

"Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

# Country Journal

*Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns*

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

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## CHESTER

# Two-hour hearing questions future of power in Chester

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Four executives from Eversource were at Chester Town Hall to take part in a

public hearing held Monday, April 22 on the future of the town's power management.

Over 100 people attended, including members of the town's Energy Committee,

staff and commissioners of Chester Municipal Electric Light Department, Select Board members and the Town Administrator. Despite the huge decision before vot-

ers on this issue and the high tension for many, the tone of everyone taking part was civil and professional.

Representing Eversource were Vice President of Distribution Engineering Paul R. Renaud out of Dorchester; Vice President of Customer Grid Warren R. Boutin and Vice President of Financial Strategy Jeffrey Normant, both out of Westwood and Aimee Henderson, Community Relations Specialist out of Springfield.

If there was one thing that both sides agreed on: it is up to the voters to educate themselves about whether or not to disband CMELD and replace it with the power utility Eversource. "My recommendation is that you all look at the options and make the best decision. I think we have to do due diligence to understand what the outcome of either decision would be," said Energy Committee Chairman Andy Myers during the session.

Myers opened the hear-

**HEARING**, page 10



Several executives presented at the April 22 hearing on the Town of Chester dropping their municipal power company and moving to Eversource. They are Community Relations Specialist Aimee Henderson, VP of Financial Strategy Jeffrey Normant, VP of Distribution Engineering Paul R. Renaud and VP of Customer Grid Warren R. Boutin.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

## DAFFODILS HERALD SPRING



This was taken in a sunny spot in Wyben.  
Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel

## FLORA AND FAUNA SHARE A BACKYARD



This rabbit is shown near some daffodils in a Blandford backyard.

Photo by Joyce Collins

## HUNTINGTON

# Select Board moves quickly through annual tasks

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

At their bi-weekly meeting on Wednesday April 24, the Huntington Select Board cleared and nearly finalized tasks in preparation for the new fiscal year, including annual appointments, the fiscal year 2025 budget and warrant articles for the upcoming Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting.

### Race Committee

Race Committee Chairman Harry Rock opened the meeting by bestowing honorary race paddle awards to the Select

**SELECT BOARD**, page 11



Canoe race chairman Harry Rock presents a paddle of appreciation to Fire Chief Josh Ellinger. The paddles are based upon those awarded to winners of the canoe and kayak racing classes.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

## BLANDFORD

# Select Board receives Town Administrator's resignation

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Monday night's Select Board meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m. and the board held an informal discussion with Town Administrator Michael Szlosek.

He resigned his position effective May 1. All those attending the meeting had left. Select Board member Theodore Cousineau informed the Country Journal of the resignation.

### COA vehicle

The meeting opened at 6 p.m. with Council on Aging Director Margit Mikuski. She discussed the need for reliable transportation for the town's

seniors and an upgrade for the COA vehicle. She told the board that Huntington no longer wanted to be responsible for the administration of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority's van.

A letter had been sent to the Hilltowns that use the van with that information. There was only one person from Blandford, who used that van and is now deceased.

She wanted to know if the Cherry Sheet funds that help cover the FRTA van costs could be used to upgrade Blandford's COA vehicle. She said she was not looking for a new vehicle.

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## HILLTOWNS

# MassDEP seeks public comments on TMDL in rivers

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will hold public information sessions on Wednesday, May 8 and Thursday, May 9 to seek stakeholder input on a statewide draft plan to reduce pathogens in Massachusetts rivers, streams and estuaries.

The first session will be held in-person from 1-3 p.m. on May 8 in MassDEP's Central Regional Office, located at 8 New Bond St in Worcester. The second information session is virtual and will be held from 6-8 p.m. on May 9, hosted via Zoom. To participate via Zoom, people must register. After registering, they will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

MassDEP has prepared a draft statewide restoration plan for controlling certain types of bacteria, such as *E. coli*, enterococci and fecal coliform, which are indicators of contamination from sewage and/or feces of warm-blooded wildlife mammals and birds. Pollutant sources may include failing septic systems, pet waste, wildlife waste, agriculture, recreational waters use management, combined sewer overflows, stormwater, illicit sewer connections, failing infrastructure and wastewater treatment plants or publicly owned treatment works.

The objective of this draft plan for Total Maximum Daily Load is to ensure that the level of indicator bacteria in each contaminated water source meets the

established water quality criteria of the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards for pathogens.

The restoration plan is a statewide report consisting of a core document and watershed-specific appendices. It covers approximately 1,017 river-miles and 11 square miles of estuaries, within 28 watersheds identified in the Final Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters for the Clean Water Act 2018/2020 Reporting Cycle.

At the information sessions, MassDEP staff will present the draft TMDL for limiting pathogens to the amounts that the waterbodies can absorb without violating established criteria in the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards and impairing designated uses such as fishing and recreational activities.

A copy of this Draft TMDL (including 28 appendices) is available on MassDEP's website.

The public comment period ends Monday, June 10 at 5 p.m. Written comments can be submitted to: Timothy Fox, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Watershed Planning Program, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA 01606. Electronic format comments should be sent via email to Timothy.M.Fox@mass.gov and include 'Statewide Pathogen TMDL (CN 515.0) comments' in the subject line.

MassDEP's mission is to protect and enhance the Commonwealth's natural resources: air, water

and land to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all people and to ensure a clean and safe environment for future generations. In carrying out this mission, MassDEP commits to address and advance environmental justice and equity for all people of the Commonwealth; to provide meaningful, inclusive opportunities for people to participate in agency decisions that affect their lives; and to ensure a diverse workforce that reflects the communities they serve.

## Clark Art Institute open on Memorial Day

WILLIAMSTON – The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., is open on Monday, May 27 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in honor of Memorial Day.

Visitors can view the Clark's latest contemporary exhibition, Kathia St. Hilaire: Invisible Empires, featuring nearly twenty new and recent works that combine printmaking, painting, collage and weaving by Haitian-American artist Kathia St. Hilaire (b. 1995, Palm Beach, Florida; lives and works in New York), in the galleries of the Lunder Center at Stone Hill.

Also on view is Paper Cities, an exhibition on view in the Eugene V. Thaw Gallery for Works on Paper that examines representations of cities in works on paper created from the late fifteenth to the early twentieth century and David-Jeremiah: I Drive Thee.

The Clark offers free admission to active-duty military members and their families.

For information on these programs and more, people may visit [clarkart.edu](http://clarkart.edu) or call 413-458-2303.

## Berkshire Green Drinks presents program on cliff swallows

WILLIAMSTON – Linda Merry, a conservation biologist and operational meteorologist, will present at the May Berkshire Green Drinks on Wednesday, May 8 at 6 p.m.

This free hybrid event will take place online via Zoom and in person at The Barn of the Williams Inn, 103 Spring St. The in-person social gathering will begin around 5:15 p.m.; the presentation and Zoom meeting will start at 6 p.m.

If the weather permits, the in-person gathering will take place outdoors.

Berkshire Environmental Action Team is excited to welcome back Linda Merry, who initially presented at Green Drinks in August 2022 for an update on her ongoing research on cliff swallows. Some may remember when Linda discussed her first conservation adventure: artificial nesting and habitat remediation.

For the May Berkshire Green Drinks presentation, Linda will discuss the natural history of northeastern cliff swallows, their current conservation status, efforts to conserve populations and her current conservation adventure: the investigation of correlation in the abundance of local insect prey and nesting density, as well as Ferren's hypothesis (applied to the BCC main campus) which simply states that "the amount of available source mud is correlated to the potential nesting density of the colony."

To learn more and RSVP, people may visit <https://tinyurl.com/May2024-Berks-Green-Drinks>.

Linda Merry is a conservation biologist and operational meteorologist who thoroughly enjoys photography and ornithology. Her work exists at that junction where the sciences and the arts collide. She is currently employed as an Assistant and Adjunct Instructor in the Environmental and Life Sciences Department at Berkshire Community College.

Berkshire Green Drinks, formerly Pittsfield Green Drinks, is an informal gathering on the second Wednesday of the month that is free and open to everyone with any environmental interest. A guest speaker talks about an environmentally related topic for approximately 30 minutes beginning at 6 p.m.; the presentation is followed by a discussion and Question and Answer. The drinks aren't green but the conversations are. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join and bring along questions.

Berkshire Green Drinks is sponsored and organized by the Berkshire Environmental Action Team. For more information regarding Berkshire Green Drinks, people may email Chelsey Simmons at [chelsey@thebeatnews.org](mailto:chelsey@thebeatnews.org) or call 413-464-9402.

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Hello, folks. My name is **Gabriel**. I'm running for **Worthington Selectboard**. When an incumbent Selectboard member runs for re-election, there should be at least one challenger. You deserve a choice. After unsuccessful attempts to recruit many worthy long term residents to step up, I refused to witness what would have been the 3rd time in 4 years in which the residents of this democratic town did not have a true choice of who serves on our town's top governing body. I hope you welcome an alternative option and will be inspired to vote for someone who will bring renewed energy, a different attitude, a patient voice, and a humble tone to town service. In addition to the above, I will share a few of the reasons I'm running for office and three ways I hope to contribute positively to our town.

First, I believe that our treasured rural town needs representatives who consider the entire community with a more open ear, a more curious mind, and a more open heart. I will be a representative who will prioritize being accessible and engaged in every diverse facet of our wonderful and varied community. I will enthusiastically seek more frequent and more thoughtful, productive, and respectful dialogue with all of the town's constituents. Worthington's selectboard should view their role simply as hard-working and gracious community servants. They WORK FOR YOU. Over the past year, I've had countless conversations with our residents. I've listened to those vocal on town issues and those who are often not. While I heard appreciation for the service of our town's governors, I also too commonly heard expressions of frustration, confusion, cynicism, and resignation.

I have listened to folks speaking of our town's previous culture of governing that was less defensive, less paternal, more helpful, less divisive, and more joyful. I also heard residents repeatedly wish our leaders had more courage to say, "I don't know for sure, I'll get back to you." I heard way too many stories of a Selectboard that often inserts itself into neighbors' concerns before insisting the parties attempt in every way to work things out directly first. It also often seems as if our town's current governors often cater or shrink to the complaints of the loudest, most familiar, or grumpiest individual without patiently seeking out alternative perspectives and balancing the larger good of the entire community while not discounting one possibly valid grievance. Missteps are also reflected when the Selectboard consistently blindly often defends town employees in the face of widely echoed and repeated concerns. We deserve a governing body that can support OUR (not their) dedicated town employees, yet has the spine to respond in actionable and common sense ways to repeated frustrations and questions.

Second, I am dedicated to working together with enthusiasm and creativity for an affordable future of the town as we face rising property values and cost-of-living increases. I believe the selectboard's primary responsibility is to the welfare of its constituents. Many of our residents are on fixed incomes, and we must work to have more transparent and fair assessments. We are too reliant on increases in property tax revenue through raising the assessed values of people's homes. If elected, I intend to explore alternatives that don't encumber our residents. This means ensuring that we are taking every possible step to find ways to advance effective services while minimizing the burden on citizens. Your Selectboard must do more to prioritize consistently seeking appreciable funds through state, federal, private, and non-profit grants to help defray costs of town services. These are the types of solutions that may seem like long shots, but we need to not wilt from bigger ideas and possible outside the box solutions to the complex puzzle of sustaining an affordable quality of life, supporting our school, having quality town services, while also balancing our town budget.

Third, you deserve a more transparent and accountable town government. I have heard from too many in our community who say they do not often understand how the Selectboard operates and makes many of their decisions or feel they are the last to learn about hearings, meetings, or policy changes. It's easy for our leaders to blame that ignorance on those residents' apathy, but the onus should always be on our public officials to go out of their way to always be trying to improve their messaging skills and communicate more simply, comprehensively, effectively, and clearly. Our Selectboard would serve our town better with more of their efforts focused on communicating policy than policing policy. I truly believe that a more informed community is essential for the integrity of our town's democratic tradition. As we improve the town's communication, civic engagement and contributions from our entire community will grow exponentially and our town and its residents will all benefit immeasurably.

I entered this election because I deeply care about and believe in the potential of our small town and in the power of democracy to reach our shared goals. When I look at our Selectboard, I see a body of officials instituting local government that either, at worst, oversteps its authority, or, at best, perpetuates a status quo that often plays small and is steered by fear. This approach often drags this town away from being served with bold leadership, away from overcoming challenging issues, away from innovative ideas, and away from utilizing our residents' potential to work together and come together to thrive and succeed. Also your leaders at town hall do not need to have all the bylaws or answers at their fingertips, but they must be vigilant and humble enough to say "I'm not sure". They need to stop spouting information and interpretations that are quite often not fully researched or factual. You deserve more and I will be more thoughtful and careful.

In closing, as your representative, I will work diligently to enhance our quality of life in Worthington, to ensure an affordable and fair future for our citizens, and to create a culture of a more accountable, welcoming, and transparent government that serves, enthusiastically, humbly, and respectfully. Fresh ideas and renewed energy are crucial for our continued growth and success. If elected, I promise to uphold the values we cherish, to work tirelessly to enhance our community, and to be a voice for all. This is more than a campaign; it is a call to action for all who believe in our town's past and are confident in its future.

Thank you for reading. For more background on me, my platform, and why I love this town please visit [www.GabrielUngerSelectboard.com](http://www.GabrielUngerSelectboard.com). Together, let's reaffirm our commitment to democracy, small town civic engagement, community, and prosperity. Let's stand united for Worthington, a town we all are proud to call home.

**Best wishes to us all and our town, Gabriel Dylan Unger**

*P.S. There's still time to vote early in-person this year Thursday 5/2 and Friday 5/3 from 10am-1pm at Town Hall (at the town clerk's office). Or VOTE Saturday May 4th, from 8:30a – 12:30pm at Town Hall. Let's try to double turnout this year and politely remind town officials that they serve at the pleasure of a hearty and engaged community that cares. Finally, please consider dropping by our annual town meeting also on May 4th at Conwell Elementary at 9:30am.*

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT GABRIEL UNGER, SELECTBOARD





# HILLTOWNS

## MassDOT construction operations continued on I-90

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting daytime and overnight hour guardrail repair, drainage work, bridge repair, tree trimming and bridge paving operations at various locations and times on I-90 eastbound and westbound during the week of Monday, April 29.

Lane closures will be in place during the construction operations and traffic will be able to travel through the work zones.

In Otis, guardrail repair operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 westbound between mile marker 21.0 and mile marker 26.0 from now through Thursday, May 2, from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next

morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, May 3 by 5:30 a.m..

Bridge repair work will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 22.5, from now, through Thursday, May 2 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude Friday, May 3 by 5:30 a.m.

In Otis and Blandford drainage work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound between mile marker 21.0 to 26.0 from now through Thursday, May 2 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, May 3 by 5:30 a.m.

In Blandford bidge repair work will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 26.4 now through Thursday, May 2 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude by Friday, May 3 by 5:30 a.m.

In Russell tree trimming work will be conducted on I-90 westbound between mile marker 33.0 to mile marker 36.0, from now through Friday, May 3 from 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day.

In Stockbridge bridge paving work will be conducted daily on I-90 east-

bound and westbound at mile marker 7.5, from now through Friday, May 3 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day.

In West Stockbridge bridge paving work will be conducted daily on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 0.6, from now through Friday, May 3 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and messaging 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](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

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

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

## Gas prices increase three cents

After surging by double digits a week ago, gasoline prices rose modestly in the Northeast last week on weakening demand and lower oil prices.

The Energy Information Administration reported national gasoline demand fell from 8.6 to 8.4 million barrels a day last week. That's nearly 1.1 million fewer barrels per day of demand than the comparable week last year. Meanwhile, oil prices remain below \$90 a barrel, which will help ease pressure on gas prices.

The average gas price in Massachusetts is up 3 cents over last week (\$3.56), averaging \$3.59 per gallon. Today's price is 29 cents higher than a month ago (\$3.30) and 9 cents higher than April 29, 2023 (\$3.50). Massachusetts's average gas price is 6 cents lower than the national average.

"The switchover to summer blend earlier this month spiked pump prices in the Northeast, but weak demand is sap-

ping the momentum for further price increases," said Mark Schieldrop, Senior Spokesperson for AAA Northeast. "As we enter a seasonal lull in travel before Memorial Day and the unofficial start of the summer driving season, prices could level off—or even fall—in the interim. When it comes to gasoline prices, driving-fueled demand is always in the driver's seat."

AAA Northeast's April 29 survey of fuel prices found the current national average to be down two cents from last week (\$3.67), averaging \$3.65 a gallon. Today's national average price is 12 cents higher than a month ago (\$3.53) and four cents higher than this day last year (\$3.61).

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6.5 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance and auto-related services.

## Dakin Humane Society receives dogs from southern animal shelter

On Thursday, April 25 Dakin Humane Society in Springfield welcomed a transport delivery of five dogs from Friends of the Animal Shelter in South Carolina.

The dogs include four eight-month-old siblings and a two-year-old female hound, who will become available after a mandatory 48-hour quarantine period and after passing a subsequent medical evaluation for adoption. Pet overpopulation has become a significant nationwide problem in animal shelters. According to Shelter Animals Count, an animal advocacy group based in Atlanta, shelter and rescue populations in the United States have spiked by 900,000 overall since January 2021, resulting in an increase in the number of dogs and cats being euthanized.

"We are fortunate to be able to help FOTAS by bringing these dogs here to western Massachusetts," stated Meg Talbert, executive director at Dakin. "Shelters around the country are experiencing overcrowding due to slowed adoption rates and increasing animal intake. It's because of our wonderful community of adopters, foster homes and donors that Dakin can step up and help."

Talbert continued, "These five young dogs will make great additions to fam-

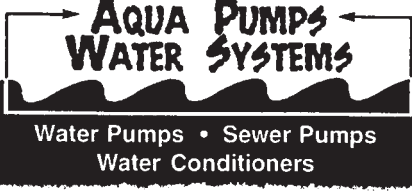
ilies in our community. We encourage people who are interested in adopting a dog now or in the coming months to look at our website frequently, or visit Dakin during our open hours to find a good match. When you adopt a pet from a shelter, you're helping two animals, the one joining your family, and the one who will then be able to enter our shelter to await their new person or family."

Dakin Humane Society, located in Springfield is a 501 (c) (3) organization that delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them. In a typical year, the organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals and has performed over 122,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it one of New England's largest spay/neuter providers. Dakin's Pet Health Center, a non-emergency veterinary resource for pet dogs and cats, opened in 2022 and has treated more than 5,000 pets. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, people may visit [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org).

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### Minister wants to maximize Social Security benefit

Dear Rusty

*I want to apply for Social Security, but I want to make sure I get all the benefits I have earned. I am a veteran with a 10% disability rating (not sure if that matters). I am 68 years old. I am a minister and have been exempt from Social Security taxes for most of my income since I was about 30, but I still have the 40 quarters needed. I have also worked off and on in the secular workplace and continued paying Social Security taxes.*

*One hears a great deal about those who want to “help” us apply for Social Security, but which turn out to be a scam or want a fee. How do I apply and maximize my benefits with my unique situation?*

**Signed: Seeking Answers**

Dear Seeking

Don't worry about fees here at the AMAC Foundation – there is never a fee for the services we provide as we are non-profit. And I want to thank you for your military service, you may find the “For Veterans” section at our AMAC Foundation website interesting at [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org).

Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit. At 68 years old, your Social Security benefit payment has been earning Delayed Retirement Credits since you reached your Full Retirement Age of 66 years and 4 months in July 2022. That means that your benefit, if you claim now, will be about 13% more than it would have been had you claimed at your FRA. FYI, if you continue to delay, your SS benefit will continue to grow by 8% per additional year you delay, up to the month you turn 70. At that time, your SS benefit will be 29% higher than it would have been at your FRA. Nevertheless, if you wish to claim a smaller amount now, you can do so in a couple of ways:

You can call Social Security at 1-800-77-1213 or your local SS office to request an appointment to apply. They will most likely set a date/time to call you to take your application over the phone, they discourage office visits these days.

Once you have applied, it typically takes a month or two to process your application, but they will pay your benefits effective with the month you say you want them to begin.

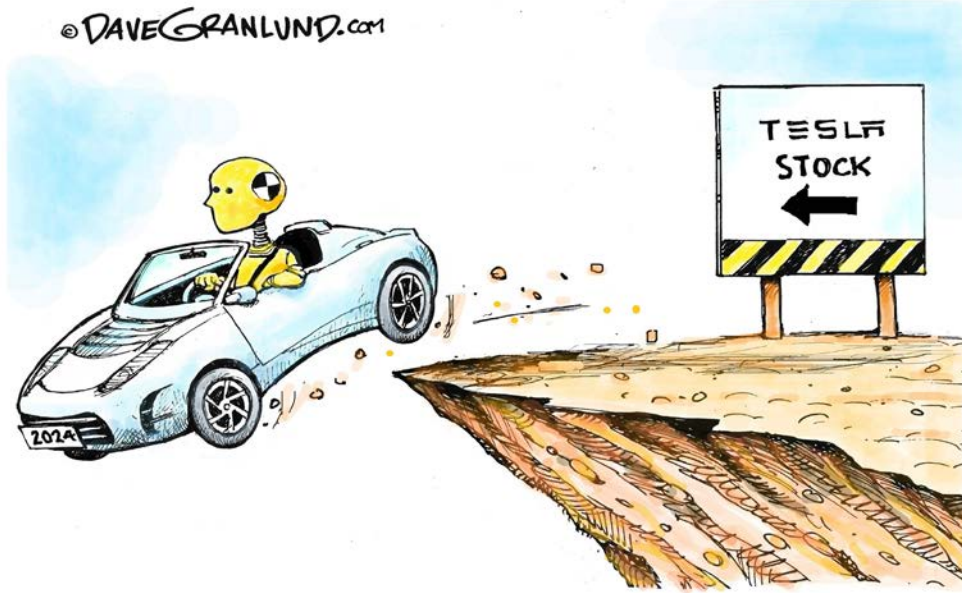
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If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com), or call us at 413-283-8393.

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

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Reader liked story about mailboxes

I want to thank you for running the story “interesting mailboxes line the roads of Blandford” by Mary Kronholm.

All too often we fail to notice the simple things around us that make life interesting and this was a great reminder. The article came at a time when I had already found myself quite obsessed with paying attention to local mailboxes.

Having grown up in the suburbs of the south, I was used to neatly perfect and identical mailboxes lining neighborhood streets. So, I was primed to notice the stunning variety of mailboxes on display in the Berkshires.

Additionally, coming from the south I was unaware of the problem snow plows pose for the average mailbox, causing the need for clever ad hoc and temporary repairs or various mailbox protection screens. The solutions I've noticed display a range of

elegance, ingenuity and slap-dashedness that makes me glad to be human in this crazy world.

Once you feel you've got a handle on all the mailboxes along your route, I challenge you to be on the lookout for abandoned fence posts- those that have lost the rest of their fence. Who built the fence and why? Was it taken down intentionally, or did nature do the job?

Behind every man-made object we see lies a human story, likely someone just trying to do their best to solve a problem with the resources, time and skills they had at hand. Having the curiosity to ponder those stories is apt to give one more lasting pleasure and entertainment than anything on your phone.

**Jack Russell  
Becket**

## GUEST COLUMN



The great blue heron returned to its nest last week. Last week, I finally saw a great blue heron on a nest located in a dead tree on the beaver pond, which abuts my hayfield. It built the nest two years ago and this year will be its third season on the well built stick nest. At first, I saw it perched on a branch near the nest. For the last few days, it has been in the nest.

The great blue heron is 50 inches tall and is the largest and most widespread heron. The body is grayish-blue, has a white head and a black stripe over the eye. The immature heron is similar to the adult except its head has a solid black cap, which turns to white after two years. There is also a rare white morph of this heron, but it is limited to Southern Florida. Its legs and bill are orange yellow rather than dark like the more common dark morph.

Fortunately, I can see the bird in the nest from the road so I do not disturb it when I watch it. I hope it is successful in rearing its young. It takes 28 days to incubate the eggs and 55 days for them to fledge. The female lays three to seven eggs in a large, platform nest of sticks lined with finer twigs and vegetation. The nest is placed in a tree 30 to 70 feet above ground. Herons raise their young in either small colonies in isolated areas or singly like this pair.

Great blue herons feed in shallow water by standing or walking slowly, then grabbing mall fish, frogs, birds and aquatic insect with its bill. They can feed in deeper water by plunging or swimming. They also hunt on land for small animals.

They inhabit marshes, swamps, river and lake edges, tidal flats, mangroves and other water areas. They make a guttural “frahnk” or short “rok, rok” given during aggression. Both sexes do bill clacking.

### Mass. Audubon sightings

Berkshire County sightings included a sandhill crane in New Marlborough, nine long-tailed ducks at Lake Pontoosuc in Pittsfield and 11 at Stockbridge Bowl

**BACKYARD**, page 5

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

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

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

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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



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# NFPA offers guidelines on EV charging at home

As electric vehicles enter the roadways, the National Fire Protection Association® introduced a series of free resources, guidelines and information to help raise awareness about EV fires and safe EV charging practices at home.

According to the International Energy Agency, global sales of electric vehicles exceeded 10 million in 2022 and are expected to grow in the coming years. At the same time, consumer concerns about the fire safety risk of EVs are increasing. Lithium-ion batteries, the most widely used and reliable source of energy for electric vehicles, are central to questions about safety.

"It is widely known that electric vehicles provide environmental and cost-effective benefits," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "However, as fires involving EVs are reported in the news, concerns about the risks they pose persist. Through

advocacy efforts that highlight our new online resources and information, NFPA is working to better educate the public about the risks associated with EVs and other devices that use lithium-ion batteries, along with ways to use them safely."

The new online resources from NFPA feature more detailed information about lithium-ion batteries, EV maintenance, and what tips consumers can follow to stay safe when charging their electric vehicle at home. Resources for safety educators and consumers, including a safety tip sheet and social media cards, are all free and downloadable. A free training course is also available to the public that helps address some of the common concerns and myths about owning an electrical vehicle, including safety features, charge types, and battery life.

NFPA recommends these tips when charging electric vehicles at home to help prevent fires:

Before charging an electric vehicle at home, have a qualified electrician check your electrical system to see if it can handle charging.

Install charging equipment in safe locations. Keep away from busy areas and things that could catch fire.

Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

Read and follow all manufacturer directions.

Check chargers and cords for damage before using. Never use if damaged.

Do not use more than one plug or extension cords with the charger.

Keep charging items out of reach of children and animals when not in use.

People may learn more about elec-

tric vehicle fire safety, find training information and download the free safety tip sheet by visiting [nfpa.org/evsafetyinfo](http://nfpa.org/evsafetyinfo). Information on the safe use of smaller devices that use lithium-ion batteries such as computers, smart phones, e-bikes and e-scooters, can be found at [nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety](http://nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety) and [nfpa.org/ebikes](http://nfpa.org/ebikes).

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. For more information, people may visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free by visiting [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).

## BLANDFORD

### Blandford election has contest for tree warden

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The sole contest on the ballot for the annual Town Election Saturday, June 8 will be for Tree Warden.

Mark Boomsma is the current Tree Warden and he will vie with Gordon Avery IV for the position. Avery took out nomination papers so his name will appear on the ballot.

Boomsma, 44, is a graduate of Westfield Vocational Technical High School, has participated in continuing education as well as many forestry related courses through the Bay State Roads Program at UMASS. A 21-year Blandford resident, Boomsma said, "First and foremost, I would be the best candidate for tree warden because I genuinely care about the well-being of the trees in the community in which I live. Along with that, if elected this will be my fifth term or 12th year as Blandford Tree Warden, I have spent the majority of my working career in some sort of relationship directly involving trees." He is self-employed in the excavation/carpentry business, M&M Site Services.

He believes he is qualified to be Tree Warden because, "I have a vast working knowledge of tree and plant species along with an understanding of their well-being. I am also knowledgeable of the various threats and diseases currently plaguing them. I have the know-how to properly care for and handle the treatment or removal of any issues when and as they arise."

Boomsma added that he would like to "to continue as the Blandford Tree Warden because I care about the trees and I thoroughly enjoy the community

interaction when dealing with specific tree issues, as well as participating in the annual Arbor Day seedling program."

He is a member of the Blandford Volunteer Fire Department along with his wife Maureen and daughter, Greta. He has also served multiple terms as a Blandford Water Commissioner and worked for Blandford Highway Department for 12 years.

Avery, 28, is a graduate of Smith Vocational School having specialized in machine technologies. He works at Tell Tool in Westfield where he works on aerospace products and parts manufacturing. He has lived in Blandford for 18 years.

He said he believes he would be the best qualified as he works well with people.

"I have a good relationship with both the town departments and other Blandford residents as is necessary to succeed is this position," he said, and added, "Being in my current job at Tell Tool I'm used to completing jobs under short notice and following through to meet customer demands."

He said, "I want to be Warden to get more involved in the town and help make a difference."

A Tree Warden, according to the Mass. General Laws, will care for and have control of all public shade trees, shrubs and growths in the town except any on a state highway or those in public parks or open places unless requested in writing by the park commissioners.

In Blandford's case, Watson Park and Bicentennial Park come under the aegis of the Select Board.

Registered voters can cast their ballot Saturday, June 8 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Town Hall.



Mark Boomsma  
Candidate for  
re-election  
tree warden



Gordon Avery IV  
Candidate for  
tree warden

## BACKYARD

from page 4

in Stockbridge, a northern goshawk at Bridges Pond in Williamstown and 20 American pipits at Ashley Falls.

Franklin County hosted small flocks of red crossbills including 24 at the Montague Sandplains Wildlife Management Area in Montague, nine at gate 29 at Quabbin Reservoir in New Salem and eight at Satan's Kingdom WMA in Northfield.

Hampshire County had a Say's phoebe at the Quabbin Reservoir Visitor's Center in Belchertown, four common goldeneyes at the Windsor Dam in Belchertown, 22 glossy ibises on Old Ferry Road in Northampton, an American bittern on Moody Bridge Road in Hadley, 21 red crossbills at the Podick and Cole Conservation Area in Amherst, a Lapland longspur in the Northampton East Meadows and an American coot at Great Pond in Hatfield.

Hampden County spotting were five upland sandpipers at Westover Air Base in Ludlow, nine red-necked Grebes at the Congamond Lakes in Southwick, 15 chimney swifts at the Stebbins Wildlife Refuge in Longmeadow and a green heron in Holyoke.

Worcester County included a black-headed gull, two glossy ibises, a solitary sandpiper and 20 red crossbills at the Bolton Flats WMA in Bolton, two sandhill cranes at the Winimuset Meadows WMA in New Braintree, two black vultures at Adams Farm in Athol and an orchard oriole at Crane Swamp



Great blue heron

Conservation Area in Northboro.

The most unusual sighting on Friday, April 19 was a black-capped petrel in Cape Cod Bay spotted from a whale research vessel. This species is everywhere quite rare and in relatively inshore waters it is even more unusual.

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](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

## BENEFIT

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Note, they will likely also offer you six months of retroactive benefits but be aware that if you accept that offer your monthly payment will be permanently reduced by 4%.

You can apply for your SS retirement benefit online at [www.ssa.gov/apply](http://www.ssa.gov/apply). Applying online is, by far, the most efficient method, as shown in this short video: [www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim\\_r01.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm). However, to apply online you will need to first create your personal "my Social Security" online account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Once you have your personal online account set up, you will be able to see what your SS retirement benefit will be now and at future ages should you plan to wait longer to claim.

Your SS retirement benefit will be based on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security FICA taxes were withheld or self-employment earnings on which SS payroll taxes were levied. In any case, your SS benefit will be based on your lifetime earnings record contributing to Social Security, as well as your age when you claim. You'll get your maximum benefit based on those factors.

Although your situation is some-

what uncommon, it is not exceptionally unique. Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit and, because you are a member of the clergy, you are not subject to Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision, a rule which reduces SS benefits for those with a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security. In other words, your SS benefit will be based entirely on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security payroll taxes were withheld and your age when your benefit starts.

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

### Blandford COA lists May menu

BLANDFORD – Council on Aging Board member and Chef Joann Martin has prepared the May menu for luncheon and breakfast.

Lunch on May 10 at noon at the COA room at Town Hall is chili/cheese baked potato or pulled pork baked potato or broccoli/cheddar baked potato. People will have to attend to find out what the surprise dessert will be.

Breakfast May 24 at 10 a.m. will be choices of ham and asparagus quiche, sausage and caramelized onion quiche or vegetable quiche.

People may call the COA line at 413-848-4279, extension 400 and leave their name and number of people coming with you. There is no charge for either the luncheon or breakfast, but a \$5 donation is much appreciated.



## BECKET

### Congregational church holds Mother's Day Flower Sale

BECKET – The Congregational Church of Becket on YMCA Road is having their annual Mother's Day Flower Sale on Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or until sold out.

This benefit is to raise funds for the ongoing Historical Restoration Effort of the church due to powder post beetle

damage. They will have 10" Hanging Plants and 10" Patio Pots for \$25 each. They will also have bedding plants for sale.

People should come early to get the best selection. They may call 413-623-8300 for questions.

## CHESTER

### Chester Library lists temporary location and hours

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library announces temporary change of location and open hours.

The library building will be closed temporarily for approximately six weeks beginning Thursday, May 2 due to construction. Staff are committed to continuing to provide patrons with a variety of programs and access to the CW MARS interlibrary loan system.

The Council on Aging, located on the bottom level of the Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, agreed to share their space during this time. Library staff will be at this space during their regular Tuesday hours from 1-6 p.m. The following regular monthly programs will also be held at this location second Tuesday monthly Cookbook Club, second and fourth Wednesdays Writers' Club, and the Book Club on the third Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

They will have on site the newest materials as well as a small variety of other titles. The drop box will be available for use in the same location on School Street to the left of the library building.

The inter-library loan program will continue throughout this period.

Since the library is now a CW MARS library, patrons can order any book from their large collection online by visiting [catalog.cwmars.org](http://catalog.cwmars.org) or stop in on Tuesdays from 1-6 p.m. and staff will help. The username is the barcode on the backside of the library card and the password is the last four digits of patron's phone number on file.

People may continue to visit the website: [hamilton-library.org](http://hamilton-library.org)

or follow on social media for more up-to-date information. Facebook: Hamilton Memorial Library and Instagram [chesterlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/chesterlibrary). Email is [chesterlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:chesterlibrary@gmail.com).

Story time and play will meet every Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Chester Train Station located at 10 Prospect St. This program is perfect for toddlers and preschoolers. Parents and caregivers are invited to bring little ones for fun interaction with other children, reading, playing games and taking part in creative play. They will be outside if the weather is nice.

This month's Cookbook Club meets Tuesday, May 14 from 5-6 p.m. for a potluck gathering at the Council on Aging section of the town hall. They will be sharing recipes this month from the book, "Gran Cocina Latina: The Food of Latin America" by Maricel E. Presilla. People may stop in for a copy of the book or to print off a recipe to create. They should R.S.V.P. by emailing [chesterlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:chesterlibrary@gmail.com).

Writers' Club will meet Wednesdays, May 8 and May 22 at 4 p.m. in the new COA location at Town Hall. Participants should bring material they would like feedback on or just come to explore.

Book Club meets Wednesday, May 15 at 4:30 p.m. in the new COA location at Town Hall. They will be discussing the murder mystery, "The Maid" by Nita Prose.

The annual library book sale will be coming soon with more information and location later.

## GOSHEN

### Goshen town clerk lists election information

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

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/](http://www.goshen-ma.us/elections/). It must include a signature that can be compared to a person's handwritten signature. Electronic signatures, scanned applications, and photos of applications are acceptable.

People may visit [www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailInBallot.aspx](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailInBallot.aspx) the State's Mail-in Ballot application system.

Any mail-in ballot must be requested in writing on Friday, May 24 at 5 p.m.. The application can only be accepted if it has reached the town clerk's office by

the deadline. Apply as early as possible, especially if the ballot will need to be mailed out of town. The U.S. Postal Service recommends allowing up to seven days for mail delivery. To ensure people receive their ballot with enough time to mail it back, they should apply two to three weeks before Election Day. The last day to register to vote in time to participate in the Annual Town Election is Wednesday, May 22 from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. in the town clerk's office.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held a few weeks before the election on Saturday, May 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the John James Memorial Hall at 42 Main St. The last day to register to vote in time to participate in the Annual Town Meeting is Wednesday, May 8 from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. in the town clerk's office.

People may email Town Clerk Kristen Estelle at [clerk@goshen-ma.us](mailto:clerk@goshen-ma.us) or call 413-268-8236, extension 107 with any questions. A sample ballot is on the town website by visiting [www.goshen-ma.us](http://www.goshen-ma.us).

## SOUTHAMPTON

### Former Water Superintendent violated conflict of interest

SOUTHAMPTON – Employees of Danvers, Salem, Southampton and Sudbury accepted free ski trips and other gifts from water meter manufacturer and its distributor

Former Southampton Water Department Superintendent Thomas Gaughan along with three others from other towns admitted to violating the conflict of interest law multiple times by accepting valuable gifts, including free ski trips, from a water meter manufacturer and its distributor. They each waived their rights to adjudicatory hearings and paid civil penalties ranging from \$6,000 to \$18,000.

The Southampton Water Department use a brand of water meter throughout their service area made by an Alabama-based manufacturer and sourced through the manufacturer's sole authorized New England distributor. Gaughan had purchasing authority for the Southampton Water Department subject to authorization for major projects by the elected Board of Water Commissioners.

On multiple occasions, the water meter manufacturer and its distributor hosted ski trips, dinners, outings to professional sports games, and other events to which they invited employees of several municipal water districts and departments of public works, including at times, Gaughan. On the ski trips, the manufacturer and distributor paid for lodging, meals and ski lift tickets for the municipal employees and, in some cases, the employees' guests.

The conflict of interest law pro-

hibits public employees from receiving anything worth \$50 or more that is given to them for or because of their official positions. Gaughan and the others from Danvers, Salem Sudbury each violated this section of the law by accepting valuable gifts provided to them by the water meter manufacturer and distributor due to their positions with municipal water districts and departments of public works.

Gaughan and his spouse, who had season ski passes to Okemo, went on the 2020 Okemo ski trip, for which the manufacturer and distributor paid for their lodging and meals. Gaughan also attended a 2020 golf outing at which the manufacturer paid for his greens fees and meals. Gaughan paid a \$6,000 civil penalty.

"When public employees accept gifts from vendors doing business with their agencies, they give the public cause to question the integrity of their purchasing decisions and their performance of other duties relating to vendors," said State Ethics Commission Executive Director David A. Wilson. "It is particularly important for those in leadership positions to comply with the conflict of interest law, as they set an example for the public employees they supervise."

The Commission encourages public employees to call the Commission's Legal Division at 617-371-9500 for free advice if they have any questions regarding how the conflict of interest law may apply to them.

## CHESTERFIELD

### Fishing derby happens May 12 at Bisbee's Pond for 14 and under

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield 4 Seasons Club is holding its annual fishing derby on Sunday, May 12 from 9 a.m.-noon.

This annual event is held at Bisbee's Pond in Chesterfield for children ages 14 and under. Fishing starts

at 9 a.m. so get there early to pick a spot. Fishing ends promptly at noon and prizes are awarded.

This has been a successful event for a long time, which is completely run by volunteers and donations provided.

### Chesterfield Community Center hosts potluck luncheon May 4

CHESTERFIELD – On Saturday, May 4 from noon-2 p.m. there will be a potluck luncheon entitled "May the 4th Be With You" at the Chesterfield Community Center, 400 Main Road.

This event is sponsored by the Hilltown Food Policy Council. People are invited to bring a favorite potluck dish to share.

This is a time to come together schmooze, share food, rebuild old relationships and create new ones. It

is all free.

This luncheon offer take aways, is family friendly and transportation is available if needed. Coffee, tea, and beverages are provided and/or people may bring their own non-alcoholic drink of choice.

They may bring a recipe to share and should bring a container to take home left-overs. There will be a Stars Wars themed game, to find the Yoda picture at the potluck.

### Chesterfield Congregational Church holds Mother's Day breakfast

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Congregational Church, 43 Main Road, will be having its monthly breakfast on Sunday, May 12 from 8-10 a.m.

The cost is a voluntary donation. The menu features pancakes with or without blueberries; French toast; pure Chesterfield maple syrup; free

range, organic, farm-fresh eggs any style; breakfast sandwiches; sausage; home fries; excellent homemade corned beef hash, juice, tea and coffee. In addition, the special items for this breakfast will be eggs Benedict and apple walnut cake. This is a chance to treat mom or friends to a wonderful breakfast.



## PITTSFIELD

### Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. to hold annual meeting May 9

PITTSFIELD – The Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, May 9 at The Berkshire Museum, 39 South St..

There will be networking in the Ellen Crane Memorial Room with light refreshments by Patrick's Pub from 5-5:30 p.m. and the Annual Meeting program will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Museum's Theatre. This event is free and open to DPI members and the public.

The Annual Meeting will feature remarks from DPI's Managing Director Rebecca Brien, Mayor Peter Marchetti, Outgoing DPI Board President Branden Huldeen and Incoming DPI Board President Chuck Leach.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. will also present two awards. Branden Huldeen will present Mill Town Capital/Mill Town Foundation with the 2024 Downtown Pittsfield Community Award for their continued commit-

ment to the downtown through capital investments and their support of DPI and organizations that promote growth and activity in the district.

Sarah Real of Hot Plate Brewing Co. will present Pete White with the 2024 Robert K. Quattrochi Downtown Person of the Year Award for his ongoing promotion of downtown businesses and restaurants through social media and word of mouth.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. will also elect its corporators and directors.

People will meet up with friends and colleagues for informal networking and fun at 101 Restaurant & Bar, 1 West St., after the Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Cash bar and food.

For more information and to register, people may visit [downtown-pittsfield.com](http://downtown-pittsfield.com) or call 413-443-6501. Registration deadline is Thursday, May 2. People may access the direct registration link by visiting <https://forms.gle/rXPH2a4FnrvzBusu6>.

### Passenger rail service to run June 21 through Sept. 2

PITTSFIELD - Amtrak, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and New York State Department of Transportation announces tickets are now on sale for the Berkshire Flyer, the seasonal summer passenger rail service that operates between New York City from Moynihan Train Hall and Pittsfield..

The service, which began as a successful pilot in 2022, is scheduled to resume on Friday, June 21 through Monday, Sept. 2 for Labor Day weekend. Trains depart New York City Friday nights and return at the end of the weekend, leaving Pittsfield Sunday afternoon. In addition, for the first time this year, the Berkshire Flyer service now includes a train from New York City to Pittsfield on Sunday mornings.

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez said, "NYSDOT is proud to support this wonderfully successful passenger rail service, which provides a relaxing and enjoyable experience for travelers of all ages. Whether it's a weekend getaway, or a longer vacation, the Berkshire Flyer experience offers a convenient and eco-friendly way for travelers and adventure seekers to explore the beauty and charm of the Berkshires and Upstate New York."

The Berkshire Flyer departs from Moynihan Train Hall at 3:16 p.m. on Fridays and arrives at Joseph Scelsi

Intermodal Transportation Center in Pittsfield at 7:27 p.m. The train will make all intermediate station stops as the scheduled Amtrak Empire Service train does in New York State on Fridays, which include Yonkers, Croton-Harmon, Poughkeepsie, Rhinecliff, Hudson, and Albany-Rensselaer Station. The Sunday return trip, making all the same station stops, will depart Pittsfield at 3:35 p.m. and arrive in New York at 7:55 p.m. The new Sunday Berkshire Flyer train from New York City to Pittsfield will depart Moynihan Train Hall at 10:50 a.m. and arrive in Pittsfield at 3:15 p.m.

The Berkshire Flyer is building upon two successful seasons where some of the Pittsfield-bound trains were sold out well in advance. Based on that experience, passengers planning a trip are encouraged to purchase tickets early by visiting [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com), the Amtrak app or by calling 1-800-USA-RAIL.

Berkshire Flyer customers can expect the same amenities onboard as they do on all other Amtrak trains including, free Wi-Fi, the freedom to always use phones and electronic devices (no "airplane mode"), the ability to travel with small pets, large spacious seats with plenty of leg room and no middle seat.

For MassDOT information, people may visit: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-transportation>.

## WORTHINGTON

### Worthington ATM set for May 4

WORTHINGTON – The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 4 at 9:30 a.m. in the gymnasium

of RH Conwell Elementary School, 147 Huntington Road.

### First Fridays Artswalk scheduled for May 3

PITTSFIELD – The First Fridays Artswalk in downtown Pittsfield returns on Friday, May 3 from 5-8 pm as part of the City of Pittsfield's First Fridays at Five.

Participating venues include Berkshire Art Center, Clock Tower Artists, Dottie's Coffee Lounge/Dorothy's Estaminet, Hotel on North, Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, Marketplace Cafe, Roots and Dreams and Mustard Seeds, Soda Chef, and TKG Real Estate. There will be Art in the Park with Mike Carty at Sottile Park and pottery in Palace Park with Jim Horsford.

The Clock Tower Artists at 75 South Church St. will host an open studios event on Friday, May 3 from 5-8 p.m. and on the First Saturday, May 4 from 1-5 p.m. People may take the art shuttle to and from the Clock Tower Artist Studios from 5-7 p.m. The art shuttle will run every 15 minutes from City Hall on Allen Street. Artists with Open Studios on May 3 include Deborah H Carter, Marion Grant, Caroline Kelley, Bruce Laird, Mark Mellinger, Linda Petrocine, Shany Porras, Sally Tiska Rice, Ilene Richard, Audrey Shachnow, and Stefanie Weber.

The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, 28 Renee Avenue, will feature artworks by Pittsfield High School Artists from May 3-31. Senior AP Art and Design students will present their senior portfolio sustained investigations and there will be an opening reception with the student artists during the First Fridays Artswalk on May 3 from 5-7 p.m.

The Berkshire Art Center, 141 North St., will continue to offer free artmaking drop-ins on the First Friday of the month from 5:30-7:30 p.m., year-round. For the month of May, The Berkshire Art Center will also feature two window displays: "Same Difference" by Stephanie VanBramer, north window, a series of watercolor experiments, and "Street Manifesto: Expressions in Spray" by Ma'leek Adams-Powell, south window.

TKG Real Estate, 137 North St., will feature "A Meadows Walk," paintings and nature photos by Denise Michaud Lucas during First Fridays Artswalk. There will be a reception with the artist on May 3 from 5-8 p.m.

The Marketplace Cafe, 53 North St., will feature Mollie Kellogg's Magical Realism Paintings from 2004-2007 for the month of May. There will be a reception with the artist during the May 3 First Fridays Artswalk from 5 to 7 pm.

Roots and Dreams and Mustard Seeds, 119 Fenn Street, will feature a half dozen artists during the First Fridays Artswalk on May 3 for one-night only from 5-8 p.m. Artists include Marco and Maria Ortiz, Peppa and Drake, Sandra Bonilla, and Matthew Brinton.

Living in Recovery, a peer recovery support community at 75 North St., entrance on MCKay Street, will feature work by artists Shane Ott and Jeff Malderez on Friday May 3 from 5-8 p.m. Every hour on the half hour, all are welcome to participate in free coffee and canvas workshops. There will also be children's art projects with Katrina.

Dottie's Coffee Lounge/Dorothy's Estaminet, 438/444 North St., will feature "For the Love of: Culture, the Figure, and the Landscape" through the end of June. There will be an opening reception with the artists on Friday, May 3, from 4-6 p.m. Dottie's will remain open until 9 p.m. during the First Fridays Artswalk. Hotel on North, 297 North Street, will feature "Jazz Visions II" by Marguerite Bride through the end of May.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and First Fridays Artswalk will host a Free Kids' Paint & Sip on Friday, May 3 from 5-8 pm, as part of the First Fridays at Five Family Fun Zone on Dunham Mall, 100 North St. or ages 5 to 12. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

People may Download the Downtown Pittsfield app in the App Store or on Google Play to follow a virtual walking tour of art on their cell phone or visit [www.firstfridaysartswalk.com](http://www.firstfridaysartswalk.com) for more information.

First Fridays Artswalk is supported in part by a grant from the Mass Cultural Council, and a grant from the Pittsfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. This program is also supported in part by The Feigenbaum Foundation.

## OTIS

### AmVets to hold Memorial Day service

OTIS – Members of AmVets Post 77 and other local area Veterans invite the public to participate in the annual Memorial Day Remembrance Service on Sunday, May 26 from noon-12:30 p.m. at the Otis Veteran's Memorial in front of the Town Library.

The AmVets appreciate the continued support shown by so many as they endeavor to create a more respectful and solemn opportunity for everyone to pause and pay tribute to the service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. During the Remembrance Service, Scott Stone

United States Marine Corp will be the guest speaker.

Prior to and immediately following the ceremony, a small group of veterans will travel to every cemetery in Otis and Sandisfield to pay their respects by playing Taps and firing volleys. The cemetery visits will be conducted throughout the morning and into the afternoon on May 26. The AmVets apologize in advance for any disturbance this may cause. Any questions regarding this can be directed to the Commander, AmVets Post-77, Thomas Soules at 413-429-1119.

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# GREAT BARRINGTON

## Community Bag program benefits Nonprofit Center of Berkshires

GREAT BARRINGTON – For the entire month of May, Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires has been selected by Big Y's store leadership to be the recipient of the proceeds from the Community Bag Program.

Whenever a \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is purchased at the Big Y located in Great Barrington, \$1 will be donated to the Nonprofit Center. Through this program, shoppers can easily con-

tribute to their communities.

More than \$420,000 has been donated to almost 1,900 nonprofit organizations since the program launched in January 2019. To learn more about this program, people may visit [bigy.2givelocal.com](http://bigy.2givelocal.com).

Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires is a support and infrastructure organization for 1200 Berkshire nonprofits. To learn more about the Nonprofit Center people may visit [npcberkshires.org](http://npcberkshires.org).

## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

### Grace Kuhn inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA – Grace Kuhn of Westfield was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.

Kuhn was initiated at University of Massachusetts. Kuhn is among approximately 25,000 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.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

### Sean Alvord participates in Stock Market Challenge

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University's College of Business students have emerged as the first place winners of the 2023 Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts Stock Market Challenge - College/Corporate Competition.

Local student participating was Sean Alvord of Westfield a finance degree major.

This prestigious event, now in its

18th year, witnessed a spirited competition where college students and corporate professionals, including accounting firms, investment management firms and banks, engaged in a high-stakes contest to build the highest net-worth portfolio. Using fictional company shares, the WNE team demonstrated exceptional skill and strategy, outperforming competitors and surpassing the runner-up by 13% with an impressive 30% portfolio return.

### St. Lawrence University announces Dean's list

CANTON, NY – St. Lawrence University congratulates more than 730 students named to the Dean's list for the Fall 2023 semester.

Local students making the Dean's list are: Jack Fay of Easthampton, Annika

Jensen of Westfield, Clarissa Kurtaliaj of Cummington and Charlie Por of Williamsburg. To be eligible for the Dean's list, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

## Michael Lawrence to speak at Bard College commencement

GREAT BARRINGTON – Simon's Rock alum Michael Lawrence will address graduates at the 55th Commencement ceremony of Bard College at Simon's Rock on Saturday, May 18 at 11 a.m.

The ceremony will be held in person and live-streamed for those unable to attend. A self-proclaimed "word nerd" working at the intersection of language, design and technology, Lawrence received his BA from Simon's Rock in 2002, summa cum laude, building a concentration that combined cultural studies, critical theory, linguistics, art history and graphic design, an ideal preparation for his current job in the relatively new fields of content design and UX writing, which did not exist at the time.

He has worked with product and brand design teams at Meta, Indeed, and eBay, and offered freelance naming and content strategy for a number of creative entrepreneurs. His work allows him to craft the language that appears in apps and web interfaces to make digital products more useful, usable, and inclusive. Success requires careful attention to the metaphors and narratives people use to make sense of new technology, as well as close partnership with software engineers, user researchers, visual designers,

translators, marketers, and policy experts.

After beginning his career in academia, Lawrence transitioned into industry. He served on the support staff of the first Bard High School Early College before going on to earn a PhD in rhetorical theory and criticism from the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Iowa. His dissertation explored discourses of 9/11 memorialization and national identity by examining the neoliberal epideictic practice of publicly reciting and reprinting the long list of names of the dead.

The project earned the top dissertation award from the National Communication Association's Critical Cultural Studies Division. He served on the faculty of Columbia College Chicago as a full-time lecturer in liberal arts & sciences, and acting program director for the college's First-Year Seminar program. He has also taught numerous courses on contemporary media and culture, as well as foundational courses in communication and critical thinking skills.

He continues to work with college students, currently co-teaching an interdisciplinary seminar at the University of San Francisco on generative AI and the question of human creativity.

## Berkshire Nonprofit awards feted at breakfast

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires, in partnership with The Berkshire Eagle, has announced the names of seven honorees receiving recognition at the seventh annual Berkshire Nonprofit Awards on May 21.

The Berkshire Nonprofit Awards breakfast will take place on Tuesday, May 21 from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at Kripalu Yoga Center in Stockbridge. The celebration will feature breakfast and networking, a performance by Kids4Harmony, remarks by Kripalu CEO Robert Mulhall, a video message from Attorney General Andrea Campbell, and presentation of awards. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at [npcberkshires.org](http://npcberkshires.org).

The Berkshire Nonprofit Awards recognize the accomplishments and dedication of the people who work in the nonprofit sector. A panel of 21 judges from the business and nonprofit sectors deliberated via Zoom to choose honorees in each of seven categories from among 62 nominations.

The honorees are: Board Leadership, Kate Barton from Berkshire Immigrant Center; Executive

Leadership, Jessica Vecchia from Roots Rising; Sanya Rose Stumo from Youth Leadership; Noelia Salinetti from Monument Mountain High School Senior; Rock Star, Brenda Petell from Berkshire United Way; Unsung Hero, Karen Richards from Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, WAM Theatre, Du Bois Center for Freedom and Democracy and The Mount; Volunteer, Judith Wesselman from Berkshire Community Action Council and Lifetime Achievement, Chris Melski from Berkshire County ARC.

"Reading through the nominations is always inspiring," said Nonprofit Center founder Liana Toscanini. "I'm reminded of how much one person can enhance the inner workings and success of a nonprofit organization."

The Berkshire Nonprofit Awards is made possible by sponsors: Berkshire Bank, Berkshire Health Systems, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Berkshire United Way, Blackrock Foundation, Feigenbaum Foundation, Fitzpatrick Trust, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Lamar Advertising Company, NBT Bank, Warrior Trading and Williamstown Community Chest.

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# OTIS

## John Dickson to speak on industrial heritage May 16

OTIS – The Otis Historical Commission and Otis Preservation Trust will host the final Notice Otis cultural event of the 2023-24 year, featuring author John Dickson speaking on “Berkshire County’s Industrial Heritage” on Thursday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at Otis Town Hall, 11 North Main Road.

A question and answer session will follow the talk. Admission is free, but pre-registration is required.

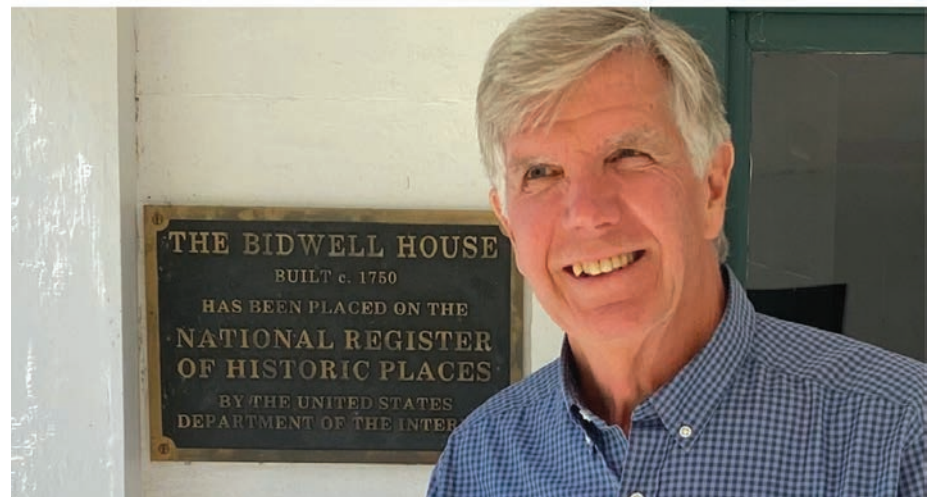
To register for in-person attendance or for more information, people may visit [www.otispreservationtrust.com](http://www.otispreservationtrust.com); or [www.townofotisma.com](http://www.townofotisma.com). Donations are welcome.

John Dickson served 26 years in the Foreign Service, representing the U.S. in five different Embassies. After retiring, in 2010, Dickson completed graduate studies in the Public History Program at the University of Massachusetts. There, he completed a thesis on the preservation of the old Berkshire Athenaeum, the subject of a movie he filmed working with Pittsfield Community Television.

Currently, Dickson is active in local history projects in western Massachusetts where he serves as Chair of the Pittsfield Historical Commission and former board member of the Berkshire Historical Society. He has authored a local history book, “Berkshire County’s Industrial Heritage,” on the 19th century mills in this corner of Massachusetts. His book, History Shock, narrating personal accounts of the intersection of history and international affairs, was published by University of Kansas Press. He has taught at the Osher Lifelong Learning

Institute and has three history-related websites: [history-all-around.org](http://history-all-around.org), [preservepittsfield.org](http://preservepittsfield.org), and [milltour.org](http://milltour.org).

Otis Preservation Trust works with the Otis Historical Commission to organize and preserve the history and heritage of Otis for future generations by supporting efforts to preserve, restore, repurpose and educate about buildings, monuments, lands and memorabilia of Otis. OPT is a not-for-profit (501c3) organization operated for fundraising and educational purposes. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Author John Dickson will speak on Berkshire County's industrial heritage

Submitted photo

## Otis COA announces upcoming May activities

OTIS – The Council on Aging is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

For a possible Mother’s Day, people may consider a gift card for a trip or paint and music class to surprise mom.

On Mondays, May 13 and May 20 an exercise class will be held at 10:30 a.m. and the foot nurse will be available by appointment on Monday, May 13. On Wednesdays, May 15, May 22 and May 29 the food pantry is open 9-11 a.m. and on May 15 grief counseling is from 1:30-2:30 p.m. On Thursday,

May 16 the CHP van is available 10 a.m.-noon.

On Friday, May 17 brown bag is available 10-11 a.m. On Saturday, May 18 at 1 p.m. Paint and Music will take place at Otis Town Hall. People should call 413-269-0100, extension 5 to sign-up. Cost is \$20.

Monday, May 27 the Senior Center will be closed for Memorial Day.

There are still spots available for the COA trips. They include the Isle of Shoals on Thursday, July 25; Table for Two at the Log Cabin Tuesday, Aug.

13 and Margaritaville on Cape Cod Monday, Sept. 23 through Wednesday, Sept. 25. People may call 413-269-0100, extension 5 for more information.

The annual barbecue will be Wednesday, July 17 and there will be music with the Wonderful Sarah the Fiddler.

Grief counseling takes place once a month and is open to everyone. The Otis COA can be reached by calling 413-269-0100 extension 5 or emailing [seniorsotisma@gmail.com](mailto:seniorsotisma@gmail.com).

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## HEARING

from page 1

ing by introducing Energy Committee members Nick Chuisano, Bob Daley, Rich Holzman, Ed Sourdiffé, Annette LaMountain and Peter Stone. This effort, he said, has come about due to 2018 Clean Energy Standards, which set a minimum percentage of electricity sales that utilities must procure from clean energy sources, expected to reach 80% in 2050. To date, the committee has secured and administered green community grants, monitored town energy usage, recommended energy savings measures and has been reviewing the benefits of staying with CMELD versus switching to Eversource. Since its inception two years ago, the committee has secured a \$130,170 Green Community Grant, which provided \$88 thousand in solar projects and \$25 thousand in town hall weatherization.

Myers outlined the benefits of public power such as CMELD as providing lower rates, making contributions to their towns, having a local office and providing good service. CMELD has existed for 98 years, serves 700 households, provides a 5% discount for customers, who pay within 15 days of billing and does not charge the town for street lights or power to the public library or historic jail.

Benefits to switching to Eversource, Myers said, included options for solar net metering, participation in MassSave, financial assistance for low-income households, tax payments of \$30k - \$40k to the town and good service. Three pricing options would be available: basic Eversource delivery and supply; a household energy selection to lower that rate through an approved third party supplier and a town municipal aggregation where multiple towns collectively bargain with a third party supplier.

As of the date of the hearing, energy rates per kilowatt hour were .23920 for CMELD, .32449 for Eversource Basic and .30798 for the municipal aggregation rate. Rates over time, which sometimes had CMELD at the highest rate, are outlined on the energy committee's presentation, which they said would be posted to the town website. Both bills include a customer service rate: CMELD's is \$6.30, Eversource's is \$10.

Rates from all sources will continue to go up due to the requirement to move to clean energy, Myers said. Rate advantages to public power companies is that they are non-profit, do not have to provide dividends to shareholders, are tax-exempt and are not as regulated as commercial utilities. Larger public companies are able to achieve economy of scale and some produce their own power.

Customers of public companies are eligible for Mass Save Rebates for items like heat pumps up to \$10,000; ground source heat pumps (up to 415,000 and smart thermostats, \$100 rebate, limit 3. Mass Save also provides whole house energy audits for these incentives.

Myers described Chester as an island surrounded by towns served by Eversource. Right now, Chester's power arrives on Eversource lines that come from Becket. If power goes out in



Commissioners and employees from CMELD listened and answered questions during the hearing. Shown from left are CMELD Invoicing Clerk Rosanne McClafflin, CMELD Commissioners Duane Pease, Terry Murphy and Deryck Savoy (Chair) and CMELD Manager Diane Hall.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

Becket, it is out in Chester until Becket is back up and running. CMELD commissioners confirmed that the biggest reason for outages in Chester are problems in Becket. Another advantage of moving to Eversource, Myers said, would be the potential to have additional lines from other towns that could be switched when needed.

Eversource representatives provided their presentation, which is also expected to be linked to the town website. Eversource is New England's largest energy delivery company, dealing with gas, electricity and water. Their goals are to be carbon neutral by 2030, to provide reliable service and to have the financial soundness to keep prices low to consumers.

They described the company as being a great place to work, making contributions to non-profit organizations, and paying employees to do two full days of community service each year. Numerous high rankings and national awards were cited, including from J. D. Power and Associates and Time Magazine.

In particular, Eversource has been recognized for communications to customers during outages.

Eversource, the team said, regularly assesses performance to determine when to upgrade capacity, address aging equipment or poor performing circuits, provide line updates, and standardization to improve weather-related circuit performance. Outages, they said, are often impacted by vegetation and metrics are studied to look at the frequency of power interruptions, not due to storms and the duration of outages. Eversource is in the top 10% nationally on these metrics.

Some audience members expressed skepticism on the outage average of 59.62 minutes. "Don't those averages reflect large, densely populated areas?" asked one resident, asking what the restoration time is for people living in small towns some distance away

from Eversource crews. In an outage, Eversource would send a crew out from Hadley to Chester.

"We do focus on the largest customer blocks first," responded one of the executives. "But we bring in several hundred to two thousand line crews for major storms, including crews whose only job is to clear blocked roads so emergency vehicles and restoration crews can get through." But they did not have data on average outages in small towns.

Several residents described instances when CMELD had responded immediately and locally and fixed outages in two hours or less.

Numerous questions and points were raised and weren't always clearly answered. For example, it is not yet known how much it will cost Eversource to upgrade Chester's infrastructure and bring redundant power sources in to redress the frequent Becket outages from Middlefield and Worthington. While a line from Worthington does support 40 Chester households, who are already on Eversource, it's not clear how it might need to change or be upgraded.

Another unclear point was the financial transaction around dissolving CMELD. "It looks like there's about a million dollars in assets, but their cash on hand would remain with the town," said Normant. "We would pay." But Select Board chairman John Baldasaro jumped in, stating that those funds are not cash in the bank.

One resident questioned the format of an Eversource bill that they said had eight different charges on it. It was not clear what each covered. Normant said they could provide an explanation for each line. Baldasaro said that should be posted to the town website and that CMELD should do the same.

Baldasaro also pointed out that if the votes to change to Eversource pass, CMELD is gone. He asked if that was true? The answer from Eversource was that the town could re-municipalize

again in the future, but pointed out that it would be cost prohibitive to purchase it back.

Deryck Savoy, Chair of the CMELD Commissioners, said he thought the hearing was a good opportunity for folks to hear from Eversource firsthand. Before that, it had only been a few people who'd spoken to them. But he questioned some of the data and metrics in the Eversource presentation.

"I would definitely want to clarify their metrics about their outage responses," Savoy said. "Would they really respond to a single homeowner as fast as they said they would?"

He also questioned how Eversource tracks its outage data. "Our power is fed through Eversource lines through the Becket-Chester Line along Route 20," Savoy explained. "More often than not, when the whole town loses power, something has happened to the Eversource line in Becket. There's some contention because they have us listed as one customer. When that line goes down, they count it as one customer outage, not 700."

Savoy spoke about the challenge of competing with private utilities. "It's unfortunate that there is state money involved in programs like Mass Save," he said, by way of example. "They only subsidize Eversource, but keep municipal companies ineligible to take part." He also cautioned customers that any of the rebates that have anything to do with fossil fuels-like oil or propane will expire in July. Afterwards, rebates would only be on weatherization and electrical equipment, which residents might have misunderstood.

CMELD will undergo a complete financial audit to confirm financial reports. There will be future meetings between the Energy Committee and CMELD. Eversource will need to assess the energy infrastructure and review the audit in order to make a firm offer to the town. Then the issue goes to the voters.

"It will take a vote in favor to proceed with the sale of CMELD to Eversource at two separate town meetings or special town meetings, that can be no closer than 60 days apart," confirmed Chester Town Administrator Don Humason, adding that if the vote fails on the first go, there wouldn't be a second vote.

In the meantime, proponents and opponents are all urging people to do their own research. Voters are advised to go to sources and not rely on social media opinions. Savoy encourages people to talk to people who have Eversource service in other towns. "Ask them what they pay."

Due diligence, Myers noted, includes fact checking charts and graphs, looking for information on the Mass.gov website, and comparing CMELD and Eversource invoices.

Baldasaro agreed, concluding, "I think this is one of the biggest decisions Chester has faced in decades. I am not going to tell you how I am going to vote. This is something for each voter to research and decide."

## RESIGNATION

from page 1

Select Board Chair Cara Letendre said they could check to see if Cherry Sheet funding could be applied for the purpose of the COA vehicle upgrade.

**Highway Department**

Highway Superintendent David Waldron asked the board for their endorsement for grant applications for Beech Hill and Gore Roads work. The town would have to provide \$25,000 for Beech Hill work and \$50,000 for Gore Road and the Highway Department would cover an additional \$100,000 for both projects from Chapter 90 funds.

Gore Road's work is new pavement and Beech Hill Road's covers two sections from the town line to Julius Hall Road and another section from Julius Hall

Road to Route 20.

He told the board he has also requested letters of support from Lecrenski Brothers, the school bus providers and the Gateway Regional School District. Tree canopy work will be included.

For another grant already received for work on the bridge on Beech Hill Road, he said that he had asked for financial support from Springfield Water and Sewer Commission since "it is their water that flows under the bridge." but was told they had already set their budget for the new fiscal year. He has requested several more letters of support for the projects.

The board approved Waldron's request to include the need for funds on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting along with an additional \$30,759 for the

Beech Hill Road bridge.

He has a \$6,970 quote for repairs to the fuel tanks at the Highway Garage.

He reported on his attendance at the Mass Municipal Association meeting on Saturday and found most interesting a lengthy discussion on affordable housing and how the state is purchasing properties and re-selling them at an affordable price.

**Generator battery replacement**

Town Administrator Michael Szlosek presented a quote from Kinsley Power Systems for \$3,273.16 for a generator battery replacement and the board approved the expenditure. The board also approved a transfer of funds for the assessor's expense line from within their budget.

The report on the Resilient Dirt

Roads will be discussed in two weeks and include Paula Bilodeau, the Dirt Roads Liaison.

**Other business**

The board then appointed Janet Strausberg and Lisa Bruno to the Cultural Council.

Linda and Rick Barnard spoke with the board about the old school house on their property. A contract with Linda Barnard's great-grandfather, the building belonged to the town, but was located on private property. There is a slate blackboard in the building that is of an historical nature that should be preserved. The Barnards will ask for recommendations from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's historian Shannon Walsh.



# SELECT BOARD

from page 1

Board and to Fire Chief Josh Ellinger, as a gesture of appreciation for the town's support, hard work and cooperation in making the 69th Annual Wild Water Canoe Races take place this year. Earlier, he had given one to Huntington Police Chief Robert Garriepy, who was unable to attend this meeting.

"I just wanted to take a formal opportunity to say thank you to the town of Huntington: the Select board, Fire Department and Police Department. All of you were just so supportive of the canoe race this year," Rock said. "One reason we got through being on tentative ice was the support of the towns. We just had a great year and are looking forward to our 70th next year."

Rock added that this year's race saw a record number of 315 paddlers and 200 boats. He also mentioned a cardiac incident at the finish line, with off duty first responders and paramedic paddlers jumping in to provide care. Thankfully, that person survived and is recovering.

### Memorial Day

Next on the agenda was the Memorial Day Parade, with committee members Ellinger and Lori Belhumeur reporting on progress to date and details that still need to be nailed down. Gateway Band Director Beth Guertin had informed Belhumeur that the band would march in Huntington this year, provide someone who would play "Taps" and had to leave the town green by 9:20 a.m. to make the Chester parade for a 10 a.m. start.

Firemen will do the rifle salute. Marchers will include the Huntington Historical Society and Assembly of God Church. A robo call will go out inviting other interested groups to sign up to march. Potential speakers were discussed; they are still seeking a younger person to recite "Flanders Field." Belhumeur is working on the wreath to be laid at the memorial at the junction of Routes 112 and 20. Selectman Roger Booth is getting a new frame for the wreath to Belhumeur. Ellinger had been approached by someone, who wanted to fire off a cannon, but consensus was that it would be too loud for this early morning event.

### Dog licenses

Interim Town Clerk Michelle Fieldstad-Booth joined the meeting to discuss issues that have arisen around past and current dog licenses. Huntington has over 400 unlicensed dogs and approximately 360 dogs that are licensed. Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin and Fieldstad-Booth will check with the town's attorney on how to resolve several issues and will report back.

### FY 25 budget and appointments

The fiscal year 2025 budget is nearly final and it is calculated to provide a 4% increase in salary to most town employees. A few positions are scheduled for larger increases, to begin bringing critical employees up to a rate that is comparable to what other small towns

are paying. This effort would help retain key staff but also make it manageable to replace them upon retirement or leaving.

Several issues moved through quickly, including approving an agreement to trade the town's power leaf blower with a plow owned by the Russell Highway Department and approval of people being appointed to town positions for fiscal year 2025. In scanning the list, Chairman Ed Renaud (who is leaving the Select board on June 30) said, "I'm pleased to not see my name anywhere." To which Booth quipped, "We could change that."

### STM and ATM

The Board also reviewed the Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting warrant articles, which are nearly complete. Peloquin said a few numbers have to be finalized for printing by May 1. Chief Ellinger had requested that the fire department be issued one access card to all buildings, which was also granted. Through ARPA funds, the town is changing from coded keypads to card access readers for their buildings for improved security. Town employees will have access to their own building(s), and a small number of staff will have a card that gives them access to all buildings.

### FRTA

Peloquin announced that Hilltown Community Development has submitted a proposal to take over the Franklin

Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) Van management for the Southern hilltowns. They already manage the FRTA for the Northern hilltowns. This would become effective July 1, but they are also willing to do some interim management if needed.

### Ambulance contract

Select board members declined to sign the fiscal year 2025 Hilltown Community Ambulance Association Contract, which technically doesn't have to be signed until the end of June. Renaud said they should see if the town wants to raise and appropriate the steep rise in funding required by the contract. "If the town wants to pay a 41% increase, it is their right," Renaud said.

### Other business

Kenney masonry gave a quote to extend the railing on the new ADA ramp to Stanton and Town Hall. Another 20 feet could be added for \$7,600. The Architect did not have this section of railing in the plans, which Booth surmised was because it was not required by code, adding that the town could do it later in the year using any unspent ARPA funds to cover. At this point, he noted, that does not look likely.

Peloquin also announced that new computers for the treasurer and town clerk have arrived and are working well. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m. and their next meeting is Wednesday, May 8 at 5 p.m. in Town Hall.

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## HUNTINGTON

# Library lists May events

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Library Director Amanda Loiselle announced a lineup of intriguing events at the Huntington Public Library, 7 East Main St. in May.

First up is a Victorian Courtship Tea on Saturday, May 4 at noon. Mrs. Michael Gordon as portrayed by Rita Parisi is delighted to attend and explain the rites of courtship in the Victorian age. Participants will learn how to flirt with their fan, how to choose an appropriate suitor and the role that romance played in courtship during that era. They should feel free to wear something of a Victorian style and don't forget the fan.

On Tuesday May 14 from 5-6 p.m., Westfield Bank will be at the library to present a workshop on how to manage finances, effectively save for important goals and build a better financial life. The HPL Cookbook Club will meet on Wednesday, May 22 at 5 p.m. Participants will exchange a bounty of

summer recipes and cookbooks to make this summer one that is full of good eats “Killers of the Flower Moon” by David Graham is the book club pick for May. People may get a copy at the library while they last, order through Interlibrary Loan or download from Libby. The club will meet on Thursday, June 6 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss.

Loiselle also provided a snapshot of this year's summer reading program, which takes place in Massachusetts libraries from Monday, June 24 through Friday, Aug. 17. This year's theme is “Read, Renew, Repeat” and will focus on reading as a means of self-improvement and preservation, all while advocating for conservation.

Weekly activities are ongoing and include drop-in painting on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and children's story hours on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

As always, Loiselle welcomes suggestions for future events and clubs from everyone. People may stop in at the library, email Library@HuntingtonMA.us or call 413-512-5206.

# Sarah the Fiddler performs at Memory Cafe on May 8

HUNTINGTON – Sarah the Fiddler will perform for the Hilltown Memory Cafe at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road, on Wednesday, May 8 from 2-3 p.m.

Sarah Michel began playing violin as a four year old child and was introduced to fiddle music at age six. She began competing in fiddle contests all over New England, where she was known as the girl with the little red hat. When she began winning hundreds of competitions, she became “Sarah the Fiddler.”

She performs on a fiddle that was given to her by New England fiddler Willie “Uncle Willie” Lapman, which is over 200 years old. Her music covers old-time, Irish, world and classical music.

This program is available thanks to the grant funding from Highland Valley Elder Services under the Federal Older Americans Act, and by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council—a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Sarah the Fiddler will perform at the Hilltown Memory Cafe at Stanton Hall on Wednesday, May 8. Submitted photo

# Huntington Council on Aging to hold jewelry beading class

HUNTINGTON – Sue Maxwell will lead a class on jewelry beading on Wednesday, May 15 at 1 p.m. at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

The class is free and includes materials.

People should call 413-685-5283 or email coa@huntingtonma.us to sign up by Wednesday, May 8. This event is sponsored by the Huntington Council on Aging.

## NORTHAMPTON

# Forbes lists upcoming events

NORTHAMPTON – Forbes Library, 20 West St., will hold “The Ukulele and You: Level Up” with Don Rovern on Thursdays, May 2, 16 and 30 from 6:30-7:50 p.m.

May 2 is National Play Your Ukulele Day. This workshop is aimed at players, who know at least a few chords and have started learning songs. They will explore different strumming and fingerpicking approaches and learn popular chord progressions that make up many of the favorite songs. People are welcome to join all three sessions or drop in when they can.

Magic: the Gathering Club for Tweens and Teens will meet Thursday, May 2 from 3:45-4:45 p.m.

This is an opportunity to learn how to play the tabletop card game Magic: The Gathering. All are welcome.

They may bring their own decks if they have them or if they don't have and cards, the library will provide card to use at the library. This program is for ages 10+ and meets biweekly in the Community Room. They may email

jvrysen@forbeslibrary.org with any questions.

Virtual Teen Book Club: “A Tempest of Tea” by Hafsa Faizal will meet Thursday, May 2 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. People will chat and pick next month's read. This meeting will take place via Zoom; email mbishop@forbeslibrary.org for the meeting link.

Kids Gaming Club meets Friday, May 3 from 4-5 p.m. for ages 7 to 12. They meet in the Community Room where they hang out with other young gamers and play the library's Nintendo Switch.

Tuesday, May 7 from 4-5 p.m. teens ages 12 and up meet in the Teen Gaming Lounge.

Toddler Story time is Friday, May 3 from 10:30-11 a.m. They will sing songs, read stories and have fun. This event is best suited for 1.5-3-year-olds and their caregivers.

In the Hosmer Gallery, Pastel Landscapes by Donna M. Roye, We Are All Matter by Amy Dawn Kotel and New Monotypes by Arch MacInnes are on exhibit.

# Cooley Dickinson announces blood drive on May 14

NORTHAMPTON – Adults interested in donating blood will have an opportunity to do so at a community blood drive at Cooley Dickinson Hospital on Tuesday, May 14 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Cooley Dickinson is partnering with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Brigham & Women's Hospital, and the Kraft Family Blood Donor Center to bring their blood mobile to Northampton. The blood mobile will be set up in the parking lot in front of the hospital's North Building from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

“Blood donation is a vital act of generosity that saves lives,” said Catherine Reed, administrative director for clinical Services at Cooley Dickinson. “We deeply appreciate the ongoing support of our community in ensuring that our patients

have access to the vital blood supply they need.”

All blood donors will receive a \$10 gift card for Panera Bread. A photo ID is required for blood donation. Donors are also advised to drink extra water and eat before donating blood. All donor types are welcome.

To make an appointment, people may visit the online donor portal at tinyurl.com/CooleyM2024. For donation eligibility questions, they should email BloodDonor@partners.org or call 617-632-3206.

Blood products collected during this drive will be used to care for patients in the Pioneer Valley and within the Mass General Brigham system.

# Springfest scheduled for May 18

NORTHAMPTON – The 30th anniversary of the Springfest music festival, featuring performances by Northampton Community Music Center, 139 South St., students and ensembles, is Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in downtown

Northampton.

Springfest tee shirts, featuring this year's sweet illustration by Esther Solomon, are available for purchase (\$15) in the NCMC lobby. This event at Pulaski Park is free and open to the public



## PUBLIC NOTICES

**LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING WILLIAMSBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION, Williamsburg MA**

The Williamsburg Conservation Commission, in accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, will hold a public meeting on the **9th of May, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Williamsburg town offices, 141 Main St., Haydenville, MA to review a Notice of Intent, submitted by Jeff Ovitt.

The subject area or activity is located at 9 Goshen Road, Williamsburg. 05/02/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC**

**HEARING**

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of the Town of Huntington will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024 beginning at 6:00 pm** in Stanton Hall.

The Public Hearing is for the Special Permit Application of Hull Forestlands, LP c/o William B. Hull for an Earth Removal Operation at 61 Goss Hill Road (Parcel # 324-32-A), 0 Goss Hill Road (Parcel # 326-26-0) & 0 Worthington Road (Parcel # 326-24-0).

A copy of the application will be available for review (by appointment) in the office of the Board of Selectmen in Town Hall between April 22 and May 9, 2024.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN OF HUNTINGTON 04/25, 05/02/2024**

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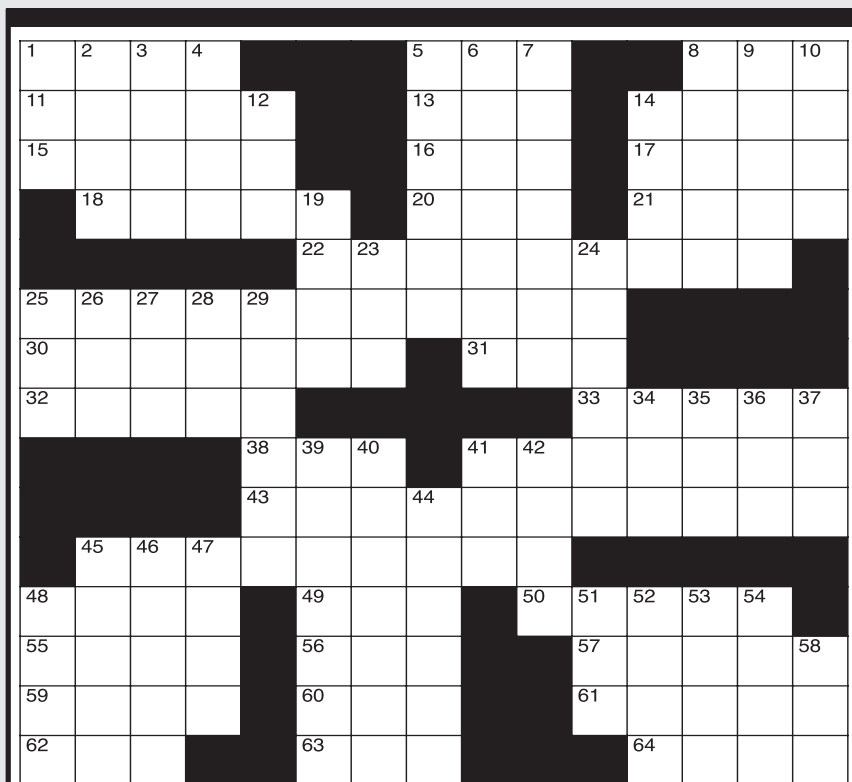
# MIDDLEFIELD

## Middlefield Council on Aging announces lunch menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Council on Aging will serve lunch in the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, on Wednesday, May 8 at noon. The menu is eat in or take out. The choice is turkey and gravy, lentil

stew, carrots and corn, French bread and peaches. People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal the previous

Monday, May 6. Suggested donation is \$3. The Council on Aging Board will hold their meeting after the meal.

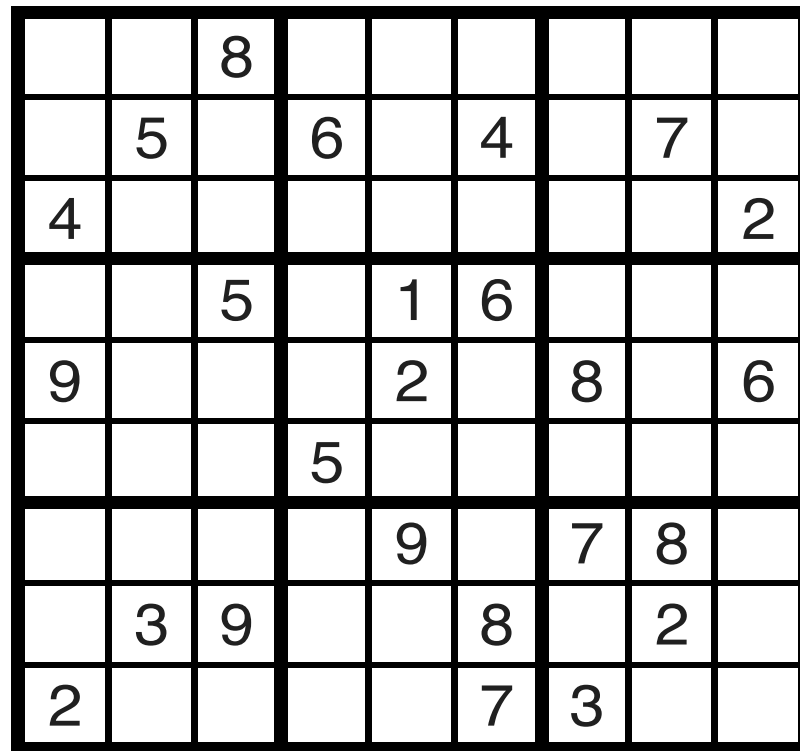


**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Lions do it
- 5. In favor of
- 8. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 11. Pulpits
- 13. Leisure activity
- 14. Fertility god
- 15. Financial obligations
- 16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
- 17. Spanish river
- 18. Sporting events
- 20. Type of tree
- 21. Ceased to be
- 22. Persons
- 25. Synthetic resin
- 30. Relates to photochemical reactions
- 31. Father
- 32. Former Cowboys coach
- 33. City in Finland
- 38. Run batted in
- 41. Got through
- 43. They darken skin
- 45. In a harmful way
- 48. Form of weaving
- 49. City of Angels hoopster
- 50. Caucasian language
- 55. Syngman \_\_\_\_, Korean president
- 56. Sun up in New York
- 57. Paddled
- 59. Fishes
- 60. Affirmative
- 61. Nimble
- 62. Doctor of Education
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. A small island
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Cool!
- 2. Hebrew unit of measure
- 3. Swedish rock group
- 4. College army
- 5. Favor over another
- 6. Called it a career
- 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 8. Israeli statesman
- 9. Hurries
- 10. Slog
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Benedictine monk
- 19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 23. Family of regulator genes
- 24. Surrendering
- 25. Political action committee
- 26. S. American plant
- 27. Long-term memory
- 28. Bark
- 29. Breathes in
- 34. Take hold of
- 35. Everyone has one
- 36. Valentine's Day color
- 37. Drivers' licenses and passports
- 39. Outer walls of castles
- 40. Enters with force
- 41. One thousandth of an inch
- 42. Deceased Chinese politician
- 44. Sugary secretion of plants
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Shelter
- 47. Utilizes
- 48. Forest resident
- 51. Fashion accessory
- 52. A sharply directional antenna
- 53. \_\_ Kristofferson, actor
- 54. A bad place to end up
- 58. MLBer Gordon

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

- ARIES**  
Mar 21/Apr 20  
Your friends have stepped up to support you, and it is time to get together and enjoy one another's company. Think about an activity that everyone can get behind.
- CANCER**  
Jun 22/Jul 22  
Cancer, some people around you would like to use flattery to get you to do what they want. However, you are too savvy to fall for people who may be guiding you in the wrong direction.
- LIBRA**  
Sept 23/Oct 23  
Someone in your life who has not always been on your side has been changing his or her ways lately, Libra. You may want to reevaluate the relationship soon.
- CAPRICORN**  
Dec 22/Jan 20  
Capricorn, is your schedule flexible right now? Try to rearrange things to take advantage of some last-minute recreational opportunities. You deserve to have more fun.
- AQUARIUS**  
Jan 21/Feb 18  
Aquarius, you may be feeling moody and introspective right now. Take time to evaluate your dreams and the thoughts going through your head. There may be common threads.
- PISCES**  
Feb 19/Mar 20  
Don't let some ambiguous feedback adversely affect your mood, Pisces. You will never be able to please everyone, so focus on those people who are on your side.
- Taurus**  
Apr 21/May 21  
The people around you may work more slowly than you, so you will likely need to be patient this week while working on a particular project. Eventually things will work out.
- Leo**  
Jul 23/Aug 23  
Loved ones and friends in your life deserve your time and energy right now, Leo. Figure out a way to cut down on hours spent on the job this week.
- Gemini**  
May 22/June 21  
Gemini, exercise caution when dealing with people who promise big returns on your investments right now. Avoid financial dealings with anyone you have not fully vetted.
- Virgo**  
Aug 24/Sept 22  
Virgo, things going on in your life right now may be a bit more confusing than you anticipated. It can be stressful, but with some assistance from others you will get through the situation.
- Sagittarius**  
Nov 23/Dec 21  
An interesting travel opportunity is coming your way, Sagittarius. When the news arrives, take advantage of it and start planning your itinerary.



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**answers**

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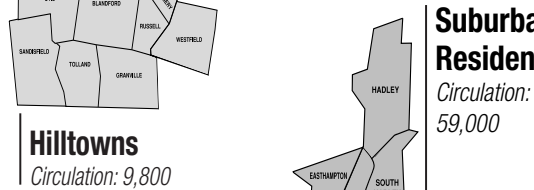
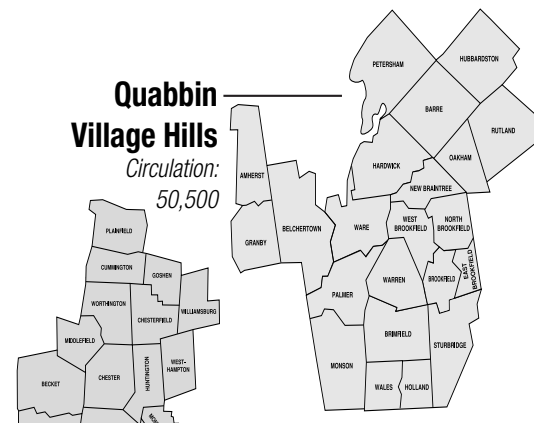
**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES**  
**MONDAY AT NOON**

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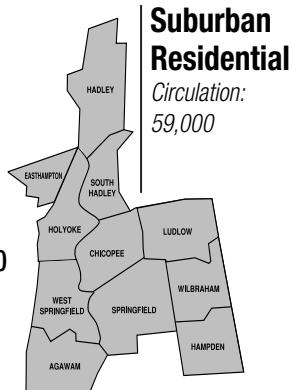
MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
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17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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**FOR RENT**



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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**FOR RENT**



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

**HELP WANTED**

**BRIMFIELD ANTIQUE MARKET.** May 15-18, seeks food service help. This is a fast paced gig. Email contact information to [emaysfoodservice@gmail.com](mailto:emaysfoodservice@gmail.com)

**CLASS A DRIVER.** Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

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**TOWN OF WORTHINGTON**  
**Building Commissioner / Zoning Enforcement Officer**

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

**Qualifications include:**

- A minimum of five years' experience in the supervision of building construction/design or, in the alternative a four-year undergraduate degree in a field related to building construction/design or a combination of education and experience which would confer equivalent knowledge and ability, as determined by the BBRs.
- Shall have general knowledge of the accepted requirements for building construction, fire prevention, light, ventilation and safe egress, as well as a general knowledge of other equipment and materials essential for safety, comfort and convenience of the occupant of a building or structure.
- Must be certified as Building Commissioner/Inspector of Buildings by the BBRs or have a prior approval letter from the BOCC or BBRs to obtain certification, as defined in 780 CMR 110.R7.
- Must have a valid Class D Driver's license.

This is a part-time position - 12 hours a week. Pay range: \$33 - \$39 per hour. Detailed job description can be found here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DURzlpX\\_U-EIa1ddsuxZQsHiWWoCw\\_1G/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111270427003763858270&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DURzlpX_U-EIa1ddsuxZQsHiWWoCw_1G/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111270427003763858270&rtpof=true&sd=true) and on the Town's website: [www.worthington-ma.us](http://www.worthington-ma.us). Please mail your letter of interest, resume and references for all related positions held in the past five years to: Worthington Selectboard, PO Box 247, Worthington, MA 01098 Or send via email to: [selectboard@worthington-ma.us](mailto:selectboard@worthington-ma.us) Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. No phone calls please. *The Town of Worthington is an equal opportunity employer*

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 Pay by check or credit card: Checks Payable to Turley Publications, Credit Cards be sure to include: Paper, Name, Address, Phone, Credit Card Number, Exp. Date & CVW

Congratulations Carrie Smith We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College.  
*Love Dad. Mom & John*



## SANDISFIELD

# Sandisfield Arts Center hosts 'After the Thaw' exhibit

SANDISFIELD – Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road, will host "After the Thaw," its second annual Guild of Berkshire Artists exhibit.

A free public reception for the exhibition will be on Saturday, May 4 from 4-6 p.m. at the art center. The free exhibit runs through Friday, May 31. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and by appointment call 310-970-4517.

"After the Thaw" is a theme derived from the anticipatory time of year when New Englanders joyfully greet the burgeoning signs of spring: blooming flowers, green grass emerging through softening ground and increased visitations of the sun. The selected artists all have a unique interpretation of the theme, from the literal to more abstract. A variety of media will be included and sure to delight every viewer.

The Guild of Berkshire Artists is a vital, active, nonprofit visual arts organization that supports and promotes its members through education, exhibits, and community events while contributing to the cultural life of the Berkshires.

The mission of the Sandisfield Arts Center is to preserve its historic building and provide cultural and educational programs for the community



This acrylic and latex painting entitled "Spring" by Jaye Alston Moscariello is one of many artworks being exhibited at the Sandisfield Arts Center May 4 through May 31  
*Painting by Jaye Alston Moscariello*

## WESTHAMPTON

# Select Board meeting to discuss internet service

WESTHAMPTON – For people who have trouble connecting to the internet, find internet unaffordable or have the skills and devices they need to work and participate in the community.

The next Select Board meeting will talk about resident's experience on Monday, May 6 at 7 p.m. at the Westhampton Town

Hall, 1 South Road.

This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funds.

## RUSSELL

# Hampden County Public Health host dementia program

RUSSELL – The Western Hampden County Public Health District will present a program on Dementia and the 5 Senses on Monday, May 13, at 4:30 p.m. at the Russell Council on Aging offices. The COA is in the Russell Town Hall at 65 Main St.

Founder of Our Dementia Live, Laura Lavoie, will speak about how all five senses are affected by Alzheimers Disease, not only memory.

Lavoie will bring with her Teepa Snow, an occupational

therapist who has specialized in geriatrics and teaches a positive approach to dementia care.

According to according to MaryAnn Deming, RN of the Western Hampden County Public Health District, participants will learn how to better communicate with family members with dementia and build on the relationship instead of only seeing what is missing.

People may register by calling 413-361-8069 and leave a message.

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# Bubbly & BRUNCH & BROWSE

**Saturday, May 11th**

**11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

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### SEE WHAT'S

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**Tuesday, May 14th**

**4 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

