

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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HILLTOWNS

Revolutionary War veterans honored

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

In a multi-town project that involved six towns and numerous volunteers, 150 graves of Revolutionary War heroes have been located, cleaned and adorned with 13-star “Betsy Ross” flags and special revolutionary war markers.

Led by Joy Taylor of Huntington and Sue Maxwell of Russell, the project focused on the Revolutionary War veterans buried in the Gateway hilltowns of Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery and Russell.

Research drew from a variety of sources, including cemetery commissions, historical societies, and local historians. Taylor has a Revolutionary War ancestor and joined the Daughters of the American Revolution; in honor of the country’s 250th celebration, the DAR set out to find all of the Revolutionary War dead in Hampshire County.

Taylor’s research included the website “Findagrave” that lists all burials and indicates if people were veterans. She explained that there is also a Soldier and Sailor listing online, a verified database from the DAR, government pension records and old burial index cards, if available.

Town history papers, such as the Bisbee and Munson papers have a great deal of local history. Maxwell also used

VETERANS, page 2

BLANDFORD

250th Anniversary draws over 500

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Friday June 26 Fireworks at the Fairgrounds featured live music by the Pitoniak Brothers while those attending picnicked or had a bite to eat from the vendors.

There were long lines at the Fair Booth staffed by short-order cooks Mandy and Aaron LaBrecque and Bonnie Lemme, who runs that booth at fair time took orders. They sold out just as the fireworks were set to start.

There was rain just before the start of the 6 p.m. evening events, but it did not deter the crowd. Chester/Blandford police on site estimated the crowd to be in excess of 500 people. More arrived closer to the dusk starting time for the pyrotechnics.

The explosives began easily and gradually expanded to larger and larger displays as the show progressed. There were lots of oohs and aahs from the crowd.

Many on the way home afterwards said that the event was “truly spectacular for a small-town event” or “amazing for a town our size.”

Those comments of appreciation and awe were reiterated Saturday at the cookout at the fairgrounds.

There were many local residents joined by people from surrounding towns who enjoyed the evening.

Select Board members Corrine Shartrand and Ted Cousineau handled all the parking, Shartrand directing vehicles while Cousineau pointed out spots.

Parade organizer Jennifer Girard had mapped out loca-

250TH, page 6



Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm

A large crowd enjoyed fireworks at the Blandford Fairgrounds on Friday, June 26

BLANDFORD

Board discusses engineering studying

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The Select Board discussed signing a contract for the Highway Department to authorize an engineering study for construction on the Beech Hill Road bridge.

The contract had not been signed off by either the town accountant or town counsel, which must be done before anything goes forward.

Chair Jackie Coury said the follow through is an administrative duty and that Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay is “paid to do this, and he should have done it.”

She would like to see a more thorough discussion of the bridge work costs.

Board member Ted Cousineau wants to see an estimated cost for the construction and added that Hultay needs administrative help and that work should not fall on Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera, “It’s not her job.”

There is no date for the engineering study, but a review would commence immediately with a year to complete. No costs will be available until the completion of the study.

The board tabled signing the contract and planned to speak with Hultay.

Chapter 61

Anthony van Werkhoven submitted a

BOARD, page 7

HUNTINGTON

Huntington secures Kelli Pointbriand as new town accountant

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Officials had a plan to replace Town Accountant Richard Boulay, who is set to

retire on June 29.

Originally, Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin, suggested hiring someone from the company the town is using for recon-

ciliation services to get all of their accounts in order before transitioning to new accounting software on July 1.

The individual working with the town was already

familiar with things like the payroll system, the line items in the budget and key personnel. All that had to be done was to come to an agreement with the company on a contracted arrangement to buy the town time to find a new accountant.

It was a terrific plan until the individual they had in mind suffered a family emergency that would make him unavailable for an extended period of time.

Treasurer Ryan Mailloux had another suggestion: consider Kelli Pointbriand, a contracted accountant he works with in some of his other towns.

Pointbriand has worked remotely from her home in Florida after previously working in Massachusetts for a number of years.

At their special Select Board meeting held June 24, Chairman Roger Booth,

Select Board members Bill Hathaway and John McVeigh and rising Select Board Robert Drabiuk, who takes his seat on July 1 with the departure of Hathaway, interviewed Pointbriand by phone. Peloquin had already completed an interview with her and recommended a six month contract with her.

In describing her work with towns, Pointbriand said she had worked for a town whose books hadn’t balanced for four years and was able to get them back on track. Over time, she added additional Massachusetts towns to her clientele. Since moving to Florida, she said that she has not needed a lot of in person time with town employees; she has found that most communications can be managed by emailing and phoning.

She uses Zoom and Teams for face-to-face

contact and comes to Massachusetts a couple of times a year. Also discussed were options around preparing warrants remotely. Some towns have her send digital warrants that select boards can docuSign. She has found this to be very efficient and helpful with audits because auditors are able to review the warrants remotely.

She said she is also able to include notes on the digital warrants. Other towns she works with still prefer a paper warrant, which she prepares and emails to someone in town hall who prints them out.

Drabiuk asked where the digital warrants were stored and was told that she maintains a separate laptop for each town and can also store them in the cloud if towns request that.

ACCOUNTANT, page 3



Turley Publications photo by Wendy Long

Board of Health Administrative Assistant John Bergeron and member Kat Peterson met with the Huntington Select Board on June 24 to update them on water testing invoices and the Basket Street PFAS status.



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Great Barrington and Northampton are Blue Zones

A Mission for Michael commissioned Cherry Data Signals to survey 3,025 respondents, exploring how people think about their own longevity; not just in years, but in terms of con-

Northampton, Massachusetts was number 15, Provincetown, Massachusetts 60 and Great Barrington, Massachusetts

The survey also revealed a strong preference for slower, smaller communities when Bay Staters picture the ideal place for a long life. Small towns were the most associated with longevity overall, chosen by 34% of respondents, comfortably ahead of cities.

Jim Halley of Westfield

"The theme for this year's PMC, which is 'now, more than ever,' underscores the paramount importance of every single dollar raised in fueling the search for a cure," said Billy Starr, founder and chairman of the PMC. "We are endlessly grateful to every rider, volunteer, donor, and sponsor who makes the PMC possible. Because of their training miles, long hours of volunteering, generous support, and unwav-

There is still time to participate in this year's Pan-Mass Challenge. Folks interested in getting involved can learn more and register at PMC.org.

The Middlefield stones were problematic because

They are: John Ahmun, Justus Ashmun, Adam Blair, Capt. Asa Blair, Jacob Blair, Matthew Blair, Reuben Blair, Deacon Robert Blair, Rufus Blair, William Boies, Nathan Carnahan, Job Clark, Cornelius Cochran, James Crooks, John Collester, Capt. John Ferguson, Solomon Ferguson, Jonathan Frary, Ensign John Frost, Isaac Gibbs, Capt. David Hamilton, Jethro Jones, Capt. Elijah Knox, Capt. William Knox, Capt. Elijah Knox, William Knox, Esq., Capt. Isaac Lloyd, William Lloyd, Asa Merritt, William Mitchel, James Moore, Thomas Moore Jr., Elihu Noble, John Noble, Mathew Proven, Jonathan Shepard, Capt. Samuel Sloper, Jedediah Smith Esq., William Steward, 2nd, Capt. Sanford Thompson, Guiles Tracy, Elisha Walker, James Wallace, Capt. John Watson and John Wilson.

They are: Newman Bishop, Abraham Bradley, Simeon Crosby, John Dickerson, Silas Doolittle, Titus Doolittle, Alexander Gowdy, Seth Gridley, Seth Hawley, David Holmes, Jacob Loomis, John Newton, Silas Noble, Reuben Parks, Benjamin Todd, Abel Tuttle, Jr. and Samuel Williams.

Find **it** in the
Classifieds

A cartoon illustration of a man with a large nose, wearing a blue shirt and brown pants, running towards the left. He is holding a large red pencil with a white eraser and the word 'Turley' written on it. The pencil is positioned horizontally, with the eraser at the front and the lead tip pointing towards the right. The man has a determined expression and is looking slightly ahead. The background is a plain white space.

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HILLTOWNS

Letourneau-Jancsy leaves as Sen. Velis media contact

BOSTON – Caitlyn Letourneau-Jancsy, after six years, is no longer the media contact for Sen. John Velis.

In the interim, until the Senator’s next Communication’s Director is selected, he asks people to direct any media inquiries or requests to his email john.velis@masenate.gov or to the State House office’s general line at 617-722 1415. However, email would be preferred.

LITTLE BEAR



Turley Publications photo by Deborah Daniels
This bear cub visits a yard in Huntington.

ACCOUNTANT

He also asked about local encryption and security, to which Peloquin said that Northeast IT configures the security for the laptops of all town employees.

Collector Sue Foppiano was also in on the interview and was part of discussing the timeline for warrants to be ready for Select Board meetings on alternating Wednesdays. Peloquin and Pontbriand will work this out.

Booth moved to sign the six month contract, which was supported by the other three.

Under the terms of the contract, Pontbriand will be paid \$15,000 from July 1, 2026 through Dec. 31, 2026. An additional \$1,500 will be paid to her at the end of July for setting up the new chart of accounts and implementation of VADAR, the town’s new accounting system.

Parking policy

In other business, the board determined that

Foppiano will be appointed as the Parking Clerk under the town’s new parking policy. She will collect any parking fines and handle the appeals process.

Well capping

Board of Health members John Bergeron and Kat Peterson also met to discuss the need to cap the well at 51 Basket St., now that the residence has been connected to the town’s water main. This will end the need for continued Per and polyfluoroalkyl Substances testing at that site.

The select board asked that this be completed by July 15.

Reports

Booth also recommended the Board have a compliance calendar that goes out five years for things like gas monitoring, water testing and data reports to the town. “It’s not just accountability. I’ve been trying to get this done for six years. I am

going to do transformational change in this town. People are probably going to quit because they see it coming,” Booth said. “Figure it out. Fix it. And then come back and see us.”

Police Department

McVeigh also brought up the possibility of restructuring the Police Department with Chief Kowal’s upcoming resignation. They will look at this suggestion, which could include having a part-time Chief and a full time patrolman to better address town needs and save money. This discussion will be continued at a future meeting.

Meetings

Due to the special meeting scheduled for June 24, the next meeting of the Huntington Select Board will be July 8, although board members will stop in on July 1 to sign the warrant. The regular meeting schedule will resume on July 15.

from page 1

HUNTINGTON

Summer music begins July 9 with town picnic

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

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

Music will be available every Thursday evening from July 9 through Aug. 20. Music lovers are invited to bring their lawn chairs (but not their pets!) to enjoy these free performances.

This series is organized by the Community Events Committee and is the most popular event of the year! The show goes on regardless of weather. In the event of rain, performances will move into Stanton Hall, which is wheelchair accessible.

A special Huntington Appreciation Picnic will kick off the series on July 9. Attendees can get a hamburger or hot dog, popcorn, lemonade and cake for a \$1 donation. This night only, festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Starting off the summer will be Sam Chevalier and Ray Dolat from Acoustic Thunder, playing all of favorites and covering many styles of music.

Acoustic Thunder is a popular rock band that plays throughout Western Massachusetts. They perform regularly at the Southwick Inn, Knox Trail Inn, 7 B’s Bar and Grill and Brignole Vineyards.



Submitted photo

Sam and Ray, front men for local band Acoustic Thunder, will perform on Thursday, July 9 at the Huntington Town Green to kick off the town’s Summer Music Series.

Sam and Ray are the front men for the full band but also perform as a duo, which you will see on July 9 in Huntington.. All concerts end at 8 p.m.

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

Also in the series will be Meredith Robinson (rock and roll), Jon Berman (beach favorites and originals), Rock 201 (classic rock), Cover Daddys (mix of pop and classics) and Moon Hollow (folk/bluegrass/Americana/early jazz). Closing the 2026 summer series will be The 413s performing rock and originals.

The summer music series is sponsored by the Huntington Community Events Committee and

Huntington Cultural Council. The Huntington Cultural Council is a local committee funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

People may keep apprised of updates by joining the Huntington MA Summer Music Series/C. E. Committee page on Facebook. People should leave their pets are home.

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GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor



When should my wife claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

We could use guidance on optimum dates for my spouse to begin taking Social Security.

She doesn't have enough work credits on her own, so she will be using mine for spousal benefits. I was born in 1955, and I now get \$3,886 in monthly SS benefits.

My wife was born in 1961. We currently receive about \$50,000 per year in royalties and VA disability payments that will stop upon my death.

So, with that in mind, can you suggest optimum dates for my wife to claim, based on my projected death in early 2027 or early 2030? My wife is very healthy and will likely live beyond 2040.

Of course no one can predict their own passing; these are just random dates I came up with based on probabilities with my health issues.

Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning Ahead:

Life expectancy and financial need are primary factors for your wife to consider at this point, plus whether she is now working. Her Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is age 67 and, if she takes her spouse benefit before that, the monthly amount will be reduced by about 8.3% for each year early, and she will also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earning Test, which limits how much she can earn from working prior to reaching her FRA.

Statistically, your wife's life expectancy is about 87 that's average longevity for a woman your wife's current age. Even though she isn't eligible for her own SS retirement benefits, she can still get a spousal benefit while you are both living and will get an even higher surviving spouse benefit when you die.

That's because her spousal benefit while both living will be based on 50% of your Full Retirement Age entitlement, but your wife's surviving spouse benefits when you die will be based upon 100% of the benefit you were receiving at your death.

Generally, if you believe you will pass within the next few years and your wife isn't working, her best option would be to claim her regular spouse benefit now.

Although she will initially get less than 50% of your FRA entitlement, that amount will be replaced automatically by her higher survivor benefit when you pass. Depending on her age when you pass, she will get the full \$3,886 monthly amount you are receiving at your death plus any COLA yet to be

awarded.

If that happens before she reaches her full retirement age, her monthly survivor amount will be actuarially reduced based upon how far before her FRA it is claimed. Generally, the survivor benefit reduction will be about 4.75% for each full year claimed early about .396% for each month early.

So, to a large degree, your wife's options for spouse and survivor benefits are based on your expected longevity. If you have reason to believe you will pass within the next few years, then your wife should probably claim her spousal benefit now while you are both living.

Because she is a bit shy of 65 years old, her initial SS spouse benefit will be reduced she'll get about 42% of your FRA benefit amount, instead of the 50% she would get if she claimed at age 67.

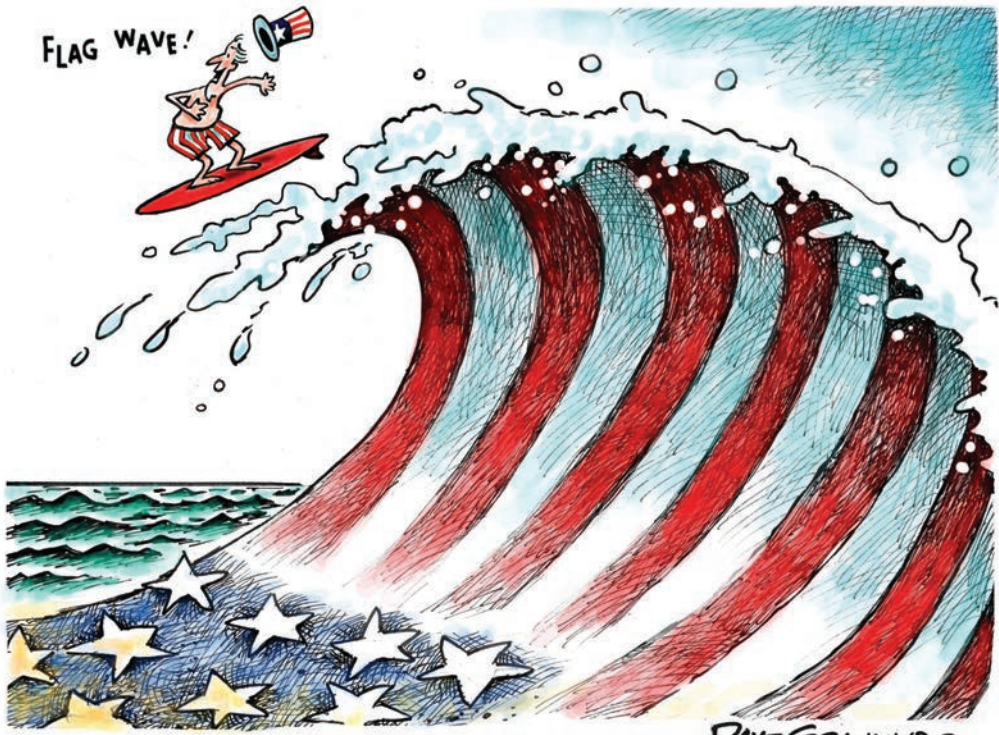
She can collect that amount until you die, at which time she will receive her survivor's benefit as your widow. If she has reached age 67 when that happens, your wife's benefit will become the same as yours was when you died, the \$3,986, plus any COLA since awarded.

And she will collect that higher SS survivor benefit for the remainder of her life which, from what you've shared, would likely be about 20+ years. Assuming her life expectancy is at least average, that is how your wife would get the most cumulative Social Security benefits over her lifetime.

As you have said, no one can predict how long they will live, but from the information you've provided, I expect that the above would likely be your wife's best Social Security strategy. And, for the record, I admire you exploring your wife's options in advance. I hope this answers your question, but rest assured we are always here if you need any further information.

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

OPINION



GUEST COLUMN

Reminiscing brings butterflies to mind

My husband and I were sitting on the porch reminiscing.

To be honest I felt a bit melancholy. Where has time gone?

With empty nesting feeling like it's right around the corner, it's easy to drift back in time and wish just for a moment that the kids were little again.

Boy, did we read lots of books. I remember one of the girls' favorites was "Butterfly Count" by Sneed B. Collard III.

In honor of "days gone by," enjoy this column right out of the archives

The basic premise of the book highlights the North American Butterfly Association's Fourth of July butterfly count with a simple story of a mother and daughter counting butterflies at a prairie restoration site named after the girl's great great-grandmother Nora Belle.

When Nora traveled west as a child, "regal frit-

great-grandparents are buried.

Reading the book got me thinking about what we could do as gardeners to encourage healthy butterfly populations. According to the North American Butterfly Association it isn't enough to simply choose specific flowering "nectar" plants to attract butterflies, we must also choose plants that will feed caterpillars- that way we are providing for the entire life cycle of the insect.

Some of the best nectar plants for our area include native wildflowers such as bone-set, Joe-pye-weed, black-eyed Susan and purple coneflower. Other common wildflowers like hawk-weed, ox-eye daisy and Queen Anne's Lace make good nectar plants as well.

GARDEN, page 5

in my
BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Northern yellow warbler

John Kunhardt of Belchertown took this photo of a northern yellow warbler near Lake Wallace in Belchertown.

Northern yellow warblers are small, evenly proportioned songbirds with medium-length tails and rounded heads. They are 4.7 to 5.1 inches long. For a warbler, the straight, thin bill is relatively large.

Northern yellow warblers are uniformly yellow birds. Males are a bright, egg-yolk yellow with reddish streaks on the underparts. Females are also yellow but appear slightly duller.

Both sexes flash yellow patches in the tail. The face

is unmarked, accentuating the large black eye.

People may look for these warblers near the tops of tall shrubs and small trees.

They forage restlessly, with quick hops along small branches and twigs to glean caterpillars and other insects. Males sing their sweet, whistled songs from high perches.

Northern yellow warblers breed in shrubby thickets and woods, particularly along watercourses and in wetlands. Common trees include willows, alders and cottonwoods across North America

In winter these warblers inhabit a variety of wooded habitats including man-groves, deciduous forests and tropical evergreen forests, as well as gardens, town plazas, second growth, brushy pastures, hedgerows, agricultural lands and plantations.

Their song sounds like "sweet-sweet-sweet, I'm so sweet."

Yellow warblers usually build their nests in shrubs or small trees, typically 3 to 10 feet above the ground. The nest is often placed in dense

foliage, making it difficult for predators to spot.

They commonly select willows, alders or other shrubs near water. The surrounding leaves provide camouflage and protection from harsh weather.

A typical yellow warbler clutch contains about three to five pale greenish or bluish white eggs with small brown or gray speckles.

The female incubates the eggs for roughly 11 to 12 days, rarely leaving the nest except to feed. Once the chicks hatch, both parents help feed them.

Feeding mealworms After seeing a pair of bluebirds, I started putting out mealworms on the picnic table every day. I figured black bears would not bother with mealworms.

I was right and the birds ate them up quickly. Yes, the bluebirds came for the mealworms, but so did two catbirds and a male robin.

The other day the pair of catbirds landed on the table as I spread out the mealworms. I've noticed them check the table for mealworms before I put them out.

Red-shouldered hawk A woman in Montgomery reported a red-shouldered hawk in her yard. It's one of the most distinctively marked common hawks with barred red-dish-peachy underparts and a strongly banded tail.

Wild turkey encounter My daughter, Paula, was

BIRDS, page 5

Country Journal

We Want to Hear From You

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

ELECTION LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to countryjournal@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Friday to be considered for the following Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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

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 on page 4 or 5.

OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to all who helped with 250th celebration

A thank you, to Blandford on the 250th celebration of our nation's birth.

Blandford had a spectacular fun filled weekend June 26 and June 27. This could not have happened without the many volunteers.

A special thank you to the Blandford Fair for sponsoring, participating and providing the town with a place to celebrate 250 years.

All the tractor drivers who pulled the floats and those who participated in the parade deserve a special acknowledgement

Thank you to Allyssa O'Neill for starting our celebration off with the Star-Spangled Banner, ghost walkers Aaron and Mandy LaBrecque and Jaxon Stafford; T.J. Cousineau for a heartfelt speech, our newest community member Pastor Tom Crouse for sending us off for another 250 years in prayer, our burger flippers Greg Girard and Tom Coury and to Jackie Coury and Corrine Shartrand for all the running around, setup and support.

There were so many people who worked hard behind the scenes and are very much appreciated for their contribution, including the Blandford Historical Society for the huge contribution to the community for providing the town's history.

It was nice to have so many people come out and enjoy conversation with old and new neighbors, watch our children play and celebrate.

Happy Birthday America.

Jennifer Girard
250th Celebration Organizer
Blandford



Correction

In the Thursday, June 25, the article about Eagle Scout Trenton Bush of Southampton omitted the name of his maternal grandmother. She is Coralee Chase of Montgomery.

GARDEN

Top caterpillar food plants for our region include carrot, dill, parsley, fennel, milkweed, nasturtium and verbena.

The largest number of butterfly species will be drawn to our yards if we imitate how plants grow in the wild. To do so, we should install a diverse mixture of trees, shrubs, perennial and annual flowers and herbs that bloom throughout the growing season.

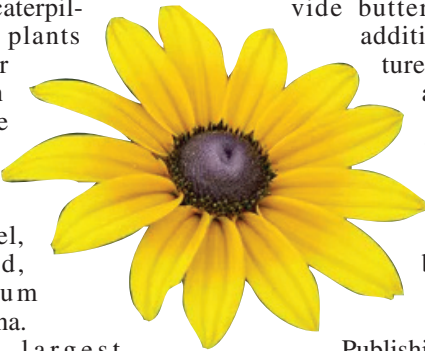
Trees such as aspens, willows, poplars, and wild cherry make great host plants for caterpillars. In addition, they give butterflies shelter from the wind, protection from predators and spots to roost at night.

A good habitat should also include some form of water source that will provide butterflies with additional moisture when dew and rain are scarce.

"The Family Butterfly Book" by Rick Mikula (Storey Publishing, \$29.95) offers a fun project to make with your kids called a waterless pond.

Line a shallow hole in the garden with a trash bag, fill it with stones and add water. Dew will collect on the rocks in the morning and slide down the cracks.

Butterflies can land on the rocks and sip water from the crevices. Put a narrow band of sand around your pond and this area will serve double-duty as a "puddling station," a place for male butterflies to imbibe salts

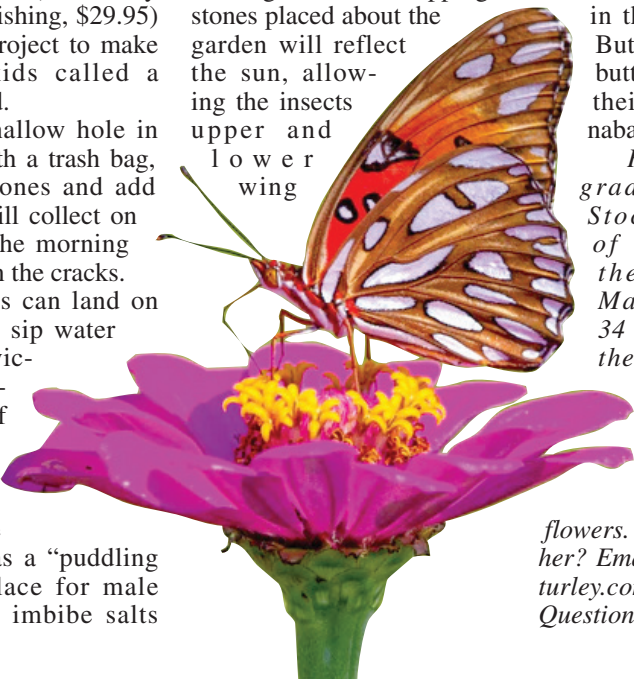


and minerals in preparation for mating.

Another important feature in a butterfly garden is a basking station. To be able to fly, these solar powered creatures must warm up.

In fact, Mikula reports that their flight muscles must achieve 83 degrees before lift-off!

Light colored stepping stones placed about the garden will reflect the sun, allowing the insects upper and lower wing



surfaces to heat up at the same time.

After researching this article I realize just how little I know about butterflies. Luckily, some of the plants mentioned above already grow on my property, and butterflies often frequent the premises.

For more information on or to participate in the North American Butterfly Association's butterfly count consult their website at www.naba.org.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

from page 4

BIRDS

from page 4

walking her dog, JoJo on the rail trail in Gilbertville along the river. A hen turkey was hidden on the side of the trail. She states, "When JoJo and I ran by, she flew up. One of the babies panicked and started running after mom flew off, which caused mom to charge at us making a bunch of noise."

She states, "JoJo and I sprinted a good 20 feet before she decided we weren't a threat anymore."

She continues, "But this was definitely the closes encounter we've ever had. JoJo now ranks turkeys in the 'scary' category along with Canada geese."

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident emailed, "A pair of yellow-bellied sapsuckers spent a few days visiting a native dogwood tree in the yard awhile back. And we have seen a few warblers, a common yellowthroat

checked me out when I was working in the garden yesterday. We have at least two male hummingbirds visiting the yard and feeders and at least one female."

He stated, "I saw a female rose-breasted grosbeak collecting nesting material so I'm going to look for a nest. Several years ago I found a grosbeak nest near our shed."

Osprey

The Brimfield resident stated in his email, "The Osprey nest in Warren looks like the chicks have hatched based on the behavior of an adult at the nest yesterday. In the past it is usually mid June before I see chicks in the nest. When they are very young osprey chicks mostly lay down in the nest waiting to be fed."

He reported four great blue heron nests at the pond I visit in Warren where the Ospreys nest.

Bird count

The Brimfield resident also stated, "The Allen Bird Club of Springfield does a spring bird count each year in mid May. We use the Christmas Bird Count count circle, I have covered Ludlow since 1989. I only managed 50 species this year, partly because my hearing isn't what it use to be."

He stated, "I did manage to find a Tennessee and Parula warbler, about a dozen yellow-rumped warblers, two common loons, one each solitary and spotted sandpiper and a black-billed cuckoo. I hadn't seen a cuckoo in a few years."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



Chester Baptist Church

Pastor Dan Herr
14 Middlefield Road
Chester, MA 01011
413-354-7743
Email: pastor@chesterbaptistchurch.org
Website: chesterbaptistchurch.org
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Afternoon at 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer at 6:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church of Blandford

Pastor Tom Crouse
91 Main St., Blandford, MA 01008
413-848-2052
Sunday service 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Chester

Pastor Susan Borsella
334 Skyline Trail, Chester, MA 01011
Service with Live Music: 10 a.m. - Sunday Coffee and Sweets Social: 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

Rev. Jack Kraaz
4 North Main St., Williamsburg, MA 01096
413-268-7557
burgychurch@gmail.com • burgychurch.org
Facebook:
First Congregational Church of Williamsburg
YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w
Office Hours: Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Days and Hours of Services: Sun. at 10 a.m.

Hilltown Community Church

Dr. Robert Perreault, Senior Pastor
55 Main St., Russell, MA 01071
413-275-3232
Office: 413-862-3341
hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com
hilltowncommunitychurch.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/p/Hilltown-Community-Church-61580281487624/
Sunday Mornings 10 a.m.

Holy Family Parish

Rev. Ronald F. Sadowski, known as Fr. Ron
5 Main St., Russell, MA 01071
413-862-4418
Office Hours: No set times.
Please call, leave a voice message or email: holyfamilyrussell.org
parish@holyfamilyrussell.org
Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.
Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. & 11 a.m.

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

New Boston Congregational Church

Pastor Eric Kriebel
4 Sandisfield Rd., PO Box 81
Sandisfield, MA 01255
Services held twice monthly, check website: www.newbostoncongregationalchurch.org

Pioneer Valley Assembly of God

Pastor Javier Melendez
63 Old Chester Rd., Huntington MA 01050
413-667-3196
pvaglife@gmail.com
www.pioneervalleayag.org
Facebook: Pioneer Valley Assembly of God
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m.

Pioneer Valley Mennonite Fellowship

Deacon Jerald Reinford
400 Huntington Rd., Russell, MA 01071
(413) 297-6037
Sunday worship at 10 a.m.
Visitors appreciated

Westhampton Congregational Church, UCC

Pastor Carol Smith
1 Tob Rd., Westhampton, MA 01027
(413) 527-4204
Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.

BLANDFORD

Local militia answer a call to arms

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

BLANDFORD



Courtesy photos
The grave of John Ferguson of Blandford, who served as a Captain in the Revolutionary War.

John Ferguson was born in Hopkington, of Ulster Scot parents. He came to Blandford (then Glasgow) as a young boy. He was a soldier alongside so many other Blandford men, serving as private and then a Sergeant in the French and Indian Wars. He was a Captain during the Revolutionary War, where he led 30 Blandford militiamen to defend Boston's Dorchester Heights near the beginning of the war.



This is the grave of Samuel Sloper, who was a participant in the Boston Tea Party, and earned the rank of Captain.

Samuel Sloper was a participant in the Boston Tea Party. Moving to Blandford, he became a tavern owner and leader in the local militia, eventually earning the rank of Captain. During his last years he was locally known as "Colonel," dying at the age of 55.

CHESTER



The grave of Stephen Lyman, an original settler of Chester answered the Bennington Alarm in August 1777.

Stephen Lyman was an original settler of Chester. In August of 1777 Stephen Lyman answered the Bennington Alarm to protect supplies there from a company of British and Hessian soldiers who were attempting to seize them. Many British and Hessian soldiers were captured in the American victory and they were to be marched to Boston. Lyman was asked to help escort the prisoners as far as Chester.



The grave of Zenas Searle of Chester answered the alarms at Springfield and Northampton after the end of the Revolutionary War.

At the end of the Revolutionary War, Zenas Searle answered alarms at Springfield and Northampton to help guard courthouses. The economy was collapsing in Massachusetts as a result of the debt taken on for the war, and many farmers were being hauled into court to pay debts. The farmers had risen up and peacefully occupied courts in Springfield and Northampton to keep them from meeting. The Searle family were farmers who were also affected by the collapsing economy so Zenas must have been conflicted about answering the alarms, but ultimately decided it was his duty. Zenas and his wife moved to Chester shortly after the war and he bought a farm on Skyline Trail; his house still stands today. He survived his service but tragically was killed in 1803 when a pair of oxen on his Chester farm became startled and threw him.

HUNTINGTON



The grave of Silas Hubbell is in Huntington.

Silas Hubbell's wonderful double top stone commemorating both himself and his wife Elizabeth, can be found in the Norwich Bridge Cemetery. Silas Hubbell was involved in the Boston Tea Party events leading up to the Revolution and then encountered action in Lexington and at Bunker Hill. There he took a musket, also known as a Queen Anne Arm, from a British soldier. Although an officer, he used it in battle and kept it for life as a trophy. He fought on Long Island, New York with General Washington in five of his battles and departed 'this life' 27 August 1805.



The grave of Phineas Knight of Norwich Hill Cemetery in Huntington.

Phineas Knight applied for a pension which he swore to on April 14, 1818. He was in the Battle of Bunker Hill during June 1775. He enlisted in the Continental Army and joined up with at the Highlands on the Hudson River. He then moved into the 3rd Connecticut Regiment commanded by Col. Samuel B. Webb of John Riley's

company. While serving, he wintered over at Valley Forge.

On 19 Dec. 1783 he was discharged, having served seven years. He is buried in the Norwich Hill Cemetery with his wife Hitty (Mehitable).

MIDDLEFIELD



The grave of Elijah is in Bell Cemetery in Middlefield. He was a Sergeant.

Elijah Churchill is buried in the Bell Cemetery. He was a Sergeant in the War of Independence and led a daring surprise raid at Fort St. George on Long Island, NY. With just sixteen men, he crossed the Long Island Sound in whaleboats to attack a heavily fortified building. Detected by the British with only fifty yards to go, Churchill rushed and bayoneted the guard. He and his men climbed the stockade walls and swarmed the building. They overtook the place in hand-to-hand combat, took fifty prisoners, all the supplies, destroyed the fort, and had no American casualties. Elijah also was engaged at Fort Slongo on Long Island and later services were reported at Tarrytown, South of West Point on the Hudson. He was the first of only three Continental recipients of the Badge of Military Merit, established by General George Washington, for his acts of gallantry and bravery. This badge is now known as the Purple Heart.



The grave of Cyrus Cone of Middlefield. A private is in Middlefield.

Cyrus Cone's gravestone is a real beauty in very fine condition. He was a private and served in CT during the war and was recently honored with this DAR plaque in 2019 by relatives in a joint effort by descendants in two DAR Chapters. He is listed in the "Bates Rolls and Lists of Connecticut Men in the Revolution." He served in Connecticut, but then moved to Middlefield for his remaining years.

MONTGOMERY



The grave of George Gorham is located in Center Cemetery, also known as Village Cemetery in Middlefield.

George Gorham was born July 19, 1759 in Canterbury, Connecticut and died Nov. 17, 1848 in Montgomery. He was buried in Center Cemetery, also known as the Village Cemetery.

He served in the Continental Army for the town of Norwich (now Huntington/Montgomery) from July 10, 1779 to April 9, 1780, and for the town of Southampton (parts of which also formed Montgomery) for three years beginning May 31, 1781. He was the 3rd great-grandson of John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley, who were passengers on the Mayflower.



The grave of Aaron Parks is located in the Elisha Clark Cemetery, located in the woods of Montgomery.

Aaron Parks is the lone revolutionary war soldier buried in the Elisha Clark Cemetery, located out in the woods.

He was born Nov. 2, 1748 in Preston, Connecticut and died on Jan. 11, 1842 in Montgomery. He was one of the original settlers having bought land in the "New Addition" of Westfield in March 1772.

After Montgomery formed, he served as a Selectman for 16 years from 1783 to 1818.

He had three wives: Zipporah Clark with whom he had two children; Mary Provin who died at age 23 without children and Lydia Provin, with whom he had nine children.

Aaron was a Lieutenant in the Town Militia Annex to the Col. Robertson Regiment during the Revolutionary War.

RUSSELL

No photo available.

The grave of Samuel Williams is located in Russell Pond Cemetery.

Samuel Williams was born in Colchester, Connecticut on Feb. 25, 1753. He was 23 years old in 1776 and went on to become a Selectman in Russell from 1793 into the 1800's

He died at the age of 59 on April 13, 1823 and is buried at Russell Pond Cemetery.



The grave of Reuben parks is located in Russell Center Cemetery.

Reuben Parks' family was among Russell's earliest settlers. He was born in Preston, Connecticut on Aug. 13, 1755 and died Sept. 11, 1803 at the age of 48.

He was 21 in 1776 and also became a Selectman in Russell in 1793. He is buried at the Russell Center Cemetery. His brother was Aaron Parks, who is buried in Montgomery.

250TH from page 1

tions for everyone and everything that would be in the parade. Select Board member Corrine Shartrand assisted. Like clockwork everyone departed their assigned spots, went up Main Street and filed into the fairgrounds for parking.

Disc Jockey Joseph Wozniak opened Saturday's festivities at the fairgrounds and acted as emcee.

Alyssa O'Neill sang the National Anthem, the Holyoke Caledonian Pipe Band, wearing Red Royal Stewart kilts, performed "Scotland the Brave."

Mandy and Aaron LaBrecque with Jax Stafford portrayed Captain William Knox and family, a prelude the upcoming second Annual Ghost Walk set for Oct. 3 from 2-4 p.m. at the Hill Cemetery. Ghost Walk personalities marched in the parade as well.

Select Board mem-

ber Ted Cousineau spoke about the incredible effort put into crafting the Declaration of Independence, it's historical significance and included words on writing the Bill of Rights.

After Cousineau's words, First Congregational Church of Blandford's Pastor Tom Crouse gave a blessing and attendees lined up for cookout fare.

Select Board Chair Jackie Coury and husband Tom readied hamburgers and hot dogs with chips and drinks. For dessert, Northside Creamery scooped ice cream cones or cups.

Blandford Historical Society Director Jane Rohman said the weekend's events "really demonstrate clearly that Blandford has an appetite for great events."



Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm
The Pitoniak Brothers' Band played until time for fireworks Friday night, June 26 at the Fairgrounds.



Select Board Chairman Jackie Coury and her husband, Tom Coury, staff the grilling area and ready hot dogs and hamburgers following the parade on Saturday, June 27.



Berkshire Fife and Drum Corps practices in Bicentennial Park prior to stepping out with the parade.



Photo by Michele Crane
The parade comes up Main Street heading to the fairgrounds.

BLANDFORD

Blandford Historical Society...*Did You Know?*

The bell that never came from Glasgow, Scotland, honoring the Scots-Irish founders of our town, has long been part of Blandford’s origin story.

But the historic bell displayed in front of the Blandford Historical Society has a fascinating story of its own.

The Bell with Three Lives

It once hung in the Second Congregational Church in North Blandford, dedicated on July 3, 1894, after an earlier church was destroyed by fire. According to church records, the bell was donated by the Boston & Albany Railroad after serving in the railroad roundhouse in West Springfield.

When the church closed in 1965, the bell was donated to the Historical Society. Cast into its side are the words: “Andrew Meneely, West Troy, N.Y., 1902.”

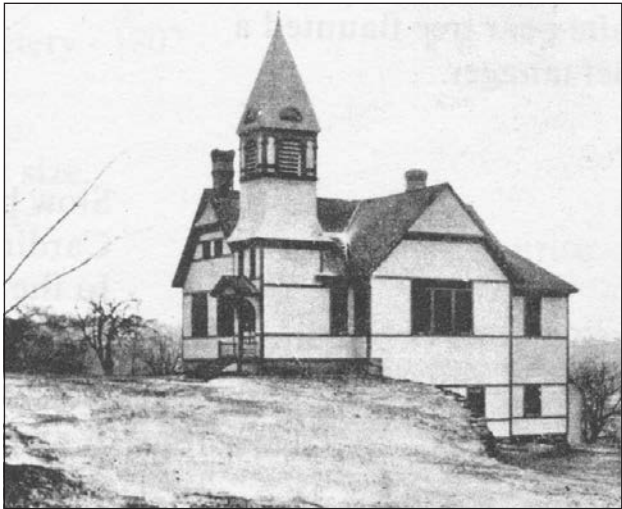
The inscription refers to the legendary founder of the Meneely Bell Foundry, established in 1826.

By 1902, Meneely had been dead for more than 50 years, but his sons and grandsons continued operating the company under



The North Blandford Church Bell now is located in front of the Blandford Historical Society.

Submitted photo



This is a photo of the Congregational Church of North Blandford.



A marker for the Meneely Foundry erected by the Watervliet Historical Society, New York.

the Meneely & Co. name. They kept Andrew’s name on every bell to preserve the company’s prestigious reputation and honor its founder.

Likewise, the foundry continued casting “West Troy” into its bells long after the town’s name officially changed to Watervliet. “West Troy” had become internationally synonymous with superior bell making.

Retaining the name also helped distinguish the company from a competing foundry nearby operated by another branch of the fami-

ly, the Meneely & Kimberly Bell Company.

The Centennial Bell in Philadelphia

One of his sons patented a method of mounting bells on a yoke that allowed them to rotate freely, enabling the clapper to strike different areas of the bell rather than the same spot repeatedly. The design greatly reduced the likelihood of cracking, the fate of the original Liberty Bell.

Ironically, however, he did not win the coveted contract to replace the

Liberty Bell. That commission went instead to the competing Meneely family branch, which cast the Centennial Bell installed in Independence Hall in Philadelphia for America’s 100th birthday celebration in 1876.

Today, the Centennial Bell hangs in the tower of Independence Hall, while the original cracked Liberty Bell, which last rang in 1846 to celebrate George Washington’s birthday, is preserved along the street in the Liberty Bell Center.

from page 1

BOARD

request to remove property from Chapter 61. Town Counsel confirmed the paperwork is in order.

According to assessors, there are two parcels affected and the town has 30 days to approve the move.

The board was to discuss the options in executive session.

The board approved sending a letter of support to Chester for a railway stop midway between Pittsfield and Springfield, in Chester.

The board was made aware of more vandalism by local youth, this time breaking into the library storage container. Cousineau said, “The parents are responsible.” Police

have spoken with the families of the youth involved.

EPSEC

The Energy Projects Siting and Engagement Committee held its final meeting. The upshot of the meeting was that there should be a group formed with all heads of departments that would be involved with reviewing applications for all things energy related; a community development council that would, according to Coury, expand to more than just solar. She wants every department to be aware at the same time. This would be done because, “In recognition of the increasing number of proposed commercial businesses, large-

scale energy infrastructure projects, including but not limited to Battery Energy Storage Systems, commercial-scale solar developments, and other commercial operations such as Cannabis Farms, etc. the town hereby establishes the Community Development Council.”

Ferrera said that the group will not be making decisions, and wants to run the idea “by legal.”

Coury said, “We need a better process.”

Jennifer Girard said, “We need to tighten up the process.”

Watson Park

Coury is looking at Watson Park, considering it a challenge as someone

is needed to tend the flower beds and repairs to the gazebo. She said the park (Select Board are the trustees) is looking at possibly a six-figure bill to restore the gazebo historically.

“We need a definition of what is historical.”

Other business

The new sound system is expected to be installed July 6 and 7.

Cousineau is checking to see if a downed tree on North Blandford Road can be removed from the cemetery.

Several projects that former Select Board member Cara Letendre had been pursuing have been handed off to recently elected board member Corrine Shartrand.

This, among others, includes being on top of the Intervenor Process for the next big project coming up involving BESS, negotiating the lease contract with the United States Post Office space, the Gibbs Road cannabis farm, proper disposal of surplus equipment on the stage, possibly involve a senior in the tax work off program to offer items for sale. According to Ferrera, this has to be offered for a comparable price and she will provide a list for Shartrand.

Shartrand told the board that it is impossible to plant anything in the raised area under the tree in Bicentennial Park as it is “all roots.”

Senior tax work off begins

BLANDFORD – The senior tax work off program gets underway this week.

There are job descriptions for spots in the Town Clerk’s office, the Assessors’ office and with the Council on Aging.

Any senior interested in a job to help cover property tax costs should visit town departments to see what is available and who needs assistance.

If a position appears to be something worth pursuing, interested seniors should draft a letter of interest and ask for a packet of information.

Council on Aging celebrates June birthdays, hosts lunch

BLANDFORD – Seniors enjoyed chicken kabobs, teriyaki mushrooms, summer squashes and roasted potatoes at the noontime luncheon Friday, June 26 at the Senior Center.

Strawberry shortcake was the dessert.

There were six birthdays for June:

Chuck Benson, Astrid Hanley, Pam Dirschka, Stephen Hart, Peter Langmore and Bob Twyman.

After lunch, there was a presentation for home delivery options from Delaney’s in Westfield and Langmore announced the weekend’s festivities.

The next lunchtime treat will be the annual Council on Aging barbecue on Friday, July 10 at noon. Traditional cook-out fare includes burgers, dogs, potato salad, home-made baked beans, tortellini salad, watermelon and the specialty for the afternoon, a root beer float.

To reserve a spot, seniors should call the COA at 413-848-4279 extension 400 and leave name and number of people planning to attend.

The lunch programs are free, but a \$5 donation helps to keep the program going.



Pam Dirschka



Bob Twyman



Stephen Hart



Peter Langmore

GOSHEN

Williams-Boltwood project wins grants tor preservation work

GOSHEN –There has been a lot happening at the historic Williams-Boltwood Project, and thanks to three recent grants there will be much more happening over the next year.

The Williams-Boltwood Project is working to restore a historically significant property at 2 Williams Drive. It is where the town was first incorporated in 1781 and where many of Goshen’s first organized activities were held, such as town meetings,

elections, elementary school classes and Baptist church services.

The future plan for the site is to restore the store, tavern and parlors so they can again be used for active retail, business, cultural and community use.

In late April, the program was awarded a \$10,000 preservation grant from the 1772 Foundation. “This is the second year in a row we have gotten the 1772 Foundation grant. It’s an

amazing accomplishment,” says Mel Lamere, chair of the Williams-Boltwood House Trust, Inc., the 501(c) (3).

The 1772 grant, which is administered by Preservation Massachusetts, requires a 100% match, which WBP has already raised. Funds from this grant will be used to restore windows on the south side of the building, some of which date to the late 1700s.

Three weeks later, the or Ratatouille.

The meals also include milk, vegetables, and dessert. There is a suggested \$4 donation given to Highland Valley to offset the cost of the meal.

Seniors should call Kerry at 413-268-9354 if they would like to sign up to get these nutritious and delicious meals.

The annual Appreciation

residents of the town of Goshen voted near unanimously to award \$80,000 of Community Preservation Act funds toward preserving the site. This generous grant will be used to address remaining foundational structural deficits, pursue a National Historic Register designation and carefully dismantle a barn that was once used for feeding and housing horses serving as Goshen’s first stage-coach stop.

Most recently, the

program was awarded a Florence Bank Community Choice grant of \$3,795. This is the first year that WBP has been recognized by the Florence Bank program. “We were so surprised at what a generous award we received. It’s a powerful statement to be supported this strongly by the community,” said Kam Osborne, Project Director. These funds will be committed toward the match required for window repair.

WBHT is a 501(c)(3) organization and is 100% volunteer run. Anyone interested in learning more about the historic Williams-Boltwood property is urged to visit the WBP website at www.williamsboltwood.com. Community ideas and input are always appreciated.

Community work parties are held on the last Saturday of each month from 9 am-noon. Those interested in volunteering are urged to stop in.

Goshen Council on Aging announces upcoming news and events

GOSHEN – The Council on Aging hosts technology help in the library on Thursday, July 16 from noon-2 p.m.

People can ask questions regarding their computer, phone, tablet or any other technology-related question and the technicians will do their best to help.

On Tuesdays, July 21 and 28 Highland Valley Elder Services delivers grab and go lunches to Goshen COA. Participants pick up their hot lunch at the Goshen Town Hall from 12:30-1 p.m.

The lunch for July 21 is a choice of a hot dog or vegetable quiche and for July 28 it is a choice of garden pesto pasta

Picnic takes Tuesday, Aug. 11 at Tilton Field. This event honors Goshen residents 90 years of age and older.

There will be a summer break from games and crafts groups for the summer. The group starts back up in September.

Exercise classes continue with Joan Griswold on

Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Goshen Town Hall. She also teaches on other weekdays.

People may email Joan for more information at joan@bybhealth.com. Consistent exercise is so important.

Foot Care Services are offered by nurse Piper Sagan in Cummington, Chesterfield

and Williamsburg. Goshen seniors are welcome to attend.

Goshen seniors may call those COAs for appointments. Piper recently raised her rates to \$60, therefore the Goshen COA will raise their contribution to \$15 per session for Goshen seniors to help with the cost of this very important service.

MONTGOMERY

Mass Department of Transportation lifts Woronoco Bridge weight restriction

MONTGOMERY/ RUSSELL – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces the previously implemented weight restriction has been lifted on the Woronoco Bridge, which carries I-90 over the Westfield River on the Montgomery-Russell line.

As a result of structural repair work, the previous weight restriction of 20-45-50-55 tons is no longer required. Drivers are reminded that the bridge remains an active work zone and those traveling through the work area should expect delays, obey posted speed limits and use caution.

Final rehabilitation work, consisting of roadway and concrete work, and removal of the safety pan under the bridge will continue and is expected to conclude in September of 2026.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

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

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

STOCKBRIDGE

Berkshire Botanical Garden holds Family Fridays

STOCKBRIDGE – Berkshire Botanical Garden, 5 West Stockbridge Road offers their 2026 summer family programming of “Family Fridays, July 10 through Aug. 21 from 11 a.m.-noon.

This series includes eight weeks of family-friendly programs on snakes and reptiles, music-making, stories, drumming, community performances and a little bit of magic.

Presenters will encourage an innate curiosity about the natural world and promote a deeper connection to the Berkshire landscape and world at large.

Family Fridays is free with Garden admission. Admission for BBG members and children under 12 is free.

On July 10 The Hissing Booth provides a unique, up-close-and-personal experience with snakes, reptiles and invertebrates.

On July 17 Tom Knight combines the elements of Mr. Rogers’ gentle spirit and the unbound creativity of Jim Henson, Knight has created an original show that entertains and enlightens young children and adults alike.

On July 24 Roger Tinknell will sing, dance and play percussion instruments.

On July 31 Aimee Gelinas perform African drumming. Hands-on drumming workshops for audience member follows..

On Aug. 7 Grumbling Gryphons perform “The Myth of Persephone. This dramatization of the ancient Greek myth tells the story of how the seasons came to be, and exposes children to the classical Greek myth in a highly entertaining and engaging way.

On Aug. 14 Mr. Twisty’s Super Silly Magic Show will take place.

On Aug. 21 Reptile Shows of New England takes place.

WORTHINGTON

Roadwork continues on River and Bashan Hill

WORTHINGTON – Morais’ crew #1 continues with new drainage from River Road to the Peru town line through Thursday, July 2.

Morais’ Crew # continues constructing a new concrete retaining wall west of Bashan Hill Road.

Work hours 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and one-way alternating traffic will be in place with traffic officers directing traffic.

A temporary traffic signal allowing one-way alternating traffic for approximately 400 feet has been installed and operating at the new concrete retaining wall construction site west of Bashan Hill Road.

No work will take place Friday, July 3 due to Fourth of July holiday. Verizon utility work is completed

Council on Aging to hold annual picnic

WORTHINGTONTON – The annual Council on Aging picnic takes place Monday, July 13 at noon in the Worthington Rod and Gun Club.

The menu included Worthy-Que-BBQ chicken, sides and dessert. It will be held rain or shine.

Reservation are required as seating is limited by calling 413-238-1557 by Monday, July 6.

WESTFIELD

Alzheimer’s Association Support Group offered at Armbrook Village

WESTFIELD – On Wednesday, July 29 at 6 p.m. Alzheimer’s Association Support Group meets at Armbrook Village Senior Living and Memory Support Community, 551 North Road.

Caregivers and family members are invited to enjoy light refreshments and to share their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with their loved ones. The public is welcome.

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

PLAINFIELD

Declaration of Independence reading at library

PLAINFIELD – This year is the 249th anniversary of the founding of our nation: it exists for 250 years.

The 250th Fourth of July Commemoration and Eleventh Annual Hilltown Fourth of July Community Reading and Discussion takes place Saturday, July 4 from 10 a.m.-noon takes place in the Alden Pavilion behind Shaw Memorial Library, 312 Main St.

All 12 and over are welcome.

There will be a reading together, the Declaration of Independence and Frederick Douglass’ Fourth of July Address (1852, abbr.). Then they will discuss in small groups.

The library will provide text; people can also visit at Swiftriverpress.com for the company.

The event will be held rain or shine. People should bring a chair.

Hosted by Plainfield Reads. Co-Hosted by Earthdance, the Plainfield Historical Society, the Plainfield Congregational Church, Shaw Memorial Library, the Northern Hilltowns COAs, the West Cummington Congregational Church, the Cummington Village Church, the Cummington Historical Commission, the Ashfield Historical Society, The Worthington Public Library and the Plainfield Mutual Support Network.

This event is funded in part by Mass Humanities, the West Cummington Congregational Church and the Plainfield, Cummington and Worthington Cultural Councils, which are funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



PITTSFIELD

Vin Marinaro is grand marshal

PITTSFIELD – As part of “America Celebrates the Generations,” the Pittsfield Parade Committee honors Vin Marinaro as their 2026 Grand Marshal.

The Fourth of July parade, July 4, starts at 10 a.m. rain or shine at the intersection of South and East/West Housatonic Streets and ends at Wahconah Park.

A lifelong Pittsfield resident, Marinaro dedicated his life to serving others and strengthening the community he calls home. For decades, he has been a mentor, educator, coach, advocate, and leader, leaving a lasting impact on generations of Pittsfield families.

He began his career in education, teaching in Pittsfield’s Catholic schools, coaching youth sports and managing the Catholic Youth Center, where he helped shape the lives of countless young people.

He later brought that same passion for service to the Ralph J. Froio Senior Center, serving as Executive Director from 2010 until his retirement in 2018. Under his leadership, the center expanded programs, strengthened community connections, and became an even more vibrant gathering place for older adults.

A devoted member of the Rotary Club of Pittsfield since 1995, Vin has exemplified Rotary’s motto of Service Above Self. In 2024, he was installed as District Governor for Rotary District 7890, representing clubs throughout Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut. Along the way, he has been recognized with numerous honors, including the Gerard D. Downing Service to Children Award and a designation as a Paul Harris Fellow.

This year’s Parade theme celebrates the people who connect generations and help build the future while honoring the past. Vin Marinaro embodies that spirit. Through his work with youth, seniors, and civic organizations, he has touched lives across every generation, creating a legacy of compassion, leadership, and community pride.

Marinaro will lead the 2026 Pittsfield Fourth of July Parade. Pittsfield’s Fourth of July Parade is a long-standing community tradition that brings together residents, families, organizations, and visitors from across the Berkshires. The parade kicks off at 10 am.

People may learn more about the parade by visiting at www.pittsfieldparade.com.



Vin Marinaro



Submitted photo

This photo shows recent graduates of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy career recruit class S45. Local firefighters graduating from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy career recruit class S45. They are Myles Candelet, Brent Chylinski, Nolan Jankowski and Justin Nackoul, all of the Pittsfield Fire Department.

MassDEP fines Pittsfield Contractor for asbestos violations

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) issued a \$17,400 penalty to Pittsfield-based Barile Environmental, Inc., for asbestos violations that occurred during abatement services at an office building located at 23 Lewis Avenue in Great Barrington.

MassDEP discovered the violations during inspections of the office building in October 2025.

Barile failed to follow appropriate asbestos work practices and controls during its asbestos abatement activities at the building site.

MassDEP inspections of the facility revealed that Barile personnel were removing asbestos-containing siding in violation of state asbestos regulations.

“MassDEP enforces asbestos regulations so that management of asbestos-containing materials is completed safely,” said Michael Gorski, director of MassDEP’s Western Regional Office in Springfield. “This consent order requires payment of a substantial penalty and could have been avoided if the proper work practices were followed.”

Following MassDEP’s order, Barile has completed the required cleanup actions and must pay \$14,000 of the \$17,400 penalty to resolve the violations. The balance of the penalty is suspended pending compliance with the remaining administrative terms of the order.

Property owners or contractors with questions about asbestos-containing materials, notification requirements, proper removal, handling, packaging, storage and disposal procedures or MassDEP asbestos regulations are encouraged to contact the appropriate MassDEP Regional Office for assistance.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Abigail Balser completes leadership development program for NSLS

ADELPHI, MD – Abigail Balser of Westfield completed the Leadership Development Program through the University of Maryland Global Campus chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success during the 2025-26 academic year.

The leadership program prepares NSLS members to be effective leaders in their lives and careers.

NSLS is a leadership development organization with more than 2 million members and more than 800 chapters across the United States and Latin America.

NSLS began more than 20 years ago to help the greatest number of people in the most significant way through a dedicated mission to build strong, successful leaders. The society encourages community action, volunteerism, personal growth and strong leadership from its chapters and members around the world.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded

more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military service members. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid, courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 100 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland.

WPI students complete Major Qualifying Project

WORCESTER – Worcester Polytechnic Institute students completed a capstone thesis called the Major Qualifying Project, a research-driven, professional-level project that challenges students to solve the kinds of problems they would typically encounter in their professional discipline.

This project is required of all graduating seniors as part of the university's distinctive project-based educational experience.

"It's inspiring to see the creativity and skills that our students bring to these projects, as well as the professionalism with which they present their research," says Arne Gericke, interim dean of undergraduate studies and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. "Their experience managing a major project like this-including identifying a problem and researching all of the implications and possible solutions while also managing team dynamics over an extended period of several months-

sets them up well for success not only in their first jobs after graduation but throughout their careers."

WPI's innovative undergraduate education is centered around project-based learning, a hands-on approach that offers students opportunities to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to real-world, open-ended problems. These projects produce tangible results that affect the quality of people's lives, an experience that changes both the student and their world.

The following students completed projects.

Marissa Whalley of Westfield, class of 2026, majoring in architectural engineering, completed a project titled "Eco-Evolutionary Facades."

Christopher Jamieson of Easthampton, class of 2026, majoring in mechanical engineering, completed a project titled "Palm Print: Portable 3D Printer."

Ava Montovani of Westfield, class of 2026, majoring in aerospace engineering, completed a project titled "RC Aircraft

COLLEGE NEWS

Colleges and universities list honors

DEAN'S LIST
Clark University
First honors
Rena Skloot of Cummington
Ashton R. Murphy LaPenn of Easthampton
Samantha G. Adamtsev of Westfield

Second honors
Tanya J. Sheinkman of Becket
Victoria R. Holden of Westfield

Dean College
Kalee Conner of Chester
Skylar Raskevitz of Easthampton

Roger Williams University
Ava Cieplinski of Westfield
Dominic Monti of Westfield
Cat Moriarty of Chesterfield
Logan Szenda of Westfield

St. Anselm College
Caela Scanolon of Easthampton, education studies and elementary education major

SUNY Cortland
Nathaniel Godden of Williamsburg, sports management major

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Gabriel Rapoza of Easthampton, class of 2027 aerospace engineering major
Marissa Whalley of Westfield, class of 2026 architectural engineering major
Michael Grinley of Goshen, class of 2027 environmental engineering major
Taylor Mason of Worthington, class of 2028 chemistry major
Veronica Rapoza of Easthampton class of 2029 biomedical engineering major

CHESTER

Fay Piergiovanni celebrated, receives Boston Post Cane

CHESTER – Fay Piergiovanni, 93, was recently presented with Chester's Boston Post Cane in a ceremony by the Chester Historical Society at her William Street home attended by a large group of her family and friends.

Fay Peltier was born in Becket and graduated from Chester High School in 1950. The next year she married Chester resident Dominic Piergiovanni, also a Chester High School graduate and serving in the Army at Fort Lee in Virginia at the time of their marriage.

They eventually made their home on William Street where they raised their two daughters, Lisa and Tina, who organized the cane presentation in the family home.

Dominic passed away

in 2013 after 62 years of marriage. Fay served on the Gateway Regional School Committee for 12 years and during that time was appointed to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees where she served as Vice-Chair.

Following her time on the School Committee she spent six years on the Board of Selectmen, the last three as chairman. After two terms on the Board of Selectmen, she served on the Board of Health.

She was President of the Chester Historical Society for many years as well as Chair of the Chester Historical Commission. As President of the Society she oversaw the opening of the Chester History Museum in the former Chester Methodist



Fay Piergiovanni receives Chester's Boston Post Cane in June 2026. Fay Piergiovanni receives Chester's Boston Post Cane from the Chester Historical Society. Shown from left, Annette LaMountain, Fay Piergiovanni, John Hultman, James Higby and John Garvey.

Church. She was an ardent supporter of the restoration of the Maple Street bridge and the fact that it is restored and open today is due in large

part to her persistent advocacy of that long-delayed project.

Frequent phone calls still go out to Fay from current society members when they can't answer some queries and Fay usually knows the answer.

In addition to her work with the Historical Society, she also served on the boards of the Jacob's Ladder Scenic Byway Committee, The Chester Foundation and the Miniature Theatre of Chester.

The presentation of the Boston Post Cane has been a tradition since 1909 when the Boston Post newspaper sent the canes to towns to be given to the oldest resident. The previous holder of Chester's cane was Harriet Gilman, who passed away in January at age 104.

Hamilton Memorial Library hosts summer reading program

CHESTER – Hamilton Memorial Library's Summer Reading Program is approaching and sign-ups have begun.

Children may sign up for this free program, which encourages education and reading and is open to all. Here is a list of upcoming programs. A pizza party kick-off takes place Saturday, July 11 at 11 a.m. On the Nature Trail happens Thursdays, July 16, July 23

and July 30 at 11 a.m. Each child will receive an activity book focused on nature to use for the three weeks. A talk for adults "Staying Well with Hemp" by Western Mass Hemp is Saturday, July 18 at 11a.m.

Music lessons (ukulele, guitar and banjo) take place Wednesdays July 22, July 29 and Aug. 5 starting at 1:30 p.m.

A solar beetle craft takes

place on Saturday, Aug. 1 at 11 a.m. People may build their own terrarium on Saturday Aug. 8 at 11 a.m.

Riverside Reptiles "Jeepers Creepers" program takes place Saturday, Aug. 15 at 10 a.m.

More detailed information is available by visiting their website at chester.cwmars.org. People may call 413-354-7808 to RSVP for events/availability.

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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.

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HELP WANTED

Town Administrator Town of Russell, MA

The Town of Russell seeks a **Town Administrator** with strong communication and collaborative skills to oversee and manage day-to-day operations for our Town. Russell is a small rural community (pop. 1643) in the Southern Hilltown's of the Pioneer Valley region in Hampden County. Led by a three-member Select Board, and Open Town Meeting form of government, the Town relies on the Town Administrator to be responsible for the oversight and management of daily operations of the Town. Responsibilities include scheduling, developing and implementing town projects, assisting with the preparation of budgets, coordinating with various town boards and committees, supervising and coordinating overall operations of Town government and managing day-to-day affairs under the general direction of the Select Board. The Town Administrator will support the Select Board, ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, interface with government agencies and the public and manage municipal operations for the Town. Attendance at certain evening meetings is required. Candidates should have knowledge and competence in municipal finance and budgeting, project management, human resource/personnel administration, Massachusetts municipal law, and intergovernmental and community relations. The successful candidate should possess five (5) years of municipal management and leadership experience, or similar responsibilities in a public or government agency. A degree in public administration or a related field is preferred. An equivalent combination of education, training and experience which demonstrates possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities may also be considered. This is a full-time position with benefits. Starting salary range of \$70,000 – \$85,000 commensurate with qualifications and experience. Submit resume and cover letter as a pdf attachment to **nboersig@townofrussell.us**. Applications must be received by July 16, 2026. The Town of Russell is an equal opportunity employer.

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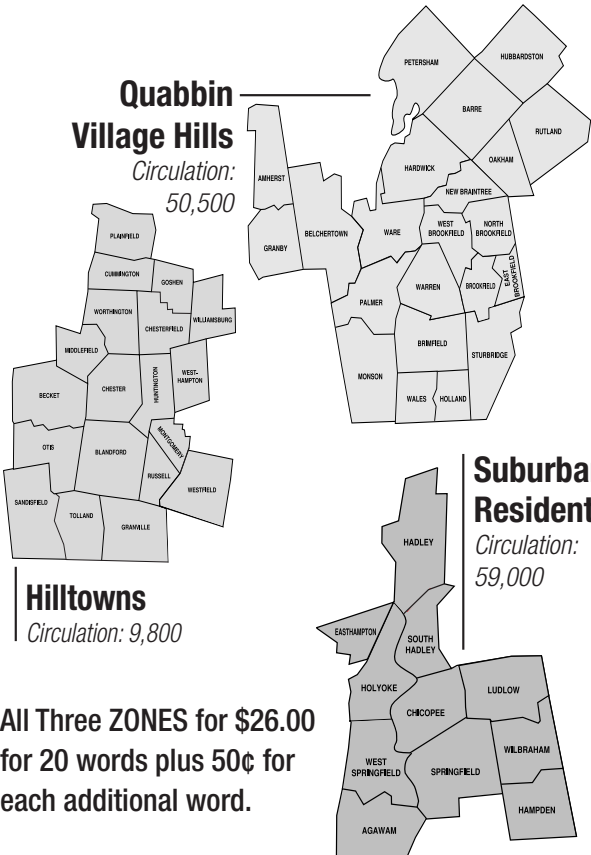
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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
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REGION

Gas prices at the pump decrease 12 cents from last week

WESTWOOD – Drivers are getting some relief at the pump as gasoline prices continue to ease across the Northeast. Crude oil and gasoline prices steadily declined for about a month on building anticipation that the war with Iran might be nearing its end and unfettered production flows through Strait of Hormuz could resume. Tightening inventories of both oil and gasoline are keeping some pressure on pump prices: U.S. crude inventories fell by 17.2 million barrels last week, reaching the lowest level since March 1985, according to the Energy Information Administration. Inventories of gasoline also declined by 900,000 barrels and are now 6% below the five-year average, the EIA reported. The drawdown came even as gasoline production climbed 356,000 barrels a day to more than 10 million barrels a day, the highest rate in more than 10 months as refiners ramp up output to meet summer demand. Total domestic demand last week reached 9.21 million barrels a day, the highest level in three weeks, and exports remain elevated as countries around the world turn to the U.S. to replace product previously delivered via the Strait of Hormuz. Over the past four weeks, gasoline exports have trended about 20% higher than last year and oil exports have averaged 23% higher over the same period. The average gas price in Massachusetts is down 12 cents from last week (\$4.17), averaging \$4.05 per gallon. Today's price is 44 cents lower than a month ago (\$4.49) and 97 cents higher than this day last year (\$3.08). Massachusetts's average gas price is 13 cents higher than the national average.

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

Town of Worthington Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing
In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Worthington Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing in response to a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) regarding the following proposed work at

181 River Road:
• Addition of a 27' x 32" bedroom/bathroom to the west side of the primary residence.
The Hearing will be held **Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM** in the Selectboard meeting room at Town Hall, 160 Huntington Road.
07/02/2026

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

CHESTERFIELD

Town lists July 3 and 4 events

CHESTERFIELD – A Block Party with a car show, food trucks and a live band, Sidetracked, takes place Friday, July 3 from 4-7 p.m. On Saturday, July 4 from 7-10:30 a.m. a pancake breakfast takes place at the Firehouse. Heritage Pops Orchestra performs from 9-10 a.m. and again from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Town Center. There will be honoree presentations at 10 a.m at the viewing stand. The parade takes place from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Other events include reading of the Declaration of Independence, viewing stand of Cadaence Cayo, Maggie Sturtevant, Garrett Bak, Bob Osborne and Elizabeth Garcia at 10:15 a.m., and National Anthem Rus and Jen Peotter, AJ and Sylvia Lapinsi and Suzanne and Jim Krebs. Other events include: chicken barbecue from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the church, a magic show from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Russel Park. Rolling Scones and Ed Popielarczyk, Exhibits and face painting Town Hall takes place all day as well as pie and treats on the Library lawn.

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you are a powerhouse this week. Your energy levels will remain steady as the days go on, and people will notice your drive. Channel this energy into something positive.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
You are feeling extra sensitive to others' energy. It is alright to decline social invitations to protect your peace of mind. A creative breakthrough may emerge while alone.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
Don't shy away from the microphone or the spotlight, Leo. Whether it is at work or in your personal life, your charisma will be your greatest asset this week. You will be the star of the show.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
Use your gift of gab to mend a relationship issue that stemmed from a misunderstanding, Gemini. Expect some invitations to come your way and a surprise text mid-week.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, the scales start to tip toward your personal life instead of your professional one this week. Focus on your spouse or special someone and make time for extra moments together.

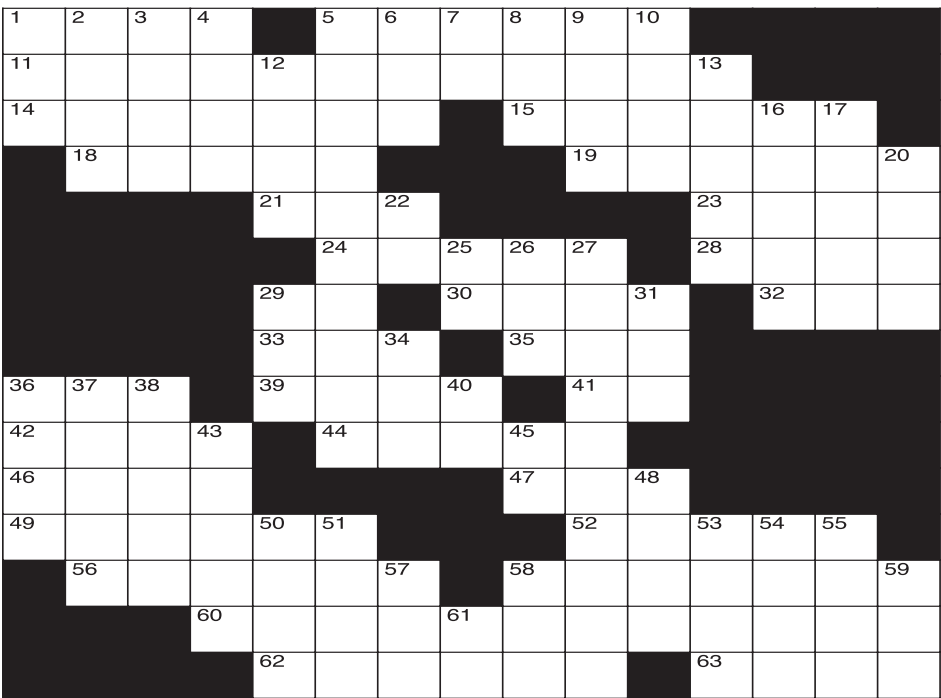
SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Let go of a habit or a resentment that no longer serves you, Scorpio. Just like a snake sheds an old skin, you'll feel lighter and ready to tackle anything.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
You might be ready for a trip, Sagittarius. Even if you can't take a flight right now, explore a new neighborhood or try a different restaurant you've been meaning to check out.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
A small adjustment to your budget now may lead to a big payoff later on, Capricorn. Your financial discipline is a superpower this week, so stick to the plan.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
Others are finally catching up to all of your big ideas, Aquarius. Pitch that unconventional plan you have been holding back and you'll likely have some fans.

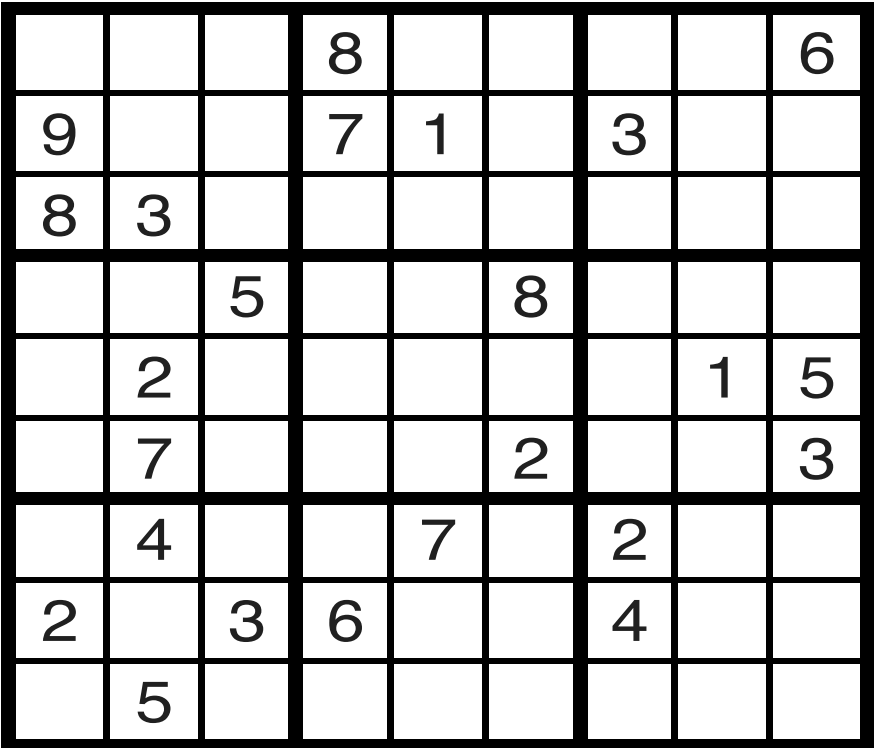
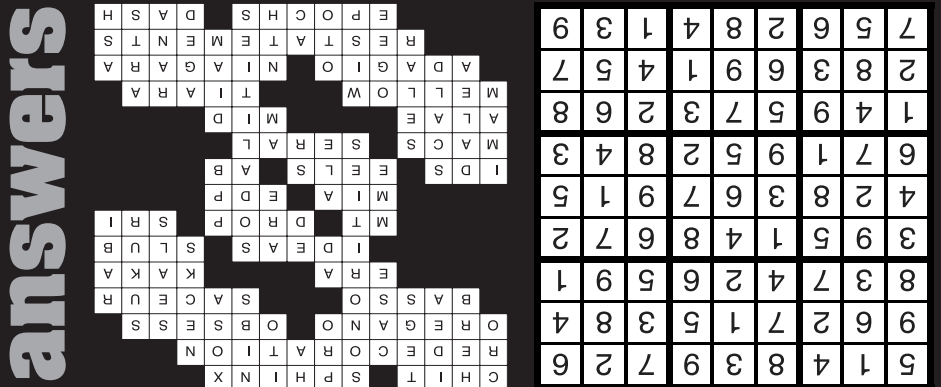
PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Pay attention to any coincidences that pop up during the next several days, Pisces. The universe is trying to tell you something about your next move.



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. ___ chat
 - 5. Statue near the Pyramids
 - 11. A process to change the look
 - 14. Herb
 - 15. Think about excessively
 - 18. Bass vocal part
 - 19. Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO
 - 21. A major division of geological time
 - 23. New Zealand parrot
 - 24. Cognitive contents
 - 28. Lump of yarn
 - 29. Atomic #109
 - 30. Let go of
 - 32. Indian title of respect
 - 33. Whereabouts unknown
 - 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Drivers' licenses count
 - 41. They precede C
 - 42. Popular personal computers
 - 44. Intermediate community stage in ecological succession
 - 46. Wings
 - 47. Indicates position
 - 49. Pleasantly smooth or soft
 - 52. Jeweled headdress
 - 56. In slow tempo
 - 58. ___ Falls
 - 60. Reassertions
 - 62. Eras
 - 63. Hyphen
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Corporate executive
 - 2. A plant used for flavoring food
- 3. Opinion or belief
 - 4. Sheep in their second year
 - 5. Intensities of sound
 - 6. Indicates support for
 - 7. Expression of laughter
 - 8. OJ trial judge
 - 9. Pointed ends of pens
 - 10. True bugs genus
 - 12. Lawyers argue theirs
 - 13. Body parts
 - 16. Closes tightly
 - 17. World Heritage site in Nigeria
 - 20. Islamic calendar month
 - 22. Commercial
 - 25. "Westworld" actor Harris
 - 26. They ___
 - 27. Religious guilds
- 29. Woman (French)
 - 31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
 - 34. Brew
 - 36. Spiritual leader
 - 37. Indigo bush
 - 38. Burn with a hot liquid
 - 40. Older citizen
 - 43. Scad fish genus
 - 45. Morning
 - 48. Line passing through the center (abbr.)
 - 50. Double S-shaped curve
 - 51. Small, thin person
 - 53. Older
 - 54. Mars crater
 - 55. Humanities
 - 57. Word element meaning ear
 - 58. To the ___ degree
 - 59. Residue
 - 61. It cools your home



SUDOKU

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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Submitted photos
Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers stand at the Chester and Blandford boundary stone on Park Knox Acres Trail.



birding with martha
Martha Kane helped hikers identify birds along the Park Knox Acres Trail in Chester on June 14.



The Merlin app shows people all they need to know about the bird song they are hearing.

Hilltown Hikers take bird walk at Park Knox Acres Trailhead

The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers as part of their education series of classes and walks reached out to their member Martha Kane from Southwick, local bird expert, share how to identify birds in the woods.

Merlin Bird ID is a great phone app to take while hiking as it can identify bird calls and songs right on the phone. Kane also recommends eBird which is a database of birding hot spots.

An extra special part of this event was the group met at the Hilltown Hikers new Education Center, which is almost ready for its grand opening in Chester.

On Sunday, June 14, they hiked on the old Round Hill Road where the Park Knox Acres Trailhead is located. They saw many species of birds. The first bird spotted was a turkey vulture gliding on the sky over them as they were getting prepped with bug spray.

Kane entered all the

birds witnessed into the ebird database so that all visitors to the Park Knox Trail and Round Top Hill can see what kinds of birds can be found here.

The list of birds on the June 114 Park Knox Trail bird walk included: turkey vulture, yellow-bellied sapsucker, hairy woodpecker, eastern wood peewee, great crested flycatcher, yellow-throated vireo, red-eyed vireo, blue jay, black-capped chickadee, gray catbird, veery, wood thrush, American goldfinch, wood thrush, chipping sparrow, oven bird, black and white warbler, American redstart, Magnolia warbler, Blackburnian warbler and blue-throated warbler.

The hikers heard the distinctive drumming pattern of the yellow-bellied sapsucker while in a swampy area off Round Hill Road. They heard the “jungle” like call of the hairy woodpecker; it looks similar to the downy woodpecker but is larger.

The group ID the eastern wood pewee by its song “Pee-o-wee, Peeooh.” Flycatchers are hard to identify, but their calls and songs are different. They are similar in size and color to the eastern Phoebe.

The group heard the “Wheep, Wheep” call of the great crested flycatcher by a swampy area.

The hikers heard lots of red-eyed vireos loudly singing from the tree top canopy. Some of the group heard a yellow-throated vireo at the end of the hike and sounds different from the red-eyed vireo.

At the start of the trail near the kiosk, they heard the scolding of the blue jay. They also heard black-capped chickadees as they headed down the mountain bike path.

They saw two gray catbirds toward the end of the walk and one hilltown hikers heard the mewing call of the catbird. Near the swampy, the group heard the veery’s

song and call.

They only heard the alarm call of a wood thrush near a swampy area. They did not hear is flutelike song.

The group heard a couple American goldfinches as they flew over a field at the entrance to the trail. They saw a chipping sparrow feeding on the ground near

the WMHH classroom and another on Round Hill Road.

They also heard the “Teach, Teach, Teach, Teach” song of the oven bird and the tiny, squeaky wheel sound of the black and white warbler.

They heard redstarts singing along Round Hill Road just past the cemetery and the magnolia warbler

down in the swamp.

The group hears at least two Blackburnian warblers in hemlock and pines above the swampy area and a black-throated blue warblers.

Other birds seen or heard were a barred owl, a cardinal and a northern waterthrush. They also found a turkey feather.

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Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

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