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BLANDFORD

Select Board adopts Public Participation Policy

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The Select Board approved a Public Participation Policy at the April 17 meeting along with implementing departmental meetings.

While not new information, the Public Participation Policy does adhere to the state's Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A, sections 18–25, and assures "fairness, efficiency, and a more productive meeting environment for both the board and the public," as stated by Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera in the memorandum recommending the formal adoption and enforcement.

The policy reads as follows: In accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the public is welcome to attend and observe all open meetings of the Select Board. A designated Public Comment

period will be provided at the beginning of each meeting for members of the public to briefly speak on matters within the Board's jurisdiction.

Public input is limited to the Public Comment period (2-3 minutes) unless otherwise invited by the Chair. If people believe more time is needed to discuss their concern, please submit a request to be placed on the agenda in advance of the meeting. During the rest of the meeting, attendees are asked to refrain from speaking or raising hands unless the Chair explicitly invites public input.

Disruptions, side conversations or attempts to engage board members during official business may result in a request to leave the meeting.

The Select Board appreciates people's cooperation and their interest in

POLICY, page 5

RUSSELL

WWI Veterans plaque finds home

By Wendy Long
Correspondent



Horace Moses

Thanks to a \$9,500 Veterans Heritage Grant from the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board, the Russell Historical Commission has been able to secure a new home for a plaque honoring the employees of the Strathmore Paper Company, who served in World War I.

Originally arranged by the paper company's owner Horace Moses, the 150 pound tablet was once housed in a community building in Woronoco that Moses built for his employees and their families.

According to Sue Maxwell, who wrote the grant, the tablet moved to the VFW when the community building was demolished and eventually made its way to the selectboard office. It is dedicated to approximately 90 World War I Veterans who were employed at the Woronoco

and West Springfield mills during the war. Five of those individuals were killed in the war, but Maxwell said many returned to the area and resumed their work at the mills.

The plaque has now been mounted and installed in a permanent location at Strathmore Park and will be dedicated at the Council on Aging's annual picnic this spring.

Local historian Bob Kidd, who has written a biography on the life of Horace Moses, was asked to sum up the paper company founder's most significant achievements. This, he said, would not be an easy task as Moses' contributions were vast. "In addition to the paper mills, he was very involved in the "Eastern States Movement", which was similar to the model cities," Kidd said. "Farms, industry, banks and merchants joined together to form the Hampden County Improvement League which led to the Eastern States Exposition." Moses also helped form the Eastern States Farmers Exchange,

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HILLTOWNS

Wildwater races blessed with perfect weather

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The 70th Annual Westfield River Wildwater Races, which included canoes, kayaks and stand up paddleboards, took place on Saturday, April 19 with warm temperatures and overcast skies, what many racers called perfect conditions.

There were 24 competitors in the expert race and 155 registered in the classic race. While there were plenty of new racers, there were also many faces that were familiar to hilltown wild water fans. Frequent winner Ed Hamel and his daughter

Mariah got off first in the expert race, which started at the base of Knightville Dam and ended at the Route 20 rest area across from the Huntington Health Center. According to Ed's wife Mary, they wanted an early start in order to get the boat back to the Mass DOT yard for the start of the classic race, which Ed was going to do with his grandson Max. Mariah reported that she used to race with her father when she was young and then resumed racing with him last year-when they tipped over three times. This year, thankfully, they stayed afloat.

"It was a nice day for a

race. Not too hot and not too cold," Mariah Hamel said. "It's a nice event and the volunteers have all worked really hard."

Also completing the expert race were long time friends Sam Cumming and Joseph Simonowicz. "We had a clean ride and no flipping," Simonowicz said. Simonowicz works for the US Army Corps of Engineers, which manages the flow of water for the race. Knightville and Littleville Dams are used for flood control and snow melt and spring rains are held back in anticipation of the annual canoe races. He explained that they started

releasing water yesterday at the rate of \$1,000 CFS (cubic feet per second) from Knightville Dam and 600 CFS from Littleville Dam.

Tim Gamble raced as a solo paddler in both the expert race and classic race. He was pleased with the expert course and landed saying, "She's dry. I didn't bail once."

Such was not the case for stand up paddleboarder Kim Toman, who also completed both the expert and classic races. As she reached shore at the end of the first race, she acknowledged that she had fallen off several times and said, "I drank a lot of water. I'm just glad I was able to leave some water in the river for the other racers."

Longtime racer (and for many years race organizer) Jeff Defeo completed his 50th race this year. Defeo said he started racing right out of high school in 1974. These days, it is the expert race only for him, admitting he no longer does the classic race because his knees can't withstand the portages.

The start of the classic race had a food truck from Connections Culinary Services preparing eggs and bagels for waiting paddlers. The classic race got off a bit earlier than expected with Carl Cignoni running



And for some, there was just nothing for it but to let the boat go over. Photo Courtesy of Eric Wallis

RACES, page 2

HUNTINGTON

All boards meeting to be held April 16

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Nearly 25 people from Huntington town departments and boards attended the All Boards Meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16 at 6 p.m.

Representatives came from water and sewer, finance, the library, Council on Aging, Fire Department, Highway Department and Conservation Commission, among others. Select board Chair Roger Booth and Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin walked through the agenda. Technical issues delayed the start to almost 6:15 p.m. Despite this, the agenda was covered and questions answered by 7:15 p.m.

Police Chief retirement

First was an update on the retirement of Police Chief Robert Garriepy, effective June 27. Garriepy will be staying on in some capacity after his retirement. A preliminary screening committee will include Gateway Assistant Superintendent Stephanie Fisk, business owner Darryl Fisk and Finance Committee member Eric Jensen. With Peloquin, this group will rank applicants using a blind review process.

Interviews will be done with representatives from the Fire Department, Highway Department, Water and Sewer Department and Peloquin. Other departments and boards are invited to submit questions to Peloquin that they want to have included in the interview. Final interviews will take place in an open meeting followed by negotiations that will take place in executive session; however, meeting minutes will be released once a candidate accepts a contract.

Grants

Also discussed was the uncertainty about state and federal grants. All boards and departments need to submit a list of their grants to include the source of funding, purpose, total, match (if required), and whether or not the project is complete. If completed, are payments still due to the town. If not complete, the estimated percentage of completion. From this point forward, all grant applications must be brought to the Select Board before submitting to review risk, assign a signatory authority, and ensure that tracking and filing responsibilities

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HILLTOWNS



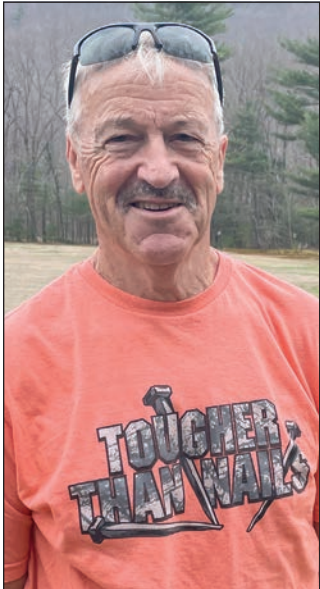
Stand up paddle boarder Kim Toman finished the expert race and went on to run the classic course on her board.
Turley photo by Wendy Long



Sam Cummings and Joseph Simonowicz described a “clean ride with no flipping” when they finished the expert race.
Turley photo by Wendy Long



Tim Gamble took an award in both the expert and classic races, paddling Jurgen Igel’s ranger boat in the classic race.
Turley photo by Wendy Long



Jeff DeFeo completed his 50th race this year, posting the third time overall in the expert race
Turley photos by Wendy Long

The Hill and Dale rapids in the Classic Race had their share of victims at Saturday’s race. At a minimum, many got splashed with icy cold water as captured in these expressions.

Photo Courtesy of Eric Wallis

Dean Ensor and his wife Kelly took on water but stayed upright through Hill and Dale. They had to paddle to shore to dump water out once they navigated through.

Photo Courtesy of Eric Wallis

RACES

from page 1

the starting timer and racers going off every 30 seconds. Classic racers were met at the end and transported to the race celebration at Strathmore Park via school bus. Volunteers drove their boats back to the Park by towing large racks of boats. This kept traffic down in the village of Woronoco. Among the first racers to reach Strathmore Park from the classic race were Will Breymann of Windsor and Bryan Gore of Great Barrington. “We did alright until Hill and Dale,” Breymann said. “We did

a 360 and lost some time there.” After the awards were handed out, Tim Gamble walked away with a prize in each race. He said he was honored to have run the classic race in Jurgen C. Igel’s striking blue ranger boat. A long time fixture at the canoe races, Igel was co-chair of the Westfield River Canoe Club between 1983 and his death in 2005. The canoe race awards are unique and highly coveted. According to race organizer Harry Rock, a long time racer named Phil

Sousa works on the awards all winter long. Chester Assistant Fire Chief-and regular paddler-Richie Small cuts wood into blocks. Sousa then forms the blocks into paddles, with larger sized paddles for first place. The canoe race orders the insignias, which are affixed to the paddles. Rock summed up this year’s race day as, “Phenomenal! The best year ever. The best weather. The best crowds. No issues with the timing. The volunteers did a wonderful job. It was seamless this year.”



Classic racers Will Breymann and Bryan Gore are joined at the celebration by their sons, Pace Breymann and Jace Gore-who are sitting in the canoe in anticipation of racing some day in the future.
Turley photos by Wendy Long

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HUNTINGTON

Huntington Select Board holds extra meeting April 16

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – In an effort to address a growing list of unmet agenda items, the Huntington Select Board scheduled an additional meeting for Wednesday, April 16 starting at 4:30 p.m.

All three Select Board members, Bill Hathaway, John McVeigh and Chair Roger Booth, were present, along with Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin. The board quickly dispatched several smaller items, including approval of the April 9 minutes; approving a one-day liquor license for Shelley McLeod; accepting the resignation of Deresa Helems as a representative to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and appointing Jahula Dufort to replace Helems for the remainder of her term, which expires in 2026.

Water and Sewer Commission

The board’s only appointment was with the Water & Sewer Commission to complete two items leftover from last week’s meeting. Bill Hathaway recused himself and left the room for discussion on applying extra hours worked by Commissioner Karon Hathaway toward her senior tax work off commitment. Karon Hathaway had worked over 60 extra hours to train the new Administrative Coordinator, Laura Driscoll. Hathaway had originally sought payment for those hours, but the town’s attorneys said she’d have to resign as a commissioner in order to be paid. Booth asked Water & Sewer Chair H. Daniel Oliveira to check with the ethics commission on applying this time for her senior tax work off, then moved to approve the volunteer hours subject to ethics commission approval.

Water leak

Bill Hathaway returned and the group discussed an issue that occurred a few months ago regarding a potential water leak at the fire station. They affirmed that it is important that the commissioners be advised of this type of situation before their staff respond to deal with the problem. Booth informed them that Peloquin is creating a call tree list to make inter-department communications easier.

Other business

In other business, the board and administrator decided that time sheets for hourly employees should list both the dates worked and hours worked each day. Some time sheets have come in with just a lump sum for the week. They agreed that salaried employees should also start documenting their hours in the same manner, starting no later than July 1. Peloquin explained that this would provide valuable data that can be used as staff turnover; in the past, some positions have been posted without verifiable information about how many hours these jobs require. In addition, they need to ensure that employees are being fairly compensated.

Request for Proposal

Peloquin also reported that a Request for Proposal

is out for property tax assessment services and responses are due back April 28. Peloquin, a select board member and an assessor will review candidates in time to select one for an interview at the May 7 select board meeting.

Highway Department

The Highway Department has had an open position for truck driver/equipment operator/laborer since early November. A seasonal employee filled in through the winter but is not available this time of year. They have had three applicants but none had the required Commercial Driver’s License. It was agreed to repost the position with CDL preferred, but offer a laborer to be paid at a lower hourly rate than someone with their CDL. If hired, that person will need to obtain their hoister’s license within one year of hire.

Police Department

Peloquin also presented an updated Electronic Communications Policy and Computer Usage Police, which has removed permission for people to use public computers for personal use. This is a big cyber security risk and most people have their own cell phones that they can access if needed. Also removed was the ability to work from home, which was allowed when Town Hall was closed due to Covid. Work should not be done for the town on home computers, as moving files with a flash drive opens the town system up for possible computer viruses. These changes were unanimously approved and the updated policy was signed off on.

Warrant articles

Warrant articles for the June 2 Special Town Meeting were approved and the board began discussing proposed warrant articles for the June 2 Annual Town Meeting. A new bylaw concerning dog and kennel licenses is ready to go to the town counsel for approval. A proposed article concerning large events in town needs more work and might not be ready in time. Fee collection was another policy area that would require that collected fees be deposited into the town’s General Fund and be distributed (where allowable) twice a year, to be effective in FY’ 27.

A change order for the new windows for the library was reviewed and approved.

Other items

Despite a 90 minute effort, several items were not addressed and will be added to the next meeting on April 23, which is expected to be lengthy. Among the deferred items were a disposal of surplus property policy, the Memorial Day Parade, a grant preparation proposal from Tighe & Bond for the Bromley Road Culverts, the Annual Town Report, and highway garage heaters. The board adjourned this special meeting in order to move into the All Boards Meeting, which began at 6 p.m.

The Huntington Select Board will next meet on Wednesday, April 23 at 5 p.m. in their office.



Members of Huntington’s boards and departments attended an All Boards meeting on April 16 at Stanton Hall, to hear updates on policy, protocols and operational changes ahead.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

MEETING

from page 1

are understood.

Cybersecurity policy

The cybersecurity and electronic communications policy has been updated and the following was emphasized. Everyone should turn off their computer when done for the day so that updates are installed as they are issued. These updates and patches are part of licensing money the town pays annually. Never upload software or apps to a town computer unless you are working with North East IT. Booth shared the story of a Disney employee, who downloaded an AI tool leading to a system wide hack that cost Disney several million dollars and “ruined that employee’s life.”

Town emails

Town email addresses will be changing in July for better record retention and recovery. New emails will include a person’s name. If you are part of multiple boards or departments, make sure you are using the correct email address when doing business.

Budget

Booth said that the state budget has passed but it is unclear what the final numbers are going to be. This is further impacted by uncertainty around employee turnover and its potential impact on health insurance. If a single person with town issued health insurance (\$8,000 to the town) leaves and is replaced by someone needing a family health insurance policy (\$24,000 to the town) there will be an impact. Booth also emphasized that we’ve had a lot of free cash because of projects funded under American Rescue Plan Act during Covid, which will be gone this year.

Also covered were resident and business address issues, including how to list homeless people for voter registration. Employees were encouraged to double check the accuracy of their budget information. Booth proposed that people use the 5S from Lean Manufacturing Principles to organize office spaces. A committee will also be formed to improve the town’s record keeping and filing system.

Electronic Communication Policy

Peloquin then reviewed the updated Electronic Communication Policy, which requires that town equipment and emails be used for town business only. Also, content can no longer be transferred from a personal computer to a town computer using a thumb drive. Everyone should do all of their work on their town-issued laptop. One employee asked if work can be transferred from home as an email attachment, and Booth answered that they would check with NEIT.

Meeting page postings

There have been a few issues with public meeting postings going onto the event page of the town website instead of the meeting page. Instructions will be going out to everybody on how to do this. Also, pay weeks will change effective July 1; they are currently Sunday to Saturday but will now be Saturday to Friday and each pay period will cover two weeks. Also related to pay: time sheets must contain the dates worked and hours worked each day for hourly employees. Salaried employees are also asked to document their hours worked each day so there is a record of how many hours a job takes if someone leaves, and to ensure the town is properly compensating employees.

By law

Finally, a bylaw will be considered at Annual Town Meeting that will change how fees are collected, where they are deposited, and how they will be paid out. This impacts the Town Administrator, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Fire Chief and Animal Control Officer on fees collected for things like dog or kennel licenses, construction permits, tax demand bills, and birth, marriage or death certificates.

COA announces upcoming events

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

Valerie D’Aquisto will give an overview of Highland Valley Elder Services Inc. programs and services on Wednesday, April 30 at 1 p.m. The Jack Kowal Swing Band will entertain all ages on Saturday, May 3 at 2 p.m. On Wednesday, May 7 from 1-2 p.m., Heather Morgan from Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center will offer computer and cell phone help.

The annual community tag sale will be held on the town common and in Stanton Hall on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. A presentation on Diabetes and Your Health and blood pressure checks will be provided by the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition’s nursing team on Wednesday, May 21 at 1 p.m. Jack and His Guitar will perform on Wednesday, May 28 at 2 p.m.

The Hilltown Memory Café is held weekly at 2 p.m. The weekly café provides seniors with activities while their caregivers participate in a support group. The café is open to all with and without memory issues. The Café is made possible by a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services through funding under the Federal Older Americans Act and by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

All events are free and open to residents of any community. For more information, people may call Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283.

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GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor



When should my wife claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:
My wife was born in July 1959, and her recent SS benefit estimate is \$3,337 at her full retirement age, or \$4,397 at age 70. She is presently employed full-time and intends to continue working until she is aged 70. She is wondering when the most financially advantageous time would be to draw her SS retirement.

Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning Ahead:
Obviously, the best time for your wife to get the highest possible monthly Social Security benefit would be age 70. Provided your wife's life expectancy is at least average about age 87 for a woman her current age, she will likely receive the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits by waiting until age 70 to claim.

For clarity, if your wife were to choose to claim before her Full Retirement Age, her monthly amount would be less and she would be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much she can earn before her FRA. If the AET is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 for every \$2 her earnings are over the limit (they take away by withholding future benefits until the penalty is satisfied).

The AET (\$23,400 for 2025 but changes yearly) is in effect until your wife reaches her full retirement age of 66 years and 10 months, after which she can earn as much as she likes without penalty. Since she plans to work full time until age 70, your wife should likely not claim Social Security before her FRA. As mentioned, claiming at age 70 is probably a more prudent financial option.

Since your wife expects to continue working, she should also know that her estimated benefit will likely increase assuming her more recent earnings are among the highest over her lifetime. Social Security will review current year earnings annually to see if her current earnings warrant a benefit increase (SS benefits are always based on the highest 35 years of work earnings, and that includes earnings even after SS benefit are started). Also, the esti-

mates provided by SS do not include Cost of Living Adjustments, which typically occur annually. FYI, the average annual COLA increase over the past two decades has been about 2.5%.

Based on her estimated FRA benefit, it is also evident that your wife will not get additional benefits as your spouse. For that to occur, your benefit at your FRA would need to be more than twice your wife's FRA amount, which it likely is not. Thus, your wife should make her claiming decision based only on her own benefit opportunity, considering her personal financial needs and her life expectancy.

FYI, your wife's "breakeven age" the age at which she will have collected the same amount of SS money by claiming at age 70 vs. claiming at her Full Retirement Age, is about 82 years of age. Thus, assuming her life expectancy is more than 82, it would be prudent to wait until age 70 to claim Social Security.

In the end, the "best" time to claim Social Security depends on a few factors – most notably, life expectancy, and financial need. If the SS money isn't urgently needed now, and your wife's life expectancy is at least "average," then it appears from what you've shared that her best choice would be to wait until age 70 to claim Social Security.

If life circumstances change over the years, your wife can take comfort knowing that she can also claim her Social Security at any time before age 70 and she will get benefits right up to the month she claims. Note that by waiting until after her FRA to claim, she will earn Delayed Retirement Credits of .667% more benefit for each month of delay about 8% more for each year of delay.

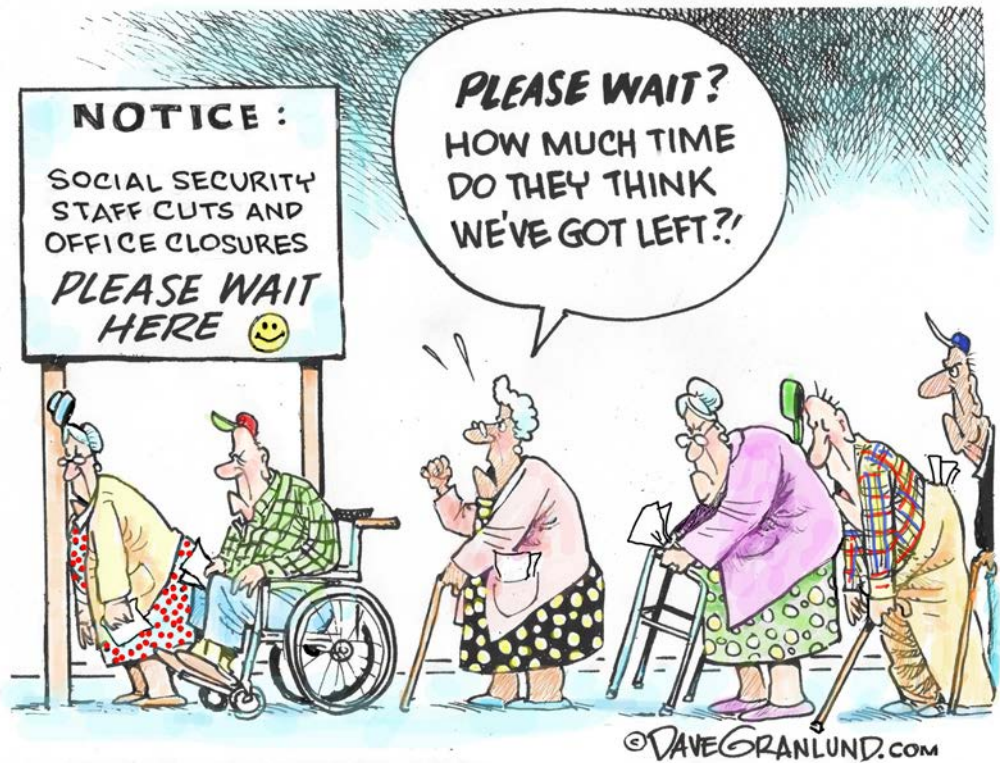
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OPINION



GUEST COLUMN



in my
BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

The Purple Martin
Conservation Association. "Tracking the migration is not only fun, it also provides us with valuable information that helps inform our research and strengthen our efforts to make sure we're doing everything possible to sustain the population of these amazing birds."

The Purple Martin is North America's largest species of swallow. It winters in the rainforests of Brazil before making up to a 7000-mile migration north into the eastern United States and Canada.

The Purple Martin Conservation Association said, "The annual migration is a testament to the martins' resilience as well as the unwavering dedication of thousands of 'martin landlords' who maintain multi-compartment nest 'condos' that are essential for the birds' survival. Once widespread in rural America, this species, that eats billions



Purple Martin

BACKYARD, page 5

Deer demolishing your bulbs? Mine too.

In the Garden
by Roberta McQuaid

I am so sad! One of my prime gardens, a very cool multi-planting of spring bulbs is showing signs of munching!

I am pretty sure deer are the culprit. What should I do?

Wipe my tears and look back in the archives to refresh my memory and maybe enlighten my readers in the various ways to send the deer on to greener pastures.

smell. Drill a hole in the bar of deodorant soap and hang it with some twine at deer height (three to six feet off the ground) on the tree or shrub in jeopardy. Human or dog hair will likewise repel deer and is usually free for the sweeping at the beauty parlor or dog groomer. Scented dryer sheets have also been known to keep Bambi at bay, although they must be replaced after each heavy rain.

For the best measure of control, hang the sheets, bars of soap or sachets of hair three feet apart.

Commercial preparations such as Deer Off and Deer Away rely on sulfur compounds to repel deer and other garden critters. To make a homemade version of these products blend an egg, a cup of water and a couple of garlic cloves in the blender.

After a week or more of fermenting the noxious liquid can be sprinkled over susceptible plants. Don't worry; within a short time the smell will be undetectable to you, but pungent as

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. Please

include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by **noon Friday** to be considered for the following Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right

to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up

to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

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

Country Journal TEAM



EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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countryjournal.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



www.turley.com

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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



PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7017
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

Editor
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com

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BLANDFORD

Tree Warden offers trees

BLANDFORD – Tree Warden Mark Boomsma has trees for residents only for Arbor Day.

He will be at the Town Hall on Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to noon. The selection this year includes Siberian Spruce, Black Walnut, Old Fashioned Lilac and American Sweetgum.

Siberian Spruce are native to Siberia and tolerate cold. They are medium-sized

evergreens and can grow from 50 to over 100 feet tall.

Black Walnut trees are best suited to wetland areas near streams. They grow 65 to 150 feet tall and have a canopy of leaves that filter light.

Old Fashioned Lilac trees are dark purple and often referred to as French lilacs. They have been garden staples for hundreds of years and are a fragrant

springtime bloom. They can grow 10 to 20 feet high.

American Sweetgum trees, also known as Gumball trees so called because of the round seed-pods, has star-shaped leaves that turn brilliant shades of yellow, orange, red, and purple in the fall. Residents are invited to stop by to pick up a tree, “or two, or three, or four,” according to Boomsma.

POLICY

the work of the town. This policy ensures that meetings are conducted respectfully, efficiently and in accordance with the law.

Town Administrator Ferrera recommended that the policy be added to the footer of each Select Board agenda and enforced during all meetings moving forward. There is a form on the town website that is a fillable online request to be on the Board’s agenda. When completed, it is submitted directly to the Select Board email.

After the meeting had ended, when asked if news media could ask questions during the meeting, Chair Cara Letendre responded in the affirmative as long as the questions were for clarification and would not create a debate.

Another sugges-

tion Town Administrator Ferrera proposed would be to have a monthly mandatory Departmental Round Table meeting in lieu of a Board meeting. The original thought was to begin in May, but working with the Municipal Calendar, the monthly meetings will start Monday, June 16.

The purpose of the departmental meeting is to foster improved communication and coordination between the Select Board and town departments.

Each department will be represented preferably by the department head to provide a brief update on ongoing projects and initiatives, current financial status and any challenges, concerns or needs. Mandatory attendees include: Town Administrator, Select Board, Town Clerk, Library,

Assessors and the Fire, Police, Highway and Water departments. Also, when available, the accounting department and the Treasurer/collector should attend. All other boards and committees are invited to participate as they see fit.

According to Ferrera, this format will allow the Board to gain a clearer understanding of department-level operations, identify shared challenges and respond proactively to emerging needs across town services. “The proposed change will enhance transparency, promote inter-departmental collaboration, and improve the Board’s ability to support and make informed decisions for the town,” she said in her proposal. These meetings are open public meetings and anyone may attend.

from page 1

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



Chuck Benson serves the entree – burgers or dogs at the 2022 Memorial Day picnic. File photo

Annual Memorial Day Picnic in need of volunteers

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Recreation Committee Chair Joann Martin said, “We need volunteers” to help with the Memorial Day picnic after the ceremony at Town Commons.

There are several areas where people can help. Set up requires the most assistance. The process will start on Monday, May 26 at 10 a.m.. People are needed for tables, games, decorating, setting up food tables, drink table, water/ice, picnic tables, tablecloths; helping to organize tag sale positions on Watson Park Road, everything to make the festivities happen. Games need

to be set up throughout the field in several locations.

There will be face painting and tattoos, all temporary, not permanent. Helpers will be needed for these activities. Parade organizer Doug Emo reminds everyone that the parade will step out at 11:30 a.m.. The Gateway Regional School District Band will march. Participants should assemble and check in with Emo at the Town Hall parking lot at 11 a.m. If anyone would like to participate in the parade, they may call Emo at 413-561-3993, the more the merrier.

The Historical Society open house will run from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The picnic will start at noon, or

immediately following the parade.

Volunteers are needed to grill dogs and burgers; they may call Joann Martin at 413-455-9039. Her number and more information for volunteers will be on posters throughout the center of town. Picnic fare includes dogs, burgers, sausage/onion/peppers, potato salad, pasta salad, tossed salad, desserts, chips and condiments. “Mr. Whippy” Ice Cream Truck with Karen Maratea from West Springfield will serve ice cream starting at 1 p.m. following the picnic.

There is no rain date. If there is stormy weather all will be cancelled according to Martin.

OPINION

BACKYARD

of flying insects annually, has been disappearing at an alarming rate, experiencing a loss of one-third of its population over the last 50 years.

“The decline seems to be the combination of a few factors: nesting habitat loss, competing invasive species, decreasing prey availability, and climate change,” said Siegrist. “Over the majority of the purple martins’ range, they are unable to nest naturally any longer. Human-provided nest boxes are the only thing keeping the species alive east of the Rocky Mountains.”

The purple martin, the largest swallow in North America, is between 7.5 and 7.9 inches long. The adult males are iridescent, dark blue-purple overall with brown-black wings and tail. Both the females and immatures are duller with variable amounts of gray on the head and chest with a whitish lower belly.

These birds are colonial with dozens of martins nesting in the same spot in open areas especially near water. They return to the same nesting spot. In the east, they nest almost exclusively in nest boxes and martin hous-

es. In the west, they nest in natural cavities.

Martins fly rapidly and feed on large, aerial insects such as dragonflies. They often feed higher in the air than other swallows. The female lays three to six white eggs. She lays one to two broods per year.

Sandhill cranes

A neighbor, who lives about a mile as the crow flies from my hayfield, emailed he had a pair in the back of his cornfield on April 5. He said, “I only saw them cuz



Sandhill crane

they were quite talkative. They just flew from my field again, both times in your direction. Now that I know what they sound like, I have heard them quite a bit this spring. They seem to talk whenever they fly.” We both hope they will nest in the area. My daughter saw the pair of sandhill cranes in my hayfield on April 10.

Worthington birds

A Worthington birder reported flocks of goldfinches and redbwing blackbirds mixed with a few grackles.

He said in his email, “Fun seeing the golds gold-ing up and hearing the black-birds, cheerfully chattering in the trees is welcome as spring up here.”

Brimfield birds

In late March, a Brimfield resident sent an email. He said, “Chilly morning, it was quite cool when I put out the feeders this morning. We have the wood stove going now. In the yard yesterday was a first of the year sighting, twp song sparrows.” Four female turkeys showed up late in the day.

He frequently visits

local ponds in search of birds especially water fowl. He said, “In Warren there were nine ring-necked ducks on one of the ponds. I got some pictures last week of ring-necked ducks in excellent light and you could actually see the brown ring at the base of the neck on several birds, something I seldom see. A few great blue herons at the pond on South Street and saw a second osprey at the pond for the first time this year.”

Bald eagle

On Tuesday, April 15 I saw a mature, bald eagle perched in a dead tree in the beaver pond at the edge of my hayfield. When I returned an hour later, it was still there. In the afternoon, when I went to pickup my granddaughter at the bus stop, it was still in the same tree.

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

GARDEN

ever to our four legged browsers.

Scarecrows work only minimally well to scare off deer, and to be the most effective, they must take the animal off guard. Assemble your scarecrow with as many moving parts as possible and position it in a different spot of the yard every couple of nights.

Hinged appendages, clothing that flaps in the breeze, eyes that bobble may just send Bambi into flight. One year I filled my scarecrow’s pockets with deodorant soap for a double whammy!

Deerscape your yard

Instead of planting your gardens full of tulips or muscari, like I did, choose daffodils, snowdrops, fritillaria and alliums instead. Good luck!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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 with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

from page 4

SECURITY

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 or email us at ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

from page 4

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

CHESTER

Jacob’s Ladder to hold home show on May 17

CHESTER – The Jacob’s Ladder Business Association of Huntington will be holding its fourth annual Hilltown Home Show during Chester on Track on May 17 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Riverfront Street in downtown Chester just off Route 20.

All businesses are welcome to be a vendor. Ten by ten spots are \$25 each for members and \$125 each for non-members, first come first serve. They may sign up via their website at www.jlba.org or send an email requesting a form to jacobsladderba@gmail.com.

All vendors get free membership for the remainder of the year. This event is rain or shine. Don’t miss this opportunity to be a part of Chester on Track to showcase your business. People may call Liz 413-302-0312 with any questions. For thirty years, the JLBA has provided free assistance for all businesses in the greater Hilltowns of Western Massachusetts. For more information, people may visit www.JLBA.org or email JacobsladderBA@gmail.com.

LIBRARY OFFERS STORY AND FUN TIME



Children enjoy story and fun time on this comfortable rug with Laurel Lenski of Intrinsic Movement on Thursday, April 17 at the Hamilton Memorial Library in Chester.



She shared the story “The Book with No Pictures” by B.J. Novak, which had the children laughing at her comic delivery.

Submitted photos

WASHINGTON

DCR closes access to Bash Bish Falls

MOUNT WASHINGTON – Beginning on Monday, April 21 and continuing through Friday, May 9, the Department of Conservation and Recreation

will close access to Bash Bish Falls State Park in the Town of Mount Washington to accommodate work to address trail erosion and drainage. The viewing area will

remain open during the duration of the work and visitors can access the park using the parking area and trails viewing area from Taconic State Park in New York.

TOLLAND

Music in the Hills series continues

TOLLAND – Music in the Hills is an acoustic music series of a monthly coffeehouse style event on Saturdays.

The next event will be on Saturday, May 17 on the Tolland Town Green and features the The Meanies, a

folk, rock, country and indie favorites. It will be held in the Tolland Congregational Church if raining.

On Saturday, June 14 Acoustic Bandwidth will perform classic rock and acoustic treasures on the Town Green. It will

be held in the Tolland Congregational Church if raining.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Tolland Cultural council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

WEST STOCKBRIDGE

MassDOT to do bridge painting

WEST STOCKBRIDGE – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces that bridge painting operations will take place on I-90 westbound at mile marker 1.3 in West Stockbridge.

Work is scheduled from today through Friday, April 25 between 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each day. In addition, guardrail work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 1.0 to mile marker 3.0. This work will take place now through Thursday night, April 24, ending Friday morning, April

25, with work hours from 7p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

Lane closures will be in effect during these hours. At least one travel lane will remain open at all times, and police details will be present to assist with traffic control. Drivers traveling through the affected area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. Appropriate signage and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work zone.

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

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

Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real time conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

RUSSELL

PLAQUE

from page 1



Megan Ellinger of Woronoco was responsible for the canoe race celebration at Strathmore Park. She took a moment to examine the plaque commissioned by Horace Moses to honor the World War I veterans from the Strathmore mill.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

which rolled into a farm cooperative that became Agway.

When Moses bought the mill in Woronoco, he put together his own model town program. He brought in electricity free of charge and paved the streets. He was one of the first employers to offer paid vacation and had an onsite nurse who gave free medical exams to the workers. He was also an early proponent of health insurance for employees. Moses opened the Strathmore Inn, created a community building, built playgrounds for his workers’ children, and built an elementary school in Woronoco.

For a time, Woronoco became known as Strathmore Town. Moses had traveled the world and named his company after the Strathmore Valley in Scotland, which he thought was the most beautiful place on earth. His company logo

was the Scottish thistle.

Moses also supported the youth movement of that era, from 1905-1925. He was very active with the Boys and Girls Bureau, which became Junior Achievement. Moses had been invited to join the founders in leading the program and within six months the founders died and he was left in charge.

Moses was involved at the national level in 4H; for many years, the top 4H prize in the country was the Moses Trophy. In Western Massachusetts, he was president of the Springfield YMCA which ran Camp Norwich in Huntington. Each year, he rented the property for a week to run a 4H camp on Norwich Lake.

Moses, who owned property on a lake in Russell, was approached by the Boy Scouts who were looking for a place to create a camp. He sold them the land at a reduced cost in December 1945 and the

Moses Scout Reservation opened the following summer. Included in that deal was the ability of Moses and wife to stay in the Manor House for their lifetimes.

Given his history of supporting the community, it was no surprise to Maxwell that he honored his employees who served in World War I. When he was cutting the cake at his 80th birthday party, he reportedly announced that he was sending telegrams to 40 of his veterans who were still alive. He was also known to send letters to his employees from time to time, many of whom responded. According to one of the Strathmore Journals, one letter said, “You’ll never guess where I am or what I am doing, but everything I learned I learned from you.”

Also paid for by the grant is a new plaque honoring two Russell residents who died in service during World War II. Staff Sergeant Peter J. Miller Jr. served in

the 489th Squadron of the U. S. Army Air Corp. He flew 40 missions over North Africa and Italy and died at age 28 in an accidental plane collision in Italy. He is buried at the American Cemetery in Rome.

Private First Class Robert D. Brown of the U.S. Air Corps was training with the 212th base unit combat crew out of Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho. He was one of ten who perished in a training mission in Idaho and died at age 26. Brown is buried in the Russell Cemetery.

The World War II memorial plaque is installed at the town’s Veterans Park and will be dedicated on Memorial Day.

Maxwell said that she recently learned of two women from Russell who served during World War II and are not included on any honor rolls. Her next project will be to research their history and determine how and where to honor them.

Council on Aging to hold tag, craft and bake sale on May 3

RUSSELL – On Saturday, May 3 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. the Council on Aging will hold a tag, craft and bake sale on the lawns outside the Senior Center at Russell Town Hall and across the street in Veterans Memorial Park.

This is an excellent opportunity to showcase their crafts and talents or to spring clean and sell those odds and ends.

People can reserve a 12’x12’ vendor space for just \$20, which includes the town of Russell tag sale permit fee. Participants should bring their own tables chairs and tents if they wish.

To register, people should send their contact information and payment to Russell COA, P.O. Box 407, Russell, MA 01071, or drop it off in the Town Hall drop box. If they have any ques-

tions, please call Carrie at 413-862-6217 or email coa@townofrussell.us.

All proceeds will benefit programs and activities for the Russell Council on Aging.

It’s a perfect time to find unique gifts for birthdays, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day or graduation.

The rain date is Saturday, May 10.

TURKEY DISPLAYS BREEDING BEHAVIOR



A Tom turkey shows off to two hens, who were eating near him on on General Knox Road in Russell on Thursday, April 17.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm



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CUMMINGTON

Friday Night Cafe presents musician Laura Wetzler

CUMMINGTON – Next up at the Friday Night Cafe is renowned singer, songwriter and guitarist Laura Wetzler on Friday, April 25 from 7-9 p.m.

Wetzler plays nationally and internationally as many as 150 concerts each year and she lives here in Cummington. She will bring her repertoire of contemporary folk, World beat Jewish music and favorites from the Great American Songbook. She will also be joined by good friend Jim Armenti of the Lonesome Brothers. It will be an evening of great music by local hilltown performers

The show will be held at the Village Church in beautiful downtown Cummington in the heart of the Cummington Cultural District. The event is free, donations are appreciated. Snacks are provided, BYO drinks. The show will take place in the intimate Vestry space. Masks are welcome and encouraged. Once again this is brought by the friendly folks at the Village Church, who believe music can be a powerful force for building community.

Friday Night Cafe receives promotional support from the Cummington Cultural District and is supported in part by grants from the Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen Hinsdale-Peru, Plainfield, Williamsburg, Windsor, and Worthington Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

OTIS

Friends of library to hold book sale

OTIS – Friends of the Otis Library spring book sale and more will take place on Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Otis Ridge Ski Lodge, Rte. 23.

There will be lots of used and new books, puzzles and games for children, CDs and DVDs for very reasonable prices. There will be soft drinks and light snacks. Cash and PayPal only will be accepted. Early Bird from 8-9 a.m. has a \$10 entry fee. For more information, people may either email FriendsOtisLibrary@gmail.com or text 413 -429-1083.

Town clerk lists voter information

OTIS – The last day for voter registration is Saturday, May 10 from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. in the Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road for the May 20 Town Meeting and the May 27Annual Town Election.

This is for those who are not already registered to vote.

BECKET

Becket Athenaeum hosts author Andrew Krivak

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum Big Read, the first-ever community read for the communities of Becket and Washington, will conclude with an in-person visit from Andrew Krivak, author of “The Bear” on Wednesday, April 30 at 7 p.m. in the Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road.

“A cautionary tale of human fragility, of love and loss, ‘The Bear’ is a stunning tribute to the beauty of nature’s dominion.” Since the Becket Athenaeum kicked off the Big Read last September, residents of Becket, Washington and beyond have enjoyed reading and discussing “The Bear,” along with attending related programs hosted by the library and community partners.

The Becket Athenaeum is excited to welcome Andrew Krivak for this special appearance during which he will discuss The Bear and take questions from the audience. Attendees will get a first-hand look into the creative process and inspiration behind the book that has been the focal point of tThe Becket Athenaeum Big Read initiative.

“After months of encouraging our community to read The Bear and participating in The Becket Athenaeum Big Read initiative, along with enjoying Big Read programs alongside our neighbors, we’re thrilled to be hosting Andrew Krivak

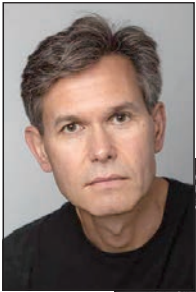
in Becket and look forward to hearing more about his experience writing The Bear along with the community’s questions for him!” said Nicole Schulze, Executive Director of the Becket Athenaeum.

The event is free and open to the public. People should arrive early for refreshments and to get settled.

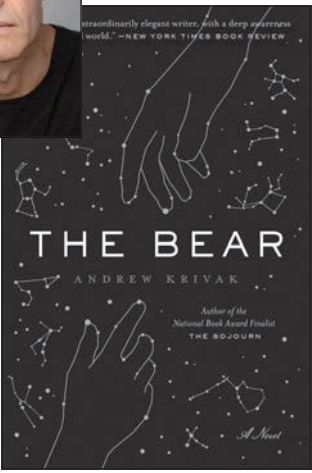
Of course having read The Bear is not a requirement to attend the author talk, but there’s still time! Copies are available for checkout at the Becket Athenaeum and digital copies are available with your library card through Libby.

The Becket Athenaeum is one of 62 organizations nationwide selected to receive a 2024-2025 NEA Big Read grant. A grant of \$6,000 has supported a community reading program focusing on The Bear by Andrew Krivak from September 2024 through April 2025. An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the power of a shared reading experience.

For questions about The Becket Athenaeum Big Read, reserving a copy of The Bear, or using Libby to access digital copies, people may email the library at info@bwlibrary.org or call 413-623-5483.



Andrew Krivak



CHESTERFIELD

Church to hold cofeehouse April 27

CHESTERFIELD – On Sunday, April 27 from 2-4 p.m., First Congregational Church of Chesterfield will host its second coffeehouse of the season.

The event will feature local musicians, AJ and Sylvia; Caleb Harris and friends; Rus Peotter; Jeff and Zoe Greenwood and others.

Homemade goodies, coffee, tea, etc. as well as savory snacks will be offered. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering for the event and for the snacks would be appreciated. This will become a monthly event beginning in September.

For more information, people may call Zoe Greenwood at 413-358-6567.

GOSHEN

Free Library holds event

GOSHEN – The Goshen Free Library, 42 Main St., is celebrating May flowers on Saturday, May 3 with pancakes from 9-10 a.m.

A small flower sale and cookie decorating is at 11 a.m., which is supported by the Goshen Cultural Council. The hours for the library on Saturday are 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. For more information, people may call 413-268-8236, extension 111 or email goshen-freeibrary@gmail.com.

NORTHAMPTON

GoBerry 'n Cream to open storefront on Main Street

NORTHAMPTON – Two former area educators turned entrepreneurs will bring a new version of GoBerry back to downtown Northampton in April.

Co-owners SiriNam Khalsa and Aaron Buford will open a GoBerry 'n Cream shop at 207 Main St., a second location for Khalsa, who has owned a GoBerry 'n Cream in Amherst since 2022.

Khalsa of Leverett, and Buford of Amherst, have a shared passion for engaging young people as well as a commitment to community. With a mission to provide locally grown and produced food whenever possible, GoBerry will offer fresh frozen yogurt made with skim milk and organic non-fat yogurt from local farms. Like the Amherst location, the shop will also offer several flavors of the locally produced Bart’s ice cream as well as moo-free frozen Banana Nice Cream and sorbet.

“We love the new, cozy location on the sunny side of Main Street,” Khalsa said. “We are looking forward to serving the smiling faces of local customers who have missed the distinct flavor of GoBerry.”

Alex and Molly Feinstein were the founders of GoBerry, with shops in Northampton, at 80 Main St., and in Amherst at 28 Amity St. In May 2022, Khalsa purchased the Amherst location and the Feinsteins later closed the Northampton shop.

Khalsa and Buford met when they were both educators in the Springfield Public School system and have been colleagues and friends for 15 years; Buford and his children are frequent visitors to the Amherst GoBerry 'n Cream shop.

When Khalsa’s daughter, Ananda Khalsa, a jeweler in downtown Northampton, encouraged her father to reopen GoBerry in Northampton, Khalsa was intrigued and invited Buford to partner with him.

“Northampton is going to have two business owners who are very empathetic and have a desire to improve the community and reach out to people,” Khalsa said. “What’s always needed in our society are connection and communication. I think I’m good at that, and I think Aaron is excellent at it.”

Buford said, “I am attentive and committed, and I’m excited to bring my motivation and passion into building a business that is successful and has value in the community. Being a relatively young person of color, I am also excited to model entrepreneurship for youth.”

Khalsa was a teacher and instructional coach in Springfield and is a past owner of Amherst Eco Laundry. He is also a part-time instructional coach at Four Rivers Public Charter School in Greenfield, and he performs with the local jazz band, Masala Jazz. He has three grown children.

Buford was a teacher in Springfield and worked for three years at Amherst-Pelham Regional High School as the restorative justice coordinator. GoBerry will be his main occupation, but he will continue to offer educational consulting. Buford has three school-aged children and he mentors two young men through A Better Chance.



Co-owners SiriNam Khalsa and Aaron Buford will open a GoBerry 'n Cream shop at 207 Main St.

Submitted photo

FLORENCE

‘Brass in Bloom’ Festival to be hosted at Bombyx Center

FLORENCE – Bombyx Center for Arts and Equity, 130 Pine St., will host “Brass in Bloom” Festival Saturday May 3 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Brass musicians and enthusiasts of all ages and abilities are invited to the Bombyx Center for a day-long celebration of brass music. The festival, titled “Brass in Bloom,”is open to the general public, free of charge. The day will feature performances, workshops and presentations by brass performers and teachers from throughout the region and beyond and a grilled sandwich pop-up with Chef O’Brian Tomalin of Sierra Grille.

The day kicks off at 10 a.m. with a keynote presentation by acclaimed trumpet player and composer, Phil Snedecor from the Hartt School of Music and continues with presentations by the UMass Graduate Brass Quintet, Bombyx Brass Collective featuring Eric Berlin, Hartt Trumpet Ensemble, Amherst College French horn instructor Jean Jeffries, Jeff Connor of the Boston Brass Quintet, trombonist Dr. Taylor Hughey, UMass Faculty Trio featuring trombonist Greg Spirodopolous and more. The day concludes with a headline performance from 4:30-6 p.m. by The Jazz Bones and Friends.

Featured sponsor, Gerry’s Music Shop, will host Brass-a-Palooza, their largest single-day sales event of the year, where brass musicians and students will have the opportunity to demo more than 100 brass instruments, from intermediate to professional grade.

Chef O’Brian Tomalin, formerly of Sierra Grille and Building 8 Brewing, will join the event, offering a grilled sandwich pop-up for Brass in Bloom attendees as well as the community at large. Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free options will be available.

Menu includes Philly Style Grilled Pork; Grilled Pork Loin, Broccolini w/ garlic & red pepper flakes, Sharp Provolone. Cubano; Grilled Marinated Pork Loin, Black Forest Ham, Swiss Cheese, Dill Pickles, Yellow Mustard • Chicken or Tempeh Banh Mi; Grilled Marinated Chicken Thigh, Pickled Vegetables, Cucumber, Cilantro; Chicken Torta; Grilled Marinated Chicken Thigh, Oaxaca Cheese, Black Bean Spread, Jicama Slaw •Portobello and Grilled Portobello, Fresh Mozzarella, Arugula Walnut Pesto, Caramelized Onion.

This event is made possible by the generous support of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, local cultural councils in Amherst, Hadley, South Hadley and Whately, Mellowship Entertainment, Eastern States Exposition and donors.

Register for the event by visiting <https://bombyx.live/events/brass-in-bloom-festival> or make a donation, by visiting www.bombyx.live.



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WORTHINGTON

Library holds book and bake sale

WORTHINGTON – The Friends of the Worthington Library will host a book and bake sale at the Worthington Town Hall, 160 Huntington Road, on Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with a 9 a.m. “Early Bird” admission. General admission at 10 a.m. is free. Early Bird entry is \$10. Items for sale include gently used fiction and non-fiction books, audiobooks and DVDs. Items for all ages are available including picture books, young adult novels and graphic novels. Books are priced at \$1 each. Baked goods are available by donation. Reusable bags are encouraged. Proceeds from the event will help fund children’s programs, museum passes and wish list books for patrons of The Worthington

Library. For more information or updates, people may visit The Worthington Library website at www.theworthingtonlibrary.com or The Worthington Library Facebook page. The Friends of the Worthington Library is a volunteer-run committee established to support the Worthington Library in Massachusetts with programs and patron resources.

Worthington Historical Society announces Marquis de Lafayette 200th Anniversary Celebration

WORTHINGTON – This month the Worthington Historical Society launches a three-month celebration to honor the contributions of one of the most important figures in the American political experiment, the Marquis de Lafayette.

Fifty years after first arriving to serve with the Continental Army, General Lafayette stopped overnight in Worthington while on his goodwill visit to all twenty-four states. Lafayette’s presence in Worthington on June 13, 1825 typified the man’s universal popularity. “Our Marquis” turned out the entire population of Worthington and surrounding hill towns. Farmers, shopkeepers, blacksmiths, teachers and children, all came to the Pearce Tavern as the sun rose to see off their hero, the man who

helped shape our nation and foretold the possibilities of what our new country could be.

The Lafayette 200th Anniversary Celebration includes a variety of events including an essay contest for middle and high school students in Hampshire County, a Lafayette curriculum for students at the R.H. Conwell Elementary School, a series of public historical lectures and workshops, a community-wide book group and a showcase of new research identifying Revolutionary War veterans and patriots in our town cemeteries.

The Celebration will culminate on Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14 with the Lafayette Grand Ball followed by Worthington’s annual Founders Day event the following day. Tickets for the

Grand Ball are on sale now and dates and locations of all events can be found by visiting worthingtonhistoricalsociety.org/wordpress/lafayette_celebration/.

Lafayette held true to his ideals of self-government, liberty, and freedom throughout his long and eventful life. As the “Nation’s Guest” the General was welcomed with affection and gratitude and his tour was of immense importance to the young United States. His visit highlighted the achievements of the Revolution and provided a contemporary window into the country’s progress. Worthington’s 200th Anniversary Celebration of General Lafayette is an opportunity to explore Lafayette’s achievements, influence, and ongoing relevance.

Board delays Annual Town Meeting

WORTHINGTON After much discussion with the Finance Committee, Town Moderator, Town Clerk and Town Council, the Worthington Select Board came to the difficult decision that it is in the best interest of the town to delay Town Meeting this year.

The Select Board voted Tuesday night, April 15, to delay town meeting to Saturday, June 7, the first Saturday in June. Town Elections will take place as scheduled on Saturday, May 3. Details about the ballot and

absentee voting will be posted soon.

The Select Board is very cognizant of the fact that many of us plan our schedules around Town Meeting taking place on the first Saturday in May. Unfortunately, a confluence of events and circumstances over the past few months, including the illnesses of key town administrators and elected officials, have made it very difficult to properly prepare a budget for presentation by the traditional Town Meeting date.

Additional information

will be made available soon as town officials continue to develop the Annual Town Meeting warrant and town budgets. As the Select Board and Finance Committee work on the budget numbers, they are seeing that, like last year, the town is facing a budget that exceeds revenue capacity. They expect to discuss the options for dealing with that, including a possible vote to override the 2 1/2 percent levy limit, at upcoming public meetings and at the Annual Town Meeting, now on June 7.

WESTHAMPTON

Westhampton Library announces upcoming news and events

WESTHAMPTON – Library hours for Westhampton Public Library, 1 North Road, are Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday 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 26. To place a request for curbside pickup, people should email westhampton@cwmares.org or call 413-527-5386.

Recurring Programs (holidays may impact schedule) are computer classes with Bob Miller second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon; knitting group Mondays at 6 p.m., Yoga Mondays at 6 p.m., Scrabble group Tuesdays at 2 p.m., book group fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; walk in wellness clinics with Westhampton’s Public Health nurse first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. and coffee and chat Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon.

Yoga is drop-in, first-come/first-served, and registration is not required. Please

check Facebook and the town calendar for updates on yoga at the library.

Other programs are CFCE Playgroup Tuesdays at 10 a.m., story time Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and after school fun Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

There will be a fun activity every Thursday this month after school. Lego Club meets the first Thursday, craft club second Thursday, Nintendo Switch Happy Hour third Thursday and Comics Club fourth Thursday

Teen Craft Night meets the third Thursday, May 15 at 6 p.m. This month’s craft is a button flower bouquet. Materials are limited to 8 participants and registration is required. Teens should register by emailing Emily at ewayne@cwmares.org. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library and the Lyn Keating Program Fund for sponsoring all teen crafts.

April and May Artist is Valerie McQuillan. Her work is mostly realistic scenes,

landscapes and seascapes.

Town Hall with Representative Lindsay Sabadosa takes place Monday, May 12 from 7-8:30 p.m.

State Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa will hold an informal conversation about what’s happening in the legislature. This event is open to everyone in the district; no pre-registration required.

On Thursday, May 1 from 6-7:30 p.m. Dr. Lew Cohen will present Winter’s End: Dementia and Dying Well at the library.

Dementia is the most feared disease that anyone can encounter and is inevitably fatal. It is human nature for us to want to live as long as possible, but does that apply when we are diagnosed with disorders like dementia?

Last year, Oxford University Press published “Winter’s End: Dementia and Dying Well” written by Dr. Lew Cohen. It is a moving story based on a nine-month series of interviews that Lew conducted with Dan Winter, a sixth generation Kansan.

Winter, 62, had been diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s and wanted to take his life. Lew is an emeritus professor of psychiatry and a palliative medicine researcher, who lives on Pine Island Lake in town. Copies of “Winter’s End” will be available for purchase at the event.

Hilltown Permaculture Club will meet on Thursday, May 22 from 7-8 p.m. The Hilltown Permaculture Club is pleased to have Dr. Thomas Avery Garran, PhD present “Our Story,” an account of one couple’s journey that led them to farm medicinal plants in Huntington. After moving from Cape Cod to California, then to Hawai’i and China, finally arriving in the hilltowns, Thomas and Holly have planted themselves firmly on the 44 acres that they now steward. Marrying modern science and traditional knowledge, not to mention the US and China (Holly is Chinese), this couple finds itself basking in the glory of a south-facing

slope. Join Dr. Garran as he weaves a tale of sorrow and pain with joy and glee, and a healthy sprinkling of hard work that has led he and his lovely wife to a place of bird song and deep soils.

On Saturday, May 31 from 10:30 a.m.-noon people may pick up the pen and start a writing project. In this fun, supportive workshop with Lara Tupper, participants will begin a writing habit they can stick with and enjoy. They will learn practical tips and easy prompts that will allow them to develop a writing routine and complete their writing project. All adults are welcome to attend. They should bring a notebook, pen and any writing tools.

This workshop is free to attend but registration is required. People may sign up in advance by emailing westhampton@cwmares.org or calling 413-527-5386. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library and the Lyn Keating Program Fund for sponsoring this event.

Public library documentary to be shown on May 29

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Public Library will screen the PBS Independent Lens documentary “Free for All: The Public Library” followed by a pre-recorded interview with filmmakers Dawn Logsdon and Lucie Faulknor on Thursday, May 29 from 6-8 p.m.

After that, there will be a panel discussion with community members Laurie Sanders and Pat Miller, who were instrumental in the campaign to build the current library. They talk about how libraries transform communities, how libraries have responded to challenges throughout history, and the story of our own town library.

Pizza and cake will be served in celebration of almost 15 years in the current library building. People should call 413-527-5386 or email westhampton@cwmares.org to register. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library and the Lyn Keating Program Fund for sponsoring this event.

WESTFIELD

Westfield receives \$150,000 planning grant

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust’s Board of Trustees approved \$39,721,138 in new low-interest loans and grants at its meeting on April 2.

The Trust, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection helps communities build or replace water infrastructure that enhance

ground and surface water resources, ensures the safety of drinking water, protects public health and develops resilient communities.

It accomplishes these objectives by providing low-interest loans and grants to cities, towns and water utilities through the Massachusetts State Revolving Funds. The SRF programs are partnerships between the United

States Environmental Protection Agency and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. SRFs function like an environmental infrastructure bank by financing water infrastructure projects in cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

Westfield received an asset management planning grant of \$150,000. For more information on our different loan pro-

grams, people may visit the SRF Programs page at <https://www.mass.gov/sf-programs>.

Since its establishment in 1989, the Trust has loaned nearly \$9.1 billion to improve and maintain the quality of water in the Commonwealth. An estimated 97% of Massachusetts’ residents have benefited from the financial assistance of the Trust.

St. Joseph’s Church to hold ham dinner

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph’s National Catholic Church at 73 Main St. is hosting a baked ham dinner on Sunday, May 4 at noon.

Dinner will feature baked ham, roasted potatoes, baked beans and green bean salad. This is followed by a dessert of lemon surprise. Beverages include hot coffee, bottled water and iced tea. Everyone is welcome.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. To purchase tickets and reserve a place, people should text or telephone Cliff at 413-977-2007. If leaving a message, they should provide their name and telephone number. Take-Out/Meals-To-Go will be available for pick-up at 12:30 p.m. When ordering tickets, indicate if dinners are To-Go. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, May 1. All are invited to come to the Sunday Dinner and participate in fun raffle.

NAMI Western Massachusetts to hold Walkathon

WESTFIELD – The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Mass will be holding its 25th Annual Walkathon Anniversary Celebration, “A Journey of Hope and Recovery” on Sunday, May 18 at Stanley Park’s Beveridge Pavilion Annex in Westfield, beginning at 11 a.m. with registration starting at 10 a.m.

The event is suitable for all ages and abilities and will directly benefit NAMI Western Massachusetts’ continuing efforts to help improve the lives of all those affected by mental health conditions and their families. Among the festivities will be guest speakers, including Ms. US 2025; activities, face painting, raffles

and much more. People may help NAMI-WM continue their mission by participating in this Walkathon or by donating to the event easily by visiting their website at www.namiew.org/walkathon.

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides

advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental health conditions can Build Better Lives.

People may call their office at 413-786-9139 or visit at www.namiwm.org/ walkathon for the entry/pledge form or more information. Volunteers are needed.



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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Hampshire Regional High School announces honor roll

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional High School lists the quarter three term honor roll.

Grade 7 students making Academic Excellence: Ava Boissonneault, Max Bonham, Ryder Cefalo, James Clemeno, Sunali Driver, Charlotte Dunn, Stephen Estelle, Caleb Falkowski, Aoife Farrell, Joseph Gagne, Lorelei Gilman, Anna Huard,

Aubrielle Jarrett, Sienna Kalmakis, Abraham Kellogg, Summer Kohl, Corbin Limatainen, Aurora Loud, Isabella Masi, Camilo Ocampo, Mariah Pacinella, Gianluca Pica-Smith, Claire Picard, Madison Rida, Lily Robak, Emily Sampson, Madeline Soares, Ashtyn St. Martin, Thomas Sullivan, Phoebe Todd, Cyrus Tomsovic, Lucy Trombley, Addyson White, Eli Willard and Bradley Woods.

Grade 7 students making Academic Achievement: Emilia Barrena, Quinn Bonham, Ivy Cardoza, James Farrar, Patricia Gagne, Jacoby Hodges, Reygan Horstmann, Camryn Jasinski, Meghan Johnson, Spencer LaPointe, Morgan Lawler, Dorothy Li, Lukas Manley, Brigid McArdle, Evalyn Mission, Samantha Moreau, Bibi Nabut, Magnolia Overtree, Olivia Pignatara, Ashlyn Rose, Jaxon Sherman,

Georgia Sugrue, Kazmir Wachtel and Blake White.

Grade 8 students making Academic Excellence: Elizabeth Berry, Elaina Bogda, Samantha Black, Gabriel Carrasquillo, Gabriella Dybacki, Tayla Eiseman, Trinity Fellows, Jackson Gelenski, Lexie Gauger, Jaymes Goddard, Aiden Goyette, Willow Gutermuth, Savannah Judd, Natilie Labrie, Anna MacLachian, Felicity

Manganelli, Noa Nabut, Teagan Noel, Damian Pasiut, Katelyn Perry, Mackensie Provost, Shane Radon, Maeve Reynolds, Karolina Robak, Hazel Scully-Henry, Emmett Stith, Addison Thomas, Sadie Wasiuk, Ava Westcott and Tarlo Zerbach.

Grade 8 students making Academic Achievement: Victoria Bond, Stella Cubi, Raquelle Denoronha, Jacqueline DuCharme, Lauren Filipek,

Samantha Gay, Mackenzie Harrison, Noah Haryasz, Hayden Johnson, Madison Johnson, Saoirse Keane, Margaret Kugler, Sophia Lashway, Elle Marcinek, Emma McDonald, Colton McVeigh, Ethan Neylon, Connor Perkins, Abigail Phelan, Benjamin Raymond, Kacey Reed, Avrianna Rodriguez, Holly Sampson, Sienna Stefferhagen, Balin Sullivan, Anna Tompkins, Jack White and Danielle Wolf.

WILLIAMSBURG

New loop trails at Clary Hill opens to public on April 26

WILLIAMSBURG – Two and a half miles of new loop trails at Clary Hill on the Goshen-Williamsburg line will open to the public on April 26.

As part of its Earth Week activities, Hilltown Land Trust will host a grand opening hike on the Clary Hill Loop trails on Saturday, April 26 at 1 p.m. Hikers will enjoy a two-mile loop with an elevation gain of about 200 feet.

The Sofinowski family bequeathed the 132 forested acres to HLT in 2023, specifying that the land be opened to the public for hiking and recreation. The new trails link Williamsburg’s Briar

Hill trails with the DAR State Forest in Goshen.

“The trail network features a flower-filled meadow, former pastures, rocky outcrops, lush wetlands, and many forest types including an oak-hickory glade with a carpet of sedge,” said HLT TerraCorps member Mariel Hohmann.

The trails radiate out from a flower-filled meadow, passing through former pastures lined with stone walls, over rocky outcroppings, alongside lush fern filled wetlands, and through varied forest ranging from early successional regrowth to mature stands of pine with mountain

laurel understory to a steeply sloping oak hickory grove with sedge carpeting the forest floor.

Nearly thirty volunteers from the Williamsburg Woodland Trails Committee, UMass, Ashfield Trails, and HLT spent a combined seven hundred hours building the trails.

“From design, to building bridges, hauling rocks, cutting a treadway with heavy tools, everything about these trails was volunteer-led,” said Hohmann, who coordinated volunteer efforts.

Dave Weber of Williamsburg Woodland Trails poured roughly five

hundred hours into designing and building trails at Clary Hill, including the several stonework features. Drawing on his background in sustainable landscape design, Weber helped plan a network of durable trails that will withstand foot traffic and erosion while offering hikers a comfortable experience.

“There haven’t been many opportunities for Williamsburg Woodland Trails to make brand new trails,” said Weber, who scouted the land with HLT for nine months prior to beginning trail work. “It’s not often that many seasons can inform a trail design.”

Clary Hill is HLT’s third new public trail in recent years. The land trust seeks to balance public recreation with other responsible land stewardship practices.

“We came to a good balance of where not to put trails,” said Weber, who is eager for potential future trail connections while leaving room for wildlife. “There are places left outside of the human pathway. It’s one of the reasons why we see so much animal sign out there all the time. They seem to love the place as much as we do.”

“Thanks to our members and community, we can confidently take on the long-

term care responsibilities of a place like Clary Hill,” said HLT Executive Director Sally Loomis. “We hope to raise a total of \$20,000 on Give Back to the Land Day to conserve and care for places Clary Hill.”

Trailhead parking is located on Briar Hill Road in Williamsburg, located off Hemenway Road. Hikers of all ages are invited and leashed dogs are welcome.

The hike is free to attend, but donations to Hilltown Land Trust are encouraged. To RSVP, people may visit <https://www.hilltownlandtrust.org/events/clary-hill-trail-opening-hike>.

Meekins Library holds Frank Ward photography exhibit in May

WILLIAMSBURG – “The Drunken Bicycle: Travels in the Former Soviet World,” a photography exhibit by award winning Ashfield photographer Frank Ward, will be on display in the Neil Hammer Gallery at the Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., from Thursday, May 1 – Thursday, May 29.

This exhibit presents new photographs from the recently released book of the same name by Ward and essayist

Vivian Leskes. There will be an artist reception, reading and book signing on Saturday, May 10 from 2-4 p.m.

Ward and Leskes have traveled and worked in the republics of the former Soviet Union since 2001. Photographs in the book depict all fifteen former Soviet republics. According to novelist Roland Merullo, “Vivian Leskes’ prose and Frank Ward’s photos offer such a perfect sense of the

corruption and generosity, the wreckage and celebration, the human spirit alive and well in a sometimes bleak, sometimes festive, always inside out, post communist world.”

Ward, a photographer who lives in Ashfield has pictures in museum collections of Smith College, Amherst College, University of Connecticut and the Danforth Museum. He is a retired Holyoke Community College photography profes-

sor and has taught classes in Egypt, Turkmenistan and the American Universities program in Aix-en-Provence, France. He has lectured and exhibited in every college of the Five College Consortium. He received the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists Distinguished Service Award for Contributions to Photography in the Pioneer Valley.

Essayist, Vivian Leskes is a retired Professor of English

Second Language at Holyoke Community College and an English language specialist with the US Department of State. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Irkutsk, Siberia, in teaching English as a foreign language. In addition to her teacher training work in Russia, over the past twenty-two years she has conducted many teacher and mentor trainings in North Africa, the Middle East, the Far East, South America, Central Asia

and Europe.

She received the Elaine Marieb Teaching Award for Excellence In Teaching at HCC. Lost in Siberia, her memoir of experiences teaching and studying Russian in the Former Soviet Union, was published by Haley’s in 2011. Her essays accompany photographs by Frank Ward in the newly published photo book, “The Drunken Bicycle: Travels in the Former Soviet World.”

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goshen Conservation Commission

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Monday, May 5, 2025 at 6:30** at the Goshen Town Offices, 40 Main Street, Goshen to review a **Request for Determination** filed by Daniel Jones for 18 Antin Road. The work to be reviewed is an addition to an existing dwelling and septic system replacement. 04/24/2025

TOWN OF CHESTER MASSACHUSETTS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Notice of Public Hearing
Pursuant to Mass General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Chester Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, May 12th, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.**, in the Town of Chester's Town Hall COA Room on the second floor, for an RDA filed by Joeseeph and Heidi Couture and Representative Salvini Associates L.L.C., for proposed cabin/second home

2 bedroom build with septic within a buffer zone to a regulated intermittent stream. The application is on file and is available for public inspection. To review, please contact the Chester Conservation Commission Office Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. 04/24/2025

Goshen Conservation Commission

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Monday, May 5, 2025 at 6:30** at the Goshen Town Offices, 40 Main Street, Goshen to review a **Request for Determination** filed by Adam LeBeau for 23 Hyde Hill Road. The work to be reviewed is for a septic system replacement. 04/24/2025

Legal Notice Town of Huntington Water and Sewer Public Hearing

The Water and Sewer Commissioners of the Town of Huntington will hold a public hearing on **Monday, May 12, 2024, beginning at 6:00 PM** in Stanton

Hall regarding the FY2026 Water and Sewer Rates. Additionally, A notice of the FY2026 Rates was included in the Qtr.3-2025 bills and posted at the Town of Huntington Website, Post Office, Moltenbrey's Market, B&D Variety, Searle Road Fire Station.

Water and Sewer Commissioners
H. Daniel Oliveira
Sue Fopiano
Karon Hathaway
04/24 05/01/2025

Notice of Chester Planning Board Hearing Relative to a Proposed Zoning By-Law Amendment Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40A, § 5

The Planning Board of the Town of Chester will hold a public hearing to discuss a proposed amendment to the town's zoning by-laws. The public hearing will be held as follows:

Place: Chester Town Hall, COA Room in the basement 15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011
Date: 8 May 2025
Time: 6:00 PM

The subject matter of the proposed new bylaw entitled “Age Restricted Residential Developments”, proposed modification

of the table of uses and a proposed amendment to Chapter 3.3 Intensity Regulations Section 3.3.1. is as indicated below. The complete text relative to the proposed bylaw and proposed amendment is available on the town's website (townofchester.net) and for inspection during regular business hours at the following place:

Place: Chester Town Hall
Article Number Subject Matter of Proposed Amendment Sufficient for Identification

TBD Section 5.5: Age Restricted Residential Developments

The purpose of the proposed bylaw is to add a new Section 5.5: “Age Restricted Residential Developments” to the town's zoning by-laws. The bylaw details the requirements and restrictions within the Town of Chester for age restricted residential developments

Chester Schedule of Use Regulations Amendment

To adopt an amendment to Table 1; Chester Schedule of use Regulations of Chapter 3.0 Schedule of Regulations to revise “Multi Family Homes” to “no age restriction” and add a land use classification of “Age-Re-

stricted Residential Development” allowed by special permit only in the following zones; Residential, Agricultural Residential and Mixed-Use Village Business and not allowed in Industrial.

Zoning Bylaw Amendment - Chapter 3.3 Intensity Regulations

To amend Chapter 3.3 Intensity Regulations, Section 3.3.1 to; 3.3.1 A dwelling hereafter erected in any district shall be located on a lot having not less than the minimum requirements set forth in the table 2, and no more than one dwelling shall be built upon such lot except by Special Permit for age-restricted residential developments. No existing lot shall be changed as to size or shape so as to result in the violation of the requirements set forth in Table 2.

Town Of Chester Planning Board
04/17, 04/24/2025

TOWN OF BLANDFORD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Blandford Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage

Road, Blandford, MA 01008 at **6:00 PM on Wednesday, May 7, 2025.** The nature of this hearing is to present and discuss proposed zoning bylaw amendments.

Article
To amend the Blandford Zoning By-Law by:

1. Making amendments to Section X - Floodplain District to reflect the new flood maps and requirements for participation and compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

2. Add new Section XII -Accessory Dwelling Units to adopt local zoning regulations.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated. If unable to attend please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008. Failure to make recommendations on the matter for review shall be deemed lack of opposition thereto. A copy of the proposed articles is available for review at the Blandford Post Office and Town Hall.

Paul Martin, Chair
Blandford Planning Board
04/17,04/24/2025

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TAG SALE

TAG SALE: 63 Walker Road, Wales. Friday, April 25th & Saturday, April 26th, 8am-4pm. Rain or shine. 45 years of accumulation, antiques, art, housewares, plants, rare finds.

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OBITUARY

Elizabeth “Betty” Ann
(Ferry) Wheeler, 89

Elizabeth “Betty” Ann (Ferry) Wheeler, 89, a long time resident of Worthington passed away at home on Thursday, March 13, 2025. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 60 years, Courtney S. Wheeler.

Born on June 17, 1935, in Springfield, Betty was the daughter of Frederick and Barbara (Fraser) Ferry. As a teenager, she moved with her family to Chester and graduated form Chester High School in 1953.

Betty had a love for reading and enjoyed many pastimes including bowl-ing, playing pitch, traveling, camping, fishing and boating – activities she often shared with Cort. Together, they raised five children: Cheryl A. Preston-Major (Ronald), Sandra L. Cameron (Shawn),



Dianne E. Sullivan (Todd), Charles S. Wheeler II (Tanya), and Stuart A. Wheeler (Michelle). She is also survived by 12 grand children; nine great-grand-children; her older brother, Herbert Ferry and two younger sis- ters, Beverly Ostrom and Carolyn Porter.

She was predeceased by two grandchildren, Melissa Dufraine and Kenneth Dejordy; her sisters, Barbara LaRock and Virginia Blake and her brother, Frederick Ferry.

A graveside service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memori- al donations may be made to Worthington Fire and Rescue, 51 Huntington Road, Worthington, MA 01098, in recognition of their dedication and many acts of kindness.

DEATH NOTICE

WHEELER,
ELIZABETH “BETTY” (FERRY)

Died March 13, 2025
Graveside service will be held at later date.

Country Journal

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. English TV station

4. It fuels cars

7. Where ships dock (abbr.)

10. Indigenous people of Thailand

11. Midway between northeast and east

12. Small Milky Way constellation

13. Fritz __, Austrian chemist

15. A Brit's grandmother

16. Colombian city

19. Visualize

21. Charged

23. People's assets

24. Informative books

25. Jeer

26. You can do it with your horn

27. Agents of your downfall

30. Central Uganda city

34. Supervises flying

35. Type of tree

36. Alfalfa

41. Dishwasher soap brand

45. Hall where military eats

46. Ancient Greek City

47. Speaks incessantly

50. Discuss again

54. Extreme greed

55. Adopt or support

56. Fantasy writer Russell

57. Seize

59. Early Mesoamerican civilization

60. Noted pet detective Ventura

61. Automobile

62. Georgia rockers

63. Color opposite green

64. Amount of time

65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Sheep sound

2. Some can be emotional

3. Inflammation of colon lining

4. Origins

5. Comedienne Gasteyer

6. Perceived by the senses

7. A place to play ball

8. Occur before

9. Animal body parts

13. Thanksgiving dessert

14. Root mean square (abbr.)

17. 1960s teen idol Bobby

18. Promotional materials

20. One point east of northeast

22. Piers Anthony protagonist

27. Popular sports league

28. Cologne

29. Partner to cheese

31. Constrictor snake

32. Not good

33. Supplement with difficulty

37. Hug with fondness

38. Enforced again

39. Small amount of time (abbr.)

40. Substance

41. Anterior parts of the brain

42. Brews

43. Where ships load cargo

44. Holiday season singer

47. “__ humbug!”

48. Monetary unit of Macao

49. Popular children's book elephant

51. Glutinous

52. Function

53. Old world, new

58. Swiss river

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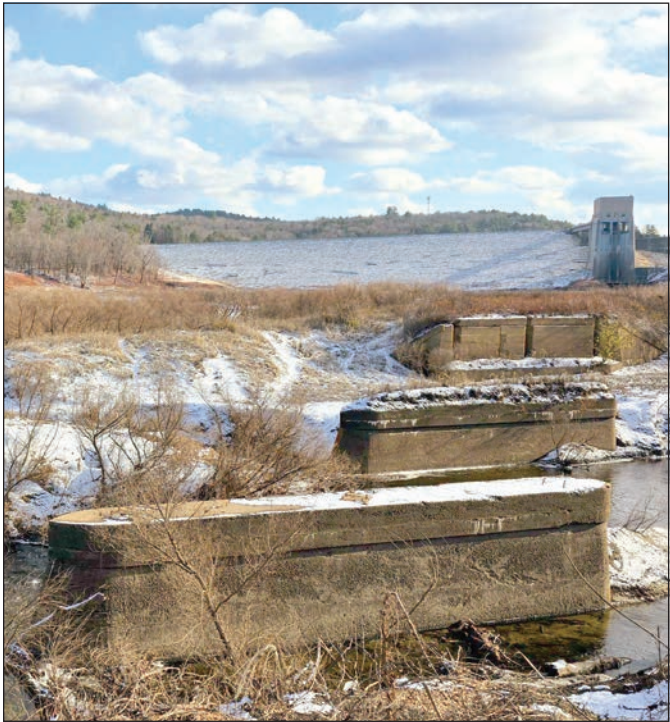
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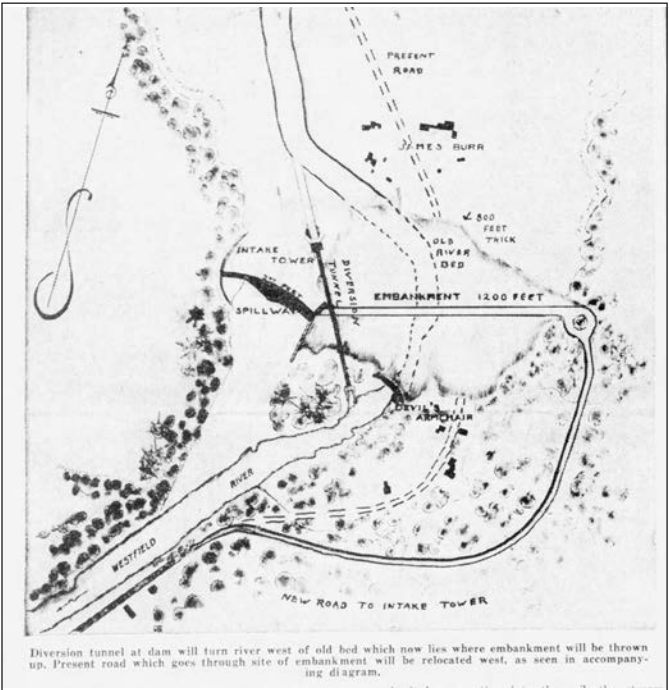
HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



This photo shows the poured concrete pillars. Submitted photos



The original Pitcher Bridge abutment is shown in this photo.



This map shows the original route of the East Branch with the new dam.

Looking back before the Knightville Dam

As the Hilltowns gets ready for the Wildwater Races lets go back in time to when before the Knightville Dam was created and the East Branch of the Westfield River flowed free.

The first Pitcher bridge across the East Branch of the Westfield River is rarely seen in the Knightville flood plain in Huntington. When the water levels are at record lows as they were early this past winter and before any water was backing up into the floodplain, Hilltown History reveals itself.

Being it a dry fall the river flowed almost like it did over 100 years ago following the original channel, which is rarely seen since the Knightville Dam was built and the water was backed up at its edge creating a flood plain pool of water.

All the bridge abutments (new and old) saw the sun this past winter, a rare event. Looking down into the floodplain one could see the original stone laid abutments from when Knightville was still a thriving village and

could see the newer Pitcher bridge built in 1927 and its poured concrete abutments.

This bridge existed prior to the Knightville Dam and was the main route connecting to old Cullen Road coming down from Norwich Lake. Long before 112 was a paved road, the Old Worthington Road would take travelers North to Worthington and the village of Knightville along the East Branch of the Westfield River was thriving.

Today, the old road is great hiking when it's above water of course. Only 10 years after the "new" Pitcher Bridge (poured concrete pillars) was built, the bridge was completed discontinued to be flooded under the creation of the Knightville Dam.

"Here Huntington will have to take the biggest loss, but the area involved is only a small percentage of the total area of the town. At the same time new values will be created in the relocation of the main road up the valley. The dam that closes the gap at Knightville will close as



The original Pitcher Bridge with some of the stone pillars is shown near the Knightville Dam.

well the new state road that was completed less than 10 years ago."

"After leaving Huntington center, the road crosses to the east bank of the river and continues along for several miles until it reaches the new concrete bridge, with the date 1927, about a half a mile north of the dam site at Knightville. Here it follows the main stream for a little over a mile until it branches off up the valley of the Little river to South Worthington."(From the Sunday Republican 1937)



This photo shows the poured concrete Pitcher Bridge.



Some of the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers stand by the original stone abutment of the original Pitcher Bridge.

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