

# Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

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## BLANDFORD

### Voters approve warrant quickly

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Annual Town Meeting Monday, June 2, saw 61 registered voters turn out to approve 34 articles in just under 45 minutes.

The item that created the most discussion was Article 29 which added a line amending the town's general bylaws. The original bylaw addresses plowing snow into or across a byway so as to impede the flow of traffic. The amended version added the line, "or perform any work on Town owned property without written permission from the Select Board." The fine of \$150 remained the same.

The budget for the coming fiscal year was approved with no chang-

es or challenges from the floor at \$5,087,813.32. That figure includes \$283,292.82 for vocational education, \$31,878.50 for vocational transportation and \$2,809,282.82 for all departmental budgets.

Zoning bylaws on the warrant were to amend the Floodplain District to reflect new "flood maps and requirements for participation and compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program."

Another to allow for Accessory Dwelling Units in single-family residential zoning districts. A third to amend the Schedule of Uses Table for Accessory Dwelling Units and a final zoning bylaw change to the defi-

VOTERS, page 6

## WESTFIELD

### Harriet Gilman celebrates 104<sup>th</sup>

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Armbrook Village, a senior living residence on North Road recognized long time Chester resident, Harriet Gilman, as the oldest resident of Armbrook Village on Wednesday, June 4. Gilman turned 104 and celebrated her June 3 birthday with family, other residents, elected dignitaries and a contingent of friends from the hilltowns. She was also present for a special celebration at the First Congregational Church of Chester held June 1.

The town of Chester previously presented Gilman with a Golden Cane on her 100th birthday in 2021. Many of those in attendance wore blue in honor of the Gilmans' blueberry farm in Chester.

Mayor Mike McCabe presented a citation from the city of Westfield, first asking if anyone knew what had happened in history on June



Armbrook Village in Westfield recognized Harriet Gilman's 104th birthday on June 4.

4 in 1920 and 1921. There were no answers, other than "Harriet was a day old." McCabe noted that women's suffrage was enacted on June 4, 1920 and Charlie Chaplin released his first silent film

GILMAN, page 12



Harriet Gilman gets ready to cut her special birthday cake. Turley photos by Wendy Long

## HUNTINGTON

### Select Board interviews finalists for police chief position

Brian Kowal offered position

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

At their June 4 meeting, select board Chair Roger Booth and members William Hathaway and John McVeigh interviewed three finalists for the position of Huntington's Police Chief.

Long-time Chief Robert Garriepy will retire from the post at the end of June. There were a total of seven applicants for the position and the finalists were screened and selected by a special committee that included businessman Darryl

Fisk, Gateway Assistant Superintendent Stephanie Fisk, Finance Committee member Eric Jensen and Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin. The finalists were Michael Girard, Brian Kowal and Nicole Miller.

Girard came to the Huntington police department in 2002 as a patrolman and worked his way up to Sergeant in 2023. More recently, he served as the Interim Chief when Garriepy was injured in a motorcycle accident. Girard said he likes the community and loves the people here.

In one of his most memorable calls, he described arresting someone before a crime could be committed.



Michael Girard



Brian Kowal



Nicole Miller

He stopped to inquire about a parked car near some houses and discovered that the men inside had dropped off a man who had a restraining order against him. Investigating further, Girard found the man had broken into a house and was hiding in the basement, waiting for his intended victim to get home. He

said the worst part of the job is notifying someone that their loved one is not coming home. "The wins come and go in this job," Girard said.

He currently has part-time hours in Huntington and his goals would include holding Saturday hours to improve working people's access for pistol permits and

improving community outreach through social media. He is certified in hostage negotiation and said he had prior experience as an Amtrak Foreman and had managed a \$2 million municipal radio project for West Springfield.

Brian Kowal has been a campus police officer at Westfield State University for 21 years. While at WSU he received two letters of commendation for his work as an Acting Sergeant and for being the officer in charge of dealing with an unruly crowd, which he was able to de-escalate.

He started a "community policing" program at WSU, with an officer assigned to

each residence hall. He was also a student at the time and realized that the commuting students were not assigned an officer, which he remedied. His biggest call on campus was an active shooter situation that turned out to be a false alarm but at the time required implementing the response plan. It was a good learning experience and he was able to provide input on steps that could be modified or added to the plan.

Kowal has worked with the Huntington police department for the past six years, with a brief gap in service. He said he would look forward to meeting with com-

CHIEF, page 2

### CHESTER WOMAN HAS A RHODODENDRON IN FULL BLOOM



92 year old Fay Piergiiovanni of Chester poses in front of her massive rhododendron bushes.



Submitted photo

## HILLTOWNS

### Summer music series set to begin July 10

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

The Huntington Community Events Committee announces this year's lineup for their summer music series on the town green, at the corners of Rt. 20 and Rt. 112.

Music will be available every Thursday evening from July 10 through Aug. 21. Music lovers are invited to bring their lawn chairs, but not their pets to enjoy these performances.

This series is organized by the Community Events

Committee and is the most popular event of the year. Regardless of weather, the show will go on. In the event of rain, performances will move into Stanton Hall and be held indoors.

A special Huntington Appreciation Picnic will kick off the series on Thursday, July 10. Attendees can get a hamburger or hot dog, popcorn, lemonade and a cake for a \$1 donation. This night only, festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m.. Starting off will be The King Country Band, who will

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# HILLTOWNS



Town clerks from Blandford, Cummington, Easthampton, Great Barrington, Huntington, Lenox, Pittsfield, Sandisfield, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge to name a few attended the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association conference in Plymouth. *Turley photo by Mary Kronholm*

## Town clerks attend MTCA

PLYMOUTH – Nearly 300 municipal clerks attended the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association annual conference June 4 through June 6 in Plymouth.

Topics included Voter List Maintenance and Voter Challenges, Parliamentary Procedure, a Back-to-Basics session to ensure compliance and a class covering AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Town Records and Information.

Clerks from Western

Massachusetts included: Nicole Parker and Felecie Joyce, Sheffield; Terri Iemolini, Stockbridge; Nicole Beverly, Williamstown; Douglas Miner, Sandisfield; Joshua Risen, Great Barrington; Amanda Leavenworth, Monterey; Juliette Haas, Egremont; Kathy Chretien, New Marlborough; Kerry Sullivan, Lenox; Doris Jemiolo and Mary Kronholm of Blandford; Michelle Fieldstad-Booth,

Huntington; Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, Alford; Alicia Graves, Buckland; Brenda Emerson-Camp, Cummington; Mary Ann Giza, Easthampton; Tim Donnelly, Longmeadow; Amanda Lynch, Northfield; Michelle Benjamin, Pittsfield; Sarah Gmeiner, South Hadley; Christina Myette, Southwick; Marie Ryan, West Stockbridge; Lynn Sibley, Whately and Deborah Brennan, Wilbraham.

## MassDOT announces I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces guardrail repair, drainage structure work and bridge painting operations will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound now through June 12.

The work will require overnight lane closures and one on-ramp closure in various locations along I-90. In West Stockbridge, drainage structure work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 2.4 to 7.8 through Thursday night, June 12 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning. Drainage structure work will be con-

ducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 0.0 to 3.8 on Thursday night, June 12 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

In Becket, bridge painting will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 18.4 from now through Thursday night, June 12, from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

In Otis and Blandford, drainage structure work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 22.0 to 26.0 now through Thursday night, June 12 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road.

## MUSIC

*from page 1*

perform a mix of Elvis and country hits.

King Kountry is headlined by award winning Elvis tribute artist Ray Guillemette Jr. Guillemette has performed all over North America and in Belgium, France and Japan. He performs with the band throughout Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut. Their set is likely to include a range of country music with a few Elvis tunes thrown in.

All concerts end at 8 p.m. The start time for the rest of

the series will be 6:30 p.m. Different town groups will offer refreshments for sale at the remaining events.

Also in the series will be Otan Vargas, alternative acoustic music on July 17; The Brian & Vicky Show, country and rock covers on July 24; The Hellcats, rock and original music on July 31; The Hotshot Hillbillies, "classic rock to country roll" on Aug. 7 and Even It Up, 70s, 80s and beyond on Aug. 14. Closing the 2025 summer series will be The Honig

Brothers on Aug. 21, performing classic rock and originals.

The summer music series is sponsored by the Huntington Community Events Committee and Huntington Cultural Council. The Huntington Cultural Council is a local committee funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. People may keep apprised of updates by joining the Huntington MA Summer Music Series/C. E. Committee page on Facebook.

# HUNTINGTON

## CHIEF

*from page 1*

munity stakeholders and being more broadly involved with community groups, such as the Safe Schools plan at Gateway or providing self-defense classes through the Council on Aging. He said he would utilize software to manage the timing of his work, such as policy development and reviews.

Nicole Miller is a part-time Chief of Police in Washington, a patrolman in West Stockbridge and has been in law enforcement for the past 21 years. She has extensive experience with small, rural towns in Berkshire County. She would like to move into a full time chief's position and described herself as extremely good at administrative tasks like grant writing and required paperwork. She has

seen an uptick in domestic violence incidents in the towns she works in and began consulting with the Elizabeth Freeman Center about what they were seeing and how to better respond. She also serves as an animal control officer. Her favorite part of the job has been working with the community and engaging with them by having lunch with children at school and organizing events like a bike safety rodeo, where she used grant funding to give helmets out to adults and kids who attended.

The most challenging call she handled was a woman who was kidnapped and raped. Miller supported the victim at the scene and hospital and later served a warrant to the perpetrator. When asked how she would

manage repeated vandalism by a group of children, she responded that they needed cameras to obtain evidence, share it with the children and their parents and negotiate reparation through some combination of community service, a fine, and/or a signed contract with the children, parents and police. If those failed-pursuing charges. Her first task as Chief, she said, would be to meet with each officer, align goals and expectations, learn what the department needs, and invite input from the community.

Later in the meeting, the board voted 2 to 1 for Kowal and planned to schedule contract negotiations in executive session at a special meeting that will be held on June 11 at 6 p.m. Also held

over to the additional meeting is a decision on filling the Assistant Tax Collector position.

Other business included a review of the changes to the June 23 Annual Town Meeting warrant advised by legal counsel. The Special Town Meeting warrant remains unchanged from the June 2 posting, as June 23 will be a continuance of that meeting.

Free cash has been certified at \$285,403. The board unanimously approved the June 23 ATM warrant with the legal changes. They plan to post it on the town website and send a robo call asking voters to please read the warrant ahead of time. Two warrant articles on animal control and accessory dwelling units are lengthy.

## Grey Catbird Studio to hold summer workshops

By Wendy Long  
*Correspondent*

4:30 p.m.

A series of watercolor painting classes is being taught by Dan Delisle. Patrons may sign up for a two class session for \$75 or take all six classes for \$225. Paper and brushes will be provided; participants should bring their own paints. A variety of techniques will be taught for still life and the artist's choice. Offered on Thursdays, July 10 and 17, July 24 and 31 and/or Aug. 7 and 14 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presented by excellent local artists and artisans, the workshops will include step by step instructions and most materials. For clarity, the term "workshop" is used to describe a single session offering, "classes" describe two or more sessions.

Mary Cantler and Lydia King will offer a seasonal floral design workshop on Saturdays, Aug. 9 or Sept. 13, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. A June 7 workshop had already been filled by press time. A fee of \$60 will cover instruction and flowers. Attendees will bring home a beautiful bouquet.

Denise Beaulieu will offer a workshop in glass fusing with a fee of \$55. Those taking part will create a 4" by 4" piece of glass art. All materials are included in the fee. Participants may choose between Saturdays June 21 or Aug. 2, from 2:30-

Linda Briggs is hosting a two-class session in pine needle basket weaving. Participants will learn to weave their own small basket. Classes run July 19 and 26 or August 16 and 23 at a cost of \$100.

Portrait drawing with charcoal/pencil will also be offered by Joan Ryan in a two-class format. Materials will be provided within the \$75 fee. Choose from Monday/Tuesday July 21 and 22, or Aug. 11 and 12. All classes will be from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

People may call Dale Rogers to enroll by calling 413-875-5205, stop in at the studio to sign up or emailing [graycatbirdpottery@gmail.com](mailto:graycatbirdpottery@gmail.com).

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# HUNTINGTON



Scouting America Troop 821 of Westfield fold the American Flag prior to the flag ceremony held at Norwich Bridge Cemetery in Huntington. The six Scouts who are folding the new flag dedicated to the Norwich Bridge Cemetery are from left, Ryan Deacon, Eric Deacon, E.J. Crossetti, Tony Crossetti, Tyler Mulville and Gabe Colon. In the background is former Scout/Assistant Scout Master and now Westfield Fireman Nick Black.



Former Scout Justin Porter and current Scout Christopher Pitoniak form the "heart" on the hill out of American Flags at Norwich Bridge Cemetery in Huntington.



The small display table is in Memory of Alice Richardson, the former care taker of the Norwich Bridge Cemetery in Huntington. Submitted photos

## Boy Scouts Troop clean up Norwich Bridge Cemetery

**HUNTINGTON** – For many years, the Norwich Bridge Cemetery in Huntington was maintained and groomed by Alice Richardson and Rodney LaFond.

In January 2022, Alice suddenly passed away. In accordance with cemetery bylaws, a small committee will oversee the care and hopefully be able to maintain the grounds. This small committee currently consists of a handful of very hardworking folk into their 80 years of life. They reached out to the Boy Scout Troop yearly since 2022, for help in beautifying the cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day visits by the families of the fallen folks buried there.

Alice Richardson, aunt of one of the Scout leaders dedicated her daily volunteer hours to maintaining this gorgeous cemetery. A neatly trimmed and presentable cemetery grounds were Alice's

legacy.

The Boy Scouts, a few of their parents and Assistant Scoutmasters of Scouting America Troop 821 in Westfield participated in the spring cleanup on Saturday, May 17, alongside of the group of dedicated cemetery committee member for the fourth annual cemetery clean up event with Scout participation.

This year, a new larger American flag was purchased for the cemetery and the Scouts were asked to raise it on the central flagpole. The Scouts took that opportunity to host a formal Flag Ceremony, complete with Color Guard and Troop Bugler during the clean up event. The bugler, Nick Black, is a former Troop 821 Scout, a former Troop 821 Assistant Scoutmaster and now a new Westfield fireman.

Troop 821 Scoutmaster Jason Pitoniak said, "It's great to see the Scouts come back



Scouting America Troop 821 of Westfield and their leaders pose for a group photos at the May 17 cleanup at Norwich Bridge Cemetery. Shown from left in back row, are Scott Porter (Assistant Scout Master), Zachary Parent, Tony Crossetti, Christopher Pitoniak, Benjamin McEwan, Hayden Monroe, Andrew Caldeira, Ryan Deacon and Gary D'Andrea (Assistant Scout Master) and former Scout/former Assistant Scout Master Camden D'Andrea. In front row is Nolan D'Andrea, Gabe Colon, Eric Deacon, EJ Crossetti, Tyler Mulville, Riley Pease and Heidi Trottier (Assistant Scout Master).

year after year to perform this service for the Norwich Bridge Cemetery. They all do a great job and take pride

in their work. I'm always amazed by the transformation

and how good everything looks at the end of the day,

with the help of all involved in the cleanup efforts that day."



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# CHESTERFIELD

## 78th Annual 4th of July Fest!!

### Red, White & Moooo

**Pancake Breakfast (Firehouse)** 7:00 - 10:00

**Food & Vendor Booths** 9:00 - 1:30

**Historical Exhibits (Edwards Museum)** 9:00 - 1:30

**Heritage Pops Orchestra (Town Center)** 9:30 & 11:30

**Hilltown Art Display (Town Hall)** 9:30 - 1:30

**Historical Exhibits (Town Hall)** 9:30 - 1:30

10:30 - 11:30

## PARADE

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**Chicken Barbecue (Church)** 11:30 - 1:30

**Magic Show (Russell Park)** 11:30 - 1:30

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Massachusetts Cultural Council

## OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



By Russell Gloor

## Social Security questions asked over coffee

Dear Rusty:

My coffee conversations among a group of friends have resulted in several questions about Social Security.

1. What happens to the Social Security account of someone who dies before retirement age. What happens to that money and where does it end up?

2. How does the decreased birth rate of the USA affect future Social Security benefits?

3. Is a person, who has never contributed to the Social Security System entitled to any benefits from the Social Security Administration?

4. Is there a central location online that a person can access that explains the history and current status of the Social Security System, that explains all of it in simple terms. I would like to be able to give this location to people I talk with about Social Security.

Most of the articles we read are like slogging through mud. I enjoy AMAC articles and am college educated, but the average reading level in the U.S. is less than sixth grade. Thank you for considering these questions.

Signed: Curious Reader

Dear Curious:

Thank you for your readership and I'll be happy to tackle your "over coffee" questions about Social Security.

1. **Social Security is a "pay as you go" program, where all money collected from workers is used to pay benefits for all those, who are currently receiving Social Security.** In other words, all money contributed is used to pay benefits to others already receiving benefits. It is not put into a separate account for each person and that is a good thing. Most people get more from Social Security than they ever contributed, but benefits are paid for life, regardless of how long one lives. The specific answer to your question is that if someone dies before retirement age, the money contributed has already been used to pay benefits to others. Keep in mind though, that a surviving spouse or minor or disabled adult child may also collect benefits on a deceased person's Social Security record.

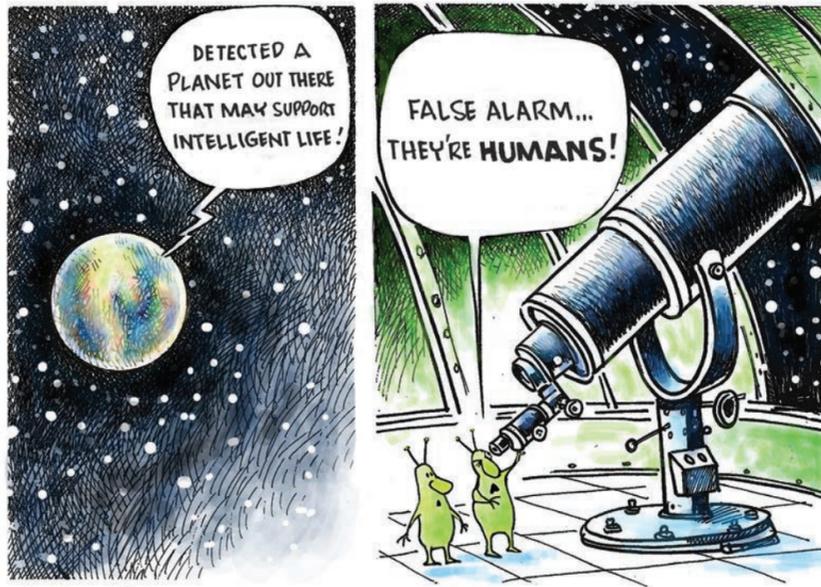
2. **The decreasing birth rate in the U.S. hurts Social Security.** That's because fewer babies mean fewer future workers contributing to the Social Security program. FYI, in 1950 there were about 15 workers contributing to SS for every one person collecting benefits, but today there are less than three workers for each

SS beneficiary. That problem is exacerbated by the steadily increasing U.S. life expectancy. Beneficiaries are now often collecting SS benefits for decades from a program designed to pay benefits for only a few years.

3. **Only those who have worked and contributed to Social Security through payroll taxes for about 10 years (40 quarters of SS credit) are eligible to collect SS Retirement benefits.** However, some dependent spouses and/or dependent minor or dependent disabled children who have never worked might also be eligible for benefits from the worker's Social Security record. Along with each U.S. state, the SSA also administers another program, known as Supplement Security Income, on behalf of the federal government. However, federal "SSI" benefits are not paid with Social Security funds. "SSI" is a separate government benefit program, with federal benefits paid from the general U.S. Treasury.

4. **There are lots of places to get information about Social Security, but I suggest you start at our AMAC Foundation Social Security information website, which can be found at [www.socialsecurityreport.org](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org).** Here you will find numerous articles about Social Security, retirement, Medicare, etc., as well as all the Ask Rusty articles I have published weekly over the last 8 years. You can also find excellent Social Security information on our AMAC Foundation main website, [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org). And, of course, you can always ask any questions you have via email to [SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org). Or, if you prefer, you can just call us on 1-888-750-2622 if you have questions about Social Security or about Medicare enrollment.

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



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## What is the priority?

I was a Captain in the Merchant Marine for many years and during that time I learned that actions must respect the urgency of the situation. An extreme example is a law that excuses release of bilge water or oil into the sea in the event of an emergency if that action is necessary to save the crew and the vessel. Fortunately, I was never faced with that choice at sea (my motto was never spill a drop of oil at all).

We are facing a similar dilemma on dry land, deciding how best to preserve the lives we choose to live in our region of our planet, specifically the Hilltown of Blandford.

A recent debate has arisen around the decision of the aging son of a Blandford potato farmer. This son has cared for his father's farming legacy, maintaining a 35 acre field against nature's efforts to return that field to the woods that existed before

a great deal of back-braking labor removed the stumps and the annual harvest of the rocks that grew there. As part of the evolution that this field represents, is the changing nature of farming. This son of the potato farmer is choosing to meld both traditional farming with solar production by installing nearly 7,000 solar panels 10' high and 18' apart to accommodate continued agricultural utilization of the field. I've often considered farmers to be solar entrepreneurs, converting the sun's rays into whatever crop might be grown, and in this case the crop is both hay and electrons.

Today, we are all facing difficult decisions. Micro plastic is literally everywhere. PFAS is unwanted in all our bodies. Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is overwhelming our atmosphere, 40% of which is from burning fossil fuels in our cars and trucks. The CO<sub>2</sub> is

changing our climate, inviting ticks and forest destroying pests that survive the warmer winters contributing to unwelcome changes in our local environment. Every installed solar panel has the potential to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, reducing the release of CO<sub>2</sub> and easing the associated impacts.

We can rail against the toilet not flushing, but when the ship is in danger of sinking, the plumbing is no longer the priority. Right now, today, the best course is to choose the least bad option that moves us in the direction that buys us time to choose better options in the future for ourselves and those that come after us. Driving past a field that is shared by solar panels might be viewed as a hopeful sign that one farmer is doing his part to save what we all love.

Paul Dirschka  
Blandford

## GUEST COLUMN

## Bush beans are a great succession crop

I was "late" planting my bush beans this year, at least according to the calendar. But with the garden being under water for awhile and then mucky for days on end, this past week was the first time conditions were favorable.

We want to grow a lot of beans this year. The kids like them steamed, then stir-fried with garlic. My hope it to have lots of them to freeze, and to do that it will require multiple plantings.

Bush beans are a good example of a vegetable that works well as a succession crop. What that means is that they can be sown multiple times throughout the summer.

Why? Because unlike most other vegetables, beans produce less than 8 weeks from sowing, are not finicky about heat, and as long as you have full sun and average garden soil they can be grown with relative ease.

Consider making additional sowings of this versatile vegetable now before

you get busy with the harvest. That way you can enjoy a continuous supply all summer long.

You might still refer to snap or bush beans as "string beans" even though the tough strings that connected the two halves of the pod were bred out of the snap bean beginning in 1884 with Calvin N. Keeney's introduction of the Stringless Refugee Wax Bean.

Today's modern stringless beans are a result of those early breeding efforts.

All types of beans require warm soil in which to germinate; 60 degrees at least. White seeded varieties are especially picky about soil temperatures.

Black and tan seeds regulate moisture intake more effectively, and therefore are

less likely to rot in cool, wet soils. If you want to gamble with an early sowing, sow these instead.

Many seed companies even tell you the seed color in a description.

Usually by May 20 the ground is warm enough to sow all types of beans.

Succession plantings can be made every 10 days through July 30. After that it is unlikely that plants will produce a viable crop before frost hits.

Rather than sowing bean seeds in rows, I make good use of garden space by planting them in a four-foot wide block. Anything wider than four feet would make it difficult to reach in among the plants to harvest.

If soil has been turned over or rototilled first it is easy to simply place the bean seeds on top of the soil four inches apart and push them into the ground with your index finger, up to the first knuckle. Pat the surface of the soil with your palm

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## Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

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

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

## Campaign news

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

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

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

# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

### Wetlands home to beavers, turtles and plants

By Ashley Tacke, Lily Peloquin and Eliza Mueller  
Guest Columnists

*Note: These are students at Gateway Regional High School in Mr. Duggans AP US History class. They submitted this guest column as a civic action project about the hilltown wetlands.*

Remember the bird you saw outside your window or that beaver on the hike you went on?

For those who have experienced nature up close, an occasion may come straight to mind, and for others, you may not be able to relate. For those who can't relate, perhaps it is due to the animals' homes in wetlands being destroyed. Beavers, along with dozens of other species of animals, rely on wetlands as their home. Without wetlands they are left without a reliable source of food, water, and a safe home for themselves and their families to live.

Wetlands are areas where soil is saturated with water permanently or seasonally. Lakes, rivers, swamps, bogs, marshes, ponds, dams can all be put under the category of variations of wetlands. They

are diverse ecosystems that can support many different breeds of wildlife.

Beavers are one animal that relies on wetlands as their natural habitat, but they also help improve wetlands by creating dams that help stop floods which then increases the biodiversity. Another animal specific to Western Massachusetts is the bog turtle, an endangered species that is the smallest and rarest turtle, its species relies on wetlands to survive. With the dwindling wetlands available they have fewer places to live, sending them out of protected spaces, putting them in harm's way in unfamiliar environments, causing them to become less common.

It is not just animals relying on the wetlands, it's plants too. Cattails, sedges, rushes, duckweed and water lilies all grow in the wetlands providing food and habitat for some of the animals living in the wetlands along with improving the water quality and stabilizing soil. There are also tree species that grow in and around the wetlands as well including red maple, red alder, black ash and bur oak trees.

All these trees provide homes for the animals living in the wetlands like

songbirds, woodpeckers, and bats. They also provide coverage and food sources for deer, along with its roots helping to stabilize the soil by binding it together and preventing erosion along shorelines and riverbanks.

Hurting the wetlands has negative impacts on many species of plants and animals. The Wetlands Protection Act has been put in place by the Conservation Committee with hopes of preventing such issues, but not all people have chosen to adhere to these regulations.

We have a very bad habit of littering, making survival for the animals much more difficult. We pollute the water with chemicals in which they live, eat, and drink. Plant species can be poisoned and die off, limiting the amount of resources available to animals living within.

We build on the wetlands destroying and displacing the plant and animal habitat completely changing the ecosystem. Think twice before disposing of your garbage when visiting your local wetlands. Rather than just tossing your trash on the ground, take the extra few minutes to find a garbage can to dispose of it properly.

### Wetlands have important purpose

By Michael Whitaker, Jeffrey Antonellis and Justin Rocki  
Guest Columnists

*Note: These are students at Gateway Regional High School in Mr. Duggans AP US History class. They submitted this guest column as a civic action project about the hilltown wetlands.*

We have lived in the hilltowns for our entire lives. One of the defining characteristics of our home, the hilltowns, is its rural nature, the fact that you can wander off behind your house and be lost for hours in wilderness. People around the towns talk about our country nature with pride, it is part of our identities.

Because of this, it is all the more important to keep the environment that makes our hilltowns vibrant and healthy. A large portion of that environment consists of wetlands and despite their significance, these important environments often seem to go unnoticed.

For those who don't know, wetlands are any land with soil that is either seasonally or permanently saturated with water.

Yes, this can make it too soft to build or even easily walk on. Around here, some local wetlands include the Littleville Reservoir, Knightville Dam, Roaring Brook and Norwich Lake.

These areas are crucial for the regulation of water into river ways such as the Westfield River, which is also a wetland. At a glance, it is easy to mistake our wetlands as a waste of space, an ugly side of nature that could easily be plowed over and used for 'important' things like houses or farms. This being said, wetlands are home to millions of species of wildlife that are important to maintaining the ecological health of our woodlands.

Wetlands also provide natural flood control, absorbing water that would normally wash over the landscape flood, making wetlands integral for keeping infrastructure, from buildings to everyday basements, safe. At one point, Huntington was flooded due to excess water along the Westfield River branches and ironically, basements did flood due to this. The regulation of this is needed to prevent more damage in the future.

In 1972, Massachusetts

passed a law in order to protect these wetlands called The Wetlands Protection Act. The WPA protects "wetlands, floodplains, riverfront areas and other areas from destruction or alteration." Too many wetlands are lost to erosion and large building projects, destroying these vital ecosystems. This natural land is slowly being ruined and wiped out, and as this continues to happen, less will remain.

Wetlands are where our local wild water canoe race occurs, which thousands of people come from all over to watch. People also use wetlands to go swimming and fishing. Anyone from the hilltowns can go for a fun time at these wetlands. We have an amazing environment in the hilltowns and it is such a privilege to be able to enjoy it.

It is imperative that these lands are treated with the respect that they deserve. Moreover as time progresses into warmer weather, many people travel to the Westfield River to go swimming. This can be seen as an attraction to our hilltowns. Many locals also fish the surrounding lakes and rivers year round - ice fishing, fishing by boat, fly fishing and wade fishing.

from page 4

## GARDEN

to firm, and water well. Germination will take place in a week to 10 days.

It is good practice not to work among the plants after a rainstorm or in the early morning when dew is present. Touching wet foliage can encourage diseases and spread them from plant to plant.

When the foliage is dry you will want to be on the look out for the Mexican Bean Beetle. A bit larger than ladybugs, and all brown, these pests and their

fuzzy yellow larvae can decimate a stand of bean plants. Vigilance is the key.

If squashing bugs isn't for you, dropping them into soapy water will also do them in. Try planting marigolds nearby to deter them.

I have also found through experience that subsequent sowings are best sited away from one another. It will take the beetles a longer time to find the new plants than if they are planted side by side.

Harvest beans when

they are still relatively thin. Depending on the variety, pods can average five to seven inches long at maturity. When inner seeds start to swell and fatten up the bean they aren't nearly as tasty.

As mentioned, bumper crops are possible, and sometimes it may be difficult to keep up with the harvest. One variety known especially for its holding power is Jade. Beans from this variety retain a deep green color and sport thin pods.

I have also enjoyed

growing French beans "Haricot Verts" because they are very long and thin, never tough.

Fresh beans are easy to freeze. Blanch in boiling water for three minutes then plunge into ice water until cooled. Air-dry thoroughly, pack in plastic bags, and place in the freezer. Easy breezy.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the

position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a

question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

### Corrections policy

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

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

# Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 10, 2025.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is **August 11.**

## Community Autumn Events Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
or email\* them to: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

\*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.

## BLANDFORD

## Democratic Committee to hold rally and meeting

BLANDFORD – The Blandford Democratic Committee will hold a rally to democracy on Saturday, June 14 at the I-90 overpass on North Street.

Their flyer promoting the actions references prior the generations in Western Massachusetts who “stood up against a King prior to the American Revolution.”

According to national organizers, June 14 is “a nationwide act of defiance”, Americans across the country will rally for No Kings on flag day.

The local group will meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the overpass on North Street near the service road for the Western Bound Plaza. Participants are encouraged

to bring a sign or help hold the two large banners.

Immediately following the rally Blandford Democratic Town Committee meeting will be in the

Council on Aging room at Blandford Town for the regular monthly at 11 a.m. The rally and meeting both are on the same day as Town Election.



Registered voters recited the Pledge of Allegiance at the Annual Town Meeting June 1.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm



Planning Board Chairman Paul Martin gave that board's report and recommendation for Zoning Bylaw changes.

from page 1

### VOTERS

tion of a lot, changing the wording to mean “an area of land with definite bound-

aries.”

Chairman of the Planning Board Paul Martin

gave the report and recommendations for the Planning Board.

### LEE

## Lee Pride to host first-ever celebration on June 14

LEE – The newly launched Lee Pride, a program of Berkshire Pride, will host its first-ever Pride celebration on Saturday, June 14, with a day full of joy, visibility, and LGBTQIA+ community connection.

The event includes: a morning Interfaith Pride Prayer Breakfast, followed by a vendor mar-

ket co-hosted by the First Congregational Church of Lee, UCC at 9 a.m., the Lee Farmers Market, and the Lee Chamber of Commerce, an afternoon performance at the Devonfield Inn and two drag shows and dance parties in the evening at the Starving Artist Café.

The day kicks off at 9 a.m. with an Interfaith Pride

Prayer Breakfast in the Community Room of the First Congregational Church of Lee, UCC. The breakfast will include prayer, reflection, and a vegetarian meal sponsored by the First Congregational Church and Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, in partnership with the Southern Berkshire Interfaith Clergy Council.

### PORTER LIBRARY HOSTS FELTING CLASS



Fiber Artist Tracy Kochanski assists Pamela Rideout with her creation.

Photos courtesy of the Porter Memorial Library



Bea Davenport holds her creation.



There was a crowd at the Porter Memorial Library Saturday, June 14 to participate in crafting a felted bird. Fiber artist Tracy Kochanski led the group.

### PITTSFIELD

## Western Mass Hilltown Hikers to hold hike to Berry Mountain

PITTSFIELD – Western Mass Hilltown Hikers will hold a group hike at Pittsfield State Forest on Saturday, June 14 at 10 a.m.

Participants should park Berry Mountain Vista Lot. The hike is a moderate 3.36 miles ridge line hike with 600 feet of total elevation gain with options for less. DCR Interpretive Coordinator Alec Gillman

will lead one of the most beautiful mountaintops to experience the best the Taconic Ridge has to offer, sixty five acres of wild azaleas.

Berry Hill named for William Berry, a Revolutionary War veteran, who owned land here is filled with the sweet smell of blooms of many varieties of the pink wild flowers and at 2,060-feet, Berry Pond

is the highest natural water body in Massachusetts. The group will hike the Berry Pond shoreline and then follow the Taconic Crest Trail to Tower Mountain then return on the Pine Mountain Trail to visit Tilden Swamp with its bog vegetation.

The hike will start at the dirt parking lot known as the New York Overlook with commanding views of the Catskills and Albany.

Berry Hill is also a well known hawk watching site and many different varieties of wildlife can be seen here at this high elevation.

The group will hike rain or shine. Registration is required by registering per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water provided. Well behaved dogs are allowed. The event is volun-

teer lead. Suggested donation is \$15. More details are available by visiting [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com). People may email [westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com](mailto:westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com) or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions. As always be prepared for rocks, mud and roots and bring trekking poles.

For those who want to hike every weekend year-

round, they may become a Hilltown Hiker Member. They will get access to a private Messenger Group Text with hike and event announcements that are member exclusive events. They can sign up by visiting [www.HilltownHikers.com](http://www.HilltownHikers.com). Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Tees, hoodies, hats, patches and bags will be for sale by donation at the event.

### CUMMINGTON

## Friday night cafe presents Talamana

CUMMINGTON – Talamana plays original songs, incorporating jazz and folk music with elements of world music at tonight's program Friday, June 13 from 7-9 p.m.

Founding members, Laila Salins on vocals and Rhythnn guitar and Jim Matus on laoutar (Lute/guitar hybrid) and back up vocals. They perform in the United States and Eastern Europe and their home is in Chesterfield.

The word “talamana” is a Sanskrit word denoting cosmic order and rhythm. In their new program, “Sane Asylum,” they have added new dreamlike

songs that lean into calm and joy amid the chaos that surrounds them creating a space for reflection, hope and action.

People may visit Bandcamp link: <https://jimmatus1.bandcamp.com/album/cloud-call-or>

Talamana: <https://lailasalins.com/talamana-2/> for more information.

The show is from 7:00-9:00 at the Village Church in beautiful downtown Cummington in the heart of the Cummington Cultural District. The event is free, donations are appreciated, snacks are provided, BYO drinks. The show will take place

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

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

### RUSSELL

## Library announces events

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library, 162 Main St., welcomes Steve Cormier, author of “The Sacrificial Land” on Saturday, June 21 from 2-4 p.m.

He will lead a talk on the Westfield River and his book. People should RSVP by Wednesday, June 18 by emailing [rpldirector162@gmail.com](mailto:rpldirector162@gmail.com)

calling 413-862-6221 or signing up at the library. This is funded in part by the Russell Cultural Council.

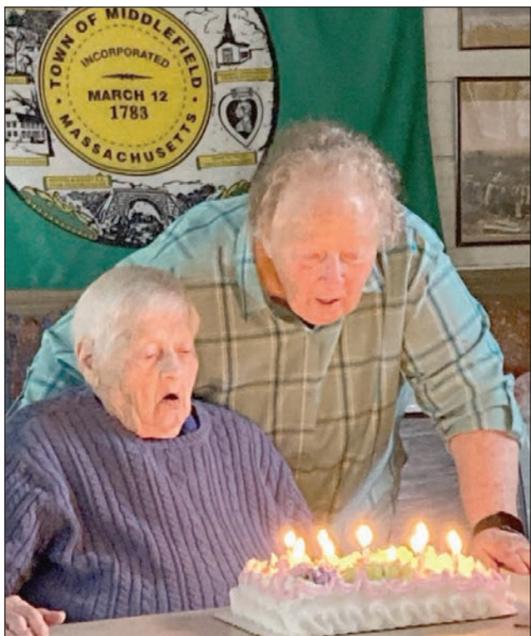
Summer reading kickoff will be held Saturday, June 28 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the library. The theme is community. The kickoff event will include face painting, games, snacks

and wandering entertainment with singer/songwriter Bruce Mandel from noon-1 p.m. People are invited to bring a picnic. They should register by Tuesday, June 24 by emailing [rpldirector162@gmail.com](mailto:rpldirector162@gmail.com), calling 413-862-6221 or signing up at the library. This is funded in part by the Russell Cultural Council.

*Parents & Coaches*  
**SEND US YOUR NEWS & PHOTOS**  
 email us at: [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)

# MIDDLEFIELD

## BIRTHDAYS AND FIELD TRIPS KEEP SENIORS BUSY



Patricia Jones and Louis Leonardo Bell of Middlefield celebrate their 90th birthdays.



Barbara Miller sticks her head into the hole on a monarch butterfly backdrop during a recent trip to Magic Wings sponsored by the Middlefield Council on Aging.



Middlefield seniors enjoyed a visit to Norman Rockwell museum in Stockbridge.

# BECKET

## Ham and strawberry shortcake dinner set

BECKET – There will be a summer ham and strawberry shortcake dinner on Saturday, June 21 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Guild Hall on YMCA Road.

Baked tavern ham, potato salad, homemade baked beans, green bean and pea salad and strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream will be served.

People can eat in or take out for \$15 for adults and free for children under 12. Extra shortcakes will be available for \$3.

For reservations people should call 413-623-8300 or 413-623-6455. Walk-ins are welcome. Funds raised will pay for the new more comfortable chairs in the dining hall as well as restoration efforts.

## Becket Athenaeum lists upcoming events

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St., will host Ralph Rosen on Wednesday, June 18 at 6 p.m.

Ralph Rosen, a local musician and former music librarian at Berkeley, is returning to the Athenaeum to share a presentation on urban blues. In this presentation, he looks at the mass migration of Black Americans from the south to the midwest and northeast throughout much of the 20th century and how this created a change in the traditional

approach to blues.

This included electric amplification, the use of drums, public address systems, brass and woodwinds and other instruments. Participants will learn how the electric guitar becomes the dominant instrument, but far from the only featured one and the inevitable influence. The Athenaeum had the pleasure of hosting Ralph last June and the audience greatly enjoyed his mix of wisdom with humor and delight-

ful music and video clips. Registration is appreciated - arrive early for refreshments. RSVP appreciated at [bwlibrary.org/blues](http://bwlibrary.org/blues).

The Summer Reading Kickoff Party will be held on Tuesday, June 17 from 3-5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to drop by the library for lawn games, ice cream and to learn more about an exciting summer of reading fun for Becket and Washington.

A book and bake sale fundraiser will be held

Saturday, July 5 and Sunday, July 6 from 10 a.m. -4 p.m. on the library lawn. There will be an array of books, audiobooks, DVDs, baked goods and more.

Donations are cash or check. All proceeds support the services and program at the Becket Athenaeum.

Story time with Stay and play are held Saturdays. Story time is from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and Stay and Play from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. RSVP is appreciated at [bwlibrary.org/storytime](http://bwlibrary.org/storytime).

## Becket Arts Center hosts pride art exhibit

BECKET – A coalition of local organizations, the Becket Arts Center, Q-Mob and the Berkshire Queer History Project is hosting the first Berkshire LGBTQ+Pride Art Exhibit at the Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road.

The show, featuring 13 established or emerging LGBTQ+ artists, will begin with an opening reception on Friday, June 13 from 5-7 p.m. and will run until Sunday, July 6. Timed to celebrate Pride Month, the exhibit is the group's creative response

to federal efforts to eliminate diversity, equity and inclusion measures in schools, businesses, government and other institutions.

Four of the participating artists, Rachel Kaufman, Joanna Merfield, Christopher Pierce, and Mitchell Sellers,

will discuss their art, their inspirations and their experiences in a panel discussion in advance of the show on Thursday, June 12 from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Becket Arts Center. For more information, people may visit [becketartscenter.org](http://becketartscenter.org).

## Town Hall closed Aug. 25 to Sept. 1

BECKET – The Town Hall, 557 Main St., will be closed to the public Monday, Aug 25 through Monday, Sept. 1 due to parking lot paving. During this week,

meetings, Yoga, Becket Senior Group gatherings, and all other activities will be paused. People should plan their Town Hall related errands accordingly.

# EASTHAMPTON

## bankESB promotes Susan Cody

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB recently promoted Susan Cody to assistant branch manager of its 605 Granby St., South Hadley office.

Cody of Feeding Hills has nearly four years of banking experience. She was hired in 2021 as a teller and was most recently a teller supervisor in the bank-ESB 85 Broad St., Westfield office. In her new role, she will support daily branch operations, assist in team

leadership, and contribute to delivering excellent customer service to the community. Cody earned a bachelor's degree in communications and business management from Westfield State University.



Susan Cody

# OTIS

## Library hosts author Kathi Casey

OTIS – The Otis Library, 48 North Main Road, will host best selling author, Kathi Casey, "Age with Grace and Strength" on Wednesday, June 18 at 5:30 p.m.

This is a fun and informative workshop by

a wellness expert. People will discover simple tools to reduce joint pain, increase bone mass, build muscle, improve balance and prevent falls, boost brain health and target key muscles to stay active. Participants will enjoy a

chocolate treat from the author's favorite anti-inflammatory recipes. Space is limited so people should call the library at 413-269-0190 or stop in the library to sign up. Signed copies of her book will be available for purchase for \$20.

## Library has story walk on sea turtle

OTIS – The Otis Library June story walk is "Turtle in the Sea" by Jim Arnosky.

Located behind St.

Mary's of the Lake, 48 North Main St., this is story of sea turtle who lays her eggs late one night.

This is a subtle story about how important it is for mother's to take care of themselves for their children's sake.



### Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at [nationalmssociety.org](http://nationalmssociety.org).



# WESTHAMPTON

## Public library announces upcoming news and events

WESTHAMPTON Westhampton Public Library hosts Summer Reading 2025 "Level Up at Your Library."

On Saturday June 21 at 11 a.m. the summer reading kickoff will take place. On Saturday, June 28 at 11 a.m. Lounging for Literacy will take place. On Wednesday July 2 at 10 a.m Little Roots Music Class will take place for preschool-aged program limited to 15 families.

On Wednesday July 9 at 2 p.m. -Escape Room with Wicked Fun Games for ages 8+, will take place. It is limited to ten participants. Call or email [ewayne@cwmar.org](mailto:ewayne@cwmar.org) to register.

On Wednesday July 16th at 2 p.m. Cosplay Workshop with Eliza Eldredge of EldritchArts takes place for ages 12+, limited to 20 participants.

On Wednesday July 23 at 2 p.m. Stitched Journal Workshop with Lisa Hersey of Antler Editions takes place for ages 12-18, limited to eight participants. People may call 413-527-5386 or email [ewayne@cwmar.org](mailto:ewayne@cwmar.org) to register for these programs.

The Westhampton Cultural Council sponsors Escape Room with Wicked Fun Games and Stitched Journal Workshop. The Westhampton Cultural

Council is a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library and the Lyn Keating Program Fund for sponsoring all other summer reading programs and incentives.

On Monday July 28 at 5:30 p.m. Tom Ricardi's Birds of Prey will be at the library. Participants will learn about different birds of prey with a licensed rehabilitator. All ages are welcome. On Wednesday July 30 at 2 p.m. Brightspot Reading Buddies/Read-In for Double Points happens at the library. Participants may read to one

of the Brightspot Reading Buddies, or spend some time reading at home for double the points. Reading Buddy slots at the library are first-come, first-served

On Saturday Aug. 2 at 11 a.m. Summer Reading Closing takes place. Participants will collect prizes. Winners will be announced online Saturday morning.

Field of Dreams concerts start with Frodau Kime 2 and begin at 6 p.m.. People should bring a lawn chair. In the case of inclement weather, concerts will be held at Town Hall. Friday June 20 Westhampton's hometown

band, Blue Rendezvous, will be playing Rhythm and Blues, Soul, and Swing. On Friday July 11 Le Mixx will play "ol'skool" music from classic Motown to Funk and Reggae. On Friday July 25 The Pangeans, a 7-piece world music band with a horn section plays Latin Jazz, Samba, Calypso, Reggae, Afrobeat and Funk.

On Friday Aug. 8th Laura Manzi, will Rock and Folk favorites from across the decades. On Friday, Aug. 22 Knock on Wood with Howie Newman, will play acoustic folk-rock duo featuring funny original music and Classic Rock covers.

## WORTHINGTON

### General Lafayette anniversary celebration ends June 13

WORTHINGTON – On Friday, June 13, exactly 200 years since his first visit, General Lafayette will once again be feted in Worthington.

In 1825 General Lafayette spent the night at the Pearce Tavern in Worthington as part of his eighteen-month long visit to all 24 of the then United States. A year ago, the Worthington Historical Society decided to remind the town of this illustrious visitor with a month-long celebration of this true American hero. The Lafayette Grand Ball is the culmination of a variety of events to take place.

This period costume-optional Grand Ball will be held Friday June

13 in a tent alongside Worthington Town Hall at 160 Huntington Road. It will feature traditional music and dance of the era, a visit by Lafayette as played by professional reenactor Mark Schneider, who portrays the Marquis de Lafayette in Colonial Williamsburg, a video greeting from Governor Healey and finally dancing accompanied by the nine-piece soul band, the Soul Magnets. Tickets are \$20 and are available online at worthingtonhistoricalsociety.org. This event has received support from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Earlier in the afternoon, at 1p.m. Julien Icher the founder, and President

of The Lafayette Trail, Inc will preside over the unveiling of Worthington's Lafayette Trail Marker to be located at the site of the former Pearce Tavern, currently Worthington Library. The mission of Lafayette Trail Inc. is to mark General Lafayette's footsteps during his Farewell Tour of the United States in 1824 and 1825. It aims to educate the public about the national significance of Lafayette's tour and to promote a broader understanding of Lafayette's numerous contributions to American independence and national coherence. The Lafayette Trail Marker is made possible by the George R. Pomeroy Foundation.

### Library scholarship essays due June 21

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Library announces the 2025 Worthington Library Scholarship.

This award is available to any student completing their high school studies and continuing their education at a post-second-

ary learning environment. Applicants are asked to write an essay introducing themselves, describing their next educational pursuits and answer this question: "When you look back, what book has been your favorite and what lessons will it bring you in the

future?" Essays must be submitted by Saturday, June 21 either by mailing to The Worthington Library, P.O. Box 598, Worthington, MA 01098 or hand delivered to the library. For more information, people may call Eileen at 413-238-4461.

### Scholarships due June 30

WORTHINGTON – The late Art and Peg Rolland established a scholarship fund to benefit citizens of Worthington seeking to further their educational goals.

The annual interest earned on the Fund is distributed each year to qualified students by a committee consisting of the Town Clerk, a member of the Select Board and a School Committee member.

The requirements for consideration are:

The applicant must have been a resident of Worthington for at least two

years prior to the date of application.

The applicant must be a high school or secondary school graduate, pursuing a course of study at an approved school or college.

The applicant must demonstrate financial need.

Applications must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2025.

All application essays must be typed in order to receive consideration.

Each scholarship awarded will be for at least \$500, but the actual amount and the number of scholarships

awarded will depend on the number of applications received and the Fund interest available. Funds will be distributed by Sept. 1 payable to the appropriate institution.

To apply, applicants must complete the form and mail to:

Rolland Scholarship Committee c/o Town Hall, P.O. If people have any questions, they may call a Scholarship Committee member -- Amy Wang, Select Board; Katrin Kaminsky, Town Clerk and Deborah Clapp, Worthington School Committee.

### Tag sale raises funds for the library

WORTHINGTON – The Friends of the Worthington Library will hold its town-wide tag sale on Saturday, June 21 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

On the day of the sale, maps of the sale sites will be available by donation at the library, 1 Huntington Road.

Worthington residents can reserve a space on the map by signing up at the library during its open hours from now through Saturday, June 14. Participants will need to provide the address of the sale site, time of the individual sale, and a short description of items for sale.

The fee to be listed on the map is \$5. To reserve a space on the library lawn to hold a tag sale, the fee is \$10 for people to reserve a space on the library lawn to hold their tag sale. The library will not accept drop-off sale items. Tag Sale site reservations and payments are due on Saturday, June 14 before 4 p.m. when the library closes.

The money raised will support children's programs, wish list books, and museum passes for patrons of the Worthington Library. The library has a parking lot located on Buffington Hill Road, just

off the traffic circle at the intersection of Rtes 112 and 143. People should park in the lot and walk to the lawn to pick up their map or to purchase goods from tag sale tables on the library lawn. They should not stop or park in the traffic circle.

For more information, people may call Judy Babcock at 413-238-4457 or email WorthingtonFOWL@gmail.com. The Friends of the Worthington Library is a volunteer-run committee established to support the Worthington Library in Massachusetts with programs and patron resources.

### Annual Family Fun Day set for June 28, offers events for allegiance

WASHINGTON – Entertainment is gathering from far and wide at Washington's Town Park for the Second Annual Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 28 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The award-winning Tanglewood Marionettes are coming in from Ware and ponies are making the trip over the mountain from Home Farm in Lenox. Dancers from the Dalton Ballet are getting ready to perform.

Tom Johnson and his highway crew have arranged the big town trucks at the front of the Park and fire trucks and an ambulance have come up the road from Becket, all for Touch-a-Truck.

Volunteers in bright green t-shirts will direct traffic and help set up. The popcorn machine will be popping. Ed Lyon Catering and Flavorful Bites will be firing up their grills, and the Parks Commission will sell ice cream!

The famous Tanglewood Marionettes will rig their stage under the firemen's tent for their presentation at 1 p.m. of An Arabian Adventure, complete (of course, with a prince and princess. Before that there will be ponies to ride with Batman, the smallest, named for the bat on his chest; Mopsy, a chestnut and the largest, Scooter, who looks like a big Batman.

In addition, there will be children's games with the Girl Scouts, cheerleaders from Wahconah High eager to paint young faces and at the basketball court Police Chief Nicole Miller will give away bike helmets to children and adults.

Rumor has it that there will be a dancing dragon or two. At noon, Terry A La Berry's music will fill the air at noon and Smokey Bear will be wandering around the grounds near the Fairy Garden. In case all this makes people want to dance at 2 p.m. Washington's own Laurel Linsky will conduct a 45-minute Creative Movement Program.

Arrayed along the

promenade around the park, booths and tables will be set up offering information and conversation on all manner of local events and projects. The Becket Arts Center booth offers art exhibitions and theatrical and music events to a gift shop. The Becket Washington Athenium will have a booth to discuss their many offerings from Story Time for children and the Cook Book Club to their author lectures and summer Book Sales out on the library lawn. At 3 p.m. there will be a story time for children and parked nearby, a wagon of free books for children.

While munching on a bag of free popcorn, partic-

ipants can learn about the State Park projects from their Department of Conservation or from Tom Hoffman, chairman of the Washington Historical Commission. They can study old photos and maps of foundations he's discovered from Washington's past.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will sponsor three booths. One will provide information about the Depot Brook Project and their Dirt Road's initiative in Washington. Others will have hands-on activities demonstrating the impacts of climate change.

Elder Services and WIC will be on hand, and the

Berkshire County Sheriff's Office will distribute information and enroll children in the National Child Identification Project. Blood pressure monitoring will be available thanks to the Berkshire Public Health Alliance.

This free event is made possible through the generous support of the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Lee Bank and the local cultural councils of Becket, Hinsdale-Peru and Washington, which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

## WILLIAMSBURG

### Cultural Council lists grant recipients

WILLIAMSBURG – The Williamsburg Cultural Council hosted the 2025 Celebration of Arts and Culture on Wednesday, June 11 from 5:30-7 p.m. at Meekins Library, 2 Williams St.

The celebration honored FY2025 cultural grant recipients. Join local artists and political representatives to learn about cultural programs in the community. This spring the Williamsburg Cultural Council announced the award of 19 artistic and educational grants totaling \$5,700 for cultural programs in Williamsburg and neighboring towns.

Grant awards range from \$200 to \$400 and recipients include school programs such as the Hampshire Regional High School and Anne T. Dunphy School annual musicals and the publication of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School's literary magazine, The Viking Runestone.

Environmental programs also received grants, including exploring the fauna, flora and cultural history of the Historic Dam Trail with a Tamarack Hollow naturalist; animal tracking with Anne T. Dunphy Family Outing Club; and holiday crafts with goats at Pause and Pivot farm.

Musical events receiving grants include KlezCummington, La

Música Latin for Students at Hampshire Regional High School, Berkshire Hills Music Academy Intergenerational Performance at Anne T. Dunphy School, Plainfield Concerts at 7, Caregiver and Child Music Class for Hilltown Families at Meekins Library, Friday Night Café in Cummington, and a Community Square Dance at Ashfield Town Hall.

Projects also included nature poetry, Shakespearean theater, a writing workshop, and the Chesterfield July 4 Parade.

The Williamsburg Cultural Council will seek applications again in the fall. For guidelines and complete information on the Williamsburg Cultural Council, people may email the Council at burgcouncil@gmail.com. Applications and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.mass-culturalcouncil.org.

This year's grants include:

Anne T. Dunphy School Spring Musical, \$400  
Animal Tracking with the Anne T. Dunphy Family Outing Club, \$250  
Ashfield Town Hall Community Square Dance, \$200  
Berkshire Hills Music Academy Intergenerational Performance, \$400  
Caregiver and Child

Music Class for Hilltown Families, \$300

Chesterfield 4th of July Parade, \$200

Cummington Village Church Friday Night Café, \$300

Echoes in Nature: Hampshire County, \$250

Hampshire Music Boosters 2025 Spring Musical, \$400

Hampshire Regional High School La Música Latin for Students, \$400

Hilltown Theatre Anonymous 2025: Macbeth, \$300

KlezCummington, \$300  
Pause and Pivot Farm Decorating and Holiday Crafts on the farm with Goats, \$250

Pick Up the Pen: Start Your Writing Project, \$300

Plainfield Congregational Church, Plainfield Concerts at 7, \$300

Sharing Stores, Creating Change: Building Community through the Hampshire County Community Story Archive \$200

Smith Vocational Agricultural High School, The Viking Runestone Volume 7, \$400

Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center, Inc., Explore the fauna, flora and cultural history at the Historic Dam Trail, \$300

Williamsburg Community Yoga with Natasa, \$250

### GRADUATES RETURN TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR SENIOR WALK



On Thursday June 5 the Class of 2025 held the senior walk at Anne T. Dunphy Elementary School in Williamsburg. Smith Vocational Technical High School senior Chris Connell, followed by Hampshire Regional High School seniors Anna Shadrick, Kayla LeBeau and Emily O'Connell walking down their former elementary school hallways to the applause by current Anne T. Dunphy students. Right, Former Anne T. Dunphy student and Smith Vocational graduated senior Jorjia Young greets Anne T. Dunphy students in the hallway during the Senior Walk.



Anne T. Dunphy students hold signs for the Class of 2025 graduating seniors, who came back for their "Senior Walk."

Photos by Jenn Burdick Photography

# SCHOOLS & YOUTH

## COLLEGE NOTES

### Colleges and Universities list graduates

**College of Holy Cross**  
Worcester  
**BACHELOR'S DEGREE**  
Maya Guillotte of Westfield  
Samuel Pappadellis of Easthampton

**Emmanuel College**  
Boston  
**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY/HEALTH SCIENCES**  
Bushra Khan of Westfield

**James Madison University**  
Harrisonburg, Virginia  
**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN WRITING RHETORIC AND TECHNOLOGY COMMUNICATIONS**  
Erin Jachym of Westfield

**Salve Regina University**  
Newport, Rhode Island  
**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELEMENTARY AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL**  
Delaney Marek of Westhampton  
Bachelor of Arts in psychology

Moria Tirrell of Westfield  
Master of Science in nursing  
Margaret Bear of Westfield

**Stonehill College**  
Easton  
**BACHELOR'S DEGREE**  
Lauren Campbell of Westfield  
Shea Drugan of Westfield  
Madeline Jenkins of Westhampton  
Jack Keeney of Westfield



DCR staff, from left Sean Libbey, Hector Coffey, Kris Massini, Amelia Zani, Gateway woodworking teacher Daniel Sheehan and DCR staff Tom Ryan gathered to implement four stations that would be visited by Gateway Regional Middle School sixth graders. *Turley photos by Wendy Long*

### Colleges and universities announce Dean's list and awards

**Assumption College**  
Worcester  
**DEAN'S LIST**  
Emily Mihalek of Westfield  
Cameron Theriault of Westfield  
Hannah Keeney of Westfield

**Carson-Newman University**  
Jefferson City, Tennessee  
**DEAN'S LIST**  
Jacob Dilley of Huntington

**Champlain College**  
Burlington, Vermont  
**DEAN'S LIST**  
Owen Connor of Westhampton  
Peter Newman of Williamsburg  
Henry Norton of Easthampton

**East Stroudsburg University**  
East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania  
**DEAN'S LIST**  
Waverly KaneLong of Easthampton, early education preK-4 major

**Emmanuel College**  
Boston  
**DEAN'S LIST**  
Bushra Khan of Westfield, biology/health sci-

ences major  
Brandon Shuman of Westfield, finance major  
Lydia Donatelli of West Chesterfield, nursing major  
Rowan McDonald of Westfield, nursing major

**Lasell University**  
Newton  
**DEAN'S LIST**  
Kieran Oliver of Westfield  
Lyssa Tirrell of Westhampton

**Nazareth University**  
Rochester, New York  
**DEAN'S LIST**  
William O'Neill of Cummington

**Nichols College**  
Dudley  
First Year Professional Development Seminar Teaching Assistant Award  
Abigail Fraser of Westfield  
Outstanding Work Study Student Award  
Joseph Holmes of Huntington

**Springfield Colleges**  
Springfield  
**DEAN'S LIST**  
Jordan Bannish of Westfield, health science major

Liam Barrett of Westfield, recreation industries and therapeutic recreation major

Joshua Dameworth of Easthampton, computer and information science major  
Chaeli Mackey of Westfield, history major  
Joshua Mayo of Westfield, movement and sports studies major  
Ryder Pieczarka of Westfield, health science/pre physical therapy major

Jillian Scott of Westhampton, health science/pre physical therapy major  
Meghan Sullivan of Easthampton, health science/pre physical therapy major  
Jacob Wagner of Westfield, criminal justice major

**University of Rhode Island**  
Kingston, Rhode Island  
**DEAN'S LIST**  
Zachary Baroux-Kroll of Westfield  
Melanie Burek of Montgomery  
Katie Burzynski of Westfield  
Addie Lashway of Williamsburg  
Quinn Rowe of Westfield

## Sixth graders learn about trees on school grounds

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

**HUNTINGTON** – Sixth grade students from Gateway Regional School hosted five staff from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Leading the event were Management Forester Kris Massini, Service Forester Sean Libbey, Management Forestry Assistant Amelia Zani, Management Forester Tom Ryan and Inventory Forester Hector Coffey, who is also a 2006 Gateway graduate.

The backstory of the event was DCR's practice of supplying surplus lumber to Massachusetts schools that have wood shops. DCR takes trees that are downed on state land and trails, storm damaged or dangerous trees or the wood left behind the clearing along state roadways. The state runs several sawmills and turns the trees into lumber that is donated to schools. Wood shop teacher Daniel Sheehan and his students were beneficiaries of such a donation this year and also received two bat house kits made from Eastern White Pine harvested on state land.

Martha Clark, Laura Fisk, Darlene Osowski and Cathy Servaes rotated their students through four stations on school grounds that covered invasive species, tree identification, calculating board feet of lumber from trees, and exploring wetlands.

Hector Coffey helped students learn to identify various trees and plants. Witch hazel, maple, black birch, and white birch were all found in close proximity up near the Junior Varsity Baseball ball field. Coffey also talked about invasive species and showed students a bittersweet vine that was growing on the ground. Invasive plants are not native and often cause environmental issues for native plants. Bittersweet, which



Hector Coffey, from left, with Jimmy Wright, who correctly found and identified an invasive bittersweet vine climbing a beech tree on Gateway grounds.

was brought in from China, has brilliant orange berries in the fall and is often used in decorative holiday wreaths. It also winds its way up trees and eventually kills them. Student Jimmy Wright located a bittersweet vine that had already begun winding up a nearby beech tree.

Coffey also showed a beech tree that was growing poorly; it was stunted and had few leaves growing, which provided food for the tree. Coffey explained that nematodes were taking residence in leaf buds and creating this problem. He said that there has not been a lot of study on nematodes and reducing the beech tree population would reduce beech nuts, an important food source for animals.

Tom Ryan's station focused on the ways that humans use trees. They discussed the use of maple trees to boil syrup, although it takes 40 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup. In Alaska, birch trees are tapped to make syrup but it takes 80-120 gallons of

sap to produce birch syrup. Birch was also originally used to create birch beer, which is similar in flavor to root beer.

The witch hazel bush shown to them by Coffey is harvested by cutting the shrub completely down and then distilling it for use in cosmetics and skin treatments. The bush will regrow, making this a sustainable process, Ryan said.

Pine, oak, and walnut are used to make lumber for home or furnishings. Ash can be used to make baseball bats. Walnuts and hickory nuts are eaten by humans; acorns and beech nuts are eaten by animals.

"In the Farm to Table movement, don't forget where the table came from," noted Ryan.

Students also visited stations on wetlands and on how to calculate the board feet of a standing tree. "Every student was given a very nice field guide for tree identification in the woodlands of Massachusetts," said wood shop teacher Dan Sheehan.

## Benjamin Howes completes WPI research project

**WORCESTER** – Benjamin Howes, a member of the class of 2026 majoring in electrical and computer engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, was a member of a student team that recently completed a professional-level research-driven project titled "Designing a Data-Sharing Ecosystem for Beekeeping Innovation."

Known as the Interactive Qualifying

Project, this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a differ-

ence in the world before they graduate. All WPI undergraduates are required to complete an IQP, usually in their junior year, through which they apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQP at one of the university's 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

## WPI students complete capstone research projects

**WORCESTER** – Almost 1,200 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute completed a senior capstone thesis that is required of all graduating seniors as part of the university's distinctive project-based educational experience.

Known as Major Qualifying Projects, these are

professional-level research experiences in the students' fields of study that challenge students to solve the kind of problem they would typically encounter in their professional discipline.

Local students, who completed their MQP, are listed below.

Emma Barnes from

Easthampton, majoring in biomedical engineering and electrical and computer engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Wireless EMG/ECG Device Design and Prostheses Applications."

Mackenzie Rae from Westfield, majoring in biochemistry, class of 2025,

completed a project titled "Molecular Basis of Neuronal Metal Homeostasis."

Ella Moreau from Huntington, majoring in environmental and sustainability studies, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Mitigation at WPI."

Ava Gaughan from

Westfield, majoring in mechanical engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Design of a Digital Twin Apparatus."

MQPs are usually team-based and often focus on specific issues or needs of an organization that has partnered with the university to sponsor the students' work. In

addition to providing practical work experience that proves valuable to future employers, MQPs often lead to publications in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at regional and national conferences, patents, and entrepreneurial ventures. Others become useful innovations and products for their corporate sponsors.



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# OBITUARY

## Edward Albert Dahill, 75

Edward Albert Dahill, aged 75, passed away on June 1, 2025, surrounded by the love and comfort of his family. Edward was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Edward touched the lives of many with his boundless generosity, wisdom and unwavering dedication to helping others.

Born on June 23, 1949, in Northampton, to parents Estella and Donald Dahill. Edward was one of three siblings. He graduated from Holyoke Community College with a degree in liberal arts and engineering. Edward served in the U.S Army from 1970 to 1976, attaining the rank of Specialist 4.

After being discharged from the Army, Edward joined the Huntington Fire Department in 1977. He eventually retired in 2014 as the towns Deputy Chief after being on the department for

37 years. Edward worked for the town of Huntington as an equipment operator for nine years, before becoming the highway superintendent for the town of Chesterfield until his retirement in 2014.

In his personal life, Edward was known for his love of reading, learning new things, fishing, watching westerns and hiking. He enjoyed history and was involved with the Hilltown's historical society. He enjoyed the simple things in life and spent most of his time with family and friends.

Edward was predeceased by his brother, Kenneth Dahill, and survived by his brother, Gary Dahill and sister Donna Dahill. He is also survived by his beloved wife of 18 years, Theresa "Michelle" and his three children Irving Dahill



(and his wife Mary), Edward Michael Dahill (and his wife Kate) and his daughter Shannon Dahill and six cherished grandchildren: Carmin, Fransico, Gabrielle, Liam, Luke and Claire. He will be deeply missed by his many cousins, including Diana Dahill James.

Calling hours for Ed are scheduled for Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 1-4 p.m. at the Graham Hilltown Community Funeral Home, 27 Russell Road in Huntington. Burial with Military Honors will be conducted on Wednesday, June 25 at 3 p.m. at the MA

Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, 1390 Main St., Agawam. For online condolences, please visit Hilltown Community Funeral Home.com

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Huntington Fire Department or Hilltown Community Ambulance, in memory of his passion and dedication to the fire department and to the community.

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## DEATH NOTICE

### DAHILL, EDWARD ALBERT

Died June 1, 2025  
Calling hours June 14 from 1- 4 p.m. Graham Hilltown Community Funeral Home, 27 Russell Road, Huntington  
Burial June 25 at 3 p.m. at MA Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, 1390 Main St., Agawam

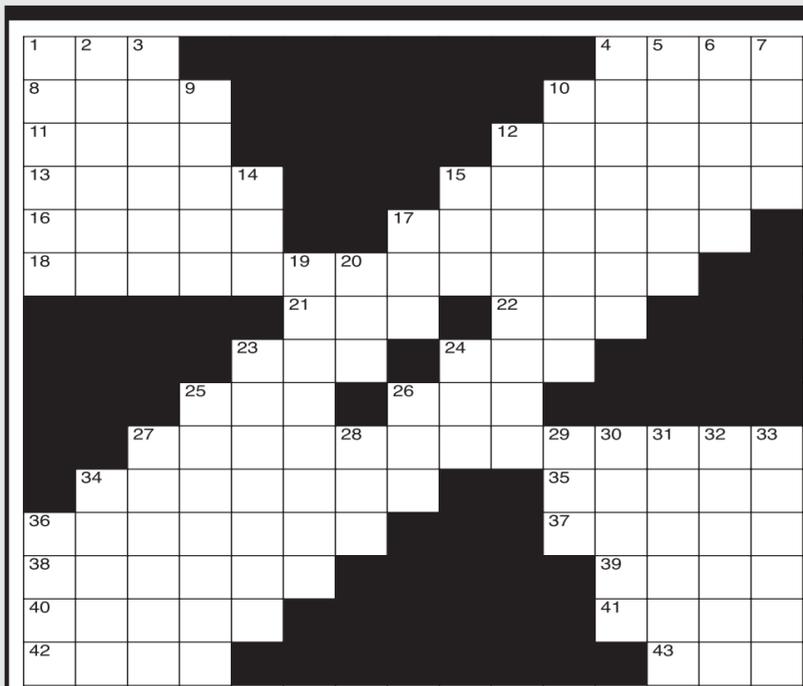
## Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



### CLUES ACROSS

- Racquet sports association
- Places to sleep
- Native American tribe
- Small platforms
- Egg shape
- Running out
- French painter
- Some are "of the Caribbean"
- Painful intestinal problem
- More irritated
- Prove yourself
- Catch
- Supplement with difficulty
- American automotive giant
- Form of "to be"

### CLUES DOWN

- Boxing's GOAT
- Peyton's little brother
- Eli's big brother
- Capable of producing
- Reproductive structures in fungi
- Allowed to go forward
- Smiles
- Arteries
- VVV
- Win a series without losing a game
- This (Spanish)
- Opposites of beginnings
- Germanic mythological god

### CLUES DOWN

- Consisting of uncombined atoms
- Island country
- Heavenly body
- Caribbean island
- Copyread
- A place to eat
- Drops down
- Native group of Alaska
- Engage in
- "Desperate Housewives" lane
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- Foot (Latin)
- A place to bathe
- Animosities

- Partner to cheese
- Venus \_\_, plant
- A donation
- Pokes holes in the ground
- Midway between northeast and east
- Looked into
- Not young
- Annoy constantly
- Something one can strike
- Most glacial
- Ten less than one hundred
- Idle talker
- Has moved through the air
- Container for shipping

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

### ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

This is a terrific time to get a grasp on your inner emotions and thoughts, Aries. You may feel extra sensitive and loving towards others, especially your partner.

### TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

You may come across some rough spots that need to be ironed out this week. It may not be easy, but if anyone can handle it, that would be you. Make some firm choices.

### GEMINI

May 22/June 21

It's easier to express how you feel to someone important in your life by doing so in person, Gemini. Set up a meeting where you can get things off of your chest.

### CANCER

June 22/July 22

Cancer, there may be a day this week where you feel like you're all ready to go somewhere but you have no invitation. Make your own plans and get something started.

### LEO

July 23/Aug 23

Elements of your life seem to be falling into place, Leo. This is happy news for you. Enjoy this well-earned change.

### VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

It could be one of those weeks when your head is in the clouds and you can't focus, Virgo. Make an effort to organize your thoughts and take the week one task at a time.

### LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you are receptive to different creative or recreational outlets this week. Think about a trip to a museum or even a botanical garden. You can use a respite from the grind, anyway.

### SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Some health issues have you feeling less like yourself. You're eager to get to the bottom of things. Make your well-being a priority and don't worry about anything else.

### SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

No one really knows what they will get with you this week, Sagittarius. Your mood is in flux. Focus your attention and try to avoid getting too up or too down.

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

It may be difficult for you to connect with others this week, Capricorn. Your mind is running in a million different directions and this can make it challenging for you to make plans.

### AQUARIUS

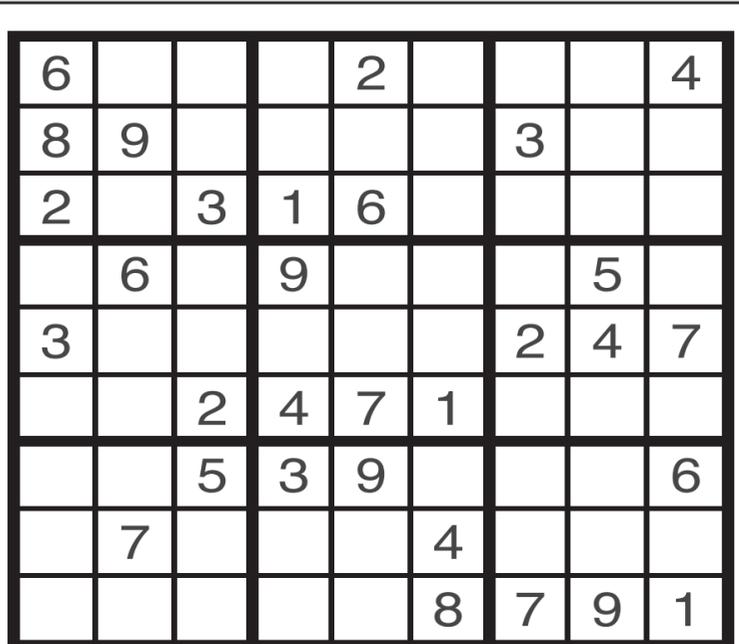
Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, the clouds are parting and the sun is about to come bounding through. Bask in this shift and make plans to get up and go.

### PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, be mindful that you may not have the commitment to finish any project you start this week. But give it your best shot.



## SUDOKU

### Here's How It Works:

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

### Fun By The Numbers

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

**answers**

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# WESTFIELD

## GILMAN

from page 1

on June 4, 2021.

Senator John Velis then took the microphone and asked what had happened on June 5 in 1921. "I have absolutely no idea," joked Velis when there were no answers, before presenting citations from the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives. Velis stood in for Westfield State Representative Kelly Pease, who grew up in Chester, but was in committee meetings in Boston on this day.

Arm brook Activities Director Rebecca Fondakowski then spoke to those assembled, opening with, "Today we gather for the 104th Birthday of a truly extraordinary person, Harriet Gilman. Harriet is 104 years young. She is a bridge between the past and present and a keeper of stories. Today we don't just celebrate a number," Fondakowski said, before starting a slideshow with photos of Harriet's life, family and friends.

While there were no fireworks, things certainly got exciting when a big gust of wind blew the large, portable display screen into a parked car. Velis helped get it back and held it in place until the show's end.

Born Harriet Phyllis Kelso in 1921, she grew up at the Kelso homestead on Bromley Road. She was born to Leon and Elizabeth (Miller) Kelso in the home established by her great-great-grandfather Captain John Kelso in 1779.

Gilman attended a one room school on Skyline Trail in Chester and graduated from Chester High School as Valedictorian. She went



Mayor Mike McCabe presented Gilman with a citation from the city of Westfield. Senator John Velis would also present Gilman with citations from the Massachusetts State Senate and State House of Representatives. Rep. Kelly Pease was in committee meetings in Boston, and unable to attend.

on to the Massachusetts State College, now UMass Amherst, in 1943 and majored in home economics.

She married Lt. James Gilman in February of her senior year, who had graduated from the same college a year earlier. Jim Gilman pursued a military career and Harriet traveled with him that included serving in the cavalry in the Rhineland and Central Europe and a post-war WWII stint in Germany where he was an Executive Officer responsible for logistical and military support to the Nuremberg Trials. Jim was later assigned to the Pentagon in Washington D.C. and the couple made their home in Virginia where

they raised their two children Jimmy and Lee. Jim retired from the Army as a Colonel in 1968.

Six years later, the couple returned to the Kelso homestead to develop a blueberry farm, which is still in operation as a pick your own business run by their sons. After 72 years of marriage, Jim passed away in 2015.

Lee Gilman said that Harriet has seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Nine family members were in Massachusetts for the past week to celebrate the milestone birthday.

Fellow Arm brook resident, Bea Szenda, said that Harriet is frequently seen playing cards. She and Bea

have a nightly game of Chinese checkers. "When she first arrived at Arm brook, I beat her all of the time," Szenda said. Bea then taught her the rules and strategies to the game and said that now Gilman takes the win most of the time.

Fondakowski's remarks included the numerous things that Gilman had witnessed over her lifetime, including two world wars, the rise and fall of powerful regimes, enduring the great depression, men walking on the moon, the invention of penicillin, vaccines and organ transplants, women entering the workforce, the Civil Rights movement, and movies ranging from silent



A beautiful cake was decorated with blueberries to honor the Gilman blueberry farm on the Kelso Homestead in Chester.

Turley photos by Wendy Long

black and white films to IMAXX blockbusters.

Twenty years ago, Gilman had gathered her own thoughts about her historic childhood. In March 2005, Harriet published her recollections of attending the Chester Center School in the Chester Historical Society's newsletter. This was the same school attended by her father, grandfather and great-grandfather. She wrote about the school day starting with the teacher ringing a handbell and calling the Grade 1-8 students together. Weather permitting, they saluted the flag, said the pledge of allegiance and sang a patriotic song before going into the school, which was warmed by a wood stove. Students who needed to use "the facilities" would go to a room at the back of the school that had a "3-holer." Water was brought in from a nearby home and served up via a ladle into the tin cups assigned to each student.

Gilman said the town provided paper and pencils. "If a student needed a new pencil, they had to first show a very short stub and woe unto them who broke a pencil." Older students learned to use the nibs and inkwell in their desks for writing; the teacher mixed the ink from powder.

One poignant memory from Harriet's piece took place during winter. "I remember one blustery winter day sitting around the wood stove with the teacher, studying John Greenleaf Whittier's "Snowbound" and looking out the window to see father coming with the horses and sled to fetch us home," she wrote.

The Arm brook celebration closed with a beautiful cake and rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday."

Note: Sources for this article included the Chester Massachusetts Historical Society newsletter and Facebook Page.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Project Description:**  
**Becket – Ledge Removal along Route 8, between Milemarkers 28.002 and 27.998**  
**Project File No. 609506**  
 A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Becket, MA.  
**WHERE:**  
**Becket Town Hall, Lower Level**  
**557 Main Street**  
**Becket, MA 01223**

**WHEN:**  
**Wednesday, June 18, 2025 @ 6:00pm-7:00pm**  
**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.  
**PROPOSAL:** Throughout Berkshire County (including on Route 8 in Becket), ledge outcroppings and exposed rock faces are adjacent to State Highway. Some of these areas were created when the highways were originally built, reconstructed or widened; or when natural events, such as Tropical Storm Irene,

exposed natural rock slopes to additional weathering and erosion. Many of these locations pose a potential safety hazard from falling rock or slope failure, which could injure highway users or shut down some sections of State Highway for an extended time. Highway closures at many of these locations would result in lengthy detours, affecting regional commuting and commerce. This Project will design site-specific improvements to address safety issues related to exposed or falling rock at this location. Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations cannot be provided within the roadway layout, consistent with existing conditions.  
 A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.  
 Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 609506. Statements and exhibits intended for

inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.  
 This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g.: interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580),

TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.  
 In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.  
**JONATHAN GULLIVER**  
**HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**  
**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.**  
**CHIEF ENGINEER**  
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