

Country Journal

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BLANDFORD

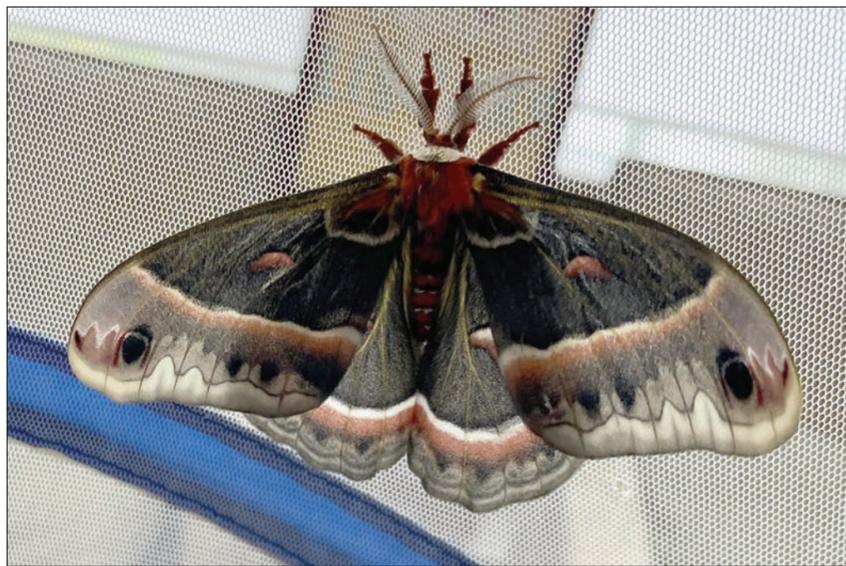
Cecropia moth hatches from cocoon

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The Cecropia Moth cocoon hatched this past week at the Porter Memorial Library.

The cocoon, also known as a pupa, was carefully watched over by staff until the moth erupted, ever so slowly, from its home.

The Cecropia is the largest native Eastern North American moth, according to Director Nicole Daviau. The scientific classification is *Hyalophora cecropia*. The moth's cocoon originated from Magic Wings in South Deerfield. Daviau grew up hatching moths, praying mantis, and butterflies every spring. Nicole now brings them to the library for all to enjoy before releasing them. "Everyone, who comes in learns about our local pollinators and is fascinated," said Daviau "Even the UPS delivery person sat for a while to watch them emerge. The excitement from the children, who have been attending the story time program every Tuesday and Wednesday, has been wonderful to watch."



This Cecropia moth hatched from its cocoon at the Porter Memorial Library in Blandford. It has a wingspan of about six inches and has been much admired by visitors.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

The moth's cocoon was kept cool until mid-April, when it was placed in a container on the service counter, joined by Luna and Polyphemus moths, and five butterfly chrysalises. When signs of life emerging began, they moved to a large net container to allow com-

plete hatching unhindered.

These Cecropia moths have no mouth parts, but live off the fat they stored as a caterpillar. As a result, their lifespan is only two to three weeks. The Cecropia moth that hatched is a male, which can be identified by the larger feathery antenna.

The male moth will use the large antenna to detect the pheromones of the female moth, which stays where it emerges.

According to Daviau, moth cocoons and praying mantis egg cases blend in

MOTH, page 6

BLANDFORD

Select Board adopts BESS resolution

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

There was standing room only as residents filled the Select Board's meeting room for the Monday, May 5 meeting.

The controversial issue that drew the crowd was the proposed Battery Energy Storage System.

Chair Cara Letendre said she was pleased to see the number of people present.

After the board unanimously adopted the resolution drafted by Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera, in opposition to any BESS installations, Planning Board Chair Paul Martin, Conservation Commission Chair Dick Gates, Zoning Board of Appeals new member Asa Kerr were at the table. Kerr was later joined by ZBA Chair Kim Bergland.

The Conservation Commission received a request for an installation of a 50-megawatt unit on the south side of North Blandford Road, which was denied or given a negative determination. Since then, the commission received another permit application, which only asks for temporary access to the area behind the substation for soil testing. The commission will probably use a third-party consultant to help assess the application. A public meeting is tentatively planned for Tuesday, May 27, according to Gates.

Martin told the board that after their adoption of the resolution, he found himself in "a quandary." "What am I supposed to do?" he asked.

BESS, page 6

HUNTINGTON



Fifty two Huntington residents attended the final public hearing continuance about a proposed gravel pit, held May 6.

Turley photos by Wendy Long



Engineer Rob Levesque spoke with reporters after the conclusion of the hearing.

Hull Forestlands withdraws gravel pit application

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

A continuance of a year-long public hearing to consider a gravel pit between Goss Hill Road and Route 112 in Huntington was held at Stanton Hall on Tuesday, May 6, with 52 people attending.

At issue was an application for an earth removal operation on land owned by William Hull of Hull Forestlands. If approved, the pit would have been run and managed by Hilltown Sand

and Gravel in Huntington. This was the sixth continuance hearing on the application.

The meeting was over in about 20 minutes, with Hull Forestlands asking to withdraw their application without prejudice and the Zoning Board voting their approval.

Karon Hathaway, Chair of Huntington's Zoning Board of Appeals, called the meeting to order and introduced the board members and alternates: Victoria Minella-Sena, Jill Rose, Alicia Hackerson, and Deresa

Helems. She also introduced applicant Bill Hull, engineer Rob Levesque and their attorney Michael Pill. Hathaway announced the meeting's agenda, which was to review and approve the final impact study proposals regarding traffic, noise, silica dust and hydrology.

But first, two statements one submitted by Hull's attorney Michael Pill, and another by the Zoning Board were read aloud by the Hathaway.

GRAVEL, page 3

BLANDFORD

Tractor Trailer stuck in mud last week

An A T Q Express, Inc. box tractor trailer out of Chestermere, Alberta, Canada picking up a load of lumber got stuck in the mud last Wednesday, May 7 on North Street.

According to Police Chief Jen Dubiel, the driver was trying to get to the Massachusetts Turnpike.

He apparently decided to turn around in the Buss'

side yard on North Street just across the street from the fairgrounds and sank in mud up to the axle on the cab. The previous days of rain contributed to the depth the cab sank into the soggy ground.

There were 40,000 pounds of lumber in the trailer. The Buss family was at home at the time, according to Chief Dubiel and were with the driver "throughout the event."

The semi was mired to the hub-

caps for over four hours while attempts were made to tow it out. It was finally freed about 7 p.m. by Red's Towing, Recovery, & Transport of West Springfield.

Police Chief Dubiel was on duty at the site to direct traffic the entire time. operated is a combination of a tractor (front part) and a trailer (rear part) used for transporting goods.

Tractor trailers are also known as semi-trucks and play a vital role in the American freight industry.

The tractor houses the engine, driver's compartment, and controls, while the trailer holds the cargo.



A T Q Express Inc. tractor trailer got stuck in the Buss' side yard on North Street in Blandford. Turley photos by Mary Kronholm



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HUNTINGTON

Town Accountant says Free Cash still not certified

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Town Accountant Richard Buley met with the Huntington Select Board at their Wednesday, May 7 meeting to report a new number for free cash.

Buley said he believes the number will now be \$209,000 as long as the state does not change his most recent submission. This number is down from the \$313,000 Buley said he expected at the Board's April 30 meeting, but up from \$36,000 the state had for the town on that date.

Buley said he believed the state would certify Huntington's Free Cash by Monday, June 2, but Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin said she needed the certified number by Wednesday, May 21. It is the date the Select Board would have to vote the FY '26 budget in order to post the Annual Town Meeting warrant in time for the Monday, June 2 Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting. Free cash is earmarked in several articles on the town warrant.

Without state certification by May 21, the town will have to push the town meeting date to Monday, June 23. Chairman Roger Booth said

that he was aware of several other towns that have already done this. Peloquin will look into what the communications requirements need to be and will check with Moderator George Peterson to make sure he is available on that date.

There was also some confusion over Buley's request to transfer money to cover a projected \$12,000 deficit in retirement. Buley said that funds had been earmarked to the wrong account that had led to a shortfall for the past three years. Booth said this was the first anybody had heard of this and asked Peloquin to figure out how this occurred and why the Select Board had not been informed. Buley's response was, "You've seen it, you just didn't look at it."

Booth also asked what needs to be done to ensure that free cash is certified by February next year and in the future. He explained that the assessors are working on a written procedure and timeline so that the tax rate can be set by Nov. 1. Booth asked Buley to come up with a checklist and time frame saying "It's not about people. It's a system issue." He asked Peloquin to work with Buley on this. The Board also moved to require departments to get their final encumbrances and account numbers on FY '25 spending in by



Canoe race chairman Harry Rock presented honorary paddles to the Huntington Select Board, Fire Department and Police Department in appreciation for their planning support and hard work on race day.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

Tuesday, July 15, with invoices to Buley by Thursday, July 31, which was unanimously approved.

Having lower free cash than expected means that the

ken and will cost over \$300 to replace," said Mayhew, adding she has no problem with teens hanging out there as long as they stop damaging equipment. Select Board member John McVeigh said the fire association was willing to pick up the tab on a long-range camera to try to determine who the vandals are. Garriepy said that his officers patrol the area and respond to calls from residents of nearby Hamblin Court when damage is being done. He believes that four students are involved, who live in another town, do not take their buses home from school and walk to the playground; their parents pick them up later. Discussion included getting video evidence and holding the students and their parents accountable for the damage and cost of repairs.

Dog issue

Mayhew also said that the committee had to clean up a great deal of dog feces in the Petis Field area before holding this year's Easter Egg Hunt. There is a collection container in the area with bags, she said, but it is believed that people let their dogs off leash there and don't clean up after them, impacting the playground and Little League fields. The dog officer will be informed to begin monitoring the area and Peloquin will look into Mass General Law (which prohibits dogs on athletic fields) for required wording on signs that will be purchased and posted.

Honorary paddles

In other business, Westfield River Wildwater Race Chairman Harry Rock reported back on this year's race, which had 293 pad-

dlers. "I really appreciated the support of the Police and Fire Department and Hilltown Ambulance. I can't do it without my community partners," Rock said as he presented the Select Board, Fire Department and Police Department with honorary paddles, 70th anniversary cowbells and race stickers.

Fees

Garriepy also met to discuss the need for parity between departments over employees who collect fees and keep them, and those who collect fees but don't get to keep them. According to Peloquin, fees are deposited into department funds and added to the paychecks of those who have been designated to receive them. Garriepy believes this was a settled issue in 1997 or 1998. A related by-law is expected to be taken up at Annual Town Meeting.

Beaver problem

McVeigh also reported that the beavers in the pond by North Hall were aggressive during a recent drill in that area, toward both the firemen and the fire hoses. An emergency permit will be filed with the Board of Health, as hunting season on beavers ended April 25. Selectman Bill Hathaway abstained from the vote.

Other business

A vocational appeal by a Huntington family was denied based on past precedent; the student missed the April 1 deadline for turning in their application but can still apply next year.

The Board voted to go into executive session, not to return to public session. Their next meeting will be Wednesday, May 21 at 5 p.m.

HILLTOWNS

Preservation Massachusetts lists grant awards recipients

PLYMOUTH – Preservation Massachusetts, in partnership with The 1772 Foundation announces the recipients of a historic preservation matching grant program in Massachusetts.

Preservation Massachusetts is the statewide non-profit historic preservation organization dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth's historic and cultural heritage and The 1772 Foundation plays a leading role in promoting historic preservation nationwide. Grants will fund exterior work on historic buildings

across the Commonwealth.

Local grant recipients are: Elizabeth Freeman Center, Old Central Fire Station, Pittsfield; Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington and Williams-Boltwood House Trust, Williams-Boltwood House, Goshen.

President and Executive Director of Preservation Massachusetts, Jessica Rudden-Dube states "The 2025 initial inquiry phase saw over \$600,000 requested, highlighting the critical need for preservation funding to restore and maintain

our Commonwealth's historic buildings. The work done by organizations that support our historic resources ensures that the stories embedded in our built landscapes and communities live on so that we may continue to learn from them, and our past is not forgotten. Across the Commonwealth our cities, towns, and villages are anchored by the historic places that weave together the story of Massachusetts and the United States of America. We are grateful for the ongoing support of The 1772 Foundation and congratulate this year's grant recipients."

COA hosts tag sale May 17

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging will be sponsoring a tag sale on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Town Common and at Stanton Hall located at 26 Russell Road.

A variety of items will be available. There will be

a fine arts sale table to benefit Hilltown Community Ambulance Association. Spaces are available for a suggested donation of \$10 on the Town Common and \$15 inside Stanton Hall. Vendors must provide their own tables, chairs and tents for rain/sun protection.

No items shall be left behind. Set up will start on Saturday morning at 8 a.m. People may call 413-512-5205 to reserve a space or show up the day of the sale. Location of spaces will be on a first come, first serve basis the day of the sale. The sale will be held rain or shine.



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Oct. 18.....	Turkey Train	\$175

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CUMMINGTON

Sheep and Woolcraft Fair set

CUMMINGTON – The Massachusetts Sheep and Woolcraft Fair has been re-imagined this year with a in-depth focus on all things fiber.

The fair will be held on Saturday, May 24 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, May 25 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Cummington Fairgrounds for this annual festival. “MSWCF has re-focused on its roots

this year,” said MSWFC Co-Chair Lisa Dachinger. “We will have a wide variety of fiber vendors, fiber competitions, and sheep show/lead line competition. What better way to spend your Memorial Day weekend?”

The event also includes numerous vendors with plenty of fiber products to sell during the event. Featured competitions

include a sheep show, fleece show, walk and spin competition, handspun contest, youth educational woolcraft exhibit contest, woolcraft contest and more.

Parking is \$10 per car or \$15 for a two-day pass. Please note, there may not be an ATM available so please plan accordingly. People may visit <https://masheepwool.org> for additional updates.

Cummington American Legion announces Memorial Day services

CUMMINGTON – The Cummington American Legion Post 304 lists Memorial Day Services on Monday, May 26.

The schedule is 8:30 a.m. at the Worthington Memorial across from

Town Hall, 9 a.m. West Cummington Cemetery, 9:30 a.m. Cummington Memorial at Community House, 10 a.m. Goshen at Goshen Cemetery, 11 a.m. Chesterfield Veterans Park and 1 p.m. Plainfield

Hilltop Cemetery.

The Post welcomes all area veterans to join us at any or all, of these events. They may call Post 304 Commander Conrad Liebenow at 413-634-5353 for more information.

RUSSELL

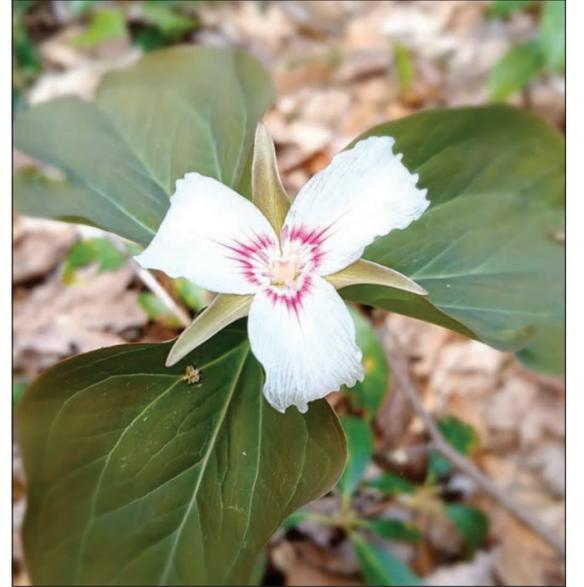
Noble View to hold wildflower hike

RUSSELL – The Appalachian Mountain Club’s Noble View Outdoors Center will hold a wildflower hike on Sunday May 18 from 10 a.m.-noon.

Participants will walk easy trails, while searching for Red Trillium, Bleeding Hearts, Columbine and many more spring beauties. Fairy house viewing on the All Person Trail will also be included.

A checklist of over 30 flowers found on the Noble View property will be available. Participants are encouraged to bring their own wildflower books.

This hike is recommended for children 7 years and older. Group size is limited, but there are still spaces available. People may email Laura Stinnette at laura.stinnette@gmail.com or 413-454-3232 to join the hike.



This painted trillium is one of many wildflowers seen along the trails at the Appalachian Mountain Club’s Noble View Outdoors Center. *Submitted photo*

HUNTINGTON

GRAVEL

from page 1

Pill’s letter to the Zoning Board was dated May 5, 2025. In it, Pill described Hull’s “willingness to provide the town with reasonable and relevant independent studies to address any legitimate concerns and to help safeguard the public from potential adverse impacts associated with the facility.”

Pill then called for a “fair and appropriate scope regarding these requested studies” and respectfully asked the Zoning Board to exclude the traffic and silica dust studies from the requirements. Specifically, the letter stated that Route 112 is under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the proposed project involved a small-scale operation with limited truck traffic. In short, Pill concluded that a separate traffic study would not be necessary.

Pill also made the case that “risks typically associated with silica dust exposure are addressed under existing state and federal occupational safety standards.” He stated that a silica dust study is not justified because there are no additional safeguards for such operations other than those already enforced by regulatory agencies.

As an alternative, Pill proposed that special permit conditions be put into place to address public concerns around traffic and silica dust. These would include setting a limit on the number of truck and vehicle trips per day to and from the site. In addition, he proposed prohibiting crushing, grinding or earth processing activities at the site, as these are the actions that would produce silica dust, which Pill acknowledged poses potential health risks.

In summary, Pill’s letter asked the Zoning Board to proceed with their review process for noise and hydrology, eliminate the traffic and silica dust studies and instead limit those impact areas by putting special conditions into the permit.

Hathaway then read her board’s prepared statement about Pill’s proposal. “I must emphasize the significant concern this raises. The studies were explicitly requested in response to the serious concerns voiced by our town residents during the Public Hearing process—specifically relating to traffic impact and potential health risk related to silica dust. Without this vital information, the Zoning Board of Appeals is left without the necessary data to make a fully informed and responsible decision regarding the Hull Forestland Special Permit Application. As such, we believe the Special Permit Application lacks the supporting documentation required to address the concerns of our community. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Hull Forestland Special Permit Application be withdrawn with prejudice, as it currently stands without sufficient basis for approval. Or we can call for a vote on the Hull Forestland Special Permit Application from the Zoning Board members.”

At this point, Hull, Levesque and Pill adjourned briefly to confer. When they returned, they asked to be allowed to withdraw without prejudice to consider their next steps. The Zoning Board approved, with one member abstaining because she’d missed several prior hearings.

These options are legal distinctions. An application being withdrawn with prej-

udice would mean that the application is dismissed. By withdrawing without prejudice, the applicant can legally reapply in two years.

Goss Hill resident Kathy Brisebois asked if she could submit more information for the record. Pill responded, “You’ve won.” Her husband Mike replied, “‘Without prejudice’ is what has us back here today, referencing a previous application for a gravel pit in the same vicinity by another applicant.”

Levesque then spoke, saying that the Hull team had reviewed all of the study proposals. “These studies are very expensive. Special permits can be weaponized. We are withdrawing without prejudice. We will likely not be back within two years,” Levesque said. “It has taken us a year to get to this point. We are pulling the plug on the project as it stands today.”

Copies of the four proposed studies were available at the hearing. Cross-Spectrum Acoustics would use four sound meters to collect current noise levels over a 14-day period, then use a model facility to predict the sound levels based on projected equipment and trucks. This study would take five weeks and cost \$11,535.

A traffic study proposed by the Bowman Consulting Group in Westfield would look at sight distance where trucks would enter and exit Route 112 from the pit, quantify traffic volume and vehicle speed at that point and review MassDOT crash data in the area over five years, at a cost of \$21,700. Haines Hydrogeologic Consulting of Belchertown would look at impacts to the water table, abutters’ wells, groundwater and surface water (\$5,600 to \$6,600).

By far, the most expensive study was proposed by RPF Environmental to collect daily airborne silica measurements over six months, at a cost of \$14,560 per week.

Pill said it was customary in court to congratulate your opponent when you lost, and did so to the room at large. Goss Hill resident Ed Grabowski replied, “To me, it wasn’t a matter of winning or losing. I think it was about what one person was doing and how it was going to affect so many others.” Grabowski spoke about people now having the ability to continue to enjoy living in the hilltowns and spending time outdoors.

After the hearing, Levesque said it was one of the three outcomes they’d expected. “Technically, they could have rendered a decision or allowed us to withdraw with prejudice, basically meaning you could not reapply,” he said. He added that they do not intend to come back in the near future and indicated that he did not believe Hull intended to apply for a pit on another site on the parcel. The site they’d applied for, he said, was the logical gravel bank.

This was confirmed by Hull himself later that evening. In an email, Hull wrote, “Since the US is going into a recession or worse due to

many factors including tariffs, it is not an opportune time to be developing a gravel pit. Hence tonight we decided to ask for an application withdrawal and the ZBA board then voted to allow us to withdraw our application without prejudice.”

“We will be reassessing other possible opportunities to generate income from the property but it is currently unknown as to what that might be. The permitting process has, however, made us aware of the high open space value Huntington residents place on this property we own. We will attempt to factor this into possible future uses of the property.”

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Must I take Medicare Part A even if I have VA or Medicaid coverage?

Dear Rusty:

Does everyone need to sign up for Medicare part A, even if you are ex-military? Or only on Medicaid, regardless of whether you are eligible for Social Security or not? Also is there a cost for just part A?

Signed: Confused Senior

Dear Confused:

For Your Information, there is no cost for Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage for those who are also eligible for Social Security benefits. And it is mandatory to enroll in Medicare Part A if you are age 65 or over and are collecting Social Security benefits. If you are ex-military and get all your healthcare services from the VA, you must still enroll in Medicare Part A, which is free, to collect Social Security benefits after age 65.

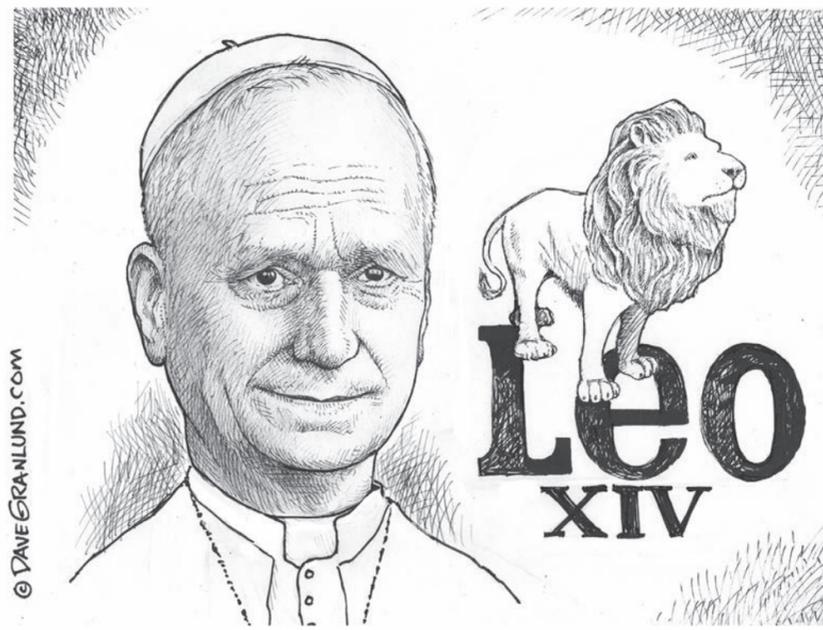
Enrollment in Medicare Part B, which is healthcare coverage for outpatient services, is always optional because there is a premium associated with Part B. But if you receive all of your healthcare services from the VA, you can, if you wish, decline Medicare Part B and, thus, save the monthly Part B premium. Enrolling in Medicare Part B when you get all your healthcare services from the VA is a matter of having the convenience to choose any healthcare provider you wish versus using only VA healthcare services.

If you receive Medicaid benefits and are also eligible for Medicare, you should probably enroll in both Medicare Part A and Part B (Medicare would be primary payor and Medicaid the second-

ary payor). You would be considered "dually eligible" and likely exempt from most healthcare costs with coverage from both programs. That said, it is sometimes not mandatory to enroll in Medicare Part B to get Medicaid benefits, but each state has separate Medicaid eligibility rules. Thus, you should check with your state's Medicaid office to see if it is mandatory to take Medicare Part B to keep your Medicaid benefits. FYI, in most instances, Medicaid will pay your Medicare Part B costs, so there is little reason not to enroll in Medicare Part B while on Medicaid. Regardless, enrollment in Medicare Part A is required to collect Social Security benefits after age 65.

I would like to thank you for your service to our country and also assure you that we are always here for you if you have any further questions.

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



GUEST COLUMN

A little of this and a little of that

I went outside yesterday to assess the damage after nearly five inches of rain fell from last Thursday night through Saturday mid day.

To say that I was mortified was an understatement. My pea seedlings were underwater, there was a river flowing into the trenches that my newly planted potatoes were in, and the floor of my greenhouse literally had an empty bucket floating in it.

Although the water table has fallen in the last 24 hours, I still wonder when, if ever, I will be able to plant the parts of my garden still covered in winter rye, as tilling it in might not happen until July, and that's if we don't get anymore rain. I was mad about it all day, because this was the year I was going to have the best garden ever.

My transplants look fantastic, and I have all sorts of seedlings going in succession, so that, for example, my broccoli and cauliflower don't ripen all at once. How will I ever plant them, I thought?

The day ended and a new day came, and with it joy in the morning. The standing water was gone, at least, and so was my desire to pack it all up and move to a condominium. Maybe there is hope.

I spent Mother's Day gardening after all, in higher parts of the yard, and it was a good day.

While I was working among the plants I made note that the lily leaf beetle has arrived. Handpicking

and destroying the bright red insects over the last couple of years has thankfully inspired a resurgence in my patch of tiger lilies. It can in yours too!

Using it in the evening is a good option.

My peony plants have put on some nice buds. All but one of my plants had already been staked, and the one that wasn't is on the small side, perfect to be put in one of those circular tomato cages.

I was sprinkling fertilizers as I weeded and groomed, but I left the fertilizer out when I came to these old-timers. Too much nitrogen for peonies can be a no-no; instead of making more flowers, it can actually cause them to abort, or just develop lots of leaves at the expense of flowers.

I just got word from a friend that there is a frost warning for tonight. Although I didn't see frost in my area, I did see that temperatures may fall to around 37 degrees.

Alas, peppers and tomato transplants would revolt in an unheated greenhouse at those temperatures. Out I go, trucking them in to the kitchen, tray by tray. At least I am not up to my ankles in water tonight.

I guess it is all part of the wonderful ups and downs of gardening in New England, or anywhere else for that matter!

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.



by Roberta McQuaid



Corrections policy

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

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader opposes Battery Energy Storage System and solar fields

Editor's note: Racine's letter was read at the May 5 Blandford Select Board meeting.

I would like to go on record and express how I and other residents of Blandford feel about allowing Lithium-ion Battery Storage and more solar fields in our town. We are talking about losing our green space and bringing in dangerous chemicals and more solar.

How many solar fields do we need in this town? Some dangers from solar fields are habitat loss, soil erosion, most importantly ground water contamination and the presence of solar panels can change local temperatures and humidity affecting vegetation and wildlife.

Large solar farms can be considered an eyesore by some, especially in rural areas. Cutting down acres and acres

of trees is detrimental to our environment, our wildlife, clean air and water and opportunities for recreation and education.

Additionally, trees in wooded areas help to mitigate climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and can improve human health by reducing stress and improving mood. Tree roots help prevent erosion and improve soil fertility. Some of the benefits of

forest and trees are: boosts immune system, lower blood pressure, increase ability to focus even in children with ADHD, and accelerate recovery from surgery or illness.

People move to towns like ours to get away from the noise and pollution from cities. But I see us heading towards a town overrun with solar panels and tractor trailer sized battery storage.

The danger should be evi-

dent that we cannot even fight a fire if it happens because we would have to let them burn pouring deadly chemicals into our air.

These storage facilities belong in industrial settings not in our beautiful town. I ask that we stop bringing these into our town. People would do better to just put solar on their roof.

Susan Racine
Blandford

Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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

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

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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Skinner Park is a hike to heaven

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

The view from the Mt. Holyoke Summit House is breathtaking and the hike to get there is a good work out.

Located on Route 47 or Haocanum Road in Hadley, this is a definite day trip or drive for nature thrill seekers. People have been hiking here since the early 1840s. The scenery looking down over the landscape of Hadley from up in the clouds is one of rugged woods, tidy farm fields and towns, the dramatic curving Connecticut River.

Here is a bit of history on Skinner Park as it is called. The mountain, roughly 1,000 feet in height was once a source of timber in the 1750s and then a pasture for sheep in the early 1800s. By late 1800s people discovered mountain views and for the first time had more time for recreation and hiking. There was no road; it was clamber over the basalt rock formations and up to the hawks' nest.

John and Fanny French had camped on the mountaintop many times in the 1840s. They saw firsthand how popular the spot became for day trippers. How they got the idea to build a hotel up there we don't know, but they were certainly industrious.

They bought the land and built an eight room, two story hotel with a rooftop observatory complete with a telescope. John French realized water on a mountain top would be tricky, so he went to work and built a wooden railway to haul up barrels of water on a track powered by horses hitched to a circling crank at the top of the mountain. The hotel was completed in 1851.

Many famous peo-

ple of the time visited there such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Emily Dickinson and Jenny Lind, known as the Swedish Nightingale. People would also arrive by train in Northampton and take the Hockanum Ferry across the Connecticut River and then climb to the Halfway House on the mountain where they could continue to hike to the summit or take a horse drawn coach or a tram ride to the top for 25 cents.

They could also climb the 522 stairs to the top from the halfway point. The hotel was a tremendous success. The tram was John French's adaptation of his water track to transport passengers. He used a sleigh body to carry seated passengers to the top at a 38 degree angle that caused people to feel they were being pulled straight up to heaven.

The tram was built in 1854, switched to steam power in 1856 and used until 1937. People disembarked in the hotel. It was open air at first, but then covered in wood for shelter.

The 1938 Hurricane devastated the hotel and tramway. The hotel was enlarged two times to acquire 40 bedrooms and a dining room that could seat 200 guests. Imagine the staff needed to provide meals and hotel accommodations.

Fanny and John French had originally slept under the stars and ate camp fire meals when they first purchased the land. Did they imagine how the hotel would grow? Well by 1871 they had sold the hotel to John Dwight, a New York City businessman, who had fell under the mountain's spell having summered on the mountain many years previously.

The French's continued

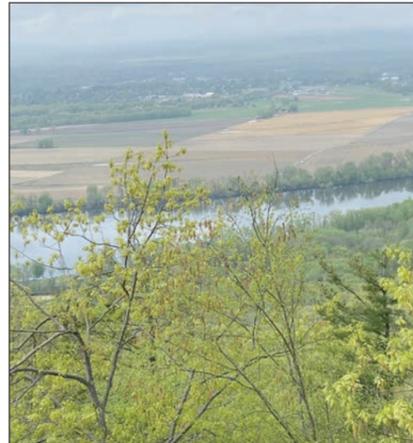
to manage the hotel. Dwight added a four story addition and the large dining room to accommodate day guests as well as hotel clients. This was in 1890 and the hotel was enjoying its heyday.

John French died in 1891. Fanny French and John Dwight continued to run the hotel. Joseph Skinner, son of the Skinner silk mill magnate acquired the hotel in 1916. He modernized the hotel over the next 10 years putting in plumbing and electricity and refurbishing the building. However, the era of summit hotel popularity was over. Cars were introduced in the 1920s and people were no longer restricted to local sites. The open road beckoned.

The hurricane of 1938 struck and much of the hotel was destroyed. Skinner tried to sell the property to the state of Massachusetts. No sale was forthcoming, so he donated the hotel and 273 surrounding acres to the state to be used as a park for the enjoyment of the people.

The tramway was deemed unsafe and it was torched in 1965 by the Department of Natural Resources. The hotel was restored in the 1980s and again a few years ago. It is open on the weekends in summer. People can hike up the path or walk the winding road to the summit house. The porch is always open with stupendous views. The halfway house is where the steam engine for the tram is located as well as the house Fanny and John French built and lived in once their limbs gave out caring for the hotel.

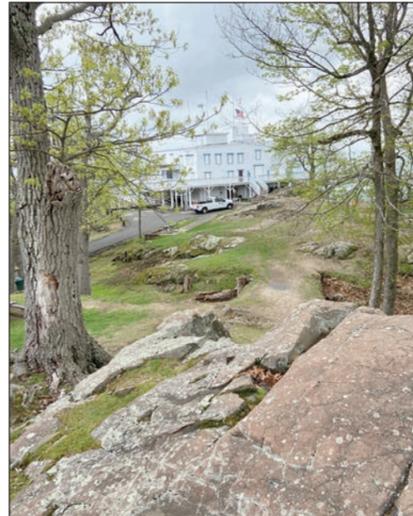
There is little to see where the tram ran up the mountain. The scenery on the path is awesome. Plan a visit people won't be disappointed.



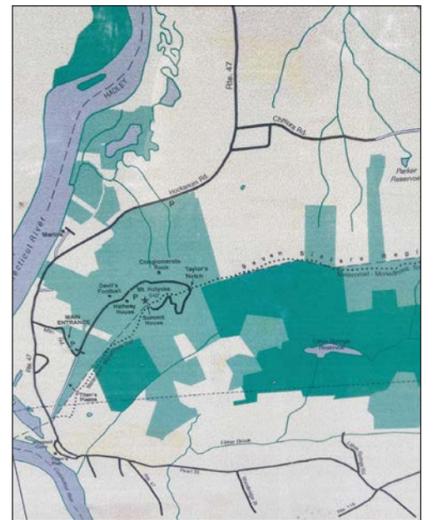
This is the view Connecticut River and farm fields as seen from on top of Mt. Holyoke.



The house that Fanny and John French built and lived in later, located near the steam engine.



The Summit House (hotel) on top as it looks today.



This is a map of Skinner State Park.

Submitted photos



This is a view of the tram to the Summit Hotel.



A horse drawn coach transported people up to hotel.

BECKET

Becket Athenaeum hosts fireside Book discussion

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St., Dr. Matthew Camp will hold a Fireside book discussion on Saturday, May 24 at 6 p.m. outdoors on the library lawn.

This interactive book discussion and workshop will be rescheduled or cancelled for rain. Participants will help build and light a fire on the library's lawn. Dr. Camp will

lead participants in combing the fire-building process with concepts of mindfulness and political advocacy. Refreshments will be served.

RSVP is appreciated by visiting bwlibrary.org/ tend. Lawn chairs or blankets are encouraged. This is funded by Central Berkshire Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Becket Arts Center presents play 'Art'

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will present a staged reading of "Art," a Tony award-winning play by Yasmina Reza on

Saturday, May 17, at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m.

Three professional actors, Mary Budzn, Paula Langton and Elaine Vaan Hogue, will perform this provocative comedy about

the complexities of art and friendship.

For tickets (a \$25 donation to the BAC's Theatre Fund) and more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

CHESTERFIELD

Town clerk lists election results

CHESTERFIELD – Town Clerk Sandra Wickland announced the Annual Town Elections held on Monday, May 5.

One hundred eighty nine of the 1,014 registered voters or 19% went to the polls. Donald A. Willard III won a three-year term to Select Board with 165 votes. Edward J. Severance won a three-year term as Assessor with 160 votes and Kirke R. Henshaw won a three-year term to the Board of Health

with 173 votes.

Other candidates elected are Amy G. Gevalis for a three year term as Library Trustee with 164 votes and Frederick W. Drake with 160 votes and Sarah J. Hamilton with 136 votes won the two three year terms on Planning Board. Kelli Wainscott was the top write in candidate for a three year term on the School Committee/Chesterfield-Goshen with 19 votes, Jeffrey Manley received 5

votes, Laura Somes with 3 votes and several other write in candidates with two or one votes.

In the only contest on the ballot, Laura A. Somes won a three year term to Hampshire Regional School Committee with 103 votes over Jesse T. Mcmillan with 68 votes. Jeffrie A. Young won a three year term as Constable with 163 votes and Christopher J. Ryan won a one year term as Tree Warden with 169 votes.

EASTHAMPTON

bankESB expands team with key hires

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB announces the addition of two new professionals to strengthen financial strategy and digital engagement.

Brian Mathes was recently hired as vice president, ALM officer. Mathes will support all banks within the Hometown Financial Group family of banks, including, bankESB, bank-Hometown, North Shore

Bank, and Abington Bank, a division of North Shore Bank, as well as Hometown Mortgage. He will be based at bankESB's 36 Main St., Easthampton office as well as bankHometown's 31 Sutton Ave., Oxford office.

Mathes of Newtonville, has 25 years of banking experience. Before joining bankESB, he was vice president at Main Street Bank, and before that, vice president at State

Street Corporation. In his new role, he will be responsible for overseeing the bank's asset liability management strategy, optimizing balance sheet performance, and supporting long-term financial planning and risk management. Mathes earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Tulane University and a master's degree in business administration from Boston University.

Corey Moquin has been appointed social media manager, based at bankESB's 36 Main St., Easthampton office. Moquin, of South Hadley, earned a bachelor's degree in communications from UMass Amherst. He joins the bank from Western Mass News where he was senior marketing producer. In this new role, he will manage social media accounts for all of Hometown Financial Group.

MIDDLEFIELD

Library hosts 'blind date with a book' May 21

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Public Library, 188 Skyline Trail, will host "blind date with a book" on Wednesday, May 21 from 5-7 p.m. to be introduced to a book.

This event is a fun way for people to discover new

titles without judging them by their cover. Books will be wrapped up with visible clues about the genre or plot on the cover.

The element of surprise and unknown add to the fun. Everyone is welcome. Cake will be served.

HAYDENVILLE

Artisan Show, Collectible Sale to be held on June 7

HAYDENVILLE – Local artisans are invited to apply now to reserve a table at the annual Haydenville Artisan Show and Collectibles Sale on Saturday, June 7.

The show will be on the grounds of Haydenville Congregational Church, 143 Main St., from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. According to fair organizer

Megan Jewett, each artisan will be assigned a 12' X 12' space on the lawn. Artisans will supply their own tents and tables. Jewett said there is space available for approximately 30 artists to set up.

The show will go on rain or shine. Details and an application can be found on the church website by visiting haydenvillechurch.org.

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

BLANDFORD

COUNCIL ON AGING HOLDS LUNCHEON MAY 9



Judith MacKinnon, Deb Lundgren and Council on Aging Director Margit Mikuski are ready to serve pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw and onion straws at Friday, May 9 COA luncheon.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

After lunch, MaryAnn Deming, R.N. and Rebecca Symmons, R.N. gave a presentation entitled Care Giving for you and a loved one living with dementia.



The Porter Memorial Library hosted a Chromebook class on Friday, May 9. Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

Chromebook classes set for May 16, 23 and 30

BLANDFORD – Friday, May 9, was the first of the Chromebook classes and covered the basics. Every Friday in May from 2-3 p.m. at Town Hall there will be a class. A Chromebook is not necessary so anyone who wants to learn more about computer use is welcome. Upcoming classes are May 16 Cloud Basics, May 23 Intro to Google and Workspace and May 30: Google Docs. People should sign up at the library during open hours.

The Porter Memorial Library received 15 Chromebooks gratis from the National Digital Inclusion Alliance for Digital Equity.

MOTH

from page 1

with leaves so well that people can often inadvertently destroy them when cleaning the yard in the spring. The “no-mow May” movement encourages homeowners to think of pollinators and other

insects when planning yard work. “Take a look outside in the yard to see if you can find moths as well,” Daviau suggested.

There are several other species of fluttery creatures in the process of

developing and hatching at the library. The praying mantis hatched out about 200 babies and were all set free outdoors. Daviau said she releases praying mantises as a form of natural tick control.

BESS

He did say that new developments and evolution in BESS, making the batteries of “Lithium, Iron and Phosphate” offered no pollution, highly resistant to fire and won’t explode. He said, “There is no pollution from that.”

He told the board, “You are trying to circumvent what the state is trying to do.” What is Planning supposed to do if we get a special permit request?” he asked, “Let it go right to the state? Or are we supposed to do our job, look at all the facts?” “The LFP battery is a much safer battery,” he added.

The Zoning Board of Appeals has had a query from Eversource regarding the substation, but, according to Bergland, “It was more of

a procedural question, who do we talk to?”

Letendre moved to public comment, and Theresa Mitas of George Millard Road said, “It’s a bad way to go,” citing the historical and environmental nature of her own acreage. Other similar comments came from Kim Blanchette, Deb Brodie and others. Several people attending via zoom who had wanted to say something were not able to as there was no one to admit them to the meeting. Completing the discussion on BESS, Letendre read a letter from Susan Racine.

Highway Department

The board then moved on to Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay



A crowd were at the Monday, May 5 Select Board meeting because of the Battery Energy Storage System issues. Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

who brought them up to date with that department’s work. He had met with Eversource regarding the Gore Road pole placed outside the guardrail and in the road. It

Residents should be careful and wary of wandering bears

BLANDFORD – Spring has sprung, the rains have come and bears have awakened and are hungry. They are out and about, lurking and looking. People should take their bird feeders in at night; nothing can really prevent a hungry bear from finding a way to get at them.

The Select Board reminds residents to be careful and be wary. Bears can present a problem.

Did you know, bears have long memories. They will return time after time to a place that has had food available, whether it’s a mismanaged compost pile, a non-secure dumpster, or picnic leftovers in the back yard by the grill. The bear will remember and return, even years later.

They also have regular routes they travel. People may see the same animal at different times on different days, but if it’s found a place to forage, it will come back. And they will eat everything, vegetable or meat, sometimes deer, roadkill or just poke



This black bear was a visitor to Glasgow Road at the Cooley yard. Several year ago. File photo

around for new green growth in the spring.

Later in the season, they will feast in a vegetable garden, then hunt down berries. So until the advent of colder winter months arrive, the bears are with us.

Black bears are black

overall with a brown muzzle and sometimes a white chest patch. Their feet are large and well-padded with moderate-sized, curved claws. Male black bears generally range in weight from 130 to 600 pounds and females from 100 to 400 pounds.

Volunteers sought to fill vacancies

BLANDFORD – There are multiple openings on boards, committees and commissions that provide assistance to the town.

The Board of Health is looking for anyone interested in volunteering as burial agent for the town. This is a volunteer position and is appointed by the Board of Health. Anyone interested should contact that board by

emailing boh@townofblandford.com.

There are also openings for the Finance Committee, Recreation Committee, Disabilities Commission and Cultural Council will all have open seats.

Anyone interested in any of these positions is encouraged to attend a scheduled

meeting, the meetings are all public meetings and open to all. People should email the Town Administrator at administrator@townofblandford.com, call 413-848-4279, extension 502 or send a letter of interest to the Select Board or Cristina Ferrera, Town Administrator, Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008.



Water Superintendent Gordon Avery with Steven Grondin and Mike McManus from Clarence Welti Associates at the site intended for the 250,000 gallon water tank. Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

Blandford Water Department receives One Step grant

BLANDFORD – As part of the new water storage tank project, bore holes were drilled on North Street opposite the pump house to check

location for the storage tank.

This spring the Water Department was awarded a reimbursable grant from the Massachusetts One Stop pro-

gram for \$350,000 for the engineering part of three projects on North Street, which includes the 250,000-gallon water storage tank.

from page 1

Board of Health

Board of Health member Jennifer Girard reviewed the water problem at Maple Lane and Russell Stage Road. The Water Department and Highway Department will address this.

Other business

Ferrera gave the board quotes for care and maintenance of Watson and Bicentennial parks; \$950 for Watson Park and \$700 for Bicentennial Park. LePage Landscaping from Springfield will care for the parks from May 25 through Nov. 25.

The board then signed the design phase contract with DRA for the library expansion project.

90 funds and procurement. Maintenance on the town’s fuel tanks will only increase unless something is done to correct any issues.

will be repositioned. There was a lengthy discussion of his goals and departmental goals again, narrowing the list. Training is forthcoming for Chapter

BLANDFORD

HIGHWAY AND WATER DEPARTMENTS REPAIR CULVERT



This is a view of the culvert work when approaching the work area on Russell Stage Road. *Turley photos by Mary Kronholm*



Highway and Water Departments worked to replace a culvert, which was causing water to flow down Russell Road.



The new culvert is now in place at Maple Lane on Russell Stage Road.

CHESTER



Tours will be held at the Historic Granite Saw property in Chester during Chester on Track Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. *Submitted photos*



This old photograph shows cut granite to be loaded into Boston and Albany Railroad cars at the siding in Chester.

Hilltown Hikers offer guided tours

STER – The Hilltown Hikers announce a day of open tours at their Historic Granite Saw property in Chester.

The tour guides will be at 7 Prospect St. across from the Historic Chester Railway Station from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is also a foot path entrance located across from Emery Ballfield on Emery Street. Historical tours are on a rolling basis with no need to register.

This property is in phase two of its cleanup and presentation to the public. The Chester Granite Saw is a stone cutting and finishing plant

established in 1870 in Historic Chester Factory Village. It was purchased by the current President of the Western Mass Hilltown Hikers in September 2023 and donated to that non-profit to conserve and historically preserve the entire mill operation.

It is open to the public dawn to dusk every day with a walking path that passes by the old buildings, machinery and the ten-foot diameter shot saw structure which is still standing today. The Hilltown Hikers and its volunteers are cleaning up this property after eighty years of abandonment by cutting back invasive spe-

cies, dead ash trees, fallen trees and eight to twelve inches of sediment that has covered its floors.

This project is one of a kind in Western Massachusetts as the first stone finishing plant in the area where granite and even on occasion, marble was brought to C throughout the country by rail on its own Boston and Albany siding, which visitors can see today. People may be a part of this historic project to be enjoyed by generations to come by donating or volunteering by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com.

JLBA to participate in Chester on Track Fair

CHESTER – Jacob’s Ladder Business Association welcomes vendors at their annual home show during the Chester on Track Fair

Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Registration is required for this outdoor open market. Spaces are 10’ by 10’

pre-marked and available on a first come first choice basis. Multiple spaces may be reserved by Saturday, May 10 by visiting www.JLBA.org.

Hamilton Memorial Library lists events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library will be open an extra hour on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., during the Chester on Track celebration.

The library will be holding their annual book and bake sale to raise funds for library programs. Volunteers are still needed to bake and staff the tables. People may call 413-354-7808 to sign up.

Local geology enthusiast, John Marge, will be available to answer questions on May 17 from noon-2 p.m. in the unique rock and mineral museum. Also special library guest presenter, Laurel Lenski of Intrinsic Movement will bring the fun and music to the Chester ball field at 1 p.m. Her event is generously funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The Hamilton Memorial Library wishes to thank guest reader, Maryanna Baldyga who read the story, “Mommy’s Little Sunflowers” by Angela McAllister and helped the children plant sunflowers as



Maryanna Baldyga read the story “Mommy’s Little Sunflowers” to children at the Hamilton Memorial Library and helped them plant sunflowers as a Mother’s Day gift. *Submitted photo*

Mother’s Day gifts.

People are invited to join the book club on Wednesday, May 21 at 4:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The club will discuss this month’s featured novel, “The Music Shop” by Rachel Joyce set in 1988 London. Extra copies are available.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Gateway students inducted into National Honor Society

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Dr. William Sullivan, Gateway Regional School Principal, announced 14 juniors were inducted into the Dana O. Webber Chapter of the National Honor Society on Wednesday, May 7. This marked the 61st induction ceremony for the school, which began at 6 p.m. in the Gateway Performing Arts Center.

Membership criteria is based on scholarship, leadership, service and character. Students must obtain an overall average of 88 or better and take at least three honors-level courses each year, with at least one per semester during sophomore, junior and senior years.

Leadership roles both in school and in the community are considered. Contributions to the school, classmates and the community must be demonstrated to meet the service criteria. Character must be exhibited through conduct and behavior at school, and include respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Meeting these attributes

and inducted were Jeffrey Antonellis, Bow Briggs, Theodore DeAngelis-Page, Kathryn Harding, Ana Holmes, Elizabeth Kadzik, Jake Marchbanks, Eliza Mueller, Lily Peloquin, Grace Renauld, Justin Rucki, Desmond St. Martin, Ashley Tacke and Michael Whitaker.

The ceremony included a welcome, remarks and introductions of senior members from Chapter Co-President Olivia MacIver. This was followed by the traditional candle lighting ceremony, with Cynthea Papillon lighting the candle of knowledge, Treasurer Evan Fogue the candle of character, Co-Vice President Jesse Balboni the candle of leadership, Secretary Benjamin Pritchard the candle of scholarship, and Co-Vice President Abigail Robbins the candle of service. MacIver then led the induction of the new members, which included lighting their candles and reciting the National Honor Society pledge, “I pledge myself to uphold the high purposes of the National Honor Society to which I have been selected, striving in every way by word and deed to make its



Shown are senior with stoles and junior members of the Dana O. Webber Chapter of the National Honor Society at Gateway Regional School. Fourteen new members were inducted on May 7.

Submitted photo

ideals of my school and my life.”

Senior member Madilyn Beneway also serves as Co-President. Gateway’s NHS Advisor is teacher Mrs. Taylor Simpson.

Senior members’ individual service projects were listed in the event program, and included helping at elementary field days, refereeing for GYAA, helping with the Gateway Education Foundation’s Trivia Night,

cleaning up local bike trails and volunteering at the Village Closet, Huntington Public Library, Granville Harvest Fair, Project 351, and Camp Shepard. Evan Fogue helped with the rehabilitation of Emery Park in Chester, which will be one of the venues for this year’s Chester on Track. Olivia MacIver served as a Baystate Noble Student Ambassador.

The juniors’ community service projects includ-

ed ADL training, road-side clean-ups, Project 351, the Village Closet, Huntington’s Veterans dinner, Ayrshire State Ambassador, National 4-H Conference MA Delegate, Wreaths Across America, volunteering at Baystate Noble Hospital, Chester on Track and area libraries.

Many of the students in both grades served as class officers, team captains and athletic team managers.

The Chapter also conducts group service projects, which included fundraising and deliveries for Hilltown Community Health Center’s Holiday Help, reading to elementary students on Dr. Seuss Day, and serving at the senior citizens breakfast and concert held March 6.

The Chapter is named for the Gateway’s first superintendent, when the Gateway Regional School District formed in the early 1960s.

Foreign exchange students seek local host families

ALEXANDRIA, VA – ASSE International Student Exchange Programs, a non-profit public benefit organization, is currently seeking warm and welcoming host families to open their homes to international exchange students for the upcoming school year.

Hosting an exchange student is a life-changing experience for families that fosters cultural understanding, builds lifelong friendships, while enriching local communities. Students, aged 15-18 years, come from over 60 countries around the world, including France, Japan, Italy, Denmark, Australia, Spain and many more. The students are carefully selected based on their academic performance, English proficiency and personal character, and they are eager to become part of an American family, attend a local high school and share their own traditions.

During their stay, ASSE exchange students immerse themselves in American

culture by living with and becoming part of a volunteer host family while attending a local high school. This experience allows them to improve their English skills, form lifelong friendships and gain a deeper understanding of American life and values. In return, host families and communities benefit from the unique perspectives and cultural exchange that these students bring.

“Being a host family isn’t just about providing a place to stay; it’s about making a student from another country part of the family,” says Lori Wichaël, ASSE Regional Director. “Many host families find that the experience is just as rewarding for them as it is for the student. The bonds formed often last a lifetime.” “Exchange students bring energy, curiosity, and fresh perspectives to their host families and communities. They attend local schools, participate in activities, and become a real family member.”

Host families provide a safe and supportive home, meals, and encouragement, while students come with their own spending money and health insurance, ensuring that hosting is a rewarding and enriching experience without financial burden. Anyone with a warm and welcoming home can host an exchange student. Host families come in many forms, including married couples (with or without children), single parents, young professionals, empty-nesters, same-sex couples and retirees.

ASSE also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

Families interested in hosting an exchange student or exploring study abroad opportunities are encouraged to learn more and apply by visiting www.host.asse.com, calling Lori Wichaël at 800-677-2773 or emailing east@asse.com.

Waverly KaneLong graduates

EAST STROUDSBURG, PA – Waverly KaneLong, of Blandford graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from East Stroudsburg

University on during undergraduate commencement exercises on May 10.

KaneLong’s degree was in early child education pre-kindergarten to grade 4.

East Stroudsburg University, a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, opened in 1893 as East Stroudsburg Normal School.

School Committee meeting changed

WORTHINGTON – The School Committee meeting has been changed from its regular scheduled meeting date

of the second Thursday of the month to Thursday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the R H Conwell School, 147 Huntington Road

in the library.

The change is due to a scheduling conflict this month.

HCC celebrates Phi Theta Kappa inductees

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College announces that 87 HCC students have been accepted for membership into the Alpha Xi Omega chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa national honor society for 2025.

Students are invited to join Phi Theta Kappa when they have completed 15 college credits while maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher. HCC’s 2025 inductees were celebrated during a campus celebration on

Monday, May 5.

Local students inductees are Isabella Gitana of Easthampton, Stien Kusuma of Easthampton, Lisa Miwa of Easthampton, Ariana Mei Aquilino of Florence, Staci Barrett of Lee, Sarah Belote of Northampton, Effie Fields of Northampton, Kerri Hammersley of Northampton, Devan Hudson-Rockwell of Northampton, Norma Mejia Ayala of Northampton, Olesya Bondar of

Southampton, Charles Little of Southampton, Cari Avalone of Westfield, Corrin Brockney of Westfield, Raven Carrasquillo of Westfield, Nicholas Couchon of Westfield, Laura Gilbert of Westfield, Elizabeth Hancharonak of Westfield, Lizmarie Jimenez Diaz of Westfield, Jelli Jones of Westfield, Nawal Langrial of Westfield, Michael Navarro of Westfield, Valentina Vincas of Westfield and Anna Hlava of Westhampton.

LENOX

The Mount hosts outdoor sculpture exhibition opening May 24

LENOX – The Mount, 2 Plunkett St., Edith Wharton’s Home, announces the return of its annual outdoor sculpture exhibition, opening Saturday, May 24.

Sculpture at The Mount showcases a dynamic mix of emerging and established artists, presenting a diverse array of works thoughtfully placed throughout the property’s idyllic woods, gardens and grounds.

The 2025 exhibition’s theme, “Movement,” brings together kinetic sculptures alongside works exploring personal transformation, cultural shifts, the passage of time and the rhythms of

nature. Visitors are encouraged to view the pieces from multiple perspectives-taking in texture, form, and color-and to observe how light and setting influence each sculpture’s presence. New this season, the exhibition follows a newly designed path that invites guests to explore deeper into The Mount’s tranquil woodlands, adding a sense of discovery to every step.

“There is great synergy between Wharton’s literary legacy and the compelling narratives expressed through contemporary sculpture,” said Susan Wissler, Executive Director of The

Mount. “For over a decade, we’ve used this exhibition to invite visitors to engage with and explore the intersection of art, stories, and nature in new and meaningful ways.”

Free and open to the public daily, Sculpture at the Mount has become a must-visit cultural destination for art lovers and collectors alike. Last year’s show welcomed more than 55,000 visitors.

This year, The Mount continues to expand its programming with artist-led tours, hands-on workshops and family-friendly activities designed to deepen the visitor experience.

WILLIAMSBURG

Foundation of N.E.’s tallest recycled sculpture to be unveiled

WILLIAMSBURG – On Saturday, June 7 at 11 a.m., the public is invited to the Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., for the official reveal of the base of what will become New England’s tallest recycled sculpture, created by renowned metal sculptor James Kitchen.

The unveiling will feature the installation of three massive girders, each weighing 3,600 pounds, salvaged from the historic 1895 Springfield Armory Drill shed. These graceful, riveted steel truss-

es-built before welding was common, once stood where Civil War veterans marched under and were rescued after the devastating 2011 tornado that struck Springfield.

The sculpture’s foundation is part of a larger 42-foot-tall work honoring regional history, ingenuity and resilience. The final design includes a towering globe formed from countless recycled tools and artifacts, most invented or manufactured in New England from ice tongs and horse-

shoes to railroad spikes and arrowheads.

A Revolutionary War-era cannonball near the top of the spire will serve as a tribute to George Washington’s time in New England and the historic role in the birth of the nation.

Artist James Kitchen will be on-site to give a brief talk at 11 a.m. A large-scale 3D-printed model of the completed sculpture will also be on display, offering visitors a glimpse of the full vision to come.



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LEE

Hilltown Hikers hold group hike to Upper Goose Pond

LEE – Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers will hold a group hike on Saturday, May 24 at 10 a.m. to the Appalachian Trail to Goose Pond Cabin, approximately four hours.

Participants should park at Jacob's Ladder Scenic Byway and Appalachian Trail Parking Area, Route 20 in Lee. The hike rating is moderate plus, 4.5 miles in and back with 450 feet of elevation gain

with options for less.

They will hike through Tyringham and Lee to the remote and beautiful Upper Goose Pond. The group will hike on bog bridges, pass an old saw mill and hike along the Greenwater Pond Dam and cross the now defunct Huckleberry Trolley Line to the Massachusetts Turnpike. They will climb the first of two spiral ramps accessing the footbridge that takes the

Appalachian Trail across the Mass Pike (I-90).

The bridge also serves as a route for snowmobiles in the winter and soon there will be a new animal crossing bridge here.

After crossing the upper bridge, they will climb until they reach the boundary of the Goose Pond Natural Area 0.9 miles from the parking area. This area preserves the land surrounding Upper Goose

Pond in an undeveloped state. There will be rock steps, mountain laurel and roots on this section. The group will reach the junction with the ½ mile blue-blazed access trail to Upper Goose Pond Cabin, owned by the National Parks Service.

The cabin is a popular destination for through hikers offering a pancake breakfast by the volunteer AMC caretaker from mid-May to

mid-October. They will enjoy the views of both Lower and Upper Goose Pond from the cabin and then return back.

They will hike rain or shine. Registration is required. People should register per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water is provided. Well behaved dogs are allowed. The event is volunteer lead. Suggested donation is \$15.

More details are available by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com. People may call/text 413-302-0312 or email westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com if they have any questions. As always be prepared for rocks, mud and roots, bring trekking poles.

For those that want to hike every weekend year-round join the Western Mass. Hilltown Hikers by visiting www.HilltownHikers.com.

OTIS

COA offers stroke and First Aid classes

OTIS – The Council on Aging will hold a stroke awareness class on Monday, May 19 at 1 p.m. in the Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road. The instructor is Chrissy Humason; Baystate Noble with the partnership of Borderland Partners LLC provides the class. It is open to everyone. People may call the Council on Aging at 413-269-

0100, extension 5.

The COA will hold a First Aid class on Monday, June 23 at 11:30 a.m. in the Otis Town Hall. The class is open to everyone. Community Health Training Solutions offers the class and John Muglia is lead instructor. People should call Otis COA for more information at 413-269-0100, Extension 5.

Otis to hold Town Election on May 27

OTIS – The town will hold their Annual Town Election on Tuesday, May 27 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

The only contest on the ballot is for a one year term as Tree Warden. Candidates are John (Jack) Conboy, candidate for reelection and Derek Poirier. Larry Southard is running for a three year term as Select Person and Lyn M. O'Brien is running for a three year

term as Town Clerk, both candidates for reelection.

David Sarnacki is a candidate for reelection to a one year term as Moderator. Jill E. Moretz is a candidate for a three year term as Assessor.

On the ballot are Bruce A. Wall, candidate for reelection for a three year term as Cemetery Commissioner; James Crandall Sr. for two year

term to Finance Board and Susan Bauer-Brofman for a three year term to Finance Board.

Other candidates are Susan Bauer-Brofman, candidate for reelection three year term as Library Trustee; John Fletcher two year term to Planning Board and Gordon Middleton five year term to Planning Board.

There is also one

question on the ballot that reads, "Shall the town of Otis be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay all related costs for designing, constructing and furnishing an addition and connector to the Highway Garage, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto?"

PITTSFIELD

Pittsfield receives low interest clean water loan and grant

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Board of Trustees approved \$75,365,008 in new low-interest loans and grants at its meeting on May 7.

The Trust, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, helps communities build or replace water infrastructure that enhances ground and surface water resources, ensures the safety of drinking water, protects public health and develops resilient communities. It accom-

plishes these objectives by providing low-interest loans and grants to cities, towns and water utilities through the Massachusetts State Revolving Funds.

The SRF programs are partnerships between the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. SRFs function like an environmental infrastructure bank by financing water infrastructure projects in cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

Pittsfield received as part of the Clean Water projects a loan of \$1,299,759 at 2% interest rate for Pittsfield Integrated Water Resources Management Plan

For more information on the different loan programs, people may visit the SRF Programs page at <https://www.mass.gov/srf-programs> and for more information on the Loan Forgiveness Program, they may visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/the-disadvantaged-community-loan-forgiveness-program>.

Artist sought for mural

PITTSFIELD – The Pittsfield Let It Shine Public Art Partnership seeks an artist to co-create a new mural to be located at the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Intermodal Center located at 1 Columbus Avenue.

This call is open to 2D artists, currently enrolled or recent graduates of high school or college, living in or going to school in Pittsfield.

The selected artist will work alongside mentor artist, Jesse Tobin McCauley, to develop and execute a 20 foot wide x 6 foot high mural. This mural opportunity is intended to foster the next generation of mural artists in the City of Pittsfield. A \$2,000 stipend will be awarded to the artist and supplies will be provided by the Let It Shine! Public Art Partnership.

The application (available in English and Spanish) opened on Tuesday, May 6 and closes on Sunday, June 1 at 11:59 p.m. The selected artist will be notified via email on Monday, June 16. The mural must be created and executed by the selected artist, alongside the mentor artist, by Monday, July 28. The completed mural will be unveiled during the Aug.

1 First Fridays at Five.

The artist will be selected based on the quality of their artistic composition, execution and creativity, and the overall impression of their submitted art. Applicants may submit up to 10 images of two-dimensional visual artwork, and the art submitted does not have to be mural work specifically. The selected artist must work in tandem with the mentor artist to develop a concept that will be cohesive with the Intermodal Train Station location and with the current murals, "Welcome to Pittsfield" and "The Best Culture is Your Roots." The selected artist will be the lead on painting with the mentor artist serving as a guide and assistant.

The online artist application in English can be found at <https://forms.gle/9DgMDAtfB14MBnX-WA>

The online artist application in Spanish can be found by visiting <https://forms.gle/B4UxpKzMIJpM9zer7>

The Let It Shine mission is rooted in making art accessible to all, building confidence in Pittsfield, and creating stronger ties between residents and their downtown. The

Let It Shine! Public Art Partnership is a group of Pittsfield-based community members from Downtown Pittsfield, Inc./Downtown Pittsfield Cultural Association (fiscal agent), City of Pittsfield Office of Cultural Development, Pittsfield Artists in Residence: Huck Elling and Jesse Tobin McCauley, and Mill Town Foundation who have formed to organize public art and revitalization on North Street, empowered by organizing efforts through MassDevelopment's TDI. MassDevelopment's Transformative Development Initiative (TDI) is a program for Gateway Cities designed to accelerate economic growth within focused districts.

Let It Shine! expresses gratitude for support from its major 2025 sponsors: Mill Town Foundation, Lee Bank, Feigenbaum Foundation, TDI Local funding from MassDevelopment's Transformative Development Initiative, and the Pittsfield Cultural Council. An additional thank you is extended to the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority for their partnership on this project.

Spring cleanup date postponed

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. will host a Downtown Pittsfield Spring Cleanup will be on Friday, May 30 from noon-4 p.m.

DPI's Downtown Pittsfield Cleanups are good-natured competitions between local companies and individuals supporting an important part of DPI's mission to keep downtown clean, safe, and friendly. This year over 250 volun-

teers representing over two dozen local businesses and organizations will take to the streets for this annual event. The date change was due to rain on Friday, May 9.

The Downtown Cleanup area includes North and South Street between East and West Housatonic Streets and Berkshire Medical Center and all side streets. The following awards will be present-

ed by a panel of judges to 4 deserving Cleanup teams at an Awards Ceremony at WANDER Berkshires after the Cleanup: Little Litter Busters, Crushed Soda Can, Golden Trash Bag, and the Dream Team Cleaners.

For more information on the Downtown Pittsfield Cleanup and Pittsfield Clean Up Day, people may visit downtownpittsfield.com or call Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. at 413-443-6501.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

REGION

AAA urges increased vigilance for motorcycles driving on the roads

WESTWOOD – As warm weather finally graces the Northeast, everyone is getting out more including motorcyclists.

Unfortunately, this brings a sharp increase in fatal crashes involving motorcycles. A AAA Northeast analysis of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data from the last decade found that almost 60% of motorcyclist fatalities occur between May and September.

The last 10 years of NHTSA data shows motorcycle fatalities spiking by over 32% from April to May, when many motorcyclists begin taking advantage of consistently warmer temperatures.

Motorcyclist fatalities in the U.S. continue to trend dangerously upward. There were 6,335 motorcyclists killed in 2023, representing 15% of all traffic fatalities, according to NHTSA. This was the highest number of motorcyclists killed since at least 1975, the earliest year of available data.

"The continued increase in motorcyclist fatalities is especially troubling given that most categories of traffic fatalities decreased from 2022 to 2023, while motorcyclist deaths continued their dangerous climb," said Mark Schieldrop, senior spokesperson for AAA Northeast. "As we all take to the roads more frequently during warmer weather, drivers must keep

in mind that staying alert and aware is critical to improving safety, especially as motorcycles can be more difficult to see because of their size."

In Massachusetts, there were 65 fatal crashes involving motorcycles in 2024, according to the Massachusetts IMPACT data portal.

AAA offers the following tips for drivers.

Increase following distance and take extra care when driving behind a motor, especially when stopping or accelerating.

Carefully check mirrors and blind spots for motorcycles, which are less visible than other vehicles on the road.

If a motorcyclist has

their turn signal on, wait to make sure they actually turn before passing them. The turn signals on many motorcycles do not turn off automatically, so there's a chance they could be activated from an earlier turn.

Never drive distracted. At 55 mph, taking your eyes off the road for just five seconds is equivalent to driving the length of an entire football field blindfolded.

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing nearly 6.8 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, financial and auto-related services.



PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF BLANDFORD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to MGL, Ch. 40A Sec. 9 the Blandford Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Blandford Town Offices, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 at **6:05pm on Wednesday, June 4, 2025**. This hearing is scheduled under the

following Blandford Zoning By-Laws: Section VIII – Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Section IX – Site Plan Review and Special Permits. The Hearing is to consider the application for a request for a Site Plan Review and Special Permit for Peebles Brook, LLC, solar photovoltaic installation with battery energy storage sys-

tem, located at 89 Chester Road (Map 108, Parcel 19.1) in Blandford, MA 01008.

The Project proposes the construction of a 4.04 megawatt (MW) direct current (DC) single-axis tracking solar photovoltaic (PV) installation with a battery energy storage system (BESS). The project will involve construction of a gravel

access road and minor grading for stormwater management features on 32.6 acres, that is currently zoned as Agricultural.

The completed application and plans are available for public inspection at the Town Offices or on the Town of Blandford's website: townofblandford.com.

You may also make an appointment to view a hard copy of these forms at the Town Hall by e-mailing the Planning Board Chair at planning@townofblandford.com.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should join the virtual meeting as outlined above or e-mail the chair at: planning@townofblandford.com. Please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008. Failure to make recommendations on the matter for review shall be deemed lack of opposition thereto.

Paul Martin, Chair
Blandford Planning Board
05/15, 05/22/25

Town of Huntington Conservation Commission
The Huntington Conservation Commission will hold a pub-

lic hearing on **May 21, 2025 at 7:30PM** at the Town Hall to review a Request for Determination submitted by Kipp Callahan of VHB on behalf of CSX Transportation, Inc. The proposed activity is to conduct vegetation management along the railroad using herbicides as allowed by 333 CMR 11.00 Rights of Way Management. This hearing is in accordance with M.G. L. Chapter 131 Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act. 05/15/2025

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

Town of Huntington Conservation Commission

The Huntington Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing during their next meeting scheduled on **May 21, 2025 at 7:15 pm** in the Town Hall to consider an Amended Order of Conditions for a Notice of Intent submitted by Salvini Associates, LLC, representing Jonathan Groff. The proposed amendment to the previously approved minor site work within the riverfront at 38 Russell Road is for a water line upgrade. This hearing is in accordance with M.G. L. Chapter 131 Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act. 05/15/2025

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day,
PUBLIC NOTICES & CLASSIFIEDS
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than **NOON**
Thursday, May 22
– Thank you!

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54		55				56			57	58	59
60					61					62	
63					64				65		
66					67				68		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Two-person German submarine
6. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
9. Database management system
13. Vertical position
14. American jazz singer Irene
15. Ancient Greek City
16. Former Senate Majority Leader Harry
17. Japanese seaport
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks
21. Beloved type of cigar
22. Discounts
23. Cambodian communist leader Pot
24. Important football position
25. Kilometers per hour
28. Lentil
29. Extremely angry
31. Yellow-flowered

33. American state
36. Some are made by rabbits
38. Express with a head movement
39. Affair
41. Cured
44. Youth organization
45. 18-year astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. Focus a shot
49. The NFL's big game (abbr.)
51. Mouth
52. Infections
54. Curved pieces of a horse collar
56. Shameless
60. Assist in escaping
61. Capuchin monkey genus
62. Cold wind
63. Retired Brazilian NBAer
64. Tropical Old World tree
65. Bulgarian city

66. Speak indistinctly
 67. Soviet Socialist Republic
 68. Between-meal sustenance
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Not soft
 2. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
 3. Line a roof
 4. Greek god of the underworld
 5. Software
 6. Large-headed elongated fishes
 7. Shag rugs
 8. Type of whale
 9. Lacking a plan
 10. Spill the beans
 11. Some is "heavy"
 12. One who has been canonized
 14. Indicate times
 17. Greeting
 20. Broadway actor Josh
 21. Seashore
 23. Indicates before

25. Electrical power unit
26. Destitute
27. Drags forcibly
29. Impropriety
30. Word forms
32. Equal to 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Computer language
37. Practice of aging film or TV characters (abbr.)
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. A promise
43. Challenges
47. Official
49. People living in Myanmar
50. Notable tower
52. Type of sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Listing
56. Summertime insects
57. Concluding passage
58. Guitarist Clapton
59. Damp and musty
61. Central nervous system
65. Against

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you soon find yourself pushing forward with great determination. Your drive is unstoppable, but tread carefully and respectfully in the pursuit of greatness.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Introspection is paramount right now, Taurus. You may find yourself reflecting on your values, goals and personal growth. This week there are chances to change.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21

Gemini, right now is a good time to collaborate with others, whether at work or in personal projects. Use any time this week to your advantage to attend social events.

CANCER

June 22/July 22

Put your long-term goals in focus this week, Cancer. Start thinking about where you would like your career to go. You'll certainly feel driven to make progress.

LEO

July 23/Aug 23

Adventure is the name of the game for you right now, Leo. Whether it is travel, higher learning or other new experiences, you just may soon break free of your routine.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

This is a week when practicality and organization will be your friends, Virgo. You will likely feel a need to get things in order. If you have any outstanding debts, tackle them now.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, the spotlight is on you for the time being. You are feeling more confident and ready to take charge of your destiny. Personal growth may come by way of a job promotion.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you may be drawn to more quiet, intimate moments with your partner this week. This is a great time for reflection and connection for the both of you.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, expect to meet new people or form bonds with others who share similar interests and goals this week. Community-based projects may draw your attention.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

This week the focus will be on your career, Capricorn. You'll feel more motivated than ever to achieve your goals, but it will take a lot of hard work to get there.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you might feel more connected to your spiritual side right now and want to seek knowledge or inspiration in areas like philosophy. Take every opportunity to learn and grow.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, now is a good time to focus on your financial situation and make some changes for your security and personal growth. Your intuition will guide you.

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

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

K	V	N	S	R	S	R	U	T	S				
N	I	D	I	A	W	E	N	E	N				
V	H	O	R	S	U	B	E	C	T	E	R	V	
C	D	C	E	V	E	R	B	W	M	W	H		
S	E	R	O	S	O	V	S	M	A	B	S		
W	I	V	R	V	C	S	O	R	V	S			
V	C	W	A	D	O	A	V	O	C	O			
T	S	A	R	T	O	O	N	S	E	T	O	H	
V	T	O	S	E	N	N	I	W	G	D	V	O	M
T	E	T	V	E	I	T	L	D	H	P	K		
T	L	T	O	P	S	E	T	V	S				
N	V	B	U	C	S	E	T	V	G	E	T	E	D
I	L	V	S	I	V	K	S	D	I	E	R		
V	E	T	E	E	A	V	E	A	V	E	P		
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9	7	3	6	8	1	2	4	5
6	4	5	2	1	4	5	6	3
6	2	8	4	7	5	1	6	3
2	9	5	3	4	1	4	6	7
3	8	9	6	5	7	4	1	2
4	1	7	8	6	2	5	3	9
8	5	2	7	4	6	3	9	1
7	3	4	1	2	9	6	5	8
1	6	5	3	8	7	2	4	9

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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Rob Hoogs of the Monterey Historical Society stands on the porch of the historical Bidwell House.



The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers inspect the site of the Malcolm McCullum homestead.



Rob Hoogs stands by the historic maps on display including the Knox Trail at the Bidwell House Carriage House.

Hikers explore Bidwell House Museum

The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers Saturday monthly group hike was to Bidwell House Museum.

Outside the house tour was narrated by Rob Hoogs of the Monterey Historical Society. The rain did not keep anyone away from Hoogs' historic story telling of the property taking them to cellar holes and colonial roads off the main trails.

The 1734 colonial settlement includes a Meeting House, many roads and mills. Township No. 1 was one of four townships chartered by the Massachusetts General Court in 1734 for settlement. The land for the four townships; Tyringham (and Monterey), New Marlborough, Sandisfield

and Becket, plus province land that became Otis was "bought" from the Native Americans for £360.

The townships were laid out along the "Great Road," the old Indian Path between Westfield and North Sheffield (Great Barrington). A branch road split off to run to Indiantown (Stockbridge).

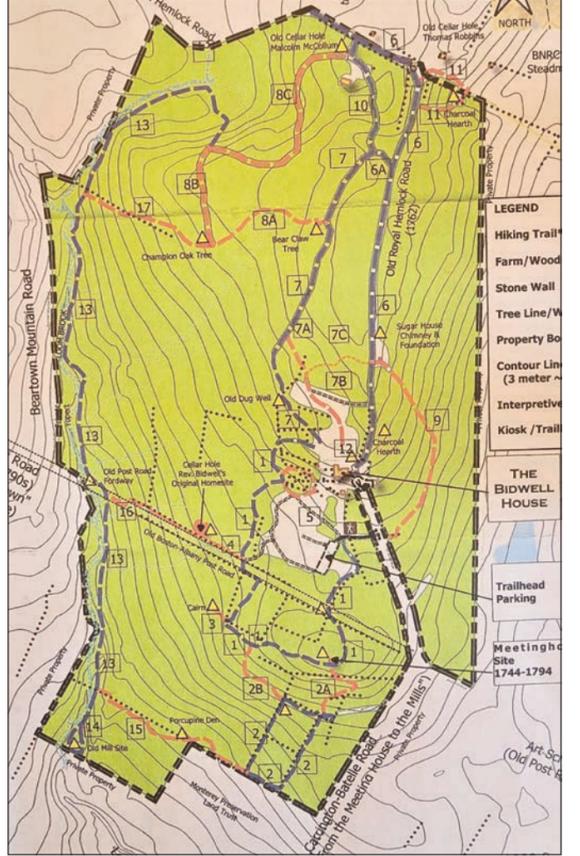
The early colonists, called "Proprietors," surveyed and subdivided the township into 64 home lots and about 250 other lots. As hard as it is to believe today, the Bidwell House was the center of the planned township, containing the first Meeting House, the original site for Grist and Saw Mills, one of the main "highways," a lot reserved for a school and lots reserved for the

First and Second Ministers to the township.

Roads were laid out, cleared and graded; home sites cleared and homes built, fields cleared and "English Grass" and grain crops were planted. The Meeting House building was built; mills were constructed, further downstream

at what is now Monterey Village. By 1750, about 30 families were living in town.

A big thank you to Rob Hoogs and the Bidwell House Museum. People should plan for a full day of exploring here and visit the website at Bidwellhousemuseum.org for programs offered.



This map shows the Bidwell House site.



This is a photo of the original Bidwell house.



This marker, erected in 1926, marks the site of the First Church in the original town of Tyringham.

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