

"We hold our heads high, despite the price we have paid because freedom is priceless." – Thurgood Marshall

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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BLANDFORD

You "Otter" read summer program

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The first week of Porter Memorial Library's Summer Reading Program, young patrons learned all about Acadia National Park in Bar Harbor, Maine and crafted unique otters holding everything from babies to clams.

The second week of summer reading made a visit to Florida's Everglades, another national park. There kids learned how Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, who was originally from Massachusetts, worked to create and protect Everglades National Park. The craft for the Everglades visit was constructing airboats from balloons and paper plates.

Coming up are visits to other National Parks including Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, the Badlands of South Dakota and California's Yosemite.

Every week begins with a fact filled scavenger hunt about the national park, which is available until the following Monday.

"Both parents and children have been enjoying the expanded space of the new patio and having lots of fun inside

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Ellie Allard shows her mother otter and baby at the Porter Memorial Library summer reading program during the first week of the library's summer reading program.



Lydia Crossman displays her otter and baby creation at the library summer reading program.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

BLANDFORD

Town Clerk sends census form reminders

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo last week mailed out postage paid return cards for residents, who are registered voters to complete.

This notice went to people, who failed to complete the 2023 Street List or the local census form. Every year, Blandford asks residents information on the Annual Street List form. "This is also known as the town census," said Jemiolo. The forms are initially sent out in January

to all residents, who must in turn list every member of their household, birthdates, occupation and cats and dogs.

Failure to respond to the Annual Street List puts registered voters on the "inactive voters list," according to Jemiolo. If on the inactive voter list, it is still possible to vote but identification is necessary as well as additional paperwork, which allows voters to cast a ballot and be returned to the active voter list.

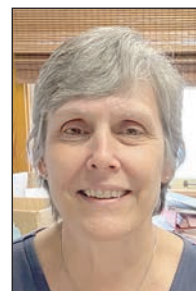
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HUNTINGTON

Select Board officially appoints Fieldstad-Booth as new Town Clerk

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Effective July 1, 2024, Michelle Fieldstad-Booth has been officially appointed to the Town Clerk position for Fiscal Year 2025. Booth has been serving as the Interim Town Clerk for the past few months.



Michelle Fieldstad-Booth

Select board Chairman Edward Renauld and member William Hathaway unani-

mously approved the appointment. Selectman Roger Booth, Fieldstad-Booth's husband, did not attend this meeting.

Until now, Huntington's Town Clerk was an elected position. The town successfully went through several steps to change it to an

appointed position, made possible by a vote of approval at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting and

by a ballot vote during the May 2024 election.

There were other candidates for the position, but none met the qualifications.

Town Clerk responsibilities are numerous and varied, and include managing elections including having ballots printed and overseeing the absentee ballot process; voter registration; serving as Public Records Officer as well as Registrar of Vital Records; overseeing the town census and issuing official

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NORTHAMPTON

Forbes Library announces upcoming events and news

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

The library will reopen for regular

hours on Friday, July 5 at 10 a.m.

Children are encouraged to join the summer reading program. They will track their reading throughout the summer. Readers of all ages can join in the fun

throughout the summer. To get started, they may pick up a reading tracker at the Children's Desk for youth or the Reference Desk for adults. S

Gentle Yoga on the Lawn will be

held Saturday, July 6 from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Sanctuary yoga instructor Fran Astino will lead a free gentle flow class

LIBRARY, page 3

Edwards Church makes investment in affordable housing

NORTHAMPTON – Edwards Church of Northampton has made a \$500,000 investment in Way Finders "Development Capital Fund" via a low-interest loan, which will provide pre-development funding for affordable housing projects the agency manages throughout Western Massachusetts.

In 2019, the Edwards Church congregation was surveyed on their preferences for church support in the community. Results indicated that members had a strong interest in supporting affordable housing as an alternative investment of the church's invested funds.

Its Investment Committee subsequently sought out an affordable housing development partner in which

to invest, and learned that Springfield-based Way Finders, an affordable housing organization dedicated to bringing home stability to people across Western Massachusetts since 1972, manages its own Development Capital Fund, which is open to outside investors.

"The most important way to address the affordable housing crisis is by building more homes, which we can do with adequate funding," stated Keith Fairey, Way Finders president and CEO. "Our pre-development fund is vital because it covers the large expenses tied to all the work needed before we put a shovel in the dirt. This includes architect fees, site preparation, permitting and due diligence."

Way Finders puts money into the fund, as do outside investors, including churches. Edwards Church is now one of those investors. The \$500,000 is a loan to Way Finders, not a grant or gift. The funds earn an annual, below-market interest rate; the funds can be repaid to the church in six years if the church so chooses.

"Parts of the Edwards Church Vision Statement proclaim, 'Knowing that the road is long,

we choose to walk together' and 'Encountering the world's joys and suffering, we offer ourselves as instruments of love and justice,'" said Michael McSherry, Senior Minister. "The church's investment in Way Finders is an expression of our commitment to walk with our neighbors

who face housing insecurity and taking concrete steps to help build solutions."

Way Finders has over seven, active, affordable housing projects currently under development in towns such as Amherst, South Hadley, Ludlow, Springfield, Great Barrington and Agawam. The agency built and currently manages Live 155 on Pleasant St. in Northampton and it manages five other affordable housing properties in Northampton, plus many more throughout Western Massachusetts.

For more information about Edwards Church, people may visit edwardschurch-northampton.org.

For more information about Way Finders, people may visit wayfinders.org.

BLANDFORD



The Porter Memorial Library children's area was set up like a camping site, complete with tent, "camp fire" and "wild animals."

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

READING

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as well with the tent play area in the library," said Library Director Nicole Daviau.

It is still possible to participate in the library's Summer Reading Program. There are places open every Tuesday afternoon from 4-5 p.m. for children

entering kindergarten through fifth grade. Younger siblings are welcome.

For more information, people may call 413-848-2853 during library hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 2-6 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Council on Aging lists July events

BLANDFORD – The July arrangements for the Council on Aging have changed a bit according to Board Member Joann Martin.

No breakfast is scheduled due to the July 4th holiday. The Games and Gab open house is set for Friday, July 12 from 1-4 p.m. in the Council on Aging room at Town Hall. The annual COA Picnic

with burgers, dogs, tortellini, potato salad and homemade baked beans followed with watermelon and Root Beer Floats is going to be on Friday, July 26 at noon. This will also be in the COA room at Town Hall.

People may call 413-848-4279 and leave a name and number of people attending for reservations.

CENSUS

from page 1

Jemiolo also said that if registered voters "do not vote in two consecutive federal elections while inactive, they will no longer be registered to vote and must register again.

Registered voters who have received these recent notices must sign and return

it to be removed from the inactive voters list.

"This is of great importance considering the upcoming September and November elections," she said.

People may call Jemiolo at 413-848-4279, extension 203 with any questions.

BECKET

Becket Athenaeum holds summer reading program

BECKET – This year's Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St., summer reading theme is Read, Renew, Repeat and encourages reading as a restorative method of self-improvement and self-preservation.

The library has summer reading programs for all ages. Babies and toddlers (0-3) can play Reading Bingo with their caregivers to win prizes all year long (not only during the summer). Children 4-12 are invited to Read and Bead; they record their minutes spent reading or being read to and then bring their reading tracker to the library to turn those minutes into beads of varying colors, materials and designs to decorate and personalize their very own necklace or keychain.

Teens are challenged to step out of their reading comfort zone and win prizes by playing Book Bingo. Teen prizes include gift cards to local ice cream shops, eco-friendly wireless earbuds, water bottles and more. Adults have a year-long Reading Challenge, which will conclude at the end of the year with prizes to local restaurants for the lucky raffle winners.

To go along with this year's reading challenges, the Athenaeum is offering a number of fun summer reading programs for the whole family. These

include: Friday, July 12 at 10 a.m. Reptiles of the Berkshires with Tom Tynning for children; Monday, July 29 at 6 p.m. My Yard has Been Invaded with John Burns, a program for adults about the invasive plants of the area and how to manage them:

Monday, Aug. 5 at 10 a.m. Charades: The Game of Life with John Burns, a natural history "who did it"

program for children and Saturday, Aug 17 10:30 a.m. A Summer Reading Celebration: Songs and Stories for all ages with Parents' Choice Award-winning Storyteller Davis Bates

Reading is important for everyone, but it's especially important for young students during extended breaks from school. Research shows that reading or being read to is effective in battling the summer slide – the learning loss that children experience when they're out of school.

As the local public library, the Becket Athenaeum is here to help on their reading journey with children. People may stop by the library to pick up their summer reading materials and visit becketathenaeum.org for more information and to register for this year's programs email info@bwlibrary.org.

Arts Center to host closing reception

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will host a closing reception for Bill Wurtzel's exhibition "Fungi Art" on Sunday, July 7 from 2-4 p.m.

Author with his wife, Claire Wurtzel will present a slide show about his clever photographs of mushrooms, beginning at 3 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, people may visit www.becketartscenter.org.



This is one of Bill Wurtzel's "Fungi Art."

Photo by Bill Wurtzel

HUNTINGTON

Council on Aging to history of Holyoke's Mountain Park

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging is hosting “The History of Holyoke’s Mountain Park” presented by Jay Ducharme on Wednesday, July 17 at 1 p.m. at Stanton

Hall, 26 Russell Road. All ages are welcome to attend this free event. People may email coa@huntingtonma.us or call 413-512-5205 for more information.

TOWN CLERK

from page 1

licenses and permits on behalf of the town.

In other business, the board approved the FY’25 Hilltown Community Ambulance Contract. They also extended the Northeast IT Contract for FY’25, noting that they’d been pretty timely and, “When you call you can actually talk to someone,” said Town Administrator Jennifer Pelouin.

Pelouin announced that three companies submitted written responses for the FY’25 Tree Services bid. Asplundh was the lowest bidder in all categories except wood chipping, but that still kept their total contract lower. Pelouin called six references and has not heard back from any, so she checked with Highway Superintendent Brad Curry who said they’d be fine. The contract was awarded to Asplundh.

Huntington did not receive any bids for heavy equipment services. Pelouin is going to check with the state as to how to proceed on this. For example, if there is Chapter 90 spending of over \$50,000 there must be a pre-qualification process. However, a portion of bid, a portion is not going for Chapter 90 work, which might affect the requirements.

There were two quotes to repair the highway department’s boom mower. The lowest bidder was Carriere Welding, who could get to the work in a few days and can bring his equipment to the mower so it doesn’t have to be moved. Carrier was recommended by area welder John Marcoulie; this award passed unanimously.

One item was tabled to the next

meeting. John Martine of Florence submitted a Stanton Hall use request for The New Consciousness Forum, for an event billed as a lively discussion between a Democrat, Republican and Independent. Police Chief Robert Garriepy reviewed the application and felt a detail should be required, which would cost Martine \$50 per hour for a four hour minimum. Pelouin emailed Martine back to ask for more detail on the organization and this event and he has not responded as yet.

North Hall administrators submitted an American Rescue Plan Act request of \$1,850 for roofing and insulation on exterior copper pipes on the back of the building for a mini-split heating/cooling system. Renauld felt that ARPA money should go for bigger projects. After discussion, the board voted to encumber funds from the FY’24 Building Property and Wages account for work to be done in July.

Approval was also granted for North Hall to be rented by the Norwich Lake Association on Saturday, July 6 for their annual meeting.

This was Renauld’s last meeting after more than 10 years of serving on the Huntington Select Board. In his final act, he asked to be removed as an administrator on the town’s Facebook page, which Pelouin helped him accomplish. “It feels good,” said Renauld. “It was a great time, but I’m ready for it to be over.” His replacement, John McVeigh, was elected in May to begin a term on Monday, July 1.

NORTHAMPTON

LIBRARY

from page 2

on the first Saturday of each month. The classes are for all experience levels. Participants should bring a yoga mat (some will be available to borrow), water bottle and sun protectant. Registration and waiver required by visiting www.forbeslibrary.org.

Paper waivers will also be available at the class. This program is presented in partnership with Sanctuary.

Craft a shape-changing wire sculpture will be held Wednesday, July 10 from 6-7:30 p.m. Participants will make a wire sculpture that turns inside out. Materials will be provided. No prior experience needed and no glue used.

Kids’ Gaming Club meets Friday, July 5 from 4-5 p.m. Every Friday children ages 7-12 meet in the Community Room to hang out with other young gamers and play the library’s Nintendo Switch.

For teens ages 12 and up, the Teen Gaming Lounge is open on Tuesdays.

Playful Engineers Presents: Artful Mechanisms on Saturday, July 6 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Children build basic structures for their own artful mechanisms that send messages, tell stories or accomplish tasks. As they build according to instructions, they are also beginning to conceive and create their own designs to overlay those structures. This event is sponsored by Curran and Keegan Financial.

Science Heroes Presents: Adventure of the Lost Treasure will

take place Saturday, July 13 from 11 a.m.-noon. Participants will join Science Heroes on a treasure-hunting adventure deep within the jungle. Along the way, the audience helps the performer conduct exciting science experiments that bring this story to life. They will experiment with chemical reactions, air pressure, physical explosions, and more! Don’t miss this exciting and interactive STEM learning adventure The Friends of Forbes Library sponsors this event.

Preschool story time for ages 3 to 5 will be held Thursday, July 11 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. There is no story time on July 4. There will be books, songs, and puppets and participate in an open-ended art activity designed to encourage creativity.

Toddler story time will be held Friday, July 5 from 10:30-11 a.m. Children will sing songs, read stories and have fun. This event is best suited for 1.5-3-year-olds and their caregivers.

In the Hosmer Gallery Animal Portraits by Renee Hill, Sarah Marquesen and Dan Chiamis will be on exhibit now through Tuesday, July 30. Reception is Friday, July 12 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Book Drive will be held now through Wednesday, July 31. A book drive to support our Neighborhood Free Book Boxes is now underway! Collection boxes will be available in the foyer throughout the month of July.

FLORENCE

Kim Baker received Florence Bank Community Support award

FLORENCE – The Florence Bank announced it recently presented its 2024 Community Support Award to longtime employee Kim Baker of Hatfield.



Kim Baker

The Community Support Award was established by the bank in 1997 as a means of formally recognizing team members who are active in the community and give their personal and professional time to local nonprofit organizations. Each year, the award recipient selects an organization of his/her choice, and the bank donates \$500 to that organization on the recipient’s behalf. Baker chose to support United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire Region.

Baker joined Florence Bank in 1995 and currently serves as vice president / commercial loan operations and compliance officer at the bank’s main office in Florence. She is responsible for commercial loan compliance, including regulatory and management reporting.

Baker holds an associate degree from Holyoke Community College, a bachelor’s in business management with a concentration in finance from

Westfield State College and a master’s in business administration from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

In the community, she is a member of Hatfield’s Finance Committee and the Hatfield Saint Kaz Polish Club. She volunteers for Jessie’s House, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, the Cancer Connection, the Three County Fair and the Northampton Saint Patrick’s Association. Baker is also chair and co-chair for United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire Region’s Annual Ski United fundraising event.

“Kim has proven to be a true community volunteer and supporter of many local organizations,” said Matt Garrity, president and CEO of Florence Bank. “She is well-deserving of the Community Support Award.”

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield and Springfield.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Hydrangeas in full color and full swing

A week-long visit to Cape Cod yielded more than fun on the beach and an appetite finally quenched of its seafood craving.

It was a gardener's dream to walk through town and take in all of the glorious container plantings and window boxes. Side streets yielded a peek at some incredible home landscapes complete with gorgeous big leaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*), nearly everywhere you look.

They were just starting to come into their own when we arrived, but by week's end, they were in full, magnificent glory.

I read somewhere that the rainy summer last year followed by a mild winter has predisposed the plants to be overloaded with blooms here and now, and that they were. Some in shades of blue, others sported pink or purple tones and still some with flowers of each shade on one bush.

We've all heard about adjusting the pH will alter the color of the sepals, the showy modified leaf bracts. Acidifying the soil with aluminum sulfate turns the flowers blue, while making the soil more alkaline with lime will yield flowers in pink tones instead, all because aluminum ions are either more available or less available respectively.

That is the short of it!

I came home from this trip encouraged to try taking cuttings of my hydrangea bush. A hedge of them up by the road would sure be pretty.

The experts imply that the process of duplicating your plants is an easy one and now is the perfect time to do it. Taking softwood cuttings of hydrangeas is similar to taking cuttings of geraniums, rosemary or other plants.

It's best to find a stem that is not is flower. Start at the tip and count down at least four pairs of leaves, then make your cut with a clean pair of clippers or sharp scissors after that last set of leaves.

Carefully cut off the two bottom most sets of leaves, close to the stem. Dip the stem into rooting hormone.

If you are using a powder form, tap the

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Corrections policy

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

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



GUEST COLUMN

Widower asks about his survivor benefits



Dear Rusty:

My wife died May 4, 2024. I notified Social Security, and they have removed the direct deposit made to my joint checking account on May 8, 2024. What are my options now for obtaining any benefits from my wife's Social Security account?

Signed: Grieving Husband

Dear Grieving Husband:

Please accept our sincere condolences for the loss of your wife. Rest assured that we're here to assist with any Social Security questions you may have at this difficult time.

FYI, a person must live the entire month to be eligible for SS benefits for that month. Social Security benefits aren't paid for the month a person dies. For this reason and as a matter of standard protocol, Social Security instructed the bank to return any payments received for your wife after her death. This is often referred to as the "claw back" rule.

In some circumstances, however, Social Security "claws back" money, which rightfully belongs to the deceased, as they did in this case. Your wife's Social Security payment received on May 8 was her payment for the month of April, and she was fully entitled to that payment because she lived for the entire month of April. I suggest that you download, fill out, and submit Form SSA-1724 to your local Social Security office to recover that May 8 payment, which rightfully belongs to your wife's estate. Note that the bank will automatically return any future SS payments received for your wife.

As your wife's surviving spouse, you are also entitled to a one-time lump sum "death benefit" of \$255, which you can

request by calling your local SS field office (get the number at www.ssa.gov/locator), or by calling 1.800.772.1213. During that call you can also explore whether you are entitled to any additional SS benefit as a surviving spouse.

If your wife's monthly SS retirement benefit was more than your current monthly SS benefit, you will be entitled to receive her higher monthly amount instead of your own smaller amount (FYI, if you haven't yet reached your own full retirement age your survivor benefit will be reduced). And if you are not yet collecting your own SS benefit, you have the option to claim your survivor benefit from your wife first while allowing your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow, up to maximum at age 70 if you like.

Just be aware that if you haven't yet reached your Full Retirement Age and you are still working, any SS benefit you take before your FRA will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much can be earned before they take away some of your SS benefits. The 2024 annual earnings limit is \$22,320 (changes annually) for those who claim prior to the year they attain full retirement age, and SS will take away \$1 of benefits for every \$2 over the annual limit. The "earnings test" no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

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

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Election letters to the editor welcome

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to countryjournal@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that

Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

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

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

OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Exploring part of Appalachian Trail – Upper Goose Pond Trail

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

LEE – Hiking to Upper Goose Pond in Lee, the group came upon this bronze plaque commemorating the Mohheknuck Club, which was located on the shores of this beautiful pond.

The stone remains of the fireplace were all that you can see of this Club that was incorporated in 1909. It was named after the Chief of the Stockbridge Indians, who were known to meet on the shore of Upper Goose Pond during “troublesome times.” The Club was formed by a number of Lee and New York sportsmen to be a fishing, boating and hunting retreat.

A two story cabin of Chestnut logs was built by a local Lee carpenter named Nick Carter. Oxen were used to haul lumber and stones along a logging trail to build the cabin. It had a large living room with a fireplace and a kitchen downstairs and three bedrooms upstairs. It would come to be adorned with stuffed animals and birds, presumably attesting to the success of its members’ hunting prowess. It was described as a “wildly picturesque spot in the Berkshires” that allowed its members to get away from the hot summer heat. There were twelve original club members from East Lee, Connecticut and New York.

Who were these Mohheknuck Club members? The postmaster of Lee was a member. A local farmer was a member, who recalled driving his Model T Ford to Griffen farm and then he had to walk the rest of the way to the cabin. The cabin is very remote. There were no roads then and there are no roads now. Three brothers from Lee and Brooklyn, New York were members along with one son, who was a pediatrician.

The area was known for good fishing with pickerel, yellow perch and small-mouth bass featured as the catch of the day. And you know those were on the menu, not catch and release. The Boy Scouts were allowed to stay on weekend outings in the spring, fall and winter for 13 years. They enjoyed skating, skiing and tobogganing during the winter visits. After WWII the cabin was used less and less. By the 1960’s it was reported that hippies appeared and vandals and trespassers invaded soon thereafter.

Alas the lodge burned down some time in April in the early 1970s. No one seemed to know the details of the fire, but one has to ask how a fire came to happen in this remote lodge? Arson has to be considered given it had been vandalized and fallen into disuse. Well five thousand dollars of insurance money was collected by the Club. There were no plans to rebuild the Club. The money was not distributed to the Club members if you’re thinking of fraudulent activity.

They made the honorable gesture of donating twelve thousand dollars to the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) to continue to keep the land as wilderness. Oh and they did sell their thirteen acres of land on Upper Goose Pond to the National Park Service for \$36,000. And there was to be a ceremony to hand this \$12,000 check over to AMC but there was an unfortunate incident where the Mohheknuck Club members who were canoeing to the ceremony were swamped by a motor boat on lower Goose Pond! So much for living on the wild side.

Oh and which is the wilder side?

A brief word about the many Appalachian Trail hikers we met while hiking. They are a strange breed. Most of ‘em were “thru hikers,” that is they complete the journey in one go, all 2,190 miles of it, as opposed to section hikers, who only hike a section at a time.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy estimates that one quarter of the hikers actually complete the journey or about 3,000 hikers a year and there are over 3



A bear box keeps food safe from foraging bears. There are only black bears on the Appalachian Trail.



This is the Appalachian Trail sign for Upper Goose Pond shelter.

million hikers, who complete sections of the trail. The Appalachian Trail goes from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Katahdin in Maine.

Most hikers start in Georgia and walk north. All the hikers we met had left from Georgia in March of this year, expecting to hike for roughly six months. They average hiking 17 miles per day but there are days where the terrain is so rough you are happy to accomplish 2 miles, think up a mountainside. You carry all your food and water. There are over 250 backcountry shelters that are run on a first come first served basis. It’s tough to phone a reservation when phone service is spotty at best, read that best on peaks and ridge lines and nonexistent in narrow valleys and hollows.

We visited what is considered the Hilton on the AT, the Upper Goose Pond shelter. There is no running water, they use spring water, there is no electricity, no private bedroom, 17 single bunk beds and let’s not get into the bathroom.

Walking the AT is a singular primitive experience where hikers get in touch with their inner core identity, find serenity or get lost and bail out as soon as they have cell service. I mean after you have lived on Snickers bars for six months, traveled under an alias (trail name) and slept on the ground how challenging can the rest of your life be? Oh and if you are considering a hike, be sure and sign in



Appalachian Trail Upper Goose Pond Cabin is located on the Appalachian Trail.



The fireplace and common room are shown in the Upper Goose Pond Appalachian Trail cabin.



Bronze plaque commemorating the Mohheknuck Club is located on Upper Goose Pond in Lee.



This is a view of Upper Goose Pond shore line for the Club.

Turley Photos by Deborah Daniels



Lone Appalachian Trail hiker makes his way out to civilization in Lee where he reported he was meeting his family from Connecticut and going out to eat, then resuming hiking the trail. He had started in Georgia.

to all the log books kept at the shelters, they may need that information when

they question the bears about your whereabouts.

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Gateway, Barr and your children's future

By Ana Holmes

Editor's Note. Ana Holmes is a junior at Gateway Regional High School

Gateway Regional High School was opened in 1963 as a replacement for Huntington High School.

It was the dream of many faculty members which took fruition after years of work. It is named for its history as one of the final stops on the underground railroad. Once a 'gateway' to freedom, it became a gateway to adult life. A gateway to a better future.

In the years to come, Gateway would face many struggles. As a rural school it lacked the funding that other schools boast. However, with the recent installation of Kristen Smidy as superintendent, the school has gained a new lease on life. In writing a truly exceptional proposal, she earned Gateway the Barr grant. Since its founding in 1997, the Barr Foundation has donated over \$1 billion. With this in mind, it's easy to understand that this is going to have a major effect on the district. The question

is this; as a parent, what kind of changes might you see?

Well, not everything is set in stone. Every school needs different action, and the Barr Foundation spent the larger part of a year learning the ins-and-outs of the school. Through classroom observation and student surveys, they've begun to understand just how Gateway runs. On the flip, it's also important for Gateway's faculty and students to learn about how other schools foster learning. Through multiple trips with different combinations of School Committee Members and interested Faculty, gators have toured various schools throughout the country to see the innovative programs in place. They saw incredible mentorship programs, student-lead projects, and scheduled time devoted to studying or extra help.

For parents with high schoolers, your child may come home with a lengthy list of new opportunities. Barr has plans for paid internships for high schoolers to practice working and money management while learning valuable skills. Another thing to expect is more

permission slips coming your way. Barr trips in the following year will soon include students. Previous trips had a few students whose parents were attending, but the number will increase significantly. Thanks to a consistent wave of student requests, directed study will be reinstated in the high school. For up to one block a day students will be able to catch up on homework and complete school work.

While it's clear all the benefits this grant will have for our school, isn't an entirely one sided relationship. Gateway serves as a perfect poster child for the Barr mission. We'll essentially prove that with the proper funding and guidance, under-resourced students can thrive just as well as students in well funded areas. With initial polling as the Foundation sussed out the student body, they came to the conclusion that Gateway students had more trusted adults than any other school they'd been to. While other schools students often had one or two adults they felt they could talk with, Gateway boasted five to six per student! While it isn't entirely certain what the

future holds, it's clear that the coming years will be a fruitful relationship.

Even outside the Barr's support, the district has grown so much. The previously biennial Costa Rica trip is now a yearly trip alternating between Costa Rica and Spain. Students have been encouraged to advocate for themselves within the school and in state courtrooms. After years of the Vice Principal position changing, the promotion of beloved math teacher Ms Valerie Zeh marks an end to this uncertainty. She and Dr Sullivan—Current principal and former vice principal—have consistently advocated for students and proved themselves as formidable individuals.

As a student myself, I've seen Gateway through many years of prosperity and plague. With all this change, it's easy to see why the Barr Foundation would want to contribute to our accelerating trajectory. I truly believe that with the kind, understanding staff in our district and the continued support of the Barr Foundation, our school is going to prosper as the 'gateway' it was always meant to be.

GARDEN

from page 4

stem on the container to dislodge any excess. The cutting can then be put in a four-inch pot filled with moistened potting soil. It's best if you make a hole for the stem with a "dibble," pencil, or small dowel, rather than pushing the stem into the media so that all of the hormone is rubbed off.

Once the stem is inserted into the pre-made hole, firm around it and mist with a spray bottle. Now, cover the pot and cutting with a tented plastic bag so that the cutting will not dry out and place it in the shade, outside is fine as long as you won't forget about it.

I like to keep them inside in indirect

light. Check often, misting if wilted looking and watering if the soil is dry to the touch.

After about 4-6 weeks, check the cutting to see if it has rooted. It's best not to tug, but to invert the pot and remove the soil to see what you have for roots.

Sometimes you can "just tell" that the plant has rooted by its appearance. Maybe it is sporting new growth.

Once your cuttings have rooted and grown on for awhile, it's time to transplant them into bigger pots. I'm not saying we jump to a gallon size pot but maybe go up to a six or eight-inch pot

and then go bigger the next time until the specimen is large enough to earn a coveted spot in your yard.

I can't wait to try this! Maybe you will too, and we can compare notes!

I can see the lovely hedge up near the road in my mind's eye already!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.



HAYDENVILLE

Senator Mark announces staff office hours

HAYDENVILLE – State Senator Paul W. Mark announces his staff will host office hours in Williamsburg for two days in July.

His staff will be at the Town Offices, 141 Main St., on Tuesday, July 9 and Tuesday, July 23 from 1-3 p.m. Residents of any of the 57 municipalities in the Senator's Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Hampshire District are encouraged to share ideas on current or potential state legislation, or to ask for assistance with issues involving any state agency. Appointments are not required.



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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Colleges and universities announce graduates

Clark University Worcester

Eolann Jude McMillan of Plainfield, Master of Public Administration and a member of the Alpha Epsilon Lambda honor society

College of Our Lady of the Elms Chicopee

Sarah Camarco of Chester, Bachelor of Science degree in nursing; Nichole Coppez of Westfield, Graduate Certificate in adult gerontology acute care; Brittani Cundiff of Easthampton, Master of Education degree in education studies; Spencer Daughdrill of Easthampton, Bachelor of Science degree in nursing; Ebone Donawa of Westfield, Master of Education degree in education studies; Gregory Hamelin of Westfield, Bachelor of Arts degree in computer science; Megan Heath of Westfield, Bachelor of Science degree in nursing; Maria Holguin of Westhampton, Graduate Certificate in adult gerontology acute care; Musa Jiana of Westfield, Bachelor of Arts degree in computer information technology and security; Renee Lamb of Westfield, Bachelor of Arts degree in healthcare management; Monica McComas of Russell, Master of Science degree in applied behavior analysis; Jennifer McCormick of Easthampton, Bachelor of Science degree in social work; Brandon

McCormick-Wilhite of Easthampton, Bachelor of Science degree in biotechnology; Heather O'Connor of Westfield, Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics; Jennifer Orenstein of Westfield, Graduate Certificate in adult gerontology acute care and Maya Parker of Williamsburg, Bachelor of Science degree in nursing

Hamilton College Clinton, New York

Eleanor Sangree of Washington, cum laude Bachelor of Arts in biology and environmentally studies

Rochester Institute of Technology Rochester, New York

Zane Kitchen Lipski of Plainfield, Bachelor of Science in computer science and Jaden Kitchen Lipski of Plainfield, a Bachelor of Science in computer science

University of Hartford West Hartford, Connecticut

Ryan Bundy of Westfield, Master of Science College of Arts and Sciences; Kaitlyn Hirtle of Middlefield, Master of Business Administration Barney School of Business Kelsey Kiltonic of Westfield, Doctor of Physical Therapy College of Education, nursing and health professions and Margaret Philpott of Westfield, Bachelor of Science College of education, nursing and health professions

HCC Foundation lists scholarships recipients

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Foundation awarded more than \$335,000 in scholarships to students for the 2024-2025 academic year.

This year, the HCC Foundation awarded 388 scholarships to 323 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Some students received multiple scholarship awards. The average scholarship award is about \$900.

Local scholarship recipients are: Erin McCormick of Chesterfield, Alexandra Adams of Easthampton, Sarah Akin of Easthampton, Alex Biddulph of Easthampton (two awards), Hind Bourhim of Easthampton, Gabrielle Carey (two awards) of Easthampton, Casey Clapp of Easthampton, Gabrielle D'Amour, of Easthampton Ashleigh Fox of Easthampton, Jessica Grygorcewicz of Easthampton, Renee Hill (two awards) of Easthampton, Nikaia Jimenez (two awards) of Easthampton, Lincoln KaneLong of Easthampton, Lisa Miwa of Easthampton, Amber Slawski of Easthampton, Oliver King of Florence, Isabella Komlev of Florence, Karissa Robinson of Florence (two awards), Bunnary Teng of Florence, Lauren Williams of Goshen, Staci Barrett of Lee (two awards), Azades Hamblin of Montgomery, Sarah Belote of Northampton,

Sophie Bennett of Northampton, Alexandria Casavant of Northampton Jesse Conner of Northampton Cheryl Freier of Northampton, Barney Garcia of Northampton, Nico Howard of Northampton, Orlando Morales of Northampton, Erika Pizha of Northampton, Hans Valdes of Northampton, Dan Winter of Northampton, Kai Ramos of Southamptn, Shannyn Samuelson of Southamptn, Katherine Simmons of Southamptn, Gabrielle Tisdale of Southamptn, Eve Bartlett of Westfield, Raven Carrasquillo of Westfield (two awards), Paige Cortis of Westfield, Nicholas Couchon of Westfield, Diana Dovganyuk of Westfield, Angelica Gavrillov of Westfield (two awards), Christina Gelmudinov of Westfield, Wandeliz Gonzalez Marrero of Westfield (two awards), Mary Goretskiy of Westfield, Travis Guin of Westfield, Elizabeth Hancharonak of Westfield, Lindsay Hughes of Westfield, Amanda McGuire of Westfield, Kit McKenzie of Westfield, Moriah Morris of Westfield, Liana Parrilla of Westfield, Leniel Ramos of Westfield, Ethan Romero of Westfield, Nelly Salgado of Westfield, Sarah Shoemaker of Westfield Valentina Vines of Westfield, Jessica Liimatainen of Williamsburg, Kaylee Rooney of Williamsburg and Johnathan Santiago of Williamsburg.

MassDOT expands Safe Routes to School program

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation reported its Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program continues to grow and make a difference as the 2023-2024 academic year comes to an end, with 72 additional schools joining SRTS since last September.

The total number of partner schools across Massachusetts is now 1,171, located in 284 communities and serving approximately 590,000 students. The program has seen consistent annual growth in its number of school partners for the past 19 years.

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

Conte Community School received the Exemplary Program Award for the Western Region this year at the SRTS Annual Awards Ceremony. Matt Behnke, an educator at Conte Community School

in Pittsfield, said "It was so inspiring to see all the other ways that schools and communities are promoting safe access on foot and by bike. And it definitely reenergized me to continue this work in the years ahead."

Local school that joined SRTS since the start of the school year last September include: Easthampton High School, Easthampton; Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, Lenox; Northampton High School, Northampton and R.H. Conwell Elementary School, Worthington.

The Bike Rodeos are an interactive way to teach students the rules of the road while practicing safe bicycling skills. The rodeo format incorporates stations along a loop course that simulates a neighborhood environment. More information about the Bike Rodeos can be found here.

During the school year, the Program offers pedestrian and bicycle training activities, walk and bike assessments, and arrival/dismissal observations at schools. SRTS works with schools and their local communities to help customize safety-focused activities, provide resources to help facilitate safe student travel, and offer one-on-one assistance

for each school's specific needs. By fostering partnerships between advocacy groups, municipal officials, law enforcement, education leaders, and public health departments, the program currently serves over 1,170 public elementary, middle, and high schools in over 280 communities across the Commonwealth.

People may visit www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school or www.facebook.com/SafeRoutes.MA for more information.



magazine

SEPTEMBER 2024

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OTIS

Book club meets July 25

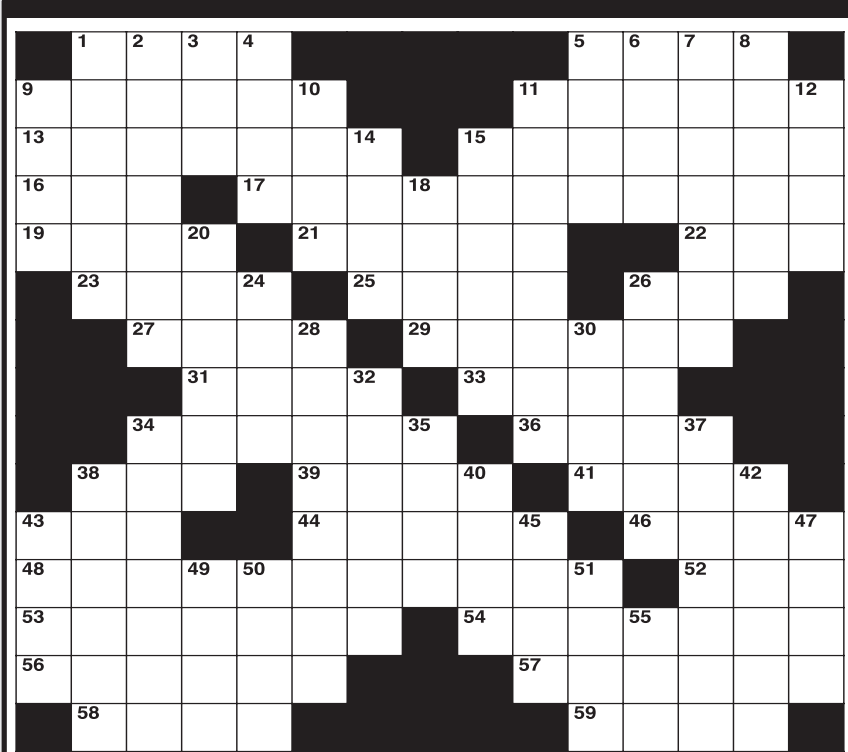
OTIS – The Otis Library, 48 North Main Road, hosts the book club on Thursday, July 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room or via Zoom. The book is “The First Lady of World War II” by Shannon McKenna Schmidt. Everyone is welcome.

Read or subscribe online at countryjournal.turley.com

WESTHAMPTON

WFD celebrates 75th anniversary

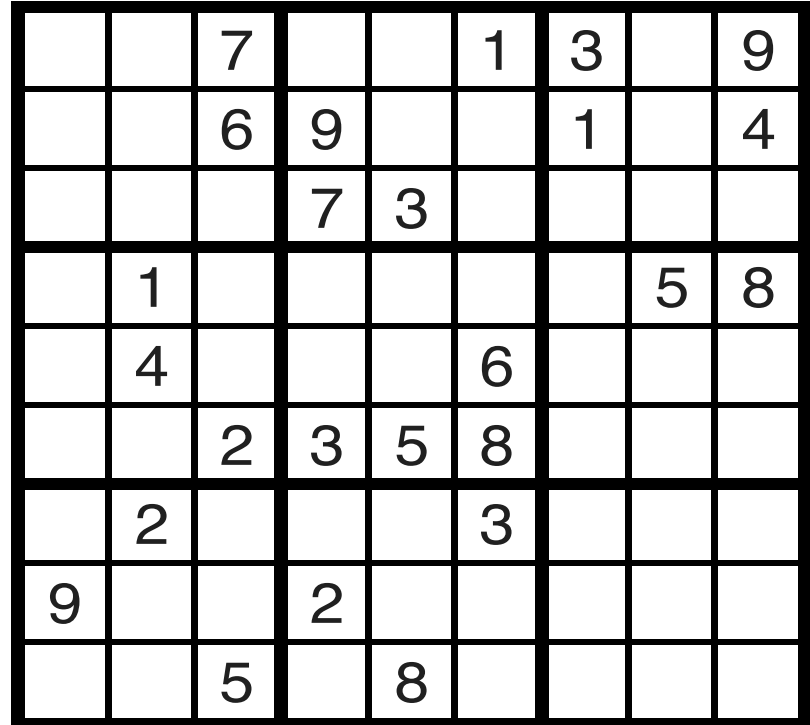
WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Fire Department, One South Road, will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary with an open house and chicken barbecue on Saturday, Aug. 17 from 2-6 p.m. Barbecue tickets are \$10 each. Children 10 and under eat for free. Reservations are required. The open house will be from 2-6 p.m. and the chicken barbecue will be served at 4 p.m. Events will include a short ceremony, Herrell’s Ice Cream, memorabilia, games, and fun for all.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Six (Spanish)
 - 5. Invests in little enterprises
 - 9. Large dung beetle
 - 11. Gored
 - 13. Partially paralyzed
 - 15. Still a little wet
 - 16. Legal field media company
 - 17. Not working
 - 19. 500 sheets of paper
 - 21. Church structure
 - 22. Sheep disease
 - 23. Small drink of whiskey
 - 25. Weaving tradition
 - 26. Pestilence
 - 27. Body part
 - 29. Nabs
 - 31. Places to stay
 - 33. Witnesses
 - 34. Looked for
 - 36. Arranges
 - 38. Political action committee
 - 39. Middle eastern nation (alt. sp.)
 - 41. Hair-like structure
 - 43. Parts producer
 - 44. Greek city
 - 46. Subway dwellers
 - 48. Norm from “Cheers”
 - 52. Clean a floor
 - 53. Vied for
 - 54. Canned fish
 - 56. Inspire with love
 - 57. Sent down moisture
 - 58. Wrest
 - 59. Partner to carrots
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Mounted
 - 2. Assign
 - 3. Wrath
 - 4. Self-immolation by fire ritual
 - 5. Parts of an organism
 - 6. Person from England
 - 7. Tropical plants of the pea family
 - 8. Body part
 - 9. Practice boxing
 - 10. Containers
 - 11. Contrary beliefs
 - 12. Bleached
 - 14. Pre-Islamic Egyptian
 - 15. A group of similar things ordered one after another
 - 18. Innermost spinal cord membranes
 - 20. Cassava
 - 24. A restaurant’s list of offerings
 - 26. Annoy constantly
 - 28. Orchestrate
 - 30. Z Z Z
 - 32. Astute
 - 34. Highly decorated tea urn
 - 35. Teach to behave
 - 37. Endurance
 - 38. Urinating
 - 40. Barbie friend dolls
 - 42. Repents
 - 43. Man-eating giant
 - 45. Jewish calendar month
 - 47. Accelerated
 - 49. Husband of Sita in Hindu
 - 50. Lump of semiliquid substance
 - 51. Lying in wait
 - 55. Cease to exist

THIS WEEK’S HOROSCOPES

- ARIES**
Mar 21/Apr 20
After some time, a difficult situation is beginning to settle down, Aries. Enjoy this well-earned peace and consider how a new perspective can help going forward.
- CANCER**
Jun 22/Jul 22
It is a fine week to really think about your future, Cancer. If you have goals to start a business, start hashing out plans and give thought to seeking a partner.
- LEO**
Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, this week you start out with a lot of energy, but likely will burn through it early on. If you want to reach your goal, you are going to have to learn how to pace yourself.
- TAURUS**
Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, a new plan can be just what you need to make notable progress. Finding a mentor or someone who has forged a path already can be a useful step.
- GEMINI**
May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, you have a lot going on in your life right now to keep you busy. With so much going on, try not to worry about what is going on with others. Stay in your lane.
- LIBRA**
Sept 23/Oct 23
You may be feeling introspective and philosophical, so much so that people may catch you staring into space and lost in thought. Now is not the time to make heavy decisions.
- SCORPIO**
Oct 24/Nov 22
This might not be the week for parties or large social events. You are experiencing some introverted feelings right now and are best in situations that have only a few people.
- VIRGO**
Aug 24/Sept 22
A lot of emotions are running through your mind, Virgo. They may be very confusing. It is alright to feel out of sorts. Perhaps talking to someone can offer you perspective.
- CAPRICORN**
Dec 22/Jan 20
It may be tempting to let someone else take over when the going gets tough. That likely will not be best for you, so continue to make decisions and let things play out.
- AQUARIUS**
Jan 21/Feb 18
You are due for a big break after going through a lot of emotional ups and downs. Your positive attitude has paved the way for brighter skies ahead.
- PISCES**
Feb 19/Mar 20
No one else is going to do a tough job for you. You have to dig in your heels and make a plan. You are ready for this kind of assignment and the pressure that comes with it.



SUDOKU

Here’s How It Works:

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG

Office of the Planning Board
Zoning Board of Appeals
Haydenville, MA
LEGAL NOTICE

A public Hearing will be held at **5:30 PM on Thursday, July 18, 2024** in the Williamsburg Town Offices, 141 Main St., Haydenville, MA to consider the following: The application of David Nehring and Susan Fortgang of 16 Walpole Rd., Assessors Map G, Lots 65.0 and 65.A and Map K, Lot 14 Williamsburg, MA for a Special Permit, as required by Section 3.2 of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Williamsburg, to build five lodging units for overnight guests located at 16 Walpole Rd., Williamsburg.

Gerald Mann, Chairman
06/27, 07/04/2024

Town of Goshen Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

RE: 92 Aberdeen Road, Goshen, MA 01032

Thadeus Wojcik-Owner
Dorothy Wojcik-Owner

The Owners are submitting a Request for Determination of Applicability of the Wetland Protection Act to the Town of Goshen Conservation Commission, regarding the property located at 92 Aberdeen Road, Goshen, MA 01032.

A hearing will be held on **July 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Conservation Commission, Goshen Town Hall, 40 Main Street, Goshen, Massachusetts 01032.

Owners Counsel:
Peter T. Lane, Esquire
Fierst Bloomberg Ohm LLP
64 Gothic Street, Suite 4
Northampton, MA 01060
07/04/2024

Form 299

Date: June 26, 2024

Attorney General's Notice Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32

Town of Blandford Case No. 11317

Special Town Meeting of March 18, 2024

Article # 5

Attorney General's Limited Authority to Waive Procedural Defects in the Notice of the Planning Board Hearing

Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32, if the Attorney General finds there to be any defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment of any zoning by-law relating to the form or content of the notice of the Planning Board hearing prescribed by G.L. c. 40A, § 5, or to the manner or dates on which said notice is mailed, posted or published as required by that section, then instead of disapproving the by-law or amendment by reason of any such defect, the Attorney General may elect to proceed under the defect waiver provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32. Under those provisions, the Attorney General is conditionally authorized to waive any such defect.

Defect Determined in Notice of Planning Board Hearing

The Attorney General has determined that the planning board hearing notice relating to the above Article failed to comply with the notice requirements for such hearing established by G.L. c. 40A, § 5. Section 5 provides in part (with emphasis added):

No zoning...by-law or amendment thereto shall be adopted until after the plan-

ning board in a...town has... held a public hearing thereon...at which interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard.... Notice of the time and place of such hearing, of the subject matter, sufficient for identification, and of the place where texts and maps thereof may be inspected shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the...town once in each of two successive weeks, the first publication to be not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing, and by posting such notice in a conspicuous place in the...town hall for a period of not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing. Notice of said hearing shall also be sent by mail, postage prepaid to the executive office of housing and livable communities, the regional planning agency, if any, and to the planning board of each abutting city and town....In cases involving boundary, density or use changes within a district, notice shall be sent to any such nonresident property owner who has filed such a request with the city or town clerk and whose property lies in the district where the change is sought.

Based on the materials submitted to this Office, we have identified the following defect: the Planning Board hearing notice was first published in a newspaper of general circulation on September 21, 2023 for a Planning Board hearing to be held on October 4, 2023, which was only thirteen days before the hearing, not fourteen days as required by G.L. c. 40A, § 5. For this reason, the 90-day period prescribed for the Attorney General's review of Article 5 is suspended in accordance with G.L. c. 40, § 32.

Attorney General's Election to Proceed Under the Waiver Provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32

The Attorney General has elected to proceed under the limited defect waiver authority conferred by G.L. c. 40, § 32.

Suspension of Review of Zoning By-Law Amendments

The 90-day period prescribed by law for the Attorney General's review of local by-laws is therefore suspended in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32.

Posting and Publication of This Notice

The Town Clerk shall post a true copy of this Notice in a conspicuous place in the Blandford Town Hall for a period of not less than 14 days and shall publish a copy once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Blandford

Filing of Claim That Defect in Notice Was Misleading or Otherwise Prejudicial

Within 21 days of the date on which this Notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Blandford, any resident of the Town of Blandford, or the owner of any real property in the Town of Blandford or any other party entitled to notice of the planning board hearing may file with the Town Clerk a written statement that the notice defect was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. The statement must include the reasons supporting the claim that the defect in the Planning Board Notice was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. This statement must be actually on

file with the Town Clerk not later than 21 days from the date on which this Notice is published in the newspaper.

Town Clerk's Certification of Compliance with This Notice

After the expiration of the 21-day period, the Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General a true copy of this Notice with a certification of compliance with the publishing and posting requirements of the preceding paragraph, and a certification that either (a) no claim was filed within the 21-day period, or (b) one or more claims were filed within the 21-day period. The Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General true copies of any such claim(s).

Resumption of Attorney General's Review

Upon receipt of one original copy of this Notice with the Clerk's certification, the 90-day period provided for the Attorney General's review under G.L. c. 40, § 32, shall resume. If no claim is made, the Attorney General has the discretion to waive any such defect; if any claim is made, however, the Attorney General may not waive any such defect.

Note: By not filing a claim under this provision, a person shall not be deprived of the right to assert a claim of invalidity arising out of any possible defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment, as provided in G.L. c. 40, § 32, and in G.L. c. 40A, § 5.

Date: June 26, 2024
07/04/2024

TOWN OF GOSHEN MASSACHUSETTS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant to Mass General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, July 15, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.**, on a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) by Hilltown Land Trust. Portions of the proposed trail work are within wetland Resource Area buffer zones. The RDA is available for public inspection at Town Hall or via email request to conservation@goshen-ma.us. 07/04/2024

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD PRICE REQUEST NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD BID NOTICE

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

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

Bid Documents and bid forms may be obtained at the Select Board Office, Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 and also by emailing the Middlefield Assistant Town Administrator at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. Bidders may also call Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator at 413-636-1614 to request a copy of the documents or email him at middlefield.adm@gmail.com. **The deadline for questions on the documents is July 2, 2024, at 12:00 noon.** Questions should be directed to Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator, at email: middlefield.adm@gmail.com. Sealed Bids will be opened in the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 on July 19, 2024, at 11:00 A. M. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security of CASH, CERTIFIED, CHECK, or BID BOND

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

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

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD BID NOTICE

Sealed Bids are for the installation of luxury 18" x 18" vinyl floor tile, moisture barrier, and cove base in the Middlefield Town Hall located at 188 Skyline Trail will be received at the Town Administrator's Office located at the Middlefield Town Hall P.O. Box 238, 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243. **Bids will be received until 11:00 AM on July 19, 2024, at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened and read.**

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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PINE VALLEY ANNUAL TAG SALE: SATURDAY, July 13, 8-3. 281 Chauncey Walker St., Belchertown. - Dozens of tag sales throughout our community. Welcome station with maps, burgers/dogs/snacks/cold drinks. Restrooms. Huge variety of items!

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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
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33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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OBITUARY

Sandra Jean Wyman, 83

BLANDFORD – Sandra Jean Wyman, 83 went to be with Lord on June 27, 2024, at her home in Blandford with her family by her side.

At her request, no service will be held.

Mrs. Wyman was born June 9, 1941, to the late Walter E and Gladys M (Nye) Allen and as well as her parents she was preceded in death by her sister Alice E. Shepard (Arthur) and her brothers, Robert Allen (Myrtle), Thomas Allen (Doris) and Carl Allen.

She is survived by her husband of almost 67 years Arthur “Art” Wyman; their three children, Cheryl A. Wyman, Michael A. Wyman (Donna) and Melissa S. Estes (Edward), eight grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

She was a devoted wife and mother, who loved to cook, bake and various crafts including ceramics, paint-



ing on fabrics and basket making. She truly enjoyed sewing especially quilting.

She was active in various churches that she attended over the years including singing in the choir, hosting various missionary families and secretarial duties.

She volunteered at the Storowton Village Museum, portraying a person who lived in the mid-18th to mid-19th century.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers any donations be made to the American Cancer Society Donations, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741

End of life arrangements entrusted to Avalon Life Celebration Center & Cremation Services, LLC 691 College Hwy, Southwick, MA 01077

To express condolences please visit Sandra’s memorial page at www.avaloncelebrations.com.

DEATH NOTICE

WYMAN, SANDRA JEAN

Died June 27, 2024

No service will be held at her request

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Email the Country Journal your news and photos countryjournal@turley.com

CHESTER

Hamilton Memorial Library announces upcoming events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library portion of the building in Chester, continues to be under construction, which is expected to be completed sometime in July.

Library staff will continue to hold library hours on Tuesdays in the Council on Aging room in the Chester town hall from 1-6 p.m. and Thursdays at the Chester Railway Station from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. with story and fun time for children at 11 a.m. during this time.

Patrons may continue to use the online CW MARS ordering system, which they can access through a link on the website by visiting www.hamilton-library.org and book holds can be picked up at

both of the temporary locations. People may return books at these locations or in the book drop-off bin on School Street. Library staff can be reached by emailing chesterlibrary@gmail.com or by voice-mail at 413-354-7808 for any questions or RSVPs for events. They should leave a name and number where they can return their call.

July events

The library will be closed on Thursday, July 4 in celebration of Independence Day. The summer reading program has begun and children of all ages are encouraged to sign up. The library will have some fun summer programs so visit the website at www.hamilton-library.org,

Facebook: Hamilton Memorial Library and Instagram: @chestermalibrary.

Kids Learn to Fish will be held Thursday, July 11 at 11 a.m. at the Chester Railway Station. This special event is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. It is for children ages 2 to 6 and there are no hooks. They will practice casting and reeling. Participants will receive their own fishing rod. They must RSVP by Tuesday, July 9.

The Nocturnals: Summer Book Club: Chester Elementary School’s, One School, One Book Summer Get-Together will be held Thursday, July 11 at 2 p.m. at the Chester Train Station. There will be treats and crafts.

Book Club will meet on Wednesday, July 17 at 4:30 p.m. They will be discussing the historical fiction bestseller, “The Nightingale” by Kristin Hannah, while enjoying light refreshments. Copies are available. Writers Club will be taking the summer off and will resume the second Wednesday in September with a newly structured meeting format.

Cookbook Club will now meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month, next meeting July 24 from 4:30-6 p.m. They will be sampling recipes from “101 Asian Dishes You Need to Cook Before You Die,” by Jet Tila. Participants should stop in for the book or to get a copy of one of the recipes to share.

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The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. EOE

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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Hikers explore Blandford Conservation area

BLANDFORD – Carl Herrick Knittel Conservation Area in Blandford, beautiful in every season a true gem and one of the only passive recreation spaces in Blandford thanks to the Town of Blandford, Conservation Commission and Mr. Dick Gates for preserving this area abutting the Cobble Mountain Watershed. Trails are on both sides of Herrick Road to experience a true nature experience with mountain laurel in full bloom, Kyanite ledges and the very active beaver pond. This is the white blazed 2 mile loop from the trailhead kiosk on Herrick Road.



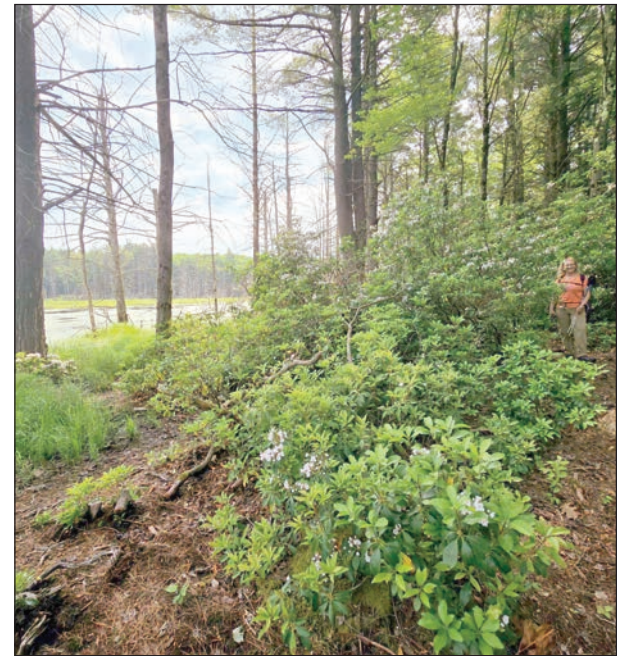
An aerial view of Nancy enjoying the trail around the beaver pond.



The intricate beaver pond dam has four tiers on this side of the pond.



Above, Frankie the Frenchie cools off in the pond. Left, a view of the active beaver lodge.



Mountain laurel is shown in full bloom.

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 _____

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 11, 2024.**

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

Deadline for Calendar submissions is **August 12.**

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.