

"No matter what you do, you will never run away from you." – Paul Revere

# Country Journal

*Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns*



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

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## HUNTINGTON

# No limits for VIP students at Gateway

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Isabella Vera-Ortiz is finding her way at Gateway Regional High School.

The freshman is carrying a full academic load, plays flute in the band, is active in a robotics club and has tried everything from archery to bowling. She also happens to be blind.

As a child, Vera-Ortiz attended a special school for deaf and blind students in her home country of Columbia. Learning a musical instrument was required there so she arrived in America as a third grader, already playing the recorder. Transitioning to flute in the school band was just a matter of learning new fingerings and finding extra time to memorize her music, all requiring some planning on the part of the band director, VIP staff and Isa herself.

VIP stands for Vision Impairment Program and staffing consists of a teacher, Brailist and several paraprofessionals, Kim King and Shari Laurie. Teacher Amy Mason holds a Master's degree and is a licensed



Gateway student Isabella Vera-Ortiz, from left, with paraprofessional Kim King and teacher Amy Mason. All three are part of Gateway's VIP Program. Submitted photo

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## BLANDFORD

# Residents reminded to take in bird feeders

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Highway Superintendent David Waldron issued a warning for residents at Monday evening's Select Board meeting about bears and bird feeders.

Last year while the department was working on North Blandford Road, four bears were spotted because bird feeders were out and full of seed. He would appreciate it if the feeders were removed, particularly in the light of cleanup work throughout the town.

Waldron also said that if a resident has a culvert on their property, they need to remember to clear it out.

The department will use a rubber chip seal to upgrade six town roads. There will be a mile of chip seal on Beech Hill Road from Route 23 to just past Julius Hall Road and work on Crooks, Herrick, Wyman, Glasgow and

FEEDERS, page 8

## HILLTOWNS

# Local students to lead puppet parade

Public welcome to  
River Celebration April 22

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Organizers for this year's Westfield River Wildwater races have built in a number of new items to boost participation from spectators as well as racers.

The country's oldest continuously-run whitewater kayak and canoe races will feature a post-race celebration open to everyone at Strathmore Park in Russell from noon-4 p.m. on Saturday, April 22. Live music from popular local rock band "The 413s" will headline with sets at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. DJ Theo IM will spin tunes throughout the afternoon.

At 2 p.m. students from Littleville and Chester Elementary Schools will form a parade showcasing the bird, mammal and fish puppets they created in

two workshops sponsored by the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee. Led by Meredyth Babcock, the workshops showcased the ecology of the Westfield River and the animals that live in and around the river, which is designated "Wild & Scenic" by the National Parks Department. Students then created puppets representing their favorites.

Awards for top racers - the coveted handcrafted paddles - will be given out at 2:30 p.m.

According to race publicist Kathryn Kogel, food trucks will be on hand at Strathmore Park to replenish paddlers and spectators alike. North Elm Butcher Block will offer barbecue (and, it is rumored, lobster rolls). They will be joined by Ginger Love Filipino (street food) and Crazy Arepas Latin American truck. Blue Farm Bakers from Huntington will supply desserts at Strathmore Park and bagels and coffee at the classic start.

Local artist (and race graphics designer) Lulu Maioreescu will lead a face painting crew that will transform local kids into their favorite river creatures.

Spectators have been down in recent years, which grumblers on social media have attributed to a lack of parking near the "Hill & Dale" rapids in Russell, opposite the Countryside Woodcraft furniture store. State and local police began ticketing cars parked along that section of route 20, which made it more challenging for spectators to access one of the most exciting sections of the race. These rapids are one of the most common sites for spectacular dumps and rescues-always a crowd pleaser. To address this, a free shuttle bus will ferry racers and spectators in a loop from the Classic start in the center of Huntington, to Hill & Dale rapids, Strathmore Park and the

PARADE, page 2



Local elementary students will lead a parade at 2 p.m. at the River Celebration at Strathmore Park. Twin sisters Evelyn S. and Abigail S. attended workshops to learn about native river creatures and create puppets of their favorites, as part of this year's Westfield River Wildwater Races. Photo by Wendy Long



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# HILLTOWNS

## Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival celebrates 17 years

SPRINGFIELD – The Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival, presented by the Springfield Jewish Community Center, marks its 17th anniversary with an eight-day festival program that officially kicks off Sunday, April 30 and runs through Sunday, May 7.

Two special pre-festival screenings will take place on Wednesday, April 19 and Wednesday, April 26. PVJFF continues its tradition of bringing the best of independent Jewish film to Western Massachusetts, presenting 12 film screenings at seven venues throughout the three-county region.

PVJFF kicks off the lineup with two special pre-festival events: On Wednesday, April 19, PVJFF will co-sponsor the Hometown Premiere of Four Winters: “A Story of Jewish Partisan Resistance in WWII” at the Academy of Music. Northampton-based

director Julia Mintz will be in attendance to reflect on the film. On Wednesday, April 26, PVJFF will co-present the award-winning Israeli dramedy Karaoke with the Massachusetts Multicultural Film Festival at UMass Amherst’s Flavin Auditorium.

PVJFF officially opens on Sunday, April 30 with Fred Cavayè’s “Farewell, Mr. Haffmann,” a morally complex thriller about a Jewish jeweler in Nazi-occupied Paris, and the Faustian deal he must make with his employee in order to survive.

Other noteworthy films include “Reckonings,” a fascinating film documenting the secret negotiations that took place in 1952 between Jewish and German leaders about compensation for Holocaust survivors; March 1968, a powerful drama that tells the story of a young couple’s experiences getting swept up in

the raging antisemitism and socio-political crisis of 1960s communist Poland; and The Ancient Law, a digitally restored gem from the silent era that will be presented with live music accompaniment by pianist Donald Sosin and klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals.

The festival closes with “Prophets of Change,” an inspiring documentary which tells the story of Israeli and Palestinian musicians who unite to break a cycle of fear and distrust in this look at the universal language of song. The film’s director, Asaf Ben Shatrit, will appear via Zoom for a talkback after the screening.

Ticket prices are \$12 for general admission, \$11 for students and seniors (65+). Tickets can be purchased online at pvjff.org, by phone at 413.739.4715, or in person at the Springfield JCC. Tickets for films screenings at the Academy of

Music, Amherst Cinema, and Greenfield Garden Cinemas can be purchased directly on those venues’ websites. Seating for all screenings is limited and early arrival is recommended. Tickets are sold at the door subject to availability; advance purchase is recommended as films do sell out.

The Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival is a nonprofit arts festival, presented by the Springfield Jewish Community Center with support from the following major sponsors: Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, Totsy Foundation, Basketball Hall of Fame, Amherst Cinema, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and Isenberg School of Management at UMass Amherst. For more information, visit the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival online at pvjff.org.

### PARADE

from page 1

finish line in Woronoco. To watch the race, spectators are free to park in the center of Huntington, at the Hilltown Community Health Center, the VFW on Rte 20 and Strathmore Park. The race celebration is free to all with plentiful parking at Strathmore Park.

“The race is super special for this region,” said race chairman and 15-time winner Ed Hamel. “It encourages people to engage with the defining natural resource of the Hilltowns: the Westfield River. This race is bigger and more inclusive than anything we have done in the past. Even more casual paddlers are invited to get their feet wet by joining the Fun Run. We’ve created more activ-

ities to encourage everyone to come out, watch the race and celebrate the river.” The Fun Run is a new, 1-mile race for those who do not feel ready for the longer races.

There is still one final canoe race clinic on Saturday, April 15. Experienced paddlers will guide new canoers and kayakers down the classic course, including instruction on managing the two portages on the river.

The River Celebration follows the Westfield River Wildwater Races which begin with the Expert run at 9:30 a.m. at Knightville Dam. The Classic Run will take off from the village center in

Huntington at 11 a.m. followed by the Fun Run for newbie paddlers. Over 250 paddlers, from experts to those new to the up to Class 3 rapids, are expected to participate in this Hilltown rite that began as a 1954 bar bet. Best vantage points for spectators include the bridge over the river in the center of Russell, the riverside near Turtle Bend and Hill & Dale on Route 20 (involves a steep embankment) and the finish off of Woronoco Road.

Entries for the race will be taken up until midnight on April 20. The entry fee is \$30 per person for paddlers in the Expert and Classic Race (this includes a \$5 insurance fee). The Fun Run is \$10

per person (which includes a \$5 insurance fee).

To register for the race, or to get information on all the surrounding activities, go to westfieldriver.org/races. Like “Westfield River Wildwater Races” on Facebook, follow us on Instagram for regular updates and photos of past racers.

Sponsors include: Westfield River Watershed Association (organizing) Hilltown Community Health Center (presenting and race bib sponsor), Westfield Bank (presenting) Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee (portosans and the puppet parade) and Polish National Credit Union (supporting).

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at Springfield  
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# HUNTINGTON

VIP

from page 1

Teacher of the Visually Impaired. She is also certified in O&M-orientation and mobility. Kristie Poehler is the Braillist, who works full time to turn academic and support materials into accessible formats needed for each student.

Students are provided with state of the art technology like MacBooks, iPads, Braille note readers and a number of screen reader software applications such as JAWS, NVDA and Voiceover, all of which allow students to listen to text being read and navigate a standard computer using voice commands. Students also learn to use combinations of keys on the keyboard to make the computer perform tasks that are usually done with a mouse. The program currently serves seven students ranging from grade 1 to grade 9, but has the capacity to serve two to five additional students, according to Mason.

The educational needs of each student are considered as supports are designed and implemented. "One of the really nice parts of this program is we're able to know our students really well," noted Mason. "Fortunately our general education teachers are open and receptive to learning how to support our students in class."

"The collaboration with the mainstream educators is extensive, as most curriculum requires transcription into other formats," noted Pupil Services Director Kurt Garivaltis. "Every lesson, unit, pop quiz or exam needs to be transcribed."

Mason says that general education teachers provide their classwork assignments and an outline of plans a week before it's expected to be covered in class. Mason and Poehler work together to adapt these materials for the VIP students.

Students become increasingly independent over time, as they learn to nav-

igate their school buildings with support from staff. Once mastered, they use a cane to mobilate independently. Students attend their regular education classes and then come to Mason for additional learning, especially in the area of math. Mason says she often pre-teaches and re-teaches mathematical concepts to VIP students because math is so visual it's harder to grasp without sight.

While the Gateway program is fully staffed, it is challenging for public schools to set up their own effective programs for the visually impaired, due to a severe shortage of trained specialists and the cost of having specialized personnel for a relatively small number of students. Garivaltis explains the origin of the program at Gateway, which started about five or six years ago. "We had several visually impaired students and were paying through the nose for contracted services that weren't delivered consistently per their Individual Education Plans." The district believed it could develop a better program in-house and hired Mason to create and deliver high quality services for Gateway's VI students—a number that was slowly growing. Then one family moved away; Gateway found itself with additional capacity and opened the program up to surrounding districts via tuition.

"It's important for blind children to be educated in public school for many of the same reasons it's important to educate any child in a public school setting," explained Mason. "Public schools are a great equalizer. Not only do our students with visual impairment get to learn and grow among their peers in a local community setting close to home, but other students get to know students who are visually impaired."

VIP has a very student-centered approach, especially in terms of planning for the future. Independence in all areas

is the ideal and goes beyond the classroom; academics are important but so is living a rich, full life. Some students, like Isa, take part in activities like athletic director Matt Bonenfant's "Fit for Life" program, where they learn to stay active, the benefits of strength training, and importance of proper nutrition for health. Recreation and leisure is another area where VIP students are not limited by their vision. Fifth grader Sophia Zenchenko attends weekly horseback riding lessons afterschool. "It makes me very happy," she said. "It's just good." Thus far, two blind students have been members of Gateway's wrestling team. As mentioned previously, Isa tried things like archery, "which I will not do anymore" and bowling, also not for her. She currently participates in the high school band and robotics at Gateway.

Playing the flute necessitates additional support from band director Beth Guertin. "A few weeks ahead of starting a new piece of music, I record myself playing the flute part. I chunk the music into eight measure phrases or so, play it to model it, then explain the rhythm and what notes are played, review the fingerings of notes that might not be familiar and then play it a few times in a row so she can hear it and try to play along. I will send her several practice tracks for each song, depending on how involved the part is."

Guertin describes Isa as a highly motivated student, who works with these recordings on her own. "When we begin to work on it in rehearsal, she already has a good idea of how it goes and can play along." Guertin recalls a time when the band was rehearsing for the holiday concert and the flute soloist was absent. "All the flutes play that material later, so Isa volunteered to fill in on the solo that day. She nailed it."

"I am just impressed by her abili-

ty to listen, learn, and memorize," said Guertin.

Vera-Ortiz says that Guertin is amazing and adds that music is a passion of hers. She hopes to also join the chorus and learn to play guitar, to accompany herself singing.

When asked if people treat her differently because she's blind, Isa responds, "Every. Single. Day. I wish people were more conscious that we are normal people." She understands that people just want to help, but wishes others would stop offering to help and trust her to ask if she needs it.

If she ever has children of her own, Isa says, "I think if your kid falls and gets a cut on their knee? I would not be a parent who doesn't let their kid go out to play anymore."

Mason adds that, "It's appropriate not to be over-protective. If Isa scrapes her knee, she might be learning not to run on the stairs. It will also be an opportunity for her to learn how to clean and bandage the cut herself."

At this point, Vera-Ortiz thinks that she might pursue a career in computer programming and become an accessibility consultant for programs serving the blind. Through her classes, she has recently been fascinated in medicine and human anatomy, but admits that probably isn't a realistic career goal for her.

Mostly, Vera-Ortiz wishes people would "not admire us for doing things that all people do." Mason adds, "I think it's really easy when people encounter different disabilities to assume things. There's a button that say 'assume nothing.' Just don't assume anything about someone on the basis of a personal attribute or characteristic."

Mason continues, "You don't always know what people are dealing with. Our students live this every day. It is their normal, lived experience."

## BECKET

### Athenaeum lists April events

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St., will hold a program by David Detmold, coordinator of Change the Mass Flag on Thursday, April 13 at 6 p.m.

Masks are encouraged especially those who are immunocompromised or not vaccinated. Preregistration is appreciated by visiting [bit.ly/BA-flag](http://bit.ly/BA-flag). For over 40 years, indigenous leaders called for the flag and seal of Massachusetts to be changed. An article on the Saturday, May 13 Becket Annual Town Meeting asks voters if they support changing the flag and seal of Massachusetts.

The library has over 100 varieties of free vegetables and flowers in its seed library.

Henry the Juggler will host a performance and juggling workshop for all

ages on Saturday, April 15 from 11 a.m.-noon at the library. This event replaces the Saturday story time. RSVP is appreciated by visiting [bit.ly/BA-juggler](http://bit.ly/BA-juggler).

A poetry reading with David Giannini and Moira Linehan will be held Saturday, April 15 at 2 p.m. Preregistration is appreciated by visiting [bit.ly/BA-Apr-poetry](http://bit.ly/BA-Apr-poetry). Refreshments will be served.

On Wednesday, April 10 from 6-7:30 p.m. Shannon Huneycutt of Spark Joy Charlotte will present a program on the KonMair philosophy.

On Thursday, April 27 game night will be held at the library from 6-8 p.m. Staff and other adults will enjoy an evening of board games. RSVP appreciated by visiting [bit.ly/BA-Apr-game](http://bit.ly/BA-Apr-game). Refreshments will be served.

### Becket Arts Center celebrates Earth Day with two events

BECKET – On Sunday, April 16 at 4 p.m., environmentalist Jane Winn, the executive director of Berkshire Environmental Action Team, will discuss what BEAT is doing to protect and enhance the local environment in light of climate change and biodiversity challenges.

The Pittsfield native will offer tips on how to address "Zero Waste" and share other ideas for safeguarding the natural wonders of the Berkshires. Her presentation is part of the BAC's

monthly Speaker Series. These events are free to the public, though donations are welcome.

On Saturday, April 22, the BAC will host a 1970s and 1980s Dance Party from 7-9 p.m. The first Earth Day was on that date in 1970, so guests are encouraged to dress in their hippest, happiest best. The charge for this event, which is exclusively for those over 18, is \$10 a person. For more information, people may visit [www.becketartscenter.org](http://www.becketartscenter.org).

### Library has museum passes

HUNTINGTON – For those who like to explore, the Huntington Public Library, 7 East Main St. has museum passes for patrons to stop by the library and take out. Passes include Amelia Park Children's Museum four admis-

sions for \$4 each, Clark Institute one free admission, Mass MoCa two adults and two children under the age of 18 will be admitted for free and the Norman Rockwell Museum two adults for \$10 each.

### 2nd Annual Help Clean Up Norwich Bridge Cemetery in Alice Richardson's Memory

For many years past, the Norwich Bridge Cemetery was maintained and groomed by Alice Richardson and Rodney LaFond.

*In January 2022, Alice passed away.*

In accordance with cemetery bylaws, a small committee will oversee the care and hopefully be able to maintain the grounds.

However, we need the help of the community. We are asking that those of you who are able, participate in the spring clean-up on

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023 8:00 AM - 12 NOON.**

A neatly trimmed and presentable cemetery grounds were Alice's legacy.

*Please consider volunteering*

*a few hours of your time to help keep it that way.*

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# OPINION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Retired public servant feels Government Pension Offset 'unjust'



**Dear Rusty:** I'm a retired firefighter and live in Ohio. I earned Social Security from my side employment, but the Windfall Elimination Provision hit my Social Security very hard.

My wife worked in the school system and earned a state "SERS" pension. I understand the WEP offset and that doesn't bother me as much as the fact that my wife doesn't get my Social Security benefits when I die – her state pension is above the monthly limit for her to receive my Social Security. I earned that benefit by working extra jobs and being away from my family, and it seems unjust that my benefits expire with me. Thanks for letting me vent.

**Signed: Retired Public Servant**

Dear Retired Public Servant: The provision you deem as "unjust" isn't the Windfall Elimination Provision, which affects SS retirement benefits for those who also have a "non-covered" pension, a pension earned without contributing to Social Security; rather it is the Government Pension Offset, which also affects those who have a pension earned without contributing to Social Security.

Though I know it is no consolation, your frustration about the Government Pension Offset is shared by nearly a million other Americans in a similar situation. The GPO has been law since 1983 and is intended to "equalize" how spousal and survivor benefits are paid to all beneficiaries. I'm certainly not defending it, but I've researched why the GPO was enacted decades ago.

Historically, ever since spousal and survivor benefits became part of Social Security's benefit structure in the late 1930s, if a spouse also has their own personally earned SS benefit, any spousal/survivor benefit they also became entitled to was offset by their personally earned SS retirement amount. The prevailing opinion in the 1983 Congress was that because regular spousal and survivor benefits are normally offset by the spouse's own earned SS benefit, it was unfair that a spouse who had a "non-covered pension" didn't incur the same offset as those who had no such non-covered pension. Thus, GPO was enacted in 1983 to "equalize" how spousal and survivor benefits were paid. It is the GPO which will affect your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse because she earned her state pension while not contributing to Social Security.

To give you a more personal perspective, if your wife had, instead, worked outside of the Ohio school system and was entitled to a full Social Security benefit based on her own earnings from which she contributed to SS, any survivor benefit she might become

entitled to from you would still be offset by her personally earned SS retirement benefit. If her own SS retirement benefit was more than her entitlement as your widow, she would get no additional amount as your surviving spouse. Or if her own SS retirement benefit was smaller than yours, her survivor benefit would still be offset by her own benefit (her benefit would be paid first and only a supplement added to bring her payment to the higher amount she was entitled to as your widow). The purpose of the Government Pension Offset is to equalize how spousal, or survivor benefits are paid to those with, and to those without, a non-covered pension. Indeed, because the GPO only offsets the potential spousal/survivor benefit by two thirds of a spouse's non-covered pension, the GPO is actually a bit more forgiving.

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*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

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### A dad-worthy lawn



My dad would have celebrated his birthday this week. I think of him often and I remember how he used to get great joy out of the simple things in life. In fact, when he was sick, he stated more than once how much he missed puttering around the house and yard.

One of my dad's spring rituals was to rake the lawn. I remember him out there working his way across the yard a little at a time, making pile after pile of dead grass, leaves and small sticks. This was just the first job in a season's worth of work aimed at growing good turf.

Read on for this refresher on what else can be done to achieve an attractive green-scape with a minimal commitment.

Don't mow so low, or as often. Mowing

at a height of about 3 inches will encourage a healthy lawn.

Why? Taller grass shades out developing weed seedlings. It also makes large, established weeds more susceptible to mower damage (the more surface area of the weed that is removed, the more weakened it becomes.)

High mowing also fosters deep root growth. Deep roots sustain the lawn during periods of drought. Keep mower blades sharpened for the cleanest possible cut.

Water efficiently and effectively. If you set up sprinklers each season to water the lawn for you, take some time early in the season to position them so that water isn't wasted on sidewalks or driveways.

Mark the location and set up will be a no-brainer each time.

To grow best, grass requires an inch of moisture each week, more if your soil is sandy. Do the tea cup test to determine how much water your sprinklers emit and at what rate.

Simply place a tea cup or other container on the lawn and turn on the sprinkler, check every five minutes or so until water reaches the inch mark. Now you can set a timer, or turn off the sprinklers manually knowing your lawn has gotten its weekly drink.

Most people know that early morning is the best time to water the lawn. By watering early in the day less moisture is lost to evaporation.

Grass is also less prone to fungal diseases because it has a chance to dry before nightfall.

Know your soil. A friend of mine who knew a lot about turf once told me that if I were to apply one thing to my lawn each season it should be lime.

Grass can't grow well, or fight off diseases or bugs for that matter, if it isn't getting the nutrients it needs. Many nutrients are bound up until the pH is corrected.

Get a soil test and specify on the order form that you wish to grow grass, as results for flower or veggie gardening may differ. Based on the results of your test, recommendations will be made as to the type of lime to use and at what application rate.

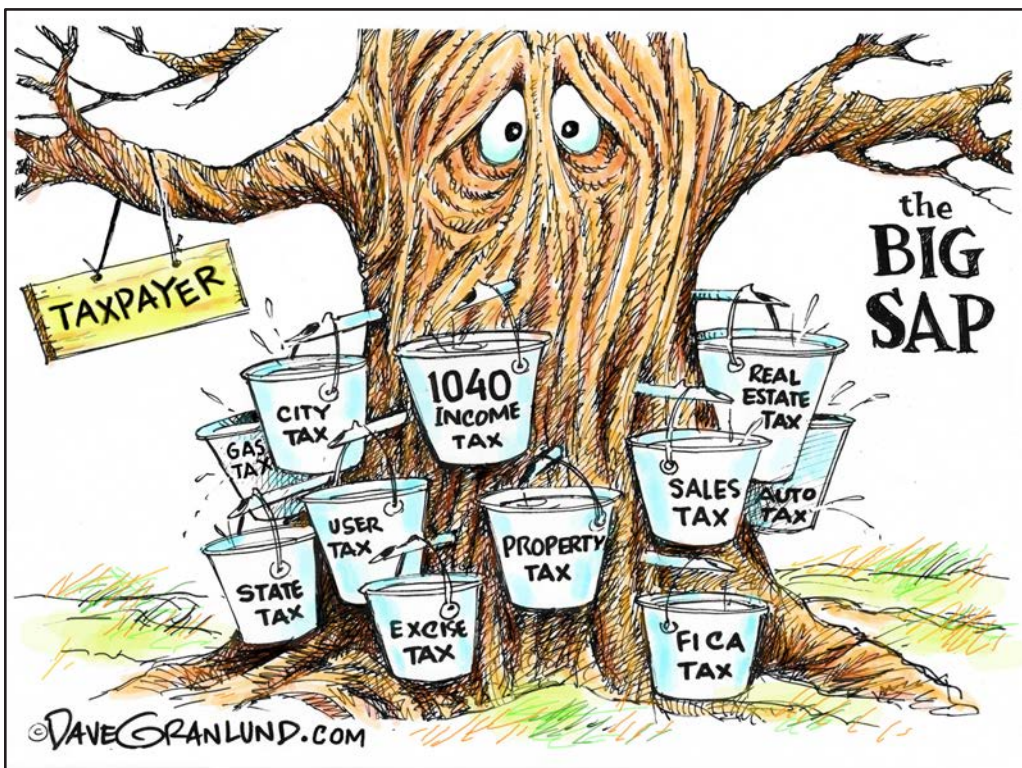
For more information contact <https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory/ordering-information-forms>

Here are some interesting grass facts: Did you know that according to a poll (sponsored by Briggs and Stratton) 64% of homeowners wish they had a better lawn?

Or that 65% of American homeowners own at least one lawn mower? The Professional Lawn Care Association estimates that a well-maintained lawn can increase the value of a home by up to 15%.

So, like my dad many years ago, enjoy some puttering on your property this spring. Your lawn will thank you!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



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

## Country Journal TEAM



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



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Theresa Wegiel  
[twegiel@turley.com](mailto:twegiel@turley.com)

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# OPINION

## HILLTOWN HISTORY

### Lock, stock and barrel, flintlock muskets made here

By Deborah Daniels  
Correspondent

Once again those Hilltown Hikers located amazing artifacts of Revolutionary history made right here in Westfield.

Richard Falley Jr. (1740-1808) had a musket factory, built around 1764, that was authorized to make guns for the Patriot cause before we had a Continental Congress. Simply put, this country did not exist independently yet. Arms were needed to fight the British for our freedom. George Washington asked for muskets and Falley, a blacksmith, answered the call.

They were called a blacksmith because it was too dangerous to be identified as a gunsmith with the Redcoats in power. He was advised to keep his factory well hidden due to the fact British spies tapped into any subversive activity. The British controlled all the arms in America and were canny enough to monitor for any signs of arms and ammunition being made or stockpiled by Patriots. Thus it was that the factory was kept a secret. It was located in a heavily wooded glen on the Montgomery-Westfield border at the foot of Mt. Tekoa.

To see the site today not much remains, but a millstone and lots of lead/iron slag from armament making lying in the brook. There is a stone wall from a gristmill factory right at the site, could the gristmill stones have been used to fashion metal for gun making back in 1764? Today Stanley Park in Westfield displays gristmill stones attributed to coming from Faley's musket factory.

A covert operation did successfully produce muskets here with the local people's cooperation. Tekoa Mountain was used as a look-out for British spies and townsmen alerted the gun craftsmen of the presence of any British military visiting the area. The gunmakers at Falley's all had farms and melted back to their farming roles should any Brits be found nosing about.

To give you an idea of what it was like to shoot a 1760s musket, consider the following steps it took to prepare the six foot, 10lb. gun to shoot. It was called a flintlock muzzle loading gun. It literally used a piece of flint stone to strike a metal spur that ignited gunpowder in a shallow pan, that sent a spark to fire the barrel propelling the lead ball. The Concord Museum in Concord has a display of flint stones found around the Concord Bridge of the "shot heard round the world fame," that were used to fire muskets in the Revolution. People can't use those metal detectors at historic sites to find treasure. but their own two peepers may find you a piece of history.

Now back to firing a musket, the long barrel required gunpowder and a lead ball tamped all the way down the



Stone walls are all which remain of Falley's musket factory located on Moose Meadow Brook.

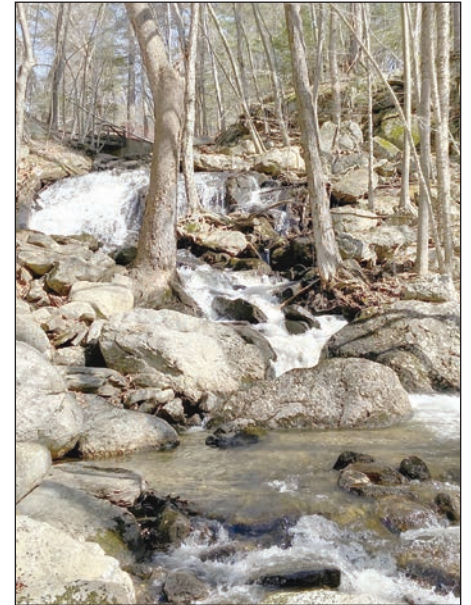
barrel by a ramrod. This required a brass funnel to pour the gunpowder down into the barrel or a gunpowder horn (hollowed out cow horn) was used. Just to complicate matters, the shooter had to clean the barrel after every shot. A dirty barrel increased the chance of misfiring. Sparks flew freely when the flash pan lit so the soldiers often suffered skin burns. Especially dangerous was how one spark might ignite a neighbor as he poured gunpowder into his gun barrel. This explained why soldiers stood in a line and together performed the gun prep and fired the volley at the same time to minimize stray spark accidents.

Shooting a volley together also improved the chance of hitting their target as the range for muskets was about 100 feet. So essentially, people were more likely to be hurt loading a musket than they were from suffering a bullet wound. It is hard to believe anyone survived the Battle of Lexington.

Richard Falley Jr. had a remarkable youth in that he had been taken prisoner by the Indians during the French and Indian War (1757) as he performed the role of drummer boy for the British. He lived among the Indians in Montreal, Canada. He was believed to be traded as a slave and taken to Quebec for the price of 16 gallons of New England rum.

Government men intervened on his behalf and he walked back to Westfield two years later. He stepped up again to fight for the Patriot cause at the Battle of Lexington with 70 other patriots from Westfield. He became a Lieutenant in the Battle of Bunker Hill with his 14 year old son acting as the drummer boy. Both survived and he returned to continue his musket making. The Springfield Armory was created to produce weapons for the Revolution in 1777.

There is documentation proving that



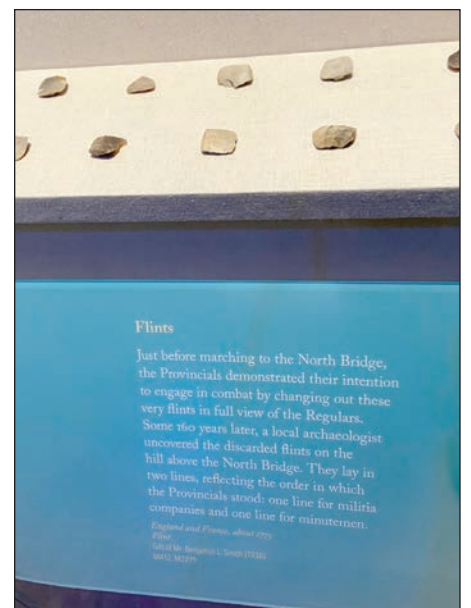
Moose Meadow Brook rushing by the factory powered it.



This flintlock musket is displayed in the Westhampton Blacksmith Museum in Westhampton.

Falley's factory had an order for 1,600 muskets as late as 1801 with evidence that 750 had been delivered by June, 1801. Muskets continued to be made here until the end of the War of 1812. A special lathe had been invented at the Springfield Armory that made interchangeable musket parts. This would spell the end of handcrafted muskets such as those made at the Falley factory.

Richard Falley had 11 children, 10 of whom survived to adulthood. He needed this small army to tend to the plum, peach, pear and apple orchards he planted near the factory. At last, a little peace for his piece of Earth. He made the guns that helped defend our ideals against tyranny. He also answered the call to arms to create this nation. He was an unsung hero who quietly and



These stone flints were used in the Revolutionary War and are displayed in Concord Museum in Concord.

courageously did his part. All guts and no glory. Be sure and thank him this Patriot's Day April 17.

There are stone foundations of a Falley homestead you can find not far from the factory site. It burned down in one of the Tekoa Mountain fires in 1924. An old description refers to children dancing on a large flat rock nearby, which an earlier narration refers to as the threshing rock used by Indians and early pioneers to thresh wheat grain on. This was also found on a recent Hilltown Hike. Those hikers are masters at discovery

Westfield has commemorated Lt. Richard Falley with a granite marker on the corner of Court Street and Holland Avenue in town, the site of his original farm and blacksmith shop.

## CHESTERFIELD

### Chesterfield Town Clerk announces election information

CHESTERFIELD – The town of Chester field will hold their Annual Town Election Election on Monday, May 1 from noon-8 p.m. in the Community Center, 400 Main Road.

At the Community Center, 400 Main Road.

Candidates on the ballot are three-year term Select Board Patricia Colson-Montgomery, incumbent; three-year term Assessor Mary Anne Severance-Rys, incumbent; three-year term Board of Health "Peg" Margaret Whalen; three-year term Library Trustee Jennifer B. Peotter, incumbent; three positions

for three-year seats to Planning Board Daniel R. Henshaw (incumbent), Eileen McGowan (incumbent), John L. Lyons and Carol Rhine and two-year term Planning Board Sarah Hamilton.

Other candidates on the ballot are: three-year term Tax Collector Lenore Pittsinger, incumbent; three-year term Town Clerk Sandra L. Wickland, incumbent; three-year term Treasurer Margaret McWherter, incumbent; three-year term School Committee Chesterfield/Goshen Donald A. Willard III, incumbent; two-year term School Committee Chesterfield/Goshen Barbara A. Bak,

incumbent and three-year term Tree Warden John Lynch, incumbent. A one-year term to Hampshire Regional School Committee and a three-year Constable are blank on the ballot.

There are two voters that are running write-in campaigns. Gregory Meister is running for the Select Board seat and Jordan Bak is running for a position on the Planning Board. He has not stated which seat he wants (there are three positions for three-year terms and also a two-year position on the ballot.

The last day for new voters to register for this election is Friday, April 21

from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the town office.

Absentee/Early voter ballots are here. Voters can print off an application from the town clerk's page of by visiting the town website, mail it back or drop it in the drop box at the town office or call the Town Clerk's office at 413-296-4741.

If voters will be requesting a mail-in ballot, they should apply early to allow enough time for the request to be received and the ballot mailed back to them before election day. The mail-in ballot can't be brought to the election on election day. It must be processed through the town clerk's office.



## SCHOOLS &amp; YOUTH

# SVAHS visit Fire Academy Springfield campus

NORTHAMPTON – Students from the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton recently spent a day learning about the fire service at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Springfield.

The group of ten juniors arrived at the Department of Fire Services' Springfield campus at 8:15 a.m. on March 21 and started the day with a short tour of the facility, which houses DFS administrative offices as well as MFA classrooms, props, and apparatus. Assistant Coordinators Rich Craven and Mike Gelinas of the Academy led a discussion on the mission, values, and duties of the fire service, then brought the students into the apparatus bay to don the full sets of turnout gear, from helmets to boots, that they wore during all exercises.

The students progressed across the campus in two groups to observe and practice basic firefighter tactics. They conducted forcible entry training at the



Ten students from Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton attended the Fire Academy Springfield campus recently. Submitted photo

SVAHS, page 7

## Holyoke Community, ASU announce transfer pact

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College announces a new alliance with Arizona State University to provide students a seamless transfer experience through the MyPath2ASU program.

MyPath2ASU allows students to take the steps needed at the start of their college experience to successfully plan their transfer from HCC to ASU, where they can complete their bachelor's degree online.

"This partnership with ASU is an exciting opportunity for HCC students," said HCC Transfer Affairs coordinator Mark Broadbent. "The agreement will allow students to expand their horizons while ensuring transferability of their coursework, saving students time and money toward the completion of a bachelor's degree," he said.

MyPath2ASU provides a set of cus-

tomized transfer tools for students from accredited institutions, end-to-end learner navigation through course-by-course guided pathways; advising to assist students in course selection to ensure their credits fulfil requirements at both HCC and ASU; guaranteed general admission to ASU and admission into their choice of MyPath2ASU major, if all requirements are satisfied (some majors have additional or higher admission requirements); more than 400 course-by-course guided pathways into immersion and online ASU degree programs; self-service, degree progress tracking through the ASU My Transfer Guide to minimize loss of credits; connected experience through personalized ASU communications to prepare students academically and build an early connection to ASU.

## HCC Theater to stage 'Stop Kiss'

HOLYOKE – The plot of Diana Son's play "Stop Kiss," the Holyoke Community College Theater Department's spring 2023 production, centers around a vicious attack the audience never witnesses on stage. Nevertheless, that absent scene serves as the pivot point around which the narrative revolves.

"It's really two storylines," said director Susanna Apgar, an HCC alum, graduate of Smith College, and playwright long involved in the Pioneer Valley theater scene. "The way she wrote it is quite fascinating. It's one chronological story, but it jumps back and forth in time, scene by scene. It's the story of these two women falling in love and it's also the story of the aftermath of the attack – a gay bashing attack - which leaves one of them in a coma."

HCC will present "Stop Kiss" Thursday, April 13 through Saturday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the college's Leslie Phillips Theater with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, April 15. The Friday, April 14, show will be ASL-interpreted. Tickets are \$5 for members of the HCC community; \$8 for seniors and non-HCC students and \$10 general admission. Tickets are available at the door one hour before showtime or by calling 413-552-2528 for reservations.

"Stop Kiss" focuses on the evolving relationship between Callie, an insecure New Yorker (played by HCC stu-

dent-actor Kit McKenzie of Westfield) and her new friend Sara, a self-assured Midwest transplant (Em D'Allesandro of Westfield). The kiss in the title refers to their first, which also becomes the catalyst for the attack.

"It's a great title, because it can mean so many things," said Apgar of Easthampton. "It can mean the kiss was stopped, but it can also mean to stop denying who you are and just kiss already."

"Stop Kiss" opened in New York City in 1998 and the following year received the Media Award for Best New York Production from GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. This year marks the play's 25th anniversary.

Apgar said she chose it because the themes and issues the play raises are still as relevant today as when it first premiered.

Apgar, who lives in Easthampton and is founder and artistic director of Strident Theater, said the actors and production crew at HCC have enjoyed learning about the history behind the script.

The cast includes Kit McKenzie of Westfield (Callie), Em D'Allesandro of Westfield (Sara), Daneion Blake of Springfield (George), Nathan Alvarez of Springfield (Peter), Henry Ramos of Holyoke (Detective Cole), Kate Hebert (Mrs. Winsley) and Nyasia Aguirre of Springfield (Nurse).

## Culinary arts program hosts open house, tasting event

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Culinary Arts program will be hosting an open house and tasting event on Thursday, April 20 from 4:30-7 p.m. at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St.

Visitors will be able to tour the state-of-the-art kitchens at the college's culinary arts facility, meet HCC culinary arts faculty and staff, learn about the college's culinary arts certificate and associate degree programs and non-credit job training and personal enrichment classes, and play Food Bash Bingo for a chance to win prizes.

In addition, staff from the HCC Admissions office will be on hand to discuss enrollment options.

"Our talented students will be in the kitchens cooking and baking, and the delicious dishes they whip up will all be available for sampling," said chef Sofia Bilgrami, co-chair of the HCC Culinary Arts program. "I would encourage anyone interested in baking, pastry arts or cooking in general to come to this event and discover what makes the Culinary Arts program at HCC so special."

The HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute is equipped with four modern kitchens, a bakery, hotel lab, and student-run dining room.

For more information about HCC's Culinary Arts program, people may visit [hcc.edu/culinary](http://hcc.edu/culinary).

## MassDOT launches billboard design contest for college students

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation launches a statewide billboard design contest to support the American Traffic Safety Services Association's National Work Zone Awareness Week.

The contest is open to all students who are currently enrolled in colleges and universities in Massachusetts. Applicants are asked to create and submit proposed billboard Public Service Announcements to encourage drivers to obey the rules of the road and exercise caution when traveling through work zones where crews are involved in active construction and maintenance projects.

"Work zone safety awareness is an important message for MassDOT. Every year work zone safety crashes lead to unnecessary deaths on our roadways as well as traffic and project delays," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "We are excited to see the creative content and informational PSA's which will be submitted to help us communicate work zone safety on Massachusetts' roadways"

National Work Zone Awareness Week is an annual event which brings attention to work zone safety and the theme for this year is, "You play a role in work zone safety. Work with us." Entries from college students for the MassDOT billboard contest must be submitted on Friday, April 21 by 5 p.m. The winning designs will be selected

based on creativity, impact and relevance to this year's identified theme.

The top three designs will be displayed on a series of digital billboards along highways in Massachusetts throughout the 2023 construction season.

The submission selected for first place will be displayed on billboards for approximately three months.

The submission selected for second place will be displayed on billboards for approximately two months. The submission selected for third place will be displayed on billboards for approximately one month.

The winning entries will be selected by a panel comprised of MassDOT senior managers. Entries will be judged on their visual appeal, adherence to the theme, quality of design, and ease of reproduction. The winners will be notified via email and announced during the 2023 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference which is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 2 and on Wednesday, May 3. In addition, entries will be posted on the Mass.gov website and communicated through MassDOT social media accounts.

For information on MassDOT's billboard design contest for National Work Zone Safety Week, including contest rules and requirements, eligibility, and submission guidelines, people may visit: [mass.gov/work-zone-billboard-contest-2023](http://mass.gov/work-zone-billboard-contest-2023).



## SCHOOLS &amp; YOUTH

## HCC announces finalists for next president

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is one step closer to hiring its next president.

The HCC search committee evaluating candidates to succeed President Christina Royal has whittled a field of 50 down to four. All four finalists have many years of experience in higher education and now hold top-level administration positions at community colleges in the Northeast and all four are persons of color, two Latinas and two African-American men.

They are: Noemí Custodia-Lora, vice president of the Lawrence Campus and Community Relations at Northern Essex Community College in Massachusetts; Tony D. Hawkins, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, Continuing Education and Workforce Development at Frederick Community College in Maryland; Arlene Rodríguez, provost and vice president of Academic and Student Affairs at Middlesex Community College in Massachusetts; and George Timmons, provost and senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs at Columbia-Greene Community College in New York.

The announcement was made in a message to the HCC community from Eleanor P. Williams, chair of the search committee and vice chair of the HCC Board of Trustees, and Robert Gilbert, chair of the HCC Board of Trustees.



Noemí Custodia-Lora



Tony D. Hawkins



Arlene Rodríguez



George Timmons

“As conversations continue toward the selection of HCC’s fifth president, we have total confidence that the candidate selected from among our finalists will bring strong, inspiring leadership to the college,” they said in a joint statement.

In August, President Royal, who’s been with HCC since January 2017, announced that she would retire after the 2022-2023 academic year. Her last day will be July 14 and she expects to assist with the transition to the next administration.

The 18-member search committee included five members of the HCC Board of Trustees – Williams, Gilbert, Vanessa Smith, Ted Hebert, and Iyonna Vidal – three HCC faculty members, seven HCC staff members, one member of the HCC Foundation Board of Directors, and one student, as well as Robert Awkward, assistant commissioner for Academic

Effectiveness at the Massachusetts Dept. of Higher Education. Four members of the search committee are also HCC alumni.

To aid in the search process, HCC retained the Pauly Group, Inc., a national consulting firm that previously assisted the college in the hiring of Royal, HCC’s fourth president.

“This truly is an exciting time for the HCC community as we seek to find the next leader for the college,” Williams said in a separate statement.

Each of the four finalists has been invited to visit the HCC campus for a day and a half of tours, open forums, presentations, and interviews: April 6-7, Noemí Custodia-Lora; April 10-11, George Timmons; April 11-12, Tony D. Hawkins and April 13-14, Arlene Rodríguez.

Custodia-Lora, a former biology professor, holds a Ph.D. in physiology and

endocrinology from Boston University and a bachelor’s degree in biology from the Universidad de Puerto Rico.

Timmons holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Bowling Green State University, a master’s degree in higher education from Old Dominion University, and a bachelor’s degree in financial management from Norfolk State University.

Hawkins, a former professor of speech, communication and theater, holds a Ph.D. in higher education, leadership and technology from New York University, a certificate of advanced study in administration, planning and social policy from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, a master’s degree in speech communication from the University of Georgia and a bachelor’s degree in mass communications from Towson State University.

Rodríguez, a former English professor, holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, a master’s degree in English from Lehigh University and a bachelor’s degree in English from Fordham University.

The HCC Board of Trustees is expected to vote to approve a new president at its next meeting on Tuesday, April 25.

Full resumes of the candidates can be viewed at [hccpresidentialsearch.com/finalists](http://hccpresidentialsearch.com/finalists).

## Yue Ma makes Washington University Dean’s List

ST. LOUIS, MO – Yue Ma of Northampton made the Dean’s List for the fall 2022 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. Ma is enrolled in the university’s College of Arts and

Sciences. To qualify for the Dean’s List in the College of Arts and Sciences, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.

Email us your news: [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)

## SVAHS

Multi-Force door prop using Halligan bars, both on their own and with partners who used either a second Halligan or an eight-pound axe. They learned about interior search tactics in the two-story Search and Rescue prop, conducting two-person right-hand searches in the darkened building, then reversing direction and using their left hands to find their way out. While at the Search and Rescue prop, they also joined municipal

firefighters observing a tabletop backdraft demonstration led by Assistant Coordinator Bill Schuetze using a fire dynamics training prop.

Back on the drill yard, the students learned about the different types of ladders that firefighters use. They practiced carrying and throwing 16-foot ground ladders, and they tried their hands at raising an extension ladder using a stationary prop. Afterward, the group doffed

their personal protective equipment and had a lunchtime discussion of careers in public safety with Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, who has also served the Commonwealth with the Massachusetts State Police and Department of Correction, before watching local firefighters performing live fire exercises.

The SVAHS visit was coordinated by Dr. Sara Praguski Walsh, the

Academy’s instructional design and curriculum development specialist. It was the second visit of its kind at DFS, following a June 2022 visit by Shrewsbury High School students to the Department’s Stow headquarters. Additional visits to Springfield and Stow are scheduled for later this year. DFS officials hope to expand the opportunity to young people from across the Commonwealth at all three campuses.

from page 6

## GREENFIELD

## NAMI family support group resumes in person meeting

GREENFIELD – The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts would like to announce that their Family Support Group in Greenfield is resuming in person.

The group meets monthly on the last Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. at Clinical Support Options, 296 Federal St., across from Sandri’s Gas Station. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 28.

In NAMI, Family Support Groups, families join a caring group of individuals helping one another by utilizing their collective lived experiences and learned wisdom. Family members can achieve a renewed sense of hope for their loved one living with mental health challenges.

NAMI’s support groups are unique because they follow a structured model,

ensuring everyone can be heard and get what they need.

These meetings are free and designed for adult loved ones of people with mental health conditions and led by family members of people with mental health conditions.

No specific medical therapy or treatment is endorsed.

For more information people may call the NAMI-WM office at 413-786-9139 or email [information@namiwm.org](mailto:information@namiwm.org).

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI Western Massachusetts is an affiliate of NAMI Massachusetts.

## News, photo publication policy

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

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

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





# BLANDFORD

## COA to hold breakfast April 28

BLANDFORD – The Council on Aging’s monthly breakfast is set for Friday, April 28 at 10 a.m. at the Blandford Town Hall.

The menu includes spinach and mushroom quiche, bacon and oven potatoes.

People should call the COA at 413-848-4279, extension 400 and leave a message with name and number of people attending so they have an accurate head count.

### FEEDERS

from page 1

Sunset Rock roads. The rubber chip seal apparently has a longer life than asphalt chip seal especially on those roads with lesser traffic. Ch. 90 road funds will cover the cost. He will move forward with the bidding process. The department has started working on potholes this week.

#### Town administrator

Town Administrators Christopher Dunne told the Select Board that there are a few more reserve fund transfers which he will review with the Finance Committee. The Baystate Better Together Grant provided training for the Council on Aging’s laptops, which has now ended. He read a note of appreciation for the training sessions from Pamela Rideout for the opportunity to learn to navigate the cyber world.

Continuing, Dunne brought the board up-to-date on current projects.

#### Fire Chief

Regarding the Fire Chief position, Chester is now interested in collaborating

on a shared fire chief, and according to Dunne, Chester’s funding is lower than Blandford’s. The Select Board is interested in discussing the position with Chester.

#### REDO

Board member Theodore Cousineau asked about the Regional Economic Development Organization funding for the Fair to repair the fence. The town requires an invoice or at least a quote for work before REDO checks can be issued.

#### Other Business

Before closing the board reviewed the departmental expenses and found all in order.

George Reichert asked the board about the spring cleanup for Bicentennial Park and was told that the work would not begin anywhere for a week or two. Landscapers are just getting their equipment ready. Select Board member Jeffrey Allen said that there are two fence rails broken and the bench seat needs repair. Allen volunteered to fix the bench.

## Blandford library plans school vacation activities

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Monday, April 17 is Patriots’ Day and also the start of the week-long spring school vacation.

It is time to take a break from the snow and look for Blandford’s signs of spring and warmer weather to come. The Porter Memorial Library, 87 Main St., has pocket-sized journals available for the library’s younger patrons to take note of their changing surroundings. Library Director Nicole Daviau suggests the possibility that the journals could be combined with the Seek and See adventure or scavenger kits, although the Seek and See kits are there for everyone, all ages, to check out and return.

Kits include a wide range of activities, knot-tying, outdoor navigation skills, Hilltown hiking maps, birds and bugs and night-time creatures. The kits were funded through a federally funded Library and Services Technology Act grant administered by the state Board of Library Commissioners.

As for the journals, they are for personal observation and comment. “Let your imagination run,” said

Daviau.

Scheduled activities for elementary age patrons are as follows: Tuesday, April 18 from 3-4 p.m. is a giant I Spy Party - scavenger hunt that will have attendees make an I Spy tube.

Thursday, April 19 from 3-4 p.m. children can paint a snake; and listen to a slithery snake tale.

Friday, April 21 from 2-6 p.m. is a Lego free build time, a chance to create anything with the snap-together-bricks. All the Lego bins will be out for builders, who can also try a building challenge card.

Saturday, April 22 Ashley Neveu will bring her special guests, Clover and Luna Neveu, bunnies, and will lead a Peter Rabbit Tea Party at 11 a.m. Meet real pet rabbits and sip “tea,” which will actually be apple juice in tea cups. Daviau asks anyone planning to attend to let the library know by Saturday, April 15.

The pre-school Book Squirms program Wednesday morning at 10:30 will feature Wiggly Worms. These programs are geared for the under-five-years group.

It’s going to be a full vacation week.

# WORTHINGTON

## COA to hold plant giveaway and luncheon

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Council On Aging will be sponsoring a spring flower plant giveaway on Monday, April 24 from 11 a.m.-noon curbside at the Worthington Congregational Church.

The giveaway is on a first come, first

serve basis. No reservation will be necessary.

The Pot Luck Luncheon on Monday, May 8 at noon in the Town Hall will have Sue and Ed Lewis present their world bird experiences in their “Superlative Bird” presentation.

# STOCKBRIDGE

## Grange hosts community dinner April 16

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Grange hosts a community dinner Sunday, April 16 with take out pick up only from noon-1:30 p.m.

The menu features stuffed chicken breast, potatoes, vegetable and with dessert choices of chocolate cream pie

or lemon meringue pie. Dinner is \$15 per person with pickup at Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. Orders may be made by calling 413-243-1298 or 413-443-4352. Reservation deadline Friday, April 14. Dinners are designed to raise money for non-profit projects.

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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SPARE RIBS TWIN PAK..... <b>\$2.49</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS <b>\$4.79</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN LEG 1/4s TRAY PAK ..... <b>49¢</b> lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK CHOPS or ROAST ..... <b>\$2.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP 31/40 COUNT EASY PEEL 2 LB BAG <b>\$9.99</b> ea	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG..... <b>\$1.59</b> lb
USDA INSP. SLICED IN DELI TURKEY BREAST ..... <b>\$3.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. CHOCOLATE COVERED CREAM CHEESE BITES 6 OZ ..... <b>\$2.99</b> ea	
<b>SOUPS ON</b>	USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF OXTAILS..... <b>\$7.99</b> lb	
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# MIDDLEFIELD



Betty Begin poses with the Easter Bunny at the annual Easter Egg hunt.

## Blossom Community Center holds events

MIDDLEFIELD – The Blossom Community Center, 16 Bell Road announces the third Monday pot luck dinner is Monday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m starting promptly so attendees can also head out to the Dirt Roads presentation at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 19, children's pizza making starts at 10 a.m. and all-ages pizza lunch is at 11:30 a.m. Sue is offering the craft of slime-making after lunch. RSVP, if possible, by calling and leaving a voicemail for Buffie 413-623-2155,

extension 134 or text 413-354-0160, for number of children and ages coming.

Saturday, April 22 at 11:30 a.m. will be the fourth weekend brunch. RSVP for knowing cooking quantities ahead by visiting <https://blossomcenterma.org/contact-us/>.

On Saturday, April 22 at 12:30 p.m. Adair is hosting an informal review and discussion of the upcoming Annual Town Meeting Articles. People should access from the Blossom Community Center rear parking lot.



Addie Begin, Sue Schneller and Forest Musante enjoy the craft making table at the Easter Egg hunt. Submitted photos

## JLBA to meet April 13

MIDDLEFIELD – The Jacob Ladder's Business Association will meet Thursday, April 13 at 6 p.m. at Azure Green located on 16 Bell Road.

They will review the final confirmed details of printing the map and cost of distribution. Also, they will discuss remaining details for the Saturday, May 20, Chester on Track Small Business Home Show. They would like to organize a fall activity to fill the time between the May Chester Home show and December Snack and Smooze.

## Council on Aging lists menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield COA announces the lunch for Wednesday, April 19 at noon at the Senior Center 169 Skyline Trail.

People may dine in or take out. They should RSVP on the previous Monday by calling 413-623-9990.

The menu includes tuna salad in a pita or chilled taco salad, corn salad, ranch dressing and fresh fruit.

### PAT JONES CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY



Middlefield Council on Aging announces Pat Jones celebrates a birthday. Submitted Photo

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## GREAT BARRINGTON

# Adams Community Bank donates to W.E.B. Du Bois sculpture project

GREAT BARRINGTON – The W.E.B. Du Bois Sculpture Project of Great Barrington received a donation of \$15,000 from the Adams Community Bank of Adams.

The funds will be used to finance a monument to W.E.B. Du Bois, a native son of Great Barrington, and to renovate the plaza in front of Mason Public Library, where the statue will be sited.

“The Adams Community Bank will be opening a branch in Great Barrington this summer,” said bank president Charles O’Brien, “and we believe this is an excellent way to support our new friends.”

“The Adams Community Bank donation joins a \$10,000 grant from Berkshire Bank and a \$10,000 donation from The Whitehead Foundation to bring our totals to \$175,000,” said Julie Michaels, co-chair of The W.E.B. Du Bois Sculpture Project.



Adams Community Bank donated \$15,000 to the W.E. Du Bois.

Submitted Photo

The group will introduce the three finalists for the sculpture commission on Wednesday, April 19 at an evening

reception at the Mason Library.

Donations to the Du Bois Sculpture Project can be made

online at [www.webduboissculpture.org](http://www.webduboissculpture.org) or mailed to W.E.B. Du Bois Sculpture Project, P.O. Box 155, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

The W.E.B. Du Bois Sculpture Project was launched in May 2022 by a volunteer group of local citizens with the goal of recognizing Du Bois' scholarly achievements in the fight for racial equality. The Sculpture Project is endorsed and supported by town officials including the Great Barrington Select Board, the Great Barrington Library Trustees, W.E.B. Du Bois Town Legacy Committee, among many others.

W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963) was born and educated in Great Barrington. He was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. A world-famous sociologist, historian, and founder of the NAACP, he wrote “The Souls of Black Folk,” a seminal work in African American literature.

## Honorees chosen for 2023 Berkshire Nonprofit Awards

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires, in partnership with The Berkshire Eagle, has announced the names of eight honorees receiving recognition at the sixth annual Berkshire Nonprofit Awards on May 23.

The Berkshire Nonprofit Awards recognize the accomplishments and dedication of the people, who work in the nonprofit sector. A panel of 21 judges from the business and nonprofit sectors deliberated via Zoom to choose honorees in each of seven categories from among 64 nominations.

The honorees are: Board Leadership,

Susan Crofut/Sandisfield Arts Center; Executive Leadership, Leigh Doherty/Literacy Network; Rock Star, Tyeesha R. Keele-Kedroe/18 Degrees; Samya Rose Stumo Youth Leadership, Florence Afanukoe/BRIDGE; Unsung Hero, Sheila Dargie/Berkshire Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and Volunteer, Shirley Edgerton/ROPE/Women of Color Giving Circle/Lift Ev'ry Voice Festival.

“In a highly unusual ‘tie’ situation, there are two Lifetime Achievement honorees this year,” said Liana Toscanini, Executive Director of the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires. “Julianne Boyd of Barrington Stage Company and

Anne Nemetz-Carlson of Childcare of the Berkshires, Inc. are two forces of nature who have been at it for more than 30 years, making huge impact in our community, starting from nothing and expanding to the large and stable organizations they both retired from in the past year. Berkshire County is lucky to have had these two tireless women leading the way in their respective sectors for over three decades.”

The Berkshire Nonprofit Awards breakfast will take place on Tuesday, May 23 from 8-10 a.m. at Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield. The celebration will feature break-

fast and networking, a performance by Kids4Harmony, remarks by guest speaker Senator Paul Mark, and presentation of awards.

Event sponsors include: Berkshire Bank, Berkshire Health Systems, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Berkshire United Way, Feigenbaum Foundation, Fitzpatrick Trust, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Lamar Advertising Company, Salisbury Bank, Warrior Trading, and Williamstown Community Chest. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased online at [npberkshires.org](http://npberkshires.org) or by calling 413-441-9542.

## MONTGOMERY

# MassDOT lists paving, bridge and guardrail repair

MONTGOMERY/RUSSELL/BECKET – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces it will be conducting overnight pavement marking operations and bridge and guardrail repair work on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Montgomery, Russell and Becket. The scheduled work will require temporary lane closures.

In Montgomery and Russell pavement marking operations and bridge repair work will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 36.0 Thursday, April 13 and Friday, April 14 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning.

In Becket guardrail repair operations will be conducted Thursday, April 13 and Friday, April 14 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning.

The work will require temporary lane closures to allow crews to safely and efficiently conduct pavement marking work

and bridge and guardrail repair operations. Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work area.

Drivers who are traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to:

Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.

Follow MassDOT on Twitter @MassDOT to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

## OTIS

# OHC and OPT to host ‘Symphony of Courage’ documentary

OTIS – The Otis Historical Commission and Otis Preservation Trust are hosting the third Notice Otis Series cultural event of the 2022-23 season featuring the documentary film “Symphony of Courage” on Thursday, April 20 from 7-8 p.m. in the Otis Town Hall, One North Main Road.

Local residents Lesley Rosenthal and Jessica Lustig will speak about their work with the Afghan project depicted in the film.

A “Symphony of Courage” is a 30-minute documentary by Voice of America that tells the story of the brave young Afghan musicians, who have had to evacuate their country. Today they are making music again in a new, welcoming homeland through the heroic efforts of some very special people. The Afghan National Institute of Music was the country's only music school and home to the world-renowned Zohra Orchestra - Afghanistan's first all-female ensemble. ANIM's director Dr. Ahmad Sarmast worked with an international team of philanthropists, politicians and musicians, including renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, led by Friends of ANIM President Lesley Rosenthal and Treasurer Jessica Lustig. Together, they facilitated the evacuation of 273 ANIM students, faculty,

and staff. After a brief period in Doha, the group travelled together to Lisbon - their new home.

The documentary follows Farida and Zohra Ahmadi, two pre-teen girls and the last ANIM students to be evacuated from Afghanistan. They spent their last days in the country moving from safe house to safe house until they were finally able to leave. Their uncle and guardian Juma Ahmadi documents their final moments in the country on his cell phone, painting a raw and intimate portrayal of their journey from Afghanistan.

The Otis Preservation Trust works with the Historical Commission to organize and preserve the history and heritage of Otis for future generations by supporting efforts to preserve, restore, repurpose and educate about buildings, monuments, lands and memorabilia of Otis. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To register or for more information, people may visit [www.otispreservation-trust.com](http://www.otispreservation-trust.com); or [www.townofotisma.com](http://www.townofotisma.com). There is no charge to attend this event. Donations are welcome.

## NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the *Country Journal*, please email [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com).

## Selectmen seek Veteran Representative

OTIS – The Otis Board of Selectmen announces a vacancy for Veteran Representative. The Selectmen appoint the three-year position.

Anyone interested in applying can

submit an application to the Board of Selectmen by emailing [townadmin@townofotisma.com](mailto:townadmin@townofotisma.com). Applications can be found by visiting the town website at [www.townofotisma.com](http://www.townofotisma.com).



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## WESTHAMPTON

### 'Wallace and Gromit' movie to be shown in April

WESTHAMPTON – Ruth Tracy, a member of the community and a library volunteer worked with the Westhampton Public Library director, to select films for movie nights.

The movies are shown on the wall of the community room to provide a big screen. They also hope to show some outdoor films as the weather improves.

Tracy has loved movies for a long time and attended Sarah Lawrence College to study film. He loves movies especially the type of genre film that many people see as “low-brow” or unimportant.

His selections for movie nights include a variety of genres, which appeal to young and old. On Friday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the library community room his selection choice is “Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit.”

He says, “My first goal is always that the movie be something I really think people will enjoy. I then talk with the library director about any significant holidays or celebrations in that month that we could align with our film choice.”

“I’ve mostly been sticking to old favorites so far, but I would love to use these screenings as an opportunity to share excellent films that people

may not have gotten a chance to see, or might not have even heard of. I have lots of ideas and plans for future movie nights from VHS screenings of genre oddballs to my favorite foreign language films,” he says.

Movies were made for public screenings. “The energy of the other people in the room—whether strangers or close friends—powers the experience. Building off of each other, the audience elevates each joke, scare, or emotional moment,” he says.

Big screen movies are also more immersive. For an hour and a half, the viewer can focus on just one thing. Without the ability to pause, check your email, take the dog for a walk, or whatever else, the movie acts as a reprieve from the pace of modern life. “I find it very meditative—movie theaters are where I go to recharge. It’s also so much fun to see the visuals on the big, grand scale that they were designed for, he says. Unseen details are allowed to shine, and the movie magic feels that much more real.

Tracy says, “I love going to the repertoire screenings at local theaters, and even when I’ve seen the movie time and time again, seeing it on the big screen always offers up something new.”

## WESTFIELD

### St. Joseph’s Church hosts traditional Easter dinner

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph’s National Catholic Church, 73 Main St., is hosting their Traditional Easter Dinner on Sunday, April 23 at noon.

This community dinner will feature glazed baked ham, Easter kielbasa, mashed potatoes, corn pudding, eggs, fresh rolls, dessert and coffee/beverage. Tickets are \$15 for

adults and \$8 for children under 12. Everyone is welcome.

For tickets, people may call the Rectory at 413-562-4403. Deadline for purchasing tickets is April 19.

A limited number of takeout dinners are available at 12:30 p.m. or attend this traditional Easter dinner at noon.

## PITTSFIELD

### Volunteer Fair set for April 21 during National Volunteer Week

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire United Way, Elder Services and Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires are holding an in-person Volunteer Fair Friday, April 21 from noon-3 p.m. at Crissey Farm at 426 Stockbridge Road in Great Barrington.

Sponsored by Berkshire Bank, this free event during National Volunteer Week features 29 diverse nonprofit organizations sharing information about their mission, programs, and volunteer needs. Participating nonprofits include: 18 Degrees, Baseball in the Berkshires, Berkshire Botanical Garden, Berkshire Bounty, Berkshire Farm Sanctuary, Berkshire HorseWorks, Berkshire Pride, Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum, Berkshire South Regional Community Center, Berkshire United Way, BFAIR, Blue Rider Stables, Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity, Construct, Elder Services of Berkshire County, Great Barrington Public Theatre, Hospice

Care in the Berkshires, Latinas413, Literacy Network, Multicultural BRIDGE, Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires, Pediatric Development Center, People’s Pantry, Racial Fairness Berkshires, Ventfort Hall, Villages of the Berkshires, Volunteers in Medicine and Walking our Talk.

“We’re excited to introduce a ‘Municipalities’ table manned by municipal volunteers ready to share their experience, as well as a brochure outlining town board and committee descriptions,” said Liana Toscanini of the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires. “Municipalities often have unfilled positions, so we hope to encourage people to think of their home town when seeking out volunteer opportunities.”

Walk-ins are welcome at the Volunteer Fair, but registration is appreciated. To register, people may visit <https://www.berkshireunitedway.org/spring-volunteer-fair>.

## NORTHAMPTON

### Autism Connections holds conference

NORTHAMPTON – Autism Connections, the western Massachusetts autism center serving families and individuals in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties, is hosting its 32nd annual Autism Conference on Thursday, April 27.

The day-long educational conference is back in person at Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel, Springfield, and virtually from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

This event will be available online through Socio/Webex Events, to ensure accessibility to all who can benefit. The conference brings together people with autism, parents, caregivers, educators, self-advocates, professionals, organizations and service providers to build awareness and knowledge, be inspired and make meaningful connections.

The schedule includes keynote speakers Jennifer O’Toole, the autism

expert on Netflix’s “Love on the Spectrum US,” and bestselling female author of any single book in the genre and Andrew Arboe, founder of Driving with Autism, which specializes in helping autistic drivers and their families pursue driving as a transportation option.

Morning and afternoon breakout sessions led by regional experts focus on topics such as early diagnosis, college, transitioning to adult services, sexuality and job seeking.

New for in-person attendees this year is a sensory room for all participants called “In the Clouds.” This quiet space with dim lighting away from the commotion of the conference offers sensory gadgets, noise canceling headphones, bean bag chairs, exercise balls and more.

For more information about the conference and to register, people may visit [autismconnectionsma.org/en/conference](http://autismconnectionsma.org/en/conference).

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# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**  
Mar 21/Apr 20  
Aries, your emotions may cloud your judgment in the days to come. It's better to seek the advice of a third party who can guide you without the added drama.

**CANCER**  
Jun 21/Jul 22  
Cancer, if you haven't devoted enough time lately to taking care of yourself you might awaken this week with a foggy head. Take care of yourself.

**LIBRA**  
Sept 23/Oct 23  
You might find it challenging to articulate your feelings to a romantic partner. If you stumble over saying the words, why not write them down, instead?

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec 22/Jan 20  
It is alright to feel uncertain about what the heart wants, Capricorn. Not everyone has things all figured out. Ponder your likes and dislikes to determine your path.

**TAURUS**  
Apr 21/May 21  
Messages from the universe could come across as confusing or vague, Taurus. You might need someone with cosmic intuition to help you sort out what is going on.

**LEO**  
Jul 23/Aug 23  
Responsibilities could have you feeling overburdened, Leo. The trick is to ask others to lighten your load. There are bound to be several volunteers willing to lend a hand.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct 24/Nov 22  
Sometimes your pragmatic side gets into a tussle with your optimism, Scorpio. Being a realist doesn't have to mean you give up hope. There are many things that can go your way.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan 21/Feb 18  
Messy work and small mistakes can sabotage all of your hard work thus far. Buckle down and focus on the details. Have someone check that everything is perfect.

**GEMINI**  
May 22/Jun 21  
A stagnant energy has been surrounding you lately, Gemini. Fortunately, you are able to brush that away soon enough and feel rejuvenated.

**VIRGO**  
Aug 24/Sept 22  
Virgo, try not to compare yourself to others this week. Everyone is unique, with his or her own strengths and weaknesses. An unfair comparison could dampen your spirits.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov 23/Dec 21  
Sagittarius, while you may feel like sleeping the week away, awaken to the possibilities before you. Numerous opportunities await, so answer the door when they knock.

**PISCES**  
Feb 19/Mar 20  
People around you may be more temperamental than usual, Pisces. Avoid offering any unsolicited advice until things quiet down.

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| <p><b>CLUES ACROSS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Atomic mass unit</li> <li>4. Criticize mightily</li> <li>7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)</li> <li>10. Stand in for</li> <li>11. Everyone has one</li> <li>12. Brew</li> <li>13. Rectify</li> <li>15. Popular Dodge truck model</li> <li>16. Beef or chicken intestine</li> <li>19. Satisfy</li> <li>21. Of a particular people or localized region</li> <li>23. Movements in quick tempos</li> <li>24. Able to pay one's debts</li> <li>25. Fleshy bird beak covering</li> <li>26. Dueling sword</li> <li>27. Helps</li> <li>30. Court is in it</li> </ol> | <p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sharp mountain ridge</li> <li>2. Thin, fibrous cartilages</li> <li>3. Provides new details</li> <li>4. Muscular weaknesses</li> <li>5. Ottoman military title</li> <li>6. Bananas</li> <li>7. Horse-riding seats</li> <li>8. Arms of a shirt</li> <li>9. Narrow path along a road edge</li> <li>13. Viper</li> <li>14. Disfigure</li> <li>17. Variety of Chinese language</li> <li>18. Portray in a show</li> <li>20. Wrongful act</li> <li>22. No (slang)</li> <li>27. State of agitation</li> <li>28. ___ Diego</li> <li>29. One point east of</li> </ol> | <p>due south</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31. 007's creator</li> <li>32. The NBA's Toppin</li> <li>33. Midway between north and north-east</li> <li>37. Examples</li> <li>38. ___ Gould, actor</li> <li>39. The habitat of wild animals</li> <li>40. Artful subtlety</li> <li>41. Infielders</li> <li>42. Keep under control</li> <li>43. Herb</li> <li>44. Distressed</li> <li>47. A way to go down</li> <li>48. Type of acid</li> <li>49. Take by force</li> <li>51. Collected fallen leaves</li> <li>52. Shout of welcome or farewell</li> <li>53. Monetary unit</li> <li>58. Swiss river</li> </ol> |
|--|--|---|

				5	8	3		
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9		6	8		4	5		

## SUDOKU

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answers

	D	O	N	E	R	N	E	S	T	P	E	R	S	
	N	E	S	V	A	E	R	E	T	R	E	T		
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## DEATH NOTICES

### CARON (WEEKS), ELISABETH

Died April 4, 2023  
Burial is private

### SHOWALTER, MARILYN

Died March 26, 2023  
Services at a later date

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 \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

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## OBITUARIES

### Elisabeth (Weeks) Caron, 76

BLANDFORD – Elisabeth (Weeks) Caron, 76, passed away on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Daughter of Lincoln O. and Helen (Ribbel) Weeks, Liz was born in Buffalo, New York. Her family moved to Rutland, Vermont when she was two years old. She graduated from Rutland High School and attended Castleton State College.

While working at the Vermont Association for the Crippled, now Vermont Achievement Center, she met her future husband and they were married in July 1967. Soon after their wedding, they moved to Massachusetts, living in Huntington, Westfield and Blandford. Her work history included working as a Kindergarten Aide in Huntington and helping to establish the office at Pioneer Valley Railroad when they opened in Westfield.

Her favorite work experience was the twenty-three years she spent as the Administrative Assistant for Second Congregational Church in Westfield. She was active in the Blandford Fair as Supervisor of the gates for many years and served as a Vice President. Liz was also active in her church, Second Congregational



Church of Westfield and served on many committees. In her spare time she enjoyed knitting and crocheting, reading, crossword and jigsaw puzzles.

Liz is survived by her husband, Fred of Blandford, her son Scott of Westfield, her daughter Jennifer Caron-Theriaque (Wayne) of Westfield and the light of her life, granddaughter Danielle Theriaque. She is also survived by her brothers, Lincoln Jr. (Linda) of East Bridgewater and Richard of North

Concord, Vermont; her niece, Elisabeth Betsey Weeks of Norwood and a nephew, Rick Bartlett of Savannah, Georgia. She was predeceased by her nephew, Lincoln III.

Calling hours will be Friday, April 14 from 4-7 p.m. at Firtion Adams Funeral Service at 76 Broad St., Westfield. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, April 15 at 10 a.m. at Second Congregational Church, Western Avenue, Westfield. Burial will be private at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Second Congregational Church's Organ Fund, Sister Caritas Cancer Center, Springfield, MA or an animal rescue shelter.

### Marilyn Showalter, 85

CHESTER – Our mother, Marilyn Showalter, passed away peacefully at home on March 26, 2023, with her children and oldest granddaughter by her side.

She was born on Oct. 18, 1937, in Brooklyn, New York, the daughter of the late Mary J. Linde and the late Alexander Linde. She resided in Westbrook, Connecticut for many years, where she raised her three children with her late husband Kurt Showalter.

They then relocated to Western Massachusetts and eventually bought a farm in Chester, which they named "Angel Mist Farm," after Marilyn's love for collecting angel figurines. They cared for their many draft horses, goats and llamas. In Marilyn's early years, she was a phone operator and worked at the Ponds Factory in Clinton, Connecticut and after that for many years drove a school bus.

She always loved and enjoyed taking care of her grandchildren, who lovingly referred to her as "Gram." They were amongst the most important to her. Marilyn loved her Schnauzers and her many other dogs she



had during her lifetime. She was known for loving to dance and the beach. She was one who was never afraid to speak her mind. She will be remembered for her often-sassy comments and spirited personality. She is a soul who will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her daughter, Elaine Jacquier and her husband Philip Jacquier; her son, Karl Showalter and his wife Kristy Showalter and her daughter Kristine

(Showalter) Mitchell. Marilyn leaves behind her beloved seven grandchildren, Amy (Defocie) Sadowski, William Defocie, Brandon Mitchell, Stone Mitchell, Arya Jane Mitchell, Alyxa Rae Showalter, Abagayle Showalter as well as her five great-grandchildren, Bentley Mitchell, Payton Mitchell, Brayden Mitchell, Claire Sadowski and Paige Sadowski. She is predeceased by her husband Kurt, and her sisters and brothers.

A gathering of family and friends will be held at a future date to celebrate Marilyn's eternal life.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23P0723EA  
Estate of:  
Robert Norman Holmes  
Also known as:  
Robert N Holmes  
Date of Death: 03/14/2023  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal

Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Justin M Holmes of Montgomery MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that: Justin M Holmes of Montgomery MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition

from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/03/2023.  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may

be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 05, 2023  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
04/13/2023

**Upgrades**  
The Town of Blandford is soliciting sealed bids for its Water Treatment Plant Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Upgrades project, consisting of implementing SCADA, instrumentation, and control upgrades to the water treatment plant to address a recent Administrative Consent Order (ACO) and to maintain high levels of system reliability, water quality, and to improve the filtration process of raw and finished water to reduce elevated disinfection byproducts. The project shall be substantially complete by December 24, 2024. A more detailed project description is available by visiting [wright-pierce.com/projects](http://wright-pierce.com/projects). The IFB will be available from the time of this notice until the general bid deadline specified below. The Blandford Board of Water Commissioners will review bids and the Blandford Select Board will be the awarding and contracting authority, reserving the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part any or all bids, or take whatever other

action may be deemed in the best interests of the Town. **The project requires a 5% bid bond and attendance of a Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference on April 19, 2023**, convening at the Blandford Town Hall with a site visit of the Water Treatment Plant to follow.  
A performance bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total amount of the contract price with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be required for the faithful performance of the contract, as well as a labor and materials bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total contract price.  
Completed **General Bids are to be submitted no later than 2:00 PM, Wednesday, May 17, 2023, and Sub Bids (electrical) are to be submitted no later than 2:00 PM, Wednesday, May 3, 2023** to Blandford Town Offices, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008, at which times and place such General Bids and Sub Bids will be publicly opened and read.  
04/13/2023

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

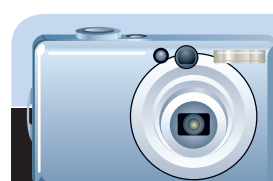
Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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

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**LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
Town of Blandford  
Water Treatment Plant Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)



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**HILLTOWNS**  
**MONDAY AT NOON**

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# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



This is the 65 foot Keystone Arch Bridge.  
Photos by Karen McTaggart, Liz Massa and Paul Normand



Volunteers cut up a large tree cutting along the Pontoosuc Road section of the Keystone Arch Bridge Trail.

## Clearing the Keystone Arch Bridges Trail

CHESTER/BECKET/MIDDLEFIELD – Members of the Western Hilltown Hikers always give back.

Sunday afternoon was workday at the Keystone Arch Bridges Trail in Chester/Becket/Middlefield. Keeping the trails open to hikers is the number one priority. The heavy wet blizzards this winter have

taken a toll on the Hilltown trails with major blow-downs.

From twisted vines to several large Beech trees down, to cutting back growth on top of the 65 and 70 foot arches and the stone retaining wall in the cut, volunteers went to work with Hilltown Hikers Directors, volunteers from Springfield and Agawam and Friends of the Keystone Arch Bridges Trail members.

The worst of it was several large hardwoods falling on the pedestrian bridge, which obliterated the trail itself along the cement pier. They cut and moved logs to reinforce the banks then rebuilt this section Hilltown Hikers volunteers included Russ, Stephanie, Paul, Karen, Greg and Liz.



Volunteers clear trees and brush from the trail.



Tree work and trail repair takes place at the pedestrian bridge.



Snow is still on the cut section of the trail.



**Send Us Your Summer Event Information**

**Turley Publications will print your summer calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our SUMMERFEST Supplement which publishes early June.**

**Deadline for submissions is April 28.**

## Community Summer Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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