

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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HUNTINGTON

Rapid ATM runs under an hour

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

In what might have been a record-breaking Annual Town Meeting, voters jogged through 18 articles in just 56 minutes in Huntington on June 5 starting at 7 p.m.

ATM was preceded by a Special Town Meeting at 6:30 p.m., which included transfers of \$30,020.82 in funding to cover shortages in highway sand and salt, highway gas and diesel, veterans relief benefits, and replacing an obsolete water meter reader. Also under consideration was transferring \$4,078.88 to the ambulance service account to cover a new fee established by the state, to cover transferring patients between medical and care facilities, which, ironically, HCAA does not do. All transfers were approved unanimously.

Article 4 of the Special Town Meeting asked for the creation of a new stabilization fund, required to accept funding from the state's opioid-litigation settlement. This passed with one opposed, but more than met the required affirmative votes.

Special Town Meeting articles allowed the town to meet its fiscal obligations for FY'23, which ends June 30.

The Special Town Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

ATM

Huntington's Free Cash was certified at \$383,708. A total of \$243,633.36 came out through most of the special town meeting transfers (\$22,665.36), Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB - \$12,000) and vocational education increases this year (\$208,980), leaving a balance in free cash of

\$ 1 4 0 , 0 7 4 . 6 5 .
Huntington's Stabilization Fund balance was \$785,559.07 and the Capital Equipment Stabilization Fund balance was \$85,464.16.

In opening the Annual Town Meeting at 7 p.m

Select Board Chairman Ed Renauld made several announcements, including that Police Chief Robert

Garriepy had been in a motorcycle accident, and acknowledged that this year's town Annual Report was dedicated to Council on Aging Chairperson Kat Peterson, who received a flowering plant from Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin.

Renauld also informed voters that the Gateway budget had an unusually small increase for the town of Huntington (.49%), which led town officials to take the opportunity to give larger than typical salary increases to town employees to address



ATM, page 3

Huntington Annual Town Report was dedicated to Kat Peterson, Council on Aging Chairperson, who also received a flowering plant from the town.
Turley photo by Wendy Long

BLANDFORD

Field driver elected by write in votes

There were 129 ballots cast in the Annual Town Election Saturday, June 10.

There were no contested seats on the ballot and all were elected. There was, however, a last-minute write-in contest for Fence Viewer for two years with two candidates having announced their quest for office three and two weeks prior to the election.

Dale Buchanan announced three weeks prior and Thomas Deitner announced two weeks prior to the election, both seeking the Fence Viewer position. Buchanan was the successful write-in with 21 votes to Deitner's seven. Buchanan was also elected Field Driver for three years.

VOTES, page 6

HUNTINGTON

Girard to lead department during Police Chief's recovery



Police Sergeant Michael Girard will lead the Huntington Police Department while Chief Robert Garriepy recovers from a motorcycle accident.
Turley photo by Wendy Long

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Huntington Select Board held a special meeting on Monday, June 5 at 5 p.m., ahead of their Annual Town Meeting to discuss the recent hospitalization and long term recovery of the Police Chief.

Police Chief Robert Garriepy hit a deer on his motorcycle on Thursday, June 1 at dusk and was air-lifted to Baystate Medical Center from Worthington, a transport which took about eight minutes from lift off to arrival. Select Board members Edward Renauld, Roger Booth and William

Hathaway met with police sergeant Michael Girard, who is second in command for the town's police department, to discuss staffing needs.

Renauld, who also serves as Chief of the Russell Fire Department, told Girard that neighboring towns have offered to share staffing to ensure coverage in Garriepy's absence. The select board asked that Girard arrange for full daytime staffing, at a minimum until Gateway schools close later this month. The Huntington Police Department is also responsible for regular patrols of Knightville and Littleville Dams, which must be covered.

Renauld, who has visited Garriepy several times, anticipates that the Chief could be able to return to paperwork aspects of the job in about a month, but it will be longer until he can resume patrols.

Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin will process the police department payroll in Garriepy's absence. She will also reach out to Gateway Superintendent Kristen Smidy to see if Garriepy was supposed to be at the schools for any specific activities this month.

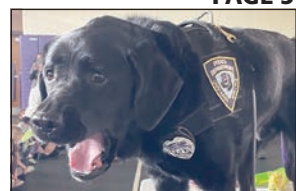
"These are big shoes to fill," admitted Girard. "There will definitely be a hole."
Garriepy has served as

Huntington's Police Chief for nearly 30 years. At the time of his appointment in February 1994, he was the youngest Police Chief in Massachusetts.

The Select board broke and reconvened at 5:55 p.m. to discuss issues that might arise at the special or annual town meetings. The three were unanimous in recommending that articles 2 through 6 be taken as one agenda item at ATM. Also at issue was whether or not to recommend the increased level of funding requested by the Hilltown Community Ambulance. That amount has

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HILLTOWNS



Chiefs and firefighters of the Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield, Williamsburg and Worthington Fire Departments attended Rapid Intervention training. Submitted photo

Firefighters and officers attend Hilltown RIT training

For the second year in a row, volunteer and call firefighters from multiple Hilltown fire departments completed a Rapid Intervention Team training course taught in multiple locations throughout the Hilltowns.

This year, 12 firefighters and fire officers from Chesterfield, Goshen, Plainfield, Savoy and Williamsburg Fire Departments completed the seven-week course. The course was again taught by Capt. Alex Kassell of the Chesterfield/Williamsburg Fire Departments. He was assisted by members of the Colrain Fire Department as well as firefighters, who completed the initial 2022 course last year.

The course follows the program designed at the Massachusetts Fire

Academy. It is physically demanding with many critical skills that must be learned under strenuous conditions. Interior search and rescue, thorough Self Contained Breathing Apparatus use and knowledge, "self" rescue, understanding interior fire conditions as well as the use of specialized RIT kit tools must be learned during the program.

These 12 firefighters now join the nine that completed the 2022 course giving the Hampshire County Hilltowns a strong base of skilled first responders that was not available only two years ago. Mutual Aid, fire departments working with each other, will now see the benefits of the RIT course firsthand.

Land Trust lists programs

Hilltown Land Trust offers regular programs for learning on the land across the Hilltowns region. This summer's events include wildlife talks, poetry workshops, guided hikes and more.

Participants will have opportunities to learn about natural history, connect with new people, and enjoy the scenic beauty that the Hilltown landscapes have to offer. Pre-registration is required for all events. Registration and more details, including accessibility information, are available by visiting www.hilltown-landtrust.org/get-involved/events.

On Sunday, June 18 at 1 p.m. there will be a guided hike at Conwell Property Trailhead

The public is invited to celebrate the opening of the new loop trail at the Conwell Property with a 2.5-mile hike. The hike will visit Conwell Pond, Eagle

Nest Ridge and a great blue heron nest site. All ages welcome.

On Saturday, June 24 there will be a pollinator gardening workshop from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wing and a Prayer Nursery, Cummington - \$0-40 Suggested donation is \$0-\$40. Led by Amy Pulley of Wing and a Prayer Nursery in Cummington, participants will learn about native plant gardening for pollinators and design their own pollinator gardens.

On Saturday, July 8 from 10-11:30 a.m. there will be a grassland bird talk at Bryant Homestead, Cummington. Suggested donation is \$0-\$25. Naturalist Pete Westover will give a talk about habitat management for grassland bird species, followed by a birding session on the edge of the Bryant Homestead hayfield.

Hilltown Family Center holding reading kickoff event on June 24

HUNTINGTON – The Hilltown Family Center and Hilltown libraries invite families to a special free summer reading kickoff event at the Blandford Town Hall building on Saturday, June 24 from 10 a.m.-noon featuring Marina the Mermaid Story Time.

Families can arrive at 9:45 a.m. to settle in for the Mermaid Story Time at 10 a.m. to hear stories of the sea, make crafts and learn about staying safe in the summer from Marina. Area libraries including the Porter Memorial Library, the Hamilton Memorial Library, the Huntington Public Library and the Russell Public Library will be available to share information about their summer reading programs and calendars of events.

The Porter Memorial Library will feature a self-guided StoryWalk of "Julian is a Mermaid" by Jessica Love at Watson Park. Activities including a mermaid scavenger hunt will be available at the Porter Memorial Library after the performance.

Funding for Marina the Mermaid is made possible through a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement

Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care through the Hilltown Community Health Center's Hilltown Family Center ParentChild+ Program. For information regarding this program, people may email Susan LeBarron, Family Center Coordinator, at slebarron@hchcweb.org, or call 413-667-2203, extension 311.

The Hilltown Family Center in Huntington houses many of the Hilltown Community Health Center's community programs and services, and offers an extensive list of resources for parents, caregivers, and families. The Family Center programs are built around the belief in nurturing strong families, by helping them to strengthen their flexibility and resilience.

Programs help families establish strong social connections and give concrete support in times of need, recognizing family's strengths and understanding that being a parent is part natural and part learned. For more about the Hilltown Family Center, people may visit their Facebook page or HCHCweb.org.

MassDOT announces upcoming roadwork, I-90 lane closures

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

The scheduled work will require some lane and shoulder closures. a

In Montgomery and Russell, bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 36.0 through Thursday, June 15 and Friday, June 16, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude

on Friday, June 16 by 5 a.m.

In Lee and Becket, pavement milling operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 westbound from mile marker 13 to mile marker 18, through Thursday, June 15 to Friday, June 16, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude by 5:00 a.m. on Friday, June 16 by 5 a.m.

In Lee guardrail repair operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 10.5 to mile marker 14.0, from Thursday, June 15 to Friday, June 16, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to

conclude on Friday, June 16 by 5 p.m.

Shoulder paving operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 9.4, from Thursday, June 15 to Friday, June 16, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, June 16 by 5 a.m.

Traffic will be allowed through the work zones.

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

Drivers, who are traveling through the affected areas, should expect delays,

reduce speed, and use caution.

All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to:

Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.

Follow MassDOT on Twitter @ MassDOT to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

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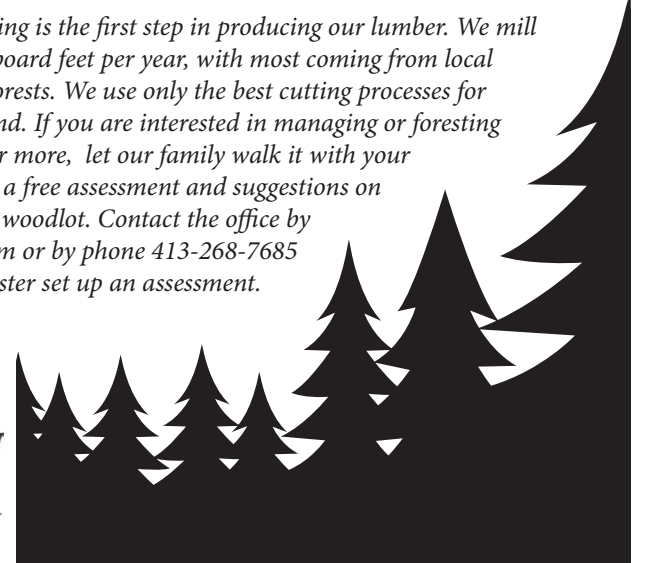


Responsible harvesting is the first step in producing our lumber. We mill over four million board feet per year, with most coming from local privately-owned forests. We use only the best cutting processes for minimal impact to the land. If you are interested in managing or foresting your land of three acres or more, let our family walk it with your family, and we'll give you a free assessment and suggestions on how to best manage your woodlot. Contact the office by email at lashway@live.com or by phone 413-268-7685 and we will have our forester set up an assessment.



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HUNTINGTON

COA announces events

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

On Wednesday, June 21 at 1 p.m., Karen Miller from Cooley Dickinson Hospital & VNA will present a program on hospice. Indoor walking and exercise will be held on Thursday, June 22 at 10 a.m.

Connie Dagesse will present a program on Fallon Health's Navicare on Wednesday, July 5 from 1-2 p.m. On Wednesday, July 12 from 1-2 p.m., Meredith Starr from The Food Bank of Massachusetts will present "Eat Smart – Live Strong."

Attorney Mary Paier Powers will provide an Elder Law Education Program on Estate Planning on Wednesday, July 19 from 1-2 p.m. All ages are welcome to watch "Shrek" and enjoy snacks on Thursday, July 13 at 1 p.m.

Musician Jack Yourous will entertain seniors on Wednesday, July 26 from 2-3 p.m. The Hilltown Memory Café is held weekly on Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. and provides seniors with activities while their caregivers participate in a support group. The café is open to all with and without memory issues. All events are free of charge. People may call the COA at 413-512-5205 or email coa@huntingtonma.us for more information.

GIRARD

from page 1

been entered into the line item budget printed for the meeting, but the Select Board discussed whether or not to recommend the higher funding.

Renaud said, "It is outside the contract and, if we approve it, it nullifies the current contract. Plus one town didn't know about the higher requested level and had already concluded their annual meeting. Will that town have to hold a special town meeting to approve the higher amount? Or will the other towns have to cover their share of the increase?"

Booth added, "I don't like it. I'm not happy about it. But I don't see that

we have a choice."

Renaud felt it was possible to cover the increased funding because Huntington's Gateway budget had only increased a half of a percent.

In the end, the Board voted to support the ambulance budget request, but will urge the towns to meet with HCAA and complete a five-year sustainability plan.

Select Board members also completed a brief review of the warrant articles for both meetings before adjourning. In light of this extra meeting, they decided not to meet as scheduled on Wednesday, June 7.

ATM

from page 1

high rates of inflation, and to make some of the salaries more equitable across similar posts.

Moderator George Peterson then processed the first six articles, considered "boilerplate" for every town meeting. These articles address items such as empowering the Select Board to choose town officers; to accept the reports of town departments; to enable the town Treasurer to sell real estate acquired via foreclosure; to accept and expend grant monies and to enter into contracts for construction and/or maintenance of public highways.

Article 7 launched a line item budget review and approval process. Peterson read each department's budget total (excluding education), which were all approved by voters with only a few holds for discussion or further explanation.

Articles 8, 9 and 10 addressed the educational portion of the budget. Article 8, appropriated \$3,141,916 for the total assessment of Huntington's share of the Gateway budget.

Recommended by both the Select Board and finance committee, Article 8 was unanimously approved. Article 9 for vocational tuition required an amendment to go with more current numbers (dropping from \$882,380 to \$841,691). Article 10 earmarked \$88,459 for vocational transportation; both articles also received unanimous approval.

Articles pertaining to retiree expenditures, adding a cover page and table of contents to the town's general bylaws, changing town elections from the third to the second Saturday in May and enacting an amendment to bylaws that had been previously repealed in 2010, all passed easily.

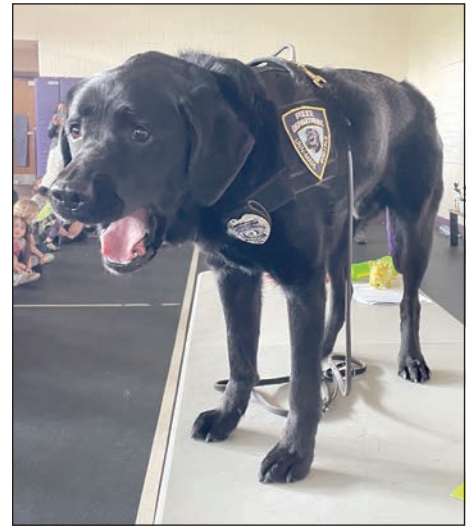
The Board of Assessors had submitted a warrant article that allows for abatements of up to 100% of property taxes for members of the Massachusetts National Guard and reservists who are on active duty orders in a foreign country. This article also passed and will have to be revoted annually at ATM.

Voters also approved raising annual dog license fees as follows: \$4 for male

and spayed female dogs will increase to \$6 and the fee for unspayed female dogs from \$6 to \$10.

Two articles dealt with changing the Town Clerk position from an elected to appointed position. Renaud announced that the current Town Clerk, Linda Hamlin, has announced that she does not intend to run for re-election and plans to retire January 31, 2024. "It's a very important job and some towns (that haven't made this change) have not had good results. We've done this with other positions," Renaud said. "It's a very important job. You don't want somebody with 8 friends to win on a write-in vote. A second article related to this issue was to allow the Select Board to petition the General Court for "home rule" legislation changing the town clerk to an appointed position. Both articles passed with just one opposed.

In a remarkable turn of events, the meeting, which some years has taken two or even three evenings to complete, adjourned at 7:56 p.m.



"Alick" seems to take a nap while Officer Perkins from the University of Massachusetts K-9 unit talks to students at Littleville Elementary School. Right, "Alick" becomes alert as he springs to action.

Submitted photos

Littleville Elementary students meet police dog

HUNTINGTON – On Friday, June 9, the students at Littleville Elementary School, 4 Littleville Road, had a chance to meet Officer Perkins and his k9 unit, from the University of Massachusetts.

The officer showed the students how a Police Dog is used and were even able to see "Alick" in action. After a question and answer session, teachers performed a skit to launch the new

summer reading book "Fenway and Hattie."

This is the third time Littleville has participated in the One School, One Book, challenge. Kindergarten through grade 4 students and staff will each receive a copy of the book to read over the summer. When school returns, the students will participate in additional reading activities about the book.

Yard sale to benefit church

HUNTINGTON – On Saturday, June 24 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, June 25 from noon-4 p.m. the First Congregational Church of Huntington, also known as the Norwich Hill Church, will hold a yard sale to benefit the church.

The sale will be held at the nearby home of church member Lori Belhumeur at 5 Cullen Road, two houses above North Hall, off Searle Road and Route 66. The items come from four estates donated to the church for fund raising and include a wide variety of goods. Original artworks by Betty Langlois, books, camping and sports equipment, canning jars, kitchen and cookware, Christmas décor, Avon/other collectibles, craft supplies, furniture, games and puzzles, hardware, portable heaters, mimeograph machines, typewriters, craft and scrap wood, yard equipment and more.

All purchases are by reasonable donation. For further information, call Lori Belhumeur at 413-887-9746.

HELP WANTED PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR

The Town of Russell is seeking qualified applicants to fill the position of Principal Assessor on the Board of Assessors. The Principal Assessor is an appointed position and fulfills the duties and responsibilities of the Chair of the BOA and all of the associated requirements of an assessor. Successful candidates should have the following qualifications and experience:

- MA Department of Revenue Certification as Assessor.
- A working knowledge of Massachusetts General Laws related to municipal property assessment for tax purposes.
- Knowledge of computerized appraisal systems (CAMA) programs and GIS applications such as Vision 8 software.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Current MA driver's license and transportation.
- Acceptable CORI record.

All interested parties should submit a letter of interest and resume to:

Tom Ray, Principal Assessor
Town of Russell, 65 Main Street, Russell MA 01071
or email trassessor@townofrussell.us

Town of Russell residents will be given preference

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Yard Sale!

5 Culler Road, Huntington, MA
North Hall, off Rt. 66

Saturday, June 24th, 9am-4pm
Sunday, June 25th, 12pm-4pm

ITEMS FROM 4 ESTATES:

artwork, books, camping, canning, collectibles, crafts, electronics, furniture, games, garden, hardware, music, sports, tools, wood and...cookies!!!

Purchase by reasonable donation to benefit
Norwich Hill Congregational Church

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Lots o' lettuce

The weather has been nothing less than unpredictable these last few weeks. While there has been next to no rain at my locale, friends and family have talked about deluges and even quarter-sized hail blanketing their deck space. Temperatures for June seem bizarre, too.

If cold night temperatures weren't enough, a day of mercury bursting into the 80's will shock even well-watered plants. Before heat-lovers can adjust, it's back into the 50's and low 60's.

Strange indeed.

While it's too soon to say whether this year will be a bust or boom, I can say that my lettuce is doing wonderfully!

I started my lettuce indoors the first week of April, at the same time I sowed broccoli and kale seed. I saved little "plug" trays from a prior plant purchase and filled the tray with moist seed starting mix.

Lettuce seed needs light to germinate, so I pushed two or three seeds per cell into the soil to make contact but not so far as to have them get covered up. To keep the soil surface moist, I slid the whole tray into a clear plastic bag.

I left it in my laundry room in front of a window where it would get some afternoon sun and checked on it periodically, misting it a couple times a day. After about five days the seeds had sprouted.

It was a little challenging to keep them growing well indoors, but I did, and was able to move the tray outside on nice days where it could get some filtered sunlight.

On one such occasion I hit the end of the doorway with the tray, knocking a number of the cells loose! I re-filled the cells and transplanted what I could salvage and they adjusted fine.

GARDEN, page 5

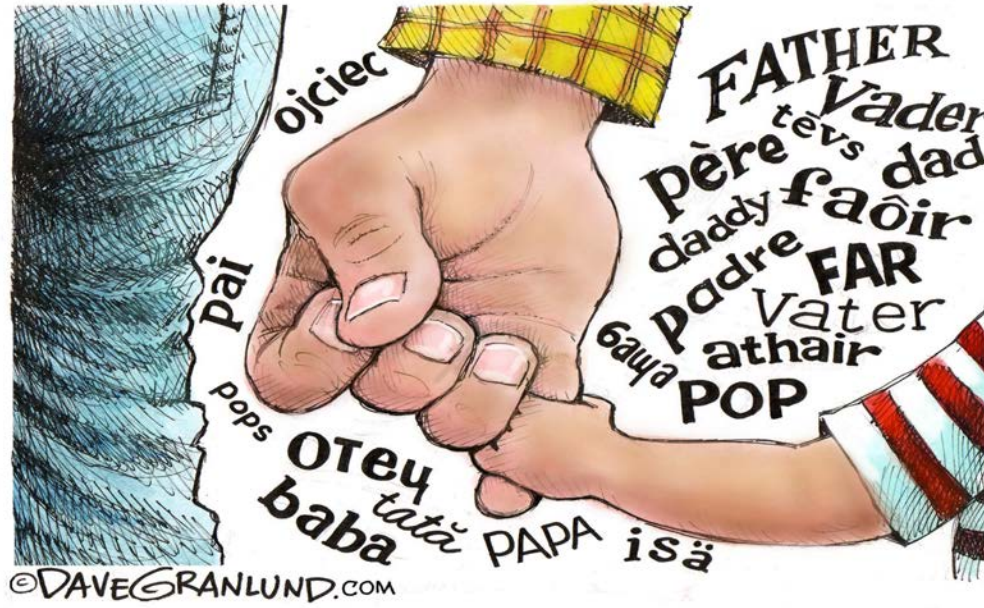
Election policy

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 emailed to countryjournal@turley.com or to edowner@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Tuesday to be considered for that 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.

Candidates statements may be emailed to the above email addresses. All statements must be received two weeks prior to the election as no statements will be printed the week before the election.

Corrections policy

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



GUEST COLUMN

How will working affect my benefits?



Dear Rusty:

I retired from working in January of this year and have since claimed Social Security. I didn't work at all in February or March, but I began a part time job in April. I'm very confused about how Social Security counts earnings for the first year. I don't know if I need to keep each month's earnings under \$1,770 or if they average it. Some of the literature I've found says each month must remain under \$1,770 or no benefit will be paid that month. Two people at the Social Security office told me that they'll just dock me \$1 for every \$2 I am over that, even in my first year. I also cannot find anything about when they count your income. Is it when it's earned or when it's paid? If I go over in a month because there are three pay periods, can they withhold the benefit for that month? I'm just so confused!

Signed: Part Time Worker

Dear Part Time Worker:

The Social Security earnings test during your first year collecting benefits before full retirement age is, indeed, somewhat confusing. The reason is because there are two methods, which Social Security may use during your first calendar year collecting early benefits, and they will use the one which results in the least financial impact to you.

If you claim benefits mid-year before your full retirement age, for the remainder of that first year (starting in the month benefits begin and ending in December) you'll be subject to a monthly earnings limit (\$1,770 for 2023). If you exceed the monthly limit in any remaining month of that first calendar year, you won't be entitled to benefits for that month, so Social Security would (eventually) take back that month's benefit. That is, unless using the annual limit (\$21,240 for 2023) instead will result in a smaller penalty. If your total earnings for your first year collecting are over the annual limit (e.g., \$21,240

SECURITY, page 5



Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sightings of a least bittern at Richmond marsh in Berkshire Count, one at Great Pond in Hatfield in Hampshire County, two at High Head in Truro and one at Bell's Neck in Harwich, both on Cape Cod.

The least bittern is the smallest of the herons at only 13 inches tall. The male has a black crown and back and the female has a rich brown crown and back. Its chest is white with brown streaking. In flight, the buffy, inner wing patches are visible.

Least bitterns fly weakly with quick wingbeats. They inhabit marshes with dense vegetation. Least bitterns stalk through reeds



Least Bittern

in a crouched posture or stand in place. They eat small fish, frogs, insects, small mammals and sometimes bird eggs and chicks.

They nest in a small platform of sticks lined with live or dead vegetation placed in cattails, bulrushes or bushes above the water. The female lays two to seven pale blue or greenish, white eggs. In courtship, males make cooing sounds. The male also makes a guttural "uh-uh-uh-oo-oo-oo-ooah" while the female makes ticking sounds. Both give a "tut-tut" sound.

The least bittern is a secretive bird. It will run through reeds in water and flutter briefly above the reeds. It has the same alarm posture as American bitterns of pointing its head skyward.



Common Ringed Plover

Other Audubon sightings

Other sightings included common ringed plover in Fairhaven; four sandhill cranes in Worthington and three in Plymouth County and four in Ashfield in Franklin County; worm eating warblers

BACKYARD, page 5

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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OPINION

Asian tiger mosquito spreading across America

The Asian tiger mosquito can transmit a number of diseases, including the dengue fever, chikungunya, and Zika virus.

Zachary Smith, a licensed pest control professional from PestDude.com, has warned Bay Staters to be highly vigilant as the Asian tiger mosquito, a small, dark mosquito with distinctive white stripes on its legs and body, spreads across the country at an alarming pace.

One of the key characteristics that makes the Asian tiger mosquito a concern is its ability to serve as a disease vector and transmit a number of diseases, including dengue fever, chikungunya, and Zika virus. While these diseases are not yet widespread in the US, the spread of the Asian tiger mosquito has raised concerns that they could become more common in the future. According to Smith, two factors are accelerating the insect's spread: climate change and

human transportation. While little can be done in the short-term about changing weather patterns, there are actions Americans can take to stem its spread:

One of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of the Asian tiger mosquito is to eliminate standing water around homes and businesses. The mosquito lays its eggs in standing water, so removing sources of standing water, such as flower pots, buckets, and old tires, can significantly reduce the mosquito population.

Smith also points out that these types of mosquitoes only need a bottle cap full of water to lay their eggs, and that these eggs can sometimes survive being dried out. He adds: "Asian tiger mosquitos are quite lazy travelers. So if you're getting bit, it most likely means you are close to the water source. So look carefully in your vicinity for those hidden spots that are holding water. It

can be less obvious than you think - a soda can, an old glass bottle, garbage can lids, a tarp piled on the ground, all those things can hold enough water."

Another effective strategy is to use mosquito repellents containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. The mosquito is known to hitchhike on goods and materials that are transported across borders, allowing it to rapidly expand its range. Therefore, people who are traveling interstate, particularly from east to west, are encouraged to wear repellent before setting off on their journey.

Also, it is important to support community-wide efforts to control the mosquito population. This can include initiatives such as mosquito trapping and surveillance programs, public education campaigns,

It is a highly adaptable species that can survive in a wide range of environ-

ments, from urban to rural areas, and from temperate to tropical climates. Unlike many other mosquito species, the Asian tiger mosquito is active during the day, with peak biting activity occurring in the early morning and late afternoon. The mosquito is particularly prevalent in southeastern states, where it has become established in both urban and rural areas]



Asian tiger mosquito

Be aware: Tick season begins in Massachusetts

WORCESTER – The start of spring also heralds the start of tick season in Massachusetts. Tick activity increases once ground temperatures are above 45 degrees Fahrenheit and since ticks carry diseases, most commonly Lyme disease and babesiosis in Massachusetts, prevention and detection are key.

The experts at American Family Care in Worcester offer tips to help residents protect themselves.

"Not all ticks carry disease, but the potential is there," said Dr. Vincent

Meoli, AFC's regional medical director for Massachusetts.

"Preventing tick bites is the first protection strategy. When you will be outside during tick season, use repellents that contain an EPA-registered active ingredient like permethrin or DEET. We also recommend doing a thorough tick check on yourself and your children if you have been outside. Pay close attention to areas under the arms, behind knees and ears, along the hairline, around the groin and between

toes," he said.

Other recommendations to prevent tick bites include wearing long sleeves and pants in areas most prone to ticks, such as wooded or grassy settings, and wearing light colors that make ticks easier to spot. Be sure to check pets when they come back inside as well, to prevent them from bringing ticks indoors.

Any embedded ticks should be removed immediately. Use tweezers and grasp the tick firmly; then with

steady pressure, pull it straight up without twisting it. Safely kill and dispose of the tick and clean the skin around the bite with soap and water or rubbing alcohol.

"A tick bite in itself is not a reason to panic and does not require medical attention," said Dr. Meoli. "Mark the bite date on your calendar and see a health care provider if you experience a rash or other signs of illness such as fever, headache, fatigue or muscle aches in the weeks following the bite."

GARDEN

from page 4

About a month later, in early May, I planted the lettuce seedlings into the garden. Since I planned to grow the lettuce for leaves and not heads, I planted them fairly close to one another, just about six inches apart in a wide block about four feet long by two feet deep.

Every foot or so I interplanted a leek plant; leeks require a long growing season and will outlive the lettuce, but for now they make good companions.

I began harvesting the third week of May, and now, I can make a salad to feed an army. The bed is a beautiful blend of colors, textures and flavors.

Typically, I pick it right before I want to eat it, rinsing it in a sink of cool water before sending it through the salad spinner or blotting it dry with a paper towel.

Lettuce is undemanding in the garden as long as you provide it with rich soil and a daily watering if nature does not provide. Some compost mixed into the top couple inches of soil will keep it well fed.

When temperatures rise, lettuce will bolt. Bolting simply means that the lettuce is going to seed. It will send up a main stalk that has little leaves on it, inevitably flowering at the end of the stalk.

The flowers are yellow, with seeds forming at the end of little pieces of fluff that help them to disperse in the breeze.

Sometimes lettuce will even self sow. I had a beauty come up in the middle of my mulched path this year and moved it to the wide bed.

To keep lettuce growing during the heat of summer gardeners get creative, often planting heat tolerant varieties and/or planting it in the shade of trellises of vines or under shade cloth.

I am planning on planting a succession crop soon so that I'll have replacement plants on standby to tuck into the bed that my garlic will be harvested from. My husband enjoys a big salad every night and this will surely help our grocery bill. If you have never tried growing lettuce, I encourage you to give it a whirl!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

SECURITY

from page 4

for 2023), the penalty would be \$1 for every \$2 over the annual limit and, if that is less than the penalty from using the monthly limit, they will assess the smaller penalty. In other words, Social Security will use the method, which is most beneficial to you when assessing a penalty for exceeding the earnings limit during your first calendar year collecting benefits. And just for clarity, the earnings limits are much higher and the penalty less during the year you attain Full Retirement Age.

Something else to be aware of: if you know in advance you will exceed the annual limit it would be best to inform Social Security in order to avoid an Overpayment Notice next year. If you don't, Social Security won't know about your 2023 earnings until you file your 2023 income taxes, so you'll get your 2023 monthly payments as usual. But when the IRS informs Social Security of your 2023 earnings later next year, Social Security will ask you to detail your monthly work earnings for 2023. If you have exceeded the limits, they will determine an overpayment amount and will ask you to either pay back what is owed in a lump sum or will withhold your benefits for enough months to

recover what you owe for exceeding the 2023 earnings limit. Then, after you FRA, you'll get time credit for all months in which benefits were withheld, thus slightly increasing your monthly payment after your FRA.

Finally, it is when your income is earned that counts, not when it is paid. So, for example, if you worked in January 2023 and were paid for that work in February 2023, that is considered January income, which wouldn't count toward the February earnings limit.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

BACKYARD

from page 4



Acadian Flycatcher

in North Brookfield; an Acadian flycatcher at gate 8 at Quabbin Reservoir in Pelham and two in Granville and an out of place pileated woodpecker in Provincetown on Cape Cod.

Other sightings included a gray-cheeked thrush in Northampton, a blue grosbeak at the Honey Pot in Hadley, a hooded warbler at the Grace Robson Wildlife Sanctuary in Westfield and a northern goshawk at gate 43 of the Quabbin Reservoir in Hardwick.

Turtle

Although a turtle is not a bird, I did

see one before Memorial Day laying eggs in the small cemetery on Lincoln Road. I was planting flowers on my late husband's parents and grandparents graves. After planting the flowers, I walked by a smooth shelled turtle about seven to eight inches in size laying eggs. Water is nearby as there is a beaver pond across the street and another located behind the cemetery.

Several days later while driving past the cemetery, I saw two turtles, at different times, crossing the road in the general area of the cemetery. One was a large snapping turtle and the other

much smaller, most likely a spotted turtle.

Other wildlife

An Oakham resident said she saw a large coyote and also heard of someone seeing one at Crocker Nye Spring in town.

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

BLANDFORD

COUNCIL ON AGING HOLDS LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM



Debbie Lundgren and Judith MacKinnon served lemon chicken and seasoned oven potatoes to Bob Twyman at Friday's Council on Aging monthly luncheon.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm



Nicole Baltazar, Assistant Director of Energy Programs for the Valley Opportunity Council presented how to apply for fuel and water assistance. Contact the COA for more information and how to contact Valley Opportunity Council.

Summer reading program at Porter Memorial Library begins June 28

BLANDFORD – The Summer Reading Program at the Porter Memorial Library will begin Wednesday, June 28.

According to Library Director Nicole Daviau, Dive into Reading will continue through Wednesday, Aug. 16 with a special final program on Saturday, Aug. 19.

An additional arrangement has been made with Gateway Summer Camp for campers age eight and over to take the bus from the camp to the Blandford Town

Hall where a librarian will walk them to the library. Caregivers can pick youngsters up at the library any time before 6 p.m.

Kindergarteners through fifth graders, the Divers, will meet every Wednesday from 3 -4 p.m. and will encounter submersibles, sunlight zone, coral reefs and more, including whales.

Tweens and Teens, the Explorers, will meet every Thursday from 3-4 p.m. beginning Thursday, July 13 and make

art, discuss books, and snack with friends.

The summer starts off on Saturday, June 24 at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall with Marina the Mermaid and story time. There will be tales of the sea, crafts, and Marina will have summer safety tips.

The Whalemobile promises to be another highlight of the Summer Reading Program on Saturday, Aug. 19 from 10 a.m.-noon, there will be a 30-foot-long whale replica to visit. Daviau and library staff have already started to set the

underwater stage for the program with an underwater-scape over the children's reading area.

Divers should register by Saturday, June 24 and Explorers should register by Sunday, July 9.

For more information, people may call Porter Memorial Library at 413-848-2853 during open hours, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 2-6 p.m., Wednesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Blandford Council on Aging to hold breakfast next Friday

BLANDFORD – The Council on Aging monthly breakfast is set for Friday, June 23 at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall.

The menu includes strawberry pancakes, maple sausages and fruit

salad. People should make a reservation by calling the Council on Aging at 413-848-4279, extension 400 and leave their name and the number of people planning to attend the breakfast.

VOTES

from page 1

Paul Martin as assessor for one year, Stephen Jemiolo assessor for three years; Pat Lombardo, Board of Health for three years; Peter Sparks, Cemetery Commissioner for three years, Byam Stevens, Library Trustee for three years; Peter Langmore, Municipal Light Board for three years;

Robert Twymam, Greg Garfield and Sarah Simpson all elected to the

Planning Board for five years; Nicole Daviau, School Committee Member for three years; Cara Letendre, Select Board for three years, Doris Jemiolo, Town Clerk for three years and Michael Keier as Water Commissioner for three years.

Joann Martin and Jennifer Girard checked voters in while Judith MacKinnon served as ballot box attendant.

CHESTER

CANNING PROGRAM



Local resident, Lee Meyers, shared her knowledge of the canning process at a recent program held at the Hamilton Memorial Library in Chester last Saturday.

Submitted photo

Littleville Fair plans Music/Art Festival fundraiser

CHESTER – The Littleville Fairgrounds has a new post and beam Craft Barn, a new Concession Stand a new office on the second floor of the Exhibit Hall, a new foundation and new doors have been installed in the dining hall.

The terrain on the hill above the main building is being reshaped to accommodate more parking and new events are being planned in the months ahead. The next major renovation is a new bath house with up-to-date bathroom facilities for fair patrons. The new facility will be handicap accessible and will also have showers for overnight guests. This major improvement to the fairgrounds will cost approximately \$300,000. The Massachusetts Cultural Council has awarded a \$110,000 grant to help kick start the project, however the grant is a matching grant, which means Littleville Fair needs to raise at least the matching \$110,000 plus another \$90,000

to complete the facility.

To raise funds for the project, Littleville Fair will be kicking off a Capital Campaign Fund raiser beginning with a Music/Art Festival on Saturday, June 24 from noon-10 p.m. The Concert will feature three bands from the local area, TomTom Duo from Jay, New York, Rumors Classic Rock Band out of Pittsfield and Retro Floyd, a Pink Floyd tribute band from the Springfield area. Ticket price at the gate is \$30 and children under 12 are free. Local artists and vendors will have their art on display and available for purchase as well.

The idea for having a Music/Art Festival is to help bring the local communities together for a fun day of Music and Art. All Littleville Fair proceeds will go to funding the new handicapped accessible bathroom facility. Littleville Fair is an Agricultural nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization comprised entirely of volunteers that plan, manage and operate a country

fair held each August at the Littleville Fairgrounds in Chester. To purchase tickets in advance or make a donation to the Capital Campaign, people may visit <http://littlevillefair.com/>.

Magic show set for June 27

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., will host Abra-Kid-Abra, a comedy magic show with Mike Bent on Tuesday, June 27 at 4 p.m.

This exciting program kicks off the library's summer reading program and is for children and their families. People should call the library at 413-354-7808 to reserve a spot.

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton school receives MassDOT Safe Routes to School Award

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation, through the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program, held its annual awards ceremony today to recognize the Program's partner schools, community champions, stakeholders and Crossing Guards, who have made significant contributions within their communities by strengthening, promoting, and improving safety for students walking, biking, and rolling to school.

William E. Norris School in Southampton was an Exemplary Programs region winners.

The Safe Routes to School awards are open to all school and alliance partners. This year's Awards Ceremony honored 217 schools across the Commonwealth that completed SRTS activities and events qualifying them for partner level awards of Basic, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Awards for Exemplary Program were presented to four schools

and the Community Collaboration and Nikki Britisher Memorial awards were announced.

For the third year, the program recognized the important role Crossing Guards have in supporting families' safety as they access schools and neighborhoods across the Commonwealth. Approximately 175 Crossing Guard nominations were submitted for consideration from over 35 statewide communities.

Sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and with funds from the Federal Highway Administration, the Massachusetts SRTS Program promotes safer routes for students to get to school through a focus on the six E's—Education, Encouragement, Evaluation, Engagement, Engineering, and Equity. The Program hosts annual flagship events such as Massachusetts Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day.

RUSSELL

NOBLE VIEW OUTDOOR CENTER HOSTS LAUREL DAY



This woman stops to have her picture taken by some mountain laurel at Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell.

Photos by Jeannette Pierce



Noble View Outdoor Center hosted an old fashioned Laurel Day on June 10. Over 35 people attended the celebration. These people walk the trail at Noble View Outdoor Center in search of mountain laurel last Saturday.

Library holds kicks off summer reading

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library, 162 Main St., will host summer reading Tuesday, June 27 through Aug. 15 from 3-4 p.m.

Registration ends Saturday, June 24 and people may register during library hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3-7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. is the reading kick off for children and their families at the library. There will be face painting and a bubble tub from 10-11 a.m., family drumming with guest artist Ellen Clegg from 11 a.m.-noon and Hands on Reptiles with Tom Tying from noon-1 p.m. Snacks and fun are included.

Russell Council on Aging announces picnic to be held at Strathmore Park

RUSSELL – On Monday, June 26 beginning at 11 a.m., the Russell Council on Aging will celebrate the arrival of summer with a Picnic at Strathmore Park, rain or shine, hopefully shine.

Participants will enjoy all the yummy picnic dishes, great company and The Ukulele Show. Dave Maloof will perform a ukulele concert, singing and playing various ukes to music including Beatles, Rock 'n' Roll, Vintage Pop, World, Country, Comedy, Kids maybe even a little Classical.

Dave Maloof is a teacher, musician, and comedian who presents

and performs ukulele programs, educational concerts and music/comedy shows. He has performed comedy and music in New England and New York. He'll also show various ukulele sizes, shapes, and tunings, demonstrate different playing techniques, and explain a bit about ukulele origins and parts. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Russell Cultural Council, a local agency that is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The meal cost is \$12 per person. Thanks to the generosity of the COA and the town of Russell, Russell senior

citizens can enjoy a delicious catered lunch for just \$10 per person. The picnic starts at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon. All are welcome.

Reservations and payments are due by Wednesday, June 21. People should send their reservation along with a check payable to the Russell COA to The Russell Council on Aging, P.O. Box 407, Russell, MA 01071. Reservations and payment may also be dropped off at the Senior Center or put in the drop box outside the Select Board's office. People may call the COA at 413-862-6217 with any questions.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Siena College announces Dean's List

LOUDONVILLE, NY – Siena College announces the Dean's List for the Spring 2023 semester.

Local students making Dean's List are Rebekkah Clauson of Westfield and Charlotte Lussier of Westfield.

Salve Regina list graduates

NEWPORT, RI – Salve Regina University held its 73rd commencement ceremony recently.

Local graduates were: Sara Labbe of Westfield, Bachelor of Science degree in biology-environmental sciences and Sam Winiarski of Westfield, Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

Stonehill College lists Dean's List

EASTON – Stonehill College announces the spring 2023 Dean's List. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered.

Local students making the Dean's List are Madeline Jenkins of Westhampton and Jack Keeney of Westfield.

Gavin Girardin graduates from Nazareth College

ROCHESTER, NY – Gavin Girardin of Westfield graduated from Nazareth College with a Bachelor's degree in Business Leadership during the 96th Commencement ceremony on campus at the Golisano Training Center on Saturday, May 13.

Clark University holds commencement ceremony, local students graduate

WORCESTER – Clark University awards degrees to the Class of 2023 at their 119th commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 21.

Local students receiving degrees are: Eolann Jude McMillan of Plainfield summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in biology; Lilah B. Feitner of Cummington, summa cum laude with

a Bachelor of Arts in studio arts and with high honors in media, culture and the arts and member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society; RJ J. Safron of Easthampton, magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in management and Nate E. Bonini of Westfield, magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in economics.

AIC announces spring 2023 Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD, – American International College announces the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester.

Local students making the Dean's List are: Dominic Allaire of Westfield, Morgan Dunham of Westhampton, Dacota Durkee of Westfield, Chase Foster of Westfield, Stephanie Giusti of Russell, Samantha Knowlton of Woronoco, Colin McGrady of Westfield,

Nicholas Mee of Westfield, Laura Moya Mejia of Westfield, Kaitlyn Priest of Westfield, Maggie Prystowski of Westfield, Shelby Rowell of Westfield, Janitza Salcedo of Huntington and Eilin Torres of Westfield.

Dean's List students attend full-time and have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends the efforts and accomplishments of these diligent and hard-working students.

Martin Gentes makes Honor Roll

MCPHERSON, KAN – McPherson College, a four-year private college located in central Kansas, recognizes its highest academic achievers in its spring 2023 Honor Roll and Honorable Mention.

Local student making the Honor Roll is Martin Gentes of Florence

Students must be enrolled full-time and earn a grade point average of 3.55 or higher during the last term to qualify for the honor roll. Students earning a grade point average of 3.25 to 3.54 are named to the honorable mention.

Lasell University men's lacrosse players played in All-Star game on June 2

NEWTON – The New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association announce the rosters and game information for the 2023 East-West Senior All-Star Game, which was held Friday, June 2.

Three Lasell Lasers played in the game for the East team in Landon Reyes of Westfield, Tyler Rose of Springfield and Magnus Leonard of Marshfield.

Fifty-one players from Divisions 1, 2 and 3 competed in this year's All-Star Game, which was played at

at Scotts Miracle Gro Athletic Complex on the campus of Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island.

All players and coaches were nominated by the head coaches within the NEILA. Players were then ranked and selected by a committee, awarding seniors from all three NCAA Divisions who played their college career in the New England region. This all-star game is the only one of its kind, being a regional all-star game which includes players from Divisions 1, 2, and 3.

Lasell University lists Dean's List

NEWTON – Lasell University announces the spring 2023 Dean's List.

Local students making the Dean's List are: Catherine King of Easthampton, Hannah Prain of Westfield, Julia LaPlante of Westhampton, Rebecca Osowski of Westfield, Chloe Schumacher of Westfield and Kieran Oliver of Westfield. To make the Dean's List, students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student in that semester and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

WORTHINGTON



Sarah Clay and the StarCats will perform a free concert on Saturday, June 17 at 7 p.m. in the Worthington Library. *Submitted photo*

Worthington library hosts free Whisper Not concert

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Library, 1 Huntington Road, presents Whisper Not, a concert of songs that tell an intriguing story, performed by Sarah Clay & the StarCats on Saturday, June 17 at 7 p.m.

Vocalist/flutist Sarah Clay leads the StarCats, a delightfully eclectic jazz trio with guitarist Draa Hobbs, and bassist Steve Bulmer. Their repertoire intertwines standards, Latin jazz and retro-pop songs from the likes of Soundgarden, Oregon, Sara Bareilles, Joni Mitchell, Electric Light Orchestra and Stevie Wonder that have been reimagined for this intimate instrumentation.

The StarCats have been performing throughout New England for many years to a wide variety of audiences. They specialize in presenting well-thought-out,

themed concert programs. The StarCats name was inspired by their first tour, Moon and Stars.

Whisper Not is a free 75-minute concert, open to the public. It is supported in part by a grant from the Worthington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. A parking area is located on the Buffington Hill side of the library. This event will take place on the library lawn. There is a small, single stall indoor bathroom that can be accessed by ramp from the Buffington Hill side of the library. There is not enough space in the bathroom for a wheelchair turnaround.

For more information, people may call the Worthington Library at 413-238-5565 or email TheWorthingtonLibrary@gmail.com.

Library to hold book and bake sale on Saturday

WORTHINGTON – The Friends of the Worthington Library will host a book and bake sale at the Worthington Town Hall on Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with a 9 a.m. “Early Bird” admission.

General admission at 10 a.m. is free. Early Bird entry is \$10. Items for sale include gently used fiction and non-fiction books, audiobooks and DVDs. Items for all ages are available including picture books, young adult novels, and graphic novels. Books are priced \$1

each. Baked goods are available by donation. Reusable bags are encouraged.

This will be the first book sale for the Friends of the Worthington Library after a 3-year pause due to Covid-19. Proceeds from the event will help fund children’s programs, museum passes and wish list books for patrons of The Worthington Library. For more information or updates, people may visit The Worthington Library website www.theworthingtonlibrary.com or The Worthington Library Facebook page.

Town of Worthington to hold Founders’ Day July 1

WORTHINGTON – We’re excited to host Worthington’s Founders’ Day celebration for the second consecutive year on Saturday, July 1. Festivities will begin at 3:30 with lawn games and other family activities, followed by a potluck dinner at 6:30 (setup starting at 5:30), libations from Sena Farm Brewery, and an encore performance by saxophonist Aedan Madden’s jazz combo. All free, of course.

Inside the Worthington Historical Society building, 6 Williamsburg Road, the group officially launch its new exhibit Harriett Langdon Pruyn Rice (1868-1935): Seeing Worthington Through A Different Lens, with approximately 50 photographs taken by this remarkable amateur photographer from about 1892 through 1906.

Harriet L. P. Rice was an Albany, New York, resident and daughter-in-law of Worthington native William A. Rice, Sr. Her photos of town residents, taken free of charge in their homes, fields, pastures, and door-yards, are informal, candid and utterly natural, without lighting props, costumes or enhancements. Along with her extensive journal entries and photo labels, the images capture with singular clarity the texture of everyday life in Worthington as it evolved from

a remote, agrarian community to a town slowly coming to grips with the Industrial Age.

Rice’s considerable photographic output in Worthington was achieved with a tripod-mounted box camera and glass negatives that were transported by horse-drawn carriage back to Albany for development. The photos are magnificent depictions of New England’s hardscrabble residents in their familiar and well-worn environs, proudly greeting the camera’s eye.

The exhibit also includes photos of Rice’s husband, child, and Worthington residence. These photos were used to illustrate a re-printed edition of Snow-bound: A Winter Idyl, an extraordinarily popular poem published in 1866 by John Greenleaf Whittier. Snow-bound celebrated the New England farmhouse values of simplicity and goodness, commemorating an idealized version of the nation before the ravages of the Civil War.

Admission to the exhibit is free (donations gratefully accepted) and the building is by the roundabout and across from the Corners Grocery. This exhibit is supported in part by a grant from the Worthington Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

RAGTIME BAND ENTERTAINS ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD



An enthusiastic crowd enjoyed the Ragtime Five Quintet Brass Band music with trumpets, slide trombone, tuba and French horn playing ragtime, swing, marches and more on Sunday, June 11 at the Worthington Town Hall. Snacks were served, and the conversation was lively, with friends seeing old friends, some from out of town. The program was supported by the COA Service Incentive Multigenerational State Grant and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. *Submitted photo*

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Father's Day

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USDA INSP. SLICED IN DELI TURKEY BREAST \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIB EYE STEAK \$8.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS TRAY PAK 49c lb
GREAT ON THE GRILL USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS \$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STORE MADE 80% LEAN HAMBURGER PATTIES 3 OZ. 4 OZ. \$13.99 lb \$18.65 lb	USDA INSP. SMOKED BUGNACKI'S POLISH KIELBASA \$3.99 lb
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We reserve the right to limit quantities.

COA to hold food drive

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Council of Aging will be accepting unopened non-perishable food items on Saturday, July 1 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in front of the Corners Grocery Store to be donated to the Goshen Food Pantry.

Gluten free, low sodium and organic items are greatly appreciated. Cash and checks made out to the Hilltown Pantry are also welcome. This is a convenient way to support the Worthington Founders Day, Goshen Food Pantry.

Digital Photos **\$12.50 Each**

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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Hikers traverse to Becket Potholes

BECKET – The Becket Potholes are a unique glacier melt outdoor museum.

The Hilltown Hikers went back to take a closer look and to look for more farther down the gorge bringing along

Rockachusetts and Berkshire Destinations author, Christy Butler. Located between Mount Gobble and Gobble Mountain in a gorge where massive waters rushed through this canyon as the ice melted,

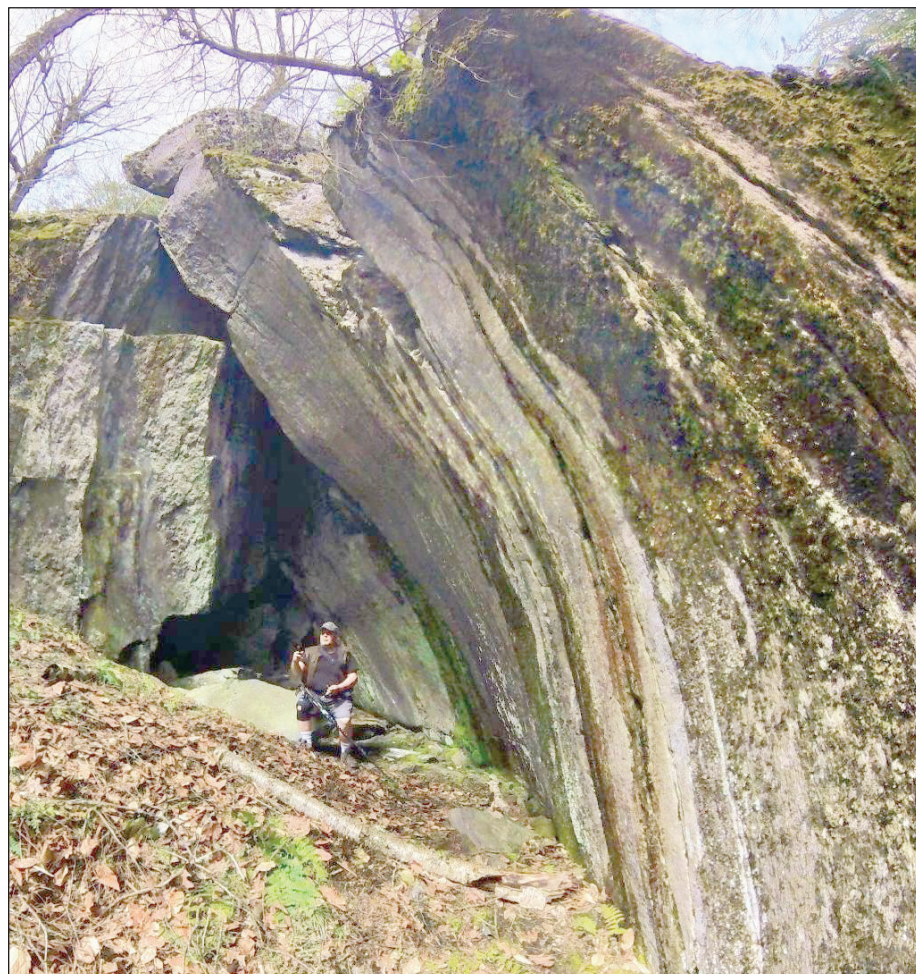
on its way to the West Branch of the Westfield River: rocks caught up in this melt in pockets under the glacial sheet, these pockets carved bowls in the rock. The potholes here are both vertical and

horizontal, most are unique because they are vertical. The largest being over one hundred feet in diameter. This is one of the most fascinating places the Hilltown Hikers have been.



Here is a completely intact pothole.

Submitted Photos



Christy Butler is seen at the second largest pothole at the site in Becket.

BECKET

First Congregational to hold dinner

BECKET – There will be a baked ham and strawberry shortcake meal served on Saturday, June 24 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Guild Hall, YMCA Road.

It will be a to go or eat on the grounds occasion. The menu will consist of baked tavern ham, homemade potato salad, baked beans, pea and green bean

salad and strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream.

The cost is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for those under twelve. The congregation is raising funds for the repair of the Guild Hall roof and hope people can help with their efforts and enjoy a real home cooked meal at the same time.

Athenaeum holding round of golf raffle

BECKET – Trustees and staff are busy organizing 2023 fundraising plans.

The first fundraiser to kick off is a raffle of a Round of Golf for two including cart at Wyndhurst Golf & Club, 55 Lee Road in Lenox. Only 100

tickets will be sold. Tickets are \$20 each.

People may stop by the Athenaeum, 3367 Main St. or talk to one of the board trustees to purchase raffle tickets prior to Thursday, June 22.

WESTFIELD

St. Joseph's holds movie night

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph's National Catholic Church, 73 Main St., will hold a Family Movie Night on Saturday June 24 at 6:30 p.m.

The movie featured will be "Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile" based on the best-selling book by Bernard Waber. A lonely boy, Josh, whose family just moved to New York City, befriends a singing crocodile, Lyle and must save him from a

disgruntled neighbor, who wants to get rid of the reptile. It is a kid and family friendly musical with comedy and animation and is rated PG.

The movie along with popcorn and refreshments are free and will be shown in the church's downstairs. Parking is located behind the church. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Everyone is welcome.

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OBITUARY

Ferol Stark Breymann

Ferol Stark Breymann died peacefully on December 12, 2022 at the age of 97 in Williamstown, MA surrounded by her family. She was born November 1, 1925 in Milwaukee, WI. She was predeceased by her parents, her former husband John B. Breymann III, her longtime partner Donald B. Connors and her brother Donny Stark.



She is survived by her daughters, Meg Breymann, Kerry Breymann, Annabelle Keil (Rodrigo Corazon) and Rebecca Leiter (Mark), her grandchildren Will Breymann (Bailey Sheran), Jackson Mansfield, Maggie Mansfield (Sam Perkins), Ben Keil and Peter Keil (Frances), Gabriel Leiter, Nicky Leiter and Noa Leiter, and her great grandson Pace Breymann.

Breymann graduated from Marquette University with a BA in Journalism and from the BU School of Communications with her Masters. Her many volunteer activities in Marblehead included the Festival of the Arts, the Historical Society and the Girl Scouts. She was a member of the North Shore Writer's Group.

Breymann was an energetic and creative feminist. She inspired her daughters to love beauty, the outdoors, healthy eating, exercise and chocolate. They thought she would live forever. They would like to appreciate the Staffpeople of Williamstown Commons and of Golden Living in Newton for their humor and kindness towards our mother. They are deeply grateful.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday June 3, 2023 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Marblehead, MA at 1 p.m. Memorial gifts may be sent to the causes of her favorite women, Hilary Clinton and Michelle Obama, or your favorite cause. For updated information please see the Flynn and Dagnoli website flynnagnolifuneralhomes.com.

DEATH NOTICE

FEROL STARK BREYMANN

December 12, 2022
Services were held June 3, 2023

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

NEXT WEEK PUBLIC NOTICES EARLY DEADLINE DUE NOON JUNE 29

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING WILLIAMSBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Williamsburg, MA 01096

The Williamsburg Conservation Commission, in accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, will hold a public meeting on: **Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Williamsburg Town Offices (via Zoom), 141 Main St., Haydenville, MA to review a: Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by: Mr. Thomas Hodgkins

The subject area or activity is located at: 74 Village Hill Road, Williamsburg, MA 01096

06/15/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS22P0419EA Estate of:

Lorraine A. Busby

Date of Death: 5/4/22
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Fawn-Marie Busby of Huntington MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Fawn-Marie Busby of Huntington MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribu-

tion of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

06/15/2023

Chester Water Commission Public Hearing

The Chester Water Commission will hold a public hearing on **July 21, 2023 at 5PM** in the Town Hall, COA room, 15 Middlefield Rd., Chester, to discuss the water rate for FY2024 as well as the status of the water enterprise fund and provide an update on current and future projects to improve water plant and distribution system operations.

06/15, 06/22/2023

REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT AND OPERATOR SERVICES

The Town of Huntington is seeking quotes for equipment and operator services for fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024). Quote forms are available online at www.huntington-ma.us or at Town Hall, 24 Russell Road, Huntington, MA. Quotes will be accepted **until June 26, 2023** and must be mailed to:

Town of Huntington
PO Box 430
Huntington, MA 01050
or emailed to:
admin@huntingtonma.us
The Town of Huntington reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

06/15/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500

Docket No. HS23P0219EA Estate of: Evelyn I. Korfias Date of Death: 12/14/2022 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for S/A - **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Frank J. Korfias of Henry, IL** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Frank J. Korfias of Henry, IL** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/19/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons

interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Linda S Fidnick**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 07, 2023

Michael J. Carey
Register of Probate
06/15/2023

REQUEST FOR TREE REMOVAL SERVICES

The Town of Huntington is seeking quotes for tree removal services for fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024). Quote forms are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or at Town Hall, 24 Russell Road, Huntington, MA. Quotes will be accepted until June 26, 2023 and must be mailed to:

Town of Huntington
PO Box 430
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or emailed to:
admin@huntingtonma.us
The Town of Huntington reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

06/15/2023

LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING WILLIAMSBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION, Williamsburg MA 0109

The Williamsburg Conservation Commission, in accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, will hold a public meeting on **Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by:

Applicant: Andrew MacLachlan

The subject area or activity is located at: 20 South Street, Williamsburg, Mass.
06/15/2023

MIDDLEFIELD

Middlefield COA lists menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Council on Aging lists the menu for Wednesday, June 21 served at noon at the Middlefield Senior Center.

The menu choice is vegetable lo mein or barbecue chicken, corn, mashed

potato, dinner roll and fresh fruit. Lunch is available at noon for pick-up or dining in.

People should reserve a meal by calling 413-623-9990 by the previous Monday and leave a message.

CHESTERFIELD

Library to hold summer reading events

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Public Library announces summer reading events.

All programs are free and open to the public.

On Wednesday, July 5 at 10:30 a.m. there will be an interactive family concert with Roger Tincknell in the old Town Hall. On Wednesday, July 12 at 10:30 a.m. the Tanglewood Marionettes perform Hansel and Gretel in the old Town Hall.

On Wednesday, July 19 for five year olds and under at 9:30 a.m. and for five year olds to adults at 10:30 a.m. there will be ink block printing with local artist Helena Garcia at the old Town Hall. On Wednesday, July 26 for five year olds and under at 9:30 a.m. and for five year olds to adult at 10:30 a.m. there will be

summer fun and games on the library lawn, weather permitting.

On Wednesday, Aug. 2 for five year olds and under at 9:30 a.m. and for five year olds to adult at 10:30 a.m. there will be folktale dancing with local artist Ellie Goudie-Averill at the old Town Hall.

People may call 413-296-4735 or email chesterfieldpubliclibrary@gmail.com for more information.

Free public passes are available at the library to the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation State Parks, Look Park in Florence, Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory in South Deerfield, Massachusetts MoCA in North Adams and USS Constitution Museum in Boston.

NORTHAMPTON

Relay for Life of Hampden County set for June 17

NORTHAMPTON – On Saturday, June 17 at 2 p.m., The Relay For Life of Hampshire County will be hosting a survivor and caregiver celebration at the Smith Vocational And Agricultural High School Athletic Field.

The event will be followed by a “Lupper,” lunch and dinner combined, in the cafeteria, at no cost.

Survivors or caregivers may register by visiting the event website at www.relayforlife.org/hampshirecountyma so organizers can have an accurate count. They do not have to join a team, but they can if they want to. They don’t have to raise money, but they can if they wish.

This year organizers will look back at what they have accomplished in the last

25 years and look forward to what they hope to accomplish in the future. The 26th Annual Relay For Life was started in 1997 and has raised a combined total of over \$5 million for the American Cancer Society; providing research, assistance programs and 24/7 hotline for cancer information.

The goal for 2023 is to have 500 participants take part on 40 plus teams

and once again raise more than \$50,000. Organizers are also looking for sponsors, both in-kind and monetary and volunteers to assist with everything from setup to wrap up.

For more information, to volunteer or register, people may call Tom McCusker at 413-313-2525 or visit www.relayforlife.org/hampshirecountyma.

Forbes Library has new logo, inspired by door arch

NORTHAMPTON – Forbes Library, 20 West St., has a brand new look.

The new logo is inspired by the shape of the sandstone arch over the front doors and also suggests the open pages of a book. This new visual identity seeks to reflect the fact that Forbes Library is much more than a building. It is a welcoming community hub where people can gather to find solace, resources, and inspiration.

The library engaged strategic brand consultant Seth Gregory to develop the new logo and style guide in conjunc-

tion with its strategic planning process, during which feedback from community surveys and focus groups guided the decisions. The library was eager to embark on this project, with support from the Friends of Forbes Library and the result is an identity system that is very flexible and adaptable to a variety of situations and with related identities for the library’s Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum, Hosmer Gallery, Hampshire Room for Local History and the Friends of Forbes Library.

The tagline for the new branding is

“For All” and reflects the library’s commitment to serving the diverse needs of our community and the library’s value of equitable library services. “The brand has a fresh and optimistic look and we are so pleased to launch it at a time when we are seeking to reach new audiences and reconnect with current patrons as we emerge from the pandemic,” said Lisa Downing, Library Director. The library’s new logo can be seen by visiting Forbeslibrary.org and soon there will be giveaways to pick up including stickers and magnets along with branded items for sale.



CUMMINGTON

Cultural District Committee seeks proposals for projects

CUMMINGTON –The Cummington Cultural District Committee announces a request for proposals for creative cultural projects taking place in 2023 and 2024 within the newly designated Cummington Cultural District, which runs along the entirety of Cummington’s Main Street, from the Berkshire Trail Elementary School building and Town sign to the west end where Main Street reconnects to Route 9.

Eligible projects can include public art, performance, education and cultural events taking place within the Cultural District, as well as support for community celebrations within the Cultural District that invite public participation. The projects will be funded by a grant from MCC Cultural District Investment Grant to Hilltown Community Development, which will act as fiscal agent. Accepted

proposals will celebrate the community spirit and history of Cummington in a positive way.

For the last three years, the committee has worked on securing a state cultural district designation for Cummington, based on its unique history and cultural assets. In 2022, a series of public sculptures were exhibited on Main Street in Reflections and several events celebrated Cummington’s community spirit and making connections to the town’s natural beauty and agricultural heritage. In 2023, the Cummington Cultural District received its designation and was awarded a grant.

A portion of the \$15,000 grant is designed to provide limited support for:

Artists to create new public art on Main Street, performance fees for performances taking place in the Cultural

District.

Applications should include the following: pre-approved location and contact information for site; start and end date and times for events; total budget including listing other funding sources; description of proposed project no more than 250 words; representative images, drawings or detailed plans for the proposed project; scale and materials and technical requirements that impact the projects (e.g., stage, sound or light equipment).

Accepted proposals will be awarded on a sliding scale at the discretion of the Committee. The maximum award is \$1,000.

Preference will be given to artists and organizers from Cummington and the adjacent towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Goshen, Plainfield, Windsor, and Worthington. Other selection criteria will

include: aesthetics, originality, safety, feasibility, scale and durability.

The awards are open to individual, collaborative or partnership projects. One primary point of contact must be provided and only one stipend payment will be issued to the primary point of contact.

Deadline for proposal submissions is Monday, June 19 at 11:59 p.m. Selection decision will be made Monday, June 26 and contracts must be signed and returned by Wednesday, June 28.

Cummington Cultural District responsibilities are to provide a contract and payments to the selected artists/organizers and to publicize the projects through social media, website and local publications.

Submission or any questions may be emailed to culturaldistrictcummington@gmail.com.

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REGION

Baystate announces major changes in visitor policy

SPRINGFIELD – In conjunction with the end of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Emergency on May 11, which coincides with the end of the Federal Public Health Emergency, Baystate Health is announcing major changes regarding masking.

Masks will now be optional for visitors (also referred to as care partners), as well as staff which includes inpatient care areas at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield and Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer as well as at all medical practices and outpatient services.

However, the use of masks, other personal protective equipment and isolation precautions for patients who have COVID-19 or other contagious diseases will not change.

While masks are now optional, they will be available for visitors to use at their own discretion. Also, if patients prefer, they can request that caregivers wear a mask while delivering clinical care.

All visitors must adhere to Baystate Health infection control practices that are in effect throughout the health system, including self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms, using signage at entrances and must be free of any COVID-19

symptoms. If a visitor self-screens positively for symptoms or a diagnosis of COVID-19 infection in the past 10 days, they will not be allowed to enter the facility.

The health and safety of patients, families and staff members is Baystate's top priority. Care partner visitation guidelines balance preventing the spread of COVID-19 with the needs of our patients and their loved ones. A care partner may be a relative, partner, friend or anyone the patient chooses to have at their side during care. The number of care partners welcomed will depend on the area of the hospital and patient circumstances.

As a reminder, visitation policies include:

Two visitors at a time for inpatients
One visitor at a time for adult Emergency Department

Two parents/guardians at a time for Pediatric Emergency Department

Two parents/guardians at a time for Baystate Children's Hospital

Two visitors at a time for patients in the ICU

Two care partners allowed in the exam room, and two parents/care partners are allowed in pediatric exam room in outpatient centers and practices

Children ages 5-18 must be accompanied by an adult if visiting

Hospice/End-of-Life patients are exempt from restrictions

One care partner for surgical patients may remain with patient through admission and accompany them into pre-op area/after the patient departs to the procedure room, the care partner may remain in the waiting area during the procedure/surgery

One care partner may be allowed in the PACU for visitation during extended period of post-operative care/a care partner may enter the PACU when the patient is ready for discharge to assist with the discharge process and receive discharge instructions with the patient/if the patient is admitted, the care partner will follow the general visitation guidelines.

Also, for OB/GYN patients and visitors:

In Labor and Delivery, up to two designated care partners in room during delivery and up to 2 hours immediately after delivery/one care partner may remain for the duration of the hospital stay and come and go throughout the day/one additional care partner may visit during visitation hours and both care partners can be at the bedside together

For prenatal/ultrasound appoint-

ments, one support person/care partner allowed

In the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Continuing Care Nursery (CCN), both parents may visit the newborn together.

And, for COVID positive patients:

Two visitors at a time for inpatients

No care partner in the Adult Emergency Department unless a designated exception applies

No children under 14 unless a designated exception applies.

Visiting hours remain 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Baystate Health will continue to monitor public health data alongside our own rate of employee infections regarding COVID-19. To ensure ongoing staff and patient safety, there may be a need to reinstate the mask policy should a surge of cases occur.

Baystate Health is regularly evaluating its visitation policy in accordance with the Governor, CDC, and DPH who are monitoring the constant evolution in our region which guides our updates. Visitation is at the discretion of Baystate Health.

For the latest information on masking and to see all exceptions for visitation, including obstetrics, people may visit baystatehealth.org/patients/visiting.

Rep. Richard Neal Highlights Passage of the PACT Act

SPRINGFIELD – Rep. Richard E. Neal joined U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs officials, local veterans' service officers, and members of the western Massachusetts veteran community to highlight the PACT Act that was signed into law by President Joseph Biden on Aug. 10, 2022.

The PACT Act marks the largest expansion of veteran health care and benefits in generations, extending health coverage to more than 5 million veterans exposed to harmful chemicals from

burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic sources. In addition, the PACT Act adds more than twenty new conditions presumed to be service-connected due to various in-service toxic exposures and requires the VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care. The PACT Act also provides resources to the VA to help improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

"When our service members return home, many of them are confronted with

a new set of challenges stemming from a service-connected disability or disease. For those struggling with complications resulting from toxic exposure, it has been difficult to treat not only due to the lack of coverage, but because unlike a physical disability, it is not something others can see. Now, with the PACT Act, we have finally delivered the care and treatment that these men and women deserve," said Neal.

With more than 27,000 new hires in the first six months of the fiscal year,

the highest hiring level in the history of the VA, coupled with additional funding and resources authorized by the PACT Act, veterans are promptly receiving treatment. As of May 21, nearly 600,000 PACT Act claims have been filed with the VA and more than 3.5 million veterans have received the VA's new toxic exposure screenings since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law.

Veterans can apply or learn more about the PACT Act by visiting VA.gov/PACT or by calling 1-800-MYVA411.

Bill to allow medical wigs to be covered under Medicare re-introduced

WASHINGTON – Rep. James P. McGovern and Rep. Ayanna Pressley alongside Sen. Richard Blumenthal announced that they are reintroducing the Wigs as Durable Medical Equipment Act. This legislation would help individuals affected by Alopecia and patients with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy.

Many private insurance plans cover wigs for those undergoing treatments that cause hair loss or who are affected by alo-

pecia areata. This bill would allow cranial prosthetics (wigs) to be covered under the Medicare program.

For both McGovern and Pressley, the issue is deeply personal. In 2019, Rep. Pressley revealed in a video that she had been diagnosed with Alopecia Universalis, an auto-immune disease which attacks the hair follicles. Since then, Pressley has championed policies in Congress that support and express

solidarity with the nearly 7 million Americans living with alopecia. In a 2021 interview with Vanity Fair, McGovern revealed that his thinking on this issue has been impacted by a cancer diagnosis in his own family.

With no known cause or cure, Alopecia Areata is an autoimmune skin disease affecting approximately 6.9 million Americans. The disease disproportionately affects children and Black

Americans, particularly Black women. Many individuals affected by Alopecia Areata utilize wigs as there are currently few effective treatment options. Unfortunately, these prosthetics can come with a significant out-of-pocket cost from \$100 to several thousand dollars for individuals with low or fixed incomes. This is especially burdensome for children, who often want cranial prosthetics for attending school.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th,
there will be an
EARLY AD DEADLINE
To advertise,
place your ad no later than **NOON**
Thursday, June 29
– Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Expert grilling summer safety tips

SPRINGFIELD – There's nothing like a backyard barbecue on a beautiful summer day, but it's important to remember that grills can also cause serious damage and injuries if not used safely.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 10,600 fires involving grills each year, and nearly 20,000 people seek medical care annually because of grill-related injuries, about half of which are burns.

The experts at Rocky's Ace Hardware stress the importance of grill safety, especially as we enter the most popular months for grilling.

"We are big fans of the grilling lifestyle, but it's only fun if it's safe," said Rocky's Ace Hardware President Rocco Falcone. "This starts with having a working fire extinguisher on hand every time you grill. Hopefully, you'll never need it, but you'll be glad it's there if you do. Remember, water doesn't work on a grease fire, so a nearby hose is not enough."

Falcone said ongoing grill mainte-

nance is a key safety factor. He recommends doing a thorough grill inspection at the start of the season to look for rust, cracks or damage to the fuel line and other parts.

A deep clean at the start of the season, and then regular cleaning after every use, is also advisable.

When it comes to the grates, Falcone advised cleaning them before and after each use. "There are a variety of tools designed for this, including wire brushes and scrapers," he said.

To prevent flare-ups, Falcone noted that best practices include trimming excess fat from meats, keeping the lid open when searing high-fat foods, leaving space on the grill to move food away from a flareup and avoiding grilling in windy areas.

When deciding grill placement choose a flat, open area at least 10 feet from the home or other structures.

"Never grill in your garage, even with the door open, or on a covered patio," Falcone said. "Also, never leave a grill unattended, and make sure children and pets stay at least 10 feet away."

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, despite your best efforts, you cannot seem to get much work done this week. Your head is in the clouds with matters of the heart. Soon enough your focus will return.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
People may respond much better to comforting words and gestures. Carefully construct your approach to communicating to reach the widest audience.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
These next few days you could present an opportunity to break free from everyday life and the mundane. If you don't know how to proceed, follow your gut.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Some debates may not come to a swift resolution, Capricorn. You may need to accept that you simply disagree with someone on a particular topic and let things lie.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
This week you may tire from charging into battle and prefer others to do the fighting for you, mighty Taurus. You can use a rest from always putting yourself out there.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
You may soon discover that a person who you consider a friend really is your perfect match. When you look at this person, the realization may suddenly dawn on you.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
You don't always need to be in pursuit of some sort of intellectual betterment, Scorpio. Get outside and take a walk or swim in a lake. Engage in trivial things that bring you joy.

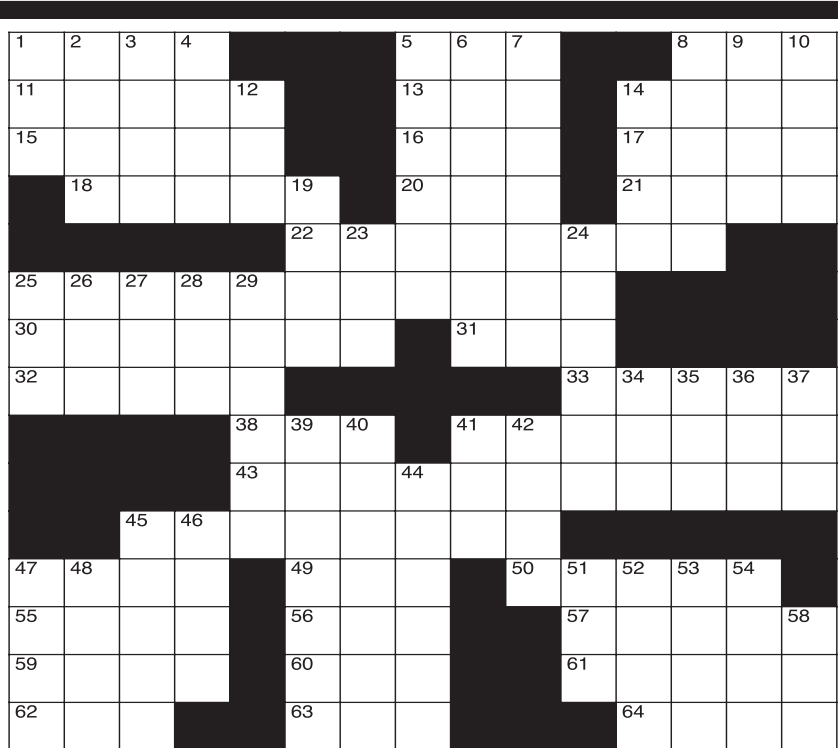
AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, you may have been a little worried about your work or studies lately. This week things will lighten up and you'll feel much more in control of your situation.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
Adopt a more serious tone this week, Gemini. Your actions may be judged without your knowledge, so lay low. Put the most professional foot forward.

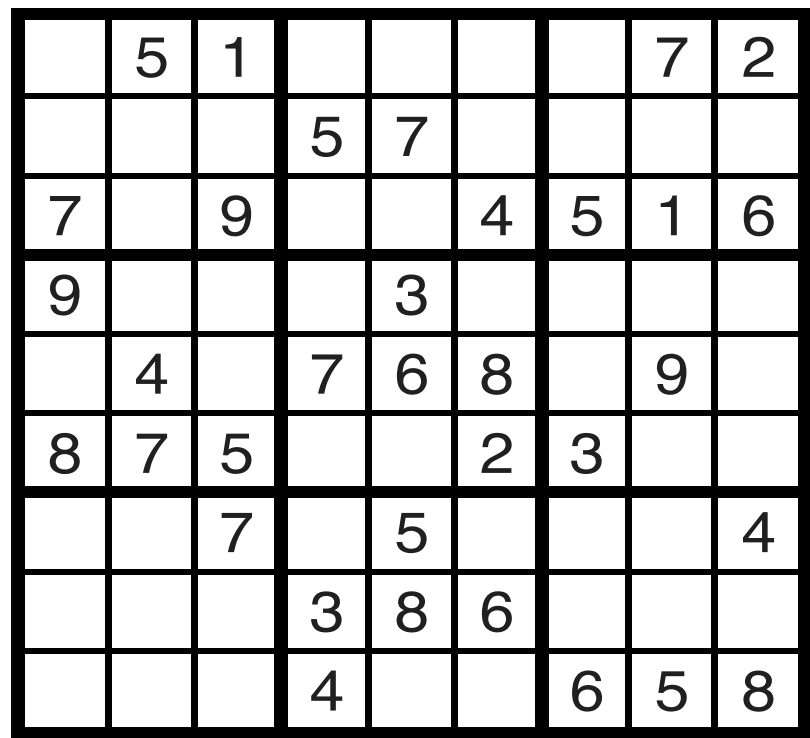
VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, others around you are especially sensitive this week, so even the slightest criticism could be mistaken for an insult. Rather than ruffle feathers, hold your tongue.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, you are capable of producing impressive results if you set your mind on a plan. This is the week to dabble in a new hobby that will bring forth your creativity.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
This is likely to be a busy week filled with the potential for travel. Bring along a close friend or a loved one for the adventure.



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. In a place to sleep
 5. Chemical compound (abbr.)
 8. A way to fish
 11. Classic Linklater film "___ and Confused"
 13. Legume
 14. Indonesian island
 15. Smooth, creamy substance
 16. Arctic
 17. Wood sorrels
 18. Defied
 20. Cattle
 21. Tableland
 22. Honorably retired and retaining one's title
 25. Repossession
 30. Danced
 31. Adult males
 32. A type of section
 33. Type of Japanese animation
 38. Satisfaction
 41. Fit
 43. "Ain't No Sunshine" singer
 45. Failure
 47. Israeli city
 49. French river
 50. Cavalry-sword
 55. Nocturnal S. American rodent
 56. Liquefied natural gas
 57. Afflicted
 59. Electronic counter-countermeasures
 60. Popular HBO fantasy series (abbr.)
 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 62. Large body of water
 63. ___kosh, near Lake Winnebago
 64. Impudence
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Payroll firm
 2. Unit of transmission
 3. Rockers Better Than ___
 4. Bambi is one
 5. Highest parts of something
 6. Correct behavior
 7. Batty
 8. Cyprinid fishes
 9. Expression of sorrow or pity
 10. Site of the famous Leaning Tower
 12. American rocker Snider
 14. W. African language
 19. Symbol to mark for removal
 23. ___ Squad
 24. Resident
 25. Federal savings bank
 26. Paddle
 27. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
 28. One point south of due east
 29. Winter melon
 34. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
 35. Anger
 36. Central European river
 37. First responders
 39. Spanish noble
 40. Persons with absence of skin pigment
 41. Defunct airline
 42. Small island (British)
 44. The extent of something from beginning to end
 45. Capital of Bangladesh
 46. Dutch cheese
 47. Imitates
 48. A contest of speed
 51. Swiss river
 52. Prejudice
 53. Actor Idris
 54. UNLV's are Runnin'
 58. Criticize



SUDOKU

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

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answers

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REGION

Education Seminar on Tardive Dyskinesia for Families

AGAWAM – The National Alliance on Mental Illness MetroWest will conduct a virtual education seminar on tardive dyskinesia, June 21, starting at 7 p.m. If you have an SMI diagnosis or have a family member with an SMI diagnosis this seminar will be valuable.

Some people living with a mental health condition may experience tardive dyskinesia, an involuntary movement disorder associated with prolonged use

of certain mental health medicines that are used to treat bipolar disorder, clinical depression, schizophrenia, and schizoaffective disorder. Other prescription medicines used to treat upset stomach, nausea and vomiting may also cause TD. TD can impact patients socially, emotionally, and physically.

At the seminar, Dr. Robert Karr, M.D., will present an overview of TD and conduct a Q&A session. Dr. Karr is

currently the associate medical director of Advocates, Inc. Karr graduated from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University in 1981. Karr practices both forensic psychiatry and general psychiatry. He has over 34 years of experience

Approximately 600,000 people in the U.S. may be affected by TD. Nearly 70% of Americans with TD are undiagnosed. In general, 80% of people taking

antipsychotics are at low risk, and 20% are at high risk. 60-70% of cases are mild, 20-30% of cases are moderate, and 3% are severe. TD can be treated and managed.

The seminar is free. You will need a computer or smartphone and an internet connection to participate in the seminar. Registration is required. To register please go to <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/>.

MassDOT encourages drivers to look for motorcycles

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is raising awareness for motorcyclist safety and urging drivers to be mindful that as the weather becomes warmer, more motorcyclists will begin traveling on roadways throughout the Commonwealth.

Roadway safety is a shared responsibility and vehicle drivers play an essential role in motorcyclist safety by looking twice for motorcycles when pulling out onto roads and changing lanes. In addition, motorcyclists are encouraged to wear visible clothing, drive with caution and obey all rules of the road. Motorcyclists are also encouraged to only allow qualified and experienced individuals to use their motorcycles.

“Tragically, on average, about four motorcyclists were killed each month last year in crashes on Massachusetts roads,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Gina Fiandaca.

Recent data collected of roadway

crashes in Massachusetts and nationwide have shown an alarming rate of roadway fatalities involving motorcycles. The total number of motorcycle fatalities in Massachusetts was 42 deaths in the calendar year 2022. Additionally, preliminary data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) suggests that nationwide there was a nine percent increase in motorcycle fatalities in traffic crashes from 2020 to 2021.

“The RMV underscores the importance of motorcycle safety, and the critical need for motorcyclists to be properly educated, trained and licensed to be able to safely and cautiously operate motorcycles, and navigate all types of roadway conditions in various weather conditions,” said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. “Riding a motorcycle can be exhilarating and fun but can also be dangerous as there is a higher risk for severe injury or fatality, so we encourage motorcyclists to be prepared, wear appropriate safety gear and helmets and always try to be bright and visible.”

Motorcyclists face an increased risk of severe injury and death when crashes occur. The two most common roadway fatality crashes are single-vehicle crashes that involve a motorcycle driver failing to negotiate a curve in the road, and crashes involving a left-turning vehicle striking a motorcycle.

Motorcyclists are encouraged to be prepared and participate in educational training courses that are offered through the state-sponsored Rider Education Program. The program seeks to increase rider skills and safety on the road by providing quality rider education and training to both novice and experienced motorcycle riders. The program is specifically designed to assist riders of all levels and to promote the safe operation of motorcycles.

License waiver courses include Basic Rider Course, Basic Rider Course

2, Returning Rider – Basic Rider Course, and 3 Wheel – Basic Rider Course. MREP also offers additional non-licensing courses for motorcyclists that already have their motorcycle license. In 2022, approximately 6,782 individuals participated in MREP and out-of-state rider training education programs.

Additionally, the RMV has posted a series of PSA “At Home” motorcycle safety videos which highlight 14 licensed motorcyclists who are MassDOT employees sharing their riding experiences and discussing common safety problems facing motorcyclists on roadways. The interviews have safe driving tips, suggestions for motorcycle training, mention the dangers posed by vehicles making unsafe left turns, and include the slogan: “RIDE SMART.” The videos can be found on MassDOT’s YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzBxrvXzs-5EU2BHxbDX-a12eSUJxcskZB>.

Tips for driving safe with pets

WARE – Distracted driving is of most concern in summer, when more people take the opportunity to travel, explore and visit family. Traveling with pets compounds this concern, as unrestrained pets can both cause distractions and make accidents more dangerous.

“Pets can easily take a driver’s attention from the road, posing a serious risk not only to the pet but also to the passengers riding in the same vehicle,” says Michael Leung, co-founder and lead product designer of Sleepypod, a manufacturer of premium pet carriers and pet restraint systems. “If there is nothing restraining a pet in a hard stop or car accident, the pet can become a projectile and potentially collide with fellow pets or human passengers.”

Such a collision could be catastrophic, regardless of a pet’s size. A 10-pound dog in a 50-mile-an-hour car crash exerts 500 pounds of force. Meanwhile, an 80-pound dog in a 30-mile-per-hour crash exerts 2,400 pounds of force.

Unrestrained pets may also fall or jump out of open windows or flee the car in fear after a crash, potentially becoming lost, injured, or worse.

A quality, rigorously tested pet restraint can make all the difference in preventing distracted driving and keep-

ing human and pet passengers safe during an accident. Interestingly, an American Automobile Association survey found that, while more than 80% of drivers admitted that they recognize the dangers of driving with an unrestrained pet, only 16% used pet restraints.

Leung spearheaded Sleepypod’s rigorous advanced crash-testing program. He and his research and development team gather real-life accident data through Sleepypod’s crash replacement program, which offers customers who have used a pet safety restraint while in an accident replacement pet restraints or discounts on new pet restraints.

Follow these tips for minimizing pet-related distractions and keeping pets safe during accidents:

Pets should always be restrained in a back seat to prevent them from injury if an airbag is deployed. If the pet cannot restrain your pet with a reputable, tested car restraint, the next safest option is to place the pet in the footwell behind the front seat. Smaller pets are safer when fully contained in a restrained carrier, while larger dogs should ride in a car safety harness that does not connect the pet with an extension tether. Pets should be unable to slide forward far enough to “submarine,” or drop off the seat, at any point during a collision.

Register for 35th Annual Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk

BOSTON – Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1, funds raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation’s premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options:

5K walk, 10K walk, Half Marathon walk, or Marathon Walk. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

Register as an individual walker, team member, or start a team.

To register for the Walk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee.

Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be treated to 10 refueling stations as well as poster-sized photographs of patients displayed at each mile and half-mile marker as inspiration.

All four routes of the Jimmy Fund Walk will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line. Due to construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Fenway neighborhood for 2023. The finish line will include a celebration complete with food, music, and a speak-



ing program.

If walkers wish to participate a bit closer to home, the Jimmy Fund Walk has flexible opportunities. Participants can also join the event virtually by walking their way from wherever they are most comfortable-in their neighborhood, on a favorite hiking trail, or on a treadmill at home. Virtual programming and supporting materials will be available.

The 2023 Walk will be held during the Jimmy Fund’s 75th anniversary year and will aim to raise \$9 million in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer. The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$167 million for Dana-Farber Cancer in its 34-year history, raising a record-breaking more than \$8.8 million in 2022.

Funds raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor for more than 20 years.

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Clark Art Institute to hold concerts

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., debuts a five-part outdoor concert series this summer.

The Clark Institute presents Hermanos Gutiérrez on Wednesday, June 28; Joe Henry on Wednesday, July 5; Makaya McCraven on Wednesday; July

12, Darlingside on Wednesday, July 19 and Kathleen Edwards on Tuesday, Aug. 8. All performances are free and take place at 6 p.m. near the Reflecting Pool. People should bring a picnic and lawn chairs. People may visit clarkart.edu/ events for more information.

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HELP WANTED
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF HEALTH
 The Town of Montgomery is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health. The position is a Tuesday through Thursday (8:00am - 2:00pm) 16 hours per week. Salary will be negotiated at time of job offering. The job description can be obtained in person only at the Montgomery town hall during normal business hours. Interested individuals will be required to submit a cover letter of introduction, resume and an employment application to the Board of Selectmen's Office by 4:00pm June 29, 2023

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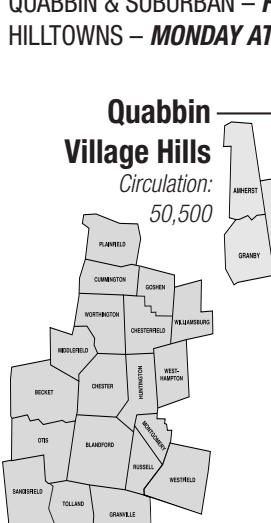
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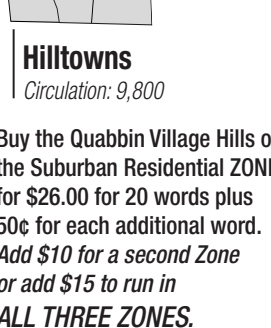
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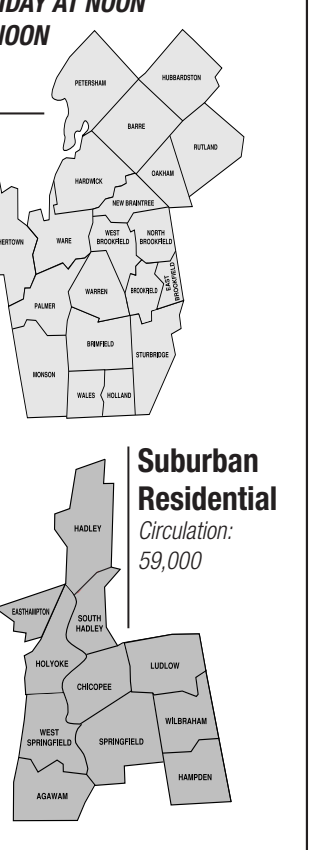
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TAG SALE
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