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HUNTINGTON

Select board explores solar arrays

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

At their Wednesday, April 23 meeting, the Huntington select board met with Mathew Parent from Onyx Solar Energy and Dan Hovey from West Hartford Solar to look at draft plans for the installation of solar arrays on town-owned property.

Chairman Roger Booth, members William Hathaway and John McVeigh and Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin were all present. This concept was generated by McVeigh, who met with Parent and Hovey to show them town properties. The two presented preliminary designs of solar fields at 8 Laurel Road, 53 Basket St. (2 sites) and 0 Pond Brook lot 442-49-A/D, all in Huntington. Together, these sites are expected to generate nearly \$5 million in lease revenue over a 20 year term.

Parent has been working with the town of Marshfield and city of Taunton, both in Massachusetts. The company does all of the maintenance and the men said there were no out-of-pocket costs to the towns. "The reason why these things exist is we have supply issues," Hovey said. Companies are incentivising



Mathew Parent from Onyx Solar Energy, from left and Dan Hovey from West Hartford Solar presented draft plans of possible solar arrays, which could be placed on town-owned land and generate lease revenue for the town.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

these leases because of the need for power. Solar installations are easier to create than nuclear power plants; even so, the men said, the townspeople would need to support this.

Generally, the town could expect an option for two five-year extension leases. The lifespan of solar units today is 30 to 40 years. They said the units are made from recycled materials.

Hathaway pointed out that the two proposed sites for 53 Basket St. cannot be utilized. This former landfill

has been capped but is still considered an active remediation site, Booth said. Parent said that they often use capped landfills in municipal settings, but Booth explained that the air sampling on the site has to continue to be sampled for some years. Later clarified by Peloquin, semiannual monitoring is in place that includes groundwater, three residential private drinking wells, surface water and landfill gas. Without the Basket Street site, the town's projected revenue over 20 years would

drop by \$976,616, but still yield over \$4 million.

The proposal also included solar arrays for the roofs of Gateway Regional School and Littleville Elementary School. Together, these two sites are projected to raise \$814,703 over the first (20-year) lease. Parent said the company would also put \$500,000 toward the upcoming roof repair. This revenue might be applied to the Gateway budget or divided between their member

SOLAR ARRAYS, page 3

HUNTINGTON

Board discusses Fire Chief, library

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Select Board discussed the warrant article to move the Fire Chief to a full time position.

If this passes, a special election for a Proposition 2-½ override will be needed. Jensen said he approves of letting the voters decide. There was a dispute between Booth and McVeigh on the issue of whether or not a full time position would have to be posted. Booth said it would; McVeigh said it wasn't a change in job, it was a change in hours.

As the meeting continued with just the board and Peloquin present, discussion resumed concerning the Fire Chief's position. McVeigh read from a letter from the Ethics Commission that he recently received. McVeigh said he'd been told by the Select Board Chairman to abstain from votes on the Fire Chief, because McVeigh is the Assistant Fire Chief.

However, the letter confirmed that McVeigh is allowed to speak and vote on the issue as long as it

doesn't impact McVeigh financially and as long as he discloses his relationship to the voters, if he speaks to this during Annual Town Meeting. The exchange between Booth and McVeigh was, at times, heated.

Another issue around the fire chief's position is the question of whether to designate it a "weak" or "strong" position, as outlined in the Massachusetts Municipal Association handbook. It is believed that Ellinger was hired under a "strong" chief designation, meaning he has full authority over the fire department. The select board may put forth a warrant article changing it to a "weak" chief, meaning the Fire Department is under the authority of the Select Board.

Peloquin is researching the status that was determined when Ellinger was hired. Huntington's Police Chief has the "weak" chief designation.

In previous meetings, the select board had also discussed bringing the Fire Chief's salary up

BOARD, page 3

MONTGOMERY

May Music in Montgomery spans next five Thursdays

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

There are five Thursdays in the month of May, and each will have a stellar musical performance scheduled on the "Music in

Montgomery" calendar.

These free concerts take place at 3 p.m. each Thursday of the month at Montgomery Town Hall, 161 Main Road. Opening on May 1 will be pianist, guitarist and composer Jerry Noble,

and his wife Kara Noble, who plays bass. The duo are fixtures throughout Western Massachusetts and cover a mix of music styles.

They may be best known for their renditions of jazz classics that include Fats Waller and Jelly Roll Morton. They have been featured for their jazz performances at the infamous Sevenars Concert Series in Worthington. Their performances are dubbed, "We are the people our parents warned us about."

Singer, guitarist Larry Southard returns the following week May 8 for a range of heart-warming and toe tapping music. Southard is a regular throughout Western Massachusetts, either performing solo or with other musicians. People just never know when he's going to have a couple of amazing friends drop by. Earlier this month, he was part of a pop-up concert for a soft opening of Papa Bob's in Becket. He has also performed at the Daily Grind in Southwick, Knox Trail Inn in Otis, and at Chester Common Table.

Perpetual favorites "We

MUSIC, page 2



Jerry and Kara Noble open the Music in Montgomery series at Montgomery Town Hall in May.

Submitted photo

BLANDFORD

Town election has one contest

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

There is only one contest on the ballot for the Annual Town Election June 14.

Jackie Coury

The March 3 caucus produced three nominations for the Select Board slot: incumbent Jeff Allen, Jackie Coury and Chris Moylan. Allen recently resigned from the Select Board and indicated he does not wish to run again. This leaves Coury a viable and possibly uncontested candidate for the seat.

Moylan did not make the cut to be on the ballot.

June Massee

The contest on the ballot is for the Municipal Light Plan Board or

Broadband. Incumbent June Massee will vie with James Gaeta for the position. Coury studied business management and economics at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. She has held various executive leadership roles in customer service, operations and strategic initiatives. She spent the majority of her career with GE Capital out of Stamford, Connecticut.

Coury has served on the Finance Committee and has been instrumental in the budget process for the past two years. She and her husband Tom retired to Blandford in the fall of 2020.

Municipal Light Plant incumbent June Massee, has served on the MLP board since 2018 and

is a former tax collector. She has lived in town

since 1978.

She holds a Master Science in Business Administration degree and her undergraduate degree is also Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She is an Enrolled Agent with IRS and is certified both as Mass. Municipal Collector and Treasurer and is currently the Collector/Treasurer for Pelham.

James Gaeta

James Gaeta will vie for this position in June. He is Head of Integrations at HappyCo and oversees and manages critical technology connections between organizations, ensuring seamless operations across platforms. HappyCo specializes in efficiently centralizing all phases property management

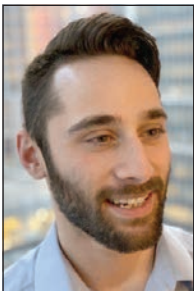
His experience in real estate technology and property management solutions have given him the understanding of how data-driven decisions, automation and sustainable practices can reduce waste and improve service delivery in public utilities. He holds a Bachelors Degree from York College in Pennsylvania.

A passionate musi-

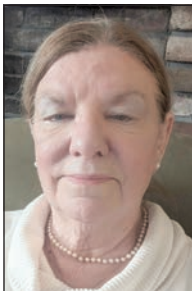
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Jackie Coury
Select Board
candidate



James Gaeta
Municipal Light
Plan Board



June Massee
Municipal Light
Plan Board



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RUSSELL

Russell Public Library announce upcoming news and events

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library, 162 Main St., is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3-7 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

The library will be closed Saturday, May 24 and Monday, May 26 in honor of Memorial Day. If patrons haven’t signed up for their CWMARS card yet, come to the library and staff will get them started with online ordering, convenient pick up and return. It would be appreciated if you would complete the Library Survey. Put it in the library drop box or complete it online.

Tweens/Teens are invited to Game Night every Friday. All games and snacks will be provided, participants are welcome to join anytime during library hours on Friday from 3-7 p.m.

Families are invited to join the Russell Public Library and the Western Massachusetts Appalachian Mountain Club Family Outings Committee for “Water Creatures in the Stream” on Saturday, May 3 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. They will meet at the Russell Public Library for a story, then come splash in the stream behind the library for some outdoor spring fun. With nets and magnifying field microscopes, they’ll see the water creatures up close and personal. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. They should wear layers and boots, the higher the better for spring mud and for wading in the stream. The program will run rain or shine. Participants may register by emailing rpldirector@townofrussell.us, calling 413-862-6221 and leaving a message or coming in and signing up at the library by Thursday, May 8.

Adults on May, 10 from 11 a.m.-noon there will be an author talk with Russell naturalist Bill Hardy on his self published book, “The Naturalist.” People will learn about Hardy’s lifelong passion for nature and wildlife. They may register by email rpldirector@townofrussell.us, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library, by Friday, May 9.

Adults: will have their Monthly Book Club on Tuesday, May 13 from 6-8 p.m. with the book “Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Books are available at the library. People should sign up by Friday, May 9.

The June Book Club book will be “Thursday Murder Club,” and will meet on Tuesday, June 10 from 6-8 p.m. Books will be available at the end of May. Register by email rpldirector@townofrussell.us, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message, or come in and sign up at the library by Friday, June 6.

On Tuesday, May 20 from 5:30-8 p.m. adults can learn about the exciting world of needle felting. They can learn and practice new skills while making a cute

bird ornament with Tracy Kochanski. Participant number is limited to 15. People may register by email rpldirector@townofrussell.us, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message, or come in and sign up at the library by Friday, May 16. This workshop is free to participants. Funding is provided by a grant from the Russell Cultural Council and the Mass Cultural Council

On Saturday, May 31 from 2-4 p.m. Albany author Darryl McGrath will talk about her new novel, “The Message Catcher.” This is a story of love, loss and recovery that follows a young woman’s journey through sudden traumatic widowhood after her husband dies saving her life during a vacation on Cape Cod. The novel is based on the author’s own experience after the sudden

death of her husband. The book draws on her experiences backpacking alone on the Appalachian Trail in the Berkshires where she found hope and strength to rebuild her life after it had been upended. Darryl McGrath is an Albany author, journalist and backpacker whose husband, Times Union journalist Jim McGrath, died in 2013. People may register by email rpldirector@townofrussell.us, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Thursday, May 29.

Technology Help session is on Thursday, May 18 from 11 a.m.-noon. Ms. Kate will be available to help individuals with their technology questions. So people should bring their phone, laptop or tablet to learn an app and/or get the tech support they need.

Recent reenactments of the beginnings of the revolution such as the battles at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775), make Madison’s book the perfect complement to the 250th anniversary of the nation’s founding. The book contains chapters written in collaboration with the Westfield Historical Commission and Montgomery’s Historical Society. It will be available for sale during the May 10 program.

The program is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted for the Historical Society’s Scholarship Fund. Refreshments will be available.

WORTHINGTON

Library to hold pastel workshop

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Library, 1 Huntington Road, will host a pastel painting for adults and teens 18 plus on Saturday, May 10 from 1-3 p.m.

Award-winning pastel artist Gregory John Maichack will present “The Seahorse” at the free pastel painting workshop. The workshop is designed for both sheer beginners to advanced participants. People should either call 413-238-5565 or email

TheWorthingtonLibrary@gmail.com to pre-register. Participants at “The Seahorse: How to Pastel Paint,” will all draw a seahorse or use a template that Maichack provides of both large and small seahorses. They will also create bubbles, and a template will be provided as well. Additionally emerald pastel pencils will be provided for details.

Participants will keep their 12” X 18” pastel painting of their personal-

ized vivid seahorse. Photo references of various pastel seahorses are supplied for ideas allowing unfathomable possibilities. Maichack’s own pastel painted seahorses will unveil the process. All will be entertained by lively anecdotes on the mystery of seahorses.

This project is supported in part from a grant from the Worthington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

FCC holds pasta supper May 17

WORTHINGTON – The First Congregational Church of Worthington is having its Annual Penny Social and Pasta Supper on Saturday May 17 at the Worthington Town Hall, 160 Huntington Road.

It is a fundraiser to support the work of the church. A delicious pasta dinner with all the fixings will be

served followed by a basket auction. The doors open at 4 a.m. for the purchase and distribution of the auction tickets with dinner at 5 p.m. and the raffle starting at 6p.m.

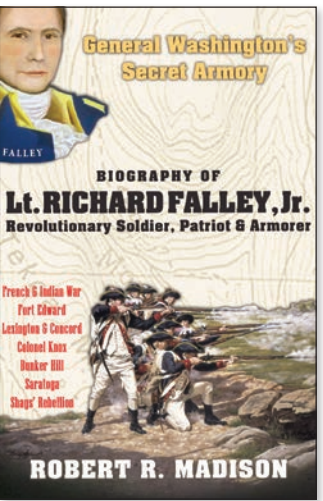
It is a wonderful, multi-generational family event. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children ages 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. Tickets may be purchased by either calling Marcia Estelle at 413-238-5554 or emailing worthingtonchurch536@gmail.com. People requesting tickets should state their name, phone number and the number of tickets they would like to purchase. Tickets are limited to 100 people, so get them while they last.

Montgomery was the location of a secret armory at the foot of Mt. Tekoa where arms were made for the war effort. Madison’s book reveals the story of Richard Falley, Jr.’s heritage, his exploits with the

MONTGOMERY

Historical Society hosts local author Robert Madison

MONTGOMERY – The Historical Society invites the public to a special program on Saturday, May 10 at 2 p.m. in the Town Hall, when local author Robert Madison, will discuss his recently-published book “General Washington’s Secret Armory – Biography of Lt. Richard Falley, Jr., Revolutionary Soldier, Patriot & Armorer” and the connection the town has with the Revolutionary War.



militia raised at Westfield after the battles of Lexington and Concord, his appointment as armorer for the Revolutionary War effort and

MUSIC

Three” are on the calendar for May 15. Barry Searle, guitar and vocals; Sarah Miller, percussion and vocals and Pete Rzasa, vocals, pedal steel and harmonica, present a variety of music styles. Searle also performs with his area band “Ravenwood” and released “The Awakening,” his first album of original songs last February.

There’s no telling what kind of music the audience will hear on May 22, when The Uncles take the stage. Known for their three-part vocal harmonies and a range of instruments, the group covers jazz, gospel, blues,

rock, folk, country and pop music. The Uncles are Rob Adams, voice and guitars; Dennis Avery, voice and steel guitars and John Clark, voice and bass.

Ed Bentley & Friends- also known as “men of a certain age” will close the month on May 29. The ensemble is likely to include Jane Martin Pelletiere and Ron Campagna, but are often joined by surprise guests. They regularly headline at the Daily Grind in Southwick, the Southwick Inn, Shortstop Bar & Grill and open mics at Bright Ideas Brewing in Westfield.

This series is co-hosted by the Montgomery Public Library and by Gray Catbird Pottery Studio. Attendees are invited to bring baked goods to share. Donations are accepted for the refreshments, with money split between the Montgomery Volunteer Firemen’s Association and the Town Library. Donations are also accepted to tip and thank the fabulous musicians who perform each week.

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

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CHESTER

Hamilton Memorial Library lists events

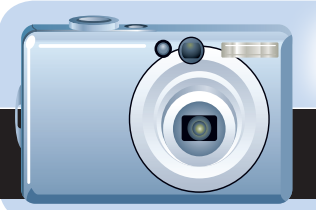
CHESTER – Story & Fun Time meet every Thursday at 11 a.m.

This is a great opportunity to foster a love of reading in young patrons while providing an opportunity for socialization and learning new skills through crafts and play. The next feature film will be on Tuesday, May 6 at 4 p.m. They will be showing the Disney musical adventure, “Moana.” Refreshments will be served. RSVPs are helpful by calling 413-354-7808. Author Talk takes place Saturday, May 10 at 11a.m.

at the Chester Town Hall. Local author, Steven V. Cormier will give a presentation on his new book, “The Sacrificial Land.” Attendees will learn local history focused on inhabitants of Knightville, Indian Hollow and Littleville whose land was sacrificed for the sake of surrounding communities and increased harmony with the Westfield River. RSVPs are helpful.

Chester on Track is Saturday May 17. The library will hold a book and bake sale. People may visit the library’s unique museum which houses

four large glass cases of local crystals and rocks from local mines as well as numerous specimens from around the world. Hours to be announced. Book Club meets every third Wednesday of the month, May 21 at 4:30 p.m. Participants will enjoy light refreshments as they discuss this month’s featured novel, “The Music Shop” by Rachel Joyce set in 1988 London. Filled with music, interesting characters and even some romance, this book is sure to please a variety of readers. Extra copies are available.



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BECKET

Mother’s Day plant sale held May 10

BECKET – A Mother’s Day plant sale will be held on Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or until sold out at the Guild Hall on YMCA Road.

People should come early for the best selection. There will be hanging baskets, patio pots, and bedding plants available. Sales will benefit the First Congregational Church of Becket restoration efforts.

People may call 413-623-8300 if they want to reserve plants.

ARTIST ISABEL MARGOLIN TO TALK AT ART CENTER



The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will present a talk and demonstration by artist Isabel Margolin on Thursday, May 8 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A member of the New England Mosaic Society, Margolin will lead the audience in the hands-on creation of a collaborative mosaic, which will be auctioned off for the benefit of the BAC. Materials will be provided. The event is free for members and \$5 donation for non-members. Visit becketartscenter.org for more information. Submitted photo

HILLTOWNS

MassDOT lists I-90 bridge work

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces bridge work on I90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 35.5 to 36.5 in Montgomery and Russell.

The work is scheduled now through Thursday night, May 1 taking place nightly from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning, ending Friday morning, May 2 at 5:30 a.m. The work will require lane closures in both directions each night to allow crews to safely complete bridge construction work.

There will be concurrent traffic impacts on Route 20 eastbound and westbound below the bridge, from mile markers 49.0 to mile marker 49.5 (approximately from the Westfield/Russell town line to a point 0.5 miles west of the town line). An alternating one-lane traffic pattern will be conducted by police details during nighttime hours, with occasional stoppages of traffic in both directions as required.

Vehicles with widths greater than 11 feet will be unable to travel on I-90 westbound between exits 41 and 10. The width restriction will have no effect on passenger vehicles or most other traffic. This width restriction will remain in place for approximately two months.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details and advanced message boards will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, realtime 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 realtime conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

HUNTINGTON

BOARD

from page 1

to be fairer with the hours he was putting in, even though they would not support the full time position. With the 2% increase being given to most town employees, the fire chief’s salary would increase to \$23,460. However, the Board had previously discussed bumping the salary up between \$3,000 and \$17,000 to better reflect the hours Ellinger has been putting in on fire calls and newly mandated reporting. Hathaway said he should get the same raise as everyone else, although a few other employees are also being bumped up in this budget. Booth suggested going to \$26,000 and at least meeting the \$3,000 increase they had agreed on previously. Following a back and forth, they settled on \$24,500 for the Fire Chief’s Fiscal Year 2026 salary.

Weather station

Highway Superintendent Brad Curry and Emergency Management Director John Garriepy proposed a weather station be installed at the intersection of Route 66 and County Road. This would measure things like snow depth, temperature, wind speed and record traffic at that site. Curry said it would be helpful for the highway department, based downtown, to be able to monitor snowfall at this higher elevation and said the towns of Otis, Granville, Tolland and New Marlborough all have these.

Police Chief Robert Garriepy has expressed interest as he could potentially be able to ID a suspect driving in that area. Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger had also reportedly expressed interest in the wind speed and direction data for use in fire-fighting. The device would be linked to officials’ phones and also to communities around Huntington.

John Garriepy suggested the funding could come through the emergency management budget; he currently receives a \$2,600 grant that could be applied toward this, although there is never a guarantee that the grant would be sustained over time. They have looked at one device that would cost \$3,650 per year with a projected 5% increase annually. Booth said he would like them to look at other units with more favorable pricing.

Library

The board met with library and finance committee representatives to look at the anticipated Municipal Appropriation Requirement, which will change in time due to an increase this year in the Library Director’s weekly hours. This statute specifies the minimum funding that a town must provide to its library in order to remain eligible for State Aid to Public Libraries. Part of Massachusetts General Law, it is calculated based on the average of the three previous years of town support to the library, plus 2.5%.

Library Director Amanda Loiselle has calculated the MAR out for four years, when it bumps up significantly. The trustees are looking at several options to reduce this impact. Trustee Karen Wittshirk said that if the town is having deep financial issues when this bump occurs, they might be able to get a waiver. But they can also lessen this impact if they are able to secure \$8,000 in funding this year through other sources beyond the town budget, such as the Friends of the Library, Petis Fund or Carmel Fund. For this to work, the accountant has to lower the books and materials line of the town budget by \$8,000 this year, which was moved and approved.

Community gardening project

Erica Wells proposed a raised bed community gardening project on the town land that was the site of the former Murrayfield Elementary School. Her plan is to fundraise for the project costs and open the raised beds to community groups. McVeigh expressed concerns about vandalism, in light of repeated damage to the playground on Petis Field. However, the library has exterior cameras that could be on the gardening site. This was also unanimously approved.

Finance Committee

Two finance committee members-Eric Jensen and Andre Alguero-met to review the current draft of the FY 26 town budget. They said that the Finance Committee has not been able to reach a quorum in two months and they do not anticipate being able to do so before the Annual Town Meeting. As such, Booth said the Finance Committee would not sit up front at Annual Town Meeting, nor make recommendations as voters move through the town budget. However, each would be welcome to speak as individual voters during the meeting. Booth also invited them to comment or question anything in the current version.

Other business

They also reviewed the capital requests for the warrant. Free cash has still not been certified. A new roof for the salt shed will be debt excluded. Several items need firmer numbers. A request for a new Highway Department dump truck was not supported by the board. The Select Board has opted to hold another extra meeting on Wednesday, April 30 at 4 p.m.

Town election set for May 10

HUNTINGTON – The Annual Town Election at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road, will be held on Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

The nominees are as follows: for Board of Selectmen, Roger Booth, Jr.; Board of Health, Kathleen Peterson; Board of Assessors, Roxanne Pin; Water and Sewer Commission, Sue Fopiano; Regional School Committee (three year), PeggyAnn Dragon-Blumenthal; Regional School Committee (one year), Brianna Sloane; Tree Warden, Henry Sarafin; Moderator, George Peterson; Trustee: Alphonso Pettis Fund, Alicia Hackerson; Constable, James Helems; Trustee: Huntington Library, Erica Wells and Trustee: Whiting Street Fund, no nominee.

For residents of Huntington not already registered to vote, the last day to register already passed. It was April 30. For more information, people may call the Town Clerk at 413-512-5209 or visit the town website at www.huntington-ma.us.

SOLAR ARRAYS

from page 1

towns. While either option would save the towns money, it is not clear who might benefit from these funds and further clarity needs to be sought.

Next steps will include a presentation to the Gateway Regional School Committee, as well as talking with the Planning and Zoning Boards. If all parties are in favor, an Request for Proposal would then need to go out. Parent said the RFP needed to be written carefully. “You don’t always want the winning criteria to be the cheapest to build,” Parent said.

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GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor



Please clear up our confusion about our Social Security payments

Dear Rusty:

I am thoroughly confused.

What do I need to do to continue receiving automatic Social Security deposits to my bank account and maintain our Medicare and Supplement health insurance? My wife has received her SS deposit regularly on the third Wednesday each month with automatic bank deposit for many years. I have received my SS deposit regularly the fourth Wednesday each month with automatic bank deposit also for many years. Can you please tell me what to do to continue receiving these automatic deposits?

First, I hear that we do not need to do anything. Then I hear that we must show up in person at our local SS office to visually confirm our identity. We live 100 miles away from our only SS office and apparently, they don't take walk-ins. Next, I hear that we must contact the SS on the internet and answer their questions in order to continue receiving our checks. I am totally confused and don't know what to do and we don't want to miss our checks or have our Medicare and supplemental insurance cancelled. Can you please help us?

Signed:
Confused in Hawaii

Dear Confused:

I know there have been a lot of news media reports and articles written on the recent changes announced by the Social Security Administration with respect to a need to confirm one's identity in-person. Allow me to set your mind at ease because, from what you have described that you are already receiving Social Security benefits and Medicare insurance, you do not need to do anything to have your Social Security benefits and your Medicare insurance continue without interruption and that includes your wife as well.

That which has been reported in the media is sometimes misleading

or misinformed, but here at the AMA Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service we are watching these events very closely and can assure you that your regular benefits will continue uninterrupted. The only people who may be affected by the SSA's new processes are those who are applying for Social Security for the first time or those who need to change where their monthly benefit is deposited. In those cases, the SSA is being very careful that no fraud is being attempted and, thus, the reason for a possible in-person SSA office visit, but only in those specific unique circumstances. But for you and your wife, it will continue to be "business as usual" and you will see no interruption in either your monthly Social Security benefit nor in your usual Medicare coverage and supplement. You don't need to do anything to have all your benefits continue.

So, please relax and do not worry. And rest assured that here at the AMAC Foundation we are watching all events occurring in Washington, D.C., especially those related to Social Security and Medicare, and will promptly inform our members of anything which affects them.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

OPINION



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader says need to follow our constitution

Remember the glass balls with the farm scene inside.... turn it upside down and there is a blizzard hiding the farm?

Looking out the window here at our country, all I can see is the blizzard. Economic shocks, constitutional shocks, social shocks, environmental shocks, are

all aimed towards an end of dismembering any part of our democracy incompatible with strong man rule.

We are upside down and the blinding assault from the authoritative right, disorients and confuses resistance. Still most of your unhappy readers would agree that we need to

get our constitution up and running again and defend the rule of law.

Failing to do so, will reveal, as the blizzard of the first hundred days of the Trump rule settles, a disfigured democracy.

Thank you,
Richard Mansfield
Worthington

GUEST COLUMN

The Garden Nag

I don't know about you, but the garden can sometimes be a nag. You walk by, and it says, "I need to be pruned," or maybe "Get rid of the leaves around my stems!" or how about "Stake me up, I'm sick of having my nose in the dirt."

Yes, a nag alright. I pass by some plants on my way to the garage and they are on my case. Same goes with the path to the chicken coop. Herbs, mostly, and they are begging for my attention.

Read on about what I need to do when I get to it!

These herbs, or "useful plants" are only a handful of years old, but admittedly, they have become a bit uncivilized. The mints have run amok, and the sage and lavenders have lost their youthful vigor.

Meanwhile the antique roses decided to make a run for it. It's time I show this garden who's boss.

Starting with the spear-mint that has intermingled with the horseradish, oregano and chives. Reigning this plant in will be an enjoyable job. Rather than take my own advice and sink a bottomless pot around a chosen clump, I will allow the mint to meander into two parts of the bed and will yank up the rest.

I have a feeling I'll be revisiting this job before summer's end.

Both the sage and lavenders had grown tired. They are in the mint family as

well, but their habit of growth is more like that of shrubs. Without rejuvenation, their stems get woody and gangly.

The sage is about to flower, so other than removing any obviously dead branches, I will come back in late June to tackle the rest of the rejuvenation. The lavenders have begun to show signs of life, so that I can prune now.

I may end up sacrificing a few blooms, but I think it will be worth it. I will cut deep within the plant to the first sign of fresh young growth. An application of fertilizer and lime and some extra water over the next couple of weeks will result in spry plants once more.

I was fortunate enough to have successfully moved an apothecary rose from my parent's garden to my former house and now to this present-day landscape. They sucker "wonderfully," that is, depending on where they are planted and who you ask!

On a hedge or banking, this habit would be welcomed. In my garden bed, it isn't always, especially when thorny shoots must be weeded out of neighboring plants, in my case, a bed of iris. Ouch!

I'll use the loppers for this task, cutting back the shoots that had invaded foreign territory. With hand clippers I removed dead twigs, cut back weak growth to a strong point on the stem and redirected inward growth to an outward facing bud.

The rose will look great and in a little more than a month will be full of those beautiful pink and oh so fragrant blossoms.

Now, last but not least... the weeds. According to my personal dictionary of horticulture terms, a weed is simply a plant that is growing out of place.

The anise hyssop is a weed, as wonderful and fragrant as it is, when it volunteers itself out of bounds. It used to drive me crazy weeding. I had to save everything and plant it somewhere else.

Now I consider such weeds a gift to my compost pile when I have no room or no "takers."

Hard work, yes, but it'll be worth it! Now a trip to the garage or the chicken coop can be pleasurable once more.

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.

Corrections policy

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

Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to countryjournal@turley.com.

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.

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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Have fun playing and collecting marbles

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

Are you in need of some relaxation, but with a hint of edge to it?

Then people should ry marbles, play the game of marbles. It takes skill and a bit of shooting accuracy, but no heavy physical demands on your body. Skip the marathon running and practice shooting marbles, everyone can do it.

In fact with practice , ages 7-14 may just have time to qualify for the National Marble Tournament played in Wildwood, New Jersey in June. It has been held every year since 1922, where 1,200 games are played over four days.

The official game is Ringer, originally called Ringtaw. This game involves contestants to shoot one of the 13 marbles placed in the center of a circle out of the ring while leaving their shooter inside the circle. Once the shooter leaves the circle, their turn is over. Whoever knocks the most marbles out of the ring is the winner.

There is another game called marble golf where players try to shoot the marbles in a circle into a smaller circle in the middle without their shooter leaving the inside of the circle. Football Marble is a game that involves lining up marbles along a center line drawn inside a football shaped circle. The goal is to shoot the marbles off the center line with the shooter located outside the football shape a foot or more away. The games are simple, but challenging and fun and there are no club fees.

To get good you need to play a lot. The players in the tournament may be young, but they are marble sharks.

Marbles were found in King Tut's tomb in Egypt and they have been found in native American camp sites. Military men during WWII played marbles. Marble aficionados share a language all their own. This is a game that can be played anywhere either alone or with others with 15 to 30 marbles. It can't cure our political woes but it goes a long way to entertaining us in these trying times.

To shot a marble, form

form a pocket with your first finger and thumb, then flick your thumb to send the marble on a mission. Players can also place your marble on the ground and flick it with their first finger, whatever it takes to get it rolling towards a target.

Marble players are known as mibsters and they play with a mib or marble in the marble lingo. They call a game fairsie if at the end they return all the mibs to the original owner and a keeepsie when they keep the mibs they have won at the end of the game. One other important term is the taw line which is the Marbles were hand made of clay beginning in the 1840s. They also were made of china, porcelain, agate stone and glass. Early tan, red and brown clay marbles were produced in Ohio and were called commies, which stood for common children marbles.

Mass production was made possible in 1884 by Samuel Dyke of Akron, Ohio. He designed a wooden block with six grooves that each held a lump of clay. A wooden paddle would be rolled over the clay lumps until six balls were formed. It was like rolling dough for cookies only it was done with a mold. The factory grew to 350 employees that cranked out one million marbles per day.

The price of marbles dropped to one penny for a bag of 30 clay marbles. Not a bad price for a bag of aggies to amuse children.

James Leighton, a master glass maker developed a mold on a pair of tongs in 1891 that made a smooth marble of glass with only one pontil mark (rough spot on the glass where it was removed from the punty or glass blowing rod. Germans had begun making glass marbles just prior to this.

Glass became the standard material for marbles. Glass marble making involves heating sand, soda ash and lime in a hot furnace for as long as 28 hours and a careful cooling process called annealing where great caution is taken not to hasten the cooling process to avoid cracking the glass. Marble production was further refined by M. F. Christensen, a Danish immigrant in Akron, Ohio, who

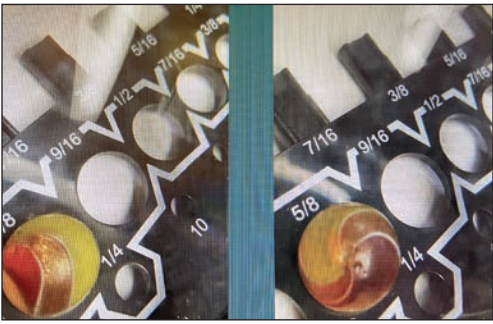
invented a screw conveyor machine that had two grooved cylinders that spun next to each other. A slug of molten glass was placed between the cylinders on one end and gradually molded into a ball by the rolling grooves as it went down the cylinder. The company was already making steel ball bearings, so the technology was adapted to glass. This method is still used today to make marbles.

Marble manufacturing continued this way until the 1950s when Japan introduced the cat's eye marbles. This is where ribbons of colored glass were blended in a clear glass base. Many manufacturers jumped into making marbles in the early 1900s. The swirls of color in marbles are made by mixing 2 or more glass colors in a single batch in the furnace with temperatures of 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit. Each color has a different density so they do not melt together but create stratas of different color giving the marbles their unique swirls of color. The heyday of marble game playing is said to be the 1930s through to the 1950s.

There are many varieties in marble designs. Lutz marbles have copper metal inclusions in the glass that shine and glitter like gold. There are marbles with hot rod flames, finger-like points in the glass that resemble flame tips. Guinea marbles have the color of guinea fowl, flecks of red, black and orange colors.

The Peltier Glass Co. in Ottawa, Illinois made marbles with comic strip characters like Betty Boop and Andy Gump molded into the glass. Moon or moonies are marbles with a single translucent color and cyclone marbles have spirals of color inside the glass. The blades of color or "vanes" as marble makers call them make beautiful patterns in the glass.

There are many collectors, who are searching for rare and old marbles that command prices upwards of \$300 per marble at auction. Many marble collections should not be dismissed as junk. There are fine arts craftsmen, such as those in Shelburne Falls, who make artistic glass marbles today. The Klutz book of marbles gives the rules to many mar-



Most game marbles are 5/8 inch in size, photo showing a marble size chart.



WWII soldiers enjoy a game of marbles. Submitted photos



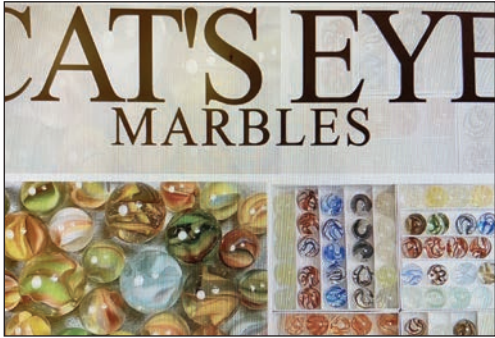
A clay marble, a steel ball bearing marble and a stone marble among blue marbles belonging to a collector friend.

ble games such as dropsies, potsies, tic-tac-toe, poison ring and others for those who need a primer.

Do enjoy a game especially as summer approaches and people gather for family picnics and get togethers. A game of marbles is the perfect ice breaker for mixing with long lost relatives. People, who inherit a collection of marbles, should check the web site Old Rare Marbles to learn their value. Do not have them polished because most collectors like wear. but they disapprove of polishing them. So find some marbles and start playing.



A marble polishing machine shows a marble being polished smooth.



Cat's eye marbles with vanes of color in clear glass. Photos taken from Wikipedia.



These are glass swirl marbles.



A Marble Tournament is held every year in Wildwood, New Jersey.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Andreana Nop elected into Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA – Andreana Nop of Westfield was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Framingham State University.

Nop is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10% of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

‘Flying and Flourishing’ mural ribbon cutting May 2

PITTSFIELD – The Pittsfield Let It Shine! Public Art Partnership, under the direction of Artist in Residence Huck Elling, worked with students at Pittsfield High School to paint a mural entitled “Flying and Flourishing.”

This vibrant work of art is installed at Burbank Place, joining their previous tile mural, “Shapes of Togetherness.” The public is invited to the unveiling and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new work on Friday, May 2 at 6 p.m., as part of First Fridays at Five.

The students chose to continue transforming the previously selected location of Burbank Place, harnessing the artistic momentum to bring meaningful color and vibrancy to a spot they feel is too frequently described as dreary or graffiti-filled. As part of Let It Shine's ongoing initiative to connect students with local artists, the group met twice a week to conceptualize and design the mural under the guidance of Artist in Residence Huck Elling and Sophie Possick, a first-year student from Williams College serving as a Public Art Intern.



This is one of the murals painted by Pittsfield High School students. Photo by Huck Elling

As a Public Art Intern, Possick listened to the students' ideas and drew up sketches to bring their plans to life. “The students wanted to keep bringing light to this space and immediately knew they wanted to incorporate flowers and bugs into their designs,” said Possick. “Watching the students go

from talking to sketching to a final product was a wonderful experience. I'm so grateful that I got the opportunity to serve as a vehicle for the students to bounce ideas off of and that I got to know and spend time with all of them.”

Many students returned to the project, eager to continue their work with Let It Shine.

Among them was Kenny Davis, a 12th-grade student, who shared, “We wanted to concentrate our energy in one space to create a bigger impact. By focusing on this spot, we achieved something truly special.”

Catherine Hennessey, a 9th-grade participant, highlighted the mural's thematic focus: “By choosing flowers and bugs, we're literally bringing life to this space. The alleyway is dark, and real flowers can't grow there-but now they can through our art.”

The mission of Let It Shine! is centered on making art accessible to everyone, fostering confidence in Pittsfield, and strengthening connections between residents and their downtown. The Let It Shine! Public Art Partnership is a collective of Pittsfield-based community members, including Downtown Pittsfield, Inc./Downtown Pittsfield Cultural Association (fiscal agent), the City of Pittsfield's Office of Cultural Development, Pittsfield Artists in Residence Huck Elling and Jesse Tobin McCauley, and the Mill Town Foundation.

Let It Shine! is continuing its mentoring program

in Pittsfield Public Schools near downtown this year. The program aims to educate and inspire young artists while strengthening connections between youth and downtown, contributing to economic and community well-being. Local youth participate in public art projects exploring activism, environmentalism, and entrepreneurship.

Let It Shine! expresses gratitude for support from its major sponsors: Mill Town Foundation, Lee Bank, Feigenbaum Foundation, TDI Local funding from MassDevelopment's Transformative Development Initiative, and the Pittsfield Cultural Council.

Special appreciation is given to NBT Bank for their support and to Rich Altman and Adam Hersch of Cavalier Central Block, LLC, for their generous contribution to this project.

For more information on the Pittsfield Let It Shine! Public Art Partnership, people may email Artist in Residence Huck Elling at huckelling@gmail.com or call the city of Pittsfield's Office of Cultural Development at 413-499-9348.

OBITUARIES

James B. Lagoy, 80

WORTHINGTON – James B. Lagoy, 80, passed away on Thursday, April 17, 2025.

Jim is survived by his wife Linda; sons: Matthew (Ann), Timothy (Carrie) and Christopher (Jennifer); grandchildren Brandon, Dillon, Danae, Dustin and Wyatt; great-granddaughters Abigail and Molly and his brother Edward (Barbara) and sisters, Theresa and Claire. He was predeceased by siblings Leonard, Mary, Lillian, Jean, Annie, Rita and John.

Jim was born in Westfield on May 3, 1944. He was the son of the late Gilbert and Clara Lagoy of Huntington. Jim graduated from Huntington High School and went on to a post graduate electrical vocational school. He worked for an electrical contractor, ML Schmitt, for many years, eventually opening his own electrical business with his Masters



License. He was the Electrical Inspector for the town of Worthington for numerous years.

After retirement he and his wife traveled often with their best trip being a month in Alaska. Jim enjoyed hunting, which took him on many trips with friends to other states, classic cars and fishing; especially ice-fishing, where he took his children and grand-

children.

Calling hours will be on Friday, May 9 from 4-7 p.m. at the Graham Hilltown Community Funeral Home at 27 Russell Road in Huntington. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, May 10 at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Hills Church at 173 Main St. in Haydenville. Burial will follow the church service in the North Cemetery on Cold Street in Worthington. Memorial contributions may be sent to the charity of one's choice.

Grace M. Wheeler, 92

Grace M. Wheeler, 92, previously of Huntington, passed away on April 24, 2025 just four weeks after losing Neil, her beloved husband of 73 years.

Grace was born in Chester on July 26, 1932 to Guy and Cora (Daniels) Barr. She grew up in the hilltowns, married Neil in 1952 and raised her family in Huntington. Grace and Neil were also foster parents, who opened their home to children in need.

Grace owned and operated The River Breeze Antique shop for many years. She served on the editorial board of Stonewalls Magazine and served on the Huntington Historical Society. She served as American Legion

Auxiliary District 2 Director and was active in the Norwich Hill Congregational Church and the Huntington Federated Church and Ladies Aid Club.

Grace was a dedicated historian and genealogist and traced her family heritage back to the 1500s. She also helped many people around the country research their own family ancestry. She loved crafting, gardening, and making beautiful greeting cards. Grace enjoyed long car trips with her husband, Neil. More than anything, Grace loved large family get-togethers and taking



care of her home and family.

Grace was predeceased by her husband Neil, brother Earl Barr Jr. and sisters Lillian St. Germain, Doris Olds and Eunice Kondrat.

Grace is survived by her children, Neil Wheeler Jr. and his wife Pat; Gary Wheeler and his wife Mary; Marie Pease and her husband Tim; Laurie O'Brien and her husband Clyde and Bill Wheeler; seven grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren; brother-in-law Robert Burkholder and his wife Mary, sister-in law Janice Wheeler, brother-in-law Tony

Anziano and sister-in-law Janice Wheeler and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Her family would like to thank the staff of the Craneville Place Nursing Home for their compassionate, loving care of both Grace and Neil.

Grace's funeral service will be held with Neil's. Calling hours will be on Saturday, May 3 from 10-11 a.m. at Firtion-Adams Funeral Home in Westfield with funeral service to follow.

Donations in Grace's memory may be sent to The Huntington Historical Society c/o David Norton, P.O. Box 373, Huntington MA 01050. www.firtionadams.com.

DEATH NOTICES

LAGOY, JAMES B.

Died April 17, 2025
Calling hours May 9 from 4-7 p.m.
Graham Hilltown Community Funeral Home,
Huntington
Funeral Service May 10 at 10 a.m.
Our Lady of the Hills Church, Haydenville
Burial to follow in North Cemetery, Worthington

WHEELER, GRACE M. (BARR)

Died April 24, 2025
Calling hour May 3 from 10-11 a.m.
at Firtion-Adams Funeral Home, Westfield
Funeral Service May 4 with Neil's following calling hour

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice 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.

NOTICE

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

FLORENCE

Florence Bank supports neighborhood rebuild event

FLORENCE – The Florence Bank supports Revitalize CDC's 2025 #GreenNFit Neighborhood Rebuild event with a \$10,000 Block Sponsorship and a record number of bank volunteers, who provided a hand on Saturday, April 26 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

For several years, the bank and its employees have supported the organization and its mission to improve homes, neighborhoods and lives through preservation, education and community involvement. Joe Kulig, vice president / commercial loan officer and a Revitalize

CDC board member for over 25 years and Nikki Gleason, vice president / manager of the West Springfield branch, were house captains for the bank's project, inspiring other bank employees to take part.

During #GreenNFit this year, roughly 800-1,000 community volunteers made critical repairs and modifications to the homes of roughly 15-20 low-income families with children, elderly, military veterans or people with special needs in the Calhoun Park area of Springfield's North End. Fifteen Florence Bank

employees took part. Work included yard clean-up, exterior painting and fixing decks and stairs. Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, city councilors and state legislators were expected to also be involved.

"This year will be one of the largest turnouts from the bank perspective," Kulig said. "It's gotten a lot of attention internally in past years when volunteers come back to the bank and tell people about it. It drives interest, and that's why our numbers are growing."

Gleason, a house captain for the event since 2016,

said, "We're all happy to be part of something that improves the neighborhood. It's an infectious good feeling with a positive effect on the whole neighborhood, and it helps raise awareness about the organization."

Revitalize CDC was founded in 1992 as an all-volunteer agency that raised roughly \$40,000 each year and assisted about five families annually. Today, it serves over 800 families a year with a \$5 million annual budget. Revitalize CDC serves Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties, with its primary reach in

Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield.

The goal of #GreenNFit is to make homes more energy efficient, safe, healthy and aesthetically pleasing.

"We are very grateful for the support of Florence Bank and appreciate the show of support from its leaders and employees," said Colleen Shanley-Loveless, president and CEO of Revitalize CDC in Springfield. "Florence Bank knows and values the community and the nonprofit organizations that support it. Consistently, they step up as a good neighbor."

Florence Bank President and CEO Matt Garrity said, "We are pleased to be able to support Revitalize CDC in its efforts to keep people safe in their homes. I'm proud of our employees who get out there and help."

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield and Springfield.

GOSHEN

Town Clerk lists election and town meeting information

GOSHEN – The Annual Town Election will be held on Saturday, June 7 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the John James Memorial Hall, located at 42 Main St..

A sample ballot can be found on the town website by visiting www.goshen-ma.us. In addition to in person voting on election day, Vote by Mail is a permanent option for all Massachusetts voters. People can register to do so in

the following ways:

Submit a signed application via email, mail or fax to the town clerk's office. The application can be found on the town clerk website by visiting www.goshen-ma.us/elections/. It must include a signature that can be compared to the handwritten signature. Electronic signatures, scanned applications and photos of applications are acceptable.

People may alls use the State's Mail-in Ballot Application System, by visiting www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailInBallot.aspx.

To participate in the upcoming Annual Town Election, there are a few important deadlines to keep in mind. If residents wish to vote by mail, their application must be submitted in writing and received by the

town clerk's office no later than Monday, June 2 by 5 p.m.. It's important to apply as early as possible, particularly if their ballot will be mailed out of town. The U.S. Postal Service recommends allowing up to seven days for mail delivery, so to ensure the Town Clerk receives their ballot in time to return it.

It's best to apply two to three weeks before Election Day. Additionally, the last

day to register to vote in order to participate in the election is Wednesday, May 28. Registration will be available in the town clerk's office from 9-11 a.m. and again from 3-5 p.m. on that day.

The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to take place a few weeks before the election, on Saturday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m. and will be held at the John James Memorial Hall, located at 42 Main St..

To participate in the meeting, residents must be registered to vote by Wednesday, May 7. Voter registration will be available that day at the town clerk's office from 9-11 a.m. and again from 3-5 p.m. on that day.

People may call Town Clerk Kristen Estelle with any questions or concerns at 413-268-8236, extension 107 or email clerk@goshen-ma.us.

Goshen Council on Aging announces upcoming events

GOSHEN – The Council on Aging will hold a flower-filled luncheon on Tuesday, May 13 at noon at the Goshen Town Hall in the downstairs area.

Everyone will be able to take a flower to brighten up their home. Lunch will be ham and beans and macaroni and cheese with vegetables and a tossed salad catered by Spruce Corner Restaurant. Desserts this month are created by Rita from Chesterfield. Senior should call Henrietta at 413-268-7465 by Tuesday, May 6 to let her know they are coming.

On Wednesday, May 7 the crafts group this month meets in the Library. Participants may bring their own craft project to work on in community with us. If people have a craft

they would like to learn or they you would like to teach, they should let any COA board member know and the COA will work on making that happen.

On Thursday, May 15 the Hampshire Regional High School Drama Company is teaming up with the local Councils on Aging to bring a special theatrical experience to the community. In a unique collaboration, students will perform a production of "The Picture Of Dorian Gray" for (those who are 60 plus providing them with the opportunity to enjoy a show at no cost. Entry is free to all COA seniors. Seniors will meet at the Hampshire Regional High School Auditorium at 2:40 p.m.; the show starts at 3 p.m. They should call Kerry at 413-

268 9354 if they are coming so she can save seats for Goshen attendees to sit together.

Also on Thursday, May 15 Technology Help will take place from noon-2 p.m. in the Goshen Library with Goshen resident Stephen Morley, who is a generous volunteer. People may bring any and all questions regarding their computer, phone or tablet to Stephen. He will problem solve with them.

On Tuesdays, May 20 and 27 Highland Valley Elder Service delivers meals to Goshen COA on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Participants pick up their hot lunch at the Goshen Town Hall from 12:30-1 p.m. The lunch for May 20 is a choice of chicken parmesan or mushroom cheese quiche and the choice for May 27 is fish sand-

wich or eggplant parmesan. The meals also include milk, vegetables and dessert. There is a suggested \$4 donation given to Highland Valley Elder Services to offset the cost of the meal. Seniors should call Kerry at 413-268-9354 if they would like to sign up to get these nutritious and delicious meals.

On Wednesday, May 21 Games Group will meet in the Goshen Library from 2-4 p.m. This month they will continue with Beginners Pitch Game. There will be instruction on how to play this classic card game. If people already like to play Pitch, they can come to play a round or two and give others some pointers. This will be a really fun way to spend a couple of hours together.

On Wednesday, June

4 from 4-5 p.m. the Goshen COA is participating in the 2025 Elder Law Education Program, sponsored by the Massachusetts Bar Association with generous assistance and continued collaboration from the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. This program is coordinated by the MBA in celebration of Law Day and all events take place during the month of May (Goshen will be early June). Attorney Sarah E. Dolven from Zurn, Sharp, Heyman & Dolven, LLP will come to Goshen Town Hall to educate on Essential Documents including Wills, Power of Attorney and Health Care Proxies and also the Realities of Protecting assets. Atty. Dolven will answer questions

people may have about planning for their future needs. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

The COA has slightly changed the way they will be giving out medical equipment. They will now work with TRIAD services out of the Hampshire County Sheriff's office. TRIAD is able to deliver equipment straight to the person, who needs it and they have a large variety of items to lend. Henrietta is still the contact person and she will contact TRIAD or give those requesting equipment the number to call themselves if they prefer. The COA sends a big thanks to Henrietta Munroe for running this program and for keeping all the equipment in her barn all this time.

BLANDFORD

HAWK PERCHES ON BIRDHOUSE



This resident hawk in Blandford waits for its next meal.
Photo by Tricia Bergland

COA serves up eggs Florentine

BLANDFORD – Breakfast Friday morning, April 25 for Council on Aging was truly haute cuisine.

If people have ever tried to make poached eggs, they will know it’s not easy. One has to break the egg into boiling water, swirl it around so it forms an attractive round to oval shape with no dribbles hanging off when removed from the pan. Also, the yolk should be cooked, but not hard; has to be somewhat runny to fill the crevasses in the base layer of English Muffin.

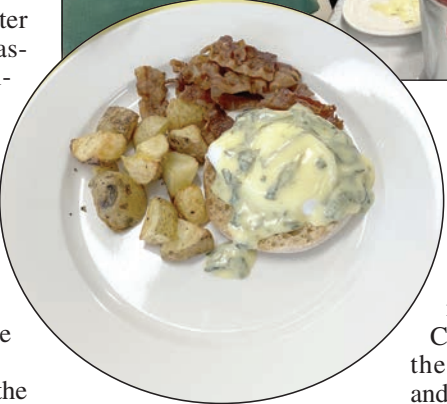
Watching Joann Martin swirl and scoop, successfully, seemed like magic; and there was more than one in a large pan of boiling water on the stove. Really a masterful art not easily replicated in every kitchen. Many home kitchens have a poached egg pan; a small insert that may hold four eggs is set in place over a pan of boiling water and covered. This necessitates precision timing so the eggs are just right.

Once on the muffin, the



Above, COA Director Margit Mikuski serves Nancy Ackley. Left, Friday’s Council on Aging breakfast of eggs Florentine, breakfast potatoes, bacon and blueberry parfait.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm



sheets of what turned into Egg Florentine made their way to the COA room. The eggs were the last item to be plated and decked out with spinach

Hollandaise sauce. An artistic presentation completed the plate. Blueberry parfait accompanied the main serving along with usual breakfast beverages.

TREE WARDEN HANDS OUT TREES FOR ARBOR DAY



Nathan and Billie Jean Suarez pick up trees from the Boomsma Family, Greta, Maureen and Penelope, who helped Tree Warden Mark Boomsma with Arbor Day event April 22 at Town Hall in Blandford.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

DAFFODILS ADD SPRING COLOR TO BICENTENNIAL PARK



Daffodils planted last October by the volunteers who helped out at Bicentennial Park have popped open and are well on their way to naturalizing in the space. Tulip bulbs are up, too. And the new posies will be well tended as a spigot that will provide water has been installed at the side of the former town hall adjacent to the park.

Historical Society lists upcoming events

BLANDFORD – Historical Society President Chips Norcross announces some of the upcoming events.

There is a no-charge Tuesday evening program scheduled at the society’s building 7 p.m.

On Tuesday, May 13 Professor and Chair of the History and Philosophy Department at Westfield State University Dr. Nicholas Aieta, will make a presentation on Western Massachusetts’ response to the “1775 Lexington Alarm.”

Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, the Historical Society will host its annual open house from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Norcross suggests saving the date, Saturday July 26 for the 30th Annual Bel Canto performance with Eve Queler at The White Church. This year the time returns to 7:30 p.m. with the possibility of making 5:30 p.m. dinner reservations at the Blandford Country Club. Tickets may be purchased online or at the door at \$40 each.

The Cromwell

Connecticut Historical Society President and professional musician R. Franklin Donohue will bring his harpsichord to Blandford and perform his program, “What a Glorious Crash They Made.” His presentation will be rebel music from the Revolutionary War. No pre-performance tickets are required, but donations to support the White Church maintenance are requested at the door.

There will be more events scheduled, according to Norcross, as the year progresses.

DISCUSSING TOWN POLITICS OVER COFFEE



Visiting at the Blandford Country Store Saturday morning April 19 and hashing over town concerns are, from left, Greg Lanzoni, Pam and Paul Dirschka, Doug Emo and Jackie Coury.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm



Volunteers Nancy Ackley and Master Gardener Laurie Parent helped at last October’s Community Day event. They planted bulbs in Bicentennial Park, which are now in bloom or getting ready to bloom..

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

ELECTION

from page 1

cian, he has played guitar, both acoustic and electric, for 20 years. He and his wife, Krissy have lived in Blandford since January 2023 and are expecting their first child.

Other positions

Other positions on the ballot are: Dave Hopson for Assessor, Jennifer Girard

for Board of Health, Charles Benson for Library Trustee and Peter Thayer for Water Commissioner.

There were no nominations for Cemetery Commissioner, Fence Viewer or Field Driver.

Election information

The election is set for Saturday, June 14 at the

Town Hall from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The town has opted out of mail-in ballots because of the expense involved. According to Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo, the postage expense for mailing ballots to registered voters would be over \$700. The town has this option and the Select Board voted approval.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING WILLIAMSBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Williamsburg, MA 01039
The Williamsburg Conservation Commission, in accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, will hold a public meeting on: **Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 7:00p.m. via Zoom Meeting** (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8859354972) to review a: Notice of Intent submitted by: Carolyn duBois.
The subject area is: 92 Ashfield Rd, Williamsburg, MA 01096
05/01/2025

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.
05/01/2025

Goshen Conservation Commission Legal Notice
The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing under M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, on **Monday, May 19, 2025, at 6:00pm**. The meeting will be held at the Town Office Building at 40 Main Street, Goshen, Massachusetts.
The Commission will hear a **Notice of Intent** submitted by Hammond Acres Club, Inc.

for the repairs to the Hammond Pond dam off South Chesterfield Road in Goshen.
Project location: Map10A, Parcels 850 & 852
Goshen Conservation Commission
05/01/2025

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

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, there's a secret that you have been holding on to and you are ready to let it go. It won't weigh you down anymore and you can finally focus fully on the future instead of the past.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Certain ground is tough for people to travel, but you have conviction and grit to get things done. You have a history of thriving when faced with adversity, and that's an asset.

GEMINI
May 22/June 21
Keep an eye open for a challenge. When you are given an opportunity that will require for fullest and best effort, embrace it as an opportunity to fulfill your potential.

CANCER
June 22/July 22
Cancer, keeping things pleasant and lighthearted is a talent of yours, but this week you might need to take a new approach. Work with others and listen to suggestions.

LEO
July 23/Aug 23
Leo, you often are the life of the party, always ready to find something to do and be with other people. This week you might need to slow down and enjoy some alone time.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you could be especially energized this week and feel the need to get as much done as possible. Try not to race through tasks without focusing on doing things right.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
The news that comes your way isn't what you had hoped. Roll with the punches and embrace the challenge. Soon there will be blue skies again and everything will settle.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
You will meet up with someone you haven't seen in a while and it will be like no time has passed whatsoever. Be prepared for a coincidental situation to bring you together.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
The universe will put you in touch with someone who is reputable and diligent. This way you can both tackle what you need to get done reap the rewards of your hard work.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, a little competition never hurt anyone. Embrace an upcoming chance to see how you stack up. Give your best effort, as always.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
This is a good week to play things safe and keep your cards close to the vest, Aquarius. Consider each situation carefully before engaging.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you are a sociable person and ready and willing to chat up others. This week you might not be up for any social interaction and prefer a few days of solitary time spent.

CLUES ACROSS

- McCarthy acolyte Roy
- Ancient Korean chiefdoms
- Not soft
- Jai __, sport
- Philosophy
- Do what you're told
- Gaffe
- Widely known and esteemed
- Amusement park attraction
- Popular comic strip Viking
- Usually has a lid
- American sportscaster
- Lung fibrosis
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Pouch
- Upset
- Partner to hem
- Astronomy unit of distance
- Witch
- Gradually disappear

CLUES DOWN

- Currency
- Ceramic jar
- Reagan's Secretary of State
- God worshipped in Kanesh
- One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- Semitic
- About blood
- Benign tumors
- Move one's head
- Hours (Spanish)
- Hebrew calendar month
- Plant that originated vegetatively
- Squandered one's money
- Ethiopian river
- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Acquire by one's efforts

CLUES ACROSS

- Irish goddess
- Hungarian village
- Cereal grasses
- Challenges
- A harsh scraping sound
- Attaches to a wall
- Capital of Ethiopia: __ Ababa
- German river
- Disappointed
- Star Wars character Solo
- Supervises flying
- Not mass-produced
- Nonsense
- Automobile
- Hoghead (abbr.)
- Soak in water
- Flower cluster
- Romanian city
- A parent is often one
- Fencing sword
- Body part
- Region
- Farm building
- Ali's surname at birth
- Waxy bird beak covering
- Stiff bristles
- VCR button
- Small amount

answers

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STOCKBRIDGE

MassDOT announces upcoming 1-90 night work

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces construction operations on I-90 eastbound and westbound in West Stockbridge and Stockbridge for bridge painting, guardrail repair and median barrier installation.

In West Stockbridge bridge painting work will occur on I-90 westbound at mile marker 1.3, with lane closures in place now through Friday, May 2 from 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each day. Guardrail work will take place on I-90 eastbound between mile markers 2.5 and 3.5, with lane closures nightly now through Thursday, May 1 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning. The I-90 eastbound on-ramp at exit 3, including the adjacent truck parking area, will be closed during overnight hours for guardrail work, with traffic detoured to the I-90 eastbound on-ramp at exit 10 in Lee.

In West Stockbridge/Stockbridge median barrier work will occur on I-90 eastbound and westbound between mile markers 2.0 and 6.6, with lane closures nightly now through Thursday, May 1 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

Drivers traveling through these areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. Appropriate signage and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work areas. 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.

OTIS

Otis Council on Aging lists events

By **Mary Kronholm**
Correspondent

OTIS – Council on Aging Director Karen Yvon reminds seniors about making reservations for the Neil Diamond Tribute show with a full band at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on Tuesday, Aug. 5.

Roundtrip transportation by Motor coach will leave at 9:15 a.m. from the Town Hall and 9:45 a.m. from the Big Y in Lee. The bus will return at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Luncheon menu includes Hors D’ Oeuvres, Log Cabin Signature Bread, Clam Chowder and a choice of twin lobsters or prime rib with baked potato and corn completed with a dessert, coffee and tea.

The cost to attend is \$139 which includes transportation, meal taxes and driver gratuity. There are still a few places remaining and Yvon asks anyone who wants to go to make a reservation soon.

To make a reservation, they may call Diane Dyer at 413-269-6335 or email ddyer555@hotmail.com; or call Elsie DeVoti at 413-329-8099. Checks should be made payable to the Otis COA and final payment is due Tuesday, July 1.

The COA Center is open every Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. but will be closed on Monday, May 26, Memorial Day. Instead, the Center will be open on Tuesday, May 27.

Regular activities include every Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Mat Yoga; every Thursday Chair Yoga at 10 a.m., Food Pantry Wednesdays May 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 9-11 a.m. and Fitness class on Monday, May 12 and 19 at 10:30 a.m..

Special presentations and happenings: Monday, May 5 haircuts available from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; Wednesday, May 7, the foot nurse will be available from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and TriTown Health will be available at 9:30 a.m. for blood pressure checks and a special awareness presentation. Monday, May 12 at 11 a.m. the Berkshire County Sheriff’s Department will again present a program on how to avoid scams and frauds schemes that often target Seniors. A Coaster Craft Class will be held Wednesday, May 14 at noon with a \$5 fee for materials.

Brown Bag will be Friday, May 16 and Wednesday, May 21 is the noontime potluck lunch.

The COA regular board meeting is on Monday, May 12 at 2 p.m.

Otis artists participate in Art Week

OTIS – Gail Gelunrd and Celeste Watman will participated in Art Week Berkshires Open studio on Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

This event is part of Art Week Berkshires, a county wide celebration of the arts and artists. The studio will be open the weekend of May 17 and 18 at 2015 North Main Road. People should park carefully along Route 8. For more information, they can go email gailgelburd.com or gelburd4g@gmail.com.

Gail Gelburd’s work is comprised of images of trees and water overlaid with the human form. Some works are two dimensional and some are printed on fabric and then molded into a sculpture. Gelburd’s studio is in a 1750 historic mill where the river runs under her house. The waterfalls and forests are the inspiration for her work. This is a unique opportunity to see the house, the grounds and the sculptures, paintings and photographs that are inside her studio and on the property, located at 2015 North Main Road.

Joining her in the studio is fellow artist and Otis resident Celeste Watman. From the 1970’s until today, Celeste created and exhibited her art. When she moved to Otis, more than six years ago, her collages were selected for the following juried exhibitions: the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery, the Knox Gallery and twice at the Spencertown Academy.

WESTFIELD

Walk Around the Park returns May 8

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park’s Walk Around the Park returns for another season.

The walks at Stanley Park , 400 Western Avenue, will be held on Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in May and June. The first session will take place on Thursday, May 8 and is part of Stanley Park’s health initiative.

All abilities are welcome. The group’s ability level will determine the route taken.

Walks will be held Thursdays, May 8 through June 26. Meeting location is the Children’s Pavilion by the playground.

For more information, people may call Stanley Park Office & Development at 413-568-9312, extension108 or e-mail to development@stanleypark.org. Stanley Park is a 501(c)(3) “private” non-profit organization.

Westfield Wildwater River race results

Jeff Parker of Concord, 66, was first place winner in the Men’s K-1 Male division with a time of 32:23.

Second place went to Carl Lareniere of Middlefield, 71, in the Men’s K-1 division with a time of 34:33. Third place winner was Jeffrey Defeo of Montgomery, 70, in the Men’s OC—1 Racing division with a time of 35:36.

Fourth place went to Eric Jones of Granby, Connecticut, 54, in the Men’s OC-2 Racing with a time of 37:08.

Others placing in the top ten were fifth place Edward Hammel of Southampton, 73, Men’s OC-2 Mixed time 37:11; sixth place Colin Pagnoni of Somerville, 26, OC-2 Male time 37:16; seventh place Rich Howard of Southbridge, 65, OC-1 Rec time 37:37; eighth place Christopher Burke of Southwick, 29 K-1 time 38:22; ninth place Julie Marcoulier of Chester, 71, OC-2 Female time 39:12 and tenth place Patrick Mellnik of Leeds, 44 OC-2 NONBI time 39:32.

Westfield Athenaeum holds book sale

WESTFIELD – The Friends of the Westfield Athenaeum book sale will be held May 8-10 at the First United Methodist Church, 16 Court St.

Thousands of gently used adult and children’s books and puzzles will be available for sale. Hours will be Thursday, May 8 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, May 9 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. On Thursday only, they are offering a \$5 discount coupon for educators, who bring their ID and new Friends members joining at the door.

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

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