

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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ARTIST USES SPECIAL TECHNIQUE



Logan Farrell adds specialty scrapings to his work.
Photos courtesy Porter Memorial Library

HUNTINGTON

ATM yields lengthy warrant articles, few surprises

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The town of Huntington held their Annual Town Meeting on Monday, June 23 in a meeting that was completed in under three hours, despite votes on 28 warrant articles with 14 pages of content.

It was preceded by a Special Town Meeting at 6 p.m. that contained one warrant article for transfers to highway accounts totaling \$19,200. Transfers were approved to cover overages last winter in sand and salt (\$11,600); snow/ice labor (\$4,800) and snow/ice equipment maintenance (\$2,800).

Moderator George Peterson III called the ATM to order at 7 p.m. Selectman Bill Hathaway led the pledge of allegiance. Roger Booth asked for a moment of silence for Edward Dahill who died on June 1. A Vietnam era veteran, Dahill served on the Huntington Fire Department for 37 years, retiring as the Deputy Fire Chief in 2014.

He also worked for the town's Highway Department for nine years before becoming Chesterfield's Highway Superintendent.

The select board also recognized retiring Police Chief Robert Garriepy with a plaque for his dedication and service as Chief from Feb. 1, 1994 through June 27, 2025. The board also dedicated the Annual Town Report to Nancy Kaminski, who has served the town in numerous ways including securing funds for Gateway girls to attend Massachusetts Girls State, serving on the

ATM, page 3



Retiring Police Chief Robert Garriepy was honored for over 31 years of service as Chief, with an engraved plaque.



Select board members (left to right) John McVeigh, Chairman Roger Booth and William Hathaway provided some of the explanations during the town's lengthy warrant articles at Huntington's Annual Town Meeting.
Turley photos by Wendy Long

HUNTINGTON

Summer readers to follow event calendar

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

As reported in last week's Country Journal, adventurers of all ages will embark on a Dungeon and Dragons journey through the mythical world of Ceren during this year's Summer Reading Program at the Huntington Public Library.

Patrons, who sign up can travel to and through the imaginary settlements of Stonelight, Windshaw, Ashtear, Windgate, Camleigh, Ragehille, and Oakwiche, ending their quest

in Rozchild. Each settlement has its own characteristics and weekly activities at the library will be related to them.

The calendar of special events tied to this mythic and epic quest follows. The kickoff was held on Saturday, June 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. where readers could stop in, sign up, get their information packet, and design their character. However, if they missed the opening day they are still welcome to stop in, sign up and catch up/

Readers will arrive in the settlement of Windshaw

during the first week (June 29 - July 5). A traveling bard will be at the library on Saturday, July 5 at 11 a.m. and all Saturdays this summer.

During week 2, readers will arrive in the mythical village of Ashtear. They can visit the potion shop on July 7 at 10:30 a.m. to make fizzy glitter potions. Those who return for craft afternoon on July 10 from 4 - 6 p.m. can make their dice bag. Readers will collect Dungeons and Dragons dice D6 this week, which can be safely kept in their dice bag.

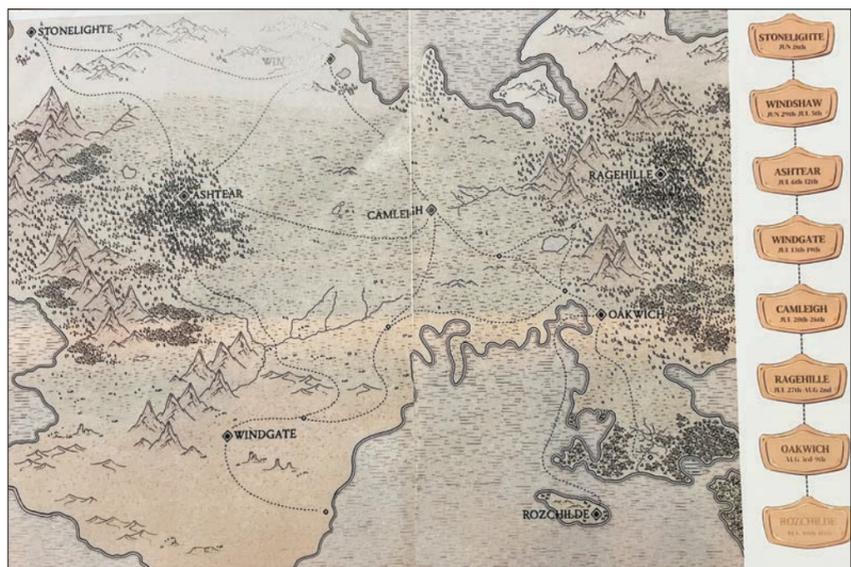
After arriving in Windgate for week 3, questers can take part in a scavenger hunt at the library all week, and to receive their D8 Die. They can meet a visiting druid at the grove to make fairy light jars on July 15 at 4 p.m. Come back on Game Night, July 17, from 4-6 p.m. and learn to play Dungeons and Dragons.

The settlement of Camleigh during week 4 will offer a fairy potion workshop on Monday, July 21 at 10:30 a.m. Readers will collect D10 for their D&D playing dice.

Week 5 sees the arrival in Ragehille as adventurers near the end of their journey. On Monday, July 28 at 10:30 a.m. they will visit the alchemist's shop at 10:30 a.m. for a slime making activity. Ed the Wizard will be at the library on Saturday Aug. 2 at noon, where he will teach kids how to twist dragon balloons. Don't forget to pick up this week's die for your collection.

Week 6 takes place Aug. 3 - 9 in the village of Oakwiche. Collect the D12 die and don't forget Saturday's weekly visit from the bard (story hour) on Saturday, Aug. 9 at 11 a.m. Did you miss the opportunity to learn how to play Dungeons & Dragons? Or want the chance to play again? Another D&D session will be held on Wednesday,

CALENDAR, page 3



Readers will travel through the mythical land of Ceren at the Huntington Public Library. Along the way, they can visit settlements and their potion shops, alchemist shops and even meet a wizard, while learning to play Dungeons & Dragons.
Turley photo by Wendy Long

BLANDFORD

Select Board hears update on Chester Road property

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The Water Commissioners missed the meeting with the Select Board on Monday, June 23. Commissioner Brad Curry had notified the board he would not be able to attend.

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera updated the board on the Kana property on Chester Road. According to Ted Cousineau the Water Commissioners had agreed to cover the cost of repairs to the driveway, but the Kanas did not allow the town to do any work on their property. They would like the Water Department to pay for this.

The Right of Entry will not allow for this reparation, according to Ferrera. The town is relieved of any costs. The issue was tabled until all parties involved could be available.

Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay is still being charged union dues, although his position is non-union. Ferrera has started the process for this to stop.

Keeping up with money owed the town, she has been directed to Francisca Heming, District Highway Director for the Mass Department of

Transportation to find out about water bill payment.

There are 811 people on the emergency reverse 911 telephone and over 30 per cent of the people who receive the calls actually pick up according to Ferrera.

Jackie Coury asked about who actually manages the list of people who receive the calls. "Managing that list is important," she said.

Board of Health member Jennifer Girard manages the list. The process was discussed; who gets the calls, who sends out the calls, who overall is responsible were topics covered.

The fiscal year end encumbrances must be taken care of so any funds are not lost to departments for purchases made but invoice has not yet been received.

Coury told the board that they could deliberate what they wanted to discuss with Water, which was wages for the Water Superintendent. That position is part time, 19 hours a week, which would be the superintendent rate, an hour and the other 21 hours at a lesser rate.

Steve Grondin's current rate is \$25.81 an hour. The superintendent rate is

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Blandford.....6	Easthampton.....5	Montgomery.....5	Plainfield.....7	Westfield.....11
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HILLTOWNS

PORTER LIBRARY HOSTS SPECIAL PAINTING EVENT



Miles Crossman considers what will come next and Alex Rigazio worked at spreading paint. Photos courtesy Porter Memorial Library

Shown clockwise from left are Alex Rigazio, Lydia Crossman, Benjamin Barone, Logan Farrell and Miles Crossman, all engrossed in their artistic creations.



Alex Rigazio started to spread his paint, a la Sgraffito, paint scraping. His scraping tools are the yellow and blue items.



Lydia Crossman dots her paper with different colors of paint which she eventually smeared with different types of specialty tools.

SOUTH WORTHINGTON Sevenars anniversary season opens July 13

SOUTH WORTHINGTON – The Opening Concert of Sevenars Music Festival’s 57th anniversary season offers exciting masterpieces for piano solo, piano duo and violin/piano duo, with special tribute to Maurice Ravel and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor for their 150th anniversaries on Sunday, July 13 at 4 p.m. at Sevenars Academy, 15 Ireland St., just off Rte. 112.

Stellar guest artists will be pianist/composer Clifton J. “Jerry” Noble and violinist Alexis Walls, joining Sevenars family members Rorianne Schrade, Lynelle James, and Christopher James, who will all play the hall’s magnificent Steinway concert grand. The program will open with Lynelle James and Rorianne Schrade performing a specially arranged duo of Coleridge-Taylor.

The music continues with Christopher Janes playing one of Liszt’s most exciting of the Transcendental Etudes, Wild Jagd (“Wild Hunt”). To honor Ravel, there will be his Gaspard de la Nuit played by Lynelle James, the deliciously bluesy Sonata No. 2 for Violin and Piano played by Alexis Walls with Lynelle, and La Valse played by Rorianne Schrade. Rorianne will also join Clifton J. Noble for the finale of Percy Grainger’s Porgy and Bess Fantasy based on Gershwin’s iconic opera.

People may visit their website at www.sevenars.org or call 413-238-5854.

There are no tickets or charge, as ever, but donations are welcomed at the door (suggested \$20). Refreshments are free.

CHESTER

Church to hold Vacation Bible School

CHESTER – The Chester Baptist Church, 14 Middlefield Road, announces Vacation Bible Time for all young people ages 4 to sixth grade starting Sunday evening, July 6 thru Thursday evening, July 10.

Activities include Bible songs, snacks, competition, games and prizes. Each fun evening begins at 6 p.m.

and ends at 8 p.m. Chester Baptist Church located across from the Chester Town Hall. Free transportation is available. People may call 413-668-7768 with any questions.

Hamilton Memorial Library lists July events

CHESTER – Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., Summer Reading Program has begun.

This year’s theme is “Level Up at Your Library.” People may stop in the library or call 413-354-7808 for sign-ups. As always, all events are free and the summer reading events are open to all. RSVPs are helpful and are required for certain events-noted. For more detailed information, people may visit chester.cwmars.org and click on the events tab.

Ukulele lessons begin Thursdays at noon through Thursday, Aug. 7. LEGO story time and craft will take

place on Thursday, July 10 11a.m. LEGO with Tayo will take place on Saturday, July 12 at 11 a.m. Participants must RSVP.

Sci-fi book club for middle schoolers meet on Wednesday, July 16 at 3 p.m. Sci-fi themed adult book club will meet later at 4:30 p.m. People may stop in to pick up a copy of book to read prior to meeting. There will be a fun astronomy story time and craft on Thursday, July 17 at 11 a.m.

Story time and personalized puzzle craft will take place Thursday, July 24 at 11a.m. A family scavenger hunt will take place

on Saturday, July 26 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. They will visit Chester landmarks. On Wednesday, July 30 at 4 p.m. there will be a program to learn to solve the Rubik’s Cube. People must RSVP so they have enough. There will be a fine motor skills story and fun time on Thursday, July 31 at 11 a.m.

On Thursday, Aug. 17 at 11 a.m. there will be a nature walk. Participants should meet at the Chester Railway station parking lot. On Saturday, Aug. 9 at 10 a.m. Reptile Adaptations Program will be the finale program for summer reading program.

Correction

This sentence below was not included in the press release published in the June 26 Country Journal. It was submitted separately as a screen shot and omitted.

Chester Hill

Association awarded its 2024 Citizen of the Year award to the Chester Historical Society for their hard work and dedication in the Preservation and education fo Chester history.

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.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

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OTIS

Library hosts Cookbook Club

OTIS – The Otis Library, 48 North Main Road, will meet on Friday, July 18 at 12:30 p.m.

The cookbook this month is “Every Day with Babs” by Barbara Costello, family friendly dinners for every day of the week. People should stop by the circulation desk to pick out a recipe

NOTICE

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

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HUNTINGTON

Steve Hamlin's new book available

HUNTINGTON – Local Huntington artist, author, craftsman and musician, Steve Hamlin,

has just self-published his second book, "Travel on \$50/Day (or less!); Camping in the US and Beyond."

It's available on both Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites, as either an ebook or paperback by order.

Drawing on many years

of experience and ten-plus years of detailed records, the book describes proven techniques for affordable, rewarding motor-touring. People who love adventure and like to save money doing it, this book is for them. Even if they prefer the creature comforts that a less rustic campground or a hotel offers, they should find some useful information here.

Hamlin's first book, an

adult coloring book titled, "Birds of Eastern North America" is available at Gray Catbird Gift Shop, East Main Street and occasional local art and craft shows. It also can be ordered directly from Steve, should they need it in a hurry for a gift. A smaller abridged version of the coloring book is also available in paperback at Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

ATM

from page 1

Council on Aging Board and her extensive work on the North Hall Advisory Committee.

Many of the evening's articles were approved unanimously with little or no discussion. The 61 voters attending quickly approved Articles 1-5: the "boilerplate" warrant articles authorizing the selectboard and town officials to conduct duties such as appointing town officers, selling foreclosed properties, applying for grants, entering into contracts with MA Department of Transportation on the town's behalf and also accepting the reports of town departments.

The warrant then skipped up to Articles 11 - 15, which asked for approval for transferring funding from free cash, as follows: \$50,000 to the Education Stabilization Fund, \$25,000 to the Stabilization Fund; \$15,000 to the Capital Equipment Stabilization Fund, \$16,000 to purchase a trailer for the highway department, and \$15,000 for repainting North Hall. The only transfer generating serious discussion was the highway department trailer, which was the only article to that point to not pass unanimously, with 10 in opposition.

Of the remaining articles, three generated lengthier discussion. Article 16 amended the town's bylaws to stipulate that town officer's fees will go into the general fund, beginning July 1, 2026. Those positions who, prior to this going into effect, had been allowed to keep their fees as part of their pay structure will have their salaries adjusted based

upon a five year average of fee collections.

Article 19 was to bring the town's dog licensing and animal control procedures into accordance with "Ollie's Law" named for a dog that was severely mauled by other dogs in an East Longmeadow boarding kennel. Ollie spent two months in a veterinary hospital before dying from his injuries. This article was detailed and extensive, taking up six pages of content. Speaking against passing this article was the town's Animal Control Officer Jim Helems, who objected to the costs for licensing, fines and privacy issues for kennels, among other items. Select board Chairman Roger Booth pointed out that this article had been reviewed by the town's attorneys and brings the town bylaws into accordance with Massachusetts General Law. Similar articles have been passed in Southwick and Westhampton. Following the back and forth, the question was moved. Eight voted in opposition and the rest in favor.

Articles 22 through 25 dealt with Accessory Dwelling Units, based upon a law passed in Massachusetts last August. "An ADU is defined as a self-contained housing unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities on the same lot as a Principal Dwelling" and goes on to stipulate parking, entrance, building and fire codes. These articles brought previous by-laws on accessory family dwelling units into compliance with the new law.

Once the remaining articles passed, the mod-

erator returned to Articles related to the FY '2026 budget. The Gateway Regional School District assessment of \$3,122,773 passed unanimously with no discussion. Vocational tuition (\$905,132) and Vocational Transportation (\$88,459) each passed with one person abstaining.

Peterson then led the town through a line-item reading of the coming year's budget. Holds were placed on a few items, which generated discussion. An increase in the cost of the town's website from \$2,499 last year to \$6,010 for the coming year was needed because it had previously been covered by ARPA funds, which have concluded. Also generating discussion was \$61,900 for assessor services, with several residents stating that some buildings are not being assessed. Booth explained that you cannot reliably use GIS software to determine whether or not a property is being assessed. Town Administrator Jennifer Pelloquin advised voters to inform her, the selectboard or the board of assessors if they believe a building is not being assessed properly.

Basket St. Landfill monitoring earned a hold with its change from \$15,750 in FY '25 to \$34,000 for the coming year, which has increased due to the detection of radon and PFAS in an abutting homeowner's well water. It was also explained that library wages increased due to additional staff hours (from \$59,467 to \$70,173).

Once all holds were explained, the budget was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned.

CALENDAR

from page 1

Aug. 6 from 4-6 p.m.

Your quest ends during week 7 (Aug. 10-16) with your arrival in Rozchild. You will collect your final die for a complete set to play Dungeons & Dragons.

If you missed the chance to make your dice bag, it will be repeated the crafternoon of Thursday, Aug. 14 from 4 - 6 p.m.

Celebrate at the summer reading party on Tuesday,

Aug. 23 at noon. This will also be a final chance to visit a potion shop-this time to create sand art potions. Be sure to make note of this itinerary so you don't miss these fabulous activities.

First summer concert, picnic July 10

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The town of Huntington will celebrate summer on Thursday, July 10 by hosting a town picnic on the green to kick off their annual summer concert series.

Music and food will begin at 5:30 p.m. this night only, with a minimum one dollar donation for a hamburger or hot dog, popcorn, lemonade and cake. Performing will be Ray Guillemette, Jr. who will highlight the best of both of his shows, including hits from his "A Ray of Elvis" show.

He is a 10-time International Elvis Tribute Artist and has performed

throughout the United States, Canada, Belgium, France and Japan. In addition to his Elvis show, he has headlined a band called King Kountry since 2011, which performs throughout Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut. King Kountry features the hits of Brad Paisley, Trace Adkins, Billy Currington, Easton Corbin, George Strait, Kenny Chesney and more.

Huntington's summer music series is held on Thursday evenings, rain or shine, through Aug. 21. Concerts take place on the Town Green at the intersection of Routes 20 and 112. In the case of rain, performances will move into Stanton Hall, which is air

conditioned and wheelchair accessible. Admission is free and the series is sponsored by the Huntington Community Events committee and supported by the Huntington Cultural Council. Baked goods will be available for purchase each week from local non-profit groups.

Upcoming performances will be Otan Vargas on July 17, The Brian & Vicky Show on July 24, The Hellcats on July 31, The Hotshot Hillbillies on Aug. 7, Even It Up on Aug. 14 and The Honig Brothers closing the season on Aug. 21. These concerts will all run from 6:30-8 p.m. People should bring a lawn chair or blanket. People should leave pets at home.

PITTSFIELD

Town lists Fourth of July events

PITTSFIELD – The Fourth of July festivities are heating up in Pittsfield.

On Thursday, July 3 from 6-8 p.m. at the Pittsfield Common for an evening of incredible live music at the Pittsfield Parade Concert, featuring the iconic Greater Kensington String Band affectionately known as "The Mummies" with special guests, the WhoaPhat Brass Band.

The Greater Kensington String Band has been delighting audiences since 1946 as a totally volunteer organization and a standout in the world-famous Mummies Parade in Philadelphia. With their colorful costumes and infectious, upbeat tunes, the band brings a unique blend of fun, tradition, and musical flair.

Local favorites BB's Hot Spot and Cravins Ice Cream will be on site with

delicious food and treats available for purchase. In the case of rain, the concert will move indoors to the First United Methodist Church, 55 Fenn St., just steps away from the Common. This concert is free to the public thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Mill Town Foundation as part of the Common Ground Showcase - a series of community-focused events celebrating music, arts, and togetherness. Donations will be gratefully accepted to support the Pittsfield Parade Committee and help keep this cherished community tradition going strong.

The Pittsfield Parade Committee presents the third Annual Pittsfield Parade Car Show on Sunday, July 6 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the McKay Street Parking Lot in downtown Pittsfield. Car enthusiasts from near and far

are invited to showcase their classic, custom, vintage, or modern vehicles. All cars are welcome with no advance registration required. The suggested donation for vehicle entry is \$10, with all proceeds directly supporting the Pittsfield Fourth of July Parade. A tented seating area will be set up so guests can kick back and enjoy the atmosphere. Awards will be presented at the end of the show to highlight some fan favorites and standout vehicles.

Public viewing is free, making it the perfect family-friendly outing. Don't miss the 50/50 raffle and additional opportunities to contribute to the parade through on-site donations - every dollar helps keep this cherished tradition alive.

For more information, people may visit Pittsfieldparade.com.

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CHESTERFIELD
78th Annual **4th of July** Fest!!
Red, White & Moooo
Pancake Breakfast (Firehouse) 7:00 - 10:00
Food & Vendor Booths 9:00 - 1:30
Historical Exhibits (Edwards Museum) 9:00 - 1:30
Heritage Pops Orchestra (Town Center) 9:30 & 11:30
Hilltown Art Display (Town Hall) 9:30 - 1:30
Historical Exhibits (Town Hall) 9:30 - 1:30
PARADE
MARCHING BANDS!
ANIMALS
Chicken Barbecue (Church) 11:30 - 1:30
Magic Show (Russell Park) 11:30 - 1:30
Sponsored in part by the Arts Council of:
Chesterfield, Goshen, Williamsburg & Worthington
Massachusetts Cultural Council

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



When will funds stolen from Social Security be replaced?

Dear Rusty:

When will the funds stolen from the SS Fund be replaced?

They used Social Security when the government ran out of money and used it for illegals. I think the funds should be replaced except for legitimate payments to Social Security recipients. This money was never meant to be used by the federal government to pay their bills.

Signed: Concerned Senior

who have earned them. There were about \$2.8 trillion in SS reserves as of the end of 2023, but that balance is steadily decreasing due to being redeemed to pay full benefits. As of the last report by the Trustees of Social Security, the reserves will be depleted in about 2033, unless Congress passes reform legislation to restore SS to full solvency.

FYI, the Association of Mature American Citizens is working hard to prevent depletion of the Trust Fund, suggesting to Congress a way to reform the program so future generations can fully benefit from it, with AMAC's Social Security Guarantee proposal. AMAC is constantly working to prevent depletion of the SS Trust Funds, which would result in an across the board cut in everyone's benefit by about 23%. AMAC works every day in Washington D.C. to ensure Social Security is here for many generations.

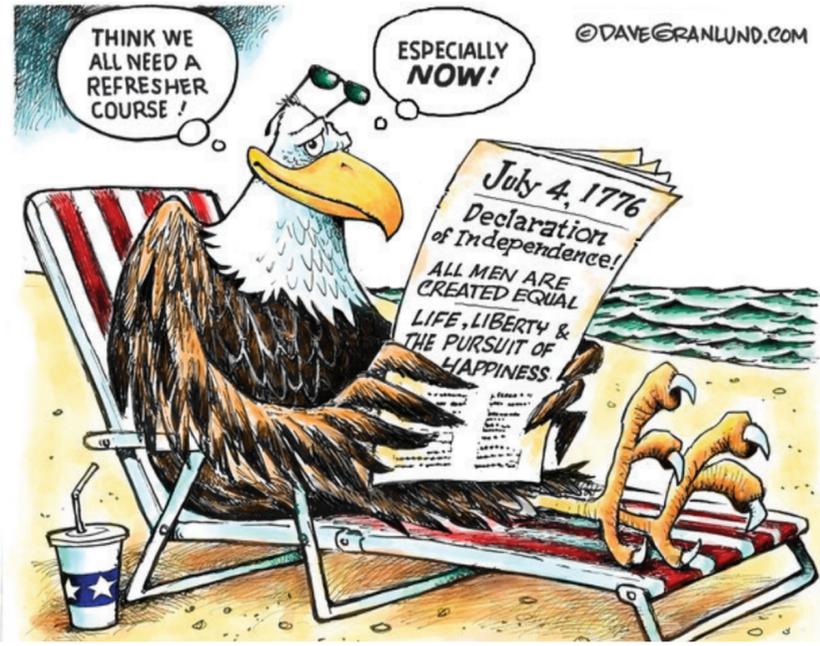
The Association of Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association of 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.

Dear Concerned Senior:

I must tell you that no funds have ever been "stolen" from the Social Security Administration despite the persistent myth. All money received by SS from payroll taxes, interest on investments and income tax on SS benefits is - and always has been - immediately converted to special issue government bonds (investments), which are held in the Social Security Trust Funds and which pay interest at the current federal bond rate.

Those bond investments held in reserve have been and are used only to pay benefits to those who have earned them by contributing to Social Security via payroll taxes for at least 10 years (40 quarters). Only U.S. citizens and legal residents can get Social Security benefits. Illegal aliens cannot receive Social Security benefits.

For information, repayment of the special issue bonds held in SS reserves occurs every day, because incoming revenue has been insufficient to pay all Social Security benefit costs for several years now, which means that the bonds must be redeemed regularly so that full benefits can be paid to all SS recipients,



GUEST COLUMN

What are biennials exactly?

Right now, many of our favorite "cottage-garden" flowers are beginning to put on a summer show.

Most of these fall into the category of plants known as biennials. From the towering pastel spikes of the beloved hollyhock, to the tattered, clove-scented sweet William and the mysterious and dangerous foxglove, each share the same life cycle.

Unfortunately, however, here is where lots of gardeners get confused. So then, what exactly are biennials? Do they bloom every other year or just during the second growing season? Is a

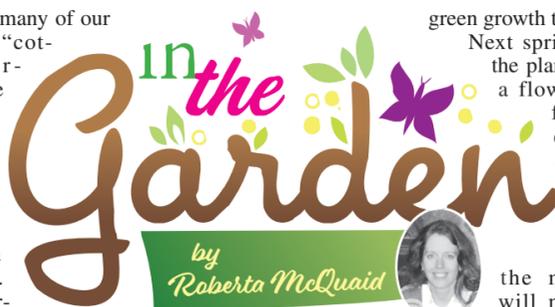
green growth this season.

Next spring (year two) the plant will send up a flower stalk. The flowers will eventually die and seeds will form and drop from the plant.

Usually, the mother plant will not return for a third season. If all goes as Nature intended though, a percentage of her seeds will germinate the following spring, starting the two year process to flower all over again.

I encourage gardeners to have fresh green plants growing alongside blooming biennials - that way they will end up with flowers every

GARDEN, page 5



by Roberta McQuaid

"short-lived perennial" the same as a biennial?

Let's take a closer look.

Merriam-Webster defines biennial as "continuing or lasting for two years; specifically: growing vegetatively during the first year and fruiting and dying during the second." In other words, if you started a hollyhock plant from seed in the spring expect it to put on a lot of



By Ellenor Downer



Osprey

Last week on a trip to Rhode Island with my brother and cousin, we saw two osprey when we stopped by Point Judith Lighthouse.

We watched them as they flew over the ocean and hovered as they looked for fish. One got ready to dive as it tucked in its wings, but then stopped and flew to another spot to hover.

The osprey, also known as the fish hawk, eats a diet of live fish, has the ability to hover and dives into the water to catch them. They are often seen soaring over shorelines.

Ospreys are brown birds with a white head and a brown stripe through its eye. Underparts are grayish. They are over 24 inches long and have a wingspan of 71 inches. They are the only raptor whose outer toe is reversible, allowing it to grasp its prey with two toes in front and two behind.

Ospreys are very successful in catching fish. According to a study at least

one out of every four dives results in catching fish. The average time ospreys spend hunting before making a catch was about 12 minutes.

Ospreys often build large stick nests on manmade structures such as telephone poles, channel markers, and nest platforms designed for their use. Their eggs do not hatch all at once with the first chick emerging about five days before the last one. The oldest chick dominates the younger ones. When food is scarce, the younger chicks may starve to death.

A Brimfield resident, who likes to visit inland ponds, often watches osprey nesting. Ospreys migrate and this resident reports their return in the spring. An osprey, equipped with a tracking device, flew 2,700 miles from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts to French Guiana South America during 13 days in 2008.

Other seashore birds
In addition, to the osprey

we saw cormorants, seagulls, bank swallows, grackles and even a redwing blackbird whose epaulets were bright red. There were new benches installed along the cliff bank. When we stopped there last year, the benches were in poor condition.

Birds in Sutton

My brother lives in Sutton. He sets out grape jelly and a hummingbird feeder. The Baltimore orioles, catbirds, red bellied woodpeckers and even house finches come for the jelly. The ruby throated hummingbirds come for the sugar water.

Mass Audubon Society sightings

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reports several unusual bird sightings. They included swallow-tailed kites in Mashpee, a Mississippi kite in Harwich, a Franklin's gull and two royal terns in Provincetown,

BACKYARD, page 5

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

June 14 protestors support United States Armed Forces

We, in the many thousands, protesting No King day on June 14 have only respect for our Armed Forces, who have all taken an oath to defend the Constitution.

As we all know, their first battle was against the tyranny of a king. Now we have a president, who on his social media displays a picture of himself with a crown and if that isn't enough, dressed up as a Pope. What an insult to democracy and our army to ignore such blatant signs of

autocracy.

"Not to reason why" is an obligation, which our Armed Forces must obey even as they are directed into conflicts made tragically longer by commanders in chiefs promoting their egos.

It falls upon us civilians to reign in modern would be kings and in so doing defend the military which defends our sovereignty. Such was our goal June 14.

Richard Mansfield
Worthington

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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

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

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



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CHESTERFIELD

Town to hold Fourth of July parade

CHESTERFIELD – This Fourth of July Chesterfield will host their 77th annual Fourth of July parade.

According to a parade organizer, this year celebrates the town's agricultural routes with the theme "Red, White and Moo." The parade starts on Friday, July 4 at 10:30 a.m. at the corner of South and Bryant Streets, turns left onto Main Road (Rte. 143) and ends at Bag Road. The

parade lasts about an hour and will have many floats and of course some "moos" from the bovine participants.

Many people are part of the organization of this July 4 event. An organizer says, "Rain, extreme heat and COVID does not stop us."

Before the start of the parade, the Chesterfield Fire Department holds a pancake breakfast at the Fire Station beginning at 7 a.m. Following the parade,

the First Congregational Church of Chesterfield sponsors a chicken barbecue at the church. In addition, the Recreation Department offers food and the Historical Society participates. Heritage Pops provides musical entertainment.

On July 5, Chesterfield holds a Block Party from 4-7 p.m. on the town green. All are invited to this event, which includes food trucks and musical entertainment.

Library announces July events

CHESTERFIELD – Chester Public Library, 408 Main Road, announces upcoming July events.

On Wednesday, July 9 the Tanglewood Marionettes will be at the Olde Town Hall at 11 a.m. This is funded by Highland Valley Title III Multigenerational Grant. On Wednesday, July 16 John Porcino, storyteller and musician will be at the Olde Town Hall, at 11 a.m. This is funded by the Chesterfield's Massachusetts Cultural Council.

On Wednesday, July

23 dancing with hoola hoops for everyone will take place at 11 a.m. at the Olde Town Hall. There will be free hoops. It is funded by Highland Valley Title III Multigenerational Grand the Chesterfield Library. On Wednesday, July 30 Driscoll Productions – ventriloquist

comedy is funded by the Friends of the Library.

For more information, people may email chesterfieldpubliclibrary@gmail.com or call 413-296-4735. Library hours are Mondays from 2-7 p.m. Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Chesterfield to hold tag sale

CHESTERFIELD – A town wide tag sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 5. Rain date is Sunday,

Sept. 6. There will be several households selling good stuff. There will also be free piles.

STOCKBRIDGE

Berkshire Nonprofit Center hosts network

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires is hosting the MA Nonprofit Network on Tuesday, July 15 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Chesterwood, 4 Williamsville Road in Stockbridge.

MNN Regional meetings bring together nonprofits

from all subsectors to network and learn more about the current state of the sector, policy and legislative updates and key guidance for nonprofits. The event "It's always uplifting to be in community with your fellow nonprofit leaders," says NPC founder Liana Toscanini. "MNN is on

top of important policy developments and advocacy, serving as our voice in Boston and beyond."

Nonprofit attendees will have the opportunity to tour the newly renovated main Residence and enjoy lunch in the garden. To register, people may visit npcbkshires.org.

MONTGOMERY

Grace Hill Memorial Library lists upcoming summer events

MONTGOMERY – Grace Hill Memorial Library, 161 Main St. offers summer reading program, which is a free, family-friendly events.

On Monday, July 15 at 3 p.m. the Reptile Nook of Agawam is bringing a hands-on, close-up reptile experience. Participants will meet incredible live reptiles and amphibians as their dedicated team shares fascinating facts and dispels myths about these

amazing creatures.

On Wednesday, July 17 at 6 p.m. Ed the Wizard will show how to craft a mythical balloon dragon at this workshop. Ed the Wizard will show step-by-step how to make their fantasy creature to take home.

On Monday, July 22 at 11 a.m. Wildlife on Wheels with Forest Park Zoo. This is a hands-on visit from Forest Park Zoo, featuring a special selection of live animals.

On Monday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m. will experience the night sky like never before in the Springfield Museum's inflatable planetarium. This immersive star show will take people on a journey through the galaxy.

Every child who checks out a book can visit the library's treasure chest for a prize. If they attend any event and they'll also be entered into a daily drawing to win amazing prizes,

including passes to the Children's Museum at Holyoke, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Yankee Candle, USS Constitution, and LEGO kits!

They will earn a raffle ticket for every book they read for a chance to win one of four awesome grand prizes: Rivet-Rex12 Solar Hydraulic Robot, LEGO/Klutz Gadget Kit, LEGO/Klutz Race Car Kit and LEGO/Klutz Gear Bots Kit.

Parents report that children, who participate in library summer reading programs read more often, feel more confident and are better prepared for school in the fall. Research spanning a century shows that students tend to lose skills if they don't read over summer vacation.

The Massachusetts Statewide Summer Library Program is funded by the Massachusetts

Library System, the Boston Bruins and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The Montgomery Library Summer Reading Program is also co-sponsored by Music in Montgomery donations, the Library Friends and Trustees and is held in memory of Aline Euler, a long-time Montgomery resident and friend of the library, who dedicated her life to educating children.

EASTHAMPTON

bankESB included in Forbes List

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB recognized on the Forbes list of America's Best-In-State Banks 2025.

This prestigious award is presented in collaboration with Statista, the world-leading statistics portal and industry ranking provider. The award list was announced on June 17, 2025, and can be viewed on the Forbes website.

"We are honored to be recognized among the best banks in the nation," said Matthew S. Sosik, president and CEO of bankESB.

"This award reflects the trust our customers place in us every day, as well as the hard work and dedication of our team. We're passionate about unlocking our customers' financial potential and helping our communities thrive."

Sosik added, "This prestigious award reflects our commitment to excellence and our ability to combine innovative banking technologies with a personalized approach to customer service, creating an experience that truly sets us apart

in the industry. Thank you to our customers for their unwavering trust and to our team for their dedication and passion. Our focus on customer-first service, technology, and community impact will only grow stronger as we look toward the future. We are excited to continue working with our customers and deliver the best banking experience for all."

Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton.

GREAT BARRINGTON

Community Radio Alliance receives grant

GREAT BARRINGTON – Berkshire Community Radio Alliance broadcasting at 97.7FM as WBCR-1p received a \$20,000 grant from The Feigenbaum Foundation to support the renovation of their studio at 320 Main St.

The grant kicks off a five-year project to enhance and upgrade the studio's broadcast, recording and training studio, which is currently being renovated as part of the extensive Mahaiwe Block renovation. The station is temporarily broadcasting from the second floor of the Mahaiwe Building until construction is complete.

"We are most grateful for the generosity of The Feigenbaum Foundation," said John Prusinski, BCRA Board President. "This gift has sparked our fundraising campaign and energized our volunteers. We are so grate-

ful the Foundation is partnering with us to continue to fulfill our mission of bringing high quality community radio to southern Berkshire County. There is no way we could embark on this extensive studio upgrade without their leadership gift."

WBCR1p is an independent, volunteer-based, non-commercial radio station serving the Berkshire community by providing training and access to the airwaves to members of the local community. The on-air signal can be heard 24/7 across a 10-mile radius at 97.7FM and via internet streaming at www.berkshireradio.org.

The Feigenbaum Foundation was founded by brothers, Armand and Donald Feigenbaum, who had deep respect and love for the Berkshires. Their generosity has for many years benefitted local organizations

focused on education, medicine, culture, and community-based programs, among others.

The projected cost for the five-year project is estimated at \$73,910. The station is currently accepting grants and gifts to support the project.

This year, BCRA is celebrating 20 years on the air. Berkshire Community Radio Alliance is a fully independent, volunteer-based, commercial-free, community broadcast radio station in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. BCRA is focused on teaching the art of radio and providing access to the airwaves for all members of the Southern Berkshire community. They broadcast at 97.7 megahertz on the FM dial and stream at www.berkshireradio.org.

OPINION

GARDEN

year, at least hypothetically. Keep in mind that self-sown seedlings are not without work.

Oftentimes they come up too close to one another and must be thinned. Or they germinate in an inappropriate spot and likewise need to be moved. You can try to manipulate the outcome of your "volunteers" somewhat.

For notorious self-sowing biennials like rampion, rose campion, and foxglove, deadhead all but a few seed pods. You will reduce the population and there won't be as many to thin out.

You can also watch the seed pods carefully, and

when they are ripe sprinkle them where you want them to come up- this works especially well for hollyhock and sweet William – both of which I'd call reluctant self-sowers. Work I know, but still far easier than setting up the grow lights and heat cables and starting your seedlings indoors!

Remember to give your little volunteers lots of TLC in the way of food (a top dressing of compost and a sprinkling of organic fertilizer) and water (a drink during droughty periods) if you want them to compare to their parents.

Speaking of parents,

what happens when the older plant survives into year three? This happens to me periodically, especially with hollyhock, foxglove and sweet William. Certainly not every plant in the clump comes back, but perhaps one out of three do.

Sometimes they look okay, while other times the crown is woody or the flowers aren't quite as tall. Oftentimes diseases can take their toll. Be your own judge here- if you want to gamble, leave the plants in place.

Presently I am doing just that with an amazing stand of hollyhocks that bloomed ever so beautifully

near my lamppost last summer. So far, so good. But, to be on the safe side, I do have a couple of self sowers waiting in the wings for next year, since a third year of blooming is highly unlikely.

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

from page 4

BACKYARD

a continuing prothonotary warbler in Concord, a Wilson's phalarope at Belle Marsh Reservation in Boston and a Brewster's warbler in Amherst.

Berkshire County sighting were a worm-eating warbler on Mt. Washington Road in Egremont, a least bittern in the Post Farm Marsh in Lenox, an Acadian flycatcher at the Jug End Reservation in Egremont and six red crossbills at the

summit of Mt. Greylock in Adams.

In Franklin County, there were four sandhill cranes on Plainfield Road in Ashfield and two hooded warblers on Falls Road in Sunderland.

Hampshire County highlights were a Brewster's warbler on the Narwottuck Rail Trail in Amherst and a least bittern near Station Road on the Narwottuck Rail Trail also in Amherst,

three purple martins and four blue grosbeaks in the Honey Pot on Moody Bridge Road in Hadley and a common goldeneye on the Quabbin Reservoir off the Windsor Dam in Belchertown.

Hampden County notable were two upland sandpipers on the Perimeter Road in Ludlow and two blue grosbeaks at the Southwick Wildlife Management Area in Southwick. Worcester County had an Acadian fly-

catcher near the Uxbridge Rice City Pond in Uxbridge and five evening grosbeaks at a private residence in Royalston.

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

from page 4

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BLANDFORD



A doe and her fawn are shown heading into the undergrowth after feasting on Margit Mikuski's plants in her vegetable garden.

Courtesy photo by Margit Mikuski

Council on Aging announces events

BLANDFORD – The annual Council on Aging July barbecue party is set for Friday, July 11 at noon at the Town Hall.

The menu will include hot dogs, burger both beef and turkey tortellini and potato salad, home made baked beans, watermelon, the notorious root beer floats and a birthday cake. Sign up for the event is essential and can be done by calling the Council on Aging at 413-848-4279, extension 400. A \$5 contribution will help maintain the program.

There will be an Elm Street Butcher Block food truck in Otis on Tuesday, July 22 with prepared 'to-go'

foods located by St. Mary of the Lakes Catholic Church adjacent to the library. It will be there from 4-8 p.m.

Communi-Tea Reads, the Porter Memorial Library book club will meet on Saturday, July 19 at 11 a.m. to discuss Catherine Newman's "Sandwich" about a family's week-long Cape Cod vacation with revelations and humor. There will be refreshments to go with tea.

Garden raiders abound and are not only bunnies. Margit Mikuski photographed a doe and a fawn that had just feasted on tiny new plants in her vegetable garden.

Volunteers receive free pass to Blandford Fair

BLANDFORD – People may earn a free pass to the Blandford Fair by volunteering at the fairgrounds.

There will be a volunteer painting party at the fairgrounds on Saturday,

July 12 and again on Saturday, Aug. 2 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. "Hoping we see you there," said coordinator Linda Barnard. Any questions, people may call Linda at 413-977-2113.

Water Commissioners, Select Board meet to resolve concerns

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The Water Commissioners met with the Select Board and Town Counsel Mark Reich and Timothy Zessin at the June 16 board meeting.

The meeting resolved issues between the Commissioners, the Select Board and Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera. Town Counsel Mark Reich told the group as an elected board the Water Commissioners are a "policy setting body" and are responsible for operational policies such as fee setting. While the Commissioners have to work with a superintendent, he said they would

be involved but "the Select Board as the town's chief executive body" is charged with oversight including hiring and firing of town personnel.

While Commissioner Curry acknowledged that his board had been operating beyond what they should have been, which is "how we got to where we are today," Atty. Reich said that "both boards need to work forward in a cooperative manner" and not look back and Curry agreed. Authority concern was resolved.

Another item of concern to the Commissioners had was their bills pulled from being paid when they had signed off on them especially those funded from the enterprise account.

Ultimately, the Select Board has the final say on all invoices submitted for payment on the regular warrant. The Town Accountant sees the bills first to make sure the work has been done or purchase received, that procurement process has been followed, and that funds are available. Then the accountant prepares the warrant and that goes to the Select Board for review and final approval for payment.

For construction projects the accountant has to sign off that there are funds available and the cost does not exceed any contract.

Going further, Reich said that the Select Board has to give permission to expend grant funds. A department applies for and

accepts a grant award with board approval and the approval of an expenditure of grant funds also is the purview of the board.

One takeaway is that there needs to be better communication between the two boards.

A final issue was the future of the Water Superintendent. Water chair Michael Keier told the board that in Westfield it's a problem finding a superintendent for \$90,000.

Letendre asked the commissioners to come up with a job description for a full-time superintendent. At some point the salary for a full time slot will have to be adjusted. Commissioners will discuss compensation and get back to the board.

UPDATE

\$40 an hour.

Chair Cara Letendre asked if the Water Department budget support a full-time superintendent's pay.

Ferrera said, "Not as it stands."

The board proposed making the position a full time 40 hour a week job. This would be creating a new position.

Coury said it would make a change in the budget to pay the interim superintendent a full-time rate, that it would have to go to the town.

Cousineau suggested making the position full-time but pay \$37 an hour.

A full-time superinten-

dent would be available regularly rather than just showing up when there are problems.

Coury said she was "initially thinking" to pay \$40 for 19 hours and the rest of the hours at "his regular pay."

Coury said at this point she would go with \$40 an hour.

David Hopson, town moderator who was present said that town meeting had approved the \$40 an hour for 19 hours for the position. Then he told the board they had to go with "what the town meeting approved," which was 19 hours at \$40 an hour. Hopson pointed out that a new position must be approved by town meeting.

"The point is that the budget was approved at town meeting for a 19-hour superintendent at \$40 an hour."

Coury then said that what the board is asking, as a group, is "what we can agree on" and wanting an answer for when the Water Commissioners come in (to the board).

The potential for a contract was also discussed, but again, this needs to be discussed with the Water Commissioners according to Ferrera.

The Board of Health applied for grants for a Paint Shop and a compactor. There would be fees to drop off paint.

Coury said she would like some idea of the cost of a paint shop so "we can immediately put money aside" for such a project. She is former member and chair of the Finance Committee.

Board of Health member Jennifer Girard spoke to the board regarding the Narcan class held Saturday by Hilltown Ambulance and said that the Board of Health plans to use the Municipal Opioid Abatement Funds to provide Narcan for town departments. The 2025 amount to the town is \$86.53 according to the Attorney General's website information. The town has already

received \$242.14 from these funds and will receive additional through 2039.

The town has an increase of 1.5 percent for insurance rewards, according to Girard.

Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay, via Ferrera, was looking for comp time for working the June 19 holiday and wants to apply it to his negative balance of his vacation time.

Coury said he should have asked the board for the adjustment and she thought the board would be setting a precedent.

Ferrera told the board that town policies should be updated.

Appointments to various

town offices continued.

The ID machine needs to be fixed so it works and office supply funds will take care of the fix.

Holiday compensation came up again in reference to current policy. Coury again thought any compensation would be setting a precedent and require a look-back at what has been done before for any other employees. Cousineau agreed with Coury. He then said he agreed with Coury about asking the attorney "if we do in fact decide in Ray's favor do we have to go back in time?"

The board then, by roll call vote, went into executive session.

BLANDFORD ROADWAYS GET NEW LINES PAINTED



The line painting crew worked over night to get new lines on some of the towns byways in Blandford.



There are not only new lines, but new paving on Cobble Mountain Road, Blandford.

Courtesy photos Highway Superintendent

COUNCIL ON AGING HAS NEW VAN, OFFERS BREAKFAST



Country Journal reporter Mary Kronholm ties Joann Martin's "Count on Me" apron at Fridays COA breakfast.
Turley submitted photo



The Council on Aging's new hybrid passenger van with Director Margit Mikuski and drivers, Judith MacKinnon, Deborah Lundgren and Lloyd Martin.
Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

COUNTRY CLUB ANNOUNCES PRESIDENTS CUP TOURNAMENT WINNERS



Winners this year of the annual 2025 Presidents Cup Tournament at Blandford Country Club were Sue Wesolowski and Craig Moltenbrey.
Submitted photo

from page 1

NORTHAMPTON

Forbes Library announces upcoming news and events

NORTHAMPTON – The Forbes Library, 20 West St., will be closed on Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Dive into Summer Reading began Tuesday, July 1. This all-ages program runs through the end of August. Participants may pick up their reading tracker in the Children's Department for children and teens or the Reference Desk for adults. They keep track of their reading throughout the summer to earn a free book and raffle

entries for some cool prizes. Prizes and raffle entries will be available starting Tuesday, July 1.

Participants color in a square on their log every time they read or are read to for 20 minutes or do one of the activities on the back of the log. Once they've colored in all of the squares, come back to the Children's Desk to collect a prize: a free book to keep. They'll also earn an entry into the raffle to win either a \$50 gift card to High Five Books or a

Kindle Fire 7.

Adults may pick up a summer reading log at the Reference Desk. No sign up is necessary. They color in a square on their log every time they read or are read to for 20 minutes. Once they've colored in all of the squares, they come back to the Reference Desk to collect their prize: a free book to keep. They'll also earn raffle entries at the midway point (five hours) and end (ten hours).

Summer Bingo will also

take place. People cross out each activity they complete. They get a bingo (four in a row, vertical, horizontal, or diagonal) to earn a raffle entry and a blackout (all 16 squares) for an additional entry. They may complete either or both activities to earn up to four raffle entries. Prize books and raffles for a variety of fun items will be available at the Reference Desk starting July 1.

On Tuesday, July 8 from 4-5 p.m. the Hitchcock Center educator will present

a hands on children's program about a real life animal crossing. They will express their inner engineer as they and their adult design, build and test a bridge using simple materials. Registration is required. This program is best of ages 5 to 10 with an adult. The Friends of Forbes Library sponsor this event.

Also on Tuesday, July 8 from 4-5 p.m. there will be drawing your World with Raúl the Third.

This is a virtual author event and registration is

required.

Author and illustrator Raúl The Third will discuss his book ¡Vamos! Let's Go Read!. Meet Little Lobo and friends as they explore their library's Libro Love Book Festival. From cookbook demonstrations and comics workshops to mask making and language classes, this library has something for everyone and Little Lobo can't wait to show everyone. This program is presented by the Library Speakers Consortium.

BUCKLAND

Buckland receives Shared Streets, Spaces Program Award

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is awarding \$6.8 million to 34 municipalities and two Regional Transit Authorities as part of the Healey-Driscoll Administration's Shared Streets and Spaces Program.

The program provides project funding to help Massachusetts cities and towns design and implement changes to curbs, streets and parking areas

in support of public health, safe mobility and community growth and revitalization.

"Through Shared Streets and Spaces, MassDOT Highway and local communities are reimagining our roadways," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "We are proud of this program and the projects it delivers that improve safety and accessibility across the Commonwealth."

The program encourages quick implementation of

projects to improve plazas, sidewalks, curbs, streets, bus stops, parking areas and other public spaces in support of public health, safe mobility, and strengthened commerce.

Locally, Buckland received \$15,000 in Shared Streets and Spaces grant in this funding round. Since the start of the program in 2020, \$55.4 million has been awarded through 522 grants to 229 municipalities and seven Regional Transit Authorities.

PLAINFIELD



These "teal" colored tickets for a chicken barbecue are now on sale from Plainfield firefighters now for the barbecue on Sunday, Aug. 31. Tickets sell out fast.

Submitted photograph

Plainfield Fire Department to hold chicken barbecue

PLAINFIELD – This year's 54th Plainfield Firefighter's Barbecue tickets are on sale and their color is teal.

Most members of the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and/or Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters Association have them available for purchase. This year's event will take place Sunday, Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 31 behind the Plainfield Public Safety Complex on North Central St. Parking is available on site.

After much discussion, members of the Plainfield Volunteer Firefighter's Association voted to raise adult ticket prices \$1. Adult tickets are \$18 and children under 12 remain \$9. The meal package includes ½ barbecued chicken, local baked potato and corn on the cob, coleslaw, dinner roll, slice of watermelon and a beverage.

The event includes the same fun annual activities giant silent raffle, live music provided by the Curtis Rich Review from Buckland and

Plainfield and thanks to the Massachusetts and Plainfield Cultural Councils, 49th Annual Plainfield 1.1-mile Road Race and a chance for residents and friends to gather and enjoy a late summer afternoon in the Hilltowns.

They sell 400 tickets annually, people should purchase their "Teal" tickets as tickets are difficult to find the day of the event. Plainfield Firefighters and EMT's meet every Thursday evening at the Safety Complex at 7 p.m.; tickets are available there.

WORTHINGTON

COA to hold foliage bus trip

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Council on Aging will hold an annual foliage bus trip on Wednesday, Oct. 8.

Reservations are required. The trip includes a stop at the Salem Cross Inn in West Brookfield for a traditional luncheon. Menu includes garden salad with chef's homemade dressing and a choice of baked haddock or Yankee pot roast with pan gravy and apple

cake for dessert.

Following lunch, they will travel to Quabbin Reservoir with their guide. Before returning home, they will stop at Brookfield Orchards in North Brookfield, home of the apple dumpling.

Cost is \$53 per person for senior Worthington residents and \$103 for senior non-residents. Tax and gratuities are included in the cost. People

should make check to Town of Worthington and mail to COA, P.O. Box 7, Worthington, MA 01098. They should include meal choice, emergency contact and their phone number. They may call Phyllis Dassait at 413-238-5962 with any questions.

The bus will depart Worthington Congregational Church, Huntington Road at 10 a.m. and approximate return is 5:15 p.m

COA annual picnic is July 14

WORTHINGTON – The Council on Aging will hold their annual picnic at the Worthington Rod and Gun Club, 458 Dingle Road, on Monday, July 14 at noon in the

club's pavilion.

This annual event will be held rain or shine with Worthy-Que BBQ providing their barbecued chicken, sides and desserts. This barbecue is by reservation

only as seating is limited. The deadline for reservations is Sunday, July 6 and may be made by calling 413-238-1999. It is underwritten by the Rolland Fund.

MIDDLEFIELD

Council on Aging announces menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Council on Aging menu for Wednesday, July 9 is

a choice of macaroni and cheese or regular pork and creamy mustard sauce,

roasted potatoes, broccoli, dinner roll and fresh fruit.

COA CELEBRATED LAURIE LAFRENIERE'S BIRTHDAY



Laurie Lafreniere celebrates her birthday at the Middlefield Council on Aging luncheon.

Submitted photo

REGION

MassDOT alerts customers of EZDriveMA scam

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation reminds customers to be mindful of text message-based scams, also known as smishing.

The scammers are claiming to represent the tolling agency and requesting payment for unpaid tolls. MassDOT urges customers to be cautious about email, text and phone scams demanding payment of outstanding toll balances. Some attempts have been made to trick customers into sharing credit card numbers and other sensitive information by directing them to a website to pay their outstanding

balances. MassDOT strongly encourages customers not to click the link contained in those messages.

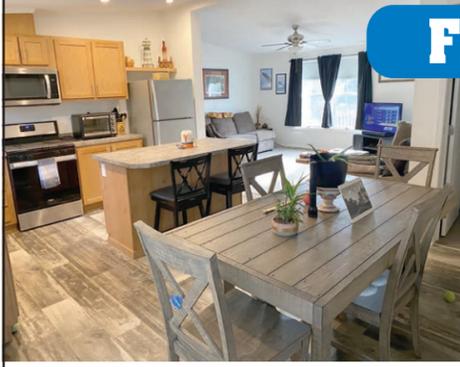
MassDOT is underscoring that EZDriveMA will never request payment by text. All links associated with EZDriveMA will include www.EZDriveMA.com

The EZDrive "smishing" scam is part of a series of smishing scams which the FBI is aware of. Smishing is when unscrupulous actors send deceptive text messages to get someone to reveal confidential or financial information.

The FBI recommends

individuals that receive the fraudulent messages to file a complaint with the IC3 by visiting www.ic3.gov and be sure to include: the phone number from where the text originated and the website listed within the text.

Delete any smishing texts received. If people clicked any link or provided private information, take efforts to secure their personal information and financial accounts. MassDOT encourages all customers to stay alert to these types of scams and to contact EZDriveMA by visiting www.EZDriveMA.com with any questions about notifications.



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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Todd Gazda to return to Gateway as Interim Principal

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

CHESTER – Former middle school and Chester Elementary School principal Todd Gazda will return to Gateway on July 16 as a one-year Interim Principal for Chester Elementary School.

It's a homecoming in more ways than one. Gazda grew up in the town of Middlefield and attended the former Chester Elementary School located on Route 20. He started his post college work as an attorney and decided to rethink his career aspirations.

He went back to school to become a teacher and his first job in education was in 2001 as an eighth grade social studies teacher at (what was then) Gateway Regional Middle School. He also ran the middle school's after school program from 2001-2005.

He moved through the Gateway system over several years, going up to the high school to teach English and social studies before becoming the middle school assis-

tant principal and then, in 2007, principal when Peter Curro retired. In his fourth year as principal, a principal at Chester Elementary School left mid-year and Gazda agreed to also cover Chester for the remainder of that school year. He said he enjoyed Chester so much, he asked then Superintendent David B. Hopson if he could keep covering both schools.

In announcing his new career on his Facebook page, Gazda wrote, "For me, this opportunity truly feels like coming home." Gazda was also certified as a superintendent and applied when a superintendency opened up in Ludlow. "I didn't leave because I wanted to leave Gateway," Gazda recalled. "I left because I wanted to be a superintendent."

Gazda served as Superintendent at Ludlow for nine years and has spent the last four years as Executive Director at the Collaborative for Educational Services. But something, he said, was amiss. "I had gotten to the point in my career where I realized

that, 25 years ago I got into this to work with kids," he said. "Although I impacted a larger number of kids in these roles, I've missed out."

"The opportunity to go back to the school I went to as a kid, where I bought my first house, and where I was once a principal...it was too good to pass up. I want to get back to working with kids directly in a community I care deeply about," he continued.

But, he added, he gets to bring everything he's learned in the past twenty years with him to support the kids and families at Chester. When he announced his decision on his Facebook page, he was surprised to have feedback from former students and learn he would now be their child's principal.

Although some parents and even some staff members will remember him from before, he said that his leadership style has changed since



Todd Gazda

the last time he was at Gateway. "I work together with staff to set direction for the school, with input from parents," Gazda said. "I am more collaborative."

He supports offering a complete education to children, including physical education, arts and music-not just as stand alone classes but melded into the curriculum. He wants to shape an environment where there is joy. "My goal is for every child to feel valued, feel they belong, and when they go home, they can't wait to tell their parents what they learned," Gazda said.

And if a kid is struggling? "This is why I got into education. I'm looking forward to helping a kid who is struggling make academic progress. This is what education is about," he said.

Gazda makes it clear that he is in this for the long haul. While he will serve as an interim principal for the coming

year, he plans to apply for the permanent position when it is posted. He makes it abundantly clear that he does not plan to apply for the superintendent's position to replace Kristen Smidy, who is leaving later this summer to take a position at the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). "I want to be an elementary school principal at Chester. I've already committed to it for the next year. I do not intend to apply for the superintendency, nor serve as an interim superintendent," he affirmed.

Over the summer he will hold meetings with staff, host an evening meeting for parents and work on scheduling and curriculum tasks.

Many CES parents were distraught over the departure of former CES principal Vanna Maffuccio last December. He hopes to bring the school and community back together. He wants an environment where parents feel welcome and staff feel safe to speak up. He is open to hearing people's concerns. "The parallels are interesting because last time I

came into CES a principal had just left," he said. Regarding Maffuccio, he says he has purposely stayed ignorant. His focus is in moving the school forward; that's where it has to be, Gazda said.

In terms of the initiatives that CES has been known for in recent years-hydroponic growing, tree tapping, and dramatic arts among others-Gazda said he doesn't plan to come in and change things, especially in the first year. "This isn't my school," he said. "Those initiatives dovetail with my philosophy of bringing in local people and offering project-based learning. These are the things that students will remember. They can be integrated into the curriculum while engaging and exciting students."

He mentions that his son-entering eighth grade this fall-was born the last time he was principal at CES. He and his family will maintain their home in West Hartford, Connecticut, adding that the commute to CES is a little closer than his recent commute to Northampton.

College's and universities announce President's and Dean's lists

Dean College
Franklin

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Gracia Jorgensen of Westfield
Skylar Raskevitz of Easthampton

Fitchburg State University
Fitchburg

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Owen T. Bonney of Pittsfield

Nichols College
Dudley

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Abigail Fraser of Westfield

American International College
Springfield

DEAN'S LIST

Dominic Allaire of Westfield
Morgan Dunham of Westhampton
Zulma Lopez of Westfield
Mark Marquez of Westfield
Ashley Pacheco of Westfield
Chelsey Priest of Westfield
Kaitlyn Priest of Westfield
Maggie Prystowski of Westfield
Nestor Santos of Westfield
Makenna Slate of Easthampton
Ian Soto of Westfield
Eilin Torres of Westfield
Jeilianis Vazquez of Westfield
Lizmarie Williams of Westfield
Erin Rose Young of Easthampton

Elms College
Chicopee

DEAN'S LIST

Alyssa Allen of Westfield
Emma Bialas of Montgomery
Rebecca Boszko of Huntington

Nathalia Carando of Westfield
Moirean Coffey of Westfield
Jenna Garcia-Bertera of Easthampton
Theanna Hernandez-Tiedemann of Easthampton

Avery Jansen of Easthampton
Emily Kostek of Easthampton
Nelly Mogan of Westfield
Kaylie Novak of Westhampton
Zoe O'Neill-Garvey of Easthampton
Emma Petrowicz of Easthampton
Alicia Potter of Huntington
Angelina Rodriguez of Westfield
Alicia Rossi of Westfield
Caitlynn Therrien of Easthampton
Ashley Watt of Westfield

Emerson College
Boston

DEAN'S LIST

Ella Mastroianni of Westfield, Class of 2026 writing, literature and publishing major
James Salzer of Westfield, Class of 2029 sports communication major

Fitchburg State University
Fitchburg

DEAN'S LIST

Josiah C. Hylton of Pittsfield
Nevaeh L. Williams of Pittsfield

Russell Sage College
Troy, New York

DEAN'S LIST

Aiden Van Oostveen of Westfield

University of Maryland Global Campus
Adelphi, Maryland

DEAN'S LIST

Arthur Labrie of Blandford

Colleges and universities list local Class of 2025 graduates

American International College
Springfield

**BACHELOR OF ARTS
IN LIBERAL ARTS**

Hector Perez of Westfield
Bachelor of Science in occupational science
Chase Foster of Westfield
Bachelor of Science in health science
Maggie Prystowski of Westfield
Bachelor of Science in psychology
Eilin Torres of Westfield
Bachelor of Science in nursing
Morgan Dunham of Westhampton
Bachelor of Science in nursing
Samantha Knowlton of Woronoco
Bachelor of Science in nursing
Kaitlyn Priest of Westfield
Doctor of Education in school psychology
Erin Johnson of Westfield
Doctor of Education in teaching and learning
Daniel Maak of Westfield
Master of Science in nursing
Kendall Hendrickson of Easthampton
Master of Science in nursing
Alicia Lincoln of Westfield
Master of Science in nursing

Emily Michalenko of Cumington
Master of Science in nursing
Viktor Shalypin of Westfield

Elms College
Chicopee

BACHELORS DEGREES

Kailey Bak of Williamsburg
Moirean Coffey of Westfield
Shaelee Dintzner of Westfield
Jenna Garcia-Bertera of Easthampton
Laura McDermott of Easthampton
Kaylie Novak of Westhampton
Emma Petrowicz of Easthampton
Fiona Reynolds-Cornell of Huntington
Angelina Rodriguez of Westfield
Christina Rodriguez of Westfield
Alicia Rossi of Westfield
Berta Warner of Huntington
Ashley Watt of Westfield

Quinnipiac University
Hamden, Connecticut

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN NURSING**

Daniel Dabek of Easthampton

HCC celebrates 2025 nursing graduates

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College celebrated the graduation of 53 students from its Associate in Science in Nursing degree program on Thursday, May 22.

The students were recognized during a pinning ceremony in HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater, during which they were formally inducted into the healthcare field as soon-to-be registered nursing professionals. During a traditional pinning ceremony, new nursing graduates light candles, receive their

nursing pin, and recite the Nightingale Pledge.

Holyoke Community College Associate of Science in Nursing Degree graduates for 2025 are: Elizabeth Breaux of Blandford, Erin McCormick of Chesterfield, Sarah Akin of Easthampton, Nolan Archo of Easthampton, Ashleigh Fox of Easthampton, Jessica Grygorcewicz of Easthampton, Emily Moszynski of Easthampton, Brandon Record of Easthampton, Christofer Thrasher of Huntington,

Greg Toulson Wimmer of Northampton, Joseph Bartoluccio of Southamton, Vincent Bartolucci of Southamton, Jacquelyn DeCoteau of Westfield, Lindsay Hughes of Westfield, McKenzie Kilonic of Westfield, Tiffany May of Westfield, Samantha Melchionne of Westfield and Lailany Santa-Gomez of Westfield.

The graduates, many of whom are already working, will sit for their exams before becoming licensed as registered nurses.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Worthington School District
NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION
OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
RECORDS 2025**

This notification is to inform parents/guardians and former students at the Worthington School District's intent to destroy the Special Education records of students who were no longer receiving Special Education services as of 2018. These records will be destroyed in accordance with the state law unless the parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student notifies the School District otherwise by SEPTEMBER 1, 2025. Special education records collected by the Worthington School District related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of Special Education in the district, must be maintained under state and federal laws for a period of seven (7) years after special education services have ended. Special Education services end when the student is no longer eligible for services, graduates, moves from the district or completes their education program at age 22. After 7 years, the records are no longer useful to the district, but they may be useful to parents/guardians or former students in applying for Social Security benefits, rehabilitation services, college entrance, etc. The parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student may request records by calling: R. H. Conwell Elementary School at 413-238-5856 or emailing Emily Lak at elak@rhconwell.org 07/03, 07/10/2025

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**

Pursuant to MGL, Ch. 40A Sec. 9 the Blandford Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Blandford Town Offices, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 at 7:05 pm on **Wednesday, July 9, 2025**. This hearing is scheduled under the following Blandford Zoning By-Laws: Section VIII – Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Section IX – Site Plan Review and Special Permits. The Hearing is to consider the application for a request for a Site Plan Review and Special Permit for Gibbs Brook, LLC, solar pho-

tovoltaic installation with battery energy storage system, located at 30 Huntington Road and Huntington Road Off (Map 416, Parcels 10, 11 & 12) in Blandford, MA 01008.

The Applicant is proposing the installation of a large-scale ground-mount PV solar facility with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and a gravel access driveway that would utilize an existing entrance from Huntington Road. The system will be rated at 2.8MW (DC) and will consist of PV modules attached to a Single-axis tracker racking system. This system slowly rotates the modules as they track the path of the sun during the day, allowing for greater efficiency and fewer modules.

The completed application and plans are available for public inspection at the Town Offices or on the Town of Blandford's website: <https://townofblandford.com/planning-board-project-details/>

You may also make an appointment to view a hard copy of these forms at the Town Hall by e-mailing the Planning Board Chair at planning@townofblandford.com.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should join the virtual meeting as outlined above or e-mail the chair at: planning@townofblandford.com. Please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008. Failure to make recommendations on the matter for review shall be deemed lack of opposition thereto.

Paul Martin, Chair
Blandford Planning Board
06/26, 07/03/2025

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
NOTICE OF
CONTINUATION OF 6/4/2025
PUBLIC HEARING**

Pursuant to MGL, Ch. 40A Sec. 9 the Blandford Planning Board will hold a continuation of Public Hearing of June 4, 2025 at the Blandford Town Offices, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 at 6:05pm on **Wednesday, July 9, 2025**. This hearing is scheduled under the following Blandford Zoning By-Laws: Section VIII – Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic In-

stallations and Section IX – Site Plan Review and Special Permits. The Hearing is to consider the application for a request for a Site Plan Review and Special Permit for Peebles Brook, LLC, solar photovoltaic installation with battery energy storage system, located at 89 Chester Road (Map 108, Parcel 19.1) in Blandford, MA 01008.

The Project proposes the construction of a 4.04 megawatt (MW) direct current (DC) single-axis tracking solar photovoltaic (PV) installation with a battery energy storage system (BESS). The project will involve construction of a gravel access road and minor grading for stormwater management features on 32.6 acres, that is currently zoned as Agricultural.

The completed application and plans are available for public inspection at the Town Offices or on the Town of Blandford's website: <https://townofblandford.com/planning-board-project-details/>

You may also make an appointment to view a hard copy of these forms at the Town Hall by e-mailing the Planning Board Chair at planning@townofblandford.com.

Please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008. Failure to make recommendations on the matter for review shall be deemed lack of opposition thereto.

Paul Martin, Chair
Blandford Planning Board
06/26, 07/03/2025

**Town of Russell
Legal Notice**

Pursuant to Chapter 87 of the Massachusetts General Laws, there will be a public hearing at Russell Town Hall, Select Board office, Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 6:00 PM, to consider the removal of certain public shade trees on Valley View Ave. Specific trees have been posted in accordance with the law. Any person objecting to the removal of one or more of these trees must make their objection in writing at or before this public hearing.

Louis E. Garlo
Tree Warden
07/03/2025

MONTEREY

Bidwell House Museum announces 2025 season programs

MONTEREY – The Bidwell House Museum announces its 2025 season program.

The official season of guided tours of the house began on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26 and are

by-appointment only on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. or 3 p.m. Tours must be booked 24 hours in advance and can be booked by calling 413-528-6888 or emailing the museum at

bidwellhm2@gmail.com.

During these personal, small-group tours of the home and gardens, visitors will learn about the 18th century Berkshires, early American architecture and everyday life in that era,

through the story of the Bidwell family and their descendants. The museum grounds, 194 acres of flower, herb and heritage vegetable gardens, woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails and picnic sites,

are open all year, free of charge and can be explored via two self-guided tours, the Native American Interpretive Trail and the “Outside the House” tour created in 2020.

Programs take place

at the Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey, unless otherwise noted. More programs will be added throughout the summer, check the Museum’s website for more information.



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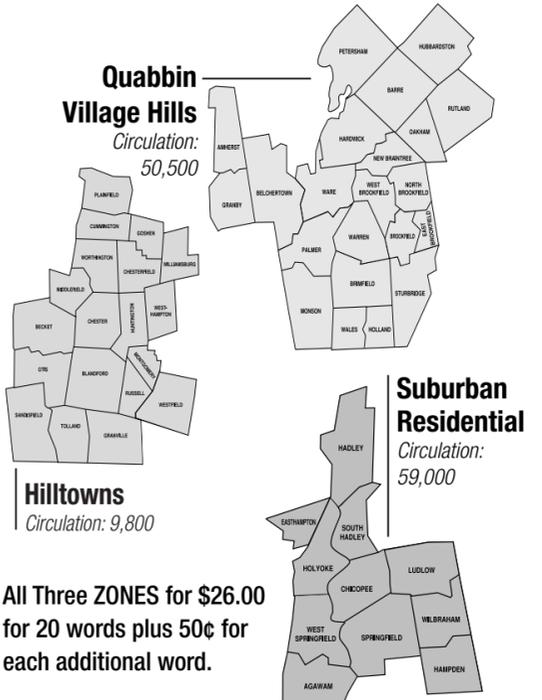
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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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WESTFIELD

Tom Condon to lead 'Rusts, Smuts, and Fantastic Fungi Walk'

WESTFIELD – Westfield River Watershed Association and the Naturalists' Club offer a Fungi Walk on Saturday, July 12 from 10 a.m.-noon.

Tom Condon, a Board member of both organizations, will lead the walk called Rusts, Smuts, and Fantastic

Fungi at the Sofinowski Preserve at 155 Mort Vining Road, Southwick. "This Fungi Walk is a slow-paced meander through the forests and fields of the Sofinowski Preserve to explore the world of mushrooms," says Condon. "Hidden beneath our feet is a strange world of microscopic

life which occasionally pokes its head up for us to take notice. Whether Russala or Amanitas, Boletes or Agarics, or the myriad of disease-causing mycelia, the Kingdom Fungi is an exciting place to visit."

Condon continues, "Our goal is to wander and learn for

about two hours. If we have had a wet summer, we may travel very little. If we are again in a drought, we'll need to go further. But either way we should have an enjoyable walk."

This is a free family-and teen-friendly event. Participants should dress for

the weather and wear comfortable shoes that can get wet or muddy. Participants should bring a full water bottle and be prepared for the ticks and mosquitos that may be in the woods and meadows.

To register, people may call 413-454-2331 or e-mail tomnancycondon@

gmail.com. Tom Condon is a retired teacher, former National Park ranger, author, long-time board member of the Naturalists' Club. He has been leading hikes and canoe trips for over five decades. He has received awards for both his teaching and naturalist skills.

New England Weavers to hold seminar

WESTFIELD – The public is invited to the New England Weavers Seminar 2025 at Westfield State University, 577 Western Avenue.

Exhibits are located in Scanlon Hall on the campus.

There is no admission fee. Dates are Friday, July 11 from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., Saturday, July 12 from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, July 13 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Featured exhibits

include: a fashion show exhibit, a gallery (non-clothing handwoven items) exhibit, handwoven items of the world-renowned faculty, table with sampling of members projects for each participating weaving guild, an

exhibit of tapestries woven by New England tapestry weavers and a number of fiber related vendors. For specific hours and more information, people may visit newenglandweavers.org/shows-and-exhibits.

Alzheimer's Support Group to meet July 30

WESTFIELD On Wednesday, July 30 at 6 p.m. the Alzheimer's Association Support Group will meet at Armbrook Village Senior

Living and Memory Support Community, 551 North Road.

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

their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with their loved ones. 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.

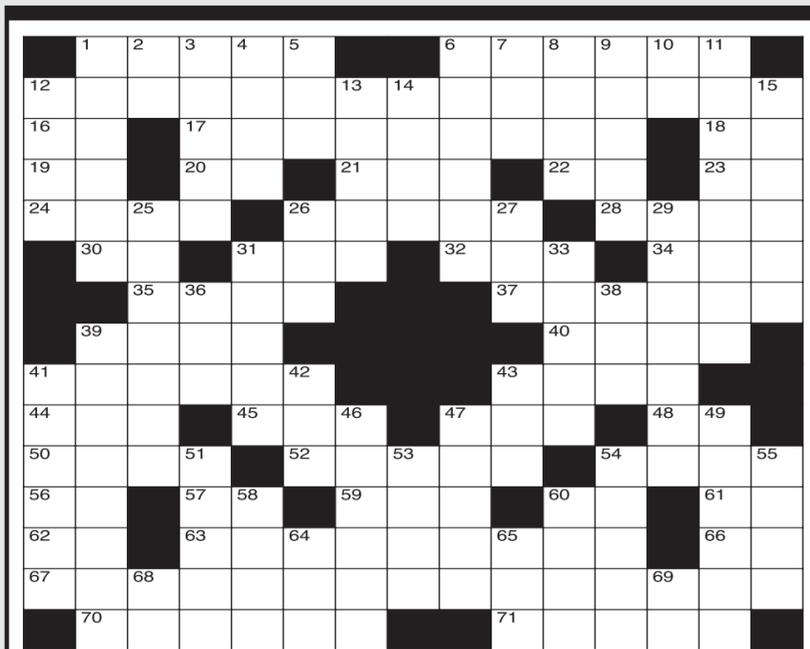
Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Notes
6. Long-haired dog breed
12. ESPN's nickname
16. Spanish be
17. Disadvantage
18. Of I
19. Actor Pacino
20. On your way: ___ route
21. Fifth note of a major scale
22. Companies need it
23. News agency
24. Faces of an organization
26. Ponds
28. Samoa's capital
30. Partner to "Pa"
31. Adult male
32. Cool!
34. Used of a number or amount not specified
35. No No No
37. Hosts film festival
39. British place to house convicts

40. Made of fermented honey and water
41. Chief
43. College army
44. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
45. Consume
47. One point north of due east
48. For instance
50. Brews
52. Alaskan river
54. Not soft
56. Atomic #22
57. "The Golden State"
59. "The world's most famous arena"
60. Larry and Curly's pal
61. One billion gigabytes
62. Conducts inspections
63. Malaria mosquitoes
66. Unit to measure width
67. Features
70. Affairs
71. Letter of Semitic abjads

CLUES DOWN

1. Follower of Islam
2. Trauma center
3. French young women
4. Norse god
5. U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
6. Merchant
7. Peyton's younger brother
8. Jungle planet in "Star Wars" galaxy
9. Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
10. "Pollack" actor Harris
11. Stuck around
12. Put on
13. Influential Norwegian playwright
14. Christian ___, designer
15. Fulfills a debt
25. Style
26. More (Spanish)
27. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
29. Remedy
31. Disturbance
33. "The Martian" actor Matt
36. Express delight
38. Brooklyn hoopster
39. 1900 lamp
41. Motionless
42. One's mother (Brit.)
43. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
46. Compels to act
47. Gardening tool
49. Ancient country
51. Frightening
53. Wimbledon champion Arthur
54. Popular plant
55. Database management system
58. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
60. Where soldiers eat
64. Tenth month (abbr.)
65. Illuminated
68. Atomic #18
69. Adults need one to travel

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Career developments may be a bit unclear this week, Aries. Your motivation may need a little extra boost. You might have to consider if a career change is in order.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, this isn't a good time to sign contracts or make any significant purchases. Keep your money safe and try to keep your savings account full at this point.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, something could be distorting your perspective right now and making it difficult to concentrate and communicate. Take a few days off from your responsibilities.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

You may want some magical force to whisk away all of the little difficulties that have been affecting you, Capricorn, but it will require hard work to do that.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

A lack of information is proving confusing, Taurus. If you suspect there's more details to uncover, choose a course of action and do your best to get as clear a picture of the situation as possible.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

People have been asking you to take on too many responsibilities lately, Leo. This could be stressing you out or taking away from your own needs. Learn to turn others away for now.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, after some gloomy feelings the last few weeks, good news has you feeling like you are on cloud nine. Savor it and celebrate.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Lately there have been a lot of thoughts swirling through your head, so much so that you can't get any peace, Aquarius. It may be beneficial to sit down with someone to talk it out.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Keep your money in your wallet this week, Gemini. You might want to spend it or give it away impulsively and that could affect your finances in an impactful way.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, this week may present an opportunity to restore your self-confidence. For too long you have been floundering and not finding the traction you need and deserve.

SAGITTARIUS

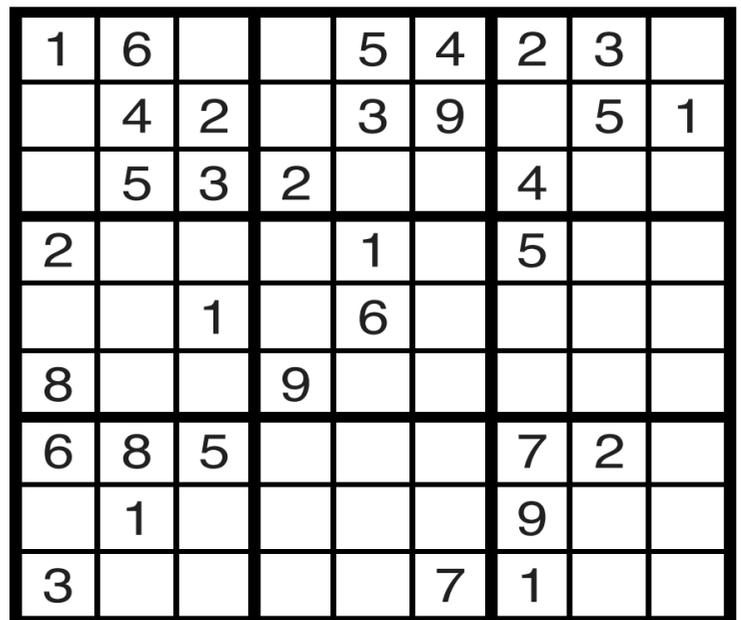
Nov 23/Dec 21

This is a good week to try to enhance your love life, Sagittarius. Take every opportunity to woo your significant other, and plan a special event for the two of you.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, try something new this week even if it scares you. It is good practice to challenge yourself once in a while to test your resilience to change.



SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

answers

S	C	I	L	S	T	S	A	R	H	C
M	E	S	E	L	F	O	N	V	G	I
B	O	M	G	M	C	O	N	V	I	T
D	V	A	E	M	S	E	T	V	A	D
G	E	N	B	E	T	E	H	S	T	
C	O	R								
D	V	E	M							
S	E	N	N	V	C		S	E	O	N
A	N	V	D	V	N	V	M			
I	F	S	E	H	E	M	S	F	E	H
F	V	H	H	L	O	S	N	E	T	V
M	E									
R	D	E	L	I	L	I	V	I	L	S
R	E	T	S							
S	O	M	E	M						

5	9	1	7	4	8	9	2	3
3	8	6	9	2	5	7	1	4
4	2	7	3	9	1	5	8	6
2	1	9	5	7	6	4	3	8
8	6	3	2	6	4	1	7	5
7	4	7	1	8	2	3	5	6
9	7	4	1	8	2	3	5	6
5	1	8	9	3	9	2	4	7
6	3	9	2	4	5	7	8	1

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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



The group stopped for a photo at Berry Pond picnic area.

Hilltown hikers and DCR host public hike

Bob Rando and Alec Gilman Department of Conservation and Recreation interpretive coordinators joined the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers for their June public group hike discovering some of Pittsfield State Forest.

The azaleas were a week past peak, yet still fragrant. Rando lead us on a 4.3 mile mountain top journey learning about William Berry and how Berry Hill was once thriving farmland. Berry Hill is easily accessible by car in the State Forest and in June the sixty five acres of natural azalea fields bloom at this high point on the Taconic Mountain Range.

The Taconic Crest Trail travels through these fields and also offers views to the West of New York State.

There is a large parking lot here at the top of the mountain so visitors can park and enjoy lunch among the flowers and the views. We continued the journey to Berry Pond, which is the highest body of water in the state. Pittsfield State Forest offers camping here around the pond during the summer season too.

Touring a variety of the mountaintop trails they headed on the Skyline Trail (not to be confused with Skyline Trail Road in Chester), which is a multi-use trail open to Off Road Vehicles.

Pittsfield State Forest is one of the few in the state to offer trails for ATV's which is also great outdoor recreation for those who want to explore the forest and don't have the mobility to do so on foot.

Skyline Trail took us to Tilden Swamp also referred to as Tilden Pond, which is dammed at one end by beavers. This pond is home to many birds and animals.

The hike turned onto a single track trail through mountain laurel to the highest point in the state forest, Pine Hill where we could see as far as Troy, New York.

The group came down the mountain and over to the great beaver dam at Tilden Pond to see it up close and then looped back to an amazing view on Berry Hill where they started the journey and parked their cars.

This was just a sampler of what this State Forest offers, there is even an all persons trail here called the tranquility trail for wheel chair users complete with an ADA bathroom.

Pittsfield State Forest has 30 miles of multi-use trails even for mountain bikes, picnic areas and swimming and is definitely a gem on the Western Massachusetts border where they can feel close to nature yet be only a few miles away from the city center.



The hiking group walks on the paved road at Berry Hill. They are looking at views to the west. Submitted photos



Wild azalea fields were in full bloom about a week past their peak, but still fragrant.



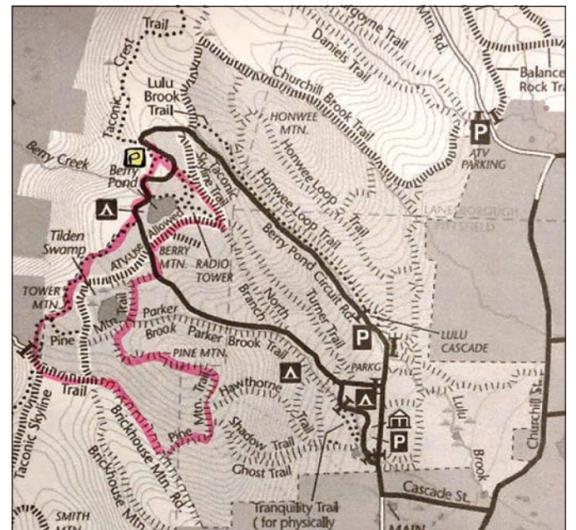
Tilden Swamp was a stop during this hike.



Even on this cloudy day the views were exceptional.



Bob Rando of the Department of Conservation and Recreation leads a public group hike along with the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers.



DCR Pittsfield State Forest shows map snip of their route.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

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

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

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

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

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