

"My Best Friend is a person who will give me a book I have not read." – Abraham Lincoln

# Country Journal

*Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns*



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

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## CHESTER

# Students continue *flag tradition*

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

CHESTER – “This is a deeply rooted tradition,” noted fourth grade teacher Heather Cabral, who has been part of this service project since 1996. That was Cabral’s first year in teaching and she was assigned, at that time, to the former Blandford Elementary School.

Cabral, third grade teacher Mikayla Menin and fifth grade teacher Amy Provost had invited Chester Elementary School (CES) in grades 3, 4 and 5 to place new flags at the graves of military veterans at the Hill Cemetery (also known as the Centre Cemetery) located across from the Blandford Fair Grounds, and an older cemetery located near the highway department on Route 23. Students were driven by their parents in the afterschool service project.

Students had studied the formation of “Decoration Day” during the Civil War, where the graves of Union soldiers were decorated with flowers to honor those who had died for their country. Over time, the recognition was adopted by various states and, in 1968, was officially renamed Memorial Day and recognized as a National Holiday to honor all who died fighting in the armed services, in any war.

Doug Emo, a veteran who serves as the Inspector of Veterans’ Graves for the Town of Blandford, was a guest speaker at the school the day before the event. He supplied the flags for the project and explained how older flags are removed and discarded by bringing them to the Marine Corps League in Westfield where they are part of a ceremony.

TRADITION, page 2



All three of mom Kendra Gregerson’s boys took part in the flag replacement project. Shown from left, Aden Carrol, Collin Cruess and Gavin Gregersen with their mom at the Hill Cemetery.

Photo by Wendy Long

## HUNTINGTON

# Ambulance issue tackled

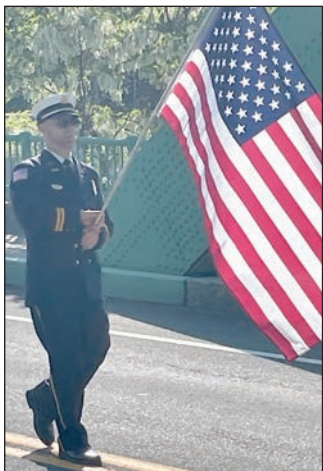
By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

During a lengthy meeting on Wednesday, May 24, the Huntington Select Board tackled pressing issues involving the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association and updated budget issues required for the Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting on Monday, June 5.

John Garriepy, liaison for the town to HCAA, gave an update on the ambulance service’s request for additional funding for FY 24, beyond

AMBULANCE, page 3

## HUNTINGTON OBSERVES MEMORIAL DAY



John McVeigh carries the American Flag in the Huntington Memorial Day parade.



Emma Peloquin rides in the antique fire truck driven by Chipper Dazelle.



Left to right Assistant Chief Steven Graydon, Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger and Captain Ryan Foley of Huntington Fire Department. More photos on page 3.

Photos by Wendy Long

## BLANDFORD

# Sun shines down on Memorial Day

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

A picture-perfect day for all the events on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29.

The parade left the Town Hall parking lot at 11 a.m. under the direction of Douglas Emo, who has been doing the event for over 20 years.

Paraders included Police, Fire, both Blandford and Russell, Town Administrator Christopher Dunne, Select Board Chair Cara Letendre, Veterans, the Civil Air Patrol U. S. Air Force Auxiliary, the Gateway Regional School District Band, the Highway Department, Jim Worley’s 1963 vintage vehicle, the Blandford Country Club golf carts, Betty Decheneau’s 1990 red pickup truck and equestrians.

Emo was the Master of Ceremonies at Veterans’ Park at Town Commons. Fallyn Brady led the crowd of onlookers in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Gateway Band performed patriotic selections and Kyle Mangini and Jeff Lynch’s Woodford Way sang related folk tunes.

Michael Wojcik and

Thomas Huntoon placed the wreath at the Knox Memorial monument. In concluding the day’s observations, Matthew Nowak raised the American Flag to full staff followed by taps and an echo taps by Gateway trumpeters Rachel Austin, followed by Vera Hollowell Charlotte Hansen.

The Historical Society was open to visitors as parade goes headed down the hill to Watson Park and the Town Hall for the annual Recreation Committee sponsored picnic.

When one of the grillers was asked how many hamburgs had been consumed, the response was, “All of them.”

Recreation Committee Chief of Oversight Joann Martin assisted by Keri Morawiec said 125 hot dogs, 150 – more or less) hamburgs, and 50 sausages had all been eaten along with gallons of iced tea and lemonade along with ten pounds of both pasta salad and potato salad, miscellaneous fruits and lots of desserts. Chuck Benson organized a scavenger hunt for the younger set, complete with prizes.

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Fallyn Brady leads the Pledge of Allegiance. Photo by Mary Kronholm



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## HILLTOWNS

### Firefighters taking RIT course

For the second year in a row, the Fire Chiefs of the Hampshire Hilltowns, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield, Williamsburg and Worthington, are again sponsoring a Rapid Intervention Team course at various locations in the Hilltowns.

Fire Captain Alex Kassell of the Chesterfield/Williamsburg Fire Departments is the lead instructor for the course, also for the second year. He is being assisted by members of the Colrain Fire Department as well as graduates of last year's course.

Twelve firefighters and fire officers of multiple departments (Chesterfield, Goshen, Plainfield, Savoy and Williamsburg) are working through the eight-week training program. The course follows the format presented by the Massachusetts Fire Academy and includes extensive Self Contained Breathing Apparatus use, self-rescue techniques as well as use of multiple fire rescue tools to assist RIT crews with rescuing a trapped firefighter.

As fire departments throughout the Commonwealth are relying on mutual



Firefighters in the RIT course practice using SCBA. Submitted photos

aid support more and more, this training is allowing the Hilltown fire departments to work closer together, now more critical than ever before.

### MassDOT announces road work

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting overnight paving operations and bridge and guardrail repair work on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Montgomery, Russell, Becket and Lee.

The scheduled work will require some lane and shoulder closures. In Montgomery and Russell bridge repair work will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 36.0 from Thursday, June 1 to Friday, June 2, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude by 5 a.m. on Friday, June 2.

In Becket, pavement milling operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 westbound from mile marker 14 to mile marker 22, from Thursday, June 1 to Friday, June 2, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude by 5 a.m. on Friday, June 2.

In Lee, guardrail repair operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 10.5 to mile marker 14.0, from Thursday,

June 1 to Friday, June 2, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude by 5 a.m. on Friday, June 2.

Traffic will be allowed through the work zones. The work will require temporary lane closures to allow crews to safely conduct the paving, and bridge and guardrail repair operations.

Drivers who are traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to download the Mass511 mobile app or visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions. Follow MassDOT on Twitter @MassDOT to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

## CHESTER

### Chester High School Alumni to hold annual June reunion

CHESTER – Chester High School alumni will be coming home to Chester this year for their 120th annual reunion and meeting on Saturday, June 24 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Chester Railroad Depot.

"We're either getting back to normal or creating a new normal that's a lot like the old one," noted Association President Walter Boomsma. "We're particularly excited that the Chester Foundation will be handling the refreshments this year." The meeting draws a large group associated with the former Chester High School, including Chester Residents who graduated from Gateway after Chester High School closed in the late 1960s.

This year's festivities begin with a social hour at 1 p.m. at the Chester Railroad Depot and continue informally throughout the entire weekend as "Blue Devils" and "Quarriers" wander around town visiting old friends and relatives. The association's annual business meeting will be held Saturday at 4 p.m. and Officers and Board Members will meet at noon.

Chester High has traditions dating back well over one hundred years, but the association has no members from that long ago. Among the many mysteries every year are questions like, "Who will be the oldest member?" and "Who will come from the farthest away?"

In the midst of all the reminiscing,

prizes are awarded for the first local and first out of state reservations. There is never a lack of laughter, perhaps because the threat of detention is long gone even though former teachers frequently attend. All classes will be honored, especially the fifty-year class of 1973 and twenty-five-year class of 1998.

Association President Walter Boomsma noted, "It really is like a homecoming. Some can't resist sitting on the church corner for a while and many tour the area to visit the places that were an important part of their lives." Boomsma also reports that the Association enjoys the support of organizations like the Chester Foundation and Chester Historical

Society. The Historical Society will be open just prior to the reunion and former scholars are encouraged to stop by.

Reunion invitations were mailed to Association Members in late May. "The reunion is not limited to graduates of Chester High or Gateway Regional. Anyone with a connection to Chester is certainly welcome to join us for socializing and reminiscing. This is a town event," Boomsma added.

The Association maintains a blog at <http://chesterhigh.wordpress.com> and a Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chester-High-School/where> alumni can gather information and post comments.

### CHA names Citizen of the Year

CHESTER – Some people spend their lives making the lives of people better.

Some people spend their lives making a place better. Some people, through their caring and dedication, do both.

Barbara Pease Huntoon, the Chester Hill Association 2023 Citizen of the Year, is one such person. She describes herself as an advocate for volunteerism. Her actions as a lifelong resident of Chester reflect her ongoing contributions to her community.

Huntoon has always been a strong advocate for her hometown of Chester and the hill towns. She loves Chester Village and Chester Hill, where she and Tom currently reside. She describes Chester Hill "as a fantastic place with beautiful people and neighbors," stating that "there is no better place to live," it's our sanctuary."

Barbara's ongoing contributions to Chester have been numerous and of long duration. A Board member of the Chester Foundation, who owns and operates the Chester Railway Station and Museum, she served as treasurer for most of her 18 years there. She worked with the other dedicated foundation volunteers, organizing events, catering, promoting the station and planning and running Chester on Track and the Hobo Harvest Dinner.

Huntoon's modeling of volunteerism has motivated her grandchildren to follow in her footsteps of service to the railway station as well. She participated in the newly established annual roadside clean-up in downtown Chester this year, with the Chester Foundation sponsor-



Barbara Pease Huntoon received the 2023 Chester Hill Association Citizen of the Year. Submitted photo

ing that event in conjunction with the Chester Hill Association. Barbara's contribution to Chester is best exemplified by her six years, from 2015-2021, as a Select Person.

Her life goal is to stay active, positive, take joy in life and those she loves - inspired by her mother's enthusiasm for life, her father's work ethic and the senior citizens she has met through her work and volunteer activities.

When asked to describe her life, Barbara said "I'm blessed and grateful," stating that her life is "the best."

The Chester Hill Association congratulates Barbara on being awarded their Citizen of the Year for 2023. This award is bestowed on her in gratitude for her service on behalf of the community.

### TRADITION

from page 1

mony and then burned. He also talked about his own military service, explained why Memorial Day is an important holiday, and taught students how to be respectful in the cemeteries and with the flags.

Chester Elementary School serves students from the towns of Blandford, Chester and Middlefield. Flags in Chester cemeteries are replaced by the Boy Scouts. CES students were also invited to take part in an essay contest about what Memorial Day means to them. The Chester Historical Society reviewed the essays and announced two winners in each grade. Those who live in Chester are invited to read their essays at the town's Memorial Day Parade. In Blandford, any student who wishes to speak about Memorial Day is

invited to do so.

Thanks to this long term tradition, Blandford veterans will have fresh, new flags at their grave sites for the annual Memorial Day celebration.



Veteran Doug Emo visited students at Chester Elementary School to explain the importance of Memorial Day.



Memorial Day Essay winners for 2023 include back row, from left, Jacob DeCoteau, Lyla D'Astrous, Mia Lagacy, Abigail Ripley, Kassie Lewandowski and Tucker Robitaille and front row from left, Fallon Brady, Eliza Joseph, Ely Dulude and Luke Hoffman.

Photo by Wendy Long

## HUNTINGTON

## Huntington Town clerk announces election results

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Town Clerk announces election results.

All candidates on the ballot were unopposed or blank. William Hathaway III won a three-year term as Board of Selectman with 47 votes and Jean Jackman won a three-year term on the Board of Health with 57 votes. Christine Stochlinski won a one-year term to the

Board of Assessors with 60 votes.

Karon Hathaway won a three-year term as Water and Sewer Commissioner with 51 votes and George Peterson won a one-year term as Moderator with 66 votes. Edward Renauld had 54 votes for Regional School Committee for three-years.

Other unopposed candidates were:

Judith Guyette with 66 for Trustee Alphonso Pettis Fund, Linda Siska with 65 votes for three-year term Trustee Library; Jesse Harmon with 65 votes for two-year term Trustee Library and Lorena Belhumeur with 67 votes for three-year term to Trustee Whiting Street Fund.

A three-year term to Board of

Assessors, a three-year term as Constable and a one-year Tree Warden position were blank on the ballot.

Aaren Hawley received seven write-in votes for the three-year Constable position and Erik Steins got 17 write-in votes for the one-year Tree Warden position. There was not sufficient write-in votes for the three-year term to Board of Assessors.

## Yard sale to benefit church

HUNTINGTON – On Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25, a Saturday and Sunday, for a Yard Sale to benefit the First Congregational Church of Huntington, affectionately known as the Norwich Hill Church.

The sale will be held at the nearby home of church member Lori Belhumeur at 5 Cullen Road, two houses above North Hall, off Searle Road and Route 66. The items come from four estates donated to the church for fund raising and include a wide variety of goods.

Items include original artworks

by Betty Langlois, books of all genres, camping and sports equipment, canning jars, kitchen and cookware, dishes, meat slicer, Christmas décor, Avon/other collectibles, craft supplies, furniture, games and puzzles, hardware, portable heaters, mimeograph machines, typewriters, craft and scrap wood, yard equipment and more.

All purchases are by reasonable donation what it's worth to you. For further information, people may call Lori Belhumeur on her cell number 413-887-9746.

## AMBULANCE

what was defined in the current contract. Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin reported that the town's legal counsel affirmed that the current three-year contract held by the town is legal. However, to file a breach of contract for HCAA not giving a 150-day notice of the increase, would require additional funds to do so.

J. Garriepy noted, however, that if HCAA doesn't get the additional funding they will fold in a relatively short time, leaving the region without an ambulance service. He has recommended that they do a five-year sustainability study.

HCAA has six member towns and Huntington holds the only current three-year contract. Worthington has approved the increased amount and Blandford and Chester are expected to. Middlefield is considering joining. In his year as the town's liaison to HCAA, J. Garriepy, an experienced ambulance administrator before his retirement, reports that it is extremely challenging to run a non-profit ambulance service. They are not eligible for the grant funding that supplements municipal or private companies, he said.

J. Garriepy recommended that Huntington approve the higher requested amount in a new, one-year contract but stipulate that HCAA work with the towns to conduct the sustainability study. He reports that HCAA's budget is far less than other ambulance services. "It's really on a shoestring," he said. "They are billing at the top rate for Massachusetts. The towns really aren't paying enough."

Letting HCAA fail, he said, will put the towns in a difficult spot as other Western Massachusetts ambulance companies have made it clear that they will not serve the hilltowns.

Selectman William Hathaway was skeptical, "My problem with this is every

time we cave, they'll just come back for more."

J. Garriepy responded, "They are fantastic at patching people up. They're just not accountants or administrators."

Selectman Roger Booth answered, "I don't like it, but I just don't see an out." He asked J. Garriepy to write up his recommendation with talking points. The Select Board will put the full requested amount on the budget for Annual Town Meeting and let the voters decide. The Select Board and Finance Committee will each determine whether or not to recommend passage, in meetings they are each holding ahead of the town meeting. "I do believe it can be saved," said J. Garriepy

Finance Committee members Peter Simko, Joseph McNeish and Stephen Layton also met with the board and Peloquin to review the latest changes to the budget. These included a lower total cost for employee health insurance, an increase in Veterans Services, as the town is now contracting this out instead of having its own agent, an increase in IT support and an increase in vocational school student numbers.

Booth moved to approve all numbers in the budget, excluding the ambulance, until their approval is reviewed with Select Board Chair Edward Renauld, who had to leave the meeting early.

Both Select Board and Finance Committee reviewed the Special Town Meeting warrant articles, scheduled on Monday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will be used to approve transfers from various accounts to cover overages in items such as highway sand and salt, highway gas and diesel, veterans relief benefits, water department improvements and to establish a new opioid stabilization fund to use for opioid litigation settle-

ments, in accordance with state guidelines.

## ATM warrant article

The Select Board also approved the warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting, which will begin on June 5 at 7 p.m. Many of the warrant articles are those that are voted annually. Additional articles have been submitted by the Board of Assessors, Town Clerk (moving town elections off of the date that Chester on Track is held each year) and Select Board (the first step in changing the Town Clerk from an elected to appointed position).

## Parking on Maple Street

Police Chief Robert Garriepy was also on the agenda to discuss parking on Maple Street. The Chief reports that the residential street is not wide enough to permit emergency vehicle access if people park along the street. He has received complaints from some residents, who are also concerned that a trash can is blocking the sidewalk.

This was unanimously approved and Police Chief Garriepy will see to signage and enforcement. He also has about four weeks' of vacation and will be unable to use it all this fiscal year. He requested a payout of some of that time, consistent with past practice for other town officials. The select board approved this, directing Peloquin to research the amount of time that had been paid out for other staff.

## Other business

In other business, the board approved a request for a full liquor license to B&D Variety on Main Street. The next step in this process will be a hearing by the Zoning Board and additional approvals by the state once Huntington completes

its approval process. Also on the agenda were approvals for expenses tied to the Community Development Block Grant for Tighe & Bond for the Crescent Street Project. They approved a contract with Marc Sternick, who is taking over the bidding and construction administration role on the new ramp for town hall. Landscaping quotes were reviewed by the Board and awarded to Limited Budget Property Management. IT proposals were approved and the award went to Northeast IT, who had a lower total cost, included all items in the specs and is a renewal of services they already provide to the town.

## COA

The Council on Aging made a request to move their pickle ball equipment to the basketball court behind the Huntington Public Library. They will paint permanent lines in the area and store their nets and equipment there. This has been approved by Amanda Loiselle, Library Director. Booth offered to work with Police Chief R. Garriepy to seek safety recommendations around library patron cars driving near the area.

Booth reported that he had met with two contractors at the Huntington Public Library to look over the windows that will be replaced using AARPA funds. New windows will be smaller to reduce UV damage to books and artwork in the library collection and increase energy efficiency. Booth will write up bid specifications; the project will require library closure of one to two weeks.

Peloquin announced that she posted the highway department superintendent position on May 11, but there are no applicants yet. She will also post for an administrative assistant for that department. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

## HUNTINGTON OBSERVES MEMORIAL DAY



Evelyn McGowan read "In Flanders Fields" as Huntington Selectman Roger Booth looks on. Photos by Wendy Long



Vocalist Marie Zomak performed at the Huntington Memorial Day observances on the Town Green.

from page 1

# Open for the season!

PERENNIALS | ROSES | CLEMATIS  
PANSIES | HERBS  
LETTUCE | CABBAGE | SEEDS  
POTS AND SOILS  
OUR OWN ASPARAGUS  
STAND IS NOW OPEN WITH  
FRUITS & VEGETABLES



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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### I'm approaching 65 should I claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am fast approaching 65 (in August) and plan to continue working full time. I would like to know the implications of that, and about drawing Social Security. Same question for my husband who is past his full retirement age (he will be 67 this year) and he continues to work full time.

Signed: Still Working

Dear Still Working:

Married couples should always coordinate their retirement strategy and you're very smart to do so. Born in 1958, your Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 8 months. Your FRA is the point at which your earnings from work no longer affect your Social Security benefits, but if you claim at age 65 and continue to work full time, you will be limited to how much you can earn before they take away some or perhaps all of your benefits. Here's what will happen if you claim Social Security to start in August when you are 65.

Your SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced by 11% (you'll get 89% of your FRA entitlement). Your monthly amount will only change thereafter due to Cost of Living Adjustments.

If you start your benefits in August you will be subject to an earnings limit, either a monthly limit of \$1,770 for the remaining months of the year or the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If the monthly limit is exceeded you aren't entitled to benefits for that month, or if the annual limit is exceeded they will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the annual limit. Social Security will use whichever method yields the smallest penalty.

Beginning in 2024, you will be subject only to Social Security's annual earnings limit, which will be something more than the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If you exceed the 2024 (or 2025) annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). The annual limit will be in effect until you reach your full retirement age of 66 years and 8 months in April 2026.

Since your husband has already reached his FRA, working full time will not negatively affect his monthly Social Security benefits if he chooses to claim his SS benefits now. However, if he hasn't yet claimed your husband is already earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which will increase his benefit when he later claims. DRCs are earned monthly (.667% per month; 8% per year) and can be earned up to age 70 when maximum SS benefit is attained. For your husband, his age 70 benefit would be 29% more than he was entitled to at his FRA. Whether it is wise to wait longer to claim depends on life expectancy, but break even age is about 83 for those who wait until 70 to claim vs. claiming at FRA. FYI, average life expectancy for a man your husband's current age is about 84; for you about 87.

SECURITY, page 11

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

### When Kids move out to attend college...



### When Kids move back in after graduation...



## GUEST COLUMN

### Lots of blue options for the spring border



I got so excited the other day. I was walking around my backyard and came upon a flower I had never seen before. Where did it come from and what is it?

After a little bit of research, I found out that it is named Blue-eye Grass or *Sisyrinchium*. It is very diminutive, looking like a miniature purple-blue iris, with sword-like leaves and all.

Its size would make it perfect for a rock garden or alpine plant garden.

I promptly moved it out of the way of the weed whacker to join some other blue flowers that are in bloom in one of my gardens, taking their place in the front of the

border. During late spring, blue flowers abound.

In fact, you could easily design a monochromatic scheme using just cool tones for a late spring symphony!

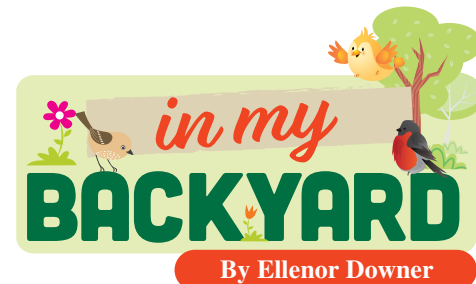
Here are some of my favorites: For the back of the border, try *Amsonia tabernaemontana*. This native plant is topped with clusters of pale blue flowers, each one opening to form a tiny star, hence its common name, blue star.

Growing to around three feet tall and not quite as wide, *Amsonia* almost qualifies for "specimen" status, although it is not as showy as other specimens like *Peony* or *Dictamnus*.

Only one plant is necessary per grouping in full sun or part shade. In my garden it self sows, but not so much to make itself a nuisance.

Sadly, the plant blooms for only a short while but makes a nice statement when it does. Make sure you choose your forever

GARDEN, page 11



I received an email from an Oakham resident last week, who had "three very raucous sandhill cranes" fly past his house, heading northeast.

He said he went to a web site to verify their call and he included the link in his email. To hear sandhill cranes visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYN-HI9MqkE0>.

The sandhill crane is a 45 inches tall heron like bird. It is gray with a dark red patch on its forehead and a black bill. Some feathers on the back and wings are rusty-colored, possibly due to staining while preening from iron rich mud on its bill. They feed by picking or probing with the bill and eating weeds, agricultural grains and small animals.

A pair of sandhill cranes have nested in Hardwick for several years and successfully raised young. The cranes the Oakham resident heard flying over might be those.

The sandhill crane makes a mound like nest of arch plants, grasses and weeds placed on the ground or in shallow water. The female lays one to three olive eggs with dark marks. There call is a low pitched "karoooo, karoooo karoooo." Courtship displays are often seen during migration and involve graceful jumps off the ground in a dance like manner.

Years ago, a Barre resident saw a pair doing their courtship antics while they were in a field in Barre. This was years before the nesting pair appeared in Hardwick, so I assume they were in route to their summer breeding grounds further north.

Sandhill cranes form huge flocks in winter and during migration. They are often seen in agricultural fields and roost at night in the center of shallow lakes or large shallow rivers.

#### Nesting bluebirds

An Oakham resident said she has nesting bluebirds again this year. She said usually the bluebirds and swallows squabble over the nest box, but she has not seen the swallows this year. She was wondering if anyone else has seen swallows.

I have seen them in my hayfield and I also saw some flying over Long Pond in Rutland.

#### Nesting ospreys

I received another email this week about the nesting pair of ospreys in Wilbraham. He said the pair were on or near the nest. If the eggs hatched, the young were too small to be seen. He will make a return trip later.

In a previous column he said for anyone wanting to go see this nest the best place to view the nest is from the Wilbraham Senior Center parking lot and park on the side of the lot facing the playing fields. There are stick nests on three light poles.

#### Hummingbirds

An Oakham couple reported lots of hummingbirds at their feeder. They keep busy filling the nectar feeders. People may make their own nectar by adding 1/4 cup white sugar to 1 cup water and bring to a boil. I make extra nectar, which I keep in the refrigerator. It will keep up to a week, but I am refilling every two to three days so it never gets past the one week mark.

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

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# GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL

## CLASS OF 2023



Ayden Audet



Rachael Austin



Cecelia Balboni



Annemarie Benson



Joshua Bovat



Liam Bowler



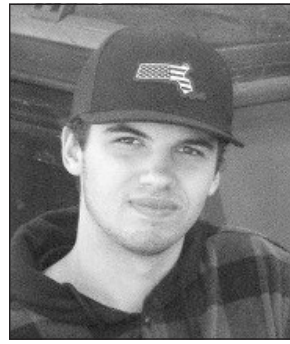
Natalie Brown



Tristan Burke



Cole Chapman



Shane Cooper



Olivia Dame



Nevaeh Damon



Jordyn-Michelle DuBour



Sean Fogue



Aaron Gallagher



Azades Hamblin



Edward Harding



Tyler Hebert



Rylie Heeter



Zander Hicks



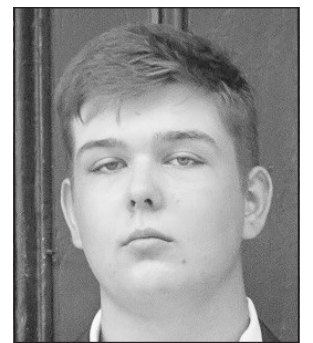
Nevaeh Judson



Olivia Kanner



Hailey Krassler



Gage Laurie



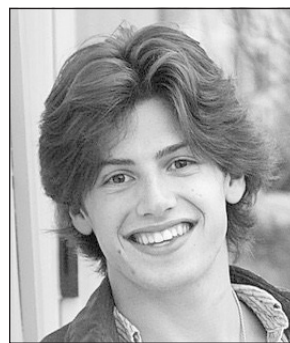
Erin Lewis



Dominic Lucia



Jacob MacLeod



Liam McKellick



Nancy Mueller



Sage Painter



Lucy Pitoniak



Noah Primack



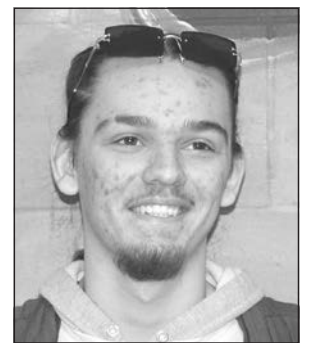
Owen Przybyla



Audrey Saalfrank



Jayden Santiago-Lopez



Isaiah Solitario



Jacob Tester



Aakiyah Tsosie



Nicolas Vargas



Amelia Wallace

*Photos were unavailable for the following graduating students:*

**Charles Robert Bond**  
**Autumn Nicole Hamblin**



# HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL CLASS OF 2023



**Mariam AlBaghadli**



**Silvia Bastek**



**Norah Benkley**



**Hailey Bergeron**



**Elizabeth Bowser**



**Hannah Burke**



**Gabriel Buschini**



**A Caputo**



**Evan Carmody**



**Nico Casinghino**



**Tadhg Cassidy**



**Francis Chase**



**Elizabeth Colon Garcia**



**Makenzie Colson**



**Emma Czarniecki**



**Kyle Dale**



**Alayna Deliz**



**Joshua Denoronha**



**Ally Deso**



**Alana Donnis**



**Anna Dunlap**



**Isabella Dunphy**



**Dorothy Duval**



**Isabella Fawell**



**Ella Forest**



**Ozzie Frazier**



**Brian Fried**



**Desmond Galpin**



**Tessa Gauthier**



**Jerica Ayne Gilbuena**



**Olyvia Girard**



**Lily Godbout**



**Nathaniel Godden**



**Allison Griswold**



**Connor Guillen-Morrison**



**Nora Hamel**



**Alex Henry**



**Reese Hickox**



**Miryam Hilnbrand**



**Liam Illingsworth**



**Nathan Jendrysik**



**Aidan Jones**



# HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL CLASS OF 2023



Tanner Joseph



Mikayla Joyner



Ava Kowalczyk



Olivia Labrie



Christine Latka



Haley Lawton



Lindsey Ledoux



Spencer Lefebvre



Ashley Legowski



Sage Leigh



Nyla Lewis



Ellia Masenior



Addison Masi



Matthew McCoy



Jocelyn Mettey



Justin Meunier



Samantha Moran



Connor Morrison



Dillon Neveu



Mason Neveu



Evan Novak



Liam Packey



Parker Pallante



Shelbee Parker



Charlie Por



Edward Prybyla



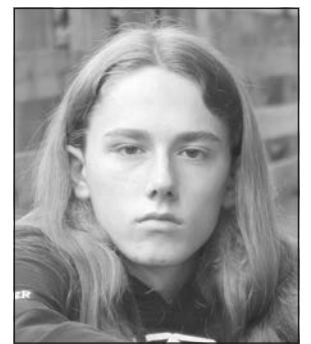
Finn Radowicz



Hailey Raffa



Miranda Ramos-Mendez



Spencer Reese



Natalia Robak



Elizabeth Sawyer



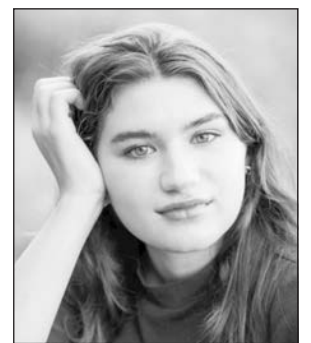
Riley Shaughnessy



Caleb Siff



Stellina Simonelli



Sophie Skowronek



Riley Smith



Aiden Soukup



Cady Spelman



Ella St. Hilaire



Charlie Strate



Kathleen Sullivan



# HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL CLASS OF 2023



Jared Szwajkowski



Caroline Taylor



Michael Thibault



Abigail Thibodeau



Dylan Torrey



William Towler



Joli Turgeon



Samuel Unger



Destiny Vancelette



Nayalie Velez



Natalie Vigue



Eliza Warner

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Alex Willard



Shane Winters



Levi Zielinski

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# BLANDFORD

## CREW SERVES UP BURGERS AND HOTDOGS ON MEMORIAL DAY



People enjoy the Memorial Day picnic was held Monday behind the Blandford Town Hall after the Memorial Day parade and ceremony. *Photo by Mary Kronholm*

## Brass band to perform June 1

BLANDFORD – The Historical Society is sponsoring the West Mass Brass Band this Saturday, June 1 at 2 p.m., at The White Church.

Tickets are \$10 each and children under 12 are free. Tickets can be purchased at the door or on the White Church website by visiting <https://the-whitechurch.org/>.

The concert program will feature three soloists and a trio. The music will cover patriotic, classical, pop, movie theme, a short orchestral work and a ballad.

The West Mass Brass Band, an all volunteer group, has made its mission to preserve and share the unique British style brass band sound.



The West Mass Brass Band will perform on Saturday, June 1 at 2 p.m. in the White Church. *Submitted photo*

## 'OLD GLORY' PROUDLY FLIES



Veteran Matthew Nowak of Westfield raised the American Flag from half staff to full staff at the conclusion of the Memorial Day observations during the Blandford Memorial Day ceremony.

*Photo by Mary Kronholm*

## MEMORIAL DAY

Karen Marotta's Ice Cream Truck was on hand with all sorts of ice cream sticks and soft-serve cones to top off the afternoon.

Recreation Committee members are Keri Morawiec, Chair; Joann Martin, secretary; Chuck Benson and Justin LaFrance, members.



Gateway Regional School Band under the direction of Beth Guertin perform a patriotic selection.



Scott Lemme, from left, Thomas Huntoon and Michael Wojcik were some of the Veterans participating at the Blandford Memorial Day activities. *Photos by Mary Kronholm*

from page 1

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## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

### King receives Lasell Univ. book award

NEWTON – Catherine King of Easthampton received the Undergraduate Book Award in Fashion Merchandising and Management from Lasell University.

Undergraduate Book Awards are given in recognition of a demonstrated commitment to excellence at Lasell University. Recipients are selected by faculty for serving as models for their fellow students in professional demeanor, academic achievement, maturity, perseverance, and collegiality.

### Hanechak wins second place in pre-college science competition

RUSSELL – Elizabeth Hanechak of Russell, a sophomore at Pope Francis Preparatory School in Springfield, won second place in her category of microbiology at the Regeneron Science and Engineering Fair in Dallas Texas on Friday, May 19.

ISEF is the world's largest pre-college science competition which is held for one week each year. Over 1,800 high school students from 75 different countries compete.

Hanechak's project was focused on finding a solution to the world's plas-



Elizabeth Hanechak

tic problem. Over 40 million tons of plastic is created each year. Polyethylene terephthalate, one of the most common types of plastic which is used for plastic water bottles, has an indestructible man made bond. Eli genetically engineered cutinase, an enzyme found in nature, to enhance the breakdown of plastic.

She submitted her proposal last year to the biology department at Westfield State University. It was reviewed by Dr. Kimberly Berman who then took Eli in to her research lab to conduct the experiment.

### Clara Downey graduates from Univ. of Scranton

SCRANTON, PA – Clara M. Downey of Easthampton was among the more than 850 members of the University of Scranton's class of 2023 who were awarded bachelor's and associate's degrees at its undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 21 at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre.

Downey earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science and history. Degrees were conferred to graduates who had completed their academic degree requirements in August and December of 2022, as well as January and May of 2023.

### WPI announces Spring Dean's List

WORCESTER – Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces students who made the spring 2023 Dean's List.

Local students making the Dean's List are: Emma Barnes of Easthampton, Class of 2026, majoring in biomedical engineering and electrical and computer engineering; Ava Gaughan of Westfield, Class of 2025, majoring in mechanical engineering; Benjamin Gelinias of Westfield, Class of 2024, majoring in computer science and interactive media and game development – technology; Benjamin Howes

of Westfield, Class of 2026, majoring in electrical and computer engineering; Caroline Major of Easthampton, Class of 2024, majoring in biomedical engineering and humanities and arts and

Daniel Raymond of Goshen, Class of 2026, majoring in electrical and computer engineering.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a Grade Point Average. Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

### WNEU inducts honor society students

SPRINGFIELD – The Western New England University chapter of Beta Alpha Psi National Honor Society welcomed 20 students at the University's annual induction ceremony on April 20 in the Rivers Auditorium.

Local students inducted into Beta Alpha Psi were: Sean Alvord of Westfield, a finance major; Garrett

Barnachez of Westfield, a business analytics and information management major and Thomas Hyjek of Huntington, a finance major.

Beta Alpha Psi is an honorary

organization for financial information students and professionals.

The primary objective of Beta Alpha Psi is to encourage and give recognition to scholastic and professional excellence in the business information field.

This includes the study and proactive of accounting, finance, and information systems; providing opportunities for self-development, service and association among members and practicing professionals; and encouraging a sense of ethical, social, and public responsibility.

### HCC and WSU sign dual-degree nursing agreement

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College and Westfield State University signed an agreement creating a new pathway for students to earn both an associate's degree and bachelor's degree in nursing by being simultaneously enrolled in both schools.

The concurrent enrollment program is the first of its kind in the Commonwealth and designed to help address nursing shortages by increasing the number of students accepted into

a bachelor of nursing degree program and allowing them to earn their degrees faster.

When students enroll at HCC for nursing, all they need to do is check a box on their application to indicate they are interested in the concurrent program with Westfield State University.

During their first year at HCC, students will complete their general education courses and health science prerequisites; during their second and

third years they will take classes both at HCC and Westfield State to complete their associate's degree in nursing. Then, as registered nurses, they will.

According to a Massachusetts Health Policy Commission report, registered nurse vacancy rates in acute-care hospitals doubled from 6.4% in 2019 to 13.6% in 2022 and employment in nursing and residential care facilities has not recovered since the pandemic and remains below 2018 levels.

### Coutsouridis named to Dean's Honor List

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Stephanie Coutsouridis from Westfield, majoring in social work, was named to the spring 2023 Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University.

This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

### News, photo publication policy

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

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows. **Deadline is Monday at NOON**, on holidays it is **Friday at 2 p.m.**



### Southern New Hampshire University announces 2023 President's List

MANCHESTER, NH – Southern New Hampshire University congratulates the following students on being named to the winter 2023 President's List.

The winter terms run from January to May. Local students making the President's List are: Emmelia Gardner of Westfield, Grace Van Buren of Becket, Dana Shambo of Westfield, Taylor Amado of Easthampton, Shaelanna Buchanan of Easthampton,

Hannah D'Amico of Chesterfield, Idona Dulude of Chesterfield and Mallory Willis of Westfield.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

### Lauren Bongiovanni inducted into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA – Lauren Bongiovanni of Easthampton was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Bongiovanni was initiated at Salem State University.

Bongiovanni is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi

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

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## GREAT BARRINGTON

# Berkshire Agricultural Ventures appoints new executive director

GREAT BARRINGTON – Berkshire Agriculture Ventures announces the appointment of Rebecca Busansky as the new Executive Director, following the successful tenure of interim Executive Director, Glenn Bergman.

Bergman's exceptional leadership during a critical period at BAV resulted in significant advancement for the organization over the past two and a half years. Under his guidance, BAV experienced remarkable growth, as he built a talented team of experts to lead BAV's programs, and successfully secured support for the organization's initiatives. Bergman will collaborate with Busansky over the upcoming month to ensure a smooth transition.

Rebecca Busansky was formerly a Program Director at the Franklin County Community Development Corporation. She joined the FCCDC in 2015 where her work focused on helping local farms thrive and increasing food access. During her time there,

Busansky, and team, launched the PVGrows Investment Fund, an innovative community investment vehicle which provides financing and technical assistance to farm and local food entrepreneurs primarily in western Massachusetts. She also managed the Mass Food Trust Program since its inception in 2018, which provides financing to increase the availability of affordable healthy food in underserved communities across the Commonwealth.

"Rebecca's experience could not be more aligned with BAV's mission and offerings," BAV Board President Thomas Gardner said. Since its founding in 2016 BAV has played a critical role in supporting Berkshire-Taconic region farms and local food businesses. Overall, the organization has provided \$1.6 million in low-interest loans, over \$85,000 in microgrants and provided more than \$500,000 (equalling approximately 150 hours) in direct technical assistance to more than 90 local farms and agricultural businesses.

Additionally, BAV has experienced a significant amount of growth over the last two years, increasing from four full-time staff members to a team of eight. BAV's growth has been in response to the increased demand for specialized agribusiness services, and to maintain momentum gained from several federal grant awards that have enabled BAV to increase the breadth and impact of several programs - including its lending program and Local Meat Processing Support Program. With Busansky as the new Executive Director BAV is well positioned, and ready, to enter into the next phase of the organization's history.

Busansky is equally as thrilled about joining the organization stating, "I am honored and excited to take on the role of Executive Director at Berkshire Agricultural Ventures. I look forward to working with the talented team here to build on the organization's success and together continue to bring new ideas and innovations to our work."

Busansky holds an undergraduate degree from Brown University and has worked in the community economic development field for more than 30 years. Busansky resides in Northampton with her family where she enjoys all that the beautiful outdoors has to offer in western Massachusetts including hiking, biking, kayaking, cross country skiing and cooking from her garden's harvest and nearby farms.

Berkshire Agricultural Ventures (BAV) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in 2016, working to support the development and viability of local farms and food businesses, to build a thriving local food economy, improve access to fresh food for everyone, and address climate change through regenerative agriculture.

For more information about BAV, people may visit [www.berkshireagventures.org](http://www.berkshireagventures.org), call Ciana Barnaba, Community Relations & Resource Development Manager, at 413-258-1215 or email her at [ciana@berkshireagventures.com](mailto:ciana@berkshireagventures.com).

## BUCKLAND

# Buckland Historical Society to hold pie social

BUCKLAND – On Friday, June 16 at 7 p.m. the Buckland Historical Society will hold a program & pie social in the Buckland Pubic Hall 15 Upper St.

Jack Sobon, an English barn expert, architect and timber frame specialist will present a talk and slide show with a special emphasis on the English Barn at the Wilder Homestead in Buckland. People will learn of the layout, proportion, use of the English Barn, and look at the intricacies of its 18th century car-

entry and construction.

Wood species, tools, layout techniques, and erection methods will be included. Period tools and artifacts will be displayed. They will learn of fascinating insights into these rare structures that enrich the local landscape.

The program is followed by a pie social at which time the audience can visit inside the Hall or walk out on the grounds if weather permits. Admission is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members.



## BECKET

# Athenaeum holds book sale fundraiser

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum will hold a book sale fundraiser on the following Saturdays, June 17, July 22, Aug. 19 and Sept. 9 from 10a.m.-4 p.m. on the library lawn, weather permitting.

All proceeds support the services and programs at the Becket Athenaeum. There will be an array of books, audiobooks and more. Selections vary month to month. Cash or check donations are accepted. There will be lawn games and programs for all ages.

## OPINION

### SECURITY

from page 4

Since you are both still working full time, be aware that depending on your combined income from all sources your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income. As a married couple both working full time, your combined income will likely be over the \$44,000 threshold after which income tax will be levied on up to 85% of your Social Security benefits received during the tax year using your normal IRS tax rate. I suggest you consider the income tax implications of claiming Social Security while you are still working full time.

You did not ask about Medicare, but if you and your husband now have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants) you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B

until your employer healthcare coverage ends, thus avoiding the Medicare Part B premium while you are working.

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*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

### GARDEN

from page 4

location wisely.

I need to move mine and with a crown two feet by two feet, it won't be easy.

Another plant best suited for the back row of the perennial garden is *Baptisia australis*, or false indigo.

Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes emerge in mid June. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, *Baptisia* is a nice specimen perennial - one plant is certainly enough per grouping.

The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since transplants are usually puny and take a couple of seasons to establish.

Site false indigo in full sun or part shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised.

Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look nice in autumn decorations.

One of my favorite blue flowers is *Aquilegia vulgaris*. Although there are many cultivars of garden columbine, we grow the species variety at Old Sturbridge Village.

It can be found in white, pink, maroon, purple, blue and almost black. Ours tend to be mostly blue in a hue hard to describe - perhaps more royal blue than purple-blue.

If the color is hard to describe, the flower shape is even more difficult-maybe something along the lines of nodding bells with reflexed sepals?

Lobed leaves are another attractive feature of this plant, although vigilance

against the dreaded leaf miner is a must in order to keep it looking good. Here too, full sun or part shade will grow decent two foot to two-and-a-half foot wispy plants- a size perfect for the middle row of the border.

Mountain bluet, or perennial bachelor button, as it is sometimes called, is one of my most treasured perennials.

There is nothing rare about *Centaurea montana*, or even all that unique about it. I just plain like its oversized cornflowers and their lovely true blue shade.

At eighteen inches tall it is another plant best suited to the middle row of the garden. Plant in full sun or slight shade for best results. Cut back after it is done flowering for a chance at late season rebloom.

Jacob's ladder, *Polemonium caeruleum*, is another of my favorite blue perennials. Its pinnately compound leaves surely resemble a ladder, hence the Biblical reference, but it is best known for its pretty cup shaped, light blue flowers that hang from multi stems growing 18 inches to 2 feet tall and blooming in May in part shade locations.

Have fun playing with blue hues this spring. By high summer blue will be few and far between in the landscape.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

## PITTSFIELD

# Free webinar on bookkeeping offered

KB Accounting announces a free webinar for entrepreneurs and small business owners on Thursday, June 15 at noon.

Participants in the webinar will be shown how to record their invoices and bills using QuickBooks Online. This will make it easier for the business owner to keep track of where their organization is with their income and expenses at any point.

Katie Brelsford, President and CEO of KB Accounting, stated, "There

is such a shortage of scalable bookkeeping services in our area that we thought this free webinar might help organizations that cannot yet afford to outsource their bookkeeping."

For more information, or for additional inquiries, people may email KB Accounting Team at [info@kbaccountingpittsfield.com](mailto:info@kbaccountingpittsfield.com).

KB Accounting is a local full-service bookkeeping/accounting firm that specializes in being your outsourced Accounting or Business Office.

# WESTFIELD

## Girard Heating & Air Conditioning celebrates 30th anniversary

WESTFIELD – Girard Heating & Air Conditioning, a leading provider of home heating and air conditioning system sales and installations, celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2023.

Since opening its doors in Westfield in 1993, Girard has become western Massachusetts' premier installer of ductless Mitsubishi® Electric cooling and heating systems and has consistently provided service that exceeds customer expectations.

"When you get to my age, you start thinking about your legacy," said Steve Girard, president of Girard Heating and Air Conditioning. "I'm proud of the guys I've trained over the years who are doing great things in the industry—they can track their lineage back to me, and that means a lot. The other thing is, we've got customers who are grandparents, and we took care of their kids and then their grandchildren. I look at the generations of people we've helped, and in some instances, almost feel like part of the family."

Girard began his career during his middle school years when he worked for his grandfather, who owned a heating and cooling company. "I didn't realize I was learning anything," Girard said. "I thought



Shown from left are Steve Girard, Jennifer Gagnon and Bob Girard of Girard Heating & Air Conditioning. Photo provided courtesy of Market Mentors

I was just hanging out with my grandfather."

After enrolling at Westfield State University, Girard continued working during school breaks for the person, who bought his grandfather's shop. Realizing how much he knew about the industry, he took a summer job at Westside Air Conditioning.

"I had a great summer and loved what I was doing," Girard said. "I decided

to continue working and did not go back to college."

After being employed as an installation foreman for another company, Girard decided to start his own business. He brought his brother, Bob Girard and his cousin, Jennifer Gagnon, into the business, and about a decade in, the three became partners in the company.

"Having been a part of the business since its inception, I am so proud to see

Girard thrive over the past 30 years," Bob Girard said. "I'm excited to see what future successes lie ahead for our business."

Steve Girard said that one of the biggest changes he's witnessed in the industry has been technology. "There's just so much going on now with technology, connectivity, smart systems and everything else," he said. "It can be daunting at times."

He added that over the past three decades, he's had to adapt the business many times to meet consumer demands and trends, such as the recent interest in heat pumps.

"It's not like we came up with a recipe 30 years ago and just rode it out," he said. "We come up with a plan for three or four years, then we have to scrap it and come up with a new one."

Girard Heating and Air Conditioning, based in Westfield, Massachusetts, specializes in heating and air conditioning sales, service and installation. They have grown to become one of the most respected contractors in the area due to their focus on energy efficient product lines combined with service, which exceeds the expectations of their customers.

# WESTHAMPTON

## Westhampton to hold town Election

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Annual Town Election will be on Saturday, June 3 from 8 a.m.-noon.

To vote in the annual Town Election, residents must be a registered voter. The deadline to register to vote for the Town Election was Wednesday, May 24. Unregistered voters may obtain a voter registration form at the Town Hall or at the Westhampton Library, during regular business hours to be eligible for other elections.

The officers to be elected include: Town Moderator, Tree Warden, Select

Board, Finance Committee, Board of Assessors, two members of Westhampton Elementary School Committee, two members Planning Board, one member of Hampshire Regional School Committee, Constable and two Westhampton Library Board of Trustees.

Registered voters can vote by mail using the Vote By Mail application available by visiting the town website at westhampton-ma.com. Vote by mail ballots may be returned via the Town Hall Drop Box or via U.S. Mail. The ballots must be received at Town Hall Saturday, June 3 at noon.

# WORTHINGTON

## Worthington town election results

WORTHINGTON – In the only contest on the ballot for the Annual Town Election, Stephen Smith, won re-election to a three-term on the Select Board with 106 votes.

His opponents Edward Ferguson got 60 votes and Ron Sampson, 87 votes. All other candidates ran unopposed. They were Board of Assessors Gary Ouimet, Board of Health Diane Brenner, Cemetery Commissioner-Historical Cemeteries Mary Orisich, Planning Board (three-year term) Kate Bavelock and Planning Board (one-year term) Anna Maunz.

Also running unopposed were Constable Ron Sampson, Moderator Kevin O'Connor, Tree Warden Ben Brown and Finance Committee Joseph Boudreau. All are three-year terms unless mentioned otherwise.

Gretchen Eliason, a write-in candidate, was elected to the other position on the Finance Committee.

Nestor Mathews was a write-in candidate for a five-year term on the Planning Board and Ryan Neuhauser a write-in for Worthington School Committee.

## Transfer Stations set summer hours

WORTHINGTON – Summer hours are now in effect at the Transfer Station and will remain in effect till

Labor Day. Hours are Wednesdays from 3-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. 4 p.m.

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# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**  
Mar 21/Apr 20  
Being more selective can enhance your life in many different ways. You often are judged by the company you keep, so think about that when starting new relationships.

**CANCER**  
Jun 22/Jul 22  
This week you may find it easier to cut out superfluous spending or extravagant behavior than at other times. You may need to exert greater control and discipline.

**LIBRA**  
Sept 23/Oct 23  
You'll likely feel more at ease having a big group of people around you during the next few days rather than heading out alone. Put away that lone wolf mentality for now.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec 22/Jan 20  
Capricorn, rather than being light-hearted, conversations could take a turn to the more serious, especially as they pertain to a health condition for someone you love.

**TAURUS**  
Apr 21/May 21  
Set up camp on the sofa for the next few days. Enjoy the rest and relaxation. You don't have to be productive every minute of the day so don't feel guilty about your R&R.

**LEO**  
Jul 23/Aug 23  
There's a fresh cosmic wind blowing your sails, Leo. This gives you all the energy you need to tackle projects or get moving in other ways. Embrace all of this energy.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct 24/Nov 22  
Ambitious career goals could have you reevaluating all of the choices you have made thus far, Scorpio. It might be time to venture off on new paths once you figure out the way.

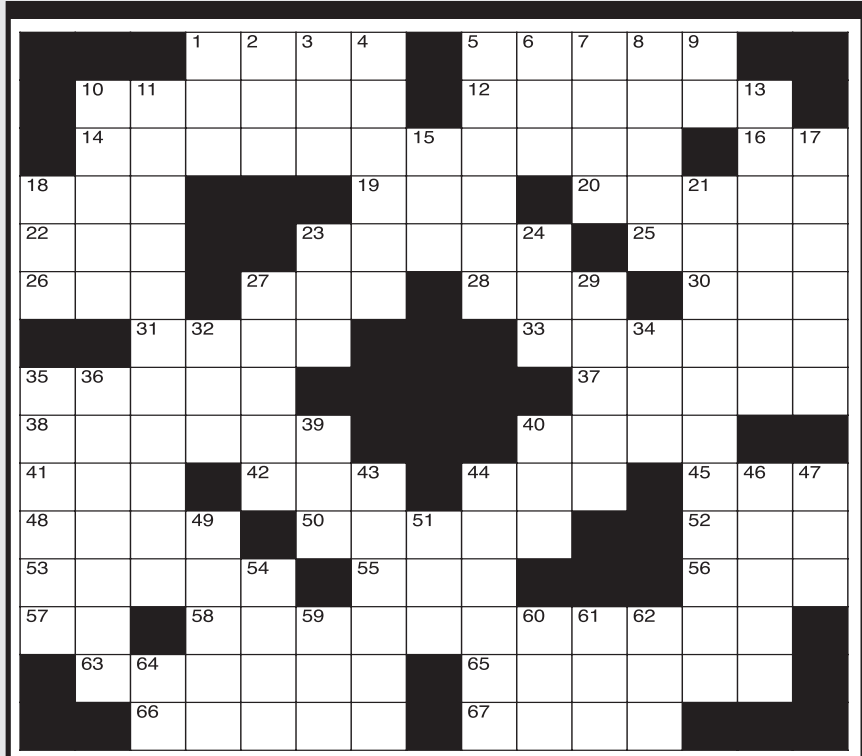
**AQUARIUS**  
Jan 21/Feb 18  
Aquarius, don't try to take on too many things yourself. You need to know when to ask for help this week, especially as your schedule gets even more filled up.

**GEMINI**  
May 22/Jun 21  
Some interesting information could be coming your way. You just need to keep your ear to the ground and open to receive it.

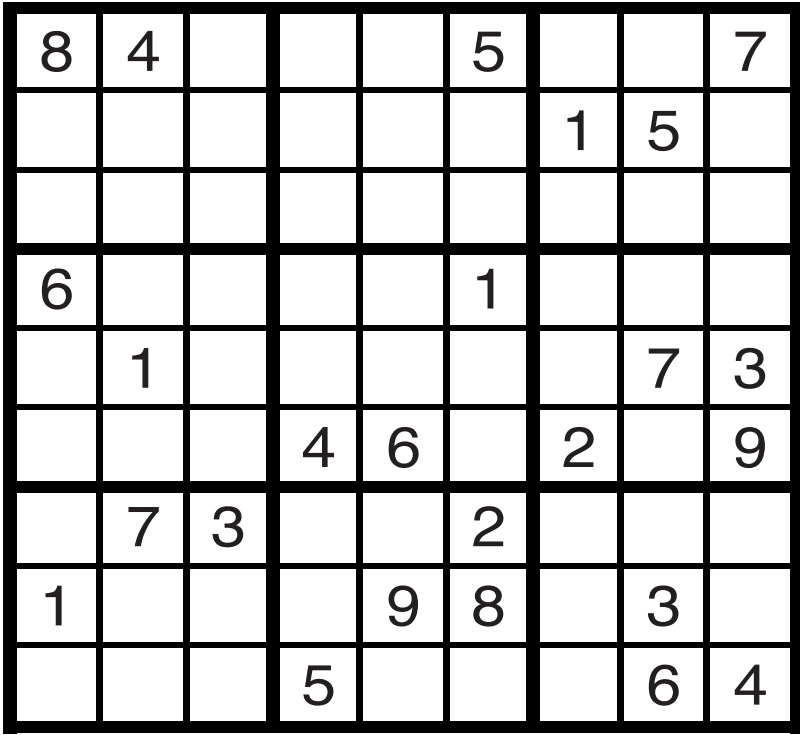
**VIRGO**  
Aug 24/Sept 22  
Your romantic life is about to get even more exciting, Virgo. Date nights are happening with greater frequency and you're likely to enjoy all of the extra attention.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov 23/Dec 21  
Sagittarius, the call of the wild is quite strong right now. This means you might be right at home on a hiking trip or a rafting trip. Make your plans and bring a friend.

**PISCES**  
Feb 19/Mar 20  
This is the perfect time to get more organized, Pisces. Try to fit in time to sort and clean among all the other things on your itinerary.



- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>CLUES ACROSS</b>                           | 35. Type of wrap                          | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>                        | person                                 |
| 1. Sloping position                           | 37. Polyurethane fabric                   | 1. Hill or rocky peak                    | 32. Not good                           |
| 5. Descendant of a notable family             | 38. Avoids capture                        | 2. Initial public offering               | 34. "Ghetto Superstar" singer          |
| 10. Following accepted norms                  | 40. Vegetarians avoid it                  | 3. Type of light                         | 35. The "World" is one                 |
| 12. Root vegetable                            | 41. Decay                                 | 4. Test                                  | 36. Used to make guacamole             |
| 14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air | 42. Soviet Socialist Republic             | 5. Flaky coverings                       | 39. Midway between south and southwest |
| 16. Integrated circuit                        | 44. Vessel to bathe in                    | 6. Former NFLer Newton                   | 40. Wet dirt                           |
| 18. Records electric currents of the heart    | 45. Inches per minute (abbr.)             | 7. Part of the eye                       | 43. Ancient Egyptian name              |
| 19. Used to anoint                            | 48. Frosts                                | 8. Roman god of the underworld           | 44. Set of four                        |
| 20. Japanese city                             | 50. Dipped into                           | 9. Negative                              | 46. Strips                             |
| 22. After B                                   | 52. Controversial replay system in soccer | 10. Indiana pro basketball player        | 47. Wife                               |
| 23. Muffles                                   | 53. Comforts                              | 11. Replaces lost tissue                 | 49. More dried-up                      |
| 25. Pass over                                 | 55. Needed for yoga                       | 13. Denotes one from whom title is taken | 51. Socially inept person              |
| 26. Vase                                      | 56. Ands/___                              | 15. Historic college hoops tournament    | 54. Clusters on fern fronds            |
| 27. Soft touch                                | 57. South Dakota                          | 17. Hut by a swimming pool               | 59. Bar bill                           |
| 28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal  | 58. Printing system                       | 18. Defunct European monetary unit       | 60. Prefix indicating "away from"      |
| 30. Patti Hearst's captors                    | 63. Dramatic works set to music           | 21. Feeds on insects                     | 61. Very important person              |
| 31. Israeli politician                        | 65. Highest points                        | 23. Adult male                           | 62. Fiddler crabs                      |
| 33. Degrade                                   | 66. Social division                       | 24. Melancholic                          | 64. Special therapy                    |
|   | 67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease     | 27. Sheets of glass                      |  |
|   |   | 29. Slang for famous                     |  |



# 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!

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# OBITUARIES

## Alfred L. Caron, 88

BLANDFORD – Alfred L. Caron, 88, passed away on Tuesday, May 30, 2023. Son of the late Charles and Anne (Bousquet) Caron, Fred was born in Fall River, on July 20, 1934.

He served his country in the United States Air Force from Dec. 1, 1956 to Jan. 23, 1960. One of his most prized tours of duty in the military was his time in Japan.

After his honorable discharge, he went on to pursue higher education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst where he obtained his Bachelor's Degree in psychology in 1964 and his Master's Degree in speech in 1966.

While working at the Vermont Association for the Crippled (now Vermont Achievement Center) in Rutland, Vermont, he met his future wife and they were married July 1, 1967. In 1970, he and his bride moved to Huntington to begin work at Gateway Regional School District in Huntington. Other work history included Burbank Hospital in Fitchburg and Walter E. Fernald State School in Baldwinville. Upon retirement from Walter E. Fernald State School, he worked part time for several home health agencies



for a number of years. In his spare time, he enjoyed reading, writing, and listening to classical music.

As dementia started taking hold, Fred published three of his books that he had written several years earlier. He wrote many poems and enjoyed submitting them to the Country Journal to be published. Fred was predeceased by his wife, Elisabeth (Liz) (Weeks) Caron on April, 4, 2023.

He leaves his son, Scott of Westfield, his daughter Jennifer Caron-Theriaque and her husband Wayne of Westfield, and his granddaughter (the girl who could do no wrong in his eyes) Danielle E. Theriaque. He was also predeceased by his brother Charles, sisters Connie, Gloria (Pauline), and Shirley.

There are no services. He will be buried in the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam next to his wife. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice. The family would like to thank the exceptional and compassionate care he received by the staff on the Cranberry Cove wing of Heritage Hall East in Agawam and that of New England Hospice. [www.firtionadams.com](http://www.firtionadams.com).

## Nan Pease, 75

Nan passed away on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at the age of 75.

She was traveling in Italy with her husband, Gary and four of their dearest friends when she died unexpectedly, but peacefully. She was having a glorious time enjoying life and putting a smile on the face of everyone she met, as was her trademark.

Nan was born in Lancaster, Ohio and always considered herself a "Buckeye." She grew up in northern Illinois where she spent summers water skiing around Fox Lake. She moved to Massachusetts while in her twenties and became a licensed practical nurse working in a hospital, a doctor's office and as a field coordinator for a home health care agency.

When her children were older, she worked in the Westfield school system, ultimately retiring from the position of secretary in the High School Guidance Office (she ran the place). She loved helping students prepare for their future as evidenced by her spending ten years, after retirement, volunteering with the Westfield Citizens Scholarship Committee.

Nan loved to travel. Growing up she traveled with her parents and her sister to various National Parks and other venues. After retirement, she and her husband Gary spent six wonderful, weeks driving cross country, exploring and experiencing. Whether on a cruise ship or traveling on a muddy, backwoods country road she always had an infectious smile on her face. She loved life and people, she saw the good in everything and everyone.

She will be remembered for her nutty sense of humor, behind which was an intelligent, strong and steadfast individual, who was always loyal to family and friends. She loved to read, but only from a book. She somehow felt closer to the subject matter with the binding in her hand.

Nan's greatest passion was in the caring for family



and friends. She lived in service to all who needed it and she did this with grace and without expectation. Her selflessness extended to everyone she met and we are all better people because of this.

She brought joy and love to everyone she met, she was a nurturer and a constant source of light. Nan was proud of the accomplishments of her three loving children and was always there to listen and to love without judgement.

Nan was pre-deceased by her parents, Roy and Kate Stallsmith; her father-in-law, Kenneth Pease and her brother-in-law, Danny Oleksak.

She leaves behind her forever grateful husband, best friend and soulmate her "Bubba" of 46 years, Gary, her loving children: her daughter, Rebecca Freeman and her husband, John; her son, Mark Pease and his wife, Marisa and her daughter, Kristen Pease and her fiancé, Natalie. Nan had four grandchildren, Nicole and her husband, Tim; Michael and his partner, Ashley; Mia and Ross and two great-grandchildren, Madeline and Keegan. She also leaves behind her beloved mother-in-law, Barbara Pease. Nan will be forever remembered by her sister, Charley Oleksak.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday June 3, 2023 from 1-3 p.m. at the Firtion Adams Funeral Home, 76 Broad St., Westfield. The Memorial Service will be held for friends and family on Sunday, June 4 at 1 p.m. at the Worthington Congregational Church, 159 Huntington Road, Worthington. All are welcome. In Nan's cheerful spirit, we encourage the wearing of brightly colored attire, animal prints are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, we are requesting donations be made in Nan's honor, to CSF Westfield dollars for Scholars, P.O. Box 382, Westfield, MA 01086-0382. Web address [csfwestfield.dollarsforscholars.org](http://csfwestfield.dollarsforscholars.org) and email address [csfwestfieldma@gmail.com](mailto:csfwestfieldma@gmail.com). [www.firtionadams.com](http://www.firtionadams.com).

## DEATH NOTICES

### CARON, ALFRED L.

Died May 30, 2023  
No Services

### PEASE, NAN

Died May 20, 2023  
Services June 4, 2023

## 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 \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Chester Water Commission Public Notice

The Chester Water Commission will hold a public meeting on **June 01, 2023 at 4 PM** in the

Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Rd., Chester, to provide an update on water department operations and the water rate for FY2024. 05/25, 06/01/2023

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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# NORTHAMPTON

## Forbes Library lists upcoming events

NORTHAMPTON – On Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. the 29th annual Forbes Library Garden Tour will take place to raise fund for the Friends of Forbes Library, Inc.

Tour tickets are \$20 if bought in advance and are available now through Friday, June 8 at the Forbes Library, 20 West St. and several other locations.

Pre-pay on line at [www.forbeslibrary.org/friends](http://www.forbeslibrary.org/friends) to reserve tour tickets through Wednesday, June 7, for pick up at Forbes Library only on Thursday afternoon, June 8 from 4-8 p.m.; Friday, June 9 from 10 a.m.-6 pm and Saturday, June 10 from 10

a.m.-1 p.m. On Saturday, June 10, tour day, tickets are \$25 and available only at Forbes Library from 10 a.m.-1 p.m..

The Northampton Garden Tour also offers a raffle of items that appeal to both gardeners and other library supporters. People may purchase raffle tickets at Forbes Library starting now and at one of the gardens on the day of the tour.

All proceeds benefit the Friends of Forbes Library, Inc. to support library programs, events and projects that could not otherwise be funded.

On Saturday, June 3 at 11 a.m. there will be an Alastair Mook family concert. Alastair Mook is a 2013

Grammy Nominee, three-time Parents' Choice Gold Medal Winner and recipient of the ASCAP Joe Raposo Children's Music Award. Long one of Boston's premier folk artists, Alastair turned his attention to family music after the birth of his twins in 2006. Mook and Friends' live shows are rowdy, rootsy, singing and dancing fun for the whole family.

This event will be held on the library lawn. In the event of inclement weather, it will be held indoors in the Community Room at the library. This program is supported by a grant from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



## FCU accepting donations in support of Griffin's Friends

SPRINGFIELD – Freedom Credit Union is collecting cash donations through June 30 at its branches throughout western Massachusetts to benefit Griffin's Friends, a volunteer-led group dedicated to providing relief and support to children with cancer and their families.

"This is a cause that is near and dear to the hearts of our members and staff," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "Griffin's Friends is committed to bringing moments of joy to courageous kids undergoing treatment for cancer, some-

thing that can be all-consuming for families."

Griffin's Friends was founded in 1994 in Springfield and is named for Griffin D. Kelleher who passed away from cancer when he was 14 months old. This group is his legacy, uniquely supporting children in treatment for cancer and their families by providing small acts of kindness. Examples include trips to stage performances and sporting events; in-hospital and outpatient entertainment; massage therapy and activities such as art, computers and games.

We are happy to help rally resources to provide some happiness and comfort to these deserving, local children and families," said Welch. "We encourage our employees, members and the community at large to make monetary donations throughout the month of June at any Freedom branch. Every bit helps and 100 percent of the funds we raise will go to the Griffin's Friends Children's Cancer Fund at Baystate Health Foundation, Inc."

Originally chartered in 1922 as the Western Massachusetts Telephone Workers Credit Union and renamed

in 2004, Freedom Credit Union is a 9-branch, full-service financial institution. Today, membership is available to anyone who lives, works or attends school in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin or Berkshire counties in Massachusetts, and Hartford or Tolland counties in Connecticut. Offering a complete range of banking services and loan products, Freedom Credit Union has conveniently located Massachusetts branches in Chicopee, Feeding Hills, Greenfield, Ludlow, Northampton, Turners Falls, West Springfield and two in Springfield.

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**BRUSH CLEARING, VEGETATION CONTROL** CLEARING OF FENCE LINES, OVERGROWN PROPERTIES, HIKING TRAILS CALL GARY **(413) 531-3538**

#### MASONRY

#### STOP WET BASEMENTS

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All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

### REAL ESTATE

#### FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

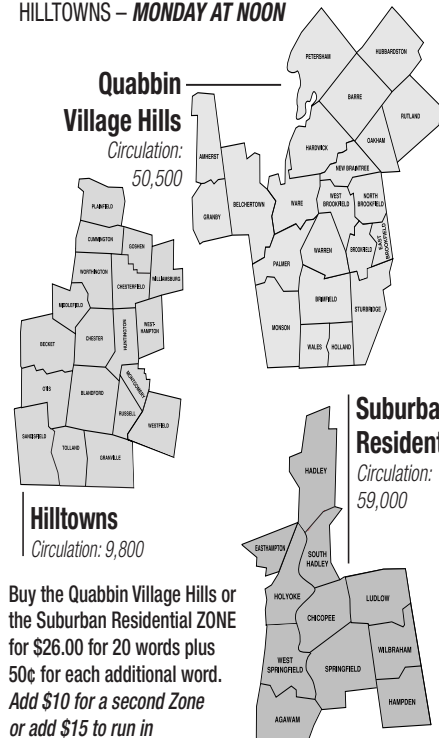
**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation,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

## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

**DEADLINES:** QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – **FRIDAY AT NOON**  
HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40



Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
 Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**  
 Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**  
 Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
 x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):  
 Quabbin  
 Suburban  
 Hilltowns

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

# WILLIAMSBURG

## WILLIAMSBURG CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY



The color guard leads the parade along Rte. 9 in Williamsburg.



Westhampton Cub Scout Pack 209 salute the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance.



Flags line the pathway to the Veterans' Memorial Park.

Submitted photos

### JOIN US FOR GUEST SPEAKER

**Mitchell Clionsky, Ph.D. ABPP(CN)**

**JUNE 8th, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

Light Refreshments Will be Served

The Arbors at Westfield Assisted Living Residential Community



**THE Arbors**<sup>®</sup>

Assisted Living Residential Communities

At Westfield

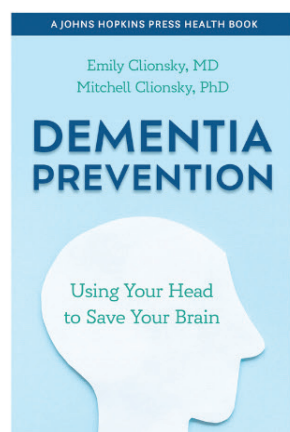
40 Court Street

Westfield, MA



### Worried About Memory Loss and Dementia Risk?

Join us for a special presentation by Mitchell Clionsky to discuss his new book **DEMENTIA PREVENTION: Using Your Head to Save Your Brain** (John Hopkins Press) Dr. Clionsky will present an overview of dementia and the various elements that go into dementia risk, but rather than just a lecture, he will be focusing on answering YOUR questions!!!



### DONT WAIT, RSVP TODAY

Call (413) 562-0001

or

Email (scan QR code)



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR



PURCHASE A BOOK ON AMAZON



**First 10 RSVPS's will receive a signed copy of the book "Dementia Prevention"**

[www.arborsassistedliving.com](http://www.arborsassistedliving.com)