

"Life isn't a matter of milestones, but of moments." – Rose Kennedy

Country Journal

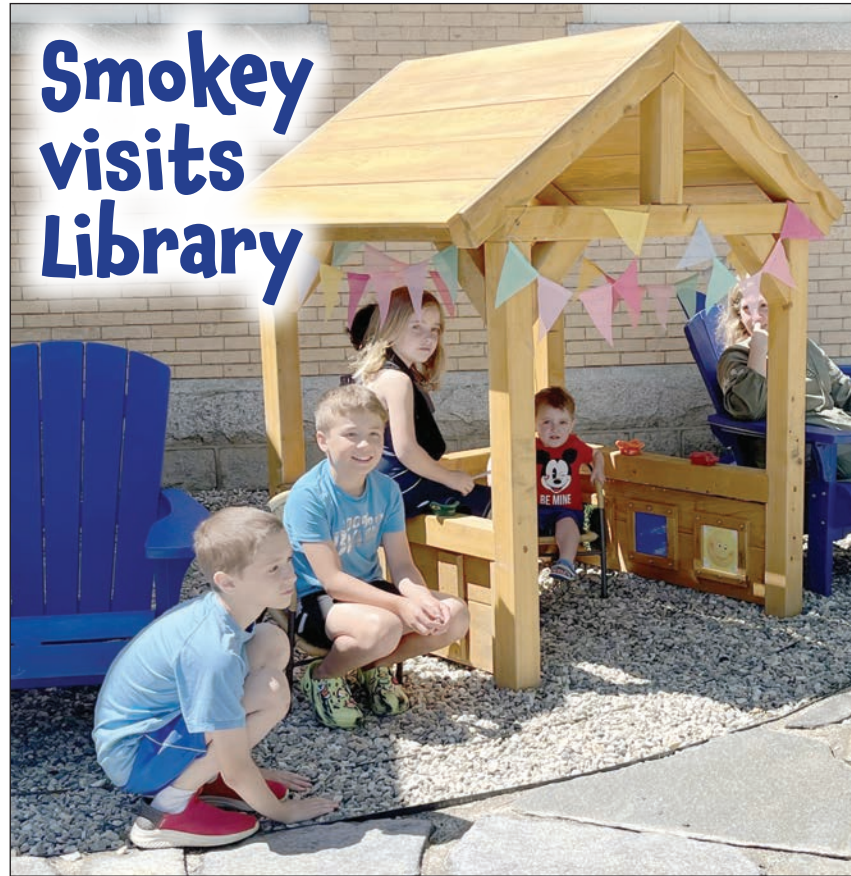
Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

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Smokey visits Library

Youngsters await Smokey's arrival while enjoying the playhouse on the patio. The playhouse was donated to the library by Adam Gonska.



District Fire Warden Greg Whittier introduces Smokey to the crowd.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

Jace Bacon and Smokey stand with Smokey at the Porter Memorial Library program. After Smokey's visit to the Porter Memorial Library on Saturday, June 15, everyone lined up for a treat from Lil' Whip Ice Cream Truck with Karen Maratea from West Springfield.

BLANDFORD

Select Board hears about dirt roads project

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Pioneer Valley Planner II for Land Use and Environment Angela Panaccione attended the Monday night Select Board meeting to answer questions, "go over what we did and future plans and answer any questions" about the Dirt Roads project.

The town will move onto a second phase for Dirt Roads. There are two culverts to be replaced on Gibbs and Shepard Roads with cement box bridge culverts. Cost is \$770,000 for Gibbs Road and \$950,000 for Shepard Road.

"That's insane," said Chair Cara Letendre. Panaccione said the cost involves multiple permitting plus the

SELECT BOARD, page 6

BLANDFORD

Blandford hires new Town Administrator

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Cristina Ferrera of Southwick is Blandford's new Town Administrator. She will begin her duties on Monday, July 8.

She signed her contract with the town on Thursday, June 13 for \$80,000 annually to start.

During her interview with the Select Board on Tuesday, June 11, Ferrera said in looking for a position, "I want somewhere that I can apply my knowledge, put down new roots. I would like to stay somewhere."

She added, "I'm looking for a position where I can feel good at the end of the day, like I've done something; I've helped people and continue to build on those relationships." She has worked for the state and the city of Springfield, the latter for over a decade. She started out as a registered Land Court Clerk for the late Hampden County Register of Deeds Donald E. Ashe, a state position she held for five years before going to Springfield.

TOWN ADMINSTRATOR, page 6

BECKET

Dancing on a mountaintop at Jacob's Pillow

Discounts make experience accessible to all

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

The Hilltowns may be considered remote within Massachusetts, but for 81 years the world has arrived each summer to dance on a mountaintop.

This year from Wednesday, June 26 through Sunday, Aug. 25, the top dancers from ballet, tap, hip hop, flamenco, tango and modern dance disciplines

come from as far as the U.K., Argentina, Cuba, British Columbia and Switzerland to perform on what was a farm in Becket.

As executive and artistic director Pam Tatge says, "Coming to Jacob's Pillow is not just a performance. It's a whole experience. We're located on a mountain with beautiful gardens and open spaces to have picnics. We have dance classes for the community with renowned choreographers, some of which are open to children. New this year are preschool

DANCING, page 3



The Ted Shawn Theatre was the first built specifically for dance in the United States.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel



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HILLTOWNS

Hilltown 6 Pottery holds tour and sale July 27 and 28

On the last weekend in July (July 27 and 28), Hilltown 6 potters welcome visitors to experience their Western Massachusetts studios at the height of the New England summer.

Participants visit eight potters in their spectacular working studios and meet their invited guest artists from around the country. The ancient art of ceramics flourishes today in the Hill towns. Participants will see clay artist, where it's made and connect with a unique creative community in special rural settings.

Scheduled educational demonstrations and participatory events throughout

the weekend show how ceramic artists transform earth into beautiful and useful objects. They may watch a potter construct a teapot by joining freshly thrown parts; climb inside a giant wood-burning kiln and hear how the fire is maintained to reach a temperature of over 2,300 degree and see clay shaped into an exquisitely balanced sculpture.

For this 18th year, a week before the in-person event, the tour will kick off with a virtual program, Meet the Potters/Meet the Pots, a lively discussion among the potters about their journeys in clay and why ceramics matter. People should visit www.hilltown6.com to link

to this discussion, download a map for the weekend and get a detailed schedule of activities. The tour is free and open to all.

This tour has grown into a nationally recognized event that attracts artists and customers from around the country, drawing visitors from the region and New York, Boston, Hartford, Albany, and beyond. The Hilltown potters welcome pottery lovers as well as the simply curious. Visitors will be delighted by the range of approaches to ceramic expression: different clays, firing techniques, glazes — all manifest in the array of objects on view.

Every year, Hilltown 6 donates a portion of the sale's proceeds for art supplies in local elementary schools to support creative programming for Hilltown kids.

Hilltown 6 is a group of now eight nationally known potters based in the Hill towns of Western Massachusetts: Robbie Heidinger, Christy Knox, Maya Machin, Michael McCarthy, Hiroshi Nakayama, Mark Shapiro, Constance Talbot and Sam Taylor. This year's tour includes 20 invited guest artists, who will join the Hilltown potters at their studios. To learn more about the artists, people may visit www.hilltown6.com.

Girl Scouts earn prestigious Gold and Silver Awards

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts celebrates the 2024 class of Gold Award Girl Scouts: sixteen world-changers in central and western Massachusetts who invested nearly thirteen hundred hours creating lasting impact on issues important to them.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn, available to girls in high school who create sustainable change on a community or world issue.

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout 11-14 can earn, and is symbolic of accomplishments in Girl Scouting and community activities.

Troop 11956 Huntington Rocks for Hope and Happiness Evelyn Piszcz.

Sometimes small tokens of love, hope, and happiness can have an immense impact on our communities so Evelyn Piszcz decided to brighten her community with Rocks for Hope and Happiness. She painted rocks with an uplifting hand-painted image on one side and an inspirational quote on the other. She then placed them in baskets where individuals from the community were invited to either take or leave a rock. Evelyn learned that the darkest nights give light to the brightest stars and that sometimes, it's the smallest things that shine the most

Bronze Award Girl Scouts are in fourth or fifth grade. They complete projects that make the world a better place to earn the highest award available to Girl Scout Juniors.

Local Bronze Award winners are Troop 64924 Southampton for Bathroom Equity and Gender Spectrum Education. Girl Scouts were Aoife Farrell, Willow Gutermuth, Amaya Dube and Millie Rychlik and Troop 11597 Northampton for Camp on Durable Ground. Girl Scouts were Kaiya Borer, Isabella Drake, Hazel Lin, Solani Lugo Aquino, Holland Pomputius, Katelynn Rivera Bonilla, Maren Stokes-Buckles, Allaya Torres-Creek and Maddie Weil.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is committed to building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. GSCWM serves over 3,000 girls in partnership with more than 3,000 adult volunteers in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester counties plus a tiny portion of Middlesex County. Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors, and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them. To join us, volunteer, reconnect, or donate, people may visit www.gscwm.org or call 413-584-2602.

MassDOT lists I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting nighttime guardrail work, pavement milling, erosion control and bridge repair operations at various locations and times on I-90 eastbound and westbound during the week of Monday, June 17.

Lane closures will be in place during the construction operations, and traffic will be able to travel through the work zones.

In Otis and Blandford, guardrail work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 21.0 to 26.0 now through Thursday night, June 20 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, June 21 by 5:30 a.m. Pavement milling operations will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 21.0 to 27.2 now through Thursday night, June 20, from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, June 21 by 5:30 a.m.

In Blandford, bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 26.0 to 27.0 from now through Thursday night, June 20 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, June 21 by 5:30 a.m.

In Stockbridge and West Stockbridge, guardrail and erosion control work will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 1.0 to 8.0 from now through Thursday night, June 20 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, June 21 by 5:30 a.m.

Bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 5.5

to 8.0 now through Thursday night, June 20 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, June 21 by 5:30 a.m.

In West Stockbridge, bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 2.0 to 3.0 now through Thursday night, June 20 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, June 21 by 5:30 a.m.

In Lee, pavement markings and slotted pavement markers work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 7.3 to 15.8 now through Thursday night, June 20 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, June 21 by 5:30 a.m.

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

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: download the Mass 511 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.

MassDEP extends public comment period on reducing waterway pathogens

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection prepared a draft statewide restoration plan for controlling certain types of bacteria, such as E. coli, enterococci and fecal coliform, which are indicators of contamination from sewage and/or feces of warm-blooded wildlife (mammals and birds).

Pollutant sources may include failing septic systems, pet waste, wildlife waste, agriculture, recreational waters use management, combined sewer overflows,

stormwater, illicit sewer connections, failing infrastructure and wastewater treatment plants or publicly owned treatment works.

The objective of this draft plan for Total Maximum Daily Load is to ensure that the level of indicator bacteria in each contaminated water source meets the established water quality criteria of the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards for pathogens.

The restoration plan is a statewide report consisting of a core document and

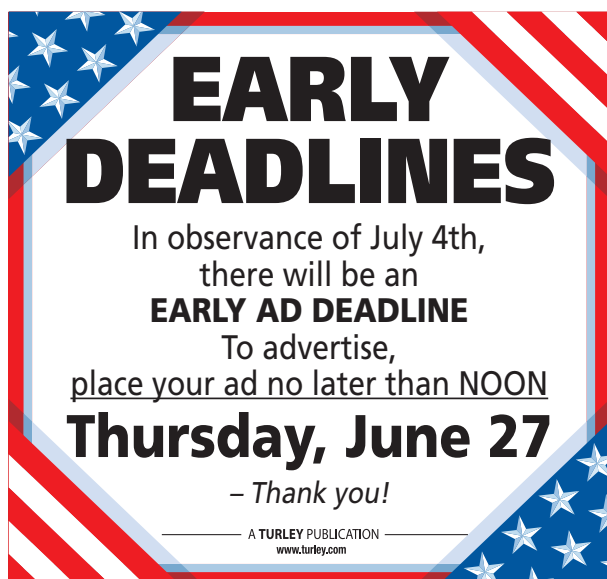
watershed-specific appendices. It covers approximately 1,017 river-miles and 11 square miles of estuaries within 28 watersheds identified in the Final Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters for the Clean Water Act 2018/2020 Reporting Cycle.

A copy of this Draft TMDL including 28 appendices is available on MassDEP's website.

The public comment period has been extended to Friday, June 21 at 5 p.m. Written comments can be submitted to: Timothy Fox, Massachusetts Department

of Environmental Protection, Watershed Planning Program, 8 New Bond St., Worcester, MA 01606. Electronic format comments should be sent via email to Timothy.M.Fox@mass.gov and include 'Statewide Pathogen TMDL (CN 515.0) comments' in the subject line.

MassDEP's mission is to protect and enhance the Commonwealth's natural resources – air, water and land – to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all people, and to ensure a clean and safe environment for future generations.



EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th,
there will be an
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Thursday, June 27

– Thank you!

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The Town of Cummington is accepting applications for a Buildings and Grounds Worker.

Under the supervision of the Highway Superintendent, essential responsibilities will be to perform semi-skilled maintenance duties including lawn care, snow removal, and general maintenance of town buildings and grounds to ensure full and productive use of town facilities. For full job description go to the Official Notices page at <https://cummington-ma.gov>. 19 hours per week. Pay: \$23.00/hr. Must be able to successfully pass a CORI/BRC. Position to begin on or after July 1, 2024. Please email cover letter and resume with B & G Worker in title to: selectboard@cummington-ma.gov

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 \$225, 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.

BECKET

Art Center to hold arts and craft marketplace and concert

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will hold its Arts and Crafts Marketplace on Saturday, June 22 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Visitors to North Becket Village, which includes the Becket Athenaeum, the historic Mullen House, and the Becket Arts Center, will find more than 30 artisans selling jewelry, hand-made soaps, sculptures, wood crafts, textile art, oils, photographs, prints, ceramics and more. There will be activities for children, live music and a drum circle, as well as doughnut-making and strawberry-shortcake eating. It will be held rain or shine.

They also will present Kilashandra, an Irish Celtic-inspired jam band, on Saturday, June 22 from 5-7 p.m. on the Art Center lawn.

With a program ranging from the 1920s to today, Kilashandra mixes traditional and modern Irish music with twists of blues, rock and soul. Part of the BAC's "Music Brings Communities Together" series, the concert is free, though donations are welcome. People should bring lawn chairs, coolers, snacks and children. It will be held rain or shine. People may visit www.becketartscenter.org for more information.

Ladies' Guild to hold ham supper

BECKET – There will be a dinner with baked ham, salads, homemade baked beans and strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream on Saturday, June 29 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Guild Hall on YMCA Road.

This will be a fundraiser for the

First Congregational Church of Becket Ladies' Guild's efforts. It will be an eat in or take out meal for \$15 for adults and free for 13 and under. People may call 413-623-8300 or 413-623-6455 for reservations for to-go meals. Walk ins are welcome.



The Henry J. Leir stage is outdoors with the Berkshires at the backdrop.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel

DANCING

from page 1

music and movement classes on the outdoor stage."

"We welcome the community to see a performance," she continues and highlights the uniqueness of the Jacob's Pillow setting. "You can't believe the power of what it is like to see dance in a generative, creative setting," she says. "It's so very different than in a city or a dark theater. The scenery is the Berkshires."

Jacob's Pillow currently has two major performance stages, one which is entirely outdoors under the trees. The Henry J. Leir Stage hangs on the edge of a Berkshire's mountaintop so that it appears the performers are dancing off into the sky.

The Ted Shawn space, which was the first theater in the U.S. specifically built for dance, is essentially a barn. The wall behind the stage can roll back to let the trees become the dancers' backdrop. A third stage is under construction after a devastating fire in 2020. The entirely rebuilt and re-imagined Doris Duke theater is expected to reopen for the 2025 season.

Jacob's Pillow started 81 years ago when founder and choreographer, Ted Shawn, recruited students from Springfield College to form a dance group that performed on what was the Carter Farm in Becket, named after a large pillow-like rock formation. Tatge acknowledges that "The Pillow," as it is often called, is not fully understood within its own region and encourages the public to come out. "Something that Hilltowns residents may not be aware of is the broad range of discounts that make us super accessible," she says.

Children under 12 are free at the

outdoor stage and tickets for them are 25% off in the Ted Shawn Theatre. Anyone under 35 gets half price tickets. Seniors and Berkshire Country residents get a 10% discount. Tickets for those eligible for EBT are \$10.

Most performances at the outdoor stage have a pricing structure called "pay what you will" with a minimum of \$5 and a suggested payment of \$25.

Highlights of this year's season include the Royal Ballet from the U.K. making their only U.S. appearance and taking over both stages with classical and contemporary ballet. An Indigenous troupe from British Columbia, Damelahamid will be performing with masks. The Social Tango Project brings the world's top tango dancers from Buenos Aires. MOMIX, a troupe from Switzerland known for the dancers turning their bodies en masse into animalistic shapes, has particular appeal to children.

The season starts off with a week of 50th anniversary performances of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, a comic ballet troupe where men perform classical ballet and manage to go "en pointe" or on their toes. The "Trocks" are tied into local Pride celebrations and the public is also welcome to a special Pillow Pride Party on Saturday, July 13.

Think you have what it takes to dance with the pros? The annual "All Styles Dance Battle" will be held on Friday, Aug. 2 where professional dancers and the public show their moves. Tickets for performances and classes can be purchased by visiting jacobspillow.org or at the on-site box office. Access to the grounds is free and open to the public.

HUNTINGTON

Library announces July events

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Public Library is offering three programs to the community in July, which will feature John "Burnsie" Burns on Tuesday, July 2 and Monday, July 29 and Ed the Wizard on Monday, July 8.

John "Burnsie" Burns owns Burns Environmental, which specializes in rare plant and animal surveys and interpretive programs throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont. Starting in Becket, he has been sharing his passion for nature for the past 45 years. Burnsie works closely with the interns of the Westfield Wild and Scenic Committee each week and is quite involved with numerous conservation organizations throughout the area. When not working within the New England landscape, he leads trips around the world and is deeply involved in environmental work in Brazil. He will present a workshop for adults and another one for kids this month; both are generously sponsored by the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee.

People may join Burnsie on Tuesday, July 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the library for his presentation, "My Yard Has Been Invaded." While it's one thing to tackle the woods who seem to take a giant

step forward into our yards each spring, it's another to battle the invading plants and insects that are found in our gardens. This workshop will look at typical invasives in our area and how to manage them. "We'll have to look for new ones to arrive any day," Burnsie writes. "You'll want to greet them personally." Despite the frustrations of coping with these invaders, Burnsie's humor will keep things light and positive: you can have your native plants and eat them too.

Burnsie returns on Monday, July 29 at 11 a.m., where he will engage children ages 6 to 11 in a fun and insightful look at the animals in our region. Following a classic game of charades on area wildlife, Burns' will share his natural history collection that will enable children to determine their habits and behaviors-as evidenced by the bones, feathers and parts of animals that can be found in their own backyards.

Thanks to a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, Ed the Wizard will present "Reading is Magic" at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, July 8. This family-friendly performance will leave you laughing and wondering at the importance of building and maintaining reading skills. The Huntington Cultural Council is a local agency that is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.


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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



I'm already collecting Social Security how will my WEP be calculated

Dear Rusty

I don't understand exactly how the Windfall Elimination Provision works for my situation. I turned 62 in 2017 and am currently still working in a "non-covered" job, not paying into Social Security, but from which I will get a government pension when I retire. I began collecting Social Security at my full retirement age in 2021 and am now collecting \$1,507 per month thanks to the cost of living adjustments since I started. Will my Social Security benefit be reduced by \$587 if I retire this year?

SignedConfused by WEP

Dear Confused

You're certainly not alone to be confused by WEP and your situation is somewhat special because you started your SS benefits before taking your "non-covered" government pension. And, unfortunately, most tools and charts, which suggest how much WEP will reduce your Social Security benefit don't accommodate that nuance very well.

In your case, when you claimed Social Security at your Full Retirement Age, you were awarded the full benefit you were entitled to, unreduced by WEP because you were not yet collecting your non-covered government pension. You were able to collect your full SS amount and receive each year's full Cost Of Living Adjustments to those higher amounts.

What actually happens is that each person's Primary Insurance Amount is first determined at age 62 and Social Security applies an annually awarded COLA to their PIA even if they're not yet receiving benefits. You received your full PIA including COLA, because you claimed at your Full Retirement Age. But when you start collecting your pension from your non-covered government job, the Windfall Elimination Provision will kick in and reduce your Social Security benefit.

The amount of WEP reduction depends on how many years you had contributed to Social Security from "substantial" earnings but, with 20 or fewer years, the maximum WEP reduction is determined by the year you turn 62 and doesn't change. Since you turned 62 in 2017, your maximum WEP reduction, according to Social Security's process, is \$442.50, lower than the \$587 you suspect.

SECURITY, page 5

Corrections policy

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

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



GUEST COLUMN

June companions worthy of admiration



I was chatting with a fellow gardener recently and she made a comment that really struck me. "Aren't the flowers just beautiful this year?" I had to agree.

Everything that is blooming is blooming in abundance, in terms of biennials, perennials and flowering shrubs. Even the \$65 hydrangea bush I got suckered into two years ago on Mother's Day weekend is loaded with flower buds.

I thought it would be fun to give you a few factoids about some of the plants in my yard that are blooming now. Ironically enough, they make a great companion planting. Here goes.

The apothecary's rose (*Rosa gallica officinalis*) is so laden with flowers that I need to get a good support system in place and fast! This rose in particular is an excellent choice for the beginner heirloom rose enthusiast.

Known as the oldest rose in cultivation, it is easy to grow, survives the winter without protection, and blooms effortlessly for about a month each June. Bright crimson flowers have two rows of petals and attractive yellow stamens; rose hips form as the flowers fade providing a bit of winter interest.

Its compatible color and short stature, about three feet, make this bush rose an ideal choice for the perennial border or hedge, keeping in mind though that it sends up new shoots pretty relentlessly, even invading a think mat of bearded iris in my landscape.

Another great spot for the apothecary's rose would be in a garden devoted to herbs. For centuries it has been used medicinally, as well as for a source of food and perfume.

Reportedly, it is also the only rose whose petals, when dried, retain their fragrance – some argue that it even increases! Potpourri anyone?

Another plant booming in abundance is the Pheasant Eye Pink (*Dianthus plumarius*). *Dianthus* is the genus for a group of

plants known as "pinks," not because of their color, which ironically are usually shades of pink, but for the fact that their petals are finely "pinked." Think of the funny scissors known as pinking shears.

Common names for this group of plants include Gilliflower and Sops in Wine, noting the age old use of steeping the clove scented flowers in cheap wine by tavern owners to end up with a drink that tasted far more expensive. The clove fragrance of these flowers is outstanding. Just a few of the two inch flowers will undoubtedly perfume a room.

The silver leaved plant prefers a dry, rock garden type situation in full sun. Soil must be well-drained and non-puddling over the winter months.

Do not mulch or the crown will rot. Few pests are known to bother it. The plant will stay in bloom up to three weeks. Deadheading spent blooms will help it to stay tidy.

I can honestly not say enough about my foxgloves this year. It's enjoyable just to stare at them in admiration.

Yes, I am serious. The spires are four-to-six feet tall with dozens of individual flowers lining the stems.

I cut one and brought it indoors and just asked my daughter to go count the flowers and buds yet to open; it's no joke when she came back with the amount. Seventy five, and that's just on one stem.

Native to Western Europe, the common foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) has had a place in North American gardens since its introduction during colonial times. There has always been a secretive side to foxgloves, due in part to an unusual name and the potent medicine that is obtained from the plant.

Legend has it that foxglove was derived from "folk's glove," folks referring to the elves and fairies of country lore. Another legend tells that the fox needed magical gloves to steal a chicken or two.

A less fanciful explanation traces glove to gleow in Old English; a gleow was an ancient musical instrument made of bells suspended from a curved frame. In 1785 William Withering, an English physician, published a decade's worth of studies devoted to the use of foxglove as a heart medicine.

GARDEN, page 5

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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Election letters to the editor welcome

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 Monday to be considered for that

Friday'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 news-

paper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

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

OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Easthampton Poor Farm's Fate is Pending

Do you hear the phrase no judgement please? Well judgements were a part of daily life for much of our history. Take the Easthampton Poor House located on 75 Oliver St. in Easthampton, MA. It started as the town farm established in 1890 to provide for the town's poor population. The idea was for poor people to come and live on the farm and provide free labor in exchange for room and board. Residents had meaningful work and kept a sense of dignity and self worth with a safe place to live while they were penniless. It worked.

This handsome house described as Queen Anne style architecture had 56 acres of farmland. Note the slate roof. The west wing was added in the 1930's by WPA workers (Works Progress Administration). There were agricultural buildings such as barns to store hay and farm equipment, all now gone.

To give you an idea about who some of these residents were, I have borrowed from a well documented Michigan poor house. After the Civil War there were many wounded soldiers who returned home now missing legs and arms who preferred to live in the poor house rather than be a burden at home. There were two brothers who worked as shoemakers who lost their workshop and home in a fire. Both men were in their 50s and went to live in the poor house. A woman visited a nearby hotel with a 5 month old baby – stepped away to run an errand and never returned! Yes the poor house served as a foster home to that baby. There were plenty of men a little too fond of the drink, who found their "new home" a tad more intolerant of liquid meals. Work was deemed the key to their salvation!

Many poorhouses had a supervisor and a Matron who managed the home. The town took care of the taxes and paid for the Supervisor but otherwise the farm was self-sufficient, usually growing crops, tending cows and pigs and maintaining farm equipment. A listing of the ten leading farm products for 1875 included hay as the chief money maker with milk, butter, beef and firewood in descending profitable order. The Easthampton poor farm operated as a farm until 1955. The farm equipment was sold and the land was leased to local farmers thereafter.

Some towns imposed residency rules you had to have fulfilled before you could reside in a poor farm. You had to have lived in town for seven years before you qualified for life on a poor farm in Michigan! One woman whose husband had shot her in the back in a jealous rage



Easthampton poor house is located on 75 Oliver St. Easthampton.



This shows a view from the rear of the house.



This outbuilding was used as the Easthampton dog pound in the past.

went to jail, while she went to live in the poor house a crippled woman unable to walk. Many poor farms kept records of their residents, "reason for paupery" was almost always the first recorded piece of information after their name. Were there such records for the Easthampton house?

Town residents started to be placed in poor houses once they became too old or too infirm to care for themselves. Perhaps scheming heirs sought to acquire the family home a tad early? Poor farms were evolving to become a type of nursing home. The Easthampton poor farm became known as the Town Lodging House in 1974, housing homeless, transient and low income individuals.

A bit about the history of workhouses or as Middleton, MA. named their poor farm, the Tramp House established in 1878. MA law required workhouses to be created for the poor and be funded by taxes in 1763. Since a large percentage of people living on poor farms were found to be "lunatics" they were mandated to be placed in a house of correction in 1798 for the safety and peace of the local good people. By 1827 MA. legislature decided jail was not the place for these people deemed "furiously mad" but instead they should live in an asylum.

Horace Mann led the movement for asylums to be created for the placement of the mentally ill in 1829. Dorothea Dix also played a large role in getting lunatics out of jails and poorhouses and into asylum hospitals in the 1850s. Nearby Northampton State Hospital opened in 1858 and was called the Northampton Lunatic Asylum. It was officially closed in 1993 and it has been transformed into townhouses and condos.

Well the Easthampton poor farm's fate is in limbo. There is a plan to create 30 – 35 affordable apartments by a development company. The house was closed to residents in April 2022. The property was surveyed with an archeological survey done to check for any pauper graves on the location. Northampton State Hospital had 181 burials on its land for patients with no family to claim them with a possible 413 more burials on what is now a hayfield turned into a local park. The rumor is that there were no grave sites located at the Easthampton poor house by the surveyors.

Neighboring residents of what was the Easthampton poor farm are not in favor of the proposed apartments, pointing out that there are no sidewalks, and it is a considerable distance to walk to



This is a back yard view.



There are fields behind the house.

Turley photos by Deborah Daniels

town, meaning a parking lot will have to be built with concerns about speeding cars and a negative effect on property values. Does this sound like "good morning Vietnam?" What happened on the poor farm will stay within the poor farm walls only.

SECURITY

Nevertheless, due to the way Social Security calculates the WEP reduction, the reduction from your current amount will seem larger than the WEP maximum. And that's because of the way Social Security applies the WEP reduction to your benefit. They start by first removing all COLA increases since you were 62 from your PIA. They will then take your PIA (sans COLA) and subtract \$442.50 (if you have more than 20 years of substantial SS-covered earnings they will subtract less and then they will reapply all the cost-of-living increases since you were 62 to the WEP-reduced PIA.

What just happened, in effect, is that your previous, pre-WEP, COLA increases were removed from your PIA and those same COLA percentages were reapplied to your smaller WEP-reduced PIA to arrive at your new monthly benefit amount under the Windfall Elimination Provision. And that new amount will be lower than your previous SS benefit amount by more than the published maximum WEP reduction for the year you turned 62.

A word of caution: Timely notification to Social Security of your non-covered pension is very important. As soon

as you receive your non-covered pension award letter, deliver it to your local Social Security office and request a WEP recalculation of your SS retirement benefit. The WEP recalculation will likely take months to process, during which time you will continue to receive your higher non-WEP SS benefit. That means you will be overpaid for the period between when your non-covered pension started and the month your new WEP SS payment began and that overpayment must be refunded to Social Security.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affil-

iated 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.

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GARDEN

Although far too dangerous to be used by amateur herbalists, the drug digitalis was studied at length in the early years of the 20th century and is still prescribed by doctors today for those suffering with certain types of heart disease. Caution should be taken when growing the plant in the company of young children as all parts are con-

sidered poisonous if ingested.

Foxglove are easy to grow in full sun or part shade as long as they are provided with fertile, well-drained soil rich in organic matter. Plant them as you would a hill of squash: with lots and lots of composted manure!

Most species tend to be biennials or short-lived perennials. In my garden all

types self-sow; leave a few seed heads to ripen if you appreciate volunteers as much as I do.

These three beauties are in the same border planting and what a show! Pay off for all of the "work" it is to garden. If you call it work at all. Enjoy your own flowers in abundance this June.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from

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

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BLANDFORD

Hilltown Family Center holds creative movement classes

BLANDFORD – The Hilltown Community Health Center's Hilltown Family Center will host a series of four free Wednesday Creative Movement classes for pre-school aged children at the Blandford Gym located at One Russell Stage Road.

Classes are Wednesday, June 26, July 3, July 10 and July 17 and start at 11 a.m. Siblings are welcome. This class will replace the weekly group at the Hilltown Family Center at 10:00 for those four Wednesdays. If they choose, families can bring a lunch and play in the play area after or enjoy the self-guided StoryWalk in adjacent Watson Park provided by the Porter Memorial Library.

People should email Susan LeBarron at slebarron@hchcweb.org or call 413-667-2203 #0311 with any questions. This program is made possible through a Mass Cultural Council Grant from the town of Blandford and the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Creative Movement classes will be led by Washington town resident, Laurel Lenski. Shel has a passion for movement and expression, holding degrees in dance

and expressive art therapy. She has long led creative movement groups for pre-school aged children, exercise and movement classes for seniors and members of long-term care communities.

Creative movement activities focus on body awareness, motor fitness, rhythmic skill, strength, flexibility, coordination, endurance and physical vitality. This program is a creative movement experience rooted in basic movement vocabulary, imagination and emotional expression. Children will be invited to practice a variety of movement qualities including pace, spatial relativity, cross lateral coordination, circular, and linear movements through instruction and opportunities for free movement. This group will help children to understand that body language is a form of expression.

Preschool-aged children are in a critical period of developing fundamental movement skills that have a close link with physical activity. An extensive body of evidence underpins the relationship between physical activity (Carson et al., 2017), sedentary behavior (Poitras et al., 2017), sleep (Chaput et al., 2017) and health and developmental outcomes in the early years of childhood.

Since habits formed in the early years track through childhood and adolescence (Jones et al., 2013) into adulthood (Biddle et al., 2010), early childhood is a critical time to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors.

Studies on music and movement classes for children have consistently been shown to enhance language capabilities, improve memory, strengthen hand-eye coordination, promote teamwork, and heighten problem-solving skills. For the parents and caregivers, classes promote parent-child bonding, peer interaction and reduced isolation.

The Hilltown Family Center offers an extensive list of resources for parents, caregivers and families. The Family Center programs are built around the belief in nurturing strong families, by helping them to strengthen their flexibility and resilience. Programs help families establish strong social connections and give concrete support in times of need, recognizing family's strengths and understanding that being a parent is part natural and part learned. The Family Center also helps children connect and relate to their world.

For over 65 years, HCHC's mission has been to provide accessible,

high quality, integrated health services to ensure the health of all Hilltown residents. HCHC is dedicated to the health and wellness of the Hilltown communities and provides a wide range of services at five sites. In addition to medical and oral health/dental services, HCHC provides behavioral/mental health services, substance abuse treatment, eye care, physical therapy, and laboratory services.

HCHC, located at 9 Russell Road, also provides numerous community services and supports through its Community Programs. HCHC Community Programs connect and empower families with resources, education and assistance. Community Health Workers can help with social services supports and referrals such as fuel assistance, SNAP (food stamps), job search, resume help or information on community resources, chronic disease management or reaching other health goals. Hilltown Safety at Home provides domestic and sexual violence victim advocacy and safety. Health Navigators can help apply for health insurance. The Health Outreach Program for Elders, is a free preventative and health maintenance care to Hilltown residents over 60.

COA SERVES SUNDAES AT FRIDAY LUNCHEON



Dessert for the Council on Aging luncheon on Friday, June 14 was a selection of sundaes. Deb Lundgren has a chocolate sundae to serve and Rick Barnard is ready for the dessert.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

SELECT BOARD

from page 1

change in the structure. The culverts must meet state standards. If nothing is done and the culverts fail, she said that it would be possible to get an emergency permit from Conservation. The costs of labor, police, equipment and materials all contribute.

She presented the eight-page document that includes best practices for dirt road maintenance, detailing steps the Highway Department must take to protect the dirt roads such as crowning, swales and materials. Roads were prioritized in order of sensitivity and critical need.

There was no information on the ecological affects, which according to Panaccione, needs to be done.

Phase I was an assessment of problems and Phase II will "line up materials," said Panaccione.

Grant funding for Phase II will be known in July.

The highest priority road is School House Road followed by Hayden and Virgil Lloyd roads as determined by totaling sensitivity and criticality scores.

Sensitivity scores for the dirt roads includes intersections, entrenched roads, those roads lower than the sides, if the road is adjacent to steep slopes, tree canopy, crowning and proximity to wetlands areas.

Criticality considerations include repair and maintenance costs, community access and the impact on public safety and health constitute.

Regardless of the order placed by the report, according to Panaccione, the Highway Department Superintendent makes the decisions on work on dirt roads.

The Standard Operating Procedure manual, the eight-page document, will be available on the town's website.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent David Waldron said since budgets have been established for 2025, he will be drawing on the town's fair share funds as distributed by District I Massachusetts Department of Transportation until the town's Chapter 90 funds are available.

The used oil disposal problem has been solved. Waldron said he spoke with Transfer Station supervisor Bret Hartley and they have arranged for local disposal during off hours. Waldron still prefers to outsource oil changes and lubes rather than have the employees do this as it is an all-day task. By outsourcing the job, time will be saved and employees can take care of roads.

Board member Jeff Allen asked Waldron to do something about the crack in the road on Russell Stage Road near the retaining wall. "It needs to be patched," Allen said the open crack endangers motorcycle riders.

The board approved a \$22,980.48 expenditure for the town's Information Technology firm Novus.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

from page 1

She spent five years with 311, the Citizen's Service Center starting as a representative and became Assistant Director. The Service Center responded to residents' calls about anything having to do with the city and her job was to help resolve issues presented by residents. This is where she said she learned about various municipal departments and their duties. from 2011 to 2016.

After that she worked for Springfield's Department of Public Works as Project Director, a position she currently holds. She secured over a half-million dollars in grant funding for the department, provided the necessary grant administration and has applied for both federal and state monies. "I want to feel good about what I'm doing," she told the board.

Regarding budget process, she understands the process and how it works and has participated in meetings regarding budgeting but has not been directly involved with making a budget. "Transparency is very important," she said responding to a question about open meeting laws.

At the end of the interview period, she had questions for the board. The first one was if the board has one issue, what would it be and would it be directed to the town administrator and what would be the outcome the board is looking for.

Letendre said this would be the new building for a new fire department along with several ongoing issues facing the

town, such as the faulty sprinkling system for the town hall, that need to be taken care of. The board would expect her to become certified as a chief procurement officer.

She wanted to know "What success would look like in the first six months" for the position.

Letendre responded just having the loose ends tied up. "When things are dropped, we need to move forward," and move forward with a clean slate, according to Letendre.

She also asked about social media, and would the board be interested in having the administrator maintain a social media page in the interest of transparency.

Letendre would like to see something like that for the town but with accurate information.

Ferrera earned a bachelor's degree from Westfield State University in industrial and organizational psychology and has taken many additional training for associated work.

She is looking forward to becoming the Town Administrator and plans to meet with town departments to better understand needs.

The board told her that Joann Marting as Administrative Assistant and Finance Committee Member Jackie Coury will be helpful.

The board also stressed the need for continuity as she asked about the contractual agreement for three years. The future "depends on you," said Letendre.



Select Board Chair Cara Letendre, from left, new Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera and Chair of the Town Administrator Selection Committee Dr. David Hopson are shown during the new Town Administrator's contract signing. She begins her duties on July 8.

Photo by Mary Kronholm

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Artist in residence leads student performance

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

CHESTER – After nine weekly visits with Chester Elementary Students in grades K – 3, singer/storyteller Mary Jo Maichack led them in a culminating performance for family and friends on Wednesday, June 12.

Accompanied by her vibrant Ovation ukulele, the children sang songs, acted out short plays, danced, and performed tongue twisters for the audience. Maichack thinks she has done over 5,000 such programs in her career, which has spanned 35 years.

Principal Vanna Maffuccio first met Maichack last fall when she came to the school to do a one day program with students funded by the Chester Cultural Council. She was so impressed with Maichack's "Lift Every Voice and Singalong" program, they put their heads together and designed this project, successfully submitting and winning a Massachusetts Cultural Council Stars Grant for an artist residency.

Maffuccio said the project was aligned with curriculum content on fairytales and folktales for all four grades. "We tied our K-3 english language arts curriculum into the work we did to provide an enrichment based learning experience and in order to deepen/strengthen students' knowledge bases, literacy and language skills, and engagement in the content," Maffuccio said. The school uses the Amplify CKLA for their English Language Arts curriculum.

Starting April 10, Maichack met with each grade for 30 minutes per



First grade students perform on June 12.

Submitted photo

week. She described her process with the students as "plunging right in" telling stories, gauging their receptivity, and building their comfort and confidence in performing. Speaking with her after the final rehearsal of the third grade on June 11, she noted, "They talked about stage fright, but they just do it anyway."

Maichack says she enjoyed her time at Chester Elementary School. "It has a warm atmosphere," she said. "It's really an honor to have the teachers welcome a stranger, go with the flow, and make this as good as it can be." She added that Maffuccio ran this really professionally.

Maichack has a B. A. degree in English Literature from Middlebury College. She has been a full-time professional singer-storyteller since 1989, also working briefly as a children's librarian in Springfield. She has performed nationally and internationally, on PBS live in Springfield and is part of the

National Storytelling Network.

"There are lots of things I can't do or do well, but I am expert at engaging children with storytelling," Maichack wrote when she reached out to the principal. "I know what interests them and how to make them laugh; 30+ years of experience will do that." She added, "This is the perfect literacy inspiration and tool underused because schools don't have regular storytellers."

Samples of the stories covered in the Wednesday, June 12 finale include kindergarten teacher Ashley Therrien's students (I Am a Mouse, with puppets, The Tomorrow Monkeys, and Arabella Miller); Grade 1 teacher Brittany Passman's students performing Why Dogs Chase Cats, The Knee-high Man, and Fly's Castle; Julie Gagnon's second graders doing Man with the Pile of Stuff, a Goblin Lives in Our House, and the Moon in the Well; and Elizabeth



Singer/storyteller Mary Jo Maichack rehearses the third grade the day before the residency finale, accompanying them on her ovation ukulele.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

Hamaoui's third graders performing The Enormous Turnip, Why the Moon Gets Smaller, and the Ghost with the Bloody Finger. Puppets, songs, tongue twisters and dances led by kids were included in the event.

Funding for last fall's one day program was granted by the Chester Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The multi-month artist residency was funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

For more information on Maichack's work with stories and children, people may visit www.singingstories.info.

COLLEGE NOTES

Colleges, universities announce President's, Dean's lists and honors

President's list

State University of New York
Potsdam, New York

Samir Ghalayini of Westfield, music performance major

Dean's list

Salve Regina University
Newport, Rhode Island

Olivia Marcyoniak of Westfield, Delaney Marek of Westhampton, Gianni Soucy of Easthampton and Moira Tirrell of Westfield

Quinnipiac University
Hamden, Connecticut

Chloe Govoni of Blandford, Brooke Barber of East Otis, Daniel Dabek of Easthampton, Jake Redmond of Easthampton, Landon Richard of Russell and Jeffrey Fish of Williamsburg

University of Albany
Albany, New York

Fiona Bowler of Huntington

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester

Benjamin Gelinas of Westfield, class of 2024 and majoring in computer science and interactive media and game development technology; Christopher Jamieson of Easthampton, class of 2026 and majoring in mechanical engineering; Caroline Major of Easthampton, class of 2024 and majoring in biomedical engineering and humanities and arts and Gabriel Rapoza of Easthampton, class of 2027 and majoring in aerospace engineering

Honor Society

American International College
Springfield

Chase Foster of Westfield, Chapter of Alpha Chi Honor Society and occupational science major

Horace Smith Fund awards \$297,000 scholarship to local area students

On Thursday, June 20, The Horace Smith Fund held its 125th Annual Corporators' Meeting and scholarship awards ceremony at the Carriage House of Storowton Tavern for recipients, their parents, school counselors and Corporators.

Wayne Webster, Chair of the Board of Trustees, announced that this year there will be 20 Walter S. Barr Scholarships awards, with 15 going to graduating high school seniors and five to recipients currently attending college. The William R. Rooney Award will be granted to one high school candidate who has received special education services. There are also three Walter S. Barr Fellowship recipients. Providing that students maintain at least a B average in college, each scholarship provides a total of up to \$12,000 over four years and each fellowship provides up to \$15,000 over two years.

Therefore, The Horace Smith Fund is happy to be able to grant a total award of \$297,000 to area students this year.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith. He and Daniel Wesson were the founders of Smith & Wesson, located in Springfield. Smith's will provided that the residual of his estate, after several bequests to relatives and institutions, was to be used for public purposes at the discretion of his executors. They decided that it should be used to help deserving students finance their education.

The Walter S. Barr Scholarships and Fellowships are named for a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950. The William R. Rooney

Award is named for a past Executive Director with a desire to assist special needs students. All recipients must be residents of Hampden County.

Alexi C. Bonenfant of Gateway Regional High School in Huntington, member of the Class of 2024 was a scholarship recipient. Ryan E. White, a graduate of Westfield High School and a student at Wheaton College was a recipient of a scholarship for students already in college.

Students were selected on a variety of criteria, including their test scores, class rank, extra-curricular activities and a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance. Applications for next year's awards will be available Sunday, Sept. 15 on-line by visiting www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by calling 413739-4222.

American International College announces graduates

SPRINGFIELD – American International College held its 139th commencement ceremony on May 11 at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield, celebrating more than 600 graduates in the Class of 2024.

Local graduates were: Keith Comtois of Westfield, Bachelor of Arts degree in the liberal arts; Brianna Shvetsov of Westfield, Bachelor of Science degree in the Health Science; Colin McGrady of Westfield, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in accounting; Nicholas Mee of Westfield, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in economics and finance; Jaelyn Towle of

Westfield, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in the management; Colleen Carpenter of Westfield, Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in the nursing program; Jordyn Cole of Westfield, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in the nursing program; Christine Karetka of Westfield received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in the nursing program; Nicole Newell of Westfield, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in the nursing program; Jessica Raptor of Westfield, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in the nursing; Shelby Rowell of Westfield, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in the nurs-

ing program; Lisa Crean of Westfield, a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study degree in the Elementary Education program; Andrea Ross of Westfield, a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study degree in the moderate disabilities program; Jimmy Price of Westfield, a Doctor of Education degree in the professional counseling and supervision; Caitlin Nugent of Westfield, a Master of Education degree in the middle school education; Emily Slote of Westfield, a Master of Education degree in the elementary education and Kimberly Collins of Easthampton, a Master of Science degree in the forensic psychology.

WILLIAMSBURG

Cultural Council celebrates a year of grants

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

WILLIAMSBURG – On June 12, in the Meekins Library in Williamsburg, the Williamsburg Cultural Council held a public celebration of the grants they had initiated during the year. For 2024, they had received \$5500, with various organizations throughout the region applying and the five person council reviewing them.

The event was chaired by Lauri Munroe-Hultman of the Williamsburg Cultural Council, with Jon Gould of the Office of State Senator Paul Mark, and Julia Mathis, Office of State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa acknowledging the grants and the council.

Several of the artists and programs funded addressed the group including Tim van Egmond, Intergenerational Holiday Concert; Gaby Immerman, Mill River Flood 150th Anniversary Commemoration; Pam Plumer,

Hampshire Regional High School 2024 Spring Musical; Becky Brisbois, Caregiver and Child Music Class at It Takes a Village and Geoff LeBaron and

Jon Gould, Everybody's a Storyteller. "We are so pleased at the diversity of organizations and programs funded this year," said Lauri Munroe-

Hultman. "From history like the 150th anniversary of the Mill River Floor to musical theatre at Hampshire Regional and storytelling for all ages, it was so inspiring and gratifying. It makes the Cultural Council feel like we really do something to enrich the community."

This was the first time they had ever held such a celebration and the council was pleased at the turnout. "We hope to do this every year. We had a lag in grant applications after the pandemic with people not able to use the funds and it's nice to see it back to a healthy level with programming that can be carried out," said Munroe-Hultman.



Williamsburg Cultural Council members are Lauri Munroe-Hultman, Louise Mosrie Coombe, Donna McGill, Terry Tandredi, Lesley Ham and Rob Longley.



The man with the wooden horse is Tim van Egmond.

Photo courtesy of Williamsburg Cultural Council

SUNSHINE VILLAGE

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An employee since 2021

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Louis
A client since 2021

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USDA INSP. FROZEN POINT CUT CORNED BEEF \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN \$9.89 lb CUT FREE	USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE ROASTERS..... 79¢ lb
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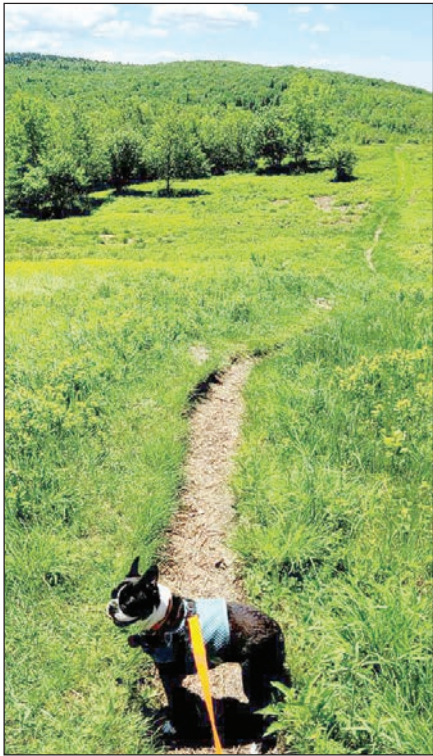
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CHESTER

WALKING THE DOG



Hikers take a trek to Jones Nose. Angie makes her way across the old farmer's field during a recent hike. See story and more photos on page 16. *Submitted photo*

TAE KWON DO STUDENTS RECEIVE DEGREE BELTS



Students at Chester Tae Kwon Do receive their next degree belt before taking a break for the summer. The school is lead by T. Armitage, K. Esnor, Darron J. Mayhew and J. Mayhew. *Submitted photo*

MUSICIAN ENTERTAINS AT LIBRARY STORY TIME



Local musician, Chris Merenda led the Hamilton Memorial Library story timers in an interactive sing-along at the Chester Railway Station and Museum. The children helped by playing some musical instruments. They even got to see a train travel along the tracks. *Submitted photo*

Library announces upcoming news, events

CHESTER – Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., have three programs sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Kids, learn to fish on Saturday, June 22 at 10 a.m. at the Chester Elementary School. Library staff will be teaching little ones the basics of fishing. This is a hook-free event and is geared for ages 2-6. A free child-sized fishing pole is included. RSVP is required by emailing chesterlibrary@gmail.com.

Senior Paint and Snack Saturday, June 22 from 11a.m.-1 p.m. Local artist, Adrienne Johnson leads them through a fun, easy to follow paint-

ing on canvas project. This is geared for ages 50 plus and will be held at Chester Town Hall in the Council on Aging room. Refreshments are provided. RSVP required to reserve a spot at chesterlibrary@gmail.com.

Introduction to Aromatherapy, will be a library event held at Blue Skye Wellness, 26B Main St. in Chester, on Thursday, June 27 from 6-8 p.m. Participants will learn about how essential oils can help support one's health and how to use them safely. Participants will each make and take home a personal essential oil inhaler. They should RSVP by emailing to chesterlibrary@gmail.com.



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CHESTERFIELD

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Celebrating the Hilltowns

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 & Face Painting (Russell Park)	11:30 - 1:30

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MONTGOMERY

Music in Montgomery lists upcoming schedule

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

MONTGOMERY – Upcoming performers for the Music in Montgomery program have been announced.

Co-hosted by the Montgomery Public Library and the Gray Catbird Pottery Studio, Music in Montgomery takes place at Montgomery Town Hall, 161 Main Road, every Thursday, starting at 3 p.m. Jerry and Kara Noble conclude the month of June with a performance on Thursday, June 27. Jerry is a pianist, guitarist and composer; his wife Kara plays bass. They are known for great music and stories across the decades. Their performances are dubbed, “We are the people our parents warned us about.”

There will be no performance on July 4. Mother and daughter singer/songwriters Helen and Ursula Elmes open on Thursday, July 11. Helen Arbour (Elmes) who has performed with bands Skyline, Sure Shot and Liquid Floyd; Ursula Elmes is a member of the Mad Habits, and is known for her soulful vocals with a honky tonk influence. Together, they blend rock, country, folk and blues music.

On Thursday, July 18, regulars Barry Searle (guitar and vocals), Sarah

Miller (percussion and vocals) and Pete Rzasa (vocals, pedal steel and harmonica) return to perform a variety of music styles. Searle performs with several area musicians and released “The Awakening”, his first album of original songs last February.

Singer/songwriter Eva Cappelli will take the stage on Thursday, July 25. Likened to Bonnie Raitt and K. D. Lang, Capelli has performed with groups Lil Eva and the Studebakers, Eva Cappelli and the Watershops Band, and Wild Heart—a Fleetwood Mac tribute band. She has performed at the Hard Rock Cafe, Iron Horse, Big E and Majestic Theatre, and was the Musical Coordinator for the Academy of Music’s production of Sojourner Truth.

Jerry and Kara Noble return to open the first Thursday of August.

Attendees are invited to bring baked goods to share. Donations are accepted for the refreshments, with money split between the Montgomery Volunteer Firemen’s Association and the Town Library. Donations are also accepted to tip and thank the fabulous musicians, who perform each week.

This event is open to all who are interested. For more information, people may call Dale Rogers at 413-875-5205.

NORTHAMPTON

Artist Malaika Ross leads survivors art workshops

NORTHAMPTON – Malaika Ross, local visual artist, writer and breast cancer survivor, invites cancer survivors to put their personal experience to paper in upcoming Shadow And Light art workshops. Guided by Malaika, each workshop will provide the studio, materials and safe space to share and process the impact of cancer, whether they have been diagnosed or someone they love has.



Malaika Ross

Malaika noted, “I had access to invaluable peer support and integrative treatment at Cancer Connection. They continue to be my pillars in cancer recovery, and now I am building a local community of survivors with whom I can creatively express, indirectly process and explore the mental and emotional impact of a diagnosis and treatment.”

With support from Cancer Connection and Resilient Community Arts, there will be two group art making sessions held at RCA in Easthampton: Thursday, July 11 from 3-7 p.m. and Tuesday, July 30 from 3-7 p.m. Artists at any level from “no” experience to seasoned are welcome. The registration deadline is Monday, July 8.

Finished pieces are welcome, submission is optional, at a special group

show in August hosted by the

A.P.E. Ltd. Gallery of Northampton. The exhibit will kick off on Friday, Aug. 9 with a celebratory reception, part of Arts Night Out, from 5-8 pm at A.P.E. Gallery’s 33 Hawley St. space in Northampton. There reception, hosted by members of A.P.E., the Northampton Center for the

Arts, and Northampton Open Media, will include live music, wine and refreshments. The exhibit will then run from Aug. 3 - 29 at the gallery at 33 Hawley St.

Artists who already have a finished piece or know of someone who would like to add their artwork to the exhibit should contact Cancer Connection at 413-586-1642. Each artist must be a cancer survivor or a caregiver of someone with cancer and their art should reflect the impact of cancer on their lives.

Submissions must be on paper, no larger than 11 inches x 14 inches and lighter than 1 lb.

All of Cancer Connection’s services are provided free of charge. Cancer Connection is located at 41 Locust St. and can be reached by calling 413-586-1642, emailing info@cancer-connection.org or visit www.cancer-connection.org.

Freedom Credit Union extends ‘Month of Giving’ campaign

SPRINGFIELD – Food insecurity remains a growing problem throughout western Massachusetts, especially with ongoing inflation impacting the cost of food and personal care necessities.

For that reason, Freedom Credit Union is extending its annual “Month of Giving” campaign for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts to three months. The community is encouraged to stop by any Freedom branch to donate non-perishable food and personal care items, as well as cash donations, from now through Saturday, Aug. 31.

“Anyone, who buys food or other necessities for themselves or their families knows that the cost of everything has risen significantly over the past three years,” said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. “This means that more people than ever are experiencing food insecurity and need relief. Our members, staff and community have always given generously to help support the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, an organization on the front lines of food assistance in our region.”

Suggested donations of non-perishable food and personal care items include: baby formula, beans in cans or dried in bags, bread mixes, canned chicken, fish and meat, cereals, coffee and tea, cooking oils and spices, diapers, wipes and toilet paper, dried or canned fruit, evaporated and powdered milk, granola bars and crackers, feminine sanitary products, instant potatoes, peanut butter and nuts, rice and grains, sauces, shampoo and body wash/soap, soups, stews and chili in cans, toothpaste and toothbrushes and vegetables in cans.

“Last summer’s campaign extended over two months, and we collected more than \$2,700 plus food and personal care donations,” noted Welch. “We are hoping to increase our total contribution this year, and urge our members, staff and neighbors to donate as generously

as possible. Throwing an extra item or two in your grocery cart every week or so can add up to a good-sized donation after three months, without affecting your bottom line too significantly.”

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has been feeding neighbors in need and leading the community to end hunger since 1982. It provides food to residents in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties through its members, which include independent food pantries, meal sites and shelters.

Originally chartered in 1922 as the Western Massachusetts Telephone Workers Credit Union and renamed in 2004, Freedom Credit Union is a 9-branch, full-service financial institution. Freedom Credit Union has conveniently located Massachusetts branches in Chicopee, Feeding Hills, Greenfield, Ludlow, Northampton, Turners Falls, West Springfield and two in Springfield, as well as a Loan Production Office in Enfield, Connecticut. For more information, visit freedom.coop.

“We are hoping to increase our total contribution this year, and urge our members, staff and neighbors to donate as generously as possible. Throwing an extra item or two in your grocery cart every week or so can add up to a good-sized donation after three months, without affecting your bottom line too significantly.”

– FCU President Glenn Welch

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WORTHINGTON

Elementary students attended day long field trip

WORTHINGTON – On Thursday, June 13, the Worthington Historical Society led all of the children that attend Worthington's RH Conwell Elementary School in a day long field trip to South Worthington.

The trip was comprised of a series of events centered around South Worthington and its role as the birthplace, home and focal point of Russell H. Conwell, a Methodist minister and motivational speaker who figured prominently in the Methodist Church and its mission of educating young women and men for professions other than farming and agriculture.

Conwell, who went on to found Temple University in Philadelphia, maintained several homes in South Worthington and returned there throughout his entire life. He ultimately started Conwell Academy in South Worthington

to further the educational pursuits of his students, many of whom were drawn from local families.

At 9 a.m. on Thursday, the Worthington Historical Society, in conjunction with the invaluable and talented Ladies of the South Worthington Church Preservation Society Julie Pike and Laurie Flechsig and The Sevenars Music Festival (Rorianne Schrade), greeted the children in the South Worthington Church.

Julie Pike spoke to the children about the building's history; Rorianne Schrade played the 19th century pump organ and led the youngsters in song and Maddy Cahill led the children in a spirited and participatory Sunday School lesson with Pat Kennedy. The lesson was based on a historic re-enactment of a Sunday School Service that would have been conducted in 1876 by the local

minister.

The service was followed by a presentation on RH Conwell in Sevenars Hall, formerly Conwell Academy, led by Evan Spring, the President of The Worthington Historical Society. His slide show illustrated the area's geographical features and history. The students were also read a Conwell poem by Kate Ewald about the importance of whimsy, mirth and smiling in one's life; which was followed by lunch on the Conwell Academy grounds for the children.

After lunch, there was a 90 minute nature hike up Conwell trail past Conwell pond and a narrated tour of the trail's high points. The tour included a hands-on discussion about the local trees, rocks, dams and the numerous natural attractions of the areas, including the birds and animal life which inhabit the local forest.

The children then hiked to Conwell's birthplace, home of Stonepool Pottery and Pam Thompson and Mark Shapiro. They were then generously hosted by Marjorie and Chuck Johnson at the former Tuttle Farm on Conwell Road where the children, teachers and the numerous volunteers were served popcorn and lemonade on the lawns before departing.

The day could not have happened without the Principal and Teachers of RH Conwell that so eagerly participated in the day. In addition to Julie Pike, Laurie Flechsig, Judy Dowd and Rorianne Schrade, whose contributions to the day were invaluable. The research and historic insights were contributed by Madeleine Cahill, Ben Brown, Gloria Conwell and Sean Barry who gave so generously in terms of their time, knowledge and kindness to the pupils.

WESTHAMPTON

Library announces upcoming events

WESTHAMPTON – Read, Renew, Repeat is the theme of this year's summer reading at Westhampton Public Library, 1 North Road.

Children may register via email to Emily at ewayne@cwmares.org or stop by the library to fill out a paper form. Summer reading kickoff begins Saturday, June 29 at 11 a.m.

Children may stop by the library to pick up their summer reading materials, "Adopt" an endangered species and make an environmentally-friendly craft.

Henry the Juggler will be at the Westhampton Public Library on Saturday, July 6 at 11 a.m. This is a fun program for all ages and families. People may call 413-527-5386 or email westhampton@cwmares.org to register.

This is made possible by the Westhampton Cultural Council. The Westhampton Cultural Council is a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

A crafter's swap coordinated by the Friends of Westhampton Library will be held Saturday, July 13 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The library is calling artists and crafters of all ages to donate or take home materials. People can take materials even if they don't have something to donate. People may drop off donations Tuesday, July 9 to Thursday, July 10 during library hours.

Suggested items to donate are children's art and craft supplies, drawing and painting supplies, yarn and fabric; supplies can be used, but should be in good condition. They are not accepting

larger equipment like sewing machines, looms or pottery wheels.

Copper bookmarks with Heather Beck workshop will be held Wednesday July 17 at 3 p.m. This for ages 12 to 18 and limited to 15 participant and is made possible by the Westhampton Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.

People may call 413-527-5386 or email ewayne@cwmares.org to register.

Tom Ricardi and Birds of Prey will be at the library on Thursday, July 25 at 5:30 p.m. People will learn about different birds of prey with licensed wildlife rehabilitator Tom Ricardi. All ages are welcome. This is made possible thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library and the Lyn Keating Program Fund. In the case of inclement weather, this outdoor program will be rescheduled. Updates will be posted to Facebook and the library page of the town website.

On Tuesday, July 30 at 3 p.m. there will be Brightspot Reading Buddies and All Day Read-in for double points. Children may come to the library to read to one of the Brightspot Reading Buddies or spend some time reading at home for double the points. Reading Buddy slots at the library are first-come, first-served. *Please star all reading done on this day in your Reading Logs.

Summer reading closing and story time with Pickles the Parrot will be held Saturday, Aug. 3 at 11 a.m.

Children may collect prizes. Winners will be announced on the social

media Saturday morning. Pickles will be available to meet his fans.

Library is closed Thursday, July 4. Library hours are Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.- noon and 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Recurring programs include knitting group on Mondays at 6 p.m., Scrabble group Tuesday at 2 p.m., book group fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m., walk-in wellness clinic first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. and coffee and chat Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon

During June and July, artist Kimberly Stoney will exhibit in the Community Room Gallery during library hours.

Slow Yoga with Teri will be held Mondays, July 1, 8, 15 and 29. Due to limited space, registration is required. Registration opens July 1 at 2 p.m. for all July yoga sessions. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library and the Lyn Keating Program Fund for sponsoring yoga at the library.

Gentle Yoga with Brian is Monday, July 22. Due to limited space, registration is required. Registration opens July 1 at 2pm for all July yoga sessions. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library and the Lyn Keating Program Fund for sponsoring yoga at the library

TechConnect presents drop in tech support Thursdays, July 25 and Aug. 22 from 2-4 p.m. For more information, people may call 413-296-5548 or visit www.northernhilltownscoas.org.

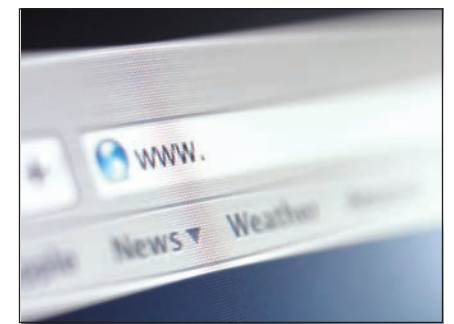
Public meeting on internet access to be held on June 27

WESTHAMPTON – The town of Westhampton, with consulting partner VHB, is finalizing a municipal Digital Equity Plan.

The Plan assesses internet access, device affordability and computer training opportunities and makes recommendations for future improvements.

A public meeting to provide feedback and share experiences with internet and devices will take place on Thursday, June 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Westhampton Town Hall, 1 South Road.

This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.



PITTSFIELD

Pittsfield receives Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's loan

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Board of Trustees approved \$75,748,203 in new low-interest loans and grants at its meeting on June 12.

The city of Pittsfield received a \$3,608,975 loan for wastewater treatment plant nutrient removal with 0% interest rate.

The Trust, in collaboration with

the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, helps communities build or replace water infrastructure that enhances ground and surface water resources, ensures the safety of drinking water, protects public health and develops resilient communities. It accomplishes these objectives by providing low-interest loans and grants to cities, towns and water utilities through the

Massachusetts State Revolving Funds.

The SRF programs are partnerships between the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. SRFs function like an environmental infrastructure bank by financing water infrastructure projects in cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

For more information on the differ-

ent loan programs, people may visit the Programs page at <https://www.mass.gov/programs>.

Since its establishment in 1989, the Trust has loaned nearly \$8.6 billion to improve and maintain the quality of water in the Commonwealth. An estimated 97% of Massachusetts' residents have benefited from the financial assistance of the Trust.



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Tips offered to handle extreme summer heat conditions

SPRINGFIELD – Heat-related deaths have been increasing in the U.S., with approximately 1,602 occurring in 2021, 1,722 in 2022 and 2,302 in 2023, a record for U.S.

While bright sunny days seem alluring, the heat can put many people's health at risk especially if the area is experiencing a heat index at or about 90 F. "Those at greatest risk for developing a heat-related illness are children under 5 and people 65 years of age and older, who have the least ability to regulate their body temperatures, as well as athletes and those who work outdoors for a living," said Dr. Seth Gemme, FACEP, chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, Baystate Health.

Overweight people and others with chronic illnesses such as heart disease or high blood pressure, as well as those on certain medications, are also at high risk. According to Dr. Gemme, extreme heat affects the body's ability to safely regulate its temperature, often resulting in heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion, heat stroke, heat cramps, cardiovascular and respiratory complications, renal failure, electrolyte imbalance, kidney stones, as well as having a negative impact on fetal health and preterm birth.

Sweating is the body's natural defense to cooling itself. However, when humidity is high, sweat does not evaporate as quickly, preventing the body from releasing heat quickly and resulting in a rapid rise of body temperature.

Warning signs of an oncoming heat-related illness in adults or children could include excessive sweating, leg cramps, flushed skin, nausea and vomiting, dizziness, headache, confusion, rapid pulse and a body temperature of 103° F or higher. If these occur, get out of the heat and drink liquids. If they don't feel better soon, Dr. Gemme recommends calling your doctor or visit the local emergency room because heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability and cause damage to the brain and other vital organs.

"Infants and young children depend on adults to keep them safe and healthy during times of high heat and every step must be taken to protect their young bodies on hot days," said Dr. Michael Cronin Cooper, chief, Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Baystate Children's Hospital.

"Similar to adults, extremely high temperatures can cause children to become sick very quickly resulting in



dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat stroke which is a medical emergency. You need to diligently watch for symptoms that your child may have a heat illness and bring them to a cooler environment. Call your pediatrician for mild symptoms or go to your local emergency room for more severe symptoms," he added.

The elderly also need to be closely watched. "Since they are at greater risk from the ill-effects of the heat, make it a habit to check on elderly relatives and neighbors several times a day to make sure they are safe and free from any signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke," Dr. Gemme said.

However, adults can stay cool and safe this summer by observing some important tips to prevent heat-related illnesses.

As with many illnesses, the best defense is prevention, consider the following tips to keep safe in the high heat. Stay out of the heat – void direct sunlight and strenuous activity outdoors. If possible, remain indoors. If they do not have air conditioning, consider visiting a location that does, such as the mall or a movie theater or library. Call the local health department to see if there are any heat-relief shelters in the area.

Dress for the weather – wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and a broad-brimmed hat when outdoors. Stay away from polyester in favor of cotton and linens which are better at repelling the sun's heat. Also, consider wearing sunglasses and putting on a sunscreen with an SPF 15 or greater.

Drink plenty of liquids, Begin drinking before going outside and, if exercising, drink one quart of liquid an hour to replace lost fluid. Avoid caffeinated beverages, sugary drinks and alcohol, which can contribute to the loss of more body fluid. Heavy sweating removes salt and minerals from the body that need to be replaced. A sports drink can replace the salt and minerals lost in sweat. Also, if taking water pills, on a fluid restrictive diet, on a low salt diet or have diabetes, high blood pressure or other chronic conditions, consult with a physician before increasing your liquid intake. Avoid very cold drinks, which can cause stomach cramps.

Take it slow and easy with athletic activity and working outdoors – postpone athletic activity during high heat and humidity. Limit outdoor activities to the morning and evening. Drinking sports beverages can replace lost salt and minerals. However, those on low-salt diets should check with their doctor before drinking sports beverages. If they work outdoors, in addition to drinking plenty of liquids and dressing appropriately, pace yourself and take frequent short breaks in the shade and know when to stop activity. If exertion in the heat makes the heart pound and leaves one gasping for breath, stop all activity and go to a cool area or in the shade, especially if they become lightheaded, confused, weak or faint.

Eat smaller meals instead of the usual rule of eating three square meals a day, eat smaller meals more frequently on days when the sun turns up the heat. Also, avoid hot and heavy meals and high-pro-

tein foods which can increase metabolic heat. Take a cool shower or bath to cool down.

Encourage children to drink water frequently and have it readily available even before they ask for it. Take water bottles with you if you go out. On hot days, infants receiving breast milk can be given additional breast milk in a bottle, but they should not be given water, especially in the first six months of life. Infants receiving formula can be given additional formula in a bottle.

Light-colored clothing can help children stay cool and prevent heat stress from excessive heat absorption; darker colored clothing typically provides slightly better protection against sun damage to skin. Also try to choose loose fitting clothing, ideally that offers both adequate ventilation and protection against direct sun exposure. Clothing made with just one layer of absorbent material can help maximize the evaporation of sweat, which has a cooling effect (kids have lower sweat rates adults). Be sure to use plenty of sunscreen appropriate for infants and children.

Heat can often make children and their parents feel tired. High heat can not only cause people to feel tired, but it may also contribute to irritability. Go inside regularly to cool off, rest and drink water.

When your child is feeling hot, give them a cool bath or water mist to cool down. Swimming is another great way to cool off while staying active. Remember that children should always be supervised while swimming or playing in water to prevent drowning.

Dr. Cooper reminds parents and caregivers that hot weather and vehicles can be a deadly combination for children. On average, 37 children under the age of 15 die each year from heatstroke after being left in a vehicle. In both 2018 and 2019 a record number of 53 children died after being left in a hot vehicle.

Kids and Cars, a nonprofit focused on improving child safety around cars, suggests in a "Look Before You Lock" flier to place an item in the back seat that they will need to get before starting their day such as a laptop, handbag, phone, employee badge and more; keep vehicles locked at all times so young ones can't sneak in and teach them to honk the horn if they become stuck inside a car. More tips are available by visiting kidsandcars.org.

Bidwell Country Fair set for June 22

MONTEREY – The Bidwell House Museum is so excited for the return of the Bidwell Country Fair.

Everyone is invited to this fun and free community event on Saturday June 22 from noon-5 p.m. on the grounds of the Bidwell House Museum. There will be activities for the whole family including music, reenactors, artisan demonstrations, food and more.

On the musical stage that afternoon there will be three acts, Diane Taraz, Moonshine Holler and Oakes and Smith. Diane Taraz will begin the day performing her show "Come to the Fair." Local favorite Moonshine Holler will play music that reflects America's rich musical heritage. Rounding out the afternoon will be husband and wife duo Oakes and Smith, who will share their ethereal music and beautiful voices with the audience.

History lovers will have much to see at the Museum during the Bidwell Country Fair. The Butler's Rangers, Loyalist Reenactors, will be at the Museum all afternoon talking about what life was like for those who fought alongside the British during the Revolutionary War. There will also be a number of artisans onsite showcasing their crafts, including lace weaver Jill Hawkins, wool felter Lou Meyerdiels, broom maker Dennis Picard, blacksmith

Chris Templin, and basket weaver Mary Ann Williams. The Monterey Historical Society will also have a table sharing the history of Monterey.

Younger visitors will have a great time completing a scavenger hunt all around the Museum. Flour Bin Catering and SoCo Ice Cream will provide lunch and snacks for purchase and there will also be free water and lemonade for visitors.

First-time visitors to the Bidwell House can also take a number of outdoor self-guided tours during the afternoon, including one about the history of the Bidwell House and one about the Native American history of the local land. Guided tours of the inside of the house will not be offered during the Country Fair.

Details about the Bidwell Country Fair can be found by visiting the museum website at <https://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org/event/the-bidwell-country-fair/>.

This event is free. Registration is not required, but it does help us know how many people to expect. A final schedule of events will be posted on the website the week before the fair.

This program is sponsored in part by grants from the New Marlborough and Tyringham Cultural Councils, local agencies which are sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Lee Bank is also a sponsor of this event.

Local gas prices decrease two cents

WESTWOOD – Despite the rise in temperatures, gas prices are keeping cool across the country. The main reasons: continued lackluster demand and burgeoning supplies. According to the latest data from the Energy Information Administration, Northeast gasoline inventories went up by 1.7 million barrels last week. Nationally, inventories jumped 2.6 million barrels. Meanwhile, while U.S. gasoline demand was up 1 percent, it still trailed the comparable weeks of last year and 2022 by 50,000 to 150,000 barrels a day.

The average gas price in Massachusetts is down two cents over last week (\$3.47), averaging \$3.45 per gallon. Today's price is 11 cents lower

than a month ago (\$3.56) and is eight cents lower than June 17, 2023 (\$3.53). Massachusetts's average gas price is one cent higher than the national average.

AAA Northeast's June 17 survey of fuel prices found the current national average unchanged from last week (\$3.44), averaging \$3.44 a gallon. Today's national average price is 15 cents lower than a month ago (\$3.59) and 13 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.57).

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6.5 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance and auto-related services.

Treasurer announces unclaimed property list

BOSTON – In Massachusetts, one in ten people have unclaimed property waiting for them and people should check the list for their names.

Last year, the Office of the State Treasurer processed over 145,000 claims and returned \$185 million in property to its rightful owners, including individuals, businesses and non-profits.

Folks who have unclaimed property include the Boston Celtics organization itself, owners Wyc Grousbeck and Steve Pagliuca, President of Basketball Operations Brad Stevens and players Jrue Holiday and Al Horford.

Unclaimed property includes for-

gotten savings and checking accounts, un-cashed checks, insurance policy proceeds, stocks, dividends and the contents of unattended safe deposit boxes. These accounts have had too much hang time and are turned over to the state after three years of inactivity.

People may visit findmassmoney.gov or call the live call center at 1-888-344-MASS (6277). The Office of the State Treasurer releases an updated list of unclaimed property assets every six months as new accounts are turned over to the Commonwealth. In many cases, claimants will receive interest accumulated.

GOSHEN

Community Appreciation Day on June 22

GOSHEN – The Highland Ambulance Community Appreciation Day is Saturday, June 22 at 12 Williams Drive in Goshen.

From 11 a.m. to noon there will be facility tour with demonstrations. From noon-1 p.m. there will be honor-

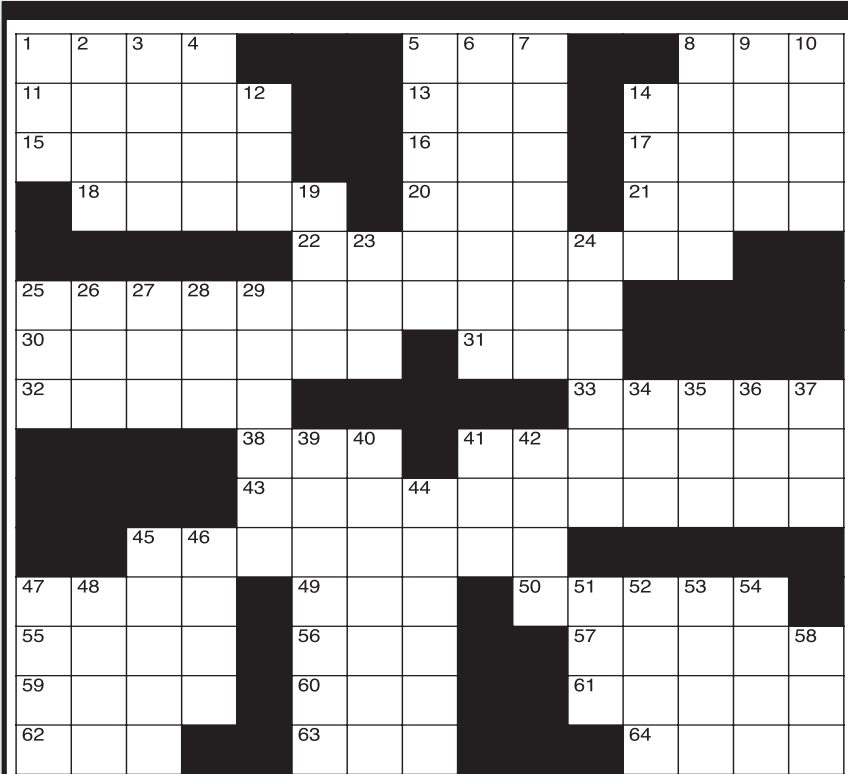
ary mentions and plaque presentations by Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, Senator Paul Mark and Representative Mark Antonio Williams. There will be free food trucks, ice cream and lite entertainment for the community after the dignitary segment.

OTIS

Library Trustess presents annual craft fair on Town Green July 6

OTIS – The Library Trustees present the annual craft fair on the Town Green on Saturday, July 6 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be crafts, bake

sale, children's entertainment, 50/50 raffle, used book sale and copsicle. For more information, people may visit otislibraryma.org.



CLUES ACROSS

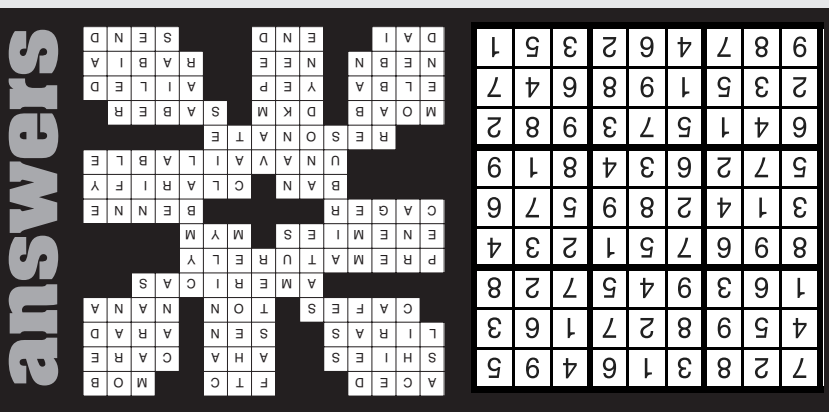
- 1. Breezed through
- 5. Supervises interstate commerce
- 8. Unruly group
- 11. Backs away from
- 13. Expression of understanding
- 14. Have concern for
- 15. Monetary units
- 16. Congressman (abbr.)
- 17. Iranian city
- 18. Eating houses
- 20. 2,000 lbs.
- 21. Grandmother
- 22. They include North, South and Central
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Foes
- 31. Shuttered British entertainment magazine
- 32. One who unloads cages
- 33. Another term for sesame
- 38. Formally forbid

- 41. Make clear
- 43. Inaccessible
- 45. Get through
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Decameter
- 50. Type of sword
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Traditional Hong Kong street food: pai dong
- 63. Termination point
- 64. Email function

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sign language
- 2. In style
- 3. Helsinki neighborhood
- 4. Unable to hear
- 5. More rapid

- 6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
- 7. In a cagy way
- 8. Kate and Rooney are two
- 9. Algerian port
- 10. Community in Ladakh
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Town in Galilee
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Italian impressionist painter
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Chest muscle (slang)
- 26. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- 27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers
- 34. Baseball stat
- 35. Pointed end of a pen
- 36. Popular sports league
- 37. Body part
- 39. Unlikely to provoke dissent
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Domesticated house pet
- 42. Untruths
- 44. Set out to attract
- 45. Spiritual leader
- 46. Abba ____, Israeli politician
- 47. Repair
- 48. Genus of flowering plants
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. River in central Europe
- 54. Harness
- 58. Father



THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

It is important to have some deep conversations with a romantic partner to get to the root of issues that have come up, Aries. You may have an even deeper relationship after a discussion.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

If a particularly large purchase is on the horizon, you may need to adapt your budget accordingly. Start making small changes now so you'll have the extra cash.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21

Suddenly you are more mysterious than in the past, Gemini. You may be able to use this allure to make some new friends or networking contacts.

CANCER

June 22/July 22

Practical visions run through your mind this week. They include re-decorating options or how to make the backyard more functional.

LEO

July 23/Aug 23

You may have a desire to spend a lot of time with your family over the next few days, but at least one person is not enamored with interacting with you, Leo. You'll get to the bottom of it.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, recognition of your efforts at work could lead to some welcome news on the financial front. It can be tempting to spend that money in advance, but wait until you receive the news to start spending.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

It's time to deal with any legal matters that you may have, including trusts and even real estate. Once these issues are settled, you can move on to some fun things.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

You have an uncanny ability to blend both intellect and intuition when you make decisions. It helps form plans that have high chances of success in your career and life.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Relationships will become more solid and enduring this week, Sagittarius. You even may be able to work through a long-standing bit of tension with someone close to you.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

A newfound interest in nutrition and health inspires you to make changes to your diet and exercise routine. Alternative therapies also could be drawing your attention.

AQUARIUS

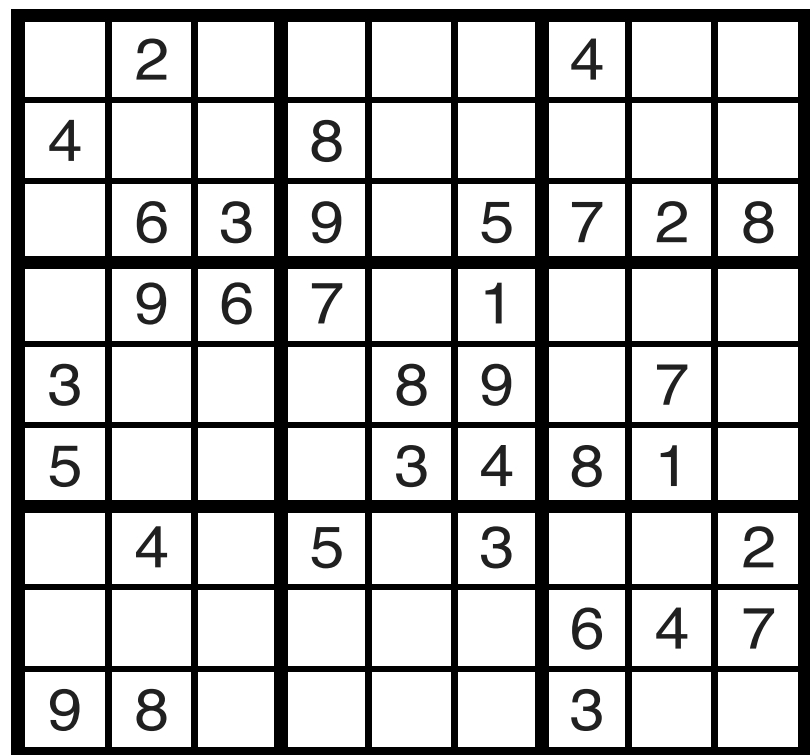
Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, perhaps you are thinking about expanding your horizons by taking classes in a creative pursuit, such as writing or music. These activities can benefit your mind in many ways.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Now might be a good time to start thinking about financial investments. Work with other people who may offer recommendations on which avenues to pursue.



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!

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Fresh cut & split \$200.00
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All hardwood.
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*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. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

MISCELLANEOUS

DUE TO NON PAYMENT, storage units G2 and G4 Morse Ave. storage will be emptied and the contents disposed of the first week of July unless amount in arrears is paid in full by June 30, 2024.

FOR SALE
• 14' step ladder
• Radial arm table saw
• Hydraulic conduit benders
• Portable grinders 7" & 12"
• Wire pullers
• Assorted Knock out Punches
413-658-8535/413-967-5065

FOR SALE

TAG SALE
JUNE 22 & JUNE 23, 8am-2pm.
28 Eastwood Drive, Wilbraham, MA. Moving, all household items, yard tools, snowblower.

WANTED

Buy, Sell & Trade Video Games
Retro World
413-301-5020 M-S 11-7
187 Main St.
Indian Orchard, MA

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

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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.
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CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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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.**

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AUTO

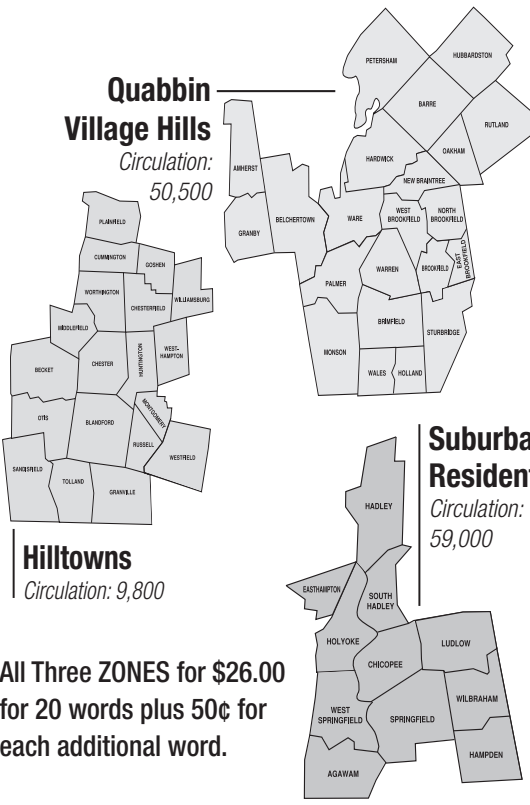
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or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**

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



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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on **July 10, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.** at the Worthington Town Hall, the Worthington Zoning Board of Appeals will hear the petition of Sheila Kinney, President, Worthington Library Corporation for property located at 1 Huntington Road. The applicant seeks a variance under section 5B Dimensional Regulations of the town's zoning bylaw. The proposed project is to construct a 12' x 16' pavilion on the south side of the library. The application and related materials are available for review in the office of the Town Clerk during normal business hours. 06/20, 06/27/2024

Goshen Conservation Commission Legal Notice

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act (M. G. L. Chapter 131 section 40) on **July 1, 2024 at 6:30 PM** at the Goshen Town Offices to review a request for determination filed by Laurie St. Amand at 196 Ball Rd. in Goshen, Massachusetts. The work to be reviewed is the building of a garage to replace a dilapidated barn which is to be demolished. 06/20/2024

CHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Chester Wetlands Bylaw, the Chester Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, July 1, 2024, at 5:30 PM** at the Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester,

MA 01011 on the application submitted by Heather Comee Wetland Consultant on behalf of Dennis Bolduc who is proposing to construct a single-family home within degraded Riverfront Area on his property at 326 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011 06/20/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P1250EA Estate of: Eleanor Cruess Date of Death: 01/11/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kendra Gregersen of Blandford, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Kendra Gregersen of Blandford, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/10/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 06, 2024 **Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate 06/20/2024

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD PRICE REQUEST NOTICE

The Town of Middlefield is requesting price proposals to provide Moving Services at the Middlefield Town Hall located at 188 Skyline Trail in Middlefield, MA. 01243. Completed proposals will be received at the Town Administrator's office located at 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243. **Price Proposals will be received until 11:00 AM on July 12, 2024, at which time and place said Price Proposals will be publicly opened and read.**

The work includes the moving of furnishings, office furniture, storage units, computers, copiers, library books and shelving, town records and related items from areas of the town hall to other areas within the town hall so that asbestos containing floor tile can be removed from floors and new luxury vinyl floor tile installed. All items moved will then be returned to their original location.

Price Proposal information and forms may be obtained at the Select Board Office, Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail

Middlefield, MA 01243 by emailing the Middlefield Assistant Town Administrator at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. Bidders may also call Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator at 413-636-1614 to request a copy of the documents or email him at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. **The deadline for questions on the documents is July 2, 2024 at 12:00 noon.** Questions should be directed to Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator, at 413-636-1614 email: middlefield.adm@gmail.com. **Sealed Bids will be opened in the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 on July 12, 2024, at 11:00 A.M.**

Each Price Proposal must be accompanied by a bid security of CASH, CERTIFIED, CHECK, or BID BOND issued by a responsible bank or trust company licensed to do business in the State of Massachusetts in the amount of 5% of the total Price. **A Pre-Proposal Site Visit will be held for all interested parties on June 26, 2024 @ 10:00 AM. at the front entrance to the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243.**

The minimum wage rates to be paid for labor on the project established in a schedule issued by the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development that are contained in the bid packet. Middlefield is an equal opportunity employer 06/13, 06/20, 06/27, 07/04/2024

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD BID NOTICE

Sealed Bids for the abatement of asbestos floor tile, mastic, and cove base in the Middlefield Town Hall located at 188 Skyline Trail at the Town Administrator's Office located at the Middlefield Town Hall P.O. Box 238, 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243. **Bids will be received until 11:00 AM on July 19, 2024, at which time and place said bids will be**

publicly opened and read.

The work includes the removal of 9" x9" vinyl asbestos containing floor tile, mastic, and cove base as defined and shown in the bid documents and related work.

Bid Documents and bid forms may be obtained at the Select Board Office, Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 and also by emailing the Middlefield Assistant Town Administrator at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. Bidders may also call Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator at 413-636-1614 to request a copy of the documents or email him at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. **The deadline for questions on the documents is July 2, 2024, at 12:00 noon.** Questions should be directed to Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator, at email: middlefield.adm@gmail.com. Sealed Bids will be opened in the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 on July 19, 2024, at 11:00 A. M. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security of CASH, CERTIFIED, CHECK, or BID BOND issued by a responsible bank or trust company licensed to do business in the State of Massachusetts in the amount of 5% of the total bid. **A Pre-Bid Site Visit will be held for all interested parties on June 26, 2024 @ 10:00 AM. at the front entrance to the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243.**

The minimum wage rates to be paid for all labor on the project established in a schedule issued by the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development that are contained in the Bid Documents. Middlefield is an equal opportunity employer. 06/13, 06/20, 06/27, 07/04/2024

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD BID NOTICE

Sealed Bids are for the installation of luxury 18" x 18" vinyl floor tile, mois-

ture barrier, and cove base in the Middlefield Town Hall located at 188 Skyline Trail will be received at the Town Administrator's Office located at the Middlefield Town Hall P.O. Box 238, 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243. **Bids will be received until 11:00 AM on July 19, 2024, at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened and read.**

The work includes the installation of new 18" x 18" luxury vinyl floor tile, moisture barrier, and cove base as defined and shown in the bid documents.

Bid Documents and bid forms may be obtained at the Select Board Office, Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, by emailing the Middlefield Town Administrator at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. Bidders may also call Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator at 413-636-1614 to request a copy of the documents or email him at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. **The deadline for questions on the documents is July 2, 2024, at 12:00 noon.** Questions should be directed to Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator, at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. **Sealed Bids will be opened in the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 on July 19, 2024, at 11:00 A.M.** Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security of CASH, CERTIFIED, CHECK, or BID BOND issued by a responsible bank or trust company licensed to do business in the State of Massachusetts in the amount of 5% of the total bid. **A Pre-Bid Site Visit will be held for all interested parties on June 26, 2024 @ 10:00 AM. at the front entrance to the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243.**

The minimum wage rates to be paid for all labor on the project established in a schedule issued by the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Dev 06/13, 06/20, 06/27, 07/04/2024

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Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

EARLY DEADLINES!
In observance of July 4th,
PUBLIC NOTICES & CLASSIFIEDS
WILL HAVE AN EARLY AD DEADLINE
Please place your public notice & classified ad no later than **NOON**
Thursday, June 27

HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Hikers take a trek to Jones Nose

Jones Nose is named after Seth Jones, one of the farmers who moved into this area in the late 1700s. Although the site was high, 2,400' at today's parking lot, it was good land, with water from nearby Kitchen Brook and soil enriched by the eroding marble beneath. By the early 1900s almost all of Jones Nose had been cleared for agriculture.

The cleared land allowed light loving plants, insects and birds to thrive, replacing many forest species. When farmers left the region in the early 1900s, the woodland returned and began to shade out the newer flora and fauna. The Department of Conservation and Recreation keeps Jones Nose largely treeless preserving this remnant of the mountain's agricultural past and supporting a meadow habitat full of wildflowers, birds and insects.

Thank you to Mike Whalen DCR Interpretive Coordinator for co-hosting this Hilltown Hikers group event on the Magic Triangle. The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers invite everyone to discover the magic of Mount Greylock State Reservation.



Mike Whalen, Department of Conservation Interpretive Coordinator and Recreation stands at the trail intersection.



The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers along with some canine friends are shown at the summit of Jones Nose.



The Hilltown Hikers head through a meadow toward Jones Nose.



This shows a view from the Magic Triangle.

Submitted photos

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