

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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

June 19, 2025 | Vol. 47, No. 8 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

COA sponsors MINI GOLF TRIP



The Middlefield Council on Aging sponsored a trip to the Baker's Mini Golf in Lanesboro on Friday, June 13. A group of seniors enjoyed the trip. Submitted photo

HUNTINGTON

Gateway Supt. search dominates town meeting

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

In their final school committee meeting of the year, the Gateway Regional School Committee grappled with an upcoming change in leadership, as Superintendent Kristen Smidy has announced her departure later this summer.

The June 11 meeting was held in the performing arts center; all members were present with the exception of Michael Morrissey from Montgomery and Alex Seid from Middlefield. Gateway junior Theo Deangelis-Page also attended as student representative



Chester Elementary School parent Kayla Brady addresses the Gateway Regional School Committee on June 11. Turley photo by Wendy Long

SUPERINTENDENT, page 3

HUNTINGTON

GSR updates handbook, and course of studies

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

At their June 11 meeting, the Gateway Regional School Committee voted to approve updates to the GSR handbook and course of studies.

According to Principal Dr. William Sullivan, changes to the GRS handbook included updated graduation requirements approved at the last school committee meeting, adding a new academic honesty procedure and reducing the number of exempted final exams due to high Grade Point Average from two to one. The handbook has to be approved annually by the School Council. The School Committee approves the Code of Conduct within the handbook and any new or revised policies contained in the handbook.

Sullivan also announced that the GRS Course of Studies has several new course offerings for next year, including Scientific Writing, Earth and Space Science, Advanced Placement Psychology (in-person), an option for a Senior Capstone Project, Athletic Administration and Leadership, Health Fitness and Lifestyle and Mural Painting.

School Committee

Chairman Jason Forgue raised three concerns over GSR's current grading process and said he would not vote in favor of the handbook until these were remedied. First, the company that provides Gateway's online courses determines whether or not each class is an honors course, which is also reflected on a student's transcript. Forgue suggested that the faculty review online course content to determine whether or not it meets Gateway's standards for honors coursework.

Forgue also said he was opposed to the practice of allowing students to retake exams, which at this time is left up to individual teachers to determine. "We've got to get rid of test correction: it is inequitable. It should be a policy that we don't do this," Forgue said. "There should be a reward for attempting to improve but going from a grade of 60 – 100 is unreasonable." After the meeting, Sullivan said he will be bringing this issue to the GSR Academic Council for their review.

Finally, Forgue said that the current GPA calculations are inequitable. An "A" on an AP class is valued as a 5.0; an "A" on a College Prep class is a 4.0. In both examples, a

UPDATES, page 3

BLANDFORD

Jacqueline Coury wins Select Board seat

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Jacqueline Coury is the new member of the Select Board as a result of the town election Saturday, June 14.

She won the seat with 117 votes to 32 votes cast for Jeff Allen, Allen's name was on the ballot because although he resigned from the board in April it was too late to



Jacqueline Coury



June Masee

remove his name from the ballot. Jacqueline Coury said, "Although I have not experienced the rich history

of Blandford as many of you, both my husband and I have a similar sentiment about our town, its residents and its beauty."

June Masee was the successful contender for the Municipal Light Plant. She was also the incumbent for this second contest on the ballot and took the seat with a vote of 75 to 73 over James Gaeta.

David Hopson was

elected as Assessor, Jennifer Girard as Board of Health member, Charles Benson as Library Trustee and Peter Thayer as Water Commissioner.

The Fence Viewer and Field Driver positions all received tie votes resulting in a failure to elect and while a resident received sufficient votes to be elected Cemetery Commissioner, it is not known yet if the individual will accept the position. There were 156 ballots cast.

HUNTINGTON

School committee hosts annual retiree reception

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

In a special event preceding their June meeting, the Gateway Regional School Committee hosted their annual reception for retiring staff on Wednesday, June 11 at 6 p.m.

Three retiring staff members-collectively serving Gateway for over 80 years-were honored, along with this year's recipient of the Harold Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Award, Abbey Keeler.

After light refreshments provided by school committee members and socializing, School Committee Chairman Jason Forgue gave a tribute to the retirees and the Grinspoon recipient.

Christine O'Malley started teaching art at Gateway in September, 1996. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the University



Shown from left are retiring District Treasurer Deborah Kuhn with retiring Assistant Superintendent Stephanie Fisk. They were two of the Gateway staff members honored by the Gateway Regional School Committee at their annual staff reception held Wednesday, June 11. A third retiree-Christine O'Malley was unable to attend. Turley photo by Wendy Long

of Massachusetts, Amherst. She earned her initial teaching license in secondary art education through Westfield State College in 2006 and her Master of Arts degree there in September 2010.

Prior to full time teaching, O'Malley had been a substitute teacher in Westfield Public Schools. She also used her artistic talents at Tiger Press in Northampton; Graphic Printing in West Springfield and Italia Printing in Springfield.

After starting as a substitute teacher in the middle school, she moved into a long-term substitute position in the school before becoming a full time art teacher there. Over her Gateway career, she also taught in the Junior High, High School, Gateway Regional School and Littleville Elementary

RETIREE, page 3



PAGE 7

Becket.....2	Classifieds.....11	Huntington.....3	Public Notices.....10
Blandford.....7	Cummington.....8	Obituary.....10	Schools & Youth.....6
Buckland.....8	Easthampton.....8	Opinion.....4, 5, 6	Westfield.....9
Business Directory.....3	Goshen.....9	Otis.....9	Williamsburg.....2
Chester.....8	Hilltowns.....2	Pittsfield.....8	Worthington.....8



HILLTOWNS

MassDOT lists 1-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces it will be performing milling, paving, bridge repairs and bridge painting on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, and Becket.

Work will take place between Sunday, June 15 and Thursday, June 19, during both nighttime and daytime hours.

In Stockbridge/West Stockbridge milling and paving operation now through Thursday night, June 19 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning. Lane closures will be in place in both directions.

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 X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers traveling through the area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change

BECKET

Town clerk lists election results

BECKET – Two hundred thirty three of the 1,708 registered voters or 13.6% went to the poles at the Annual Town Election on Saturday, May 17.

There were two contest on the ballot for a three year term to the Select Board. The winner was

Christopher Swindlehurst with 136 votes and David Johnson got 95 votes. The other contest was to the Planning Board. John Verity won with 183 votes to his opponent Robert T. Ronzio with 47 votes.

The other candidate on the election ballot ran

unopposed. Dr. Howard Lerner received 185 votes to Board of Health. Voters elected two positions to the Finance Committee, Ronald Defoe with 206 votes and Daniel Parnell with 199 votes. Sarah Francis received 219 votes for Cemetery Commission.

RMV warns public of text scams

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles warns the public to beware of text messages that allege to be from the RMV that request payment or other information.

The practice, also known as smishing, can involve messages stating the RMV will take action against an individual due to unpaid fees. Attempts have been made in Massachusetts and several other states to trick individuals into sharing credit card numbers and other sensitive information, directing them to websites to pay outstanding balances. The RMV strongly encourages customers not to

click links contained in such messages.

“If you receive any kind of message telling you to make a payment or that you need to act quickly, do not click the link. The RMV will never text you looking for payment,” said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. “Scammers will often convey urgency to manipulate you. If you need to perform a Registry transaction online, be sure to only use Mass.Gov/RMV.”

A wave of current text messages circulating warns of traffic ticket enforcement and that immediate action must

be taken to avoid license suspension and vehicle registration revocation and impact to one’s credit score. The texts referenced a false regulation that allows for this enforcement action. These texts are being customized with dates and different states and can include the word “Massachusetts” to trick individuals into immediate payment.

Scammers will sometimes create links that mimic the names and URLs of official websites. Customers should only use Mass.Gov/RMV for online RMV services.

WILLIAMSBURG

CULTURAL COUNCIL HOSTS STATE REP. SABADOSA



State Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa speaks at the Williamsburg Cultural Council celebration of the arts event last Wednesday, June 11 at the Meekins Library in Williamsburg. Photo by Lesley Ham

Comprehensive Plan offers vision and goals open house

WILLIAMSBURG – Williamsburg Comprehensive Plan offers a drop-in vision and goals open hours on

Thursday, June 26 from 3-7 p.m. at Anne T. Dunphy School, 1 Petticoat Hill Road. Snacks will be served

and children are welcome. For more information, people may visit www.tinyurl.com/WilliamsburgCP.

Planning Board seeks resident input

WILLIAMSBURG – The Planning Board wants to hear from residents.

As part of their continuing efforts to develop a comprehensive plan for the future of the town they invite

people to a drop-in and open house on Thursday, June 26 between 3-7 p.m. at the Dunphy School, 1 Petticoat Hill Road. The goal is to build upon the work that’s been done to date and hear

from as many residents as possible in moving forward. State grant monies have provided for the consulting firm of J.M. Goldson to aid the Williamsburg Planning Board in this endeavor.

OrthoMA

ORTHOPEDIC URGENT CARE

Ortho MA treats:

- FRACTURES • SPRAINS • DISLOCATIONS
- JOINT PAIN • SPORTS OR WORK INJURIES & MORE!

Walk-Ins Welcome No Appointment Needed

Monday-Friday: 4pm-8pm • Saturday & Sunday 8am-12pm

www.OrthoMA.org • info@orthoma.org
 53 Southampton Road, Westfield, MA 01085 • (413)83-ORTHO

CHESTERFIELD

78th Annual 4th of July Fest!!

Red, White & Mooos

Pancake Breakfast (Firehouse)	7:00 - 10:00
Food & Vendor Booths	9:00 - 1:30
Historical Exhibits (Edwards Museum)	9:00 - 1:30
Heritage Pops Orchestra (Town Center)	9:30 & 11:30
Hilltown Art Display (Town Hall)	9:30 - 1:30
Historical Exhibits (Town Hall)	9:30 - 1:30
PARADE	10:30 - 11:30
MARCHING BANDS! ANIMALS	
Chicken Barbecue (Church)	11:30 - 1:30
Magic Show (Russell Park)	11:30 - 1:30

Sponsored in part by the Arts Council of:
Chesterfield, Goshen, Williamsburg & Worthington

Massachusetts Cultural Council

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th,
there will be an
EARLY AD DEADLINE
To advertise,
place your ad no later than **NOON**
Thursday, July 3
– Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

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.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS... **\$2.88/lb**

USDA INSP. FROZEN COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS... **\$1.99/lb**

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN LOIN END PORK LOIN CHOPS... **\$2.09/lb**

SLICED IN OUR DELI
USDA INSP. KRETSCHMAR LOW SODIUM HAM... **\$4.99/lb**

USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE... **\$4.44/lb**

GREAT ON THE GRILL
USDA INSP. STOREMADE ITALIAN MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN BREASTS... **\$3.99/lb**

USDA INSP. STOREMADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE PATTIES... **\$2.77/lb**

INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE... **\$10.99/lb**

USDA INSP. STORE MADE BEEF SHAVED STEAK... **\$6.99/lb**

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN 90% GROUND BEEF... **\$4.99/lb**

PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG... **\$2.66/lb**

USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG... **79¢/lb**

USDA INSP. FROZEN HEAT & SERVE SNOWFLAKE DINNER ROLLS DOZ... **99¢/ea**

USDA INSP. FROZEN ROYAL ASIA NASHVILLE HOT BREADED SHRIMP 1 LB... **\$4.99/ea**

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN BEST YET COOKED SHRIMP 51/60 CT 1 LB. BAG... **\$4.99/ea**

f 90 Meat Outlet

90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

Adventure tours of Warren

Share the Adventure with us!

2026 Norwegian Cruise Line Bermuda and Nova Scotia – Call Today

July 12.....Escape to Rockport	\$110
July 2.....Perkins Cove for a Day.....	\$110
Oct. 4.....Stockbridge – Rockwell Museum.....	\$120
Oct. 18.....Turkey Train.....	\$175
May 2026.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruis.....	from \$1699

Share the Adventure with us soon!

For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursforwarren.com

HUNTINGTON

SUPERINTENDENT

from page 1

and announced that he and Ana Holmes had both been reelected for that post next year.

The meeting opened with public input on four items not posted to the agenda. Chester Elementary School parent Misty Robitaille complained that two school committee members, Tara Balboni and Lisa Goding, had engaged in online arguments with parents on Facebook, describing their tone as hostile and unprofessional. She also said she was angry with Superintendent Kristen Smidy who she felt had discredited Robitaille's concerns about her son. "I feel like I have been nothing but respectful," Robitaille said, referring to her advocacy on behalf of former Chester Elementary School Principal Vanna Maffuccio. "This is your job to hear the parents."

Interim Chester Elementary School Principal Mark Folta also had comments for the committee, publicly thanking Smidy for letting him lead the school for the past few months. He said this has been his third foray as an interim principal for Gateway and he had accepted this opportunity without hesitation. He also thanked the hard working staff at Chester for being so kind and accepting, as well as the Chester children, who he said made work fun every day. "It was a pleasure getting to know you," Folta said, adding, "Oh, and I also met some parents. Facts matter. The truth matters." Chester school committee member Jeana Briggs thanked Folta for everything he had done for her son and for the school as a whole.

Goding shared her perception that the earlier school start times implemented this year were difficult for many students and

said she would love for the school committee to review research on the benefits of later school start times.

Chester Elementary School parent Kayla Brady gave a shout out to staff members Maddy Scott and Heather Cabral for their work with her daughter, adding that they'd had lunch every day with the fifth grade class.

By far, the longest discussion of the meeting concerned replacing Smidy, who has announced that she is leaving Gateway in August and has accepted a job with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Smidy's appointment at Gateway came about through a one year search and transition process, made possible by the advanced knowledge of former superintendent Dr. David Hopson's retirement. That search had included surveys of students, staff, parents and community members; the development of a job description (based on stakeholder input) and the posting, screening and selection process, all guided by a consultant from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

With a much-shortened search time frame, discussion included using Smidy's most recent evaluation to update the job description, posting and interview questions and whether or not to name an Interim Superintendent for July and start a formal search process in September. Chairman De Jason Forgue, who has been reviewing materials from the last search four years ago, reported that finding Smidy had taken 4-½ months from the posting to the offer. "We're starting behind the 8-ball here, as other (districts) interim postings have already been out for a while."

Forgue said he was shocked to see how many districts are currently seeking superintendents and interim superintendents. He said that four years ago they had received 22 applicants and trimmed the field to eight for further screening and interviews.

Blandford representative Nicole Daviau asked if there were any internal people, who could be considered for an interim; Smidy responded that there were two certified superintendents on staff and affirmed that it would be best practice to have a licensed person in the interim role. Montgomery member Peter Degregorio pointed out that by September Gateway will have lost the top two administrators in the district with Smidy leaving and the retirement of Assistant Superintendent Stephanie Fisk.

Robitaille raised the fact that Pupil Services Director Kurt Garivaltis had been a finalist in the last search and should hold the interim position; Forgue responded that he hoped that Garivaltis expresses an interest when this is posted.

In the end, the committee decided to use the job posting from the last search and specify that they are looking for both interim and permanent candidates. They asked Smidy to look at the current formal job description for updating. Volunteers for a search committee included Briggs, DeGregorio, Pegg Dragon and Brian Forgue. De Angelis-Page also expressed interest, as did Robitaille. Forgue affirmed that staff and the public will be able to take part in the public forums that will be held with finalists.

Smidy and Fisk's departure is not the only change for Gateway, which is in

the process of restructuring its administrative staff. Curriculum Director Deanna LeBlanc has been hired in that role for Maynard Public Schools. Former DESE staff member Joan Tuttle has been hired as Director of Accountability and Grants. Former Visually Impaired Program head teacher Amy Mason has been named Gateway's new Business Manager, replacing Fisk. Administrative Assistant Stacy Stewart has been named Gateway's new Human Resources Manager, replacing Deborah Kuhn, who is also retiring.

The other big discussion item was approval of the Gateway Regional School and Elementary School handbooks. These will be posted online, with hard copies made available to parents upon request. The GSR handbook launched discussion on several fronts and is the subject of a stand alone article in this issue of the Country Journal.

Two policies are under development by the policy committee. They cover student and parental input and student and family notification. Using the "no heat at Chester Elementary School" example from

last winter as a framework, Goding said, "I would say one thing. Immediate is better. People cannot over-communicate. They can only under-communicate." Forgue asked that people forward input on both policies to Policy Committee Chair Lyndsey Papillon.

In other business, the committee voted no to a motion to allow the School-Based Health Center, run at the school by the Hilltown Community Health Centers, Inc., to allow that children who live in the district-but do not attend Gateway-be seen at the SBHC. The Littleville School Improvement Plan was approved and the committee had a first read of a new Academic Honesty Policy. Approval was also granted to the revised District Bullying Prevention Plan, which had been reviewed by a committee. While there were no new legal requirements to work into the plan, it was revised for clarity and will be rolled out on opening day. Staff will sign that they have read the policy. Balboni said she felt that Gateway has a long history of not enforcing these procedures. Also, fourth quarter budget transfers were approved, as was the annual

Superintendent's Evaluation. DeAngelis-Page reported on the numerous end-of-year activities that included special events, field days, plays and field trips. "This is my last meeting for this year and I'm really glad to have been a part of this and to be returning next year," he concluded.

Smidy announced that the budget has passed for next year, with recent approval by Chester and Russell at their annual town meetings.

The school committee's next scheduled meeting will be Sept. 11, where they will undergo their annual restructuring to elect leaders. Forgue announced his intent to revisit an updated regional agreement next year, which is long out-of-date but has failed to pass all six towns in prior attempts. Forgue concluded, "We are facing an interesting year next year with a new superintendent, business manager and grants coordinator. We also stand to face a series of 9c cuts if federal funds fail to come in." Forgue said he felt the state would reduce circuit breaker, regional transportation reimbursement and other "low hanging fruit" that would impact Gateway.

UPDATES

from page 1

"B" would be a one point deduction, which still gives AP students an A average. Forgue said a fairer system would be to do a percentage deduction. Sullivan said this will be reviewed over the summer and he will report back to the school committee this fall.

Chester representative Jeana Briggs questioned whether the handbook adequately addresses bullying, but Blandford member Nicole Daviau pointed out that issues can be more a lack of enforcement than

policy. The handbooks were approved with Forgue voting no, Briggs abstaining and the rest of the committee voting in favor. They will be posted online, with hard copies available upon request.

RETIREE

from page 1

School. She has also served as a middle school Memory Book advisor, high school drama club scenery advisor, worked in the Middle School After school Program and has served on the teacher evaluation committee.

District Treasurer Deborah Kuhnwill retire on June 28. She earned her Associate's Degree in business administration at Massasoit Community College and her background included working as a payroll supervisor and then assistant branch controller at GZA Geoenvironmental. She also worked as a billing coordinator and an advance funds specialist at the Foxboro Company. She started as District Treasurer in August of 1996 and has received a Certificate of Appreciation for participating on the financial support standard committee in the high school and has also been recognized by the auditing firm Polumbo and Kulas for her extraordinary efforts during audits. She earned a certificate for Advanced Payroll Training through Compusense. She has also served as a class advisor and has mentored several student interns.

Assistant Superintendent Stephanie Fisk is a Gateway alumna who earned her associate's degree from Bay Path Junior College. Before coming to Gateway, she worked at Savage Industries as the executive secretary to the president and sales administrator. Fisk started her Gateway career as the Superintendent's Administrative Assistant in 1988. She became the Assistant Business Manager in November 2000, becoming Business and Finance Officer in July 2002. While working full time, she pursued a Master's Degree in Administration at Westfield

State College to become certified by DESE, which she achieved in 2014. After advancing her certification once again, she was named Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations in 2020.

Over the years, Fisk has received thank you letters for spending time with business class students and outstanding work and dedication letters from teachers, union heads, administrators and school committee. She has coached Girls' JV and Varsity Basketball, Girls JV and Varsity Softball and Varsity Golf. She also served as a School Committee Secretary, Secretary to the Accreditation Steering Committee and part of the Building Committee. She has been a member of Association of School Business Officials, American Association of School Administrators and a member of Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials since 2007. She served as the MASBO newsletter editor, on the Board of Directors, and as Vice President, President Elect and President of the organization. She received the Friends of MASBO Award in 2023. She was also appointed by Governor Baker to the Special Commission on Improving Efficiencies Relative to Student Transportation.

The School Committee presented a gift bag for each retiree.

Also recognized was Health Teacher Abbey Keeler, recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Keeler came to Gateway with her Bachelors' of Science in sports and movement science with a concentration in health

and family from Salem State University and is currently working on her Masters Degree from Cambridge College.

In addition to teaching health at Gateway Regional School, she volunteers for the after school program, "Later Gators." She is the chair of the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support Committee and has implemented a PBIS store for the middle school. She has also organized quarterly pep rallies to celebrate students, snowman games for the Middle School and staff appreciation events.

She serves on the school's Wellness Committee, which looks to create fun ways to support staff throughout the year. She is the JV Softball Coach and has also volunteered to start a Volleyball Club. Keeler was nominated by a number of colleagues and excerpts from their nomination letters were also read by Forgue. They all ran along the lines of, "She does whatever she can to benefit the entire school population and always does it with a big smile on her face. The students feel safe to go to her with any problems."

The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award was launched in 2003 by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in Springfield. It honors 100 teachers each year from Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties, who are nominated by their peers and selected by their school districts. Gifts for winners include a cash prize along with an engraved plaque, significant course tuition incentives at eight participating colleges and universities and memberships to local YMCAs, the Springfield Jewish Community Center and New England Public Media.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

 **George PROPANE INC.**
PROPANE GAS
PLUMBING • HEATING
(413) 268-8360
TOLL FREE 1-800-464-2053
Family Owned & Operated
3 Berkshire Trail West (Route 9), P.O. Box 102, Goshen, MA 01032
www.georgepropane.com

Paul's Plumbing & Heating

238-0303
PAUL GRAHAM
Mass. License 23299

AQUA PUMPS WATER SYSTEMS
Water Pumps • Sewer Pumps
Water Conditioners
46 Pitcher Street
Montgomery, MA 01085
Donald Washburn
862-3301

Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.
Water Well Drilling, Water Pump Sales & Service
Water Testing • System Evaluations
Water System Repairs • Hydrofracture to Increase Flow
HENSHAW
800-232-4725 • Fax 413-296-4565
Charles R. Henshaw
130 Cummington Rd., W. Chesterfield, MA • 413-296-4725

FEED • PET SUPPLIES • CLOTHING • COAL
WOOD PELLETS • WILD & CAGED BIRDS
POOL SUPPLIES • MOTOR OILS • FENCING
LAWN & GARDEN SUPPLIES • FERTILIZER
GATEWAY FARM & PET
Poulin Grain • RED WING SHOES • Carhartt
59 RUSSELL ROAD, HUNTINGTON, MA 01050
1-413-667-2279 M-F 8am-5pm
Sat. 8am-4pm
TARA GRENIER • PAUL GRENIER

DOWN TO EARTH EXCAVATING INC
Highly Regarded Professionals: Complete Site Work,
Septic Development and Repairs. Fully Insured.
413-667-5269
Paul & Randy LaPointe, Owners Huntington, Mass.

Dale's Structural & Carpentry
Home Improvement • Additions • Restorations • Repairs
Post & Beam Repairs
Sagging Floors • Beams • Columns
Sill Timbers • Termite Damage
Foundation Repairs • Piers & Footings
Chimney Rebuilds
FULLY LICENSED & INSURED
Huntington, MA • 413-667-3149
dalesstructuralandcarpentry.com

ARCHITECT JEFFREY SCOTT PENN
77 Worthington Road, Huntington, MA 01050
Tel. 413-531-1868
Fax. 413-667-3082
Email: jpspsed@verizon.net
new construction, renovation,
historic preservation

Contact
Wendy Delcamp
TO ADVERTISE AT
413-283-8393
or email:
wdelcamp@turley.com

Jeff's Oil Burner Service
• Tune Ups
• Installations
• Oil Tanks
Huntington, Massachusetts
Office 413.667.0245
Cell 413.530.7037
jeffoilburnerservice@hotmail.com



Send Us Your Photos!

countryjournal@turley.com

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Can my husband work part time and collect Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am writing to you on behalf of my husband. His intentions are to go part time as of Jan. 1, 2026, working 30 hours a week and take Social Security benefits as supplemental income. How can we determine what his Social Security benefit would be with him still working part time? He will be 63 and 7 months old next January and has not yet applied for benefits. We look forward to hearing from someone very soon.

When your husband applies for his SS retirement benefit, Social Security will ask about his work plans and how much he expects to earn each year. Based upon that information, if he expects to exceed the annual limit they will pay his benefits for some months of the year depending on his projected earnings and withhold his benefits for the remaining months. They will also monitor his annual earnings as reported to the IRS and make any appropriate benefit adjustment afterwards.

Signed:
Anxious for Information

Dear Anxious:

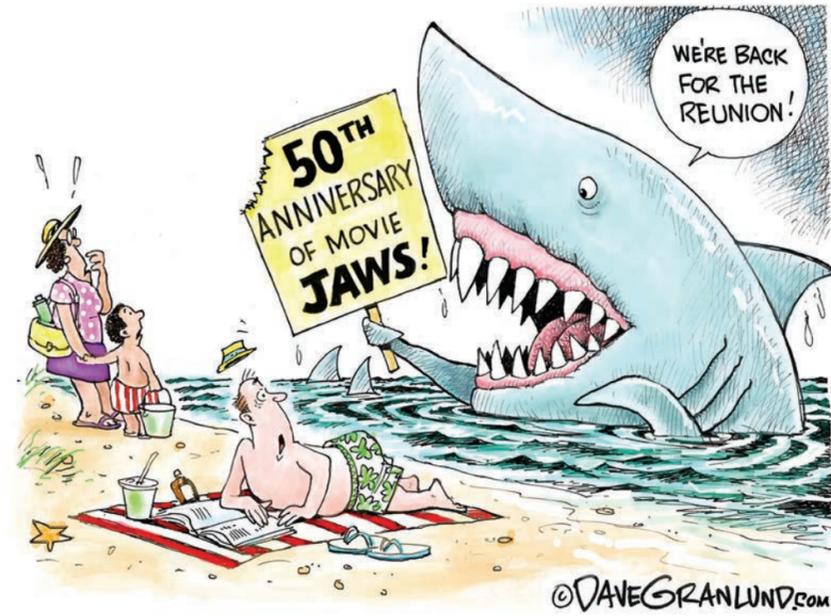
If he claims Social Security at age 63 and 7 months, your husband's benefit will be about 78% of what it would be if he waited until age 67 to claim.

And, since your husband will not yet have reached his SS Full Retirement Age, he will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earning Test, which limits how much he can earn while working and collecting early Social Security retirement benefits. The amount he can earn without paying a penalty changes yearly but, for reference, the earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 per year.

If his work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away some of his benefits. Using the 2025 limit as an example, if your husband's annual 2025 earnings were \$40,000, then he would owe about \$8,300 (half of the amount he exceeded the limit by). Social Security would withhold his monthly benefits for enough months to recover what he owes for exceeding the earnings limit. How many months they withhold would be determined by his monthly SS benefit amount.

FYI, the earnings test lasts until your husband reaches his Full Retirement Age (his FRA is age 67), but in the year he attains his FRA the penalty for exceeding the limit is less, \$1 for every \$3 over the limit and the limit is much higher. The annual earnings test no longer applies once your husband reaches his FRA.

SECURITY, page 6



GUEST COLUMN



By Ellenor Downer

Western bluebird

I received an email in May from a woman, who had a couple of Western bluebirds nest in her backyard birdhouse.

Western bluebirds are small thrushes, who usually perch upright. They are 6 to 7 inches long, larger than a sparrow and smaller than a robin. These bluebirds have thin, straight bills and short tails. The male Western bluebird is shiny blue above with rust orange on the breast and back. The throat is blue in males and the lower belly is whitish. Females are gray-buff with pale orange on the breast. Their throat is gray-buff. They have a blue tint on the wings and tail.

They inhabit open woodlands, both coniferous and deciduous and burned areas. They commonly use bird baths. The female lays two to eight pale to bluish white eggs per clutch. They pounce on the ground when looking for worms and berries. They also catch insects. Their primary diet is insects and berries and will come to feeders for mealworms.

Compared to the Eastern bluebird, the male Western

bluebird has a blue rather than the bright white belly like the Eastern bluebird. The orange also extends to the shoulders. Western bluebirds are not typically found in Massachusetts.



Eastern bluebird

Eastern bluebirds

A Barre resident puts out mealworms for the Eastern bluebirds. He has a pair coming to feast on the mealworms.



Mute swan

Mute swans and cranes

A Barre woman reported seeing a pair of mute swans on Long Pond in Rutland. I saw one of the swans this week on the same pond. She also reported seeing a sandhill crane. An Oakham resident thinks a pair of sandhill cranes have nested. He now only sees one in his field or flying overhead between Adams Pond and the Wolf Swamp area of Oakham. The last time I saw a sandhill crane in my hayfield, there was only one. Earlier this spring I saw a two cranes in the field, which is near Wolf Swamp.



Titmouse

Titmouse and robin

An Oakham resident reported, "There was a lot of commotion at the robin

BACKYARD, page 6

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Wetland make up 5% of U.S. land

They are all around you...near your school, the town hall, even in your own backyard.

Wetlands are everywhere and most people don't know a single thing about them, but what are wetlands exactly? Wetlands are areas where there is saturated soil, temporarily or permanently.

Some examples being lakes, rivers, streams, and marshes. About 5% of land in the United States is wetlands. There are actually conservation laws out there that are constantly being broken such as not to alter wetlands in any case without a permit.

Even if you may think that this land is on your

property, there are other downsides to touching these environments. These wetlands can house tons of different animals and plant species that don't want their homes to be changed.

In a different scenario, let's say you want to add a shed to your backyard with wetlands and are aware of no living life back there. You can go to the conservation commission at one of their meetings and ask for a permit to build on that land.

They can help decide if it's a safe place to place this shed or anything else in the land you are requesting to change. There are still ways for you to build on your own land while keeping these

natural habitats safe.

But what else will keep the wetlands protected? Wetlands are scattered with trash from people who don't pick up after themselves and litter. Even when visiting a lake or pond and picking up your trash can make a world of difference.

Overall, wetlands are underappreciated and misused and there are easy ways to prevent and preserve these wetlands. Playing your part and working together can make the difference everyone wants to see.

Katie Harding

Gateway High School student in Mr. Duggan's AP History class

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.

Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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

Country Journal TEAM



EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

The Country Journal (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



@Country Journal



countryjournal.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President



www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

ISSN NO. 0747-2471

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.

Mail letter to Country Journal, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or mail your letter to: countryjournal@turley.com.



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7017
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

Editor

Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com

Subscriptions
www.turley.com

\$31 per year pre-paid (\$36 out of state)
Newsstand: \$.75 per copy

WEB

www.countryjournal.turley.com



@Country Journal

The Country Journal is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

What not to do this last week of spring

By avoiding these common mistakes you'll be well on your way to a wonderful landscape this summer.

Sowing grass seed at the wrong time

Did you know that the end of August/ beginning of September is the best time to get a new lawn off to a good start? It is, first and foremost because crab grass (the arch enemy of real grass!) can't gain a foot hold late in the growing season. Slightly cooler temperatures and adequate rainfall prevalent during that time of year help too.

Scalping the lawn

Healthy turf isn't mown as low, or as often as you might think. Mowing to a height of about three inches will encourage a strong stand of deep-rooted grass that is capable of shading out developing weeds and sustaining itself during periods of drought.

Removing grass clippings

Take the bagger attachment off of your mower and let the clippings fall back onto the lawn! Grass clippings are a valuable source of nitrogen, the nutrient responsible for giving grass its green color. It's silly to remove it, only then to provide it in the form of granular fertilizer.

Watering during the heat of the day

Most gardeners know that early in the day is the optimal time for watering the lawn as well as other plants. Less water is lost to evaporation, and fungal diseases are kept to a minimum since foliage has a chance to dry before darkness sets in.

Choosing the wrong plant for the location

Almost everyone has fallen victim to the "I've got to have that plant syndrome." This condition causes even smart gardeners to buy plants that don't fit their particular

situation. Heed the advice provided on the plant's tag.

If it requires shade, plant it in a shady location. If it demands a well-drained soil and yours is clayey, amend the soil first! Etc. etc.

Applying mulch too thinly

Topdressing our shrub beds with a layer of mulch each season can be an expensive endeavor. Frugal gardeners may skip in order to save money. Do so and you may be sorry, as weeds will no doubt pop through less than adequate coverage.

Make sure that bark mulch is three to four inches thick; hay or straw used in veggie gardens should be even thicker, to the tune of eight to 12 inches.

Mulching too close to the base of a tree

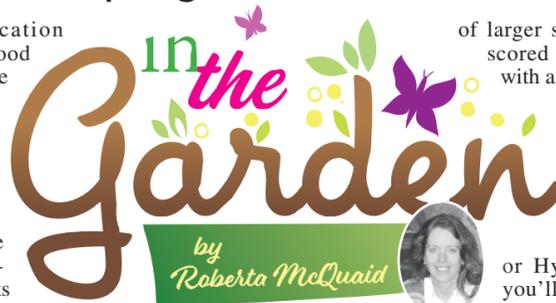
Never mound up bark mulch against the base of a tree. It can result in bark decay. This condition can bring about a disruption of

the translocation process of food from the leaves of the tree to its roots, weakening it severely. The tree will also become more vulnerable to attacks by insects and fungi.

Not moistening peat moss before use

Most experts recommend adding peat moss to the planting hole when installing trees, roses or other shrubs. Rich in organic matter, it will get your plants off to a great start, but only if incorporated correctly.

Peat moss must be moistened before use, otherwise it will wick water away from the plant it is intended to help. Once thoroughly wet, peat moss will aid in moisture retention!

**Forgetting to "butterfly" root balls at planting time**

Did you ever purchase a tree or shrub, perennial or annual whose root ball was so thick with roots you could barely see the soil in which it was planted? Plants that match this description are "root bound."

If this situation isn't remedied at planting time the roots may never know they have room to sprawl; ultimately, growth may be affected! Let the roots run free by taking both hands and splitting open or "butterflying" the root ball. Root balls

of larger specimens can be scored in several places with a knife.

Pruning summer blooming shrubs now

Don't prune your Rose of Sharon or Hydrangea now or you'll take the flowers with your clippings. On the flip side, you have until July 1 to prune your lilacs. Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be deadheaded now for even more flowers next spring.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Boost your mental well-being. Take a vacation!



your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

I recently learned about an organization called Wheel the World, which makes vacationing – adventures, really – accessible to people who use wheelchairs.

If they can do it, so can you!

If you haven't had a vacation lately, you're not alone. A 2023 Pew Research Center study found that more than 40 percent of people who receive paid time off from their employers don't use up all of their vacation in a given year. Based on data from 2018, a statistical analysis revealed that Americans wasted some 768 million vacation days.

Admittedly, it's hard for some folks to get time

off. If a gig worker or ride-share driver isn't putting in the hours, they aren't getting paid. Many people have jobs that don't provide paid time off.

Still, the Bureau of Labor Statistics tells us that 79 percent of people employed in the private sector get paid vacation. And a growing number of companies are offering the benefit of unlimited paid time off, in part to stay competitive in a tight hiring market.

"We can't overlook the importance of recreation," says Mary Anne Ehlert, president of Protected Tomorrows, which helps special needs families plan for their financial future. "We

sometimes focus on everyday issues and lose sight of the need to have fun." Even those who are handicapped are able to enjoy a vacation. Nowadays, most cruises are wheelchair accessible even if people want to travel alone.

With May being Mental Health Awareness Month (and with Memorial Day and summer being right around the corner), it's a good time to talk about the mental health benefits of travel.

First, though, a note of caution: For all of its benefits, travel is not a substitute for therapy. If you are feeling anxious or depressed, talk to a mental health professional. Online services such as BetterHelp.com are readily available, or you can call or text 988 to reach a listening ear at the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Now, why take a vacation? Let me count the whys.

Traveling can lift your mood

Feeling like one day is just like the one before, and the one before that? That monotony is not helpful to mental well-being. Travel

breaks up the routine, lets you see new places, meet new people and experience new things. Just anticipating a vacation can help you feel lighter and happier.

Traveling refills your emotional and mental reservoir

Sometimes you're just running on empty. A vacation – whether it involves a relaxing cruise or a strenuous hike (I'll take the former!) – can send you back to work feeling like you're up to every challenge.

Traveling can lower the risk of depression

Mental health experts say there's research to support the link between travel and happiness. One study found that women who vacation at least twice a year are less likely to suffer from depression and chronic stress than women who vacation less than once every two years.

Traveling lets your brain reset

What do you do when your computer goes all wonky on you? You reboot!

The same goes for your brain, which is just a really sophisticated computing device. If you have chronic stress, your memory and goal-setting abilities are negatively impacted. Taking time to go somewhere and get away from work can help you feel more productive and focused when you get back.

Traveling might let you sleep better

One-third of us don't get enough sleep, which is linked to heart disease, type 2 diabetes and depression. Getting away from your routine at home, even for a weekend, can help reset your sleep pattern by disrupting any habits that negatively affect sleep quality, like bring your phone to bed with you.

Traveling with family improves feelings of belonging

Isolation is another factor that isn't helpful to mental well-being. Traveling with loved ones and sharing experiences with them enhances connections with them and helps meet the need for love and belonging.

To be beneficial, travel doesn't have to be extensive or all that expensive. Even a short getaway to Wisconsin or a weekend downtown might be enough to recharge your batteries. For ideas on local and regional outings, see www.visitMA.com.

Can travel be stressful itself? You bet. But there are also things you can do to minimize travel stress: Plan ahead for whatever life throws at you, bring all of your medications, pack healthy snacks, stay hydrated and practice mindfulness so you can be "in the moment."

Those memories are the best souvenirs.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

GATEWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Erosion destroys over 80,000 acres of wetlands yearly

By Desmond St. Martin, Theodore DeAngelis-Page and Jake Marchbanks

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

Eighty thousand acres of wetlands in the United States are destroyed every year as a result of erosion.

That's over 60,000 football fields. Let's define a wetland, shall we? A wetland is a piece of land that is encompassed with water either permanently or seasonally.

This could be from a simple stream to the utmost complex dams. This includes, but is not limited to the Knightville Dam, Littleville Dam and the Quabbin reservoir. Well writers, why should we care to preserve these lands? These lands provide us with natural flooding protection, increased biodiversity and recreational outdoor areas.

Other purposes include a natural water purifying and filtering system, a natural climate change preventative remedy and erosion control. Building on these lands and ignoring the laws protecting these natural phenomena can

be progressively detrimental to these much needed aid and natural security they hold.

If you destroy the environment for one species, its population can decline and this can spiral to other species as well. Ultimately, whatever temporary gain you may receive from developing your land past what is safe for wetlands could be severely damaging for other inhabitants down the road.

The state of Massachusetts has multiple regulations and laws surrounding the topic of wetlands, whether its construction, maintenance, or preservation. Although agencies

such as the conservation commission produce thorough rules for citizens to follow, many are disregarded. Many people who apply for permits to be able to build on the wetlands and are denied still build anyway which damages the ecosystem in which they are building.

Mass littering and disposal of trash speeds up the process of deteriorating environments. Throughout our world, large patches of trash are famous for their buildup and effects on our world's global environment. The Pacific trash patch alone is built of 620,000 miles of trash, which is approximate-

ly double the size of Texas. This symbolizes the growing effects of careless littering done by humans, which spreads throughout our world.

People use these wetlands for so many recreational activities like swimming and rafting. If people do not protect these places then they will all be destroyed and they will have to be closed down to the public in order to protect them further. Therefore people must pick up everything that they bring to these places to keep them clean. Wildlife is also greatly affected by the destruction of wetlands every year animals die

because of trash left behind by careless swimmers.

Humanities effects on our wetlands cause a great deal of damage and will only grow in the years following. Marine and amphibious species will proceed towards extinction, destroying many ecosystems in which we fall under.

We are no bigger than the land we cultivate and for every ruined plot of wetland could very well come right back to us. So for the sake of the future of our ability to live about the earth the way we do now, preserve our wetlands to the highest of your extent.

Wetland regulations need to be followed

By Ana Holmes

Note: The author is a Gateway High School student in Mr. Duggan's AP History class.

Five hundred ninety thousand acres of land in the state of Massachusetts alone are considered wetlands. Over one tenth of the state is essentially protected land, covered by the Wetland Protection Act.

Unfortunately, the general public often disregards that fact. This is a topic my Advanced Placement United States History class has taken a distinct interest in. People litter beer cans and pop tabs across the banks of rivers. They carelessly leave behind wrappers and plastic containers which make the area appear undesirable and dirty.

This image; one of a

dirty, poorly cared for wetland, pervades people's perception. It's the reason why wetlands are so dismissed, despite their major importance for our community. Despite the unappealing name, these rivers, lakes, dams, and yes, swamps, are vital to both our natural and man made environments.

They prevent or control flooding and house local animals. They serve as tourist

attractions which boost the economy, and a focal point for local activities as well. The yearly canoe race could not be possible without the Westfield River and the Littleville Dam.

When wetland regulations are neglected, it is people like you and I who suffer. Unsafe building on wetlands can result in unsteady structures. The famous Leaning Tower of Pisa is a result of

building partially on wetlands. While a popular spot, it's not exactly the model of construction you want to base your own home after.

Moreover, we have all known someone whose shed was half buried in mud and the inner floor had rotten away. Save yourself the trouble and the money with proper wetland permitting. For the safety of the individual, for the safety of your

wallet, and for the safety of the land as we know it, wetlands must be respected.

Consider reading up on the wetland laws on Mass.gov, and be sure to clean up after yourself after a day enjoying another Nature. As troublesome as it may seem, it truly is in your own best interest to apply for proper permitting when building near wetlands and resource areas.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Colleges and universities announce President's and Dean's list

State University of New York
Potsdam, New York
PRESIDENT'S LIST
Samir Ghalayini of Westfield, music performance major

University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
PRESIDENT'S LIST
Nicole Normandin of Williamsburg

Eastern Connecticut State University
Willimantic, Connecticut
DEAN'S LIST
Margaret Barr of Easthampton, junior health sciences major
Maggie Rubeck of Easthampton, senior health sciences major

Holyoke Community College
Holyoke
DEAN'S LIST

John Carrington of Blandford, Kaitlyn Phillips of Blandford, Rebecca Thelma Boisseau of Chester, Ian Cartmill of Chester, Alisha M. Desnoyers of Chester, Misty Raye Robitaille of Chester, Campbell Rae Melin of East Otis, Rahmatullah Ahmadzai of Easthampton, Lamia Amgdoul of Easthampton, Emma Laquanna Andrews-Sevene of Easthampton, Nathan Alexander Biddulph of Easthampton, Gabrielle Marie Carey of Easthampton, Zachary Anthony Clapp of Easthampton, Quincy Glen Crabb of Easthampton, Kira Nicole Cross of Easthampton, Tetiana Dudiak of Easthampton, Natalie Samantha Dugas of Easthampton, Donald William Eggleston of Easthampton, Laura Gagne of Easthampton, Oisin Goldstein-Dea of Easthampton, Nataly Gonzalez of Easthampton, Fiona Molloy Graeme of Easthampton, Jessica Lynne Grygorcewicz of Easthampton, John David Guertin of Easthampton, Kathryn Ruby Guinn of Easthampton, Allen Hall of Easthampton, Renee Hill of Easthampton, Cadence Hiller of Easthampton, Steven James Hoynoski of Easthampton, Alison Janocha of Easthampton, Stien Nangoi Kusuma of Easthampton, Jessica Leigh Leveille of Easthampton, Elizabeth Marie Loisselle of Easthampton, Lisa Miwa of Easthampton, Emersyn Claire Nadin of Easthampton, Nikola Ndreu of Easthampton, Emma Lynn Pelletier of Easthampton, Brandon James Reccord of Easthampton, Lyra Orion Schaffer of Easthampton, Caleb Michael Subocz of Easthampton, Lillian Nicole Tauscher of Easthampton,

Faith Dawn Vittum of Easthampton, Doris Lucy Wentworth of Easthampton, Leah Brooke Zielenski of Easthampton, Ariana Mei Espinas Aquilino of Florence, Sofya Gaybaryan of Florence, Nicholas Grimaldi of Florence, Aidan Layne Jones of Florence, Oliver E. King of Florence, Elissa Nicole Lennon of Florence, Laura Michon of Florence, Timothy Finch Miller of Florence, Liliana Grace Pollard of Florence, Ephraim Sieber of Florence, Simon Barr Sinclair of Florence, Brayden Wyatt Steele of Florence, George Stone of Florence, Megan Marie Tierney of Florence, Eric Kendall Welch Jr. of Florence, Julia Moore Wyman of Florence, Samantha Suzanne Zapzalka of Florence, Teagan Ann Andross of Haydenville, Victoria Irene Kopec of Huntington, Barre Peter Lucas of Huntington, Chelsea O'Brien of Huntington, Anna Paige Sakaske of Huntington, Shaliyah Toledo-Cruz of Huntington, Stephanie Turgeon of Huntington, Sarah Jean Yell of Huntington, Daniel Collins of Lee, K. BouquillonK Bouquillon Armington of Montgomery, Preston Coffey of Montgomery, Jordan Elizabeth Panniello of Montgomery, Aquari Zahra Adel of Northampton, Owen Aptekar-Cassels of Northampton, Bushra Ibrahim Asha of Northampton, Hilary Vanesa Barazza I of Northampton, Sarah Kathryn Belote of Northampton, Aaron Michael Bergeron of Northampton, Rachel Christine Borntreger of Northampton, Caroline Elisabeth Cole of Northampton, Mark Anthony Cronin of Northampton, Sophie Cronin of Northampton, Angela Grace Farrick of Northampton, Bethany Fields of Northampton, Ryan Christopher Gerwe of Northampton, Kerri Lee Hammersley of Northampton, Rose Catherine Hatem of Northampton, Danasia Rose Haywood of Northampton, Alyssa Kaylee Jost of Northampton, Erin Margaret Lampron of Northampton, Michael Matthew Lariviere of Northampton and Waverly Rae Mangum of Northampton, Katherine Margaret Messina of Northampton, Edith Ann Parker-Younga of Northampton, Henry Alberto Rivera of Northampton, Andrew Larry Gale Rudnicki of Northampton, Christina Ruggiero-Corliss of Northampton, Greta Slegers of Northampton, Alondra Vazquez of Northampton,

Cecil Voorhees III of Northampton, Maxine Amelia Walden of Northampton, Zachary Welch, Brie-Ann Michelle Wilber of Northampton, Harrison Scott Woodland of Northampton, Jeremy M Wright Jr. of Northampton, Amber Lynn Pensivy of Peru, Mystie Ford of Plainfield and Louis Paduano of Russell, Tanya L. Anglin of Westfield, James Frederick Auston of Westfield, Tyler Bazegian of Westfield, Milo Berrien of Westfield, Maximilian Blackak of Westfield, Alicia Carolina Booth of Westfield, Nicholas Andre Bradley of Westfield, Abigail Beth Brenzel of Westfield, Corrin Olivia Brockney of Westfield, Emma Catherine Brumley of Westfield, Mia Larynn Butler of Westfield, Dominic Anthony Campana of Westfield, Jenna Marie Cardin of Westfield, Hailey Victoria Carluccio of Westfield, Raven Elexio Carrasquillo of Westfield, Sarah Elizabeth Circe of Westfield, Grace Olivia Clendenin of Westfield, Jeffrey Michael Collingwood of Westfield, Rebekah Cyr of Westfield, Brandi Leah Damon of Westfield, Grace David of Westfield, Zabria Ashley Davis of Westfield, Ryan Victor DeFalco of Westfield, Chelsea Lyn Dekastrozza of Westfield, Katherine Theresa Dengler of Westfield, Emma Jeannie Marie Doull of Westfield, Adrienne Fleck of Westfield, Akeeva Forcier of Westfield, Christina Manuela Gelmudinov of Westfield, Giselle Guzman of Westfield, Salma Fazil Haleemdeen of Westfield, Quinn River Hamilton of Westfield, Elizabeth P. Hancharonak of Westfield, Grace Hanegan of Westfield, Alexander Hibert of Westfield, Clara Hinck of Westfield, Danielle Hocht, of Westfield, Lindsay Marie Hughes of Westfield, Lydia F. Ionkin of Westfield, Olivia Elizabeth Irving of Westfield, Iryna Ivantsova of Westfield, Amanda Marie Janisieski of Westfield, Natalia Lanice Nashi Jones of Westfield, McKenzie Grace Kiltonic of Westfield, Olha Klykova of Westfield, Elizabeth Sasha Kudrya of Westfield, Jonathan David Lane of Westfield, Nawal Hassan Langrial of Westfield, Cheyenne Marie Lusby Seery of Westfield, Heather Rochelle Massoia of Westfield, Jesse Morgan McClenahan Jr. of Westfield, Evelina Mocanu of Westfield, Stephen Charles Murphy of Westfield, Alaina Danielle Nadeau of Westfield, Michael Steffan Navarro Jr. of Westfield, Karlie Anne Pacheco of Westfield, Derek Alexander Paul of Westfield, Emilie Pease of Westfield,

Angelray Rosa of Westfield, Thomas David Russell of Westfield, Bradley Walter Sanders of Westfield, Ivan Alexandrovich Seleznev of Westfield, Viktor Shyshla of Westfield, Olga Sirbu of Westfield, Jessica Lauren Starkey of Westfield, Sophia Marie Taddiaof Westfield, Zhanna Tereshchuk of Westfield, Valentina Nicole Vines of Westfield, Bohdana Vyshnevka of Westfield, Olha Yusenko of Westfield, Ishetia Rose Black of Westhampton, Jacob E. Boudreau of Westhampton, Elizabeth Enid Colon-Garcia of Westhampton, Anjou Lynn Edwards of Westhampton, Gallivan Olivia Florek of Westhampton, Stephen Testori of Westhampton and Johanna Emelia Maria Gerken-Newcomb of Worthington

McKendree University
Lebanon, Illinois
DEAN'S LIST
Maisie Mattocks of Easthampton

Paul Smiths College
Paul Smiths, New York
DEAN'S LIST
Kennan West of Easthampton

Quinnipiac University
Hamden, Connecticut
DEAN'S LIST
Chloe Govoni of Blandford
Daniel Dabek of East Hampton
Benjamin Shannon of Otis
Landon Richard of Russell
Jeffrey Fish of Williamsburg

Springfield Technical Community College
Springfield
DEAN'S LIST
Lillian Margaret Wiseman of Chesterfield, Sage Jean Howes of Cummington, Amanda Groblewski of Easthampton, Angela Marie Sikop of Easthampton, Anthony Duane Manganaro of Easthampton, Bridget Anne Cauley of Easthampton, Irish May Bartolomei of Easthampton,

Jaszmie Santiago-Hall of Easthampton, Laura Kuzmeski of Easthampton, Lauren Mary Bresnahan of Easthampton, Lukas Alexander Zarvis of Easthampton, Megan Emily Fickett of Easthampton, Meghan Genevieve Teague of Easthampton, Nathan Kreuzer of Easthampton, Nicholas Brian Cernak of Easthampton, Ryan Thomas Cowan of Easthampton, Timothy James O'Keefe of Easthampton, Weston Orren Hill of Easthampton, Benjamin Fowler of Florence, Heather Lynn Antonelli of Florence, Kristofer David Thibedau of Florence, Molly Pingxian Smith-Eilenberg of Florence, Quane Adolf Randall of Florence. Shanna Marie Hamm of Great Barrington, Christopher Clough of Northampton, Cynthia Nicole Alicea Vives of Northampton, David Hetzner of Northampton, Giordano Luca Caldieri of Northampton, Jennifer Pierce of Northampton, Karina Lee Rivera of Northampton, Luke Angelo Raimondi of Northampton, Marlon Eziqiel Arauz of Northampton, Taylor Marion of Otis, Ana Monsalve of Pittsfield, Nicholas Joseph Hasset of Pittsfield and Ryan Richard Russo of Pittsfield, Michael Boucher of Russell, Ron D. Madsen of Southampton, Sedona Williams of Southampton, Alesya Gladys of Westfield, Aleysha Ortiz of Westfield, Alice Jane Kubacki of Westfield, Alina Danyuk, Alyssa Soto of Westfield, Angelyna M. Leven of Westfield, Anita Danyuk of Westfield, Ashley Marie Morton of Westfield, Aviella Taya Arbuzov of Westfield, Benjamin Alan Tatro of Westfield, Brandon L. Hodgdon of Westfield, Brian Hodovanec of Westfield, Brian Russell Kimball of Westfield, Chantel Marie Ouimette of Westfield, Chelsea Marie Ireland of Westfield, Christina Nesen of Westfield, Christine Sanchez of Westfield, Claire Blakely of Westfield, Claryce

M. Sayward of Westfield, Danny Nesen of Westfield, Daria P. Ciloci of Westfield, Decarlo Rodimus Lincoln of Westfield, Derek M. Simons of Westfield, Elena Louise Silvia of Westfield, Emmarose Yongxiao Bombardier of Westfield, Evan Cardenales of Westfield, Evan James Ploof of Westfield, Evelyn Kravchuk of Westfield, Georgina Mae Badger of Westfield, Hector Omar Miranda of Westfield, Iryna Cherepanova of Westfield, Iryna X. Leonchyk of Westfield, Jaidan Jeremiah Grace of Westfield, Jared Wasserman of Westfield, Joel Reese Isaacs of Westfield, Julia Peshko of Westfield, Katrina Brockington of Westfield, Kelly Lopez of Westfield, Kiana Kemberlin Henriquez of Westfield, Krista M. Quaglieri of Westfield, Madison Breana Beaulieu of Westfield, Madison Emma Pease of Westfield, Matthew William Gorman of Westfield, Meghan Marie Wert of Westfield, Melanie Pozhilenko of Westfield, Michael Smith of Westfield, Mihaela Victor Bragagiu of Westfield, Neremy Gloria Babu of Westfield, Nicholas Robert Gregoire of Westfield, Onnika Richter of Westfield, Owen Emile Pais of Westfield, Philip Yurovskiyh of Westfield, Randy Perez of Westfield, Roxana Kuzina of Westfield, Rymma M Mkrchtian of Westfield, Sakibou Geraldo of Westfield, Samantha M. Santos of Westfield, Samuel Gelmudinov of Westfield, Sarah A. Calavas of Westfield, Tida Jiana of Westfield, Timothy Lysenko of Westfield, Yelyzaveta Oliinyk of Westfield, Jeremy Curtis Brisbois of Williamsburg and Julia Paige Guiel of Williamsburg

Stonehill College
Easton
DEAN'S LIST
Lauren Campbell of Westfield
Madeline Jenkins of Westhampton
Jack Keeney of Westfield

Colleges and universities list graduates

Clark University
Worcester
Doctor of Philosophy
Jordan Michaela Burt of Easthampton
Bachelor of Arts
Kelly E. Burns of Westfield, summa cum laude

Nichols College
Dudley
Bachelor of Arts
Chelsea Indyk of Easthampton

Bachelor of Science in business administration
Abigail Fraser of Westfield

Bachelor of Science in business administration
Joseph Holmes of Huntington

Master of Science in accounting
Jasmine Brooks of Russell

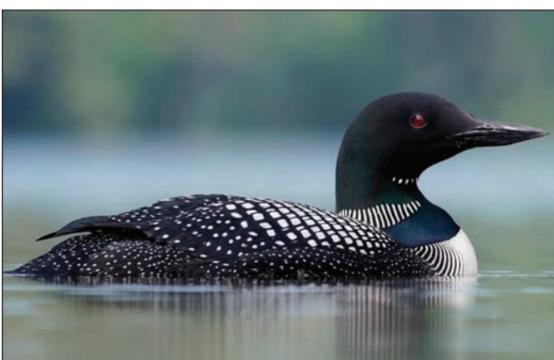
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Bachelor of Science in nursing
Nicole Normandin of Williamsburg

PLEASE
REMEMBER TO
RECYCLE THIS
NEWSPAPER

OPINION

BACKYARD

nest and I went to the window to see what was going on. A titmouse was gathering the soft fuzzy from under the three eggs. Dad robin came along and drove the titmouse off." She said, "I put out lots of nesting materials, but as always, someone else's looks better."



Loon

Loon fact
The Loon Preservation Committee offer loon facts in their newsletter. The newsletter said, "Generally, loons will remain on the ocean until they reach adulthood at age three. This is not always the case, each year here in New Hampshire,

the committee volunteers observe the presence of five to ten immature loons on the lakes during the breeding season. Upon their return as adults, these loons begin to look for a breeding territory of their own."

They will acquire their first territory in one of three ways: by passively replacing a territory owner that has died or is otherwise missing, by establishing a new territory on a lake that is not currently occupied by loons or by fighting and evicting another loon from its territory and taking its place.

One of the ways a loon can acquire a breeding territory is to intrude upon an already-occupied territory and engage in territorial battles with the member of the pair that is the same sex. If the intruder wins, it will

evict the resident loon and take its place as a pair member on that territory.

The article said, "Research has shown that while selecting their first breeding territory, loons tend to look for lakes and ponds that are similar, at least in terms of size and pH, to the lake they hatched on. This may be a result of increased chance of survival due to familiarity, if, as a chick, a loon learned to forage and evade predators on a lake with certain characteristics, it makes sense that it would seek out those same characteristics, to which their skills are well suited, to breed on."

Another factor that has been shown to influence territory selection is previous chick production. Territorial intrusions tend to increase following successful hatch-

es, indicating that loons without a territory of their own may use the production of chicks as an indicator of territory quality and target those successful territories for takeover.

Because they stay on the ocean for the first years of their lives and then must spend time, sometimes many years, acquiring a breeding territory of their own, most loons will not hatch chicks of their own until they are six-seven years old.

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.

from page 4

SECURITY page 4

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

BLANDFORD

Select Board appoint Climate Leader Community Designation

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The Select Board appointed Deborah Lundgren, Charles Benson and Paul Dirschka to the Climate Leader Community Designation Committee at the Monday, June 9 meeting.

All have been sworn in and a first meeting was planned for earlier this week. The Select Board, in creating this ad-hoc advisory committee has charged it with “the sole purpose of gathering and reporting back to the Board on pertinent information related to the Massachusetts Climate Leader Community designation program.”

The committee will research requirements, application process and what has to be done to become designated a Climate Leader

Community. They will have to identify administrative and financial implications for the town if the designation is pursued.

They will gather “examples or lessons learned for other Massachusetts communities that have obtained or pursued this designation.” Then they will report their findings and recommendations “without making or implying any formal commitment by the Town” in seeking the designation.

The Select Board also placed restrictions on the committee in that it is not authorized to “submit any applications or formal expressions of interest” for the town; may not “represent the town or Select Board in any official capacity” or spend town funds or obligate the town in any way connected to the Climate Leader

Community program.

The committee is also subject to the state’s Open Meeting Law, with proper posting, an agenda, held in accessible location and all must take the state’s ethic training. The Select Board requires the committee report to them.

The town is already a Green Community in good standing and now has its committee. The committee will have to research the pros and cons of decarbonization and a plan for doing that. Another requirement is to have all town departments purchase vehicles with a zero-emission when available and practical.

The final requirement for the town to meet would be the acceptance of a specialized stretch energy code, which would include an increase in energy efficiency in new construction.

COA CELEBRATES JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Dessert at Friday’s Council on Aging luncheon celebrated the birthdays of Pam Dirschka and Peter Langmore.
Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

No Kings Rally held in Blandford

BLANDFORD – According to Blandford’s No Kings Rally organizer Pam Dirschka, there were well over 30 people on the I-90 overpass on North Street on Saturday, June 14

She said that while there were members of the town’s Democratic Town Committee present, there were other community members, who came

out to support the effort. There were also people from Marlborough, Athol, Leominster and Southwick.

Dirschka noted that all the tractor trailer trucks that passed under the bridge flashed their headlights and blew their horns to show support. The committee met following the rally, but was brief so people could attend the Westfield rally.



People carrying signs lined both side of North Street at the I-90 overpass in Blandford.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm



This is a view of participants in the No Kings Rally from I-90 of them standing on the North Street overpass in Blandford.

Photo courtesy of Pam Dirschka



PORTER LIBRARY KICKS OFF SUMMER READING PROGRAM



Nora and Asher Smith with their aunt participated in the kickoff summer reading at the Porter Memorial Library in Blandford on Saturday, June 14. Inset, The finished tie dye project were these colorful aprons.

Courtesy photos Porter Memorial Library



C.J. Bouchard is shown with his tie-dye apron.



Veda Webster preps her item to tie dye.

PITTSFIELD

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. introduces free concert series

PITTSFIELD – A new favorite Friday night tradition is ten week free concert series from 6-8 p.m., which began Friday, June 13.

Hot Plate Brewing Co., in partnership with Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and a collection of other Pittsfield-based businesses, announces The Pitt, a brand-new 10-week free concert series set to energize Dunham Mall, running weekly for ten weeks. The Pitt will showcase a dynamic lineup of musical acts hailing from Montreal,

Boston, the Pioneer Valley and right here in the Berkshires.

From indie rock and soul to emerging electronic artists, this series will celebrate both regional talent and international artistry, right in the heart of Downtown Pittsfield. In addition to unforgettable music, concertgoers can enjoy local food and drink offerings. Hot Plate Brewing Co. will host a beer garden, and Handcrafted, a new Pittsfield-based restaurant,

will serve up a variety of delicious eats-making The Pitt not just a concert, but a full downtown experience.

“This series is all about showcasing independent artists and artisans, and bringing some new energy to our downtown community,” said Hot Plate co-founder Mike Dell’Aquila. “We’re thrilled to bring this caliber of talent and culture to Dunham Mall.” For more information and weekly lineup announcements, people may visit hotplatebeer.com/the-pitt.

Artswalk takes place July 12

PITTSFIELD – The First Fridays Artswalk in downtown Pittsfield continues its five-month season May through September.

A special Saturday Artswalk will take place on Saturday, July 12 from 1-4 p.m. This date is due to the First Friday falling on July 4. Participating venues on Saturday, Sept. 12 include Berkshire Art Center, Berkshire Theatre Group, Clock Tower Artists, Dottie’s Coffee Lounge, Framework by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., Hotel on North, Marketplace Cafe, NUarts gallery + studios, Roots and Dreams and Mustard Seeds and the Soda Chef.

The Clock Tower Artists at 75 South Church St. will host an open studios event on Saturday, July 12 from 1-4 p.m. Clock Tower Artists is the largest and most diverse contemporary, working artists’ group in Berkshire County. Now numbering two dozen working creatives, the Clock Tower Artists Open Studios will feature original paintings, prints, photographs, and sculptures.

NUarts gallery + studios, 311 North St., will open their Hall Gallery featuring the works of resident artists on Saturday, July 12 from 1-4 pm.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and Framework will feature a

brand-new exhibition featuring a collection of Huck Elling’s recent paintings exploring color, patterns, and pursuit of joy. The exhibition will be on view July 7 through July 24, at Framework by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., 437 North St.

There will be an opening reception with the artist during the special Saturday, July 12 Artswalk from 1-4 p.m.

Download the Downtown Pittsfield app in the App Store or on Google Play to follow a virtual walking tour of art on your cell phone. Direct link: <https://downtownpittsfield.stqry.app/tour/55868>

First Fridays Artswalk is supported in part by The Feigenbaum Foundation.

Madison Quinn named Fourth of July Parade grand marshal

PITTSFIELD – Madison Quinn a Pittsfield native, Westfield resident and Baystate Medical Center employee is the latest and youngest Grand Marshal of the Pittsfield Fourth of July Parade.

A unanimous selection by the parade committee, Quinn is being honored as the Founder and Executive Director of Strong Little

Souls, a non-profit organization she founded at just 13 years old and has led for over a decade.

Quinn’s leadership of SLS has earned her recognition from the New England Patriots and Berkshire Community College’s “40 Under 40” program, which highlights exceptional individuals under the age of 40. What started as a passion

project when she was a teenager has now grown into a significant organization that provides critical support to children fighting cancer.

“I was honored to learn of my selection and to have the opportunity to be part of such an esteemed event,” said Quinn. “Strong Little Souls has opened doors for me to speak at events like one in Arizona, where I had

the chance to share our mission and impact. We also raised \$100,000 at last year’s Give Back Gala, which will help continue our work.”

As the founder and driving force behind SLS, Quinn leads the organization in providing care packages, meals, toys and reading materials to young patients, while also advocating for pediatric cancer research.

Her work is deeply rooted in personal experience, and she continues to connect with families, offering support and hope to those navigating the challenges of childhood cancer.

According to Parade Committee President Rebecca Brien, Quinn is a perfect fit for this year’s parade, noting, “This year’s theme, ‘Young at Heart,’

aligns beautifully with the resilience, hope, and joy Quinn inspires through her work with Strong Little Souls. Her dedication to the organization has made a lasting impact on our community.”

Quinn is a graduate of Our Lady of the Elms College, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

EASTHAMPTON

bankESB promotes Oleksak to senior vice president

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB recently promoted Mike Oleksak, previously vice president, commercial lending, to the role of senior vice president, commercial lending team lead.

Oleksak of West Springfield has 21 years of banking experience. He joined the bank in 2018 and has demonstrated outstanding leadership. Before his time with bankESB, he was vice president, commercial lending at Westfield Bank and before that, assistant vice president, business

banking officer at United Bank.

In his new role, he will oversee the commercial lending division’s strategic direction, operational management, and team development. This role is integral to driving portfolio growth, ensuring regulatory compliance, and fostering strong client relationships.

Oleksak earned both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in business administration from Southern New Hampshire University. He also com-

pleted the LeadNY program at Cornell University, which is a training program that helps improve leadership skills, self-awareness, issues analysis, critical thinking and civic engagement. Oleksak is currently treasurer on the board of directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western Massachusetts and is the soon to be president of the board of directors of the West Springfield Boys and Girls Club. He has also coached West Springfield youth soccer since 2018.

HAYDENVILLE

Church plans fun bingo event

HAYDENVILLE – A Family Bingo Night with bingo for prizes not cash is planned for Thursday June 19 from 6-8 p.m. at Haydenville Congregational Church, 143 Main St.

Leading the event will be Molly Keehn of Florence, know as the Bingo Queen

for her work running bingo events for non-profits around the region. Unlike traditional bingo, Keehn said her events do not involve gambling. She said, “It is a family event. We welcome children and create a fun atmosphere to help build connections and community for those involved.

There is no required fee to play. The church will encourage a small donation for each bingo card a participant takes. There will be a range of prizes, including gift certificates, and there will also be prizes for children. Baked goods and refreshments will be available.

CHESTER

Library hosts summer reading program

CHESTER – Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., summer reading program officially kicks off in July.

This year’s theme is, “Level Up at Your Library.” The program begins with Music Week,

featuring a special music-themed movie night on Tuesday July 1st at 4 p.m. On Wednesday July 3 at 4:30 p.m. they will hold a songwriting workshop with singer/songwriter, Chris Merenda. On Thursday at noon ukulele lessons (instruments pro-

vided) begin for young musicians ages 5 and up. People may call 413-354-7808 to register and find out more details. They may visit <https://chester.cwmares.org> under our events tab for more upcoming summer reading fun.

CUMMINGTON

Artists deTours dates set

CUMMINGTON – Marc Hoechstetter will lead a deTour entitled “Making of Scythe Stones in the River on Saturday, June 21 from 9-11 a.m.

Participants should

meet at Pettingill Memorial Park and continue along the Cultural District’s backyard, the Westfield River. On Saturday, June 28 from 9-11 a.m. the deTour led by Malalka Ross is enti-

tled “Botanical Painting With Local Flowers and Plants.” They will meet at Pettingill Memorial Park. These programs are funded by the Cummington Cultural Council.

BUCKLAND

Historical Society hosts pie social

BUCKLAND – The Buckland Historical Society will host a program on the history of trains and trolleys in Buckland and a pie social on Friday, June 27 at 7 p.m. in the Buckland Public Hall,

15 Upper St.

The program by Sam Bartlett will be accompanied by slides.

He will take people back to the heyday of Buckland’s trains and trolleys.

The pie social with a selection of delectable homemade pies, coffee and cider follows.

Admission is members \$10, non-members \$12 and family \$20.

WORTHINGTONTON

Board announces meeting times

WORTHINGTONTON – The Board of Assessors will meet biweekly instead of weekly during the summer to facili-

tate the completion of annual fieldwork.

The Board of Assessors will meet on Tuesdays, July 1,

July 15, July 29, Aug. 12 and Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m. Weekly meetings will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Wetlands and Waterways
MassDEP Boston Office
100 Cambridge Street
Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §43, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification application for the reconstruction of North Road and Damon Pond Road in Chesterfield, Massachusetts by the town of Chesterfield.

The purpose of this project is to improve safety conditions for vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic along North Road and Damon Pond Road. The proposed project includes the reconstruction of North Road and Damon Pond Road, the replacement of Damon Pond Road over Dead Branch Brook Bridge (Bridge No. C-12-022) and the replacement of twelve cross culverts. Additional information may be obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division at Ten Park Plaza, Room 7360, Boston, MA

02116, attention Erica Larner or by emailing erica.n.larner@dot.state.ma.us. Written comments should be sent to Heidi Davis, MassDEP Wetlands Program, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114 or heidi.davis@mass.gov within twenty-one days of this notice.

Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department’s Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing 06/19/2025

NOI Public Hearing

Charles Kaufman of 67 Aberdeen Road in Goshen, MA, is requesting to demolish and replace his existing cabin. A Notice of Intent has been filed with the Goshen Conservation Commission and may be viewed at 40 Main Street in Goshen on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6pm.

The Public Hearing for this NOI will be held at the same location on **Monday, 7 July 2025 at 6:15pm.** 06/19/2025



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park



\$1200/week
207-607-9333

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th,
PUBLIC NOTICES
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than **NOON**
Thursday, July 3
– Thank you!

GOSHEN

Town Clerk lists election results

GOSHEN – One hundred sixty seven of the 799 registered voters or 21% went to the poll to cast ballots in the Annual Town Election held on Saturday, June 7.

There were no contests on the ballot. Peri H. Hall received 91 votes for a three year position on the Select Board; Julie E. Hooks got 132 votes for a five year term on the Planning Board. Carla K. Raymond received 134 votes to a three year term on the Chesterfield/Goshe Regional School committee. Marya Zilberberg got 134 votes for a three year term to the Board of Health and Jake C. Lulek got 144 votes for a two year term to the Board of Health.

Stephen A. Fancy received 131 votes for a three year term as Assessor and Henrietta R. Munroe

got 149 votes for a three year term as Almoner. Finance Committee had two three year terms on the ballot with Kristine A. Blissell getting one position with 132 votes and Kristin I. Barry getting the other with 125.

Library Trustee had two three year positions with Thomas E. Wartenberg winning one position with 129 votes and Steven C. Daliber winning the other with 131 votes. Jane C. McGrath received 132 votes for a one year position as Library Trustee. Stephen M. Estelle received 140 votes to a two year term as Moderator. There were three one year terms to the position of Tilton Fruit Farm Supervisor; Roger A. Culver got 138 votes, Robert O. Goss got 148 and Richard K. Polwrek got 138 votes.

Williams-Boltwood project receives prestigious DAR preservation award

GOSHEN – In a remarkable achievement, the Williams-Boltwood Project has been awarded a coveted 2025 Preservation Award by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

This prestigious recognition highlights WBP's exceptional efforts in preserving and promoting historical heritage. The DAR's Preservation Award is a testament to the project's unwavering commitment to safeguarding this historical treasure that tells the story of small towns in the nation's early history. WBP will be using this grant to launch initial preservation work on a highly unique structure in Goshen, dating back to the Revolutionary War. The \$10,000 DAR award will be paired with a matching \$10,000 to replace severely decayed basement support beams.

The Daughters of the American Revolution, an organization with a long-standing tradition of honoring excellence in historical preservation, selected the Williams-Boltwood Project for its outstanding contributions, as well as recommendation for support from the Betty Allen Chapter DAR located in Northampton. DAR Regent Denise Kindschi Gosselin recognizes that the WBH restoration will not only safeguard the physical presence of the structure, but also its potential to host numerous cultural events in the future that will honor American history. The property is situated adjacent to the Goshen Center Cemetery, where the DAR has cleaned gravestones and verified 44 Revolutionary War Patriot stones and a short distance from the DAR State Forest of Goshen, a conservation area

established in 1928.

John Williams built the first section of the house in 1779 for his bride, Mercy Weeks. Their descendants owned the house for over 200 years, leaving behind a trove of historical items and documents. The property includes a store, tavern, ice house, post office, inn and stagecoach stepping stones. The store and post office are in museum quality, remaining relatively unchanged since the Civil War.

The Williams-Boltwood Project's Director, Kam Osborne stated, "We are ecstatic to have received this grant. It addresses one of our most urgent needs. Most of the structure is sound, but the northeast corner, the oldest section, is in critical condition. We are indebted to the DAR, as we would have needed to delay the project yet another

year without this grant."

WBP is working to restore the site for 21st century use, including a retail space for local artists and co-working office space while maintaining and preserving the historical features of the site. Retail and economic use of the building by day will be paired with cultural functions and historical educational events during non-business hours.

With a local Cultural Council Grant awarded earlier this year, WBP will host a 1920s Garden Party complete with live jazz music and a speakeasy on Sunday, July 20, as well as a second event in the fall looking at the indigenous history of the area. For more information about WBP, people may visit WilliamsBoltwood.com or email WBHouseTrust@gmail.com.

WESTFIELD

Wood from church beech tree transformed into crosses

WESTFIELD – The beautiful 156 year old beech tree that was in the front lawn of the Episcopal Church of Atonement in Westfield had to be taken down.

Kara Noble, office administrator and Jerry Noble, music director, at the church hired Dan Chase of Dans Creative Creations to make pocket crosses for the parishioners. They brought him a giant slab of wood from the tree and he was able to make 194 beautiful crosses out of it.



Several of the finished crosses, which will be given to the parishioners of the Episcopal Church of Atonement in Westfield.



Dan Chase of Dans Creative Creation sands and lacquers the 194 crosses.



This is the slab of wood from the 156 year old beech tree that was on the front lawn of the Episcopal Church of Atonement in Westfield.



The template Dan Chase made to cut the crosses with his scroll saw. Submitted photos

Alzheimer's Association Support Group meets June 25

WESTFIELD – The Armbrook Village Senior Living and Memory Support Community, 551 North Road, offers an Alzheimer's

Association Support Group on Wednesday, June 25 at 6 p.m.

Caregivers and family members are invited to enjoy a light dinner and to

share their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with their loved ones. The public is welcome. To join this group,

people may call 413-568-0000 or email reception@armbrookvillage.com. Groups are held on the last Wednesday of the month.

OTIS

Library to host reading program

OTIS – Go Wild For Reading, the summer reading program, will take place at the Otis Library, 48 North Main Road., from Monday, June 26 to Saturday, Aug. 2.

There will be weekly prizes and take home activities. There will also be a chance to win grand prizes.

Tax Collector office closed June 30-July 3

OTIS – The Tax Collector's office will be closed Monday, June 30 through Thursday, July 3.

Office hours resume on Monday, July 7.

Find your MARKET IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

413.283.8393 • classifieds@turley.com
24 Water St., Palmer • 80 Main St., Ware

SEND YOUR NEWS & PHOTOS TO countryjournal@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:
Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email:jamie@turley.com

OBITUARY

Kenneth R. Baker

MIDDLEFIELD – Kenneth R. Baker, 68, died Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at home. He was born in Bedfordshire, England on Chicksands Airforce Base on October 28, 1956. He graduated from Westfield High School and was Apex Certified. He worked at Digital Computer until its closure and B&E Tool until his time of death. He enjoyed model car collecting, participated in bowling leagues, shooting pool with his grandchildren.

He leaves behind his wife, Pamela Marie Wilander

Baker, daughters, Bridget Baker of Huntington, and Erica and Matt Parker of West Springfield. He was predeceased by his sons, Kenny Baker (November 2024) and Billy Baker (July 2004). He leaves behind 4 grandchildren, Nathan Solitario of Middlefield, Isaiah Solitario of Huntington, Micheal Parker of West Springfield, and Willow Baker of Barkhamsted, CT, Sister



Deborah and Ron Gibbons of Westfield, brother in law John Rheame, Sisters in law Sue Mineau of Westfield, Nancy and Paul O'Melia of East Longmeadow, and Paula Baker of Westfield. He leaves behind many other nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Mainus D. Baker and Jeanne Begin Baker, his brother, Wayne Baker, his mother and father in law, Lillian and

William Wilander, his nephew, PJ Gallagher, his brother in law, Paul Mineau.

Calling hours will be held on Wednesday June 11 from 4-7 p.m. from the Firtion-Adams Funeral Service, 76 Broad Street, Westfield. The funeral will be held on Thursday, June 12 at 9 a.m. from the funeral home followed by a Mass at 10 am in Our Lady of The Blessed Sacrament Church, 127 Holyoke Road, Westfield. Burial will follow in Old North Road Cemetery in Worthington. Firtionadams.com.

DEATH NOTICE

BAKER, KENNETH
Died June 4, 2025

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

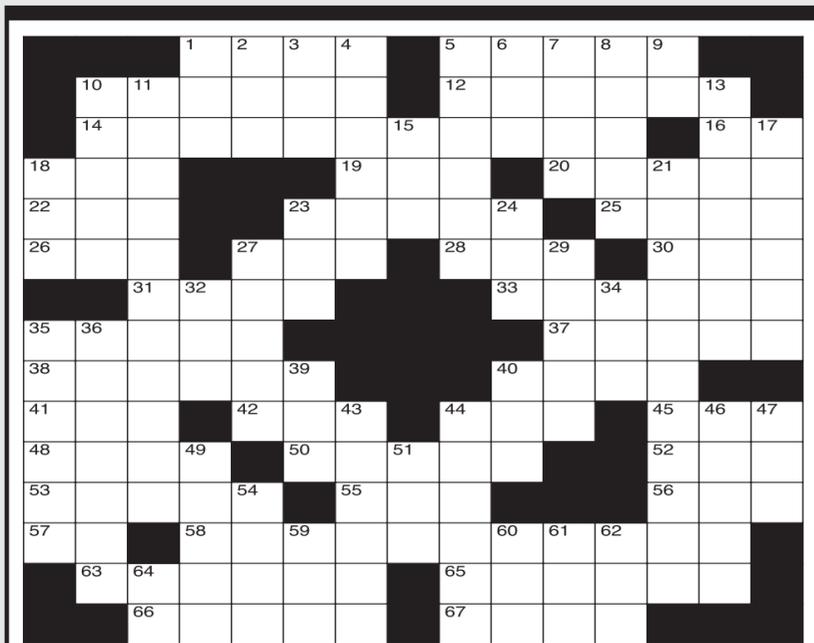
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

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

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

Parents & Coaches

SEND US YOUR NEWS & PHOTOS
email us at: countryjournal@turley.com



CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of bread
5. Range of mountains
10. Ended
12. Musical forms with a recurring theme
14. On the nature of being
16. Law enforcement agency
18. Australian flightless bird
19. Subway rodent
20. More dried-up
22. A beaver might build one
23. Suggestive of the supernatural
25. Art __, around 1920
26. American rocker Snider
27. Not or
28. Earliest human: __-Magnon Man
30. Firearm
31. Tough outer skin of fruit

33. Alternative form of a gene
35. Low shrub some call "fat pork"
37. Plants in the chamomile tribe
38. Revolutionary War era spy
40. Portion of a book
41. Hoover's office
42. Title of respect
44. Tax collector
45. Cool!
48. Real estate
50. Boy's name
52. Airborne (abbr.)
53. Strongly recommends
55. Hit lightly
56. Bar bill
57. Atomic #54
58. Devotes again
63. Fish sauce
65. French stock market
66. Things that consist of two elements or parts

CLUES DOWN

1. Retired game show host Sajak
2. Equal (prefix)
3. Israeli city __ Aviv
4. Loved
5. A type of analyst
6. Ad __
7. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
8. Ran without moving
9. Opposite of yes
10. Diffuse clouds of gas
11. Mentioning one by one
13. Instruments used to dilate
15. Freshwater fish
17. Remotely-manned flying objects
18. Doctor of Education
21. Renews
23. Not the start
24. Pitching stat
27. Small water buffaloes
29. Ceramic jars
32. I (German)
34. Something to toss on a fire
35. The process of flowing in
36. A series of acts at a night club
39. Egg of a louse
40. Inquire too closely
43. Travelers
44. Drink
46. Behave in a way that degrades
47. Electronic music style
49. Northern Ireland city
51. Upset
54. Stiff structure resembling a hair
59. Father
60. North Atlantic fish
61. 8th month (abbr.)
62. Make an effort
64. Commercial

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, the universe is giving you a chance to get in some rest and relaxation before you have to tackle your very long list of tasks. Soak it all up while the break lasts.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

This is a great week to work behind the scenes. Consider stepping back from any projects you had planned and let someone else take the lead for a little bit.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

It isn't the job of someone else to make you happy, Libra. You have to figure out how to do that on your own. A bit of conflict over miscommunication may arise this week.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, spring cleaning has long passed, but you might want to revisit some organizing and decluttering projects at home. Get rid of as much as you can.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you value comfort and security, which is probably why you will want to revisit some of your investments over the next few days to figure out if you are maximizing your money.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Don't try to cram too many experiences into this particular week, Leo. You may be disappointed by the results if you take on too much. It's best to spread everything out.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Exercise caution if you are thinking of changing things up, Scorpio. People are used to routine and too much change at once can lead to a lot of floundering and lack of effort.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, slowing down and taking stock of your situation is a good idea this week. Not everything needs to be done in a day, so pace yourself and make a good plan of action.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21

You excel at seeing both sides of a situation, Gemini. Follow your intuition as you try to navigate a tricky situation at work that requires you to make a firm decision.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, aim for balance right now. Everything may seem like it is up in the air, so if you focus on two or three important things in your life you can tackle them successfully.

SAGITTARIUS

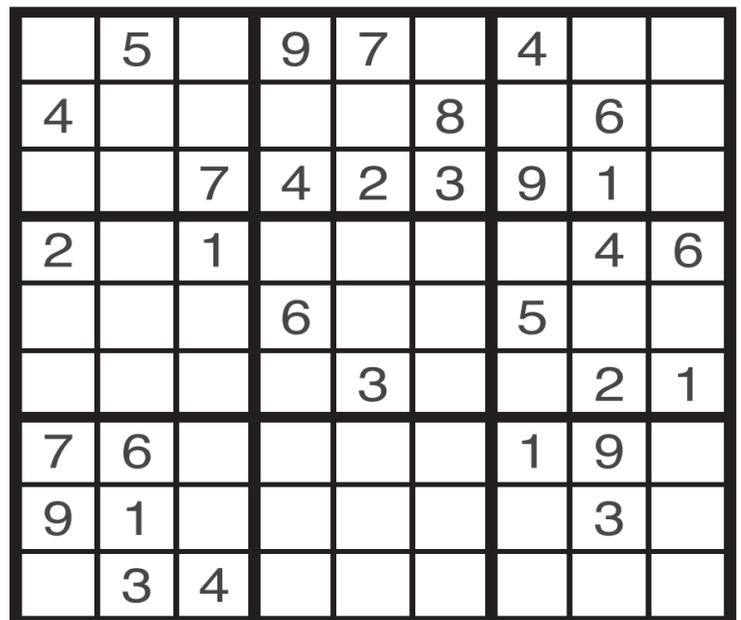
Nov 23/Dec 21

Touch base with your dearest friends, Sagittarius, especially if they haven't heard from you in a long while. This might be the week to make some plans and reconnect.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Try turning off all the excess noise in your life right now, Pisces. Focus on your own thoughts and feelings this week, rather than what others want from you.



SUDOKU

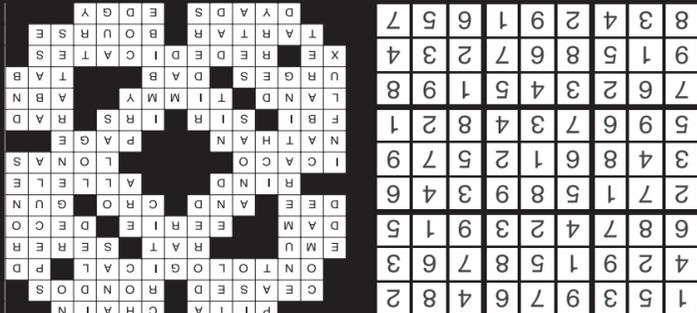
Fun By The Numbers

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

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!

answers



WESTFIELD AUTO PARTS INC
CARQUEST
AUTO PARTS & SUPPLIES

NATIONALLY ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS

WHOLESALE RETAIL

- ★ Complete Auto Machine Shop Service
- ★ Engine Rebuilding Of All Kinds
- ★ Authorized Caterpillar Hydraulic Hose Dealer
- ★ Hydraulic Hoses

Call "DALE" 8-12 BIRGE AVE., WESTFIELD

Dial 568-8944 or 568-1611 FAX # 568-1554

Now stocking Car Quest Filters made by WIX, Amalie Oil, Bailing Twine & Tractor Parts

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

WANTED

OLD CARPENTER TOOLS wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware, advertising, motorcycles, clothing. Call Ken (413)433-2195.

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Fully insured.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

SERVICES



2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?
Look no further!
PJ's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business.
Call now for a FREE estimate!
(413) 366-1703
LICENSED & INSURED

CHAMPAGNE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS.
Residential electrical service, mini splits, EV chargers, smoke detection. Fully insured. Licensed #22882A.
Mike (413)210-9140.

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Mini-splits, upgrades, pools, trustworthy & dependable. Luis Arroyo #20773A. Text or call (413)218-3301.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1. Call John at (413)206-6509

EXCAVATING

ELIOT STARBARD EXCAVATION
35+ yrs of happy customers.
508-882-0140

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

SERVICES

WALKER HOME IMPROVEMENT INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR
Finish carpentry, framing, window & door replacement, drywall, painting and decks. Competitive pricing. Insured.
Call Brendan at 413-687-5552.

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

****ALL SEASON****
Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe. Insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING
Weekly Mowing
Landscape design and installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text 413-266-9975
Insured - Commercial - Residential

LAWN & GARDEN

***COMPOSTED LOAM* 3/8"** screened, \$40/yd. deliv., 10 yd min.; No additives, fillers or by-products. Local deliv. to Oakham and surrounding towns only. Eliot Starbard 508-882-0140.

MASONRY STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #147790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

SERVICES

PAINTING

B&D PAINTING - Home improvement contractor. Reg. #175887. Free estimates. 30 years experience. 300 excellent references, 4.83 rating out of 5 on Angies List. 413-727-9846.

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call (508)867-2550

PRO PAINTING
Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. 413-310-5099.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

PRESSURE WASHING

HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHING. We use brushes and state of the art equipment. We remove grime and mold from homes, patios, fences, walkways, all decks, concrete & driveways. Senior Discounts. For free estimates call Bill (413)519-9800.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

DL & G TREE SERVICE - Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

SERVICES

TUNE-UPS

LAWN TRACTOR & MOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
STUMP GRINDING
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212



SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
www.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM
413-213-5470

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839



Post your job openings in our classifieds.
WE GET RESULTS!
Call 1-413-283-8393

HELP WANTED

WE'RE HIRING!
SUFFIELD LUMBER
INSIDE SALES MANAGER WANTED
***FULL TIME POSITION**
1-860-668-5530
Job Description - Responsibilities and Duties:
• Answer phones
• Software proficiency
• Opening and closing store
• Handling customers
• Order stock
• Stock inventory and shelves,
• Schedule deliveries
• Dealing with cash
• Quoting material for jobs

HAMPDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT is now accepting applications for a **FULL-TIME police officer.** Review of applications begins immediately. Visit www.hampdenpolice.com for more information. EOE

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



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

FOR RENT

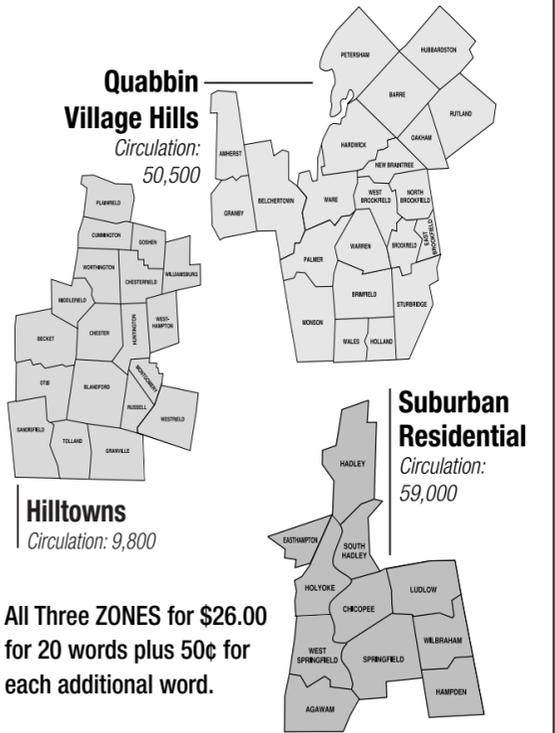
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Digital Photos
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
\$12.50 Each
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications.
Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
Subscribe Today!
Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Hilltown Hikers camp at Indian Hollow



Valerie, Greg and Stefanie went tubing from the little gorge to Indian Hollow.

It has become a tradition for the Hilltown Hikers to offer group camping in June at the Indian Hollow Campground in Chesterfield.

The Army Corps of Engineers manages the private and secluded campground at the end of Indian Hollow Road to groups like non-profits, Scouts of

America, company outings, but not to individual campers making this spot exclusive. Located in between the Dead Branch and the East Branch of the Westfield River and close to the Chesterfield Gorge the campground is full of wildlife and the dark sky is great for star gazing.

The Hilltown Hikers

offers this weekend camp out to all especially if someone is a first time camper offering help to prepare and pack and also supplying tents for shelter, tubes and paddle boards for water sports, water shoes and a potluck Saturday night dinner. They also share tips on types of tents and camping gear like pop ups with

mosquito netting, ultra-light sleeping tents and sleeping pads, camping cookware and techniques, camp fire safety and of course a great opportunity to network with fellow outdoor lovers. If you have not tried it yet, get out there and enjoy the beauty of nature in the Hilltowns Camping.



Stephanie makes coffee in her French press and brought fresh baked homemade bread.



Sundays group gets ready to head out on the East Branch of the Westfield River.



Saturday dinner includes the dogs of course.



The East Branch offers great tubing.



Submitted photos

Hilltown Hikers enjoy a good campfire with s'mores.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

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

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

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

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