligible to work in the United States. Background checks are required under state cannabis regulations.  
Interested candidates should email [holyokewilds9@gmail.com](mailto:holyokewilds9@gmail.com) with their contact information and brief work history.

Holyoke Wilds is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

**SEASONAL FACILITIES CREW** wanted at Norcross Wildlife Foundation. For a full job description, please visit [www.norcrosswildlife.org](http://www.norcrosswildlife.org) or email [info@norcrosswildlife.org](mailto:info@norcrosswildlife.org)

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535**, or by email to [selectmen@northbrookfield.net](mailto:selectmen@northbrookfield.net).

**WANT TO WORK THIS SUMMER** part or full-time? Help wanted for assisting in landscape maintenance and installation projects. Liberty Orchards Landscape, 413-283-6408.

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

**AGAWAM APT. FOR RENT.** 2 bed, 2 bath, gas heat, private basement washer/dryer hookup. \$1600 mo. No utilities. No pets. Call 413-789-6206.

**LAND WANTED**

**Seeking 8-20 peaceful acres** in Central MA for pet memorial sanctuary. Especially interested in lease-option, phased sale, or seller financing. Respectful, serious inquiry. Patrick | 508-735-3232 | [founder@rainbow-meadow.org](mailto:founder@rainbow-meadow.org)

**2026 TAX TIME**

**CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES**

For Full Accounting & Tax Service  
Registered Tax Return Preparer

228 West St., Ware, MA 01082  
413-967-8364  
Call For An Appointment

The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to [irs.gov](http://irs.gov).

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States

**FAST TAX USA**  
TAX PREPARATION SERVICE  
413-348-2279

IRS Certified Tax Preparers  
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.  
1622 B North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
[www.FastTax-MA.com](http://www.FastTax-MA.com)  
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here  
**CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!**

## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON  
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
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
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

**GREAT VALUE!**  
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

## GOSHEN

### Friends of Community Park group sponsors local bird program

GOSHEN – Dan Ziomek, manager of Sugarloaf Gardens in Sunderland, a local birder and a radio 93.9 River Songbirds contributor, will give a bird program on Saturday, April 18 at 2 p.m. in the Goshen Town Hall, 42 Main St. There will be bird themed door prizes. Suggested donation is \$5 and children 12 and under are free. The program is sponsored by the Friends of Goshen Community Park. For questions, people may call Lorraine at 413-270-0208 or email lorrainebrisson@verizon.net.

## BECKET

### Becket Athenaeum lists upcoming news and events

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St. will screen the documentary “Free for All: The Public Library” on Thursday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. This documentary digs into the history of how and why libraries exist and all they offer. Teens are invited to a movie and craft night at the library on Friday, April 17 at 6 p.m. This is curated by local high school senior, Nolan Raymer, as a part of his National Honor Society service project.

## CHESTERFIELD

### Congregational Church hold Sunday breakfast

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Congregational Church, 404 Main St., will be having its monthly breakfast on Sunday, April 12 from 8-10 a.m. The cost is a voluntary donation. The menu features pancakes with or without blueberries, French toast with pure Chesterfield maple syrup, free range, organic, farm-fresh eggs any style including eggs Benedict, breakfast sandwiches, sausage, home fries, excellent homemade corned beef hash and homemade biscuits and sausage gravy. Juice, tea, cocoa and coffee will also be available. In addition, the special item for this month’s breakfast will feature fresh fruit pineapple and banana smoothies.

## CUMMINGTON

### Men of Constant Sorrow to perform at Friday Night Cafe

CUMMINGTON – Friday Night Cafe is happy to bring you a night of bluegrass with the Men of Constant Sorrow on Friday, April 10 from 7-9 p.m. in the vestry of the Village Church. The Men of Constant Sorrow are three local bluegrass musicians, who met many years ago at local bluegrass jams and then started playing together around a campfire during the Covid epidemic. They are Chris Boucher on banjo and vocals, Mark Leveille on mandolin and vocals and Marc Frumm on guitar and vocals. Chris and Mark have also performed for many years in the bluegrass group James Delnero and Lost Mountain and the country band Old Country Road. Marc has performed at the Friday Night Cafe many times with Andrew Kinsey. The concert will feature traditional bluegrass repertoire and a few singalongs. Village Church is located in downtown Cummington in the heart of the Cultural District. The event is free, donations are appreciated. Snacks will be provided. People should bring their own beverages.

Once again the program is brought by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe music can be a powerful force for building community. Friday Night Cafe receives promotional support from the Cummington Cultural District and is supported in part by grants from the Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hinsdale-Peru, Plainfield, Williamsburg, Windsor, and Worthington Cultural Councils, local agencies, which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

## FLORENCE

### Florence Bank supports Revitalize CDC’s rebuild event

FLORENCE – The Florence Bank will support Revitalize CDC’s 2026 #GreenNFit Neighborhood Rebuild event with a \$10,000 sponsorship and a group of bank volunteers, who will lend a hand on Saturday, April 25 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. For several years, the bank and its employees supported the organization and its mission to improve homes, neighborhoods and lives through preservation, education and community involvement. Nikki Gleason, vice president / manager of the West Springfield branch joined the Revitalize CDC board in 2025 and has been house captain since 2016, inspiring other bank employees to take part. During #GreenNFit this year, roughly 800-1,000 community volunteers will make critical repairs and modifications to the homes of roughly 15-20 low-income families with children, elderly, military veterans or people with special needs in the Carew Street area of Springfield’s North End. A team of Florence Bank volunteers will be part of the participants. Work will include yard clean-up, exterior painting and fixing decks and stairs. Revitalize CDC was founded in 1992 as an all-volunteer agency that raised roughly \$40,000 each year and assisted about five families annually. Today that has increased to serving over 800 families and 2,300 individuals. Since its founding, it has served over 30,000 individuals and invested over \$52 million in Western Massachusetts. Revitalize CDC serves Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties, with its primary reach in Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield. The goal of #GreenNFit is to make homes more energy efficient, safe, healthy and aesthetically pleasing. People may visit [revitalizecdc.com](http://revitalizecdc.com) to learn more about Revitalize CDC.

## WILLIAMSBURG

### Meekins Library announces events

WILLIAMSBURG – On Saturday, April 11 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. a “dam it all and mend” program will be held at the Meekins Library, 2 Williams St. For those who have a favorite sweater that’s seen better days people will learn how to repair and refresh clothing with guidance from coaches. From patching and sewing on buttons to darning, fixing holes in sweaters and mending clothes or quilts, participants will gain the skills to bring their well-loved items back to life. This is a drop-in program. People may bring any textile items they’d like help with and experts will be there to assess and guide them on repairs or improvements. On Thursday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. there will be an open mic read a poem for National Poetry Month.

World Tai Chi Day is celebrated worldwide on Saturday, April 25 at 10 a.m. People may join with students of Haydenville Tai Chi teacher, Marty Phinney in the Yang Long Form of Tai Chi on the Meekins Library lawn. In case of rain, it will be held in the Hawks-Hayden Community Room. People may call 413-268-7472 for more information.



This is one of the paintings by Terry Tangredi, which will be on display for the month of April at the Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., Williamsburg in the Neil Hammer Gallery. Painting by Terry Tangredi

### Meekins Library displays Terry Tangredi’s painting

WILLIAMSBURG – Paintings by Terry Tangredi will be on display at the Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., in the Neil Hammer Gallery during the month of April. There will be a reception for the artist on Saturday, April 11 from 2-4:30 at the library. Terry Tangredi began painting in the last decade of her 66 years of life. For Tangredi, painting was a very peaceful, quieting experience. She painted mostly for herself, But if her art could bring joy to others, then she would savor that as well. At heart, Tangredi’s art was a chance to be centered, calm and tranquil and also to explore a new venue.

#### NICK DEYSHER TO PERFORM AT MEEKINS LIBRARY



The Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., hosts award winning songwriter and musician, Nick Deysher on Friday, April 24 at 10 a.m. This special event “In the Nick of Time Music” is for young children. It is funded by a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant and Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries. Submitted photo

## Parents, Grandparents & Friends SPECIAL!

### Congratulate YOUR Graduate

Class of 2026

We are offering a great deal for you to CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATE in your community graduation issue. Submit a photo and a brief message.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION MAY 15th  
EMAIL YOUR AD TO: [wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

**SPECIAL!**  
\$55.00

MAIL YOUR AD WITH PAYMENT TO:  
Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
Pay by check or credit card: Checks Payable to Turley Publications, Credit Cards be sure to include: Paper, Name, Address, Phone, Credit Card Number, Exp. Date & CVV

#### 2x3 Black & White Grad Ad

Congratulations Karly Smith! We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College!



Love, Mom & Dad

# CHESTER

## Dr. Moser receives Civilian Service Commendation Medal

On March 2026 the Secretary of the Navy via Rear Admiral I.L. Johnson, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan awarded Dr. Jodi L. Moser the Civilian Service Commendation Medal by the Secretary of the Navy via Rear Admiral I.L. Johnson, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan.

Dr. Moser has been a civilian contractor, assigned as Regional Family Readiness Program from October 2023 to April 2026. She deployed along with her husband Lt. Cmdr. Michael Moser in 2024 to Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

Her parents are David and Valerie Orcutt of Chester, along with her mother, Deborah Sulewski of San

Diego, California. During her stay in Japan, she had deployments to Okinawa, Japan to support the major fire to USS Naval vessel New Orleans and recently Australia.



This is a front view of the Civilian Service Commendation Medal awarded to Dr. Jodi L. Moser in March.



Rear Admiral I.L. Johnson, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan is shown with Dr. Jodi L. Moser, daughter of David and Valerie Orcutt of Chester, along with her mother, Deborah Sulewski of San Diego, California. Submitted photos



This is a view of the back of the Civilian Service Commendation Medal.



The awards ceremony at the presentation of the Civilian Service Commendation Medal to Dr. Jodi L. Moser by Rear Admiral I.L. Johnson, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan.



This is photo of her Civilian Service Commendation Medal certificate.

# EASTHAMPTON



Chief Christopher Norris, Easthampton Fire Department; Captain Daniel Constantine, Easthampton Fire Department; Koni Denham, president, Easthampton City Council; Matthew S. Sosik, president and CEO, bankESB; Mayor Salem Derby, City of Easthampton; Jessica West, assistant vice president and branch officer, bankESB; Bozena Dabek, executive vice president and chief administrative officer, bankESB and Gary Turku, senior vice president of retail banking, bankESB. Submitted photo

## bankESB donates \$10,000 to Easthampton Fire Department

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB announce a \$10,000 donation to the city of Easthampton Fire Department in support of its ongoing mission to protect the safety and well-being of Easthampton residents.

The Easthampton Fire Department plays a critical role in the community, providing emergency response, fire suppression, medical assistance and public safety education. The department's dedicated firefighters and emergency personnel are on the front lines every day, ensuring that residents and businesses receive timely and professional assistance when it matters most.

This contribution from bankESB reinforces the bank's longstanding commitment to supporting essential local services and strengthening the communities it serves. By investing in

the Fire Department, bankESB is helping to ensure that the department has the resources needed to continue delivering high-quality emergency services and community education programs.

"At bankESB, we recognize the invaluable work of the Easthampton Fire Department and the vital role it plays in keeping our community safe," said Matthew S. Sosik, president and CEO of bankESB. "We are honored to support the men and women who dedicate themselves to protecting our residents and businesses each and every day."

Chief Christopher Norris of the Easthampton Fire Department expressed his appreciation for the partnership, stating, "We would like to sincerely thank bankESB for their generous \$10,000 donation

to the Easthampton Fire Department for the purchase of portable radios. This critical equipment will greatly enhance our firefighters' ability to communicate effectively in emergency situations, helping us respond more quickly and safely. Their support directly strengthens the level of emergency service we are able to provide to the residents and visitors of the City of Easthampton, and we are truly grateful for their commitment to our community."

The donation reflects bankESB's broader commitment to community involvement and local partnerships. Through The Giving Tree, the bank's charitable giving initiative, bankESB remains focused on its mission of unlocking potential of individuals, families and the communities it proudly serves.

# DOG LANE

from page 1

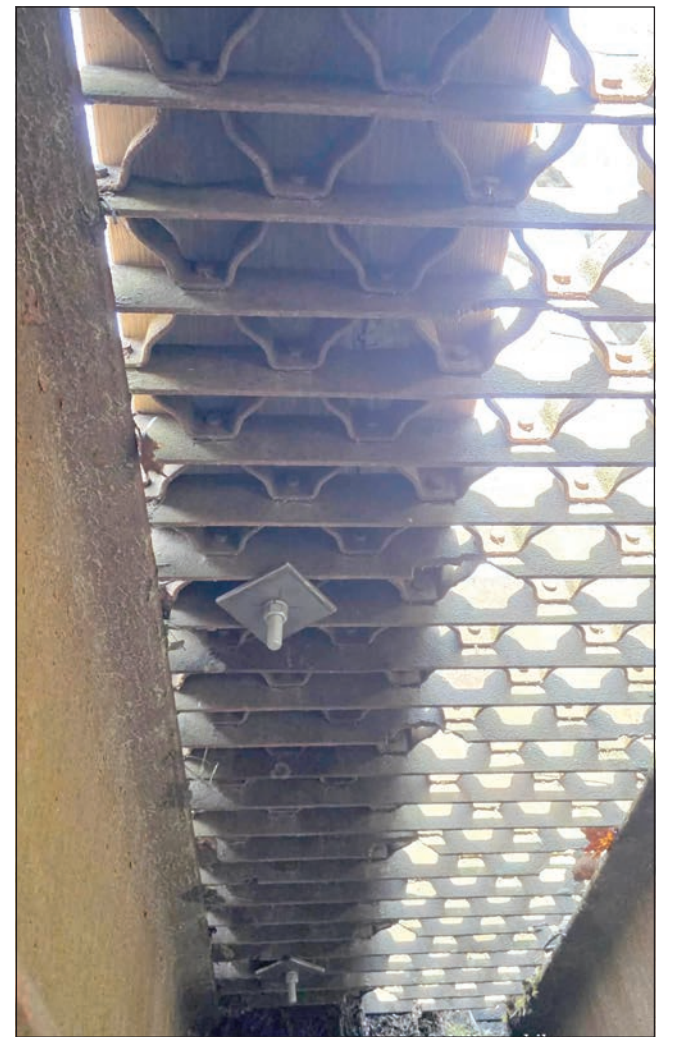
bridges or divert the dogs to cross the river or stream underneath.

"DCR is leading the way," said Pierce when he met up to discuss the project, which had been months in the making. After hearing about the DCR bridge, Pierce started rounding up wooden planks and big bolts for what he dubbed the "dog lane." Custom washers were created last fall in the welding shop at Gateway Regional School in Huntington.

Pierce's original plan was to install the dog lane during winter, when it might be possible to stand on ice and snow to work underneath the bridge. That idea was scrapped when Pierce, who is also president of the Chester Railway Station Museum, found himself shoveling the museum out. And shoveling it out again during last winter's snowy months.

The wood for the dog lane was recycled from the railway station platform, which was recently resized to make room for the Bernie's dining car that was moved from Chicopee last December. The dog lane is made from the platform's fascia boards and has stenciled dog footprints on it to indicate its purpose.

This bridge leads to



The installation from beneath the bridge shows the oversized washers created by the welding students at Gateway Regional School in Huntington. Submitted photo

the Keystone Arch Bridges, which are National Historic Landmarks. The news was announced across social

media platforms from several groups and has garnered numerous emojis and comments.

## Now Hiring!

**Turley Publications, Inc.**

### Advertising Sales Representative

- ▶ Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- ▶ If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers and supplements. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.
- ▶ You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

- ▶ Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?

**Turley Publications** is a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:

Jamie Joslyn  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Email: jamie@turley.com