

"It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."
 — Abraham Lincoln

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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Meredyth Babcock, representing Wild & Scenic Westfield River, paddled down the parade route with a fish in hand. Moore photos on page 12.

Modern and antique cars took part in the parade, including this antique steam-engine tractor.



Turley Publications by Wendy Long

Martha and George Washington stopped for lunch at the Blue Caboose at the Chester Railway Station.

Chester on Track celebrates 35 years

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Dream season becomes nightmare

By Wendy Long
 Correspondent

What if your varsity baseball team went nearly undefeated this season yet failed to make the Western Mass Tournament?

That's the reality for Gateway Regional School's

team this year. According to Coach Deryck Savoy, his team's runs for and against differential is the highest in the state for 2026. But the district's decision to no longer fund any non-league games created a schedule

SEASON, page 11



Turley Publications photo by Wendy Long

Gateway senior catcher Theo DeAngelis-Page and sophomore pitcher Weston Anderson weigh in on their baseball team being unable to play in the tournament.

HUNTINGTON

New selectman guest at May 20 meeting

By Wendy Long
 Correspondent

The town of Huntington's newest Select Board member, Robert Drabiuk attended his first meeting on Wednesday, May 20.

While his term won't officially start until July 1, Select Board Chairman Roger Booth invited him to meetings in the interim, as a means of becoming familiar with current proceedings.

Both thanked Drabiuk for attending and congratulated him on winning the election. With 113 votes, Drabiuk defeated incumbent William Hathaway (85 votes) in the town election held on Saturday, May 9.

Drabiuk thanked Booth for the warm welcome and said he was looking forward to working with them. At a later point in the meeting that involved reading multiple pages of meeting minutes, Drabiuk quipped, "I know there's a learning curve but I didn't realize speed reading was part of it."

Selectmen Bill Hathaway and John

McVeigh were both present. Town Clerk Michelle Fieldstad-Booth took minutes in the absence of the Town Administrator.

In a meeting that was largely dedicated to going through the line item budget and reviewing the Annual Town Meeting warrant articles with the Finance Committee, a different item may be of the greatest interest to area residents.

Liquor license application



Robert Drabiuk

A legal notice has been written up and sent to area newspapers announcing a public hearing regarding a liquor license application for the River House Bar & Grill at 200 Worthington Road, doing business as The Rapids Restaurant.

The long-closed restaurant has been the subject of a great deal of speculation, anticipated openings that ultimately fell through and rampant rumors throughout the community. The public hearing on this will be held in Stanton Hall on June 3, 2026 at 5 p.m. This is

SELECTMAN, page 2

BLANDFORD

Three candidates vie for Select Board seat

By Mary Kronholm
 Correspondent

This is a first in recent history for an election contest with three candidates on the ballot for Select Board seat.

The Gateway Regional School District Committee candidate took out nomination papers for this election. There is still an open seat for Blandford on the committee. In order to fill this seat, someone must express interest in serving and meet with the Select Board and a current school committee member to be appointed to serve the unexpired term through 2027.

Bradley Curry

Bradley Curry began his career working for the Highway Department in 2005.

After a year, the superintendent position opened and with encouragement from residents he put his application in. He was selected to be superintendent, initially serving as interim.

Learning the rules and regulations was a process. "Coming from the private sector to public employment was, he said, "a big change."

"I had to learn a lot about the rules and regulations being a superintendent and had good mentors," he said and cited Kathy Stevens of



Bradley Curry
 Candidate for Select Board



Cara Letendre
 Candidate for re-election Select Board



Corrine Shartrand
 Candidate for Select Board

the Mass. Department of Transportation and the Berkshire County Highway Superintendents Association.

I learned a lot in those years. I reached out to the state, to the Attorney General for procurement and different facets of laws and how they affected highway departments. I learned about municipal responsibilities and municipal boundaries.

"It fascinated me to see the difference from private sector to municipal. I tried to learn as much as I could to make my job easier and be better," he said.

He also served on the Emergency Management team with Fire Chief Don Carpenter. "It was just the two of us at the time," he said.

Other positions Curry has held in Blandford include serving as Water Commissioner on several different boards; he said, "The current board has been one of the best," and going

forward the board wants to have a better quality of water.

His goal has been metered water use, but the project has been beleaguered with problems. "I am anxious to fix the meter issues."

He was a constable for about 12 years, served as Tree Warden and has been Highway Superintendent and Tree Warden in Sandisfield and Huntington's Highway Superintendent. Serving different select boards, he has "had the experience of seeing some things are successful and sometimes not."

Curry said he believes he is qualified to be a select board member because he knows where to go to find out how to correct issues.

His vision for the town is to see the town as a "wonderful community to live in, to raise children, to retire to." He added, "I would like to see the town

CANDIDATES, page 7

BLANDFORD

Candidates night draws discussion

By Mary Kronholm
 Correspondent

Considerable discussion revolved around the upcoming Meet the Candidates Night set for Tuesday, June 2 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The event was put together by George Reichert. According to Reichert he followed a model created by the League of Women Voters.

According to their website, "The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy." There is no political affiliation.

The town has no part in the organization of this event nor is it town sponsored according to Reichert.

All of the candidates on the ballot were invited and should respond to him. To date, (May 19) he has had no comment, questions or contact from the candidates or anyone else.

This is not the first time there has been a "Meet the Candidates" event in Blandford.

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HUNTINGTON



This sea glass frame crafted at a recent workshop sponsored by the Huntington Recreation Committee features whales. Submitted photos

This sea glass frame features sea gulls. Participants enjoyed the class so much, they requested a repeat class in the fall.

Recreation Committee hosts sea glass event

A movie night happens on Saturday, May 30

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Recreation Committee recently held a sea

glass event at Stanton Hall, with 25 participants making frames filled with personalized creations.

It was so well received attendees asked for the com-

mittee to host another one in the fall.

The next event from the committee is movie night on Saturday May 30 at 6 p.m. Admission is free and open to

the public.

The movie is the “2023 Super Mario Bros Movie.” Attendees are welcome to bring comfy chairs, sleeping bags, pillows etc to lay on the

floor and watch the movie.

There will be small snacks provided, but attendees are welcome to bring their dinner, drinks and snacks.



Public library announces upcoming June news and programs

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Director Amanda Loisel announces the calendar of activities at the Huntington Public Library, 7 East Main St., for June.

All events are free and open to the public. Advance registration is required for the block printing workshop and game night if participants want pizza.

People may look at the new plantings on library grounds when they visit.

On Thursday, June 4 at 4

p.m., the library’s Book Club will meet to discuss May’s read “Before the Coffee Gets Cold” by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. The Book Club will be on hiatus for the summer and reconvene in September.

A two-part block printing workshop will be offered on Saturdays, June 13 and June 20 at noon. There are eight spots available. Those interested should register by visiting huntingtonpubliclibrary.org to ensure that space is available. People will learn basic techniques for carving their own 4” x 6”

or 8” x 10” prints.

As usual, the library offers story hours for children of all ages on Mondays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. The Friends of the Huntington Public Library also sponsor a monthly Family Playgroup that will gather on Monday, June 15 at 10:30 a.m. This group has no affiliation with HCHC’s Family Center group.

Two other book clubs meet this month. The Book Swap Club will meet on Tuesday, June 9 at 4:30 p.m.

Instead of everyone reading the same book, the

Book Swap Club is a chance for people to discuss books that they recommend to others.

The bi-monthly Cookbook Club will meet on Thursday, June 25 at 5 p.m. This month’s theme is “colorful foods.” People should dig through their favorite cookbooks or online resources, prepare a colorful dish and bring it in for a potluck meal.

Coworking Coffee Hours will be held on Wednesdays, June 10 and June 24 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.. Remote workers and stu-

dents or, really, anyone with some work to get done are invited to come in for some camaraderie with others. The Keurig and tea pot will be on for added motivation.

June’s “crafternoon” will be held on Thursday, June 11 at 4 p.m. Participants bring in a craft project or choose from the library’s materials to get creative.

The following Thursday, June 18 is the monthly all-ages Game Night, also at 4 p.m. People may choose from the library’s own assorted games including

Pokémon, Scrabble, Twister, and many more or bring in their own to share with others.

Pizza will be served; people should register in advance by visiting huntingtonpubliclibrary.org to guarantee enough pizza for everybody.

Finally, save the date for “Huntington Adventurer’s Guild” summer reading kickoff, which will take place on Saturday, June 27 from 10 a.m.-noon. More details are coming out soon but be sure to mark on the calendars for this “don’t miss” event.

Council on Aging list events

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

Local author

Local author Steve Hamlin presents “How to Travel on \$50 a Day” on Wednesday, June 3 from 1-2 p.m. Games, summer birthdays and bingo takes place on Tuesday, June 9 from 1-3 p.m. Seniors play board games and enjoy free snacks.

Movie

The movie “Caddy Shack” will be shown on Wednesday, June 10 at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 17 from 1-2 p.m. is COA Planting Day. Seniors pot up baby plants to start summer off.

Music

Doug Pitteroff and

Santo Tomasine create beautiful music on Wednesday, June 24 from 2-3 p.m.

Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga takes place Wednesdays from 10-11:15 a.m. The fee is \$5 per class.

Blood Pressure Clinic and Tick-borne illness prevention presentation takes place Wednesday, June 10 from 1-2 p.m.

Brown bag programs

Thursdays in June “A Course in Miracles” is offered from 11:30 am-1 p.m. Brown bag program pickup is every third Friday from 10-11:00 a.m. Note : They can not “hold” bags, so people should come pick them up, thank you.

Memory Café

Memory Café is held weekly on Wednesday at 2 p.m. Presentations and music

events are open to cafe participants.

The weekly café provides seniors with activities while their caregivers participate in a support group. The café is open to all with and without memory issues.

The café is made possible by a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services through funding under the Federal Older Americans Act and by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Memory Cafe events are free and open to residents of any community. Free snacks are provided at all events. For more information, people may call Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283.

Historical Society to hold open house May 31

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Historical Society will be holding its first open house on Sunday May 31 from 1-4 p.m..

The one room schoolhouse holds a collection of books, documents, maps, artifacts, clothing, tools and other historical items. The Norwich Bridge Schoolhouse Museum is located at the corner of Worthington Road and Littleville Road.

SELECTMAN

from page 1

the first of several steps that have to be accomplished before the restaurant can reopen under its new owners.

Executive session

The board also went into executive session at 5:30 p.m. with Town Accountant Richard Buley “to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.”

Budget review

One of the longest agenda items was the aforementioned budget and warrant review with members of the town’s Finance Committee, walking through last minute numbers that had been updated or finalized since their previous meeting.

Finance Chair Eric Jensen and Bonnie Boguszewski were present with Andre Alguero attending remotely. Together they walked through the line item budget and warrant articles, with Booth explaining items proposed to be covered through free cash or stabilization accounts.

Vocational education costs were the hard hit for the town this year: 27 new students planned to attend Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, whose tuition went up this year.

Eight students were selected by lottery to Westfield Technical Academy, whose tuition went down. Vocational education costs for the town total \$786,000 next year; two thirds of the town’s certified free cash, totaling \$398,000, will go toward

vocational schools.

ATM and STM

Following discussion, Booth moved to accept the June 1 Annual Town Meeting warrant, which was approved unanimously. Special Town Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Stanton Hall. Annual Town Meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

Jensen reported that the Finance Committee will meet on May 27. Booth said they would be asked for their recommendations throughout the town meeting.

Other business

In other business, FY ‘27 re-appointments were reviewed and voted upon. The board made a number of decisions, including discontinuing the public safety complex work group and changing term lengths on a few appointments.

Votes had to be taken with care for conflicts of interest. As Deputy Fire Chief, McVeigh abstained from the Fire Chief appointment vote and from being named himself to the Memorial Day Committee. Booth abstained from his own appointment as the environmental certification officer and Franklin Regional Transit Authority representative, both for three years.

Booth and Hathaway each abstained from appointments related to their spouses: Michelle Fieldstad-Booth as an election worker, and Karon Hathaway as an election worker and planning board member for three years. All other appointments on the list were voted as a slate.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN END or RIB END ROAST..... \$2²² lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. SMOKED PORK SHOULDER PICNIC..... \$1⁹⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST..... \$2⁷⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. SLICED FROM OUR DELI KRAKUS HONEY HAM..... \$4⁴⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. SLICED FROM OUR DELI SWISS CHEESE..... \$4⁴⁴ lb</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">GREAT ON THE GRILL</p> <p>USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS..... \$3⁶⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STOREMADE FROZEN PORK TENDERLOIN..... \$2⁷⁹ ea</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE STEAKS..... \$10⁴⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF CHUCK STEAKS..... \$6⁵⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF..... \$5²⁹ 5 LB BAG</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN TENDERS TRAY PAK..... \$1⁷⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BONE-IN CHICKEN THIGHS 10 LB. BAG..... \$1³⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN SARA LEE CHOCOLATE CREAM PIE 19.6 OZ. ea..... \$4⁹⁹</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN GOLDEN HARVEST SHRIMP TOAST w/FISH 10.5 OZ. \$2⁹⁹ ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN AT SEA JONAH CRAB CLAWS COOKED... \$6⁹⁹ lb</p>
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