

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." – Nelson Mandela

# 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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The Classic Race is 8 miles and ends in Woronoco.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel

## Hilltowns traditions come alive at Westfield River Wildwater Races

**By Kathryn Koegel**  
*Correspondent*  
Westfield Wildwater Races  
Managing Director

What began as a bar bet in 1954 is now one of the largest events in the Hilltowns with new racers and volunteers stepping up to carry on the tradition.

The Westfield River Wildwater Races, the country's oldest continuously run whitewater kayak and canoe races, will be held on

Saturday, April 20 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. While on May 2, 1954, just seven canoes started at Wildcat Springs in Chester and finished at the Whipperton Golf Club in Russell, this Saturday over 200 boats and 300 racers will run rapids and two portages which see racers rock scrambling around historic dams.



This year stand-up paddle boards will be eligible for awards so spectators can enjoy the thrilling site of seeing racers literally surf the river from Huntington to Woronoco in Russell. Jeff DeFeo of Montgomery is the reigning champion canoe racer and

this will be his 49th year. He not only raced but organized the race with Jurgen Igel for 30 years. The race was originally run on the West Branch of the Westfield River from Chester, but the water flows were too inconsistent to be trusted. In 1964 they shifted to the East Branch and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers got involved. Today the local U.S. Army Corp team including Lydia Graham and

**RIVER RACES**, page 2



This is the 30th run for female open canoe women's paddling leader Julie Marcoulier shown here with her current racing partner her daughter, Jessie Marcoulier Dadu.



This year is the first that stand up paddle boarders will compete for awards.

### HUNTINGTON

## Gateway wins CPPI Grant

**By Wendy Long**  
*Correspondent*

Director of Pupil Services Kurt Garivaltis has learned that the district has won a \$50,000 Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative grant.

Gateway was one of 6 districts to receive a Planning and Implementation Grant, along with Boston, Pittsfield, Quincy, Wareham and Worcester Public Schools. Another ten districts received implementation funds.

In announcing the grant awards, Governor Maura Healey said, "We know that the high cost of child care is holding back our families, providers and our economy. We are expanding access to affordable, high-quality preschool in 16 school districts, creating hundreds of new seats for children in Gateway Cities and rural communities across the state."

**GRANT**, page 9

### CHESTER

## Informational meeting addresses CMELD's future

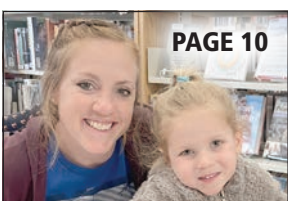
**By Wendy Long**  
*Correspondent*

Over 100 Chester residents attended a two-hour informational meeting about the future of the Chester Municipal Electric Light Department held at Chester Town Hall on Wednesday, April 10.

CMELD had announced the informational meeting ahead of a hearing on a proposal from Eversource to buy out the municipal electric company, scheduled for Monday, April 22 at town hall.

CMELD General Manager Diane Hall reported that eight speakers from other municipal electric companies in Massachusetts spoke at the event, to inform taxpayers and homeowners about the benefits of staying with CMELD. Among them were Joe Sollicito and Mike Trowbridge of Mansfield, Tom Flaherty of Westfield Gas and Electric, Kim Holmes from Taunton, Mary Usovich from Merrimac and Alan Robinson of Russell.

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# HILLTOWNS

## RIVER RACES

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Marissa Eisnor hold back water at both the Knightville and Littleville Dams to release it at optimal and consistent height for racing.

DeFeo's canoe course record is nearly matched by Carl Lafreniere of Chester who is making his 48th run, but this is no true one-to-one match. As DeFeo notes, "Carl has gone to the dark side." In Westfield River Wildwater races lingo, that refers to the fact that Carl wears a spray skirt and now paddles a solo kayak.

Women were not initially allowed to race but that was rectified in 1961 when according to racer Eric Jones, who writes historical accounts of the race, Jane Coffin received a standing ovation for her eighth place finish. In 1965, fifteen-year-old Cathy Gosline padded with Sterling Brightman to become the first woman to win the Westfield race.

Today, Julie Marcoulier is the reigning female champion having begun racing in 1994. This is her 30th year and

she now canoes with her daughter, Jessie Marcoulier Gladu. Julie has consistently brought new women to the sport and last year she guided newbie racer Sienna Bober through two clinics only to see her win her race class in 2023.

There are other traditions not apparent to newer racers and spectators. Even the wooden paddles given out as awards have a history. They are made from wood grown in the Hilltowns and hand-milled by Chester resident, Richie Small. He turns the planed wood over to Al Sousa of Westfield, a former shop teacher, who handcrafts each paddle. There are larger ones for the first place finishers.

This year the job of organizing the awards and putting the plaques on them, which is complicated due to the many race classes, went to Huntington resident Jahala Dufort. One-hundred twenty-nine awards will be given. Jahala grew up watching the races and decided to volunteer this year so that her three toddler-aged boys would be able to enjoy the races each year as they grow up.

Spectators are encouraged to come out and cheer on the racers. The Expert Race begins at Knightville Dam in Huntington at 9:30 a.m. and the Classic Start goes off from the center of Huntington at 11a.m. Best viewing spots include the Rte 20 pull off in Huntington (park at the Hilltown Community Health Center), Frog Hollow in Russell near the bridge over the river and from Strathmore Park where there is a path down to the river and you can view the

last mile of the race. By state law there is no spectator parking on Rte. 20 and the finish line area in Woronoco will be closed to cars except for those belonging to racers.

After the races conclude, the entire community is welcome to Strathmore Park in Russell, where popular Huntington teen classic rock sensation The 413s will headline the afternoon's music with sets starting at noon. Awards for top racers, those coveted handcrafted paddles made with wood grown and milled in the Hilltowns – will be given out at 3 p.m.

At 2 p.m., fourth graders from Littleville and Chester Elementary Schools will parade around the park with the bird, mammal and fish puppets that they created in workshops sponsored by the Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee. The children learned about river ecology and the habitat of a river so exceptional it was designated Wild and Scenic by an act of Congress and is administered by the National Parks Department. All children are invited to get their faces painted like one of the animals that live in and around the river.

Food trucks from the region will sustain the post-race crowd. Look for North Elm Butcher Block Barbecue from Westfield, Ginger Love Filipino street food, Hungry Wolf Provisions Korean & Hawaiian food and Tacos El Charro from Springfield. Blue Farm Bakers from Huntington will be supplying desserts at Strathmore Park and bagels and coffee at the Classic Start from 8-11 a.m. They will be serving from noon-4 p.m. at Strathmore Park.

For more information on the races and all the surrounding activities, people may go to [westfieldriver.org/races](http://westfieldriver.org/races). Sponsors include Westfield River Watershed Association (organizing); JL Raymakers & Sons & ROAR (presenting and bib sponsor); Advance Manufacturing (supporting); Boston Brewing – Just the Haze No Alcohol IPA (supporting); Clean & Green Junk Removal (supporting); Greenfield Savings Bank (supporting); Indian Motorcycle of Springfield (supporting); Kate's Real Food (supporting); Micro Abrasives (presenting); Pioneer Valley Waste Solutions (presenting); Polish National Credit Union (supporting); Westfield Electroplating (presenting) Westfield Bank (supporting) Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee (portosans and the puppet parade); Polish National Credit Union.



Fourth graders from Littleville and Chester Elementary Schools will march in a parade on Saturday, April 20 at 2 p.m. celebrating the animals that call the Westfield River home. The program was created and sponsored by the Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel



Jahala Dufort of Huntington stepped up to organize the handcrafted wooden paddle awards. They are milled from local timber.

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## MONTGOMERY

### Discover Inspiring Voices and Culinary Delights at Grace Hall

MONTGOMERY – Prepare to be inspired and indulge ones culinary senses at Grace Hall Memorial Library, 160 Main Road this April. Two captivating events are set to ignite minds and appetites alike, promising an enriching experience for all who attend.

The first event is Sheryl Faye as Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Saturday, April 27 at 1 p.m. Renowned performer Sheryl Faye brings the iconic Ruth Bader Ginsburg to life in an engaging portrayal titled "I Dissent."

As an American lawyer and jurist, Ginsburg's legacy as the second woman and first Jewish woman to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States continues to inspire generations. Championing fairness, equality and civil liberties, Ginsburg's unwavering commitment to justice left an indelible mark on society.

The Cookbook Book Club featuring Ina Garten, the Barefoot Contessa

will meet on Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. Embrace the art of culinary exploration with our Cookbook Book Club, featuring the renowned Ina Garten, also known as the Barefoot Contessa. Delve into Garten's culinary world as we discuss her acclaimed cookbook selections, beginning with the seminal "Barefoot Contessa Cookbook" published in 1999. With 12 cookbooks to her name and two James Beard Awards, Garten's expertise and passion for food have garnered widespread acclaim. Bring your favorite recipe to share and join us for an evening of delightful discussion and culinary camaraderie. Beverages will be provided.

For more information on either event, people may call the library at 413-862-3894 or email [montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com).

The library is open Tuesday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Thursday rom 4-8 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



# HILLTOWNS

## Western Mass Hilltown Hikers to hold group hike

WINDSOR – People are invited to join historian Mike Whalen and the Western Mass. Hilltown Hikers for an adventurous “off-the-beaten-path” hike at Windsor Jambos State Forest on Saturday, April 27 from 10 am.-2 p.m..

This moderate four-mile trek through highland forest explores an amazing deep-river gorge with 80-ft-high granite walls called the “Jambos,” abundant wildlife habitat and a restored historic settlement cemetery. Also known as “Windsor Bush,” this area was once a thriving farming community, where early residents produced spruce-oil from the local forest and grain from grist mills along the Jambos Brook, located at the northern reaches of the Wild and Scenic Westfield River.

Established in 1924, 1,825-acre Windsor Jambos State Forest was developed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps and offers a rewarding exploration for nature lovers and history buffs alike. The hike will follow a

combination of forest trails, town roads and old woods roads.

Participants should wear sturdy waterproof shoes and dress for the weather. They should bring a lunch, water and trekking poles. The meeting location is River Road in Windsor.

Meeting location: River Road, Windsor MA

Directions: From Route 9 (Berkshire Trail) in West Cummington, turn onto West Main Street then onto Savoy Road, which becomes River Road. Follow River Road west for 3.0 miles to day use parking area on the right. From Route 116 in Savoy, take River Road east for 3.0 miles to day use parking area on the left.

People should register per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water are provided. Well behaved dogs are allowed on leash. The event is volunteer lead. More details are available by visiting [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com).

People should email [westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com](mailto:westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com) or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions.

People may become a Hilltown Hiker Member by visiting [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com) and support this non-profit.

For more hike information, people may email: [westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com](mailto:westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com) or call/text 413-302-0312. Follow us on Facebook,

Instagram, Meetup, YouTube, TikTok, Pinterest, Threads and Twitter (X). Tees, hoodies, hats, patches and photos will be for sale at the event. Their free catalog of printed hiking maps will be there too. People may see all their events, maps, blog and photos by visiting [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com). Hikers should keep these beautiful places clean and carry in and carry out all rubbish.

# Job Connection

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The Town of Worthington (population 1,200) is seeking to fill the position of Building Commissioner / Zoning Enforcement Officer.

**Qualifications include:**

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- Must be certified as Building Commissioner/Inspector of Buildings by the BBRS or have a prior approval letter from the BOCC or BBRS to obtain certification, as defined in 780 CMR 110.R7.
- Must have a valid Class D Driver's license.

This is a part-time position - 12 hours a week. Pay range: \$33 - \$39 per hour.  
Detailed job description can be found here:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DURzlpX\\_U-Ela1ddsuxZQsHiWWoCw\\_1G/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111270427003763858270&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DURzlpX_U-Ela1ddsuxZQsHiWWoCw_1G/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111270427003763858270&rtpof=true&sd=true)  
and on the Town's website: [www.worthington-ma.us](http://www.worthington-ma.us).  
Please mail your letter of interest, resume and references for all related positions held in the past five years to:  
Worthington Selectboard, PO Box 247, Worthington, MA 01098  
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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### Can I claim Social Security and still work?

Dear Rusty

I will be turning 63 soon. Can I apply for Social Security and continue to work?

Would I be limited to how many hours or how much I could make? I know my monthly SS amount would be cut by 30% or somewhere around there, but how would working affect me? I was trying to read up on this, but the \$1 and \$2 thing confused me. I have an offer to take a work-at-home position and need to decide soon, but it is a cut in income. The cut would be okay if I could draw my Social Security too.

Signed: Wanting Work at Home

Dear Wanting

If you claim your Social Security to start in the month you turn 63, you'll be claiming 4 years before your Full Retirement Age of 67, which means your monthly benefit at 63 will be about 25% less than it would be if you claimed SS at age 67. And if you are working before your FRA, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

The 2024 earnings limit for those collecting early Social Security benefits is \$22,320 (this limit changes annually). If your annual earnings exceed the limit, Social Security will assess a penalty of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. They will recover that penalty amount by withholding future benefits until they recover what you owe.

If your work earnings are under the annual limit, you will get all your monthly SS benefits. But if you exceed the limit, they will find that out after you submit your income tax return (the following year) and issue you an overpayment notice, telling you how much you owe for exceeding the limit last year.

They will then withhold your benefits until they get back what you owe or you can repay them in a lump sum. To avoid the overpayment notice, it is best to inform Social Security in advance that you will exceed the annual earnings limit and they will simply withhold your monthly SS benefits during the year for enough months to avoid overpaying you.

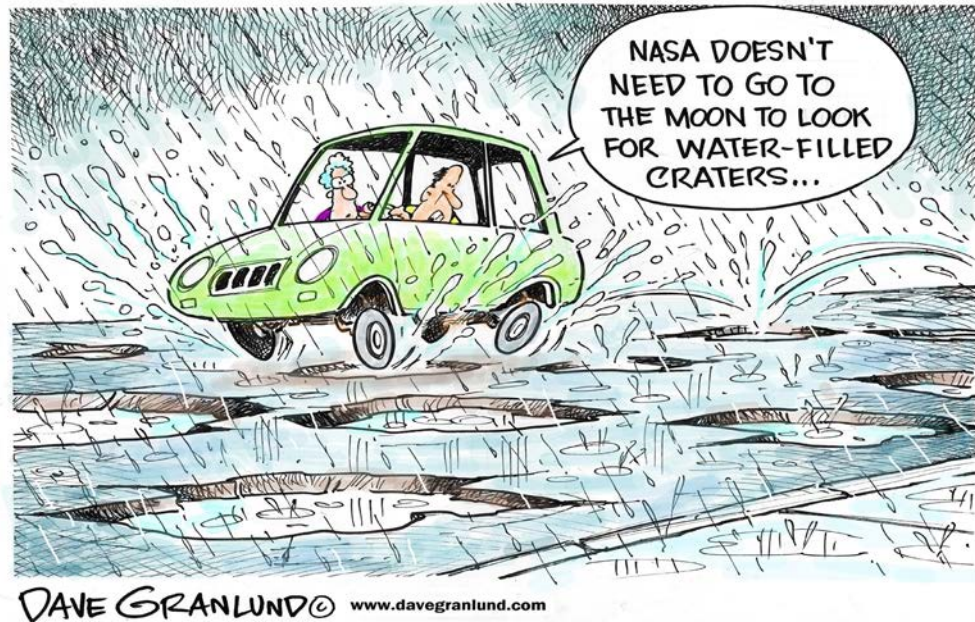
So, what you should do depends largely on how much your earnings from your new work-at-home position will be. If your earnings are below the annual limit, no penalty will be assessed. If you only exceed the annual limit by a little bit, then you can still work and

SECURITY, page 5

### Corrections policy

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

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



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Reader supports Charlie Rose

Worthington's Annual Town Meeting comes at an unfortunate time.

Along with an often chilly wind invading our tent, the meeting comes on the heels of one of our quarterly property tax payments. This tax reliably increases from year to year and is the cause of discontent among our voters.

And yet, yearly we cast the votes resulting in these increases. Aside from big expenses for our roads, fire trucks and police cars, our schools by far are the most costly.

To keep our elementary school in town, we committed to big spending which cannot be shared with neighboring towns. This was approved by large majority at a well advertised and well attended town meeting.

School budgets are complicated and state mandates are iron clad and costly. We squirm seeing the costs, but take pride knowing our youngsters are enjoying the benefits of individual attention and frequent contact with neighbors.

So with all the mumbling and discontent over our property taxes, we need to

remind ourselves that the cost of the town are self imposed.

Over the years, I have become a little suspicious of candidates purporting to have the "backbone" and skill to cut our expenses.

Hopefully this year we will re-elect Charlie Rose to the select board for a fourth term. He is finishing the current year as chairman and works hard to find consensus with his fellow board members. As well as selectman, he is serving on the board of the HRMC, our compact with the other hill towns dealing with trash disposal, participated in a two year study of fire departments and as we all know, Charlie keeps us in regular touch with town events and updates important events and subjects to us seniors.

Local politics requires a strong backbone defined by the strength to attend countless, often tedious meetings, and the skill to glean benefits for our town from them. Charlie has this strength and skill.

Let's keep him in office.

Richard Mansfield  
Worthington

## GUEST COLUMN

### Blueberry propagation experiment



A reader from Hardwick wrote in asking how to propagate blueberry bushes. I've never tried to propagate blueberry bushes myself, but have always thought that it would make good sense, especially if you have a limited pocketbook and a few productive plants on hand already, or at least you know someone that does.

Obviously, you would not want to replicate a plant that doesn't produce well or one that turns out berries that

aren't to your liking.

In researching this skill, I found there to be two schools of thought on the matter: propagation by either softwood cuttings or hardwood cuttings.

Softwood cuttings are taken when the bush is in active growth, usually late June through early July, roughly about two months after spring growth began. The growth is new, not woody, but should not be super pliable or light green in appearance either, nor should it contain any flowers or immature fruit.

A stem should be cut about 5-8 inches long and the leaves should be pinched off of the last couple of inches. Fill a 4 inch or slightly bigger pot with a material that will drain freely but not be too fertile.

You are mainly looking for anchoring material; good options being equal parts sand and peat moss or sand and perlite. I've

GARDEN, page 5

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

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

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

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



A Blandford resident saw a male northern flicker during the April 4 snowstorm among other birds at her snowbound feeding station.

I saw a male northern flicker before the snow storm last week near the Barre line. The day after the snow, I saw one by the edge of the road at the ball-field in the center of Oakham, the only bare spot.

The northern flicker is about 13 inches long. Distinguishing marks include a black band or necklace under



Northern Flicker

its throat, black spots on its breast, gray head and long beak. The male has a black line at the base of its bill, which the female lacks. Both have a red patch on the neck and a white rump, clearly visible in flight.

The flicker is the only ground feeding woodpecker. Ants make up almost half of its diet. It also catches insects in the air and eats fruit, berries and seeds. It will come to feeders like the one in Blandford.

Flickers are cavity nesters and excavate a hole in a tree, fence post or cactus. They will use a nest box. The female lays seven to nine white eggs. They make a loud "kekekekeke" for territorial display and a "woikawoikawoka" during courtship. They also do muffled volleys of drumming.

### Flocks of robins

The Blandford resident also had a flock of about 25 robins in her yard. She said they departed before she could shovel clear strip of grass for them and put out mealworms. I saw many robins along the side of the after last Thursdays snowstorm and the day after as there was no other area clear of snow.

### Pileated woodpecker holes

I received a photo from a Charlton resident showing a tree with numerous holes made by a pileated woodpecker. It was impressive.

I usually hear the pileated woodpecker more than I see them. Recently, I heard one and looked for it in the area of its hammering. I saw this one and it kept up its excavating as I watched it.

### More snowstorm bird

A Brimfield resident, who sends me frequent bird sightings, said, "During the snow storm last week in addition to the usual suspects we had a field sparrow, a Carolina wren and about 36 goldfinch visit the yard. Some of the male goldfinch were beginning to show some yellow plumage."

### Black vultures

The Brimfield resident said his wife saw two black vultures in the center of Brimfield feeding on a dead opossum. He said, "They are showing up in western Massachusetts more often recently."

### Turkey vultures

A favorite roost for turkey vultures is near the transfer station in Barre on Depot Road. I saw several vultures circling over the area, several perched on lamp posts and a shed at the transfer station. One on the lamp post had its wings spread out. It was quite a sight to see.

I saw a turkey vulture spreading its wings like that several years ago on one of the high tension line poles in Oakham. It almost looked like it flew into the post.

### Ospreys and herons

This Brimfield resident makes regular trips to several ponds. He said in his most recent email, "In Warren at the pond on South Street the osprey pair that have nested there the past three years have returned. Last year there were three great blue heron nests there that produced young. This year only one pair of herons has returned so far. At my last visit it looked like a heron was incubat-



Osprey

ing eggs or maybe just sitting down?"

He also said, "At the great blue heron rookery at Conant Brook Dam in Monson there are four nest this year. On a visit last week the four nests had birds incubating eggs. There were six nest here last year but one of the trees with a nest looked like it was in danger of falling over, guess it did. And another nest has disappeared." He said there is an osprey pair at the playing fields in Wilbraham by the YMCA/Spec Pond. He saw one of osprey bring sticks to the nest and at another visit one was sitting on the nest.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

from page 4

## SECURITY

earn and simply repay them what is owed for exceeding the limit or have your SS benefit temporarily withheld.

If you only exceed the earnings limit by a little, you'll still get benefits for most months of the year. But if you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you could even be ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your full retirement age, the

earnings limit goes away at your FRA.

So, what you should do depends on what "a cut in income" means in terms of your expected annual earnings amount. If your total annual earnings will be under the annual limit, your SS benefit won't be affected. If you only exceed the limit by a little bit, then you will get SS benefits for most months of the year. But if your annual earnings are significantly

over each year's annual earnings limit, then you won't get SS benefits for most months of the year and may even be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not

represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

## GARDEN

from page 4

even heard of people using bark mulch.

Some experts employ a rooting hormone; others say the cutting will root regardless. I will use it because I have some on hand.

You will notice that there are different types of rooting hormone. Usually, it will say whether it is the type for softwood or hardwood cutting right on the container.

I'll dip the bottom of the stem into the hormone. Using a pencil, I'll make a hole in the material I've chosen to root the cuttings in and insert the cutting into the hole so at least those two or three nodes from where the leaves were, are covered.

I set the pots in the shade, and I mist them a few times daily so that they will not wilt and die before they form roots. Experts say that this method will yield roots in 2-7 weeks.

Some challenges include keeping the media wet enough to prevent wilting, but not so wet that you end up with fungal problems.

Hardwood cuttings, in contrast, are taken during the dormant season, usually around the time that you are pruning. One expert actually recommended using stems from branches that are pruned away.

The stems should be green or red in color and diameter-wise just smaller than that of a pencil. Much narrower stems seem to produce good results as well. It's important to cut off the tips of branches that contain any buds that look like flower buds - they are a little rounder in appearance.

The same pot size and anchoring material is recommended but you would use a rooting hormone geared towards hardwood cuttings; it is a bit stronger. Hardwood cuttings are handled the same way - placed in the shade and misted, but because they have to "wake up" then callus and root, they take a few weeks longer to show results in at least two months, maybe 3-4.

No matter which way you take your cuttings, it's important not to tug on them or disturb them in any way in their pot, even though you may be anxious to see how successful you've been. You will know they are rooted by the quality of new growth you'd see; maybe even a new branch coming from the base.

Once sufficiently rooted the cuttings can be transplanted into a more fertile media and a larger pot or into a nursery area in your garden.

I'm excited to try taking cuttings of my blueberry bushes. I may even take some from my mom's plants.

What a nice memory it would be to have the descendants of my childhood blueberry bushes growing on my own property.

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.

## LEE

# Household hazardous waste collection set for May 11

LEE - Household hazardous waste collection for residents of Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington and West Stockbridge will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Lee Wastewater Treatment Plant, 379 Pleasant St. Pre-registration is required. Residents of the above listed towns may visit [www.tritownhealth.org](http://www.tritownhealth.org) to register. For more information, residents may call Tr-Town Health Department at 413-243-5540.

They may bring from the yard/garden: pesticides, fungicides herbicides, insect sprays, killers, muriatic acid, flea powder, no-pest strips, chemical fertilizers, lighter fluid and moth balls.

From the workbench items include: rust proofers, wood preservatives, wood strippers and stains, paint thinners, lead

and oil based pain, varnish, full aerosol cans, sealants, adhesives and solvents.

From the house, items include drain cleaners, oven cleaners, floor cleaners, metal polish, arts and crafts supplies, photo chemicals, chemistry kits and rechargeable batteries.

From the garage items include fuels/gasoline/kerosene, brake and transmission fluids, car wax, polish,

engine degreaser/motor oil, swimming pool chemicals, driveway sealer, antifreeze and car-lead acid batteries. Mercury products accepted include thermometers, thermostats and other mercury rodent button batteries.

People should not bring latex paint, standard batteries, asbestos, fireworks and explosives, ammunition, construction debris, propane/gas cylinders, smoke detectors, radioactive material, fire extinguishers, fluorescent lamps, electronics, PCBs, medications, medical wastes and medical sharps.



Send Us Your Photos!

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



# CHESTER

## CBC holds anniversary services

CHESTER – Everyone is invited to attend the special 18th Anniversary services held at Chester Baptist Church, 14 Middlefield Road, April 21-24.

On Sunday, April 21, Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. followed by Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m. A delicious home cooked meal will be served at noon followed by an old fashioned afternoon service at 1:30 p.m.

Each evening Monday, April 22

through Wednesday, April 24, services will be held at 7 p.m. with fellowship and refreshments following each service. Evangelist Dan Knickerbocker will be the special speaker.

A nursery is available during each service for infants and toddlers. People may call Pastor Dan Herr with any questions at 413-668-7768 or email pastor@chesterbaptistchurch.org. Chester Baptist Church is across from the Chester Town Hall.

## BOH permits can be renew online

CHESTER – The Chester Board of Health would like to remind all Chester residents that Board of Health permits are online via the permit eyes portal for the June 2024 renewals and new permits Short term rental/Bed and Breakfast/Air BnB and new Glamping

and Temporary Housing.

People should submit their online permit applications before their current expiration date. They may visit [www.townofchester.net](http://www.townofchester.net) under the Board of Health tab for the link to online permitting.

### LOOKING BACK AT RIVER RACES



This photo shows the first race in 1954 on the West Branch of the Westfield River from Chester.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Defeo

## TOWN OF CHESTER Eversource / CMELD Public Meeting Notice

The Town of Chester will hold a  
**Public Information Session  
on Monday, April 22, 2024,  
from 6 - 8pm**

at Chester Town Hall Auditorium for Residents and Rate Payers to learn more about the Eversource Proposal to Purchase CMELD.

All are Welcome to Come and Ask Questions. Representatives from Eversource and CMELD

will be present at the Meeting.

Information Session Only.

No Votes Will Be Taken at this Meeting.

TOWN OF CHESTER  
15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011  
(413) 354-7760 • [townofchester.net](http://townofchester.net)

## MEETING

from page 1

Benefits raised by the general managers and board members of municipal electric companies included having an office based in the town, being able to speak to live people, who know the community, mutual aid between municipal power companies and maintaining local line crews for a quicker response time and restoration of power.

Dave Cavanaugh, Sr. of Energy New England also spoke to those assembled about the differences in rates and power suppliers between local municipal companies and large entities like Eversource. Many expect customer rates to rise if Eversource purchases CMELD.

"There were a few speakers that really did capture the audience's attention," said Hall, who added that a couple of people asked why CMELD wasn't part of MassSave, a collaborative of utility companies and energy efficiency providers that can help customers with things like energy audits, insulation, and thermostat installation. According to Hall, MassSave is subsidized by Eversource and National Grid and is not available to non-profit municipal companies. She said there were other options that CMELD might pursue, but those additional options would be reflected in customers bills.

One woman from Merrimack spoke about her town's success in overwhelmingly voting down an Eversource purchase, despite a massive community campaign from the company. A few attendees spoke about expecting an increase in costs through Eversource, which they had witnessed friends or family members go through in other communities.

CMELD is one of forty municipal electric companies in Massachusetts. It serves about 700 households in the town; 50 residents in North Chester are customers of Eversource. Russell's municipal power company is the smallest in the state, with Chester ranked second smallest.

"We are not investor-owned utilities," Hall said. "Eversource and National Grid have to pay stockholders and investors; municipals set their own rates, which are not governed by investors."

If Eversource prevails, Hall said, customer service and line crews would be based in either Pittsfield, Springfield or South Hadley. She cited a recent storm outage where the neighboring town of Becket was without power for 8 - 12 hours, while CMELD customers were restored in less than half of that time. Typically, she said, most outages in Chester are restored within 30 minutes to an hour, to the benefit of both households and businesses.

Formation of an Energy Committee

for the town of Chester was approved at Annual Town Meeting in 2022. Andy Myers, committee chair, said it was created primarily because energy prices had started going up and fluctuating wildly. Their charge, he said, was to look at ways to control prices. To date, the committee has pursued green community grants to insulate the attic and replace single pane windows at town hall, as well as install solar for town buildings.

Other committee members are Nick Chuisano, Bob Daley, Rich Holzman, Ed Sourdiffie, Annette LaMountain and Peter Stone.

In November 2023, Eversource offered to buy CMELD for \$203,985. According to the offer, which is posted on the Town of Chester website, the proposed purchase price was based upon an evaluation of CMELD's 2021 financial statements. If accepted, the deal would also provide the town of Chester \$1,674,184—a combination of the purchase price and CMELD's holdings and cash balances. If it goes through, it is expected to raise Chester tax revenue by \$30,000 - \$40,000 a year.

Myers said that Eversource approached the town with an offer—a statement that is disputed by Hall. "The Energy Committee of the Town of Chester initiated contacting Eversource, without CMELD's knowledge, about purchasing the electric light department from the town," Hall said. "It appears that the driving force in this matter was the expectation that the proceeds from the sale would be used to eliminate some of the Town's debt. We were not aware of the Energy Committee soliciting an offer to purchase the light company until a copy of the offer was presented to CMELD. To say the least, we were blindsided by this."

A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 22 at town hall from 6-8 p.m. and Eversource, the Energy Committee and CMELD are all expected to attend. Myers cautioned that this is only the first step in a longer process. "We're not even close to a vote. This would be a big change in Chester and it's important to take it step by step." A warrant article at 2024 Annual Town Meeting would be way too soon, Myers said.

CMELD would have to go through a financial audit to verify its fiscal information, which would proceed if enough folks are interested. Eversource would also have to complete a thorough assessment of CMELD's buildings and equipment.

People are welcome to submit questions ahead of time. CMELD can be contacted by calling 413-354-7811. The Energy Committee can be reached by calling 413-354-7760.

## RUSSELL

### Noble View held eclipse event

RUSSELL – An Eclipse Hike and Social took place Monday, April 8 at 1 p.m. at the Noble View Outdoor Center.

Participants enjoyed a one to two mile relatively flat hike, appropriate for families. They returned to the cottage to wait for the almost full eclipse at about 3:15 p.m.

Cornhole games, bubble machine, and a slack line were available. Solar glasses were provided. nd water bottle.

This event was sponsored by the Western MA Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Family Outings Committee of WMA Chapter.

## BECKET

### ATM and election information announced

BECKET – Beach permits and Transfer Station permits are available for purchase at the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main St. and on [www.townofbecket.org/](http://www.townofbecket.org/)

The Annual Town Meeting will be held Saturday, May 11 at 2 p.m. (note

time change) in the Becket Washington School, 12 Maple St.

The Annual Town Election will be held Saturday, May 18 with the polls open from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. in the Becket Town Hall.



# WORTHINGTON

## ☆ CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT ☆

### Charley Rose

#### Candidate for Selectboard



*Note: This candidate for Selectboard submitted a statement. His opponent is Gabriel Unger. The paper accepts statements from candidates in contested positions as long as they are received in time to get into the paper edition two weeks prior to the election. They should be sent to countryjournal@turley.com. Per election policy no candidate statements or endorsement letters are printed the week before the election.*

My name is Charley Rose and I've been a resident of Worthington for 20 years, the last nine of which I've spent as a member of the Worthington Selectboard.

I initially got involved in the community working to help bring highspeed broadband to Worthington and the other hilltowns. Having been a professional broadcaster in radio and public television for almost 40 years, I felt my interest, knowledge and skills in broadcast technology could be of assistance.

Because of my work on broadband, then-selectboard members Evan Johnson and Dick Wagner asked me to consider running for the board. Because I believe strongly in the importance of community and reaching decisions through consensus-building, I decided to run. That was almost 10 years ago.

I have also used my experience to provide technical assistance and some IT support to the town by setting up PA systems and/or projectors for many town organizations and public meetings. I also manage all the town email accounts and provide some IT support to assist the town's IT personnel.

In my time serving the Town of Worthington, some of the achievements I'm most proud of include:

- Researching, negotiating, and implementing our first Reverse 911/emergency notification system in 2018.

- Using my professional background to enable Worthington to be one of the first towns in the area to have the capability for meeting remotely when everything shut down in 2020. I continue to improve these capabilities to make remote meetings even more accessible to community members.

- Redesigning and assuming administration of the town website to improve communication and provide valuable information to the community in an easily accessible way and a timely manner.

- Serving on and eventually leading a committee of 5 neighboring towns

exploring how to cooperatively provide emergency services more efficiently and most importantly, in way that would increase public safety for all of us.

Since retiring from fulltime employment in 2017, I have devoted even more time to serving the people of Worthington by:

#### Serving as

- Worthington representative to the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association

- Representing the town on the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, a group of 10 towns that work together on waste management and recycling contracts. I am also working to set up a contract to compost the town's organic waste.

- Serving as Selectboard liaison to the Worthington School Committee and attending all school committee meetings

- Serving as selectboard liaison to the Fire and Rescue Department

- Helping to coordinate signups and publicity for the Council on Aging and working to build a senior center.

- During the pandemic, I organized and with generous financial donors and the generosity of Hunt Chase and his family at the Rabbit Hole Tavern, administered the Meals for Those in Need Program that delivered hundreds of meals to residents for a year. I also worked with The Survival Center and Goshen Food Pantry to setup a special food pantry here in Worthington.

- I work regularly with every town department and have working relationships with area representatives, both state and federal.

- If re-elected, I hope to be able to continue to improve the access to selectboard meetings and offer live streams and cable access in the future, as well as for other town committees and boards.

- I am simply asking if you would like to continue to allow me to employ my life experience and skill set in service to the town. My career has been spent in Communications, Customer Service, Fundraising and Management of projects and people.

- While I am not a strongly religious person, I am proud of my Jewish heritage and the system of ethics it taught me and which I try to live by. There is a concept in Judaism called Tikkun Olam. It is Hebrew that literally translates to Repair the World. It's all about making the place you are, better than you found it. I hope to continue to fulfill that teaching.

- Worthington's own Russell H. Conwell's famous essay, Acres of Diamonds, had as its central idea "that one need not look elsewhere for opportunity, achievement, or fortune; the resources to achieve all good things are present in one's own community." I couldn't agree more.

## Worthington town election scheduled for May 4

WORTHINGTON – The Annual Town Election will be held Saturday, May 4 with polls open 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Early voting will take place Monday, April 22 through Friday May 3 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Town Hall. The last day to register to vote is April 24 at the Town Hall.

Candidates on the Annual Worthington Town election are three-year term Select Board – Charles Rose incumbent and Gabriel Unger; three-year term Assessor Jean Boudreau; three-year term Katrin Kaminsky Board of Health incumbent; five-

year term Cemetery Commissioner Ringville Cemetery Diane Meehan incumbent; five-year term Planning Board Anna Maunz incumbent; three-year term Constable Jay Dreschnack incumbent; two three-year terms to Worthington School Committee – Deborah Clapp and Pam Thompson both incumbents; three-year term Town Clerk Katirn Kaminsky, incumbent; two-year term Finance Committee Randy Zucco; one-year term Finance Committee Michael Krezmen and two positions for three-year terms Finance Committee – Melinda Rose and Bart Inswonger, both incumbents.

## John Burns to speak on invasives

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Gardeners will sponsor John Burns of Cummington speaking on common invasives in the Hilltowns on Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. at the Worthington Historical Society Building, 6 Williamsburg Road.

All are welcome and refreshments will be served. John Burns is the owner and operator of Burns Environmental, a private consulting company offering services primarily in rare plant and animal surveys. He also leads natural history classes and field trips both in the area and distant lands - Alaska, Brazil, Ecuador, Madagascar.

Previously, Burnsie worked for Native Plant Trust (previously New England Wild Flower Society) in the

Conservation Department. There he was involved in native plant conservation throughout New England, including habitat and invasives management projects around rare plants and intact natural areas. The department was often called to address early detection species just arriving in the State.

He will give a presentation of common invasives found in the Hill Towns and some of the new invasive species heading our way. Though a bit of a sad topic, Burnsie's humor will keep you upbeat and optimistic as he presents approaches for dealing with each of these species on your property and give people hope that they can have their native plants and eat them too.

**Send Us Your Community Summer Events**

**Turley Publications will print your Summer event FREE OF CHARGE in our Summer Fest Supplement which will be published May 22, 2024. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.*

## 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.**

**Deadline for Calendar submissions is April 22.**

**MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email\* them to: jamie@turley.com \*Be sure to indicate "Summer Event" in the subject line of your email.**



# BLANDFORD

## COA CHEF SERVES UP FRIDAY LUNCHEON



Blandford Council on Aging Board Member and Chef Joann Martin made a special delivery luncheon of chili with all the trimmings to Collector/Treasurer Sara Hunter.



Council on Aging Board Member and Chef Joann Martin pushes the cart laden with vegetable and beef chili for Friday's COA luncheon. Also on the menu was coleslaw, cornbread and a sour cream lemon meringue pie for dessert.



Council on Aging Board Member and Chef Joann Martin loads the cart with pots full of vegetable and beef chili for Friday's luncheon. *Turley photos by Mary Kronholm*

# Western Hampden PHD sponsors a Health/Wellness Fair

By Mary Kronholm  
*Correspondent*

BLANDFORD – The Western Hampden County Public Health Department will sponsor a Health and Wellness Fair on Friday, May 3 from 10 a.m. -3 p.m.

The event will be held in the auditorium at the Blandford Town Hall at 1 Russell Stage Road.

MaryAnn Deming, RN of the health department's shared services said that there will be many vendors representing all phases of health and wellness.

Vendors include the Alzheimer's Association; Clearview Health and Wellness, which provides all phases of care; the Blandford Board of Health; Council on Aging; Fire Department; Porter Memorial Library;

Highland Valley Elder Services; Hilltown Community Ambulance Association and the Hilltown Community Health Center. The Western MA RD with the Smoothie Bike group with registered dietitians and bike blending will demonstrate their work.

The Chester-Blandford Police department will be on hand for their Medication Take Back program.

Other local organizations include Franklin Regional Transit Authority, Hilltown Domestic Violence Prevention, Huntington Food Bank and It Takes a Village.

Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno's Office of Consumer information will be available. All-Natural Reiki of Westfield offers emotional and spiritual healing through Reiki classes, Chakra and meditation workshops.

A Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone

representative will be on hand as well. SHINE is a volunteer program that provides free unbiased health insurance information and assistance to Massachusetts residents with Medicare.

There is no admission charge but attendees may bring a non-perishable food or toiletry item to donate to the Huntington Food Pantry

The Western Hampden County Public Health Department serves Blandford, Granville, Montgomery, Russell, Southwick and Tolland. Seniors in Russell, Montgomery and Southwick needing transportation should call FRTA at 413-774-2262 extension 105. Blandford residents can call the town Council on Aging at 413-848-4289, extension 400 and leave a message asking for a ride. oa.

# NOW HIRING!!!

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# HUNTINGTON

## GRANT

from page 1

Funded by the Massachusetts' Department of Early Education and Care, the grant's goals are to provide equitable access to high quality preschool programs for three and four year olds living in high need communities. It supports local coordination between public and private preschool options to develop a shared curriculum and goals, regardless of where a child attends. The intent is to level the playing field so that all children enter Kindergarten with similar skill sets and experiences.

"As the Director of Rural Affairs and a former school teacher, I know how extremely important it is that every child, regardless of where they live in the commonwealth, has an opportunity to start out on the right pathway. I appreciate the investment the Healy Driscoll administration is making in our youngest students," said Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi. "I congratulate the Gateway school district, and all they do to educate students and prepare them for a life of success."

The planning grant runs from now to Aug. 31. Gateway and its partners are charged with completing a needs assessment and outlining a plan to address unmet needs and fulfill grant priorities. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) must also be completed and submitted to EEC, in order to be eligible for implementation funding to move forward this fall. A number of applicants are being considered for a part-time project coordinator, who will be funded by the grant.

Parents of young children should look for ways to provide input on the future of early childhood services. Needs assessment strategies may include parent focus groups and surveys, Garivaltis said.

All recipients have to design a program to address at least one of EEC's priority areas, which include expanding access to affordable, quality preschool; building locally aligned quality; and equitable access to special education and inclusion for children with disabilities.

Garivaltis said that Gateway currently offers 60 half-day preschool slots and 30 full day slots to 3 and 4 year olds living in a Gateway town. There is a wait list for full day slots. A play group for younger children is offered by Westfield Infant Toddler Services at Gateway, and at two sites offered by the Hilltown Family Center. Within the six district towns (Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery and Russell) there are currently only two EEC licensed child care providers operating.

Garivaltis says that the needs assessment will drive the implementation plan. Things that might be considered, he said, included incentivizing new day care providers to build capacity, growing the number of playgroups for very young children, developing shared curricula across the sites, and coordi-

nating shared professional development across the partners.

Grant activities will be led by a leadership team that includes Garivaltis, Gateway Superintendent Kristen Smidy, PreK Coordinator Stephanie Conway, Director of Community Programs Kim Savery (from Hilltown Community Health Centers), Patricia Kumzeski of Westfield Infant Toddler Services, EEC licensed home day care providers Sarah DaSilva and Karalyn Engwer, and Westfield YMCA Chief Executive Officer Andrea Allard. Garivaltis said that they will seek parents, school committee members and town selectboard members to also serve on the leadership team.

Hilltown Community Health Centers holds the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant

to the area, also funded by the EEC. Partnership members, along with town libraries and the Huntington Recreation Committee, coordinated the recent Week of the Young Child celebration in the hilltowns.

EEC is also looking for an implementation plan that uses braided funding strategies to ensure sustainability. This might include pursuing additional public and private grants or charging fees to offset the cost of programs. As part of building and growing this partnership to support young children, Gateway has also announced that the Westfield YMCA will begin providing wrap-around care (before and after school) to children attending Littleville Elementary School in September. This model will involve parents paying the YMCA for services.



### Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

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*"End of Season," an Egg Tempera by Joan Nelson  
 West Springfield, Massachusetts*


**Southwick Cultural Council**  
**23rd Annual**  
**Fine Art Exhibition**  
**Show & Sale**

Featuring more than 40 artists from Western MA and Northern CT. Oils, acrylics, watercolors, wood carvings, sculpture, photography, mixed media, and more. Live art demonstrations. Remembrances from the Southwick Historical Society. Musical performances each day.

Southwick Town Hall  
 454 College Highway, RTS 10 and 202  
[www.southwickma.org/cultural-council](http://www.southwickma.org/cultural-council)

*Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday*  
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## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

# Hampshire Regional Middle School lists honor roll

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional Middle School, 19 Stage Road, lists the honor roll.

### Grade 7 Academic Excellence.

Seventh grade students making Academic Excellence are Madison Bannish, Austin Barcomb, Elizabeth Barry, Elaina Bigda, Victoria Bond, Gabriel Carrasquillo, Grayson Clark, Raquelle Denoronha, Leila Doolittle, Jacqueline DuCharme, Gabriella Dybacki, Talya Eiseman, Isabella Fini, Emersen Florek-Grader, Savannah Fredette, Ryan Garvey, Lexie Gauger, Samantha Gay, Talia Goddard, Aiden Goyette, Willow Gutermuth, Mackenzie Harrison, Noah Haryasz, Madison Johnson, Savannah Judd, Margaret Kugler, Natalie Labrie, Sophia Lashway, Anna MacLachlan,

Felicity Manganelli, Elle Marcinek, Emma McDonald, Noa Nabut, Teagan Noel, Damian Pasiut, Mason Pedersen, Connor Perkins, Abigail Phelan, Mackenzie Provost, Shane Radon, Kacey Reed, Caleb Riel, Karolina Robak, Holly Sampson, Hazel Scully-Henry, Austin Sojkowski, Sienna Steffenhagen, Balin Sullivan, Nicholas Theroux, Addison Thomas, Anna Tompkins, Sadie Wasiuk, Jack White, Jax Williams and Danielle Wolf.

### Grade 7 Academic Achievement

Seventh grade students making Academic Achievement are Ethan Benard, Julia Bertera, Carson Bisbee, Tyler Cook, Ryleigh Eline, Jailin Ericson, Lauren Filipek, Jacob Fisette, Sage Fisk, Jackson Galenski, Cailin Gougeon, Daniel Guiel, Mason Hean, Aralyn Jenco,

Hayden Johnson, Henry Judd, Robert Loiko, Matthew Nadolski, Ethan Neylon, Deryk Nuttelman, Kennae O'Connell, Elka Pruzynski, Benjamin Raymond, Maeve Reynolds, Adalynn Roberts, Vada Schwensfeir, James Scott, Destiny Slack, Camden Stine, Emmett Stith, Brody Watkins, Ava Westcott, Ethan White, Amelia Woz and Tarlo Zerbach.

### Grade 8 Academic Excellence

Eighth grade students making Academic Excellence are Cooper Alexander, Kameron Andrades, Percy Bennett, Isaac Clark, Amanda Clemeno, Ada Corner, Brianna Day, Rosemarie Estelle, Gabrielle Falkowski, Kylie Grimsley, Alana Hanke, Grant Jennings, Samantha Law, Charlotte Letendre, Isabella Matthew, Olivia McAvoy,

Alexandria Montague, Charlotte Niswonger, Hobbes O'Sullivan, Caroline Puttick, Fiona Reynolds, Grace Scoble, Malcolm Todd and Joseph Wright.

### Grade 8 Academic Achievement

Grade 8 students making Academic Achievement are Nelly Albitz, Logan Andrades, Andrew Buchachiy, Declan Butler, Colby Cabrini, Elliot Chaplin, Ace Charette, Weston Crawford, Madeline Desilets, Kalin Dubai, Addison DuCharme, Jackson Garcia, Hayden Hyde, Telyn Kelly, Logan LaPointe, Moira Long, Grace Malo, Micah Marino, Shawn McCarthy, Alexis Morrey, Jackson Parmenter, Jamison Parrish, Luke Pickard, Elise Rida, Torin Rowlett, Patrick Schmidt, Keira Tataro and Madelyn Zannotti.

# Hampshire High announces First and Second Honor students

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional High School, 19 Stage Road, list the honor roll.

### Grade 9 First Honors

Students in Grade 9 making First Honors are Alyssa Barcomb, Kathleen Barry, Elan Bonham, Madeline Bresnahan, Kai Calabretta Rek, Elyse Campbell, Julia Caputo, Emma Chateaneuf, Lily Connor, Alexa Cortis, Owen Cubi, Ryanne Dubai, Natalie Dunlap, Nadia Easton, Harrison Farrar, Eli Fern, Leo Florek, Amelia Gilman, Xavier Greenberg, Rachael Hickox, Isaiah Isa, Astrid Jensen, Leo Ketcherside, Holly Kowalczyk, Katelyn Krause, Krystian Lech, Addison Miklasiewicz, Thomas Moore, Shayne Moynahan, Austin Mullaly, Catalina Ocampo, Hailey Paszko, Caroline Payson, Samuel Plume, Vanessa Reese, Nicholas Roy, Aria Simone, Finch Stahl, Brielle Stine, Eleri Tomsovic, Sophia Tremblay and Benjamin Zajac.

### Grade 9 Second Honors

Grade 9 students making Second Honors are Emmett Bastek, Jack Cameron, Travis Carpenter, Max Cross,

Raegan Dubai, Francis Dunn, Brayden Fennesy, Riley Florek, Cal Gworek, Nicholas Johnson, Alexander Kaufmann, Lola Kaylor, Magdeline Lashway, Kyle LeBeau, Gerald Moreau, Aydan Neylon, Grayson Noel, William Nolen, Emmett Schatz, William Schmidt, Rylie Simmons, Alison St. Pierre, Tobias Stearns and Isaac Stith.

### Grade 10 First Honors

Students in Grade 10 making First Honors are Phoebe Bowser, Keegan Butler, Colin Cahill, Parker Christy, Carmen Laflam, Carlea Manley, Kiersten McKay, Lucy McVey, Joseph Moro, Augustus Niswonger, Caitlyn Packey, Evelyn Palmer, Andrea Paszko, Lillian Popham, Abigail Provost, Oscar Schiff, Corinne Somes, Elisabeth Sturtevant, Bridget Sullivan, Rachael Theroux, Avery Tudryn, Lila Watkins and Lucia Winters.

### Grade 10 Second Honors

Students in Grade 10 making Second Honors are Pom Sonika Ang, Joseph Breguet, Glenn Cameron, Eleanor Cleary, Abigail Fisette, Luke Gardner, Amelia Hanke, Alexandra Henrichon, Eamonn

Hilnbrand, Sarah Hultman, Nicholas Jones, Rylee Joseph, Lacy Kuehner, Makayla Labrie, Madelyn Layman, Layce Mancuso, Reagan Mott, Reese O'Connell, Amelia Perry, Logan Rourke, Tristan Somes and Bethany Tobiasz.

### Grade 11 First Honors

Students in Grade 11 making First Honors are Sabah Alshmlh, Matthew Cesare, Cassidy Clark, Breanna Dale, Eleanor Donohue, Hayden Durazo, Georgiana Frazier, Layla Gauger, Beatrice Hamilton, Emma Kelly, Ashton Lashway, Isabella LeBarron, Olivia Manganelli, Benji Marconi, Julianne Moro, Elijah Picard, Ava Senecal, Anna Shadrack, Jacob Sicard, Julia Sicard, Katherine Simmons, Zola Simonelli, Ash Skow, David Thibodeau and Dana Warren.

### Grade 11 Second Honor

Students in Grade 11 making Second Honors are Sophia Bernier, Grace Brouillard, Teagan Charles, Miguel Delgado, Isabella DeMar, Harman Dhaliwal, Ava Gougeon, Julia Hamel, Camden Jarosz, Robin Ketcherside, Riley Marney, Daniel Martin, Alexander

Materdey, Isabelle Mondschein, Philip Morin, Payton Norris, Zachary Phakos, Colman Radowicz, Emily Reyor, Kailee Roncone, Mary Thibault and Kayla Velez.

### Grade 12 First Honors

Students in Grade 12 making First Honors are Timothea Antonio, Nickolas Brisson, Matthew Brouillard, Timothy Cahill, Dominick Dybacki, Nicholas Elias-Gillette, Devin Lemay, Kaylee McConnell, Aidan Moynahan, Audrey Perrone, Anna Puttick, Kaylee Rooney, Zachary Roy, Kira Shutt and Hailey Wodecki.

### Grade 12 Second Honors

Students in Grade 12 making Second Honors are Megan Adams, Owen Bourbeau, Owen Connor, Brandon Couture, Paige Galpin, Jonah Graves, Alice Jenkins, Emma Kraus, Jaiden Kudelka, Aoife Reynolds, Ambria Stine, Josephine Taylor, Nicholas Tudryn, Olivia Urbanek, Sedona Williams and Elena Wojcik.

### Grade 13 First Honors

Student in Grade 13 making First Honors is Caleb O'Malley.



Shown from left, Arlo Radville, Randy Merritt and Opal Radville listened to the book *The Animal Song* by Jonty Howley and made paper plate tambourines at the Huntington Public Library.

## Hilltowns celebrate Week of Young Child

Week of the Young Child was a celebration coordinated by the Hilltown Family Center, Gateway Regional School District, local public libraries, area businesses and the Huntington Recreation Committee. Funding for some events came from a CFCE grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.



Mallary Crossman and her daughter Lydia took part in the Book Squirms story hour at the Porter Memorial Library in Blandford.



Twenty families totaling 55 people attended the Forest Park Zoo's "Wildlife on Wheels" at Stanton Hall.



Artwork of children attending Gateway's preschool programs was displayed at local businesses like Grey Catbird Pottery, throughout the hilltowns.



## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

# Scott Maloney has a resume that stands apart

By Eric Goodhart  
Correspondent

RUTLAND – “What do you want to do after you graduate from high school?”

Many teachers have asked their students that question. A teenager in 1998 by the name of Scott Maloney may have answered that question like this. “I want to do something in law enforcement, study Criminology maybe. I want to develop my leadership skills that my track coach says I have. Maybe I can help others and make a positive difference in their lives.”

Some have also said that “everything happens for a reason.” Though it will be very difficult to see any truth in that philosophy at first blush, a retrospective look-back in midlife, the truth in that can be understood, for better or worse.

In Scott’s case...a horrific injury in September, 2004 brought about by a drunk induced decision he made at the beginning of his senior year in college that “reason” turned out to be for the better. In fact, the audience that came to hear him speak at the Rutland Public Library last Sunday, left knowing that he has probably helped thousands of more people as a motivational speaker than he would ever have if he was an officer of the law.

At the time of the accident, nothing of the sort could ever have been imagined. He was 21-years-old when after one too many drinks at an off-campus party, he came back to his locked dorm around 2 a.m.. He did not have his keys. Not wanting to wake anyone up and with a false sense of courage, he made a terrible decision.

He climbed the side of the building and shimmied along a ledge in an attempt to reach the window to his single room. He suddenly felt himself sliding off the ledge. Screaming, he fell three stories hitting his head on the pavement below. Fortunately, his cries while falling were heard. After been rushed to the hospital, he was examined by the physician on duty.

Maloney was unconscious and barely showing any sign of life. The physician on duty went through a series of tests, the most significant one was neurological testing called “Glasgow Coma Scale” or



Shown at the Rutland Public Library are from left, Scott Maloney, Peg Sullivan, Liz Sweeney, Wendy Moran and Kerry Remington, library director. *Turley Photo by Eric Goodhart*

GCS. It gives a physician a reliable way to record the conscious state of a person for assessment for recovery. Scott’s reading on the GCS scale was 3. The lowest on the scale. It means deep coma or death. His family was called and escorted by the trauma team into his room.

Following an explanation of the testing they had done, and in as a gentle manner the physician could muster, they were told that he was brain dead with no hope of recovery. It was just a few hours after his fall; not yet 4 a.m.

In a comatose state in the hospital that day in September, he did not know that a miracle was about to happen. Dr. Gerald McGillicuddy, MD, a Tuft’s Medical School graduate and neurosurgeon was on call that night and affiliated with UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester. On that night Scott now says, “Dr. McGillicuddy’s compassion

and expertise saved my life and kept my family whole.” Scott says he owes his life to him.

But even Dr. McGillicuddy admitted to Scott after months of rehabilitation and with some cognitive improvement to understand, the doctor admitted to him that if it were not for his parents’ pleas to operate, to try anything to save him, he might not have done so because the likelihood for any semblance of recovery was less than a 2% chance.

I laughed nervously to myself when I heard that. How often do we hear it said, when faced with a tough decision or problem, “heck it isn’t brain surgery...what could go wrong?”

Well, this was brain surgery and as Scott always says “I got lucky” when giving his motivational talks to huge receptive audiences. It was not only luck; it was a miracle and the catalyst of that miracle

was in the action his parents took that night to ask the doctor and his team to try to do whatever they could, despite the slim chance for recovery.

What Maloney has done following months in a coma and all kinds of extensive physical and mental therapy is almost unbelievable. He has given talks to thousands of high school and college students, hospitals and trauma treatment centers throughout the country. He has turned his experience into a mission of helping others.

For those who wish to learn more, Scott and his mother, Linda have written a very inspiring book called “Lean on Me,” A Story of Hope, Healing and Holding On. It can be found on his equally inspiring and informative website by visiting [www.ScottMaloney.com](http://www.ScottMaloney.com). The Rutland Cultural Council sponsored Sunday’s talk at the Rutland Library.

### FAMILIES PARTICIPATE IN KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN



Lydia and her dad think and try some designs at the Hilltown Family Center’s Kindergarten Countdown Event funded through a Worthington Cultural Council grant and the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.



Testing a bridge design at the Hilltown Family Center’s Kindergarten Countdown Event. *Submitted photos*



Marie and her dad get ready with the Ecotarium’s education specialist to test their design.



Easton, his dad, and Gretchen Morse-Dobosz, Superintendent and Principal of RH Conwell Elementary School.



## WESTHAMPTON

### Library announces May programs

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Library, 11 North Road, is open Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The library will be closed Monday, May 27. The library is open for in-person browsing and materials pickup as well as curbside pickup. To place a request for curbside pickup, people should email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386.

Recurring programs include Council on Aging computer class with Bob Miller the second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon; knitting group on Mondays at 6 p.m.; and Scrabble group on Tuesdays at 2 p.m.; Book group on fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Other programs are Walk-in Wellness Clinics with Westhampton's Public Health Nurse on first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. and Coffee and Chat on Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon.

Ongoing activities for children and teens are playgroup Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.; story time on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.; After School Fun on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., LEGO Club first Thursday; Craft Club second Thursday; Nintendo Switch Happy Hour third Thursday, comics Club fourth Thursday and

Teen Craft Night third Thursdays at 6pm on Monday, May 16. People should register by emailing ewayne@cwmar.org.

A program on origami flowers for teens and adults will be held Tuesday, May 2 from 6-7:30 p.m. The Japanese word origami itself is a compound of two smaller Japanese words: "ori" (root verb "oru"), meaning to fold, and "kami", meaning paper. Participants will make handcrafted origami flowers for mom or someone else they love. Supplies are limited and registration is required by either calling 413-527-5386 or emailing westhampton@cwmar.org.

### Pesticide, fertilizer to be applied at cemetery

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Cemetery Commissioners are beginning a long process of soil improvement at the town cemetery.

The work will be performed in the entire area of existing burial sites. There will be a pest control application for grubs by a licensed pesticide provider. The area will be flagged for pesticide application once it is applied. There will also be an application of pelletized lime applied by the superintendent during the same period of time. The lime application is not a pest control application and does not require to

May artist is Ann P. Lewis. An opening reception will be held Thursday, May 9 from 6-8 p.m. Ann Lewis is a writer and collage artist. She has an M.F.A. in Fiction from Mills College in Oakland, CA and a B.A. from UMass/Amherst. She also attended California College of Art. Her one-of-a-kind books and her encaustic collages are in numerous private and public collections including The Getty Center of the Humanities, Stanford University, University of Vermont, Baylor University, and Smith College. Her collage show at the Westhampton Public Library features mock book covers of titles she wishes she'd written or will write in the future. Her Westhampton studio was once an old shed that sat in a meadow and was hauled onto a sturdy foundation near the house by another artist long ago. She has happily worked there herself for 20 plus years.

Slow Yoga with Teri Anderson will take place Mondays, May 6, 13 and 20 at 6 p.m. Registration for May classes opens on Tuesday, April 30 at 9 a.m. Due to space limitations, registration is required by calling the library at 413-527-5386 or email westhampton@cwmar.org.

This is a slow yoga class with gentle yoga stretches, strengthening and a focus on body-mind awareness and integration. No yoga experience required. People should bring a yoga mat, a bath towel and a blanket. A few extra yoga mats will be available if people want to try out the class before purchasing their own yoga mat. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library and the Lyn Keating Program Fund.

Classes will be led by Westhampton resident, Teri Anderson. Teri is a certified interdisciplinary yoga instructor and Body-Mind Centering® somatic movement educator. She has been teaching yoga and movement for 20 plus years. Her approach to yoga is slow, gentle and meditative with attention to body-mind awareness, comfort and ease of movement.

be flagged.

Visiting the cemetery is discouraged while the pesticide flags are up. Once the flags are removed visiting sites are okay

The goal is to enrich the soil to achieve a better grass base. This process of applying fertilizer and analyzing soil samples will continue throughout the year.

People's patience is appreciated while making needed improvements to the land. Any questions or concerns should be directed to John Shaw, Cemetery Commissioner by calling 413-207-4527.

## MIDDLEFIELD

### COA lists lunch menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Council on Aging will serve lunch in the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, on Wednesday, April 24 at noon.

The menu is eat in or take out. The choice is lemon pepper haddock

or sausage and onion quiche, quinoa, cauliflower, dinner roll and pineapple for dessert. People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal the previous Monday, April 22. Suggested donation is \$3.

### Election scheduled for May 4

MIDDLEFIELD – The Annual Town Election is Saturday, May 4 and the polls will be open from 8 a.m.-noon.

Early voting will be held on Mondays, April 22 and 29 from 1-6 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's office on Mondays from 1-6 p.m. and May 3 at noon is the last day. The last day for voter registration is Wednesday April 26 from 9-11 a.m. at the Senior Center and 3-5 p.m. at Town Clerk's Office

Candidates on the ballot are Candidates on the ballot are for three-year term Select Board are Curt Robie, incumbent and Albert Sirard; one-year term Moderator Noreen Suriner; three-

year term Assessor Kenneth Murray; two positions for three-year terms Finance Committee Stephen Harris incumbent and Kenneth Murray; three-year term Library Trustee Susan Baker-Donnelly; three-year term Planning Board, incumbent Doreen Black and Andrea Tosi; three-year term Cemetery Commission incumbent Timothy Pease; three-year term Constable incumbent Curt Robie.

Due to an administrative error, Suzanne Lemieux, candidate for Town Clerk was not on the ballot. She is a write-in candidate for the three year position as Town Clerk, which is blank on the ballot. The box must be checked for a write in vote to count.

#### ☆ CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT ☆

### Andrea Tosi

#### Candidate for Planning Board

*Note: This candidate for Planning Board submitted a statement. Her opponent is Doreen Black, candidate for re-election. The paper accepts statements from candidates in contested positions as long as they are received in time to get into the paper edition two weeks prior to the election. They should be sent to countryjournal@turley.com. Per election policy no candidate statements or endorsement letters are printed the week before the election.*

I am Andrea Tosi and I am running for the Middlefield Planning Board. I have lived in Middlefield since 1981 and have spent summer vacations here since 1972. My husband Steve Cummings and I built a house where his family has lived for generations. We have three children who attended Gateway K-12. I was on the school council and volunteered for many school activities. I was a Cub Scout leader and a Girl Scout leader. I was the parent on the side-

lines at more soccer games than I can count. I have been a Registered Dietitian at Berkshire Medical Center since 1981. I am a Master Gardener, graduating from the program in 2023.

I have been a member of the Middlefield Finance Committee. I am currently a member of the Middlefield Cultural Council, have served many terms and have served as Chairman. I have recently been a member of the Middlefield Open Space Committee, where we have finished writing our Open Space Plan.

My experience with the Open Space Committee has spurred me to become more active in our local government. Our town is unique in the amount of natural beauty we have surrounding us and also the challenges associated with being a rural community. We have a great town that is changing with the times. I would like to continue working with the current Planning Board, updating our town bylaws, making them clear and user friendly.

Please remember to vote Saturday May 4 from 8 a.m.-noon before the annual town meeting or absentee vote Mondays, April 22 and 29 from 1-6 p.m.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Town of Goshen Conservation Commission Notice of Public Meeting

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the Wetland Act (M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40) on **Monday, May 6, 2024 at 6:30** at the Goshen Town Hall Offices to review a Request for Determination filed by Diane Todrin for work at 47 Aberdeen Rd. The work to be reviewed is the repair of an existing foundation drain to stop the cellar from flooding during rainstorms. The installation of a drainage sump to collect the water.  
04/18/2024

#### Town of Middlefield NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

he Middlefield Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Middlefield Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail, Middlefield

MA to present proposed standards and condition bylaw changes:

**Article 1:** Bylaw Section 3: General Use Regulations Table 3.0 Use Regulations, Town of Middlefield, Types of Land Use Standards and Conditions for 3.05, 3.052, 3.054, 3.055

**Article 2:** Bylaw Section 3 General Use Regulations: 3.2 Non-Conforming Uses, Discontinuance, Alteration Extension, Reconstruction

**Article 3:** Bylaw Section 7 Definitions: Adding definition for Accessory Building, Temporary Structure and Conforming Residence

**Article 4:** Section 4 Special Land Use Regulations: Mobile Homes, Travel Trailers and Camping  
04/11, 04/18/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court**

**50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24P0742EA  
Estate of:**

**Harriet E. Mason  
Date of Death: 12/18/2005  
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 **Paul A. Mason of Durham, NC** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Paul A. Mason of Durham, NC** 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 05/02/2024. 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 04, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani,**  
**Register of Probate**  
04/18/2024

#### Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice

At a meeting scheduled for **Monday, April 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider two Requests for Determination of Applicability (RDA) received from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

(SWSC). The two RDAs are related to 1) proposed maintenance activities at Falls Road and 2) Invasive Species Treatment in three locations in the Town of Blandford within the SWSC Watershed. The Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended).

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

Richard Gates, Chair  
Town of Blandford  
Conservation Commission  
04/18/2024

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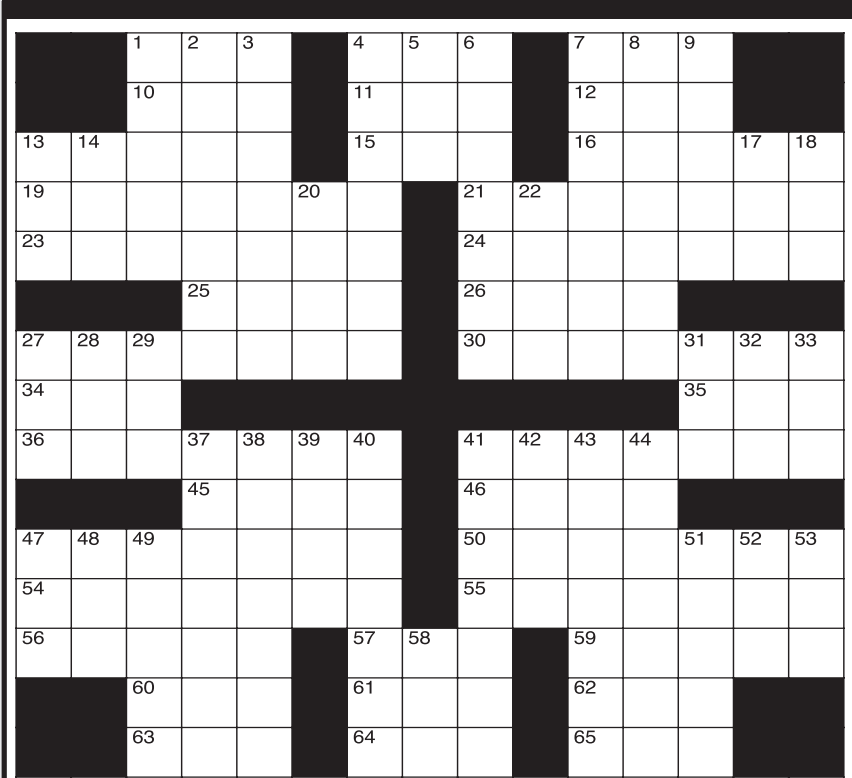




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**CLUES ACROSS**

- |   |                                      |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Midway between south and southeast     | 45. Lay to rest                      | 3. Cuts out surgically                        | in parts of Asia                     |
| 4. For each                               | 46. "Rule, Britannia" composer       | 4. Can't move                                 | 33. Sea eagle                        |
| 7. Airborne (abbr.)                       | 47. Select jury                      | 5. Baseball stat                              | 37. Leave behind                     |
| 10. Photographs                           | 49. Feeling                          | 6. British soldier                            | 38. Time of day                      |
| 11. They ___                              | 50. Action regarded as morally wrong | 7. Traditional medicine plants                | 39. Colorless crystalline compound   |
| 12. It's important in respiration (abbr.) | 51. Makes angry                      | 8. Political party controlled by managers     | 40. They lay out course requirements |
| 13. Monetary unit                         | 52. Act incorrectly                  | 9. Hebrew prophet                             | 41. A diamond has three              |
| 15. Cool!                                 | 53. Defensive nuclear weapon         | 13. Supporter                                 | 42. Algerian coastal city            |
| 16. A son of Jacob                        | 54. Class of escort aircraft carrier | 14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.) | 43. Remove cover                     |
| 19. Cut off                               | 55. To what degree                   | 17. Liberty Mutual mascot                     | 44. Rechristened                     |
| 21. Devour                                | 56. Buzzing insect                   | 18. Georgia rockers                           | 47. Distinctive practice             |
| 23. Agent of one's downfall               | 57. "The Leftovers" actress Dowd     | 20. A place where building is done            | 48. Defunct phone company            |
| 24. Best                                  | 58. A place to stay                  | 22. Large, deep-bodied fish                   | 49. Turkish officer of high rank     |
| 25. Network of nerves                     | 59. Sun up in New York               | 27. Clothing retailer                         | 51. Eliminate from the body          |
| 26. Partner to "oohs"                     |                                      | 28. Supplement with difficulty                | 52. Witness                          |
| 27. Origins                               |                                      | 29. Annoy constantly                          | 53. Soviet Socialist Republic        |
| 30. Sewing utensil                        |                                      | 31. Founder of Babism                         | 58. Founding Father Franklin         |
| 34. Alias                                 |                                      | 32. Indigenous person                         |                                      |

**CLUES DOWN**

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. An involuntary muscular contraction | 2. Earnest |
|--|------------|

# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**

**Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, this is a great week for transformation. Be careful where you direct your attention, as what you do will have lasting effects. Choose your plans wisely.

**CANCER**

**Jun 22/Jul 22**  
You are in a great position to make some lasting and strong impressions on others. Focus on group work, as this will showcase how well you work with others.

**LIBRA**

**Sept 23/Oct 23**  
A conflict in your life that you may feel is beyond your control may crop up at the worst time, Libra. Use this as a learning opportunity on how to cope under pressure.

**CAPRICORN**

**Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Nothing can stop you when you put a lot of gusto behind your efforts, Capricorn. Just be mindful of who you might affect if you take things with a little too much ambition.

**TAURUS**

**Apr 21/May 21**  
Use this week's powerful energy to strip away all of the unnecessary static in your life right now. It is doing more harm than good. Open yourself up to new opportunities, Taurus.

**LEO**

**Jul 23/Aug 23**  
You do not know which direction to go in this week, and that is perfectly fine. Try out different options and figure out what fits best. This will require some trial and error.

**SCORPIO**

**Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, you have the power to produce a powerful outcome, even if it seems that forces are working against you. Do not give up; in fact, double down your efforts.

**AQUARIUS**

**Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, are you getting the sense that something is going on around you that you're simply not a part of? Maybe your exclusive invitation is just waiting in the wings. Be patient.

**GEMINI**

**May 22/June 21**  
Gemini, there is a lot of stuff going on around you, and you need to sort through the noise to determine your priorities. Things will start to become more clear this week.

**VIRGO**

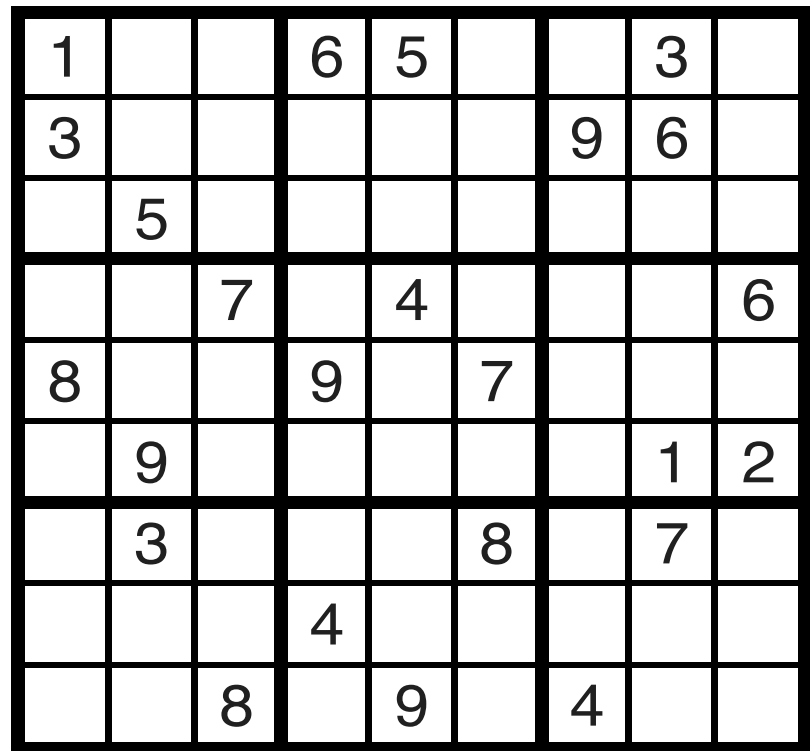
**Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, you have a tremendous amount of power at your disposal this week. Use all of it wisely and thoughtfully. Others will be strongly affected by your presence.

**SAGITTARIUS**

**Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, take things with a grain of salt if people seem insensitive to your feelings this week. You don't know what others have going on in their lives.

**PISCES**

**Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, stand up for what you want, even if means that you are taking a different stance than others. You don't have to please everyone in every endeavor.



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**answers**

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

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**RUTLAND, MASS. - 28th annual town-wide yard sale. Sat., April 27 - 200+ participants.** Maps at town lines and on common (Route 122A and 56) starting at 7:15 a.m. Rain or shine. Join the fun!

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31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00	33	Base Price \$32.50
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## STOCKBRIDGE

### Stockbridge Festival Chorus honors Alice Parker at Spring Concert

STOCKBRIDGE – The Spring Concert of Stockbridge Festival Chorus will honor the life of Alice Parker, who recently passed on Dec. 24, 2023 at the age of 98, having lived in western Massachusetts for most of her life.

The concert takes place on Saturday, April 27 at 3 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Stockbridge, 4 Main St. The featured work is "Melodious Accord: A Concert of Praise" by Alice Parker for chorus, solo vocal quartet, brass quartet and harp. Other pieces in the concert will include other hymn tunes arranged by Parker, including the most known "Hark I Hear the Harps Eternal." The 45 voice Festival Chorus is conducted by Tracy Wilson and Berkshire Brass, harpist Teresa Mango and pianist Bob Logan will accompany the group.

Alice Parker resided and taught from her family farm in Hawley, located in Western Massachusetts. Many local singers studied with Parker in her own home or church in Charlemont. This Concert of Praise was written in 1974 and is based upon hymn tunes and texts found in early editions of hymnals used in congregational singing in colonial times. It is comprised of thirteen individual movements, divided into four movements: Welcome, Old Testament, New Testament, Farewells and a final hymn, "Union." Alice Parker is known for composing hymns, folk songs and spirituals in a very accessible style, to enable singers of any experience level to be fully engaged in communal singing.

Soloists for the Concert of Praise include Maya Rose, soprano; Mary Verdi, alto; Richard Geiler, tenor and John Demler, bass.

Maya Rose is a Lyric Soprano currently residing in the Berkshires. She studied classical voice at California State University Fullerton and continued her education at Berklee College of Music. Rose has trained and performed many different genres of music including classical, theater, jazz, folk and pop, and she loves finding new ways to push herself and explore what her voice can do.

Mary Verdi, a retired English and drama teacher, is a local alto soloist and choral singer currently active in the Cantilena Chamber Choir, Crescendo Chorus and Vocal Ensemble, and the Berkshire Opera Festival Chorus. In recent years she has also sung with the Albany Pro Musica Masterworks chorus and was the

singer for the Eagles Big Band.

Tenor Richard Geiler has had a wide-ranging career as a concert and recital artist, early music interpreter, opera chorus member and church soloist. Highlights of his oratorio performances include the Haydn Creation, Benjamin Britten's St. Nicolas and Bach's Christmas Oratorio and St. John's Passion with the Masterworks Chorale of San Diego and the Harmoniemesse of Haydn with the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus. His has been especially praised for his subtle interpretations of lieder and art song from Schubert and Schumann to Britten and Poulenc and continues to present innovative programs in the Berkshires. Geiler has a degree in music history with Honors from UC Berkeley.

John Demler is Berkshire Lyric's Resident Vocal Artist in recognition of his significant and ongoing contributions to Berkshire Lyric as a professional bass singer over the past decade. He has been a soloist with Berkshire Lyric as well as with Stockbridge Festival Chorus and Berkshire Concert Choir. Demler relocated to the Berkshires from Philadelphia, where he enjoyed a number of seasons with the Philadelphia Opera Company and the Philadelphia Singers. He teaches Spanish and French at Nessacus Middle School in Dalton and directs the school chorus.

Admission at the door is \$20 for adults, \$10 for singers of local community choirs and free for individuals 18 and under. The sanctuary is fully handicap accessible and a section for audience members wearing masks is reserved. For more information, people may call 413-298-3137.

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## OBITUARY

### DEATH NOTICE

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Died March 24, 2024



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**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



This is what a baseplate compass looks like.



Members of the Western Mass. Hilltown Hikers are all smiles after graduating from a baseplate compass class at Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell.



Chet and Nancy find their way on the course.

## Hilltown Hikers learn to use compass

RUSSELL – The Western Mass. Hilltown Hikers will not be getting lost after graduating from a baseplate compass class.

The Hilltown Hikers thank Bob Hassett and Jerry Sambrook for an educational day at Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell teaching them how to use a baseplate

compass.

They learned how to find their way anywhere by learning bearings, determining pace, lateral drift, natural navigation, determining distance and height and made friends with “Fred in the shed.” This member exclusive event was made possible by member Heather Wyman.



Nancy and Heather ask Bob about finding bearings.

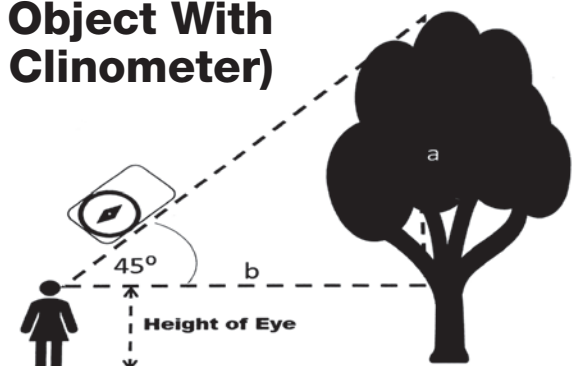
*Submitted photos*



Members of the Hilltown Hikers spend time in the classroom before venturing outdoors.

### Measuring the Height of An Object With A Compass (with Clinometer)

1. Starting at the base of the tree, walk away from the tree until the clinometer reads a vertical angle of 45° to the top of the tree.
2. The distance you are away from the base of the tree, plus the distance from your eye to the ground is the height of the tree.
3. This only works when the ground between the tree and the observer is relatively flat.
4. Height of Object = b + Height of Eye



This diagram shows how to measure the height of an object with a compass with clinometer.

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