

# 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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BLANDFORD

## Select Board approve North Street pole sites

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Select Board opened the April 28 meeting and convened a pole hearing to relocate and replace utility poles on North Street.

The board voted to approve the requests and the hearing closed.

Highway Superintendent

The board then returned to their regular meeting and heard from Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay.

He complimented his employees for “a job well done” while he was away

POLE SITES, page 6



The Select Board appointed Sharon Poulin as Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission with Dick Gates, Commission Chair at Select Board meeting April 28.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

CHESTER



Members of the Berkshire Shrine Club will march in the Chester on Track parade, which starts at 10 a.m. on May 17. Submitted photo

## Chester on Track set for May 17

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

This year marks the 184th year since the Western Railroad, which runs through the town of Chester, opened.

It also marks the 34th Anniversary of Chester on Track, which will take place all day on Saturday, May 17 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in venues across the town. This growing event will be held at the

Chester Railway Station and Museum, at Emory Park and at numerous sites throughout downtown Chester. Activities will close at 4 p.m. The Chester Train Station will offer a hearty railroad menu starting with breakfast at 8 a.m. followed by lunch at their Blue Caboose; patrons can eat “hobo style” on the grounds or in the antique wooden boxcar. A huge parade will kick off at

10 a.m., led by Frank Kelly as Parade Marshal and featuring the Berkshire Shrine Club and many groups. It will start on Baystate Drive, come down Main Street and end at Emory Park.

The Chester Historical Commission will give tours at the Old Jail and Chester History Museum from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. They will also sell calendars and tee shirts. The Chester Fire

Department’s Annual Duck Race will launch at 2 p.m. on Riverfront Street.

The Chester Postmaster will cancel commemorative envelopes on your own mail with a special postal cancellation for one day only. The design, which will also be on T-shirts available at the Station, will celebrate the little-known, first use of help-

CHESTER ON TRACK, page 8

HUNTINGTON

## WOW bus in Huntington monthly

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

The Wellness on Wheels (WOW) bus from Baystate Medical (BSMC) is available to all area adults on the first Thursday of each month.

Located at the Pioneer Valley Assembly of God (PVAG) Church, 63 Old Chester Road in Huntington, the bus is on site from 9 - 11:30 a.m.

WOW BUS, page 2

Right, Joe Adamowicz of Huntington took part in medical screenings in the Wellness on Wheels bus. RN Michelle Moore tests his blood pressure and blood sugar levels. Below, the WOW bus is open for business at the PVAG Food Pantry on the first Thursday of the month.

Turley photos by Wendy Long



HUNTINGTON

## Ellinger withdraws full time chief request

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

In an extra meeting held on Wednesday, April 30 at 4 p.m., the Huntington Select Board met to continue to look at the issue of a full-time police chief, the status of the town’s free cash and finalize the warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting at 6 p.m. and Annual Town Meeting at 7 p.m. scheduled for Monday, June 2.

Select Board Chairman Roger Booth, members Bill Hathaway and John McVeigh and Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin were all present. First on the agenda was an appointment with the town’s Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger, who had proposed a warrant article calling for \$80,000 to increase the chief to a full time position.

Recent increases in both mandated reports from the state and the number of fire calls led to this request. This issue has been discussed at meetings over the past several months with the Select Board declining to fund the increase-and the resulting family medical coverage-in the “raise and appropriate” budget, but offering Ellinger the opportunity to let the voters decide through a warrant article.

The draft warrant article would have required a proposition 2-½ override to finance the increase. The



Huntington Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger announces his decision to withdraw a warrant article that would have brought his position to full time, if approved by voters.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

warrant article, would have also changed the status of the chief’s position from the current “strong” chief with Ellinger holding sole responsibility for hiring and firing staff, among other items to a “weak” chief, with the fire department under the direction of the select board.

Ellinger opened their meeting. “After our last conversation, I said let’s go back to the drawing board.” He agreed to sit on the issue and take some time to consider it. “I’d like to rescind the

“As fire chief, I have a moral and ethical responsibility to look out for the town and its people. But we’re always weighing our risks vs. the reward.

– HFD Chief Joshua Ellinger

warrant article. I don’t want to encumber any further financial detriment for the town,” Ellinger said. Booth responded saying he felt it was the right decision. “We just learned we are not going to have as much free cash as expected,” Booth said. “I thank you. And I want you to know it was never about you.”

Ellinger continued, “As fire chief, I have a moral and ethical responsibility to look out for the town and its people. But we’re always weighing our risks vs. the reward. The risk of putting that burden on the townspeople doesn’t sit right with me.”

Hathaway thanked Ellinger for reaching this decision. “Thank you for being a person of your word,” Hathaway said. “I greatly appreciate that. I really do.”

Booth added that he felt the concept of a regional fire

ELLINGER, page 3



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# HUNTINGTON



This shows another view of the recently stained pavilion and picnic tables. Submitted photos

## Recreation Committee provides updates, events

HUNTINGTON – The pavilion at Pettis Field recently received a make-over including new stain on the two picnic tables and the posts.

It took Veteran tax worker Carl Kelton several hours to sand and stain and the posts and tables and reinstall the tables. There was quite a bit of graffiti on both the tables and posts prior to the stain. It has been less than two weeks and the tables have been marked up again and trash left around even though there is a trash can

there. If anyone sees anyone being destructive to the town property, they should report it.

The Recreation committee’s egg hunt had over 60 kids participating and nine of them received baskets full of toys and candy.

Huntington Summer Camp will be held July 7 through Aug. 8 at Stanton Hall. Camp is for Huntington children ages 5 through grade 5 (competed this year.). Times will be 9 a.m.-noon Monday through Friday with Wednesdays field trip day.

Children will be involved in many activities including daily arts and crafts, walking and exploring, trips to the Huntington library, indoor games and playing outside.

This is a great opportunity for children to socialize with other children and meet other families. Registration fee is \$50 for the five weeks. Registration forms are available on the town website by visiting [www.untingtonma.us](http://www.untingtonma.us) or by emailing [recreation@huntingtonma.us](mailto:recreation@huntingtonma.us). Forms must be returned by Saturday, May 31.

## Library has ‘Advocate of the Year’ speaker and resin jewelry making

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Featured on the May calendar of events at the Huntington Public Library will be domestic violence advocate Mary Krol on Tuesday, May 20 at 6 p.m. and a resin jewelry making workshop on Saturday, May 24 at 2 p.m.

Library Director Amanda Loiselle also announced that the library will also be closed the first two weeks in June. The Huntington Public Library will be closed June 1 – June 14 when the building’s windows will be replaced. The staff apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

The public is invited to meet local domestic violence advocate Mary Krol, as part of the library’s “A Day in the Life” program. Krol has worked for Hilltown Safety at Home, a program of Hilltown Community Health Centers since 2019. She offers a range of confidential services and support to hilltown victims and survivors including safety planning, court accompaniment, and connection to other important support services. HS@H was founded by the Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force in 2006 and has “lived” at HCHC since 2012.

Krol was named the 2025 “Advocate of the Year” award recipient by the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance. In describing her work, Krol says, “I provide essential services to survivors of domestic violence, including safety planning, court support and connecting them to resources. This work is deeply fulfilling, as it allows me to witness survivors’ resilience and support them in regaining control of their lives.”

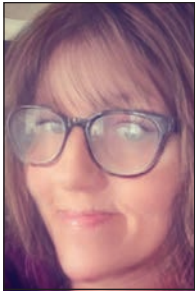
The “A Day in the Life” series was envisioned by Loiselle after an international program called “The Human Library,” which began in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2000. It is now active in over 80 countries and allows the public to hear about life experiences that are different from their own. In the hilltowns, it allows residents to learn from their neighbors.

Also featured in May will be a Resin Jewelry Making Workshop on Saturday, May 24 at 2 p.m. Local artist J’aime Dubois will lead this session, which is open to adults 18 and older. Ten spots are available and attendees must register by Monday, May 19.

People should visit [huntington-publiclibrary.org/](http://huntington-publiclibrary.org/) events to reserve a free spot.

The April/ May book club selection is “A Wilder Shore” by Camille Peri. This 2024 multi-award winning book is the romantic biography of Fanny and Robert Louis Stevenson. As one review tagged it: “Stevenson loved her. His friends did not.” Copies can be picked up at the library while available), ordered through interlibrary loan, or borrowed through Libby. The club meets at on Tuesday, May 27 at 4 p.m.

Regular monthly events will be held, as follows. Weekly story hours will take place on Mondays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. “Crafternoon” takes place the second Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. (May 8); participants may bring their own project or select from the library’s materials. The second Tuesday (May 13) will be the Book Swap Club, where patrons bring and share a book that they recommend to others. Game Night is always the third Thursday (May 15) of the month at 4:30 p.m.; patrons can bring their own game or choose from the library’s collection.



Mary Krol

## Council on Aging lists upcoming events

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

The annual community tag sale will be held on the town common and in Stanton Hall on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. A presentation on Diabetes and Your Health and blood pressure checks will be provided by the Hampshire

Public Health Preparedness Coalition’s nursing team on Wednesday, May 21 at 1 p.m.

Jack and His Guitar will perform on Wednesday, May 28 at 2 p.m. Local author Steven Cormier will talk about his book “The Sacrificial Land” on Wednesday, June 4 at 1 p.m. On Tuesday, June 10 at 1 p.m., the Boston Post Cane will be presented to resident Eugene King. Board game playing time and cake will be provided at the event.

The Hilltown Memory Café is held weekly at 2 p.m. The weekly café provides seniors with activities while their caregivers participate in a support group. The café is open to all with and without memory issues. The Café is made possible by a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services

through funding under the Federal Older Americans Act and by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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

## Summer concert series begins in July

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Community Events Committee announces their summer music series will run from Thursdays, July 10 to Aug. 21 from 6:30-8 p.m.

All concerts are free and take place rain or shine.

On Thursday, July 10 Ray Guillemette Jr. will bring his King and Kountry show to open the series, combining the best of both worlds Elvis and country music. The full line-up of other performances will be posted soon.

## Historical Society hosts open house May 25

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Historical Society will be hosting its first open house on Sunday, May 25 from 1-4pm at the Norwich Bridge School House Museum.

The museum is located at the intersection of Route 112, Worthington Road and Littleville Road. People are invited to come take a step back in time and visit the old-time one room schoolhouse. They will explore the collection of books, documents, maps, artifacts, tools and other historical items. Admission is free.

## Evangelical Church to hold tag sale

HUNTINGTON – The ladies of the Huntington Evangelical Church announce they plan to have a tag sale on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

This will be the same day that the Huntington Council on Aging will be holding their sale on the green. The church sale will be held inside the Chapel, which is located on the Route 20 green. Their doors will be open.

## WOW BUS

from page 1

There is no fee and people’s insurance is not charged. An RN is available to conduct blood pressure screenings and A1C (diabetes) point of care test, which uses a finger prick. Results on both screenings are available immediately.

Kelly Lamas, Mobile Health Equity Program Manager, says that people who just want to check out the bus are welcome to stop in. During WOW’s May visit, Huntington resident Joe Adamowicz did just that. Recently retired, Adamowicz had stopped by the PVAG Food Pantry to look into volunteering. Curious about the bus, he walked over to check it out and decided to undergo both screenings with Registered Nurse Michelle Moore.

Lamas said that walk-ins are always welcome. The nurse provides information about area resources, prevention and intervention, healthy eating, active living and education on diabetes and hypertension. She is also willing to take questions on other health conditions. Additional resources are available to those living with diabetes. Free at-home blood pressure cuffs are given to any already living with high blood pressure or who show signs of undiagnosed hypertension at the WOW screening.

Women aged 40 - 74 will also receive information about breast health and cancer screenings and the WOW staff can work with patients to schedule mammograms if they wish to use a Baystate facility. While Lamas says that most people who stop in already have a primary care physi-

cian, those who don’t are referred to the Hilltown Community Health Center or to BSMC primary care services. At-home Covid tests are also given free of charge.

Services are open to any adult. They do not have to live in Huntington to visit the bus. While the WOW staff do not bill insurance or charge fees, they do capture things like non-protected data for funding purposes.

Currently, Huntington is the only hilltown that has WOW bus visits. It goes to areas throughout Western Massachusetts that are close to Bay State Medical facilities and is sometimes out five days in a week. From Oct. 1, 2023 through Sept. 30, 2024, the WOW bus served 1,503 individuals. The WOW bus has been coming to Huntington since June 2024, under a memorandum of understanding between BSMC and the PVAG Food Pantry.

The WOW bus was originally funded through a TD Bank grant in late 2019 and services launched during 2020. Currently, the program is funded through the Bay State Health Foundation and operational funding.

“Even if people just want to stop in and check it out, we are always happy to speak with community members,” Lamas said. The WOW bus returns to the PVAG parking lot on Thursday, June 5 from 9-11:30 a.m.

If the first Thursday falls on a holiday, the WOW bus will not be available. Questions may be emailed to [wowbus@baystatehealth.org](mailto:wowbus@baystatehealth.org).

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BECKET

Church to hold Mother’s Day plant sale

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

tion. There will be hanging baskets, patio pots and bedding plants available. Sales will benefit the First Congregational Church of Becket restoration efforts. People may call 413-623-8300 if they want to reserve plants.

Becket Art Center announces events

BECKET – The Becket Art Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, hosts Isabel Margolin on Thursday, May 8 from 5-6:30 p.m. She is part of the center’s speaker series and the topic will be creating mosaics. This is an interactive hands-on talk and lesson by Margolin a mosaic artist. People will have the opportunity to work on a group mosaic with Margolin, which will be auctioned off to support the Becket Arts Center.

Vendor applications for space at the Arts and Crafts Marketplace closes on Thursday, May 15. Vendor space is limited, notification of acceptance will be sent out by Sunday, June 1. On Saturday, May 2 from 2-7 p.m. a comedy, “Art” by Yasmina Reza will be read by Paula Langton, Mary Budzn and Elaine Vaan Hogue. This play explores the complexities of art and friendship. When one friend buys an all-white painting, a debate unrav-

els their bond over views on art. Donations go to the Becket Arts Center Theatre Fund. On Saturday, May 24 from 1-3 p.m. herbalist, Kim Geisler, will present a workshop entitled Wild Spring Medicine on the medicine of herbalism through the remedies of spring. In this workshop, people will explore wild weeds, the often overlooked healers growing right here in the beautiful Berkshires. Upcoming events

include: Sunday, May 18 at 1:30 p.m. Eco Printing with Plants; Sunday, May 18 at 4 p.m Intro to Guitar with Dave Brown; Tuesday, May 20 rom 7-8 p.m. The Art of Whiskey Tasting: Single Barrel Bourbon Tasting; Wednesday, May 21 from 5-6:30 p.m. American Artists in the Civil War; Saturday, May 24 from 1-3 p.m. Transcending Roots Herbal Medicine Workshop and Sunday, May 25 at 4 p.m. Intro to Guitar with Dave Brown.

HUNTINGTON

Town to observe Memorial Day

HUNTINGTON – The public is invited to attend the Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 26. The parade assembles at Pettis Field at 8 a.m. and marches at 8:15 a.m. to the gazebo on the Town Common for the ceremony. Veterans and other groups, who are interested in marching or riding in a vehicle, are asked to call Memorial Day Parade Committee Chair Lori Belhumeur at 413-887-9746. Parade observers are reminded to stand with right hand over their heart when the American flag held by the color guard passes by.

ELLINGER

from page 1

chief is overdue and has to happen. “I just don’t know how to make that happen,” he said. All agreed to “keep it on the burner.” McVeigh asked what the reason was for proposing the change to a weak chief in the warrant article. Booth answered that, if a regional chief became a reality, we might not have been able to eliminate the strong chief position. “The only way to eliminate the strong chief position is ‘due cause’ only, according to our understanding of this,” Booth said. Ellinger sought further clarification asking, “You aren’t looking at changing to the weak chief while I’m in this part time position? Because it fundamentally changes the way the department operates.” Booth answered it was related to moving to a full time chief. Hathaway rose to shake Ellinger’s hand as he left the meeting. Booth did, as well. Free cash The other big item on the agenda concerned the fact that the town’s free cash is not yet certified. Meanwhile, the board

needs to finalize its warrant articles, which must be posted by Friday, May 23. Based on numbers provided earlier this year by Town Accountant Richard Bouley, the town planned on \$340,000 from free cash to cover capital costs and expected to put up to \$200,000 into their stabilization account. At this meeting, Bouley informed the board that his numbers are now totaling \$313,000, but the state said to expect \$136,000. According to Bouley, one issue is that the town was overpaid last year by \$200,000, which must be deducted from this year’s balance. Special Town Meeting It was back to the drawing board to determine which projects could still be funded at these lower numbers. The warrant article for Special Town Meeting will require a transfer of \$19,200 to balance this year’s cost overruns: \$11,600 for sand and salt; \$4,800 for snow/ice labor and \$2,800 for snow/ice equipment maintenance, all in the highway department.

Budget priorities They determined that the second priority would be \$78,884 to help cover the cost of vocational tuition and third would be \$12,000 for the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund. This would spend out the state’s current version of Huntington’s Free Cash numbers. If Bouley’s numbers are correct, the board set several additional expenses: \$50,000 to the education stabilization fund, \$15,000 to the town’s capital equipment stabilization fund and \$25,000 to the town’s stabilization account. This would carve amounts to all three funds to half of what officials were originally planning when they expected \$500,000 in free cash. The town might also be able to cover a small trailer for the highway department, needed to move a new roller from site to site. Painting the exterior of North Hall budgeted at \$15,000 will be deferred to next year. This planning is fluid and may change, once the final free cash numbers are known. The Select Board has a regular meeting scheduled on Wednesday, May 7 at 5 p.m..

HAYDENVILLE

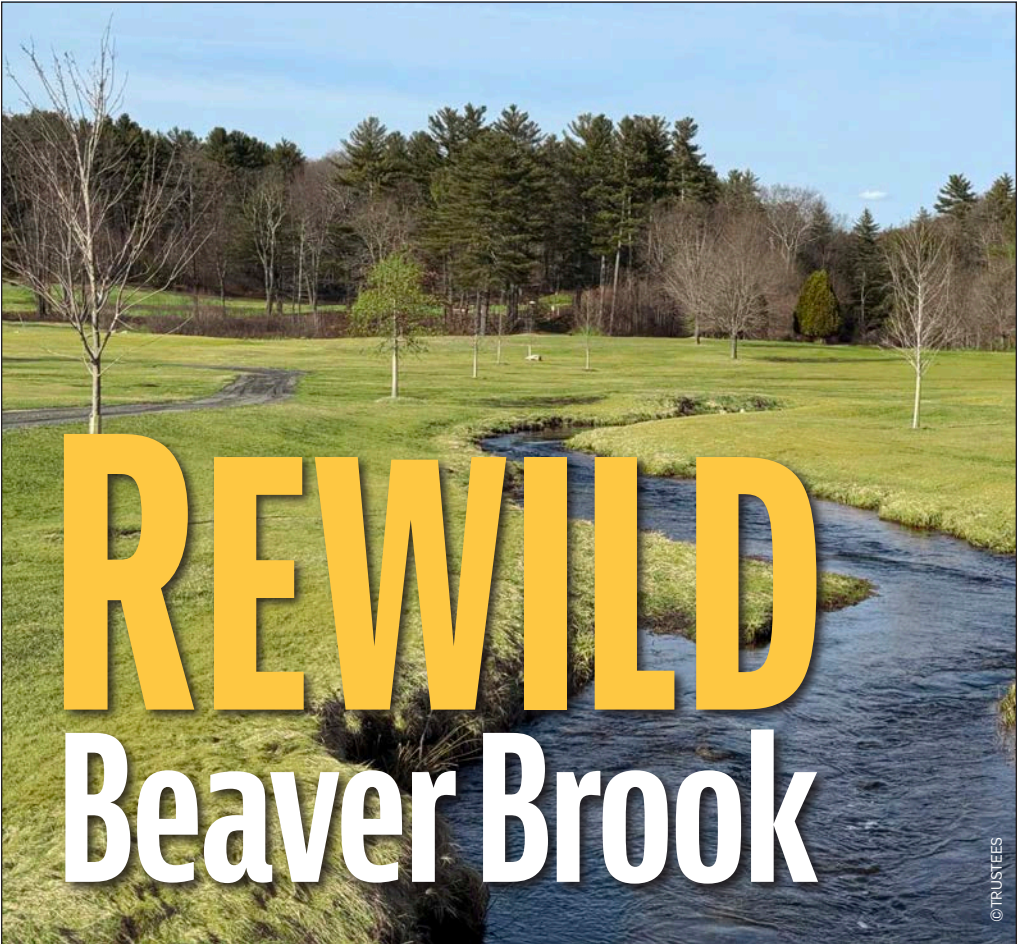
Council on Aging to hold presentation on Elder Law

HAYDENVILLE — Local seniors can learn about Elder Law issues at a free in-person event hosted by the Council on Aging on May 20 at the Town Office building, 141 Main St., at 1 p.m. The event is part of the statewide Elder Law Education Program presented by the Massachusetts Bar Association. It corresponds with the publication of the revised and expanded “2025 Elder Law Education Guide,” the 16th edition of the resource guide, which is available at the Williamsburg and Haydenville Council on Aging and online at the MBA’s companion website by visiting www.massbar.

org/elderlaw. Among the topics discussed at in-person and virtual events throughout the commonwealth this year are Veteran Affairs Financial Benefits, how to protect your home and assets, power of attorney and health care proxies, reverse mortgages, Homestead and Life Estates, Medicare/Medicaid changes, and alternatives to nursing home care. The Elder Law Education Program matches attorneys from the MBA and the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) with more than 70 councils on aging or senior centers

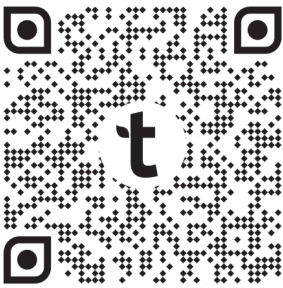
throughout the state to make free presentations about the law. Volunteer attorneys have participated in the Elder Law Education Program since 1987. Past topics have touched on the Homestead Act, estate planning and long-term health insurance. The program is presented with the generous assistance and continued collaboration of the Massachusetts Chapter of NAELA. For more information about the Williamsburg Council on Aging Elder Law presentation on May 20, people may call Melissa Wilson at 413.268.8410 or email seniorcenterdirector@burgy.org.

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GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY  
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By Russell Gloor



Applying for Social Security at 62 when should I enroll in Medicare?

**Dear Rusty:**  
*I am writing to ask for your advice on when I should sign up or enroll in a Medicare Plan.*  
*I have submitted an early retirement application to request benefits to begin 30 days after my 62 birthday, in April 2025. I am a single lady with no dependents and currently rent my residence. Please advise.*  
**Signed: Approaching Senior Citizenship**

Dear Approaching:  
I assume that when you say you have submitted “an early retirement application to request benefits to begin 30 days after my 62nd birthday” you mean you have applied for your Social Security retirement benefits to start in April 2025 and that you will be 62 in March. To be sure you are clear, you must be 62 for an entire month to start your Social Security retirement benefits.  
Even though you are starting your Social Security retirement benefits at age 62, you will not be eligible to enroll in Medicare until you are 65 years old. Since you will be already receiving Social Security when you turn 65, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services), effective with the month you turn 65.  
You will get a “Welcome to Medicare” packet about three months before your 65th birthday. Your Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) will be free, but there will be a monthly premium (\$185 for 2025) associated with your Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services), which will be deducted from your Social Security payment.  
Note that Medicare does not cover all health-

care expenses so, when the time comes, you may wish to explore other private healthcare coverage (either a Medicare Supplement plan, or a Medicare Advantage plan). Also, Medicare Part A or Part B do not include coverage for prescription drugs, so you may wish to obtain such coverage separately. One way to explore all of this is by, shortly before you are 65, contacting AMAC’s Medicare department at 1-800-3349330 or [www.amac.us/medicare](http://www.amac.us/medicare). And until you are eligible to enroll in Medicare at 65, you may wish to seek regular healthcare insurance for those under 65 years of age.  
Please understand that we are here to answer all your questions about Social Security and Medicare enrollment. However, at the AMAC Foundation, we are not insurance specialists, which is why I suggest contacting an insurance specialist as described above.  
I hope this is helpful, but please don’t hesitate to contact us again at any time.  
*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-advisor](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisor) or email us at [ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



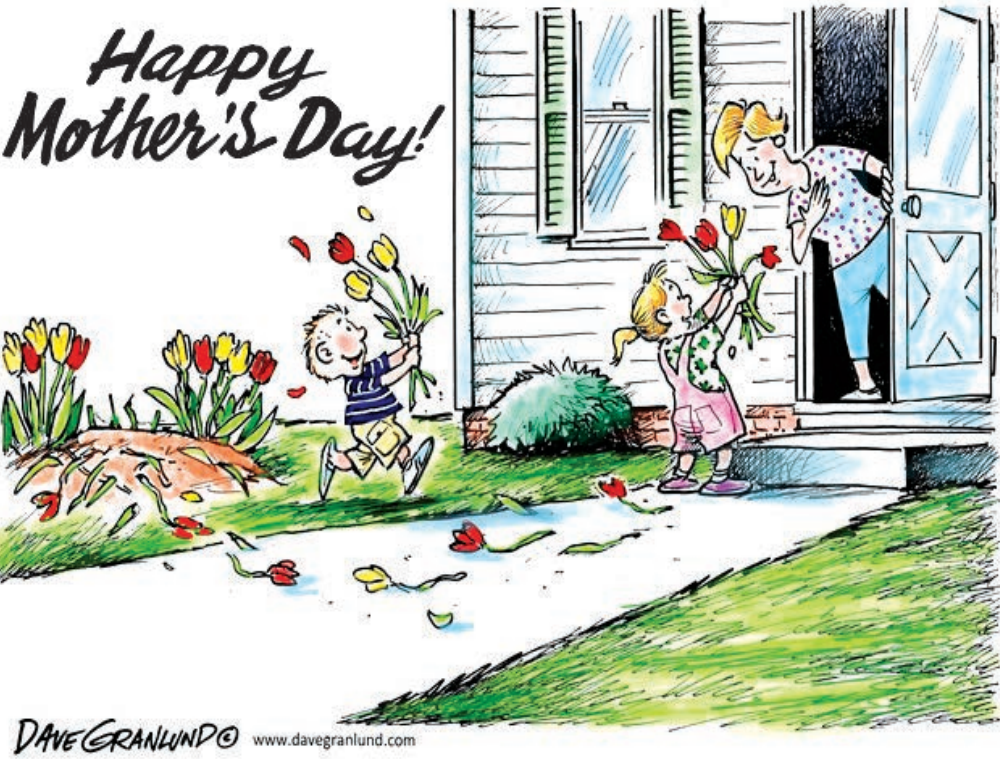
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Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.

OPINION



GUEST COLUMN

‘Spark of Revolution’

By Joshua Wachtel  
Moderator Cummington  
Guest Columnist

Note. Cummington moderator, Joshua Wachtel read this as a statement as an introduction at the town’s Annual Town Meeting. He adapted and added to a statement put out by the Massachusetts Moderators Association.  
Tonight we convene to maintain and renew a tradition of self-governance practiced for 400 years. But we meet tonight at a time when many are gravely concerned about the future of democracy in America. Many may be inclined to ask, so to be reminded, “What does democracy look like?” “Can you tell me what democracy looks like?”  
I would like to affirm that tonight, what we convene to do here, this tradition of town meeting -- “this is what democracy looks like”: Local participatory democracy. One person, one vote.  
According to Only One Cummington, the first formal meeting held in the township -- eight years before the

town became a town -- took place at the house of Stephen Warner on the 19th of June, 1771, with Captain Daniel Reed as moderator and William Ward as clerk.  
On June 23, 1779, the General Court of Massachusetts passed the necessary legislation and Cummington became incorporated.  
In the interim between those two dates began the American Revolution and the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In fact, just a few weeks ago we celebrated 250 years since Paul Revere’s famous ride to launch the war that would free our colonies from the tyranny of the crown of England.  
At the time it was local democracies like ours, that by their nature taught Americans the virtues and responsibilities of self-government.  
It was through the conduct of Town Meetings like ours that the Colonial American public embraced the inalienable right of self-determination -- which, in turn, sparked a revolt and fueled a Revolution.

Furthermore, it was the towns of Massachusetts that individually voted to create the state of Massachusetts, which in turn would vote to ratify the US Constitution -- a brand new form of national government “of by and for” “we the people.”  
For as long as I have been attending town meetings -- which inspired me to run for Town Moderator -- our townspeople who show up every year to make decisions crucial to the functioning and future of our town, truly demonstrate how a group of people -- who do not by any means always see eye to eye -- may yet engage in sensible, honest deliberation of facts and circumstances, and in most cases achieve broad consensus, and remain brothers and sisters.  
So in that spirit, I thank you all for being here tonight. Our warrant of articles have been properly posted with advance notice, alerting you all to the matters to be legislated tonight.  
Let’s continue to show the world what democracy looks like.  
Let’s get down to work.

Tasks for mid May

Last week’s column alluded to the fact that there was a lot to do in the herb garden. But, let me clarify: there is a lot to do everywhere I look.  
Here are some of the tasks I will be working on. Maybe you can relate!  
The daffodils put on quite a show this year. Now that the flowers have gone by, they will be “deadheaded” and a sprinkling of balanced fertilizer will be spread around the base of each clump of bulbs.  
As the foliage “ripens” it will take in all of those nutrients, storing up wonderful energy for next years’ flowers. Leave the foliage in place until turns brown. The minor nuisance of old foliage is certainly worth the explosion of gorgeous flowers come spring.  
It’s time to preheat the soil where your peppers will

be planted. Peppers respond best when sunk into warm soil, so laying down black plastic or IRT plastic mulch now will get the soil warm and ready for planting come late May or early June!  
Pepper plants should be planted about 12-14 inches apart. I like to unitize a wide row, installing the seedlings in a staggered pattern, so that when full-grown, the leaves of neighboring plants touch one another. They respond well to that, and the close spacing will help to prevent sun scald on ripening fruit.  
I also give my pepper plants support by installing tomato cages over each plant, so that the heavy fruit

doesn’t cause them to fall over in a windy summer storm.  
Lilacs are bursting into bloom. Their season is fast and furious.  
When the fragrant flowers have passed, it’s important to cut them back to the first set of leaves. Pruning the bush can take place anytime, now until July 1. After that, next year’s flowers will be sacrificed.  
Always think of the one-third rule when pruning. In other words, take no more than one third of the plant volume-wise. For overgrown lilacs in particular, cut away the oldest, widest trunks all the way down to the ground. Cut back select other large trunks some of the way, just above a branch.  
Keep some suckers coming from the ground, choosing the most logical for replacement trunks down the road.

GARDEN, page ?

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@ Country Journal

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Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

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

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

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor’s

Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.  
Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Country Journal.



OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

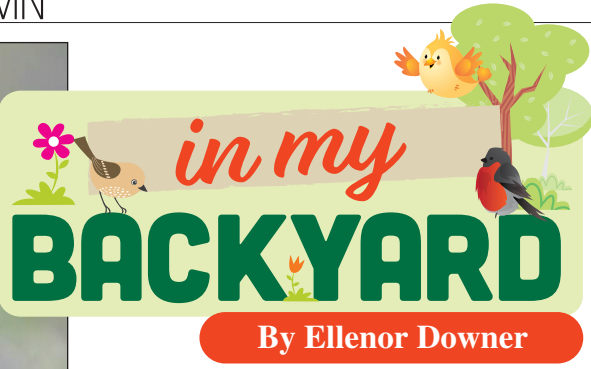


**Eastern phoebe**

A Worthington resident reported he saw an Eastern phoebe on April 18.

He said it is the first insect eater to show up around his house. He also said he hoped to see swallows and bluebirds soon.

The eastern phoebe is a plump song bird with a medium length tail, which it wags up and down while perched. It is about 5.5 to 6.7 inches long and has a small, thin beak. Phoebes are brownish gray above with a white breast and belly. The head is the darkest part on the bird.



**By Ellenor Downer**

Phoebes prefer open woods such as yards and parks. They frequently construct nests on buildings or under bridges under the protection of an eave or ledge. They lay two to six white eggs speckled with reddish brown and raise one or two broods.

Flying insects make up the majority of their diet. They occasionally eat seeds and small fruits. They depend on low woody plants for foraging perches were they watch for insects.

**Bald eagle**

I saw the mature bald eagle at my hayfield again.

When I first saw it on Thursday, April 24 he was perched in a dead tree by the beaver pond. Later in the day, the eagle was sitting in an old great blue heron nest constructed in a nearby tree.

A New Braintree resident saw a bald eagle at a small pond in that town. I wonder if it is the same eagle I've seen at my hayfield. The ponds are not that far apart.

**Brimfield bird sightings**

I received an email from a Brimfield resident on April 16. He said, "This week we had the first of the year brown-headed cowbird (three, one male and two females and towhee (one male) in the yard." He said, "We hope the towhee isn't the one that previously

spent the summer attacking our windows. We had to put glass wax on the windows to reduce the reflection to get the bird to stop." He read a recent newspaper column about a pileated woodpecker attacking and breaking side view mirrors on vehicles, 20 mirrors and one windshield.

This resident makes visits to local ponds to bird watch. He said, "Last week in Monson the rookery at Conant Brook had five nest, three with birds on or near the nests. In Warren the pond on New Reed Street continues to be a spot to see eagles. I saw two adult bald eagles there yesterday in addition to seven common mergansers, all female and nine ring-necked ducks, one female and eight males."

He continued, "The osprey in Warren are doing osprey things. I saw a bird bring two branches to the nest yesterday and also mating. There are four great blue heron nest at the pond on

South Street in

Warren. At least three are occupied. On Sunday we saw a pair of herons on the top of a broken off tree that is near the location where there was a nest last year, but the tree fell over during the winter. Yesterday the pair was at the same tree and it looks like they are building a nest. I wonder if this is the pair that had the nest in the tree that fell over?"

**Other Brimfield report**

On Monday, April 21 the Brimfield resident said, "A pair of broad-winged hawks nested between our property and a neighbor's last year. They texted my wife that there was a pair of broadwings circling over our house recently."

He continued, "In the yard there are still a few junco, but no new arrivals since the towhee and chipping sparrows showed up. Two female turkeys are fairly regular and a male is fol-

lowing them sometimes. Last week in Warren there was a pair of buffle-head ducks and it looks like incubation has begun at the osprey nest. I was there for almost an hour recently and the bird sitting on the nest never left or moved out of the deep part of the nest."

**Flying squirrel**

The Brimfield resident reported, "When I was cleaning out the nesting boxes the other day I disturbed a flying squirrel. That has happened a couple of times when I clean the boxes in the spring." I had a similar experience years ago when cleaning out a nesting box.

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

Love a good nap? So does your brain... maybe

The headlines were all over the internet a couple of months ago: Napping is good for brain health. But, as with all health studies, you have to read the fine print.

Habitual napping was associated with larger total brain volume, which is in turn associated with a lower risk of dementia and other diseases, according to researchers from University College London (UCL) and the University of the Republic of Uruguay. The researchers estimated the difference in brain vol-

ume between nappers and non-nappers was equivalent to 2.5 to 6.5 years of aging.

As I've noted before, though, association is not causation. Is brain volume larger because of napping, or could there be other factors at play – heredity or physical activity, for instance. The study only compared people who are genetically predisposed to nap and those who aren't – not those who elect not to nap. Also, the napping behaviors studied were self-reported by participants, which is not exactly the gold standard for research.

Even with all of those caveats, I agree with the researchers that there's nothing wrong with a brief daytime nap. By brief I mean 30 minutes or so -- you don't want it to interfere with the next night's sleep. Afternoons are a good time for napping because that's when we tend to experience a dip in energy levels.

Nappers tend to feel more alert and clear-headed after a snooze, and there's a movement afoot to permit naps on the job, particularly for office workers. Naps are especially helpful for peo-

ple who don't work regular schedules or who are doing shift work. Aging bladders can wake us up during the night, too. If you don't fall back asleep right away, a nap the next day might be just the thing.

But if you're not regularly getting seven to nine hours of sound sleep a night, I don't recommend long daytime naps to make up the difference. First, you're more likely to wake up groggy after an extended nap because your brain is trying to enter the deep sleep phase. There's evidence that people



your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

make more mistakes after a long daytime nap.

Second, a nap doesn't give you the benefit of the restorative nature of sleep – when your eyes and muscles

fully relax and your body is repairing and rebuilding bone and muscle, consolidating memories and shoring up

HEALTH, page 6

GARDEN

from page 4

I enjoyed my first meal of asparagus this week! Perennial edibles are the best. A little maintenance each year and you reap the rewards.

I was just mentioning to someone that asparagus spears grow so fast. In the morning one may be just three inches tall but during a hot, sunny day, it might put on another three inches by nightfall. Someday I am going to have to conduct an experiment and measure!

I will be harvesting spears for about eight weeks now, and doing my best to keep the bed weed-free, less they take over!

Be on the look-out for

asparagus beetles and the horizontal eggs they lay going up the spears. I squish on contact! More squeamish folks may prefer to bring a cup of soapy water out to the garden and knock the bugs into it.

My strawberry patch was going on four years old. I decided turn it under, but I did move a few of the younger plants and started a smaller, new bed.

If you are experimenting with strawberries for the first time, be sure to remove the blossoms of June bearing types so that energy will go into making strong plants, not berries this first year. I know it is a sacrifice,

but patience will lead to lots of strawberry shortcake next year.

Have fun doing whatever needs to be done in your garden! I know I will be having fun in mine!

Isn't May just an awesome month?

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

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# MONTGOMERY

## Grace Hall Memorial Library lists upcoming news, events

MONTGOMERY – Cook Book Book Club is back on Wednesday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main Road, with a tasty theme: “Dip It Up.”

The club is diving into the world of everything scoopable, sweet or savory, if it pairs with a chip, they want to try it. As people head into outdoor entertaining season, it’s the perfect time to discover and share favorite dip recipes.

Poeple may browse a special selection of cookbooks available at the library now through Thursday, May 22 for inspiration. They then bring their best dip or just their appetite-and enjoy a flavorful night of recipe swapping, tasting and great conversation.

The library Spring Book and Plant Sale will take place on Friday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Little Red School House, corner of Pitcher Street and Main Road.. People may stock up on great reads and garden treasures just in time for summer

Book donations accepted by appointment only, by either calling the library at 413-862-3894 or emailing [montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com). Plant donations can be dropped off the morning of the sale.

All proceeds help fund the Summer Reading Program and year-round library events.

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



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# BLANDFORD

## Library lists upcoming news and events

BLANDFORD – Library Director Nicole Daviau reminds everyone that instruction for the use of the free Chromebooks will be on Fridays: May 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 2-3 p.m. at Town Hall.

Topics are as follows: May 9: Chromebook Basics, May 16: Cloud Basics, May 23: Intro to Google and Workspace, May 30: Google Docs. These classes do require pre-registration

at the library. The free computers are all spoken for, but classes are open to adult residents of Blandford. People should RSVP at the library if interested.

Other library events include: every Tuesday: 4:30-5:30 p.m., Book Squirms for stories, songs and sensory play for preschoolers and their siblings. Book Squirms repeats every Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 7 to Saturday, May 10 is the Mass Kid Lit Fest. People may visit the website, [mass-kidlitfest.org](http://mass-kidlitfest.org), to find events happening at libraries all over Western Massachusetts. They may visit Porter Memorial Library to see the display and drop in for a story and a craft.

Saturday May 10 is drop-in card making for Mother’s Day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. to make a card.

CommuniTea Reads, the library’s adult book club is Saturday May 17 from 11a.m.-12:30 p.m. and will discuss “The Eyes and the Impossible” by Dave Eggers. This book for young readers is a captivating story and will make for good discussion. Copies are available at the library. The library is closed on Saturday May 24 and Monday May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

## Council on Aging announces meal menus

BLANDFORD – Council on Aging Board member Joann Martin announces the luncheon and breakfast menus for May.

The luncheon on Friday, May 9 at noon features pulled pork with sides of coleslaw and onion straws. Dessert is banana pudding. A special speaker from Baystate Memory Clinic will give a presentation on dementia.

Breakfast on Friday, May 23 at 10 a.m. will offer ham strata, sunrise fruit salad and strawberry muffins.

A representative from the Hampden County Register of Deeds will

speaking about the Homestead Act. The Massachusetts Homestead Act is a law under which a homeowner is protected by an Estate of Homestead. A homestead estate provides limited protection of the value of the home, up to \$1,000,000, against unsecured creditor

claims. Both events are in the COA room at Town Hall.

To reserve a table, people may call 413-848-4279, extension 400 and leave name and number of people attending. The meals are free, but a \$5 donation is suggested to help keep the program going.

# POLE SITES

the preceding week. He has worked up a plan for paving Cobble Mountain Road from Birch Hill Road to the Springfield Water gate and the South Street extension. He is waiting for approval to use Chapter 90 road funds for this, approximately \$300,000.

He told the board he had worked with Finance Committee Chair Jackie Coury to make sure there is adequate funding for fuel supply, which, located at the Highway Garage, is used for all town vehicles.

The department has the use of a roller for two months and will use it to make grading fixes on Hayden, Beulah Land and George Millard roads. He had a scheduled meeting with an Eversource representative to walk Gore Road and

point out the utility poles that had actually been placed in the asphalt and “something needs to be done” to mitigate future hazard.

**Library project update**

Porter Memorial Library Trustee Byam Stevens spoke about the process for architect selection for the design phase for the library’s expansion. Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. was selected by a subcommittee of the building committee. The subcommittee interviewed three firms and their selection was DRA, Inc. That firm was recommended to the entire Library Building Committee, who in turn made their recommendation to the library’s Board of Trustees. This firm has designed 58 libraries in Massachusetts and 11 were done with grants from

the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, according to Stevens. “They specialize in libraries,” he added.

The trustees voted to approve the committee’s selection; a contract for this design phase is in process.

Library Director Nicole Daviau said that the initial cost projected by DRA for design work was \$125,000 but is now \$118,000. The Select Board voted to accept the Library Trustees’ recommendation of DRA as the architectural firm for the first phase, design, for the project.

**Conservation Agent appointment**

Conservation Chair Dick Gates introduced Shannon Poulin to the board for appointment as Conservation Agent for that committee. Gates told the board she already works for four other communities in the Berkshires in this capacity.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a Master of Science degree in Public Administration, both from Westfield State University.

**BESS**

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera told the board she had been in contact with State Sen. Paul Mark’s office. District Director Jon Gould regarding a possible Battery Energy Storage System installation in Blandford. Specifically, what is the state going to do to mitigate any issues, since the state is taking the authority from the towns. She also mentioned, “to the point,” that Jupiter Power, facing adverse public reaction from Westfield, withdrew its proposal for a BESS site and will focus development elsewhere.

She also said that Sen. Mark will support legislation filed by Representatives Kelly Pease and Lindsay Sabadosa to establish buffer zones for battery storage facilities, telecommunications, utilities and energy. Since public input was important in Westfield, Ferrera told the board she would have all the appropriate contact information for town residents to contact to raise concerns about BESS.

**Appointments**

There were several appointments made including Dr. David Hopson and Richard Gates to the Agriculture Commission, Margit Mikuski and Mary Kronholm to the Disabilities Commission, Robert Twyman to the Council on Aging, Theodore Cousineau to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission as the town’s alternate member and Cara Letendre to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority.

**Merit raises**

Regarding old business, the board discussed the Highway Department Goals for the quarter ending Aug. 15. The goals are crafted, by order of the department’s union, the United Public Service Employees Union, to provide reason for the employees’ merit raises. Board member T.J. Cousineau said, while he thought the merit raise was a good idea, “but it is still very confusing to me.” The goals for the next quarter will be set by Hultay and the employees, in concert and actually reflect normal operational tasks.

**Highway liaison**

A new volunteer position has been created for a liaison to the Highway Department, at the request of Cousineau, who said, “We have to have people in the know to help” Hultay when Rene Senecal is no longer involved. At one time Select Board members served as liaisons to various boards and committees, but that is no longer the practice. Cousineau recommended Tom Ackley as the liaison.

**Other business**

In other business, the Planning Board has revised flood plain bylaws and revisions will be on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

A plumber has been authorized to do work on an outside faucet at the former Town Hall. Under public comment, George Reichert reported that the requested plumbing work for a spigot on the outside of the old Town Hall building had not been started.

The Board of Health reported septic issues on Maple Lane, which need to be addressed before any work can be done on a culvert there.

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# OPINION

from page 5

## HEALTH

the immune system.

Everyone has a bad night once in a while. For many consecutive nights of disrupted sleep and days filled with naps, though, consult your doctor. You might need a sleep study to determine whether something like sleep apnea could be the cause.

Napping is associated with other issues as well. Elderly adults who napped at least once a day or more than an hour a day were 40 percent more likely to develop Alzheimer’s than those who did not nap daily or napped less than an hour a day, according to a study published in Alzheimer’s and Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association, in March 2022. Also last year, a study found that people who often nap have a greater chance of developing high blood pres-

sure and having a stroke, according to CNN.

And then there are those who can’t nap.

Just as there appears to be a genetic disposition toward napping, there also appear to be people for whom napping is physiologically difficult, if not impossible. Jeremy Derbyshire, writing in the Financial Times, is one of those. His attempts at napping usually end in frustration, he says, “after 10 minutes or so lying down rigidly and willing myself, unsuccessfully, into unconsciousness.”

Maybe we need to expand the definition of “nap.” Let’s consider a nap everything from closing your eyes for 10 minutes to just letting your mind wander for a while.

No pressure here!

Even one of the authors of the UCL study is not a big

fan of napping. “Honestly,” she told the BBC, “I would rather spend 30 minutes exercising than napping.”

So, nap if you can. But if you’re not cut out for napping, don’t lose sleep over it. A brisk walk might be just as beneficial.

*Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.*

## Transfer Station stickers to be available July 1

BLANDFORD – Transfer Station stickers will go on sale July 1.

They can be purchased at the Transfer Station during open hours or at the Board of

Health meetings at the Town Hall on the first and third Mondays at 5 p.m. The stickers allow residents to dispose of trash and recyclables at the Transfer Station.



## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

# Hampshire Regional High School announces honor roll

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

**Ninth grade First Honors**  
Ninth grade students making First Honors are: Kameron Andrades, Logan Andrades, Ace Charette, Isaac Clark, Amanda Clemeno, Talia Craig, Girffin Darling, Rosemarie Estelle, Gabrielle Falkowski, Kylie Grimsley, Alana Hanke, Colleen Hearn, Brooke Hockenberry, Grant Jennings, Telyn Kelly, Samantha Law, Charlotte Letendre, Isabella Matthew, Owen Moylan, Charlotte Niwonger, Mason Normandin, Luke Pickard, Caroline Puttick, Fiona Reynolds, Lukasz Robak, Maya Ruditzky, Grace Scoble, Katelyn Theroux,

Malcolm Todd and Joseph Wright.

**Ninth grade Second Honors**  
Ninth grade students making Second Honors are: Linus Anderson, Jonathan Angers, Declan Butler, Colby Cabrini, Madeline Desilets, Lucas Domina, Kalin Dubai, Alexander Florek, Brady Griffin, Riley Houston, Wyatt Hunter, Logan LaPointe, Kameron Locke, Olivia Lockwood, Micha Marino, Olivia McAvoy, Jacob Moran, Hobbes O’Sullivan, Anthony Pacinella, Jamison Parrish, Karaghan Rogaliski, Patrick Schmidt, Valerie West, Olivia Whittaker and Madelyn Zannotti.

**Tenth grade First Honors**  
Tenth grade students making First Honors are: Kathleen Barry, Emmett

Bastek, Elan Bonham, Elyse Campbell, Julia Caputo, Emma Chateauf, Lily Connor, Alexa Cortis, Owen Cubi, Rynne Dubai, Xavier Greenberg, Rachael Hickox, Holly Kowalczyk, Katelyn Krause, Krystian Lech, Addison Miklasiewicz, Thomas Moore, Shayne Moynahan, Catalina Ocampo, Theodore Overtree, Hailey Paszko, Caroline Payson, Vanessa Reese, Rylie Simmons, Aria Simonelli, Finch Stahl, Brielle Stine, Eleri Tomsovic, Sophia Tremblay and Benjamin Zajac.

**Tenth grade Second Honors**  
Tenth grade students making Second Honors are: Travis Carpenter, Raegan Dubai, Natalie Dunlap, Harrison Farrar, Kason Fellows, Leo Florek, Cal

Gworek, Hayden Miller, Austin Mullaly, William Nolen, Autumn O’Malley, Samuel Plumer, Nicholas Roy, Allison St. Pierre and Isaac Smith.

**Eleventh grade First Honors**  
Eleventh grade students making First Honors are: Keegan Butler, Parker Christy, Braylon Jarrett, Madelyn Layman, Layce Mancuso, Carlea Manley, Kiersten McKay, Lucy McVey, Joseph Moro, Augustus Niswonger, Caitlyn Packey, Andrea Paszko, Lauren Pellegrini, Abigail Provost, Corine Somes, Elisabeth Sturtevant, Rachael Theroux and Avery Tudryn.

**Eleventh grade Second Honors**  
Eleventh grade students

making Second Honors are: Luna Bean, Phoebe Bowser, Joseph Breguet, Tessa Burke, Colin Cahill, Eleanor Cleary, Finn DeWitt, Luke Gardner, Amelia Hanke, Emily Jendrysik, Rylee Joseph, Ethan Kadelka, Makayla Labrie, Indie Lewis, Owen Miller, Rachel O’Connell, Reese O’Connell, Evelyn Palmer, Elizabeth Puttick, Logan Rourke, Oscar Schiff, Kiera Shea-Smith, BethanyTobiasz, Paige Walsh and Lucia Winters.

**Twelfth grade First Honors**  
Twelfth grade students making First Honors are: Matthew Cesare, Alyssa Colon-Garcia, Clarissa Crantson, Eleanor Donohue, Hayden Durazo, Madelynn Hollister, Camden Jarosz, Emma Kelly, Kayla

LeBeau, Olivia Manganelli, Riley Marney, Isabelle Mondschein, Madeline Oravac, Angelena Osiecki, Zachary Phakos, Elijah Picard, Emmett Quinn, Destiny Saltis, Anna Shadrick, Julia Sicard, Katherine Simmons and Zola Simonelli.

**Twelfth grade Second Honors**  
Twelfth grade students making Second Honors are: Ryan Brooks, Grace Brouillard, Cassidy Clark, Breanna Dale, Harman Dhaliwal, Georgiana Frazier, Layla Gauger, Ava Gougeon, Beatrice Hamilton, Robert Herman, Addison Hufnagle, Jack Laliberte, Ashton Lashway, Alexander Materdey, Philip Morin, Chloe Moynihan, Brendan Stevenson and Dana Warren.

# HCC offers free clean energy jobs training program

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is now enrolling students for a free, four-week program to train workers for jobs in the clean energy sector.

The Green Construction, Electricity and Clean Energy Systems program runs from Monday, July 7 through Friday, Aug. 1, Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Classes meet both at Dean

Technical High School and at Holyoke Community College.

During 80 hours of hands-on training, students will earn their OSHA 10 safety credentials while learning the basics of green construction, hand and power tool use and electrical concepts and circuitry and learning how these skills are applied in solar photovoltaic installation and electrical

vehicle charging stations.

Students, who complete the program will be eligible for work in construction, can apply for a paid electrician apprenticeship program or enroll in further training as a clean energy technician.

The program also covers energy efficient materials and design, measurements and diagrams, basic framing, wall installation and maintenance, foundation construc-

tion and pouring, workplace safety and job readiness.

It is funded through a two-year, \$832,000 state grant HCC received in 2024 for climate-related workforce training initiatives. HCC’s partners in the grant include the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, Springfield Works, Dean Technical High School, and the Coalition for an Equitable Economy,

To be eligible, students must be at least 18, authorized to work in the United States, have a high school diploma or equivalency, be able to start work after the training, and pass a background check.

For more information or to enroll, people may visit [hcc.edu/cleanenergy](http://hcc.edu/cleanenergy), email career counselor Mike Blasco at [mblasco@hcc.edu](mailto:mblasco@hcc.edu) or call 413-552-2801.

# Jack Keeney receives certificate of achievement

EASTON – Jack Keeney of Westfield, a member of Stonehill College’s Class of 2025, was recently honored with a certificate of achievement at the 2025 Scholars Celebration, held Tuesday, April 29.

## News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



## WESTFIELD

# Alzheimer’s Support Group scheduled to meet May 28

WESTFIELD – An Alzheimer’s Association Support Group will be held on Wednesday, May 28 at 6 p.m. at Armbrook Village Senior Living and Memory Support Community, 551

North Road.

Caregivers and family members are invited to enjoy a light dinner and to share their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with their

loved ones. The public is welcome. To join this group, people may call 413-568-0000 or email [reception@armbrookvillage.com](mailto:reception@armbrookvillage.com). Groups are held on the last Wednesday of the month.

## STOCKBRIDGE

# Grange holds community dinner

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Grange is having a community dinner Sunday, May 18 with takeout pickup only from noon-1:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Grange Hall, 51 Church St.

The menu features pork, roasted potatoes and vegetable with dessert choices of chocolate cream or lemon meringue pie. Dinner is \$15 per person and is take out only.

Orders may be made

by either calling 413-243-1298 or 413-443-4352.

Grange dinners raise money for non-profit projects and building maintenance. Grange members thank those who support their community dinners.

## LENOX

# BFMC to host networking event

LENOX – Berkshire Film & Media Collaborative (BFMC) will host a spring networking event on Tuesday, May 13 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the historic Ventfort Hall, 104 Walker St.

BFMC’s networking events bring together filmmakers, technicians, educators and media professionals from across the region to share ideas, find collaborators and spark new creative projects.

“This is our first in-person networking event since COVID. We’re excited to gather members of our industry together to see old friends and make new connections,” says Diane Pearlman, Executive Director of BFMC. “Whether you’re a seasoned filmmaker or just curious about getting involved in this industry, we welcome you to be part of this growing

creative community. We’re thrilled to be partnering with our friends at Ventfort Hall, featured in the Oscar-winning film, The Cider House Rules. It’s the perfect location for our event.

Admission to the networking event is free, but space is limited to 100 guests. People should visit Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berkshire-film-and-media-collaborative-networking-events-are-back-tickets-1319507234659?aff=oddtcreator> by Monday, May 12 to RSVP.

Light bites will be served, and a cash bar will be available. Donations are welcome at the door to support BFMC’s educational programming, including a high school documentary film curriculum, “Your Voice Through Video.”

For more informa-

tion about the networking event, people may visit the Eventbrite link above or email BFMC at [info@berkshirefilm.org](mailto:info@berkshirefilm.org). Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative creates production, workforce and education initiatives in the film and media industry as an economic initiative for the western Massachusetts region. [www.berkshirefilm.org](http://www.berkshirefilm.org)

Ventfort Hall is an elegant artisan-crafted Jacobean Revival mansion built in 1893 for George and Sarah Morgan, J.P. Morgan’s sister. The estate is on the National Register of Historic Places and is now a house museum. Daily self-guided tours are offered year-round as well as lectures and teas, exhibits, ghost hunts and tours, children’s programs and concerts. People may visit [www.gilded-age.org](http://www.gilded-age.org) for more information.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Notice of Zoning Amendment Public Hearing**  
**Town of Middlefield, Massachusetts, Planning Board**  
The Town of Middlefield, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5, hereby give notice to all interested parties that a public hearing will be held on **Saturday, May 17th, 2025 at 10:00 AM** by the Planning Board. This public hearing will be held at the Middlefield Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail, Middlefield MA. This Public Hearing is to place Middlefield into compliance with the State mandated Affordable Housing Act pertaining to accessible family dwelling units.  
A copy of the draft zoning bylaw changes is to be found at the Middlefield Town website, as well as at the Town Hall during regular business hours.  
All interested persons should attend the hearing.  
Diane Thone, Secretary, Middlefield Planning Board  
05/08, 05/15/2025

**and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**(413)748-7758**  
**Docket No. HD25P0901EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Neal Thomas Gibson, Sr.**  
**Date of Death: 9/27/2024**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lorie L. Mazella of Westfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that: **Lorie L. Mazella of Westfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/26/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but**

a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A **Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 28, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani,**  
Register of Probate  
05/08/2025



MIDDLEFIELD

Town Clerk lists election results

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Town Clerk Suzanne C. Lemiux announces the Saturday, May 3 election results.

With 142 ballots cast, Ann Marie Visconti won a three year term to the Select Board with 92 votes. Challenger Daniel Bergeron received 50 votes. Noreen Suriner won a one year term as Moderator with 119 votes.

Laura Lafreniere won a three year term as Assessor with 133 votes. Tonya Santaniello won a three year term as Library Trustee with 124 votes and Donna Breen won a one year term as Library Trustee with 127 votes.

Mark Doane won a three year term to the Cemetery Commission with 134 votes. Voters elected Maureen Sullivan with 82

votes ad James Cameron McNeill with 22 votes for two five year positions on the Planning Board.

Although there were three positions for three year terms as Constable there were only two people on the ballot. Charles Hunter got 71 votes and Tonya Santaniello got 63 votes.

Brent LeBeau with 69 votes won a one year term to the Finance Committee

over Karl Trask with 58 votes.

There were two three year positions on the ballot for Finance Committee. Noreen Suriner won one of the two positions to Finance Committee with 88 votes. The other position had a tie with 63 votes each for Adair Laurel Calfarella and Louise Harlow with 63 votes each. Donal Trask had 54 votes.

Egg Hunt highlights Easter Bunny visit

MIDDLEFIELD – On Saturday, April 19, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held at the Middlefield Town Hall.

The children were split into age groups and looked for eggs in different parts of the lawn. Just as the hunt was ending, it began raining; It was perfect tim-

ing, the children then went inside to play games and make crafts. A special thanks to all the volunteers. who make this a fun event for the town’s children every year.



Visiting with the Easter Bunny was a highlight of the egg hunt.



A large group turned out on April 19 for the Annual East Egg Hunt in Middlefield.

Submitted photos

CHESTER

CHESTER ON TRACK

from page 1

er locomotives to climb the grade over the Berkshires, beginning in 1841.

Of course, the featured location for the day’s events will be the Chester Railway Station and Museum on Prospect Street, which will have a train show, display antique woodworking and host Revolutionary War re-enactors.

Wild & Scenic River, G Scale Live Steam and CCC Camp exhibits will be on the railway station grounds. A ham radio base camp will be available to contact train enthusiasts around the globe and do Morse code demonstrations. Chester Theatre will have costume-making activities for children. The Railway Station outdoor stage will serve as one of the venues for live music, beginning at 11 a.m. and showcasing Mark Franklin, Peter Curro and Friends, D Rod and the Uprising and The Pitoniak Brothers. Musical acts can be accessed remotely on the Chester Station web-cam.

Just across from the Station, visitors can stop at the amazing Chester Granite Co. circular saw, which is 12 feet in diameter. Railway Station President Dave Pierce



Patrons attending the 2024 Chester on Track enjoyed the view of passing trains from the porch at the Railway Station Museum.

Submitted photo

says the site was “where granite was sliced like cheese.” Many of the events and exhibits this year will be held at the newly rehabilitated Emery Park, which had previously fallen into disre-

pair and been damaged by vandalism.

At press time, the new fairground will house a craft fair, bounce house, petting zoo, donkey rides, garden tractor pulls and classic cars

and tractors that will be on display after the parade. Also on hand will be Maggie the Railroad Clown, formerly of Ringling Brothers Circus. Scouting America will host an archery booth. The Linda

Burns, Just Us and members of The Pioneer Valley Fiddlers will perform in a new music venue at the park all afternoon. Also scheduled at Emery Park will be a food booth hosted by the Chester Scouts, a “Little Engine That Could” story walk, face painting, Smokey Bear, and K-9, mounted and marine demos by the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department and Massachusetts State Police, subject to their being called into service for an emergency.

The Fairground will have plenty of visitor parking space. At 1 p.m., “All Aboard” with Laurel Lenski of Intrinsic Movement will be presented at the Fairground. This 45-minute event is a train-themed family program for kids of all ages and their grown ups sponsored by Hamilton Memorial Library.

The Jacob’s Ladder Business Association will host a Home Show along Main Street and on Riverfront Street, which will feature local businesses and services. A Reason To Pause art gallery will be open along with other downtown stores. The Southern Hilltown Adult Education Center will have a sidewalk plant sale, Pease

Store will have Chester On Track mugs and hats for sale.

Blue Skye Wellness will sell natural insect repellants and have new class sign-ups. Chester has waived fees for tag sales on May 17 and maps to a number of them will be posted online. Hamilton Memorial Library will be hosting a Book and Bake Sale, and have an open house that includes the Chester Mineral Collection, donated by Dr. Lucas who discovered Emery in the town.

The Western Railroad was the world’s first mountain and wilderness railroad and includes the first cluster of keystone arch railroad bridges built in America. Those, coupled with the timber-frame train station in Chester are National Historic Landmarks thanks to the efforts of the Chester Railway Station and its partner organizations.

For more information, people may call 413-354-7878 or email Dave@chesterrailwaystation.net. Chester on Track is funded by a generous grant from the Chester Local Cultural Council, which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

EASTHAMPTON

Fire Department to conduct live fire sprinkler demonstration

EASTHAMPTON – Fire Chief Christopher Norris, Easthampton firefighters and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services are teaming up next week to demonstrate the life-saving power of home fire sprinklers.

The Saturday, May 10 event is being held to kick off Home Fire Sprinkler Week in the Williston Northampton School parking lot 18 Payson Avenue, which runs from May 11-17. It will include two real fires in simulated residential environments using the Department of Fire Services’ side-by-side sprinkler trailer.

Two common household fires will be set in identical rooms, one of which is protected by home

fire sprinklers. Spectators will see that sprinklers can contain or even extinguish a fire in its early stages, giving residents time to escape while firefighters respond. They will also see that an uncontrolled fire quickly spreads to consume the entire room and present deadly conditions within minutes.

Changes in building construction mean that today’s residential fires burn faster than ever before. Synthetic furnishings release toxic chemical smoke when they burn. As a result, a typical house fire can become deadly in three minutes or less.

In Massachusetts, more than 70% of all fire-related injuries and deaths take place at home, yet residential occupancies

are the least likely to be protected by fire sprinklers. There has never been a multiple-fatality fire reported in a home with properly installed fire sprinklers.

Most residential fires can be quickly contained or extinguished by a single sprinkler head, which puts out about 12 to 15 gallons of water per minute. An uncontrolled fire in the same environment can double in size every 30 seconds, requiring firefighters to use hundreds or thousands of gallons of water to extinguish it.

Fires quickly extinguished by sprinklers release fewer greenhouse gases and less toxic runoff than fires that grow to consume a room, its contents and the rest of the structure.

CUMMINGTON

Friday Night Cafe set for May 9

CUMMINGTON – An evening of stories and songs is coming on Friday, May 9 at the cafe from 7-9 p.m..

The evening will open with a set of stories told by a small group of local folks led by professional storyteller, Rochelle Wildfong. Following the stories, veteran singer-songwriter and acoustic ‘guitar-artist’ Larz Young returns to the Friday Night Cafe stage

The show is from 7-9

p.m. at the Village Church in beautiful downtown Cummington in the heart of the Cummington Cultural District. The event is free, donations are appreciated, snacks are provided, Brink your own drinks.

The show will take place in the intimate Vestry space. Masks are welcome. Once again brought to you by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe music can be a powerful force for

building community.

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

CHESTERFIELD

Church to hold Mother’s Day breakfast

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Congregational Church will celebrate Mother’s Day with the best breakfast in the Hilltowns on Sunday, May 11 from 8-10 a.m.

The cost is a voluntary

donation. The menu features pancakes with or without blueberries, French toast, with pure Chesterfield maple syrup, free range, organic, farm-fresh eggs any style (including eggs Benedict), breakfast sandwiches, sau-

sage, home fries and excellent homemade corned beef hash, juice, tea, and coffee. In addition, the special item for this breakfast will be fresh fruit salad. Church members hope people will bring their mother’s to this breakfast.



WORTHINGTON

Town Clerk lists election result

WORTHINGTON – At the Annual Town Election on Saturday, May 3 in Worthington 328 out of 1,036 registered voters cast ballots.

The Town Clerk reported of the 328, who cast ballots, 152 voters went to the polls on election day and 176 did early voting.

Amy C. Wang, candidate for re-election and running unopposed, won a three year term to Select Board with 241 votes.

In the only contest on the ballot, Deborah A. Rocque won a one year term to Select Board with 176 over Walter O. Fritz Jr. with 149 votes

Richard Wager, running unopposed, won another seat to the Board of Assessors with 275 votes.

Camille D. Smith, a candidate for re-election and running unopposed won a three year term to Board of Health with 297 votes. Willard L. Brown, also running unopposed and a candidate for re-election, won another five year term as Cemetery Commissioner – North Cemetery with 297 votes.

Cynthia S. Manley, running unopposed, won another five year term as Cemetery Commissioner with 296 votes. Nathaniel Robinson received 3 write in votes for a two year term on Finance Committee. The position was blank on the ballot.

Kathleen Ford won a five year term to the Planning Board with 256 votes. Voters elected two members to the Worthington School Committee. Alison H. Todd, candidate for re-election, was the only candidate listed on the ballot. She won another term with 266 votes. Sarah McMullen received 131 write in votes for the other seat on the school committee with 131 votes. That position was blank on the ballot.

Historical Society holds fundraiser

WORTHINGTON – On Saturday, May 10 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. the Hartsprings Foundation will have a donation collection at the Worthington Historical Society building at 6 Williamsburg Road.

Hartsprings will take away unwanted clothing, small appliances, books, toys, games, shoes and small furniture and then share the resale proceeds with the Historical Society.

The more collected the more WHS will benefit.

The proceeds will support their 200th anniversary celebration of General Lafayette’s 1825 visit to Worthington.

Celebration activities are planned for May and June 2025.

Hartsprings Foundation does not accept large furniture or large appliances, guns, hazardous material, baby furniture or baby toys.

People should bring items in bags or cardboard boxes.

Elementary students hold plant sale May 9

WORTHINGTON –The third and fourth grade at R.H. Conwell Elementary School, 147 Huntington Road, Thursday, May 8 and Friday, May 9 from 1:30-3 p.m.

Plants include sunflowers, hollyhocks, tomato, cucumber, pepper, broccoli and more. Sales are cash only.



WILLIAMSTOWN

Berkshire Green Drinks offers program on birding on May 21

WILLIAMSTOWN – Audrey Werner and Steven Miller, two members of the Hoffmann Bird Club executive committee, will present at the May Berkshire Green Drinks event on Wednesday, May 21 at 6 p.m.

This free, hybrid event will take place online via Zoom and in person at The Barn Kitchen & Bar 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..

For those curious about local birds or looking to explore the rewarding hobby of birding, Hoffmann Bird Club executive committee members, Audrey Werner and Steven Miller, will offer a special presentation introducing one of the Berkshires’ most active and welcoming nature organizations.

The duo will share a brief history of the club, highlight upcoming bird walks and events across the county and spotlight the many ways the club engages in community science to help protect birds and their habitats. Whether participants are seasoned birders or just bird-curious, this is a great opportunity to learn how to get involved; no binoculars or experience required.

To learn more and RSVP, people should visit [tinyurl.com/May2025-Berks-Green-Drinks](https://tinyurl.com/May2025-Berks-Green-Drinks).

The Hoffmann Bird Club was established in 1940 with the mission of promoting the study of birds in Berkshire County. The club was founded under the auspices of the Berkshire Museum and named in honor of Ralph Hoffmann, a naturalist born in Berkshire County. Meetings are held from September through May and are open at no charge to anyone interested in birds and birding. Experienced birders lead field trips and beginners are always welcome.

Berkshire 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 at [team@thebeatnews.org](mailto:team@thebeatnews.org) or call 413-464-9402.

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Congratulations Class of 2025

We are offering a great deal for you to CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATE in your community graduation issue. Submit a photo and a brief message.

HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

2x3 Black & White Advertisement

Congratulations Karly Smith! We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College!

Love Dad. Mom & John

NORTHAMPTON

Freedom Credit Union helps ensure every child has a bed

SPRINGFIELD – During May, Freedom Credit Union invites the community to donate money at any of its branches throughout western Massachusetts to benefit A Bed for Every Child.

The Lynn, Massachusetts-based organization builds and donates beds for children who lack proper sleeping arrangements. “Every child deserves a comfortable place where big dreams can happen,” said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. “We’re excited to support this effort because we know a good night’s sleep can boost focus, mental health and well-being.”

A Bed for Every Child teams up with community groups such as schools and healthcare agencies to identify needs and engage volunteers to participate in the Build a Bed Project. Statistics show that as housing expenses skyrocket, essentials like beds often get passed over. A Bed for Every Child aims to make sure Massachusetts children are not deprived of this basic necessity.

This donation is part of Freedom Credit Union’s ongoing effort to collect donations for a different charity each month as part of its Month of Giving campaign. This year, Freedom asked its members to nominate charities. Money collected through the end of May will support this mission to make dreams come true.

Originally chartered in 1922 as the Western Massachusetts Telephone Workers Credit Union and renamed in 2004, Freedom Credit Union is a nine-branch, full-service financial institution. Offering a complete range of banking services and loan products, Freedom Credit Union has conveniently located Massachusetts branches in Chicopee, Feeding Hills, Greenfield, Ludlow, Northampton, Turners Falls, West Springfield and two in Springfield, as well as a Loan Production Office in Enfield, Connecticut. For more information, people may visit [freedom.coop](https://freedom.coop).

Cooley Dickinson hosts blood drive

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 13 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Wednesday, May 14 from 10 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 front of the hospital on those two days.

“Donating blood is an incredible act of generosity that saves lives,” said Catherine Reed, Executive Director for Operations at Cooley Dickinson. “We are profoundly grateful for our community’s continued support in providing the essential blood supply our patients depend on.”

All blood donors will receive a \$10 gift card for Amazon. A photo ID is required for blood donation. Donors are also advised to be well hydrated, 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/CDHTuesday](https://tinyurl.com/CDHTuesday) for Tuesday or [tinyurl.com/CDHWednesday](https://tinyurl.com/CDHWednesday) for Wednesday. For donation eligibility questions, they may email [BloodDonor@partners.org](mailto: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.

Hosmer Gallery exhibit Iron horse posters

NORTHAMPTON – The Hosmer Gallery located at Forbes Library, 20 West St., will host an exhibit of the Iron horse posters now through Saturday, June 28.

A reception will be held Friday, May 9 from 5-7 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Th posters will be on display in the Arts and Music Glass Case at the library. The Iron Horse Music Hall was and still is a much loved music venue for all kinds of music.

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OBITUARY

Eileen B. “Mickey” Delano  
1927-2025

Eileen B. “Mickey” Delano passed away peacefully on March 11, 2025, at home with her family.

She was the daughter of Ruth and Wallace Higgins of South Worthington and a loving and dedicated aunt. She attended school at the one-room schoolhouse in South Worthington and Huntington High School. She is a former resident of West Chesterfield.

Mickey loved her family and enjoyed many trips with her husband to their vacation home in Wonsqueak Harbor, Maine, often joined by family and friends.

Mickey was predeceased by her husband, James H. DeLano in 2008 and siblings Phyllis (Victor)



Myrick, Ralph (Ruby) Higgins, Courtland (Joan) Higgins and Nadine (Arthur) Comstock. She leaves many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great

nephews.

There will be a graveside memorial service on Saturday, May 17 at 11 a.m. at the Ringville Cemetery on Witt Hill Road in Worthington. A celebration of Life will be held immediately afterwards at the Chesterfield Senior Center, 400 Main Road, Chesterfield, MA.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Pioneer Hospice of Franklin County 329 Conway St., Suite 2, Greenfield, MA 01301.

DEATH NOTICE

DELANO, EILEEN B. “MICKEY”

Died March 11, 2025  
Graveside Memorial Service on Saturday, May 17 at 11 a.m.  
Ringville Cemetery, Worthington  
Celebration of Life to follow service  
Chesterfield Senior Center, Chesterfield

Country Journal  
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, May 22**

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Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

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62						63				64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Herring-like fish  
5. Perform on stage  
8. Soda  
11. Small growth  
13. In support of  
14. Step taken when walking  
15. Hollyhocks  
16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)  
17. Feel pain  
18. San Diego ballplayer  
20. Inches per minute (abbr.)  
21. Fat from a pig's abdomen  
22. Create again  
25. Honors once more  
30. Thin coating of gold  
31. Welsh river  
32. Japanese novelist Mizumura  
33. Husks of corn

38. Green vegetable  
41. Showing guilt  
43. Soldier  
45. Photographers  
48. Language spoken in Nigeria  
49. Mimic  
50. Expressed pleasure  
55. Ancient Greek sophist  
56. Beverage container  
57. Night monkey genus  
59. Lace bugs  
60. Hogshead (abbr.)  
61. Frameworks  
62. Keyboard key  
63. Greek goddess of the dawn  
64. Influential Korean independence figure

CLUES DOWN

1. A place to unwind

2. Helped (archaic)  
3. Razorbill genus  
4. Bleached  
5. Continent  
6. Fruit preserved in syrup  
7. Impediment to one's freedom  
8. Nocturnal rodents  
9. Earthy pigment  
10. Relieved oneself  
12. Golf score  
14. Tech hub \_\_ Alto  
19. Sportscaster Andrews  
23. Records electric currents  
24. Popular Hitchcock film  
25. Revolutions per minute  
26. NY Giants legend  
27. Sports radio host Patrick  
28. When you hope to get somewhere  
29. French seaport

34. Thai river  
35. Rocker's accessory  
36. Extra charge  
37. Influential American president  
39. Pain in the head  
40. Great Plains people  
41. Consumed  
42. Soluble ribonucleic acid  
44. Improves  
45. Secret clique  
46. Behind the stern of a ship  
47. Dough made from corn flour  
48. Fallow deer  
51. Swiss river  
52. Grayish white  
53. Engrave  
54. College's Blue Devils  
58. Midway between south and southeast

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

You may feel a desire to take charge of your professional life. Trust your instincts, but remember that you may have to go out of your comfort zone at some point.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Home and family matters may occupy most of your time this week. Cancer. It's good to reconnect with loved ones and spend time with your immediate family.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

A fresh burst of energy is on the way. This may provide the boost you need for self-improvement. You may be inspired to make many changes in your life right now.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Your hard work is paying off, Capricorn, but you also need to tend to your personal needs right now. This is the week to find better balance and take care of your health.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Expect a week of self-reflection. Old emotions might resurface and offer you a chance to grow and heal. If you're feeling out of sorts, make a plan to hang out with close friends.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, now could be an excellent opportunity to express your ideas and opinions to some of the higher-ups at your place of employment.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you may find yourself reflecting on your mental and emotional well-being this week. Some introspection could lead to a breakthrough that helps you understand the past.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you may be feeling more curious about the world around you and could find this is the week for some unexpected travel. It's a great time to embrace new ideas..

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Make sure you are not spreading yourself too thin this week, Gemini. Even though you are eager to connect and socialize, you might want to limit the number of events you attend.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Exercise caution with your spending and investments right now, Virgo. Although you have some financial opportunities on the horizon, it's best to be careful going forward.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

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

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Your intuition will guide you this week, especially when it comes to romance and other matters of the heart, Pisces. Expect relationships to grow for the better.

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SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

answers

E	H	R	S	O	E	T	T	V
S	K	O	V	R	D	H	V	M
S	N	L	O	V	N	V	S	V
D	E	H	V	P	V	V	B	V
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9	8	2	3	7	2	1	5	6
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TAG SALE

LARGE INDOOR TAG SALE. Apple Storage, 1207 So. Main St., Palmer, **Saturday, May 17 & Sunday, May 18; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.** Vintage furniture, antiques, decorations, home goods! All proceeds donated.

MAY 10-11, 9AM-4PM. 99 PETERSON ROAD, PALMER. Tons of collectibles and jewelry. Child's quad, needs work.

WILBRAHAM DKG SCHOLARSHIP benefit tag sale. Grace Union Church, 10 Chapel St., Wilbraham. **Saturday, May 10, 9am-4pm.** Huge selection!

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Painting by Fabio Deponte

## SHELBOURNE FALLS

### Fabio Deponte exhibits at Shelbourne Arts Co-op

SHELBOURNE FALLS – Paintings by Fabio Deponte will be on exhibit at the Shelbourne Arts Co-op now through Monday, June 2. The Co-op is located at 26 Bridge St. and is open Monday, Wednesday Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. Born near Trieste, Italy, Fabio Deponte and his family immigrated to the U.S. in 1956. He studied art in

Boston and began his art career in the commercial art field as art director and designer. Eventually, Fabio’s need to paint and love of art took him to illustration and, finally, to open White Pickets Studio with his life partner and



Fabio Deponte

artist, Sara. He has been making and exploring his art for over 30 years in a variety of mediums. “As a young immigrant you tend to view your surroundings and people as an observer, trying to get the lay of the land. This

aspect has never left me. Today I observe for humor in the mannerisms and body language of people and animals as they go about their day. As an artist, I feel compelled to search, experience, and explore not just technique and subject matter but the atmosphere one creates for a viewer to be drawn in to see, rather than just look once, then come back and see again.”

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