

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

# 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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**CHESTERFIELD**

## 4th of July parade draws thousands

By Kathryn Koegel  
Correspondent

The 77th annual 4th of July parade in Chesterfield drew both locals and attendees from around the world to the bucolic and historic downtown.

Thousands braved the heat and lined the intersection of Main Street and North Road as veterans, vintage cars, firetrucks, cows, a pipers' band and even a white whale made their way along the parade route. The history of the town was on display as was patriotism. The visitors from outside the Hilltowns were duly impressed.

For over a decade, UMass Amherst has brought foreign exchange students and visiting lecturers to witness the spectacle. This year, students and professors from 54 countries attended. Winnie Ragutt from the University of Nairobi, Kenya is especially impressed by the level of engagement in politics in the U.S. and the enthusiasm for the U.S. expressed by the parade goers.

**PARADE**, page 9



Fifty-four countries were represented in the contingent from UMass Amherst. Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel

**EASTHAMPTON**

## Coalition for Veteran Wellness to host a family Summer Vet Fest

The first ever Easthampton Summer Vet Fest will be held on Sunday, July 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pavilion 3 in Nonotuck Park.

It will feature food, activities and games for families and information for the military veteran family community. This is a family friendly day to connect veterans. Organized by the Easthampton Coalition for Veteran Wellness with the support of several community sponsors, the event is free to any U.S. military member or veteran of U.S. military service and their invited guests to include family members, children and grandchildren. Entrance to the park to attend the event will be free.

**VET FEST**, page 8

**SOUTH WORTHINGTON**

## Sound of classical music rings out with Sevenars

By Kathryn Koegel  
Correspondent

Anyone who has ever been to a performance at Carnegie Hall, the Boston Symphony Hall or the Springfield Symphony Hall is typically dazzled by not just the acoustics, but also the marble columns and

gleaming gold accents.

These places were built as temples to classical music. But in the Hilltowns, some of the very same performers, who have graced the stages of those halls, appear on Sunday afternoons in summer in an old schoolhouse in

**MUSIC**, page 7

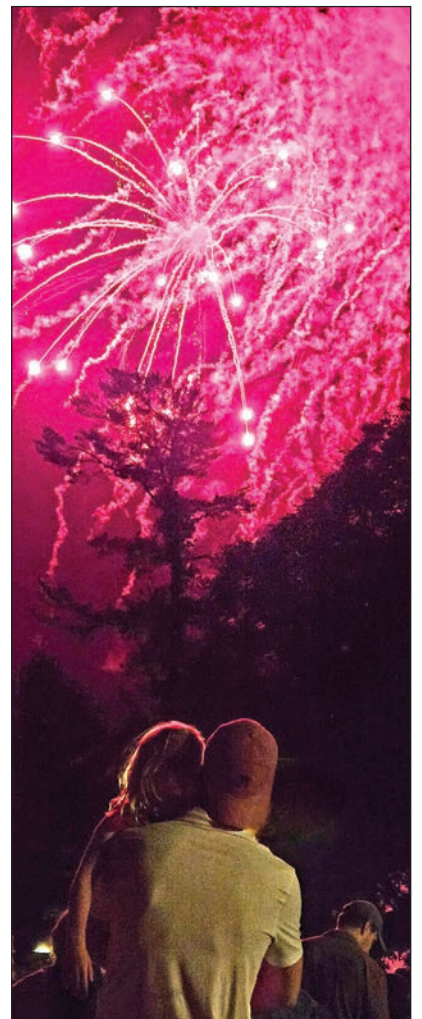


Rorianne Schrade is the youngest of the seven musicians the festival is named after. Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel



The concert hall is in the building of a school founded by the Reverend Rusell Conwell. The chairs have hand-written names of the benefactors.

**FESTIVE FIREWORKS**



This young girl held by her dad gets a great view of the Tanglewood fireworks. Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel



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## HILLTOWNS

# Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers plan group hike

SOUTHWICK – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers plan a group hike to Granville Gorge on Saturday, July 20 at 10 a.m.

Parking is in Granville Gorge Main Lot on Route 57 in Southwick #372 MA-57. Hike rating is moderate and approximately a 3.5 mile loop with 600 feet of elevation gain. There will be a brook crossing and one steep climb to the vista.

The group will start this summer time hiking adventure crossing Munn Brook in the heart of the gorge in the

greenery of a magical chasm surrounded by moss and clear flowing water and giant boulders. The Granville Gorge offers many hiking trails that are best discovered in the summer however the winter months create giant icicles on the gorge walls.

They will hike approximately three and a half miles crossing the Granville/Southwick town border visiting the boundary stone and then up Drake Mountain with 600 feet of elevation gain to a grand vista. They will then make their way down to Drake Brook

and follow it to the old Winchell Road where this was once a booming colonial village before the land was taken by eminent domain to build both Winchell and Granville Reservoir for water supply.

The Winchell Reservoir was built in 1899. Its capacity was more than three million gallons to supply the growing city of Westfield. By 1929 the capacity of the Winchell Reservoir was inadequate for the city's needs and was abandoned. Hikers will visit the remains of the reservoir and where the gate house

once stood.

Please Register per car by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water are provided. Hikers should be prepared for rocks, roots and some uneven ground. They will hike rain or shine. Friendly dogs are welcome. Suggested donation is \$10, hike is volunteer lead.

More details are available by visiting [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com). People should email [westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com](mailto:westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com) or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions.

## Sales tax holiday approved

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Legislature approved Saturday, Aug. 10 and Sunday, Aug. 11 as a sales tax holiday weekend for Massachusetts.

On those days, the Massachusetts sales tax of 6.25% will be suspended for most items that retail for less than \$2,500. The holiday welcomes Massachusetts residents to visit retailers and small businesses around the state. A spike in consumer activity routinely boosts indirect tax revenues. According to the Department of Revenue, during the

2023 sales tax holiday, indirect tax revenues due to increased economic activity were approximately \$3.54 million.

"I am glad to see the sales tax holiday be approved in the legislature today, giving our residents a great chance to get outside and embrace their local businesses and community at a little bit of a discount," said Senator Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). "This annual holiday gives a boost to our small business owners and consumers, and I am proud to support this measure annually."

## MassDOT announces I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting nighttime and daytime bridge work, pavement milling, and guardrail work at various locations and times on I-90 eastbound and westbound during the week of Monday, July 8.

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

In Montgomery and Russell bridge work will be conducted from mile marker 35.5 to 36.5 now through Thursday night, July 11 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, July 12 at 5 a.m.

In Otis and Blandford pavement milling operations will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 21.0 to 23.0 from now through Thursday night, July 11 from 6 p.m.-6 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, July 12 by 6 a.m. Guardrail work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 23.0 to 27.0 now through Thursday night, July 11 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, July 12 by 5:30 a.m.

In Stockbridge and West Stockbridge guardrail and bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 west-

bound from mile marker 1.2 to 6.5 from now through Thursday night, July 11 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, July 12 by 5 a.m.

In Lee bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 10.0 to 11.0 from now through Thursday night, July 11, from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, July 12 by 5 a.m.

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

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: download the Mass511 mobile app or visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions, dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions or follow at MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

## MassDOT announces temporary closure of Damon Road

NORTHAMPTON – MassDOT will temporarily close Damon Road where it crosses the Connecticut Valley Rail Line in Northampton, Massachusetts, beginning on Thursday, July 11.

The closure takes advantage of a planned outage by the rail operator and allows MassDOT to perform safety upgrades to the grade crossing where the street meets the railroad. Once the closure is in place, Damon Road will remain closed around the clock for the next five days.

During the temporary closure, traffic will be able to access all parts of Damon Road, but not cross the Connecticut Valley Rail Line. Vehicles will be able to access the portion of Damon Road between Route 5, locally King Street and the train tracks and the section of Damon Road between Route 9, locally Bridge Street and the train tracks, but through traffic will not be permitted. All businesses will remain accessible and open to serve customers, receive deliveries, and dispatch goods as normal.

MassDOT has established two signed detours for this project. Cars will use Bridge Street and King Street to bypass the closure at the grade crossing. Motorists are reminded that turning onto roads such as Market Street or Day Avenue to access Industrial Drive will connect them to Damon Road to the east towards the Connecticut River of the closure requiring them to reverse course to the signed route.

Trucks that would normally travel Damon Road to access Bridge Road: enter I-91 southbound from Bridge Street, use the ramps at Exit 23 to reverse direction to I-91 northbound, travel north to Exit 27 and use the ramps to reverse direction to I-91 southbound and take Exit 26 to intersect Bridge Road.

Trucks that would normally travel Bridge Road to access Damon Road or Route 9: turn left off Bridge Road onto King Street and bear right onto I-91 northbound, travel north to Exit 27 and use the ramps to reverse direction to I-91 southbound, travel south to Exit 23 and use the ramps to reverse direction to I-91 northbound and take Exit 25 to intersection Route 9 and Damon Road

MassDOT requests that as a courtesy, trucks refrain from using Route 5 as a bypass for the closure at Damon Road as it passes through the dense, busy center of Northampton.

Vehicles over 10 feet in height must not attempt to pass under the Connecticut Valley Rail Line where it crosses above North Street, Main Street, Holyoke Street, or Hockanum Road. These bridges are under-height and vehicles requiring 10 feet of clearance or more will become stuck and/or severely damaged.

Pedestrians should not cross the work zone even though train service will be suspended. The nearest safe crossing of the Connecticut Valley Line is approximately ¾ of a mile south at the Norwottuck Rail Trail access point located at 225R King St.

MassDOT recognizes this is a longer distance for those with limited mobility, walking with young children or carrying parcels. For door-to-door transit service, the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) offers the NOHO Shuttle. The shuttle operates Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. To book a trip up to seven days in advance, people may call 413-739-7436. One-way regular fare is \$1.50, \$0.75 for senior citizens or those with a disability.

If people have questions or concerns, they may email [dot.feedbackdistrict2@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:dot.feedbackdistrict2@dot.state.ma.us).

## WORTHINGTON

# Rod and Gun Club to host basic hunter course

WORTHINGTON – Worthington Rod and Gun Club, 458 Dingle Road, Route 112, offers the Massachusetts Hunter Education Program. This is the Basic Hunter Education taught by a certified teaching team. The program is for first-time adult hunters and youth hunters, ages 12 to 17 years. The in-person course

is in four required sessions: Monday, July 29, Tuesday, July 30, Thursday, Aug. 1 and Friday, Aug. 2 from 5:30-9 p.m. This will be held at the WR&GC, 458 Dingle Road (Route 112), Worthington. To enroll, people may call 508-389-7830, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. This course is free and open to all residents.

## Founder's Day set for July 13

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Historical Society will host Founder's Day on Saturday, July 13 beginning with children's events starting at 3:30 p.m.

A potluck dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. People should bring a home cooked dish and or dessert to share. There will be a silent auction. Libations served by Sena Farm Brewery.

## GREAT BARRINGTON

# Mahaiwe announces free Spanish-language screening of 'Ratatouille'

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will screen the 2007 animated Pixar film "Ratatouille," for free with reservations, on Saturday, July 27 at 4 p.m. in Spanish with English subtitles.

To reserve tickets, people may visit [mahaiwe.org](http://mahaiwe.org) or the Box Office at 413-528-0100 Wednesday through Saturday from noon-4 p.m. In this beloved family classic, Remy the rat, who dreams of becoming a chef, puts his cooking skills to the test in one of Paris' finest restaurants and forms an unlikely alliance with the restaurant's garbage boy Alfredo Linguini. Called "a nearly flawless piece of popular art, as well as one of the most persuasive portraits of an artist ever committed to film" by A. O. Scott of The New York

Times, the story is a reminder that "a great artist can come from anywhere."

"Ratatouille" won the Oscar for Best Animated Feature and features the voices of Patton Oswalt, Lou Romano, Iam Holm, Janeane Garofalo, Peter O'Toole, Brian Dennehy, Peter Sohn and Brad Garrett.

This screening is programmed in collaboration with the Mahaiwe's Spanish-language Community Advisory Network committee. SCAN is funded in part by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's Arts Build Community Initiative, Lee Bank Foundation, Avangrid Foundation and Greylock Federal Credit Union and support from individual donors. For more information, people may visit [mahaiwe.org](http://mahaiwe.org).



# HUNTINGTON

## Huntington kicks off summer music series

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington summer music series will begin on Thursday, July 11 with a picnic to kick off the series.

Music and food will begin at 5:30 p.m. this night only. Picnic is by donation, \$1, hamburger or hot dog, popcorn, lemonade and cake. Jim Blanch and Boot Hill will open with some classic country tunes “with a twist” that will get you up dancing or toe tapping for sure. The group played for us

last year, inside the hall due to rain, but the crowd and dancers followed. People can find more information about the band on Facebook or visit jimblanchandboothill.wixsite.com

On Thursday, July 18 the series will continue at regular time of 6:30-8 p.m. with Greg Hall.

“Greg Hall is a singer/songwriter based in the hills of Western Massachusetts. Born with music all around and raised by horses on a farm

in another part of the Northeast, his pastoral upbringing shaped his career playing original country songs across New England, touring with his own band and as a member of Ward Hayden and the Outliers. In the tradition of his favorite songwriters, Elliot Smith and Willie Nelson, his lyrics are centered on the grounded intimacy of personal moments and universal human stories.” More information about Greg can be found by visiting [www.greghallband.com](http://www.greghallband.com)

com Bake sale on July 18 will be provided by the Huntington Women’s Guild.

All performances are free. Located at the intersection of Routes 20 and 112 on the Huntington town green. All performances will be moved inside Stanton Hall in case of inclement weather, same location. Handicapped accessible. No pets please. Concerts are free and sponsored by The Huntington Community Events Committee.

## Squeezebox Stompers perform July 14

HUNTINGTON – Americana roots band the Squeezebox Stompers brings step-lively up-beat music to the North Hall, 40 Searle Road, stage on Sunday July 14 at 2 p.m.

The band will perform a lively medley of Americana roots music, such as Cajun, Zydeco, New Orleans classics and originals. The Boston-area group includes Ralph Tufo (piano and Cajun accordions), Larry Plitt (guitar), JO

(acoustic bass) and Art Schatz (fiddle). Members of the Squeezebox Stompers have received Boston Music Awards and Songwriting Awards and have been performing all over New England for 15 years.

This performance is part of the 14th Annual Historic North Hall Arts Festival, presented by the North Hall Association. All performances are free; donations welcomed. People may visit the website at

[www.northhallhuntington.org](http://www.northhallhuntington.org) for program updates. The North Hall is wheelchair accessible and air conditioned.

The seven program series is sponsored by the Westfield Bank, Easthampton Savings Bank, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Cultural Councils of: Chester, Cummington, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Russell, Westhampton and Worthington.



### ST. JUDE’S NOVENA

May The Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now, and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude, for granting my petition. C.D.

## Town of Huntington asks input on local recreation

HUNTINGTON – The town of Huntington is updating their Open Space and Recreation Plan and the OSRP Committee needs input from the public on goals and priorities for conservation and recreation in the town through a survey.

A similar survey was last conducted in 2002, which showed that residents wanted more access to recreation, especially in regard to the Westfield River which has a special designation from Congress as a Wild and Scenic River due to its outstanding history and ecosystem.

“The Committee wants to know: What improvements would you like to see to recreation facilities and programs?” says Mimi Kaplan, the Senior

Land Use and Environment Planner from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, who is advising on the survey. “What natural resources in town need to be protected? What are your thoughts about reduced parking and access to the Westfield River? Please fill out the brief survey and let the Committee know,” she says.

Anyone who recreates in Huntington (fishing, boating, ballfields, hiking), not just residents, are asked to give their input. The survey can be completed online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/HuntingtonOSRP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HuntingtonOSRP) or by picking up a print copy at the Huntington town offices. The survey will remain open through July.

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## Gas prices increase four cents

WESTWOOD – Surging demand, higher oil costs and concerns about Hurricane Beryl’s potential impacts on refinery operations in southern Texas are driving up Northeast pump prices.

Texas is the top crude oil and gas processing state in the country, accounting for one-third of the nation’s total refining capacity. As a result, production disruptions at any of the Lone Star State’s 32 petroleum refineries can impact pump prices nationwide.

According to Reuters, some crude oil export facilities, refineries and offshore platforms in the area activated emergency plans and reduced or shut down production. And over the weekend, several key ports in the state closed in preparation for the storm, which made landfall along the Texas coast.

Beyond hurricane threats, oil and gas markets continue moving higher as Americans take to the roads for the summer driving season. Gasoline demand reached 9.4 million barrels a day for the week ending June 28, the most recent demand figures available from the Energy Information Administration. As demand reached the highest level so far this year, inventories of gasoline fell by 2.2 million barrels.

The average gas price in Massachusetts is up four cents over last week (\$3.46), averaging \$3.50 per gallon. Today’s price is two cents higher than a month ago (\$3.48) and five cents lower than July 8, 2023 (\$3.55). Massachusetts’s average gas price is the

same as the national average.

“Demand increasing and supply decreasing is a recipe for higher pump prices,” said Jillian Young, Director of Public Relations, AAA Northeast. “Add to the mix not just the threat from Hurricane Beryl, but concerns about increased activity across the entire hurricane season, and it’s certainly not unusual to see an upward trend.”

AAA Northeast’s July 8 survey of fuel prices found the current national average up a penny from last week (\$3.49), averaging \$3.50 a gallon. Today’s national average price is five cents higher than a month ago (\$3.45) and three cents lower than this day last year (\$3.53).

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



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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### Will IRA withdrawals affect my Medicare premiums?

Dear Rusty:

I am a member of AMAC and learn so much from the Ask Rusty column.

I hope you can give me some information about a question that has come up in my family. My husband is retired and has reached Full Retirement Age. He is considering withdrawing money from an IRA to pay off our mortgage. We are wondering what, if any, penalties may be incurred on Social Security, Medicare and income tax. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Signed: Concerned Taxpayer

Dear Concerned:

Thank you for contacting the AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisory Service.

Regarding your question on the impact of withdrawing IRA funds, there is no impact to your husband's gross Social Security benefit. The amount withdrawn, of course, is considered ordinary income for federal income tax purposes and will need to be included as such on your federal income tax return and will therefore affect your federal income tax liability when you file the return.

Depending on the amount withdrawn, there could be an impact to the Medicare premium due to the Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount provision. Assuming you file jointly, you will pay a higher Medicare Part B premium if your modified adjusted gross income is above certain thresholds, i.e., more than \$103,000 for an individual and \$206,000 for a married couple.

Please note that Medicare's procedures will not note this income change for two years, so if you make the withdrawal in 2024 it will not trigger the increases until your 2026 Medicare premiums. A change to your Medicare premium might also result in a change to your net Social Security payment at that time since Medicare is automatically deducted from your Social Security payment.

Also depending on the amount withdrawn, you may have to pay an additional amount on top of your Medicare Part D premium. The Part D adjustment amount is calculated based on a percentage of the Part D national base beneficiary premium, not on a percentage of the plan premium.

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



## GUEST COLUMN

### The Garden Lady tackles the Rose of Sharon



Paul, who gardens in Palmer, wrote in with this timely question for the Garden Lady: "My question deals with the Rose of Sharon and the many seedlings that it disbursts. I have a large bush/tree in my front yard, and it disbursts many seedlings. I have weeded the seedlings going on three times this spring and summer. When is the best time to cut the dead blossoms off the tree so that I don't repeat this task? Please share any other hints/ideas about the Rose of Sharon shrub."

This is a perfect question, since bloom time for the Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) is right around the corner.

Like you, I am familiar with the shrub's tendency to self-sow, a lot. The best way to halt all of the seedlings coming is to "dead-head" the flowers as they begin to fade, before they are given the opportunity to make and drop seed.

Some would argue that this is, in fact, as much or more work as weeding the seedlings away. I guess it all depends whether you prefer to work standing up or on your hands and knees.

One suggestion I have would be to weed by use of a scuffle hoe. It's a tool you use standing up whereby you drag the scuffle across the soil.

It cuts the weed away from its roots, stopping it dead in its tracks. If you do this every week, the weeds will be so small that they will just wither in the sun- you don't even have to pick them up.

That may be the easiest way out of your overabundance of seedlings.

You also asked for some information about the shrub. Here are some excerpts from a column I wrote a few years ago that you might find interesting, especially in regard to the appropriate time of year to prune.

The Rose of Sharon is also known as Shrub Althea. It is a member of the mallow family, a diverse bunch of plants that include hollyhocks, marsh mallows, cotton, okra and even tropical hibiscus as kin.

Although native to Asia, it had already found a home in North America by 1600. In the 19th century it was among the most popular shrubs in the nursery trade. It grows well in zones 5-8.

The Rose of Sharon has an upright growth habit that lends itself well to all types of combination plantings: in foundation plantings, as stand alone hedges, and as the backdrop for perennial borders. Likewise, a single shrub can be trained to be an outstanding specimen.

Because its flowers are borne on new growth rather than old, pruning can be accomplished in late winter or early spring without the risk of sacrificing blooms. As with most shrubs, concentrate first on removing any dead branches, then remove those that are crossing or rubbing on one another.

If growth needs to be checked, cut well into the shrub to decrease its height and girth.

Cutting back to a bud that points outward and in the direction of least competition will result in a bushy, less lanky shrub- one suitable for use as a specimen. Frequent pruning results in fewer but larger flowers, whereas no or little pruning gives way to many small flowers.

Plant the Rose of Sharon in full sun or part shade situations. Although it is tolerant of many types of soil, from seashore sandy to wet, this shrub prefers deep, well-drained soil to perform its best.

Fertilization is rarely necessary.

Although Japanese beetles are said to favor the flowers, I haven't had much of a problem with them at home or at work.

To intentionally propagate this plant, simply take a softwood cutting four or five inches long in early summer. Remove lower foliage and insert into the ground in a shady location.

Water as needed.

By the season end roots will have likely formed, but wait until spring to move your cutting to a nursery bed.

As mentioned, seeds of the Rose of Sharon have also been known to sprout under the mother plant, sometimes to the degree of being a nuisance. Grow these seedlings on and see what color flower you get; there is no guarantee it will be the same as mother.

Single or double hibiscus shaped flowers come in shades of red, pink, purple and white,

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

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@ Country Journal



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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](mailto: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

## GUEST COLUMN



Whip-poor-will

I received an email from a Belchertown resident, she said, "I have had a whip-poor-will in my yard for about a month."

She also said, "I hear the call every morning around 4 a.m. and in the evening around 9 p.m. I have not had one for the past 10 years and am quite lucky to have again."

She said she lives in a quiet neighborhood and she was wondering if any other folks have them. She is fortunate. It has been many years since I heard the call of the whip-poor-will.

The whip-poor-will is ten inches long and are mostly heard calling in the evening. It is a brownish to dusk colored bird, which blends in well with its surroundings. In flight, the rounded

wings and long tail are visible. They eat aerial insects and feed mostly at night on moths. They are nocturnal and rest during the day. They also eat beetles and grasshoppers.

The whip-poor-will nest on the woodland floor and lays two white eggs with gray or brown spots. Their call is "whip-poor will," with emphasis on the last syllable. They inhabit open woods, canyons and dry, brushy areas.

### Green heron and more

My daughter saw a green heron fly across Route 32 in Ware, near the power supply at the town line on Thursday, June

27. It landed in a small, swampy area. Green herons unlike the great blue and blue heron has a short neck and legs. They have a blue-green back, reddish brown neck and chest and a long, pointed bill.

The week before she saw a family of raccoons near the pond across from Church Street. The little ones frolicked in the grass; it was the cutest thing. She also saw a pileated woodpecker at the Lucy Stone Park in Warren on a new section of trail. She said, "It flew ahead and landed on a tree. I've never seen one so close before." On June 29, she saw a pair of cedar waxwings at Hardwick Pond.

### Loon facts

The Loon Preservation Committee provided this interesting information in one of their newsletters.

"Loons diving to deeper depths tend to spend more time underwater than those diving in more shallow areas. In a study of loons using Lake Michigan as a stopover site during fall migration, Kenow et al. (2018) found that loons diving to depths of 131 feet were spending, on average, 139 seconds, over two

minutes, underwater per dive. In contrast, loons diving to depths of 65 feet in that study were spending less time under water per dive, 87 seconds, on average."

The article also said, "It can be difficult to quantify the absolute maximum amount of time that a loon can spend underwater, as loons likely have no need to test their limits during normal bouts of foraging. While there have been anecdotal reports of loons spending up to five minutes at a time underwater, the maximum documented dive duration that we were able to find in the published literature for loons was 219 seconds or 3.65 minutes. However, given that the loon that was documented making this dive was doing so in the process of normal foraging, it is possible (and likely) that under duress, loons may be able to stay under even longer, perhaps up to the fabled five minutes, or even more."

*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.*

## SECURITY

from page 4

The Social Security Administration mails letters to beneficiaries, who currently pay a Part B Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount and, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, are in a Part D plan. The letter explains the additional Part D amount and how exactly Social Security will collect it. You can contact SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or your local SSA agency if you have any further questions about your Part D IRMAA premium.

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not*

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

## GARDEN

from page 4

depending on the cultivar. Like those of their tropical cousin, individual Rose of Sharon flowers bloom for a single day, close at night, then eventually drop from the plant.

Even at that rate, flowering occurs for many weeks throughout late July, August and sometimes into September.

In my opinion, single flowered cultivars are more desirable; they put on a better show and are more tolerant of rainy weather. Double types turn to mush after a rainstorm – much like petunia flowers do. Not very attractive and oh so squishy!

"Diana" is my all time favorite cultivar. Four- six inch pure white single flow-

ers bloom in abundance, even through the night, making it a perfect candidate for use in a moonlit garden.

"Woodbridge" is another popular variety. It is deep pink and darker at the base. "Blue Bird" is unique, sky blue with a red center.

*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.*

# 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.**

# 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.**



# BLANDFORD

## CREATIVE MOVEMENT CLASS TO BE HELD JULY 17



The Hilltown Family Center creative movement classes have been underway at the Blandford Town Hall. The final program is next Wednesday, July 17 at 11 a.m. Shannon Fristik, seated, with Arwyn and Pepper Fristik, listen to Laurel Lenski read "Ten Little Monkeys." *Submitted photo*

## Can and bottle refunds to be used for Veterans programs

BLANDFORD – Every resident, who purchases a Transfer Station Sticker this month, will also receive a large yellow bag.

The bag is for saving all refundable bottles and cans to return to the Transfer Station in exchange for another bag. George Reichert, program originator, said, "With the new fiscal year, this will keep refundable cans and bottles out of the dumpsters." He encourages people to make use of the yellow bags, which the Transfer Station attendants will take

for can and bottle refunds, which will be used to help fund Veterans' programs, such as the November dinner, flag replacement and veterans' programming in general, according to Reichert.

The Board of Health has adopted Reichert's idea and hope to realize several thousand dollars.

"This is an opportunity to do good in the community with the refundables," said Reichert.

The yellow bag is to be used only for refundable cans and bottles.



George Reichert, from left, who proposed the refundable project is shown with Transfer Station Supervisor and Board of Health member Bret Hartley, Board of Health members Jennifer Girard and Pat Lombardo. *Turley photo by Mary Kronholm*

## Blandford Fair president announces painting party

BLANDFORD – Mark Riply Blandford Fair President announces the preparations for the 2024 Blandford Fair.

Volunteers are always needed. The fair committee has scheduled a painting

party, Saturday, July 20 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with a lunch provided and of course two passes to the Blandford Fair. If interested, people may call Linda at 413-977-2113.

## Board member announces pipe on Old Chester Road covered

BLANDFORD – Water Commissioner Chair Michael Keier approached the Select Board at Monday evening June 24 meeting regarding having the Highway Department cover an asbestos pipe on Old Chester Road

He said work had been done to cover the pipe, but it washed out again with the recent rains. Select Board member Theodore Cousineau contacted the Blandford correspondent for the *Country Journal* that the pipe had already been covered.

## Transfer Station has 2025 stickers

BLANDFORD – Transfer Station Stickers for fiscal year 2025 are now available at the Transfer Station.

Every vehicle that uses the Transfer Station must have a current sticker permanently affixed to the window on the driver's side of the owner by Wednesday, July 31.

Residents who want to make use of this service may purchase sticker(s) at the Huntington Road site for \$95 during regular hours: Saturday morning from 8 a.m.-noon and Tuesday evening from 6-8 p.m. There will be an application for stickers at the Transfer Station.

Policies for the coming year state

that random sticker checks will be made during the year and all stickers and vehicle numbers, Vin and license plate, must match. The Board of Health requires station patrons not "curse, insult disparage or physically assault" attendants. Other policies include: no one may use the Transfer Station without a sticker.

Bulk items disposal will be assessed a fee; the list of fees is available at the Transfer Station or from the Board of Health. All trash bags are to be clear. Those who purchase Transfer Station Stickers sign a form acknowledging the aforementioned policies and agree to participate in recycling.

## CHURCH PICNIC RINGS IN THE FOURTH OF JULY



Anne Savery-Emo and Douglas Emo enjoy some watermelon at the picnic.



First Congregational Church Pastor Ciprian Droma readies the grill for the congregation's July 4th picnic on the grounds of the parsonage.



Picnic-goers begin to assemble for the cookout.

*Turley photos by Mary Kronholm*



## BECKET

# Athenaeum announces upcoming news, events

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St., will hold a program on reptiles of the Berkshires with Tom Tynning on Friday, July 12 from 10-11 a.m.

Tynning is part of the environmental science department at Berkshire Community College. People should RSVP to [bit.ly/BA-Reptiles](https://bit.ly/BA-Reptiles).

On Thursday, July 18 from noon-1p.m. David Giannini and Gary Metras will be part of a local author tea at the Athenaeum. People should RSVP to [bit.ly/BA-July-Tea](https://bit.ly/BA-July-Tea). Giannini is the author of “Already Long Ago” and Metras is the author of “Marble Dust.”

The Becket Athenaeum will host movie night for adults on Tuesday, July 16 from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The free movie starts at 7 p.m. at



the athenaeum. Participants will choose the movie, either “Poor Things” or “The Boys in the Boat.” The movie with the most votes received by July 9 will be shown.

There will be popcorn, candy and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. People are welcome to bring their beverage of choice including alcohol. Older children age 13 plus may come with an adult at the discretion of their parent or guardian.

Game night will be held on Thursday, July 18 from 6-8 p.m. at the library. Ages 13 plus are welcome. Refreshments will be served. RSVP appreciated by visiting [bit.ly/BA-July18-game](https://bit.ly/BA-July18-game). On Fridays, July 19 and Aug. 9 the library will hold ice cream story time at Topsy’s Treats, 258 Maple St., Hinsdale. While there, participants will get a special buy one, get 50% off deal and pick from an array of ice cream flavors to enjoy during story time. People should RSVP to [bit.ly/BA-storytime](https://bit.ly/BA-storytime).

Story time with Stay and Play is held Saturdays with story time from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and stay and play from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. People should RSVP to [bit.ly/BG-storytime](https://bit.ly/BG-storytime). Children hear a story and make a craft. They then stay to play and have snacks. Caregivers can connect to each other over coffee.

On Monday, July 29 from 6-7:30 p.m. John Burns will speak on “My yard has been invaded.” He will discuss some of the typical invasive species in the area. People may RSVP to [bit.ly/BA-yard](https://bit.ly/BA-yard).

## Becket Arts Center lists events

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will host sculptor Andrew DeVries, who will present an entertaining recap of his 45-year career, its trials, tribulations and successes on Thursday, July 11 from 5-6 p.m.

His talk, part of the BAC’s Speaker Series, is entitled “A Legacy in Bronze.” Known for his graceful depictions of dancers, DeVries is also a master founder. His work is held in private and pub-

lic collections in Europe and Australia as well as in the U.S. Tickets are \$5, free for members.

The art center will host a free opening reception for its first Members’ Art Show of the season, on Friday, July 12 from 5-7 p.m. The exhibit will close with another free reception on Sunday, Aug. 4 from 2-4 p.m. For more information, people may visit [becketartscenter.com](https://becketartscenter.com).



Robin O’Herrin will perform Saturday, July 13 from 5-7 p.m. at Becket Arts Center in Becket.

Submitted photo

## Musician Robin O’Herrin to perform July 13

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will present an outdoor concert featuring Robin O’Herrin on Saturday, July 13 from 5-7 p.m.

O’Herrin specializes in historically rich music that includes Delta blues, gospel and other traditional American songs. People should

bring lawn chairs, coolers, snacks and children. In case of rain, the concert will move into the Arts Center’s Seminary Hall. This event, part of the BAC’s “Music Brings Communities Together” program, is free; donations are welcome. For more information, people may visit [becketartscenter.org](https://becketartscenter.org).

## SOUTH WORTHINGTON

### MUSIC

from page 1

a village of a few hundred people.

Since 1968, the Schrade family brings professional musicians from around the world to the South Worthington. Sevenars is named after the Schrades, an entire family of musical prodigies whose seven names started with the letter “R.”

The season opens on Sunday, July 14 and continues through Sunday, Aug. 18. The first concert, as is the tradition, features members of the Schrade and James families performing Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue (composed 100 years ago) and Brahms Variations on a Theme by Haydn. There is no set admission fee and attendees are asked to make a suggested donation of \$20 towards the music and the homemade treats.

As Rorianne Schrade, the youngest of the children of the founders recounts, the Sevenars concert hall was built as a school by Russell Conwell, the influential minister, who founded Temple University. Her parents, both classical musicians of renown with an unusually large family for New York City, were looking for a summer escape from the city and as so many have done, turned to the pastoral hills of Western Massachusetts.

The wood-lined hall proved to have excellent acoustics. The space is little

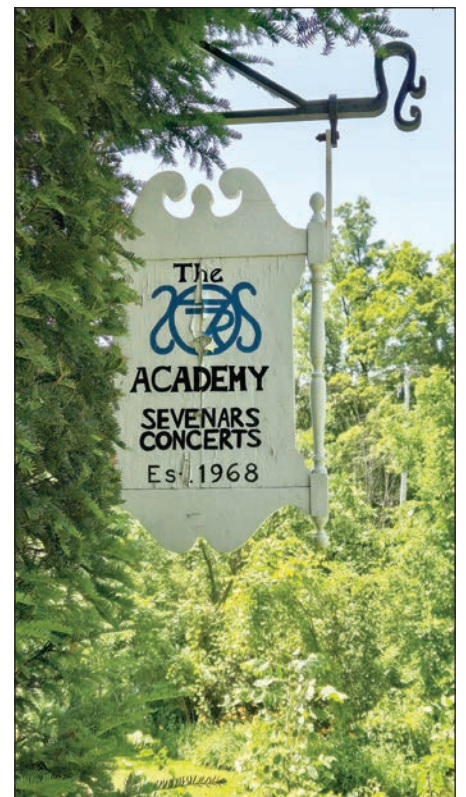
changed in the past six decades of the festival and the walls are lined with posters of the performances of the family at famous halls around the world. The Schrade children were much sought after as a family performing on several pianos. “Whether we were two hands, four hands or even eight on pianos,” says Schrade. They performed widely and were on television.

At Sevenars the performers were often friends of the family, who were not paid a fee, but “split the proceeds of a bucket at the door,” says Schrade. Famous singers from the Metropolitan Opera to the Broadway and classical stages made the trek to the little hall where the benefactors’ names are hand written on the back of folding chairs. Today, the audience arrives from around New England and New York and is typically 30 to 150 each Sunday at 4 p.m.

The audience is largely pulled in by word of mouth and Schrade remembers her mother overhearing: “This place is fabulous, don’t tell a soul.” Schrade finds the homey atmosphere part of the appeal: “We treasure our smallness.” The program is funded by individual donors and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Musicians typically stay on the premises and “enjoy the sunshine and swimming in the pool on the river.”

Running Sevenars on a shoestring “a little bit nuts, but it’s a big labor of love,” says Schrade, who manages the festival and is a Juilliard-trained pianist. She also bakes some of the intermission treats. “We bring music that will change people’s lives. We want to keep the family dimension as a part of it.” Her parents both passed in 2015 and her eldest sister, perhaps the most accomplished of that generation of the family, in 2016. “I still am excited by the music,” she says. “You feel like you are friendly with [musical] predecessors like Mozart and Schuman.” Like her parents, “They have left, but the music lives on. It’s not an end.”

This year, Inbal Segev, the renowned Israeli-American cellist, will be performing an all-Bach program on Sunday, July 28. On Sunday, Aug. 4, their “Young Artist to Watch” awardee pianist Junwen Liang will be performing Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Debussy and Prokofiev. The final concert of the season, on Sunday, Aug. 18, features a jazz quartet, with local favorite pianist, Jerry Noble and bassist, Karen Noble. For full program information, people may visit [sevenars.org](https://sevenars.org). The festival encourages the community to come out, experience music and artists from around the world and support this nearly-hidden gem.



The festival has been held each summer in South Worthington from 1968 by the Schrade family.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel



# WESTHAMPTON

## OUTLOOK FARM GROWS CHERRIES



This young girl enjoyed eating cherries at Outlook Farm in Westmanpton, where people can pick their own cherries. *Turley photos by Deborah Daniels*



Yellow cherries were just one of the many varieties people could pick at Outlook Farm.



Outlook Farm has a bakery and blueberry pies was on the menu. Outlook farm also grows apples as well as cherries. Cherry pie is one of many ways to use cherries.

# EASTHAMPTON

## VET FEST

from page 1

The Easthampton Coalition for Veteran Wellness was started in 2023 through a partnership between the city of Easthampton and the VA medical center in Leeds to bring veterans together through community-based support and celebration.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Mobile Vet Center will be at the event along with the Veterans Health Administration. Information on federal Veterans Affairs, Springfield Vet Center, and state veteran benefits and programs to help veterans and their families will be available. Various city departments like the Easthampton Community Center and Council on Aging will also be attending to provide information on citywide resources.

Operation Veteran Vacation, a local non-profit, that provides kickboxing, mindfulness classes, and camping and outdoor recreation opportunities for veterans and their families, will grill hamburgers and hot dogs. Salads and fresh fruit will also be served and OVV friend and award-winning chef, Christopher Bland, owner of Sober Chef Caterers, will be on hand to talk with veterans and their families about his community work.

Lunch is free, but anyone attending is asked to register in advance at Eventbrite by searching for the Easthampton Coalition for Veteran Wellness "Summer Vet Fest 2024." Registration will assist the Coalition with knowing how much food to purchase. The direct link for the Eventbrite page for registration is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-vet-fest-2024-tickets-906416033757>.

"Our goal for the day is to have fun," said Coalition member Heather Rudolph, an Easthampton Army veteran. "We want to also raise awareness for our Coalition so we can sponsor more events throughout the year and to help us with our monthly veteran luncheon, which is held every first Wednesday of the month at noon at Easthampton Congregational Church."

Activities for children include face painting, a scavenger hunt, a pie-eating contest, and various games and arts and crafts, to include activities for children and families to create music. The Easthampton-based Warrior's Art Room will have an area set aside to assist veterans and families who would like to paint or draw and they will offer sign-ups for their various workshops.

"Boomer," the Springfield

Thunderbirds mascot, will be at the Fest from 11 a.m.-noon, and the Thunderbirds will provide giveaways, corn hole and a hockey skills activity area for children.

Lisa Rudolph, a member of the Boston Hoop Troop, will be providing hula hooping entertainment throughout the event, to include teaching pop-up lessons for children and adults interested in learning circus art skills.

Other highlights for the day will be a youth-oriented military-style obstacle course organized by Operation Veteran Vacation.

Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, a local non-profit organization, will also be in attendance with information about their programs. The organization is dedicated to placing well-trained therapy dog teams in meaningful programs that provide comfort and caring through human-canine bond. Volunteers will be at the event to talk about the wide variety of settings for their therapy programs, which includes hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries and other facilities where therapy dogs are needed.

To help raise funds for the Coalition, there will be a 50/50 raffle, a raffle for a four pack of Springfield Thunderbird tick-

ets as well as a silent auction for donated items from community sponsors.

Major community sponsors include Operation Veteran Vacation, Easthampton Dunkin', Big E's Supermarket, the Pioneer Valley Coalition for Suicide Prevention and the Helping Hand Society. All proceeds will assist with Coalition events throughout the year.

For donor opportunities or for more information about the Summer Vet Fest, email the Coalition at [VeteranWellness.Easthampton@gmail.com](mailto:VeteranWellness.Easthampton@gmail.com).

The Coalition planning team recommends entering Nonotuck Park from Williston Avenue to Lownds Avenue and then turning left at the park entrance at the Park Guard Station. Signs and volunteers will guide visitors to the Pavilion 3 parking area.

A sequence of events follows: 10 a.m. coffee, pastries, meet/greet, sign-ups for children's activities; 10:15 a.m. welcome remarks; 10:30 a.m. children and family games and activities start; 11:30 a.m. moment of reflection; noon barbecue hot dogs and hamburgers, salad and fruit; noon-1:30 p.m. Light music, children and family activities continue and 1:30 p.m. raffle drawing and closing remarks.

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# CHESTERFIELD



Local writer Herman Melville was celebrated with a Moby Dick-themed float which won for best float



Local 4-H members paraded with livestock.



Vintage motorcycles and cars joined the parade.



Spectators sang along with the Star Spangled Banner at the opening of the 77th Chesterfield 4th of July parade.

*Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel*

## PARADE

*from page 1*

“We are such a young democracy and don’t have your history,” she said. She pointed to the displays about century old buildings in the town hall. “People want to preserve it all.”

Laith Diab of Jordan was eager to explain the connection between his country and our state. “Jordanians know Massachusetts as King Abdullah attended Deerfield Academy and talks about how much he loves it.”

The locals, who participated, boldly wore red, white and blue and often attended in groups of at least three generations. Local literary history was also on display as the award for best float went to one called Moby Dick Revenge of the Whale created by the Sugar Hill Art Camp. The float featured a large whale tossing about Captain Ahab. Moby Dick was written by Herman Melville just up the road in Pittsfield and published in 1851.

SEPTEMBER 2024 magazine

# autumn fest 2024

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## CHESTER

# Public input needed for Hazard Mitigation Plan

CHESTER – Do you wonder if Chester can flood, experience a tornado, or have an earthquake?

What is the worst that can happen in Chester? What can prevent those natural hazards and others from wreaking havoc?

Fortunately, the town of Chester is developing an update to their Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan details all the natural hazard risks that may impact the town and includes a list of potential actions to mitigate those risks.

The town of Chester encourages all residents and business owners to come to a public meeting to share their ideas and gather their feedback regarding which hazards present the greatest risks, which areas of town are most susceptible to damage and what you would like to see done to mitigate these risks?

We cannot stop winter storms, heavy rains, high wind, or earthquakes but we do not have to suffer severe consequences. The town of Chester hopes residents will join the first of two Public Meetings on Tuesday, July 16 at 6 p.m.

Town leaders have formed a

Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee and this committee is developing the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. A Hazard Mitigation Plan, approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and adopted by the town, allows the town to apply for pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation grant funds. Development of this plan includes public participation.

Public participation is essential to the development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan that represents the interests of all residents and mitigates risk to all natural hazards and the impacts of climate change.

On Tuesday, July 16 meeting from 6-7 p.m. will be held via Zoom by visiting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85701269866?pwd=PNiDgPbgjElzCh6W9fMu31fU5yHidn.1>. Meeting ID is 857 0126 9866 and passcode 352998. In person is in the Select Board meeting room in Town Hall.

For questions regarding this plan, people may call Don Humason, Town Administrator, at 413-354-7760 or email [TownAdministrator@TownofChester.net](mailto:TownAdministrator@TownofChester.net).

## PLAINFIELD

# Plainfield has new Fire Chief

PLAINFIELD – At the June 25 Plainfield Select Board meeting, the Plainfield Volunteer Fire/EMS Department transferred leadership of the department to, native son, Robert “Rob” Shearer at a “pinning” ceremony to start the Select Board’s agenda.

The ceremony included many of Rob’s extended family and members of the PVFD. At a previous Select Board meeting on June 11, retiring Fire Chief/EMT-B David Alvord recommended to the Board the PVFD’s membership request to appoint Rob as the town’s newest chief officer. They did so unanimously.

At the June 25 meeting, Chief Alvord passed the Fire Chief’s badge to Rob’s wife, Erica, who then “pinned” the badge onto her husband’s officer dress shirt. Rob took control of the department’s fire, emergency medical and rescue services effective July 1. He brings over 30 years of fire and EMS experience, most recently serving as a Captain and EMT-B for the department as well as a Board member of the Highland Ambulance in Goshen. Plainfield is in good hands.



Robert “Rob” Shearer is the new Plainfield Fire Chief. Submitted photo

Read online at [www.countryjournal.turley.com](http://www.countryjournal.turley.com)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Town of Goshen Conservation Commission Notice of Public Meeting

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act (M. G. L. Chapter 131 section 40) on **August 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM** at the Goshen Town Offices, 40 Main St., Goshen, MA to review a **Request for Determination** filed by Brandon Lagoy at 16 Overlook Rd. in Goshen, MA. The work to be reviewed is the placement of pre-cast concrete supports as a foun-

ation for a proposed addition and deck. 07/11/2024

### NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS 2024

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 2017. 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, 2024**.

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 his or her 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@hr-k12.org](mailto:elak@hr-k12.org) 07/11, 07/18, 07/25/2024

## MIDDLEFIELD

### SENIORS CELEBRATE JULY BIRTHDAYS



Sharon Barry and Wayne Main who share July birthdays are shown with a cake at the Middlefield Senior Center. Submitted photo

# COA lists lunch menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Council on Aging will serve lunch in the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, on Wednesday, July 24 at noon.

The menu is eat in or take out. The choice is chicken salad or couscous and chickpea salad, tomato and cucumber

salad, French bread and Mandarin oranges. People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal by Monday, July 22. Suggested donation is \$3.

Following lunch, there will be a presentation by Ray Gero on car inspections.

## SOUTHAMPTON

# Robert Dragon Jr. retires as postmaster

SOUTHAMPTON – Robert worked as a clerk, letter carrier supervisor, office in charge and postmaster. He worked in Granby, Northampton, Easthampton, Westfield and lastly in Southampton.

“I will definitely miss the staff and customers of Southampton, but look

forward to the extra time.” Mark F. Coppez from Westfield has been appointed as the new postmaster for Southampton.



Robert Dragon Jr.

## News, photo publication policy

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

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

**Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.**

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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

# Hampshire Regional High School announces honor roll

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional High School, 19 Stage Road, lists first honors.

### Ninth grade first honors

Students in ninth grade making first honors are: Alyssa Barcomb, Kathleen Barry, Elan Bonham, Madeline Bresnahan, Kai Calabretta Rek, Elyse Campbell, Julia Caputo, Emma Chateauf, Lily Connor, Alexa Cortis, Owen Cubi, Ryanne Dubay, Natalie Dunlap, Nadia Easton, Harrison Farrar, Eli Fern, Leo Florek, Amelia Gilman, Xavier Greenberg, Rachael Hickox, Isaiah Isa, Astrid Jensen, Leo Ketcherside, Holly Kowalczyk, Katelyn Krause, Krystian Lech, Addison Miklasiewicz, Thomas Moore, Shayne Moynahan, Austin Mullaly, Catalina Ocampo, Hailey Paszko, Caroline Payson, Samuel Plume, Vanessa Reese, Nicholas Roy, Aria Simonelli, Finch Stahl, Brielle Stine, Eleri Tomsovic, Sophie Tremblay and Benjamin Zajac.

### Grade 10 first honors

Grade 10 students making first honors are: Phoebe Bowser, Keegan Butler, Colin Cahill, Parker Christy, Gabriel Couture, Carmen Laflam, Carlea Manley,

Kiersten McKay, Lucy McVey, Joseph Moro, Augustus Niswonger, Caitlyn Packey, Evelyn Palmer, Andrea Paszko, Lillian Popham, Abigail Provost, Oscar Schiff, Corinne Somes Elisabeth Sturtevant, Bridget Sullivan, Rachael Theroux, Avery Tudryn, Lila Watkins and Lucia Winters.

### Grade 11 first honors

Students making grade 11 first honors are: Sabah Alshmlh, Matthew Cesare, Cassidy Clark, Breanna Dale, Eleanor Donohue, Hayden Durazo, Georgiana Frazier, Layla Gauger, Beatrice Hamilton, Emma Kelly, Ashton Lashway, Isabella LeBarron, Olivia Manganeli, Benji Marconi, Julianne Moro, Madeline Oravec, Elijah Picard, Ava Senecal, Anna Shadrack, Jacob Sicard, Julia Sicard, Katherine Simmons, Zola Simonelli, Ash Skow, David Thibodeau and Dana Warren.

### Grade 12 first honors

Students in grade 12 making first honors are: Timothea Antonio, Nickolas Brisson, Matthew Brouillard, Timothy Cahill, Dominick Dybacki, Nicholas Elias-Gillette, Devin Lema, Kaylee McConnell, Aidan Moynahan, Audrey

Perrone, Anna Puttick, Kaylee Rooney, Zachary Roy, Kira Shutt and Hailey Wodecki.

### Grade 13 first honors

Caleb O'Malley, grade 13 made first honors.

### Grade 9 second honors

Students in grade 9 making second honors are: Emmett Bastek, Jack Cameron, Travis Carpenter, Max Cross, Raegan Dubay, Francis Dunn, Brayden Fennessy, Riley Florek, Cal Gworek, Nicholas Johnson, Alexander Kaufmann, Lola Kaylor, Magdeline Lashway, Kyle LeBeau, Gerald Moreau, Aidan Neylon,

Grayson Noel, William Nolen, Emmett Schatz, William Schmidt, Rylie Simmons, Allison St. Pierre, Tobias Stearns and Isaac Stith.

### Grade 10 second honors

Students in grade 10 making second honors are: Pom Sonika Ang, Joseph Breguet, Glenn Cameron, Eleanor Cleary, Abigail Fiset, Luke Gardner, Amelia Hanke, Alexandra Henrichon, Eamonn Hilnbrand, Sarah Hultman, Emily

Jendrysik, Nicholas Jones, Rylee Joseph, Lacy Kuehner, Makayla Labrie, Madelyn Layman, Layce Mancuso, Reagan Mott, Reese O'Connell, Amelia Perry, Logan Rourke, Tristan Somes and Bethany Tobiasz.

### Grade 11 second honors

Students in grade 11 making second honors are: Sophia Bernier, Grace Brouillard, Teagan Charles, Miguel Delgado, Isabella DeMar, Harman Dhaliwal, Ava Gougeon, Julia Hamel, Camden Jarosz, Robin Ketcherside, Riley Marney, Daniel Martin, Alexander Materdey, Isabelle Mondschein, Philip Morin, Payton Norris, Zachary Phakos, Colman Radowicz, Emily Reyor, Kailee Roncone, Mary Thibault and Kayla Velez.

### Grade 12 second honors

Students in grade 12 making second honors are: Megan Adams, Owen Bourbeau, Owen Connor, Brandon Couture, Paige Galpin, Jonah Graves, Alice Jenkins, Emma Kraus, Jaiden Kudelka, Aoife Reynolds, Ambria Stine, Josephine Taylor, Nicholas Tudryn, Olivia Urbanek, Sedona Williams and Elema Wojcik.

## Anne T. Dunphy School named 'Attendance All-Star School'

WILLIAMSBURG – Anne T. Dunphy School recently was informed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education they are one of only ten schools in the state being acknowledged for being an "Attendance All-Star School."

The award recognizes school that made significant gains toward reducing their rate of chronic absenteeism. To acknowledge this positive trend in the school community, DESE will be pre-

senting the school with a signed basketball from the 18-time and current NBA Championship Team, the Boston Celtics.

There will be a community celebration on the playground at 5:30 on Tuesday July 23 at 5:30 p.m. complete with ice cream treats. DESE representatives will be presenting the basketball at that event. This will also be a wonderful opportunity for the school community to be introduced to the new Superintendent Dr. Vito Perrone.

### COLLEGE NOTES

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

### PRESIDENT'S LIST

#### University of Hartford

West Hartford, Connecticut  
Margaret Philpott of Westfield  
Marina Slivca of Westfield

### DEAN'S LIST

#### College of Our Lady of the Elms

Chicopee

Kailey Bak of Williamsburg, Emma Bialas of Montgomery, Rebecca Boszko of Huntington, Natalie Brown of Montgomery, Carson Brunt of Westfield, Nathalia Carando of Westfield, Moirean Coffey of Westfield, Julia Daley of Westfield, Lauren Darwick of Westfield, Emily Elton of Westfield, Megan Heath of Westfield, Avery Jansen of Easthampton, Renee Lamb of Westfield, Leah Martin of Williamsburg, Jennifer McCormick of Easthampton, Nelly Moka of Westfield, Maya Parker of Williamsburg, Emma Petrowicz of Easthampton, Fiona Reynolds-Cornell of Huntington, Angelina Rodriguez of Westfield, Christina Rodriguez of Westfield, Alicia Rossi of Westfield, Cassidy Ryan of Westfield, Berta Warner of Huntington and Ashley Watt of Westfield

#### Dean College

Franklin

Skylar Raskevitz of Easthampton, Raeana Edwards of Westfield and Gracia Jorgensen of Westfield

#### Hamilton College

Clinton, New York

Jessie Paradis Stern of Westhampton, junior majoring in environmental studies

#### Nichols College

Dudley

Abigail Fraser of Westfield and Chelsea Indyk of Easthampton

#### Roger Williams University

Bristol, Rhode Island

Hannah Coffey of Montgomery, Alan Martin of Easthampton and Dominic Monti of Westfield

#### Siena College

Loudonville, New York

Emma Mazeika of Westfield

#### Smith College

Northampton

Kataryna Wisnaukas of Worthington, engineering science major and daughter of Janine Modestow and Thomas Wisnaukas of Worthington

#### University of Hartford

West Hartford, Connecticut

Hailey Bergeron of Westhampton, Avery Brooks of Westhampton and Cecelia Balboni of Russell

#### OMICRON DELTA KAPPA

#### Western New England University

Westfield

Max Kusnierz of Westfield, mechanical engineering major and Jessica Cloutier of Easthampton, a law and society major

## HMS lists 2024 honor roll

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Middle School, 19 Stage Road, announces the final quarter honor roll.

### Seventh grade academic excellence

Seventh graders making academic excellence: Madison Bannish are: Austin Barcomb, Elizabeth Barry, Elaina Bigda, Samantha Black, Victoria Bond, Gabriel Carrasquillo, Grayson Clark, Raquelle Denoronha, Leila Doolittle, Jacqueline DuCharme, Gabriella Dybacki, Talya Eiseman, Isabella Fini, Emersen Florek-Grader, Savannah Fredette, Ryan Garvey, Lexie Gauger, Samantha Gay, Jaymes Goddard, Talia Goddard, Aiden Goyette, Willow Gutermuth, Mackenzie Harrison, Noah Haryasz, Madison Johnson, Savannah Judd, Margaret Kugler, Natalie Labrie, Sophia Lashway, Anna MacLachlan, Felicity Manganeli, Elle Marcinek, Emma McDonald, Noa Nabut, Teagan Noel, Damian Pasiut, Mason Pedersen, Connor Perkins, Abigail Phelan, Mackensie Provost, Shane Radon, Kacey Reed, Caleb Riel, Karolina Robak, Holly Sampson, Hazel Scully-Henry, Austin Sojkowski, Sienna Steffenhagen, Balin Sullivan, Nicholas Theroux, Addison Thomas, Anna Tompkins, Sadie Wasiuk, Jack White, Jax Williams and Danielle Wolf.

### Seventh grade academic achievement

Seventh graders making academic achievement are: Ethan Benard, Julia Bertera, Carson Bisbee, Tyler Cook, Ryleigh Eline, Jailin Ericson, Lauren

Filipek, Jacob Fiset, Sage Fisk, Jackson Galenski, Cailin Gougeon, Daniel Guiel, Mason Hean, Aralyn Jenco, Hayden Johnson, Henry Judd, Robert Loiko, Bryce Meunier, Matthew Nadolski, Ethan Neylon, Deryk Nuttelman, Kennae O'Connell, Elka Pruzynski, Benjamin Raymond, Maeve Reynolds, Adalynn Roberts, Vada Schwensfeir, James Scott, Destiny Slack, Camden Stine, Emmett Stith, Brody Watkins, Ava Westcott, Ethan White, Amelia Woz and Tarlo Zerbach.

### Eighth grade academic excellence

Eighth graders making academic excellence: Cooper Alexander, Kameron Andrades, Percy Bennett, Juliette CeroneIsaac Clark, Amanda Clemeno, Ada Corner, Brianna Day, Rosemarie Estelle, Gabrielle Falkowski, Kylie Grimsley, Alana Hanke, Grant Jennings, Samantha Law, Charlotte Letendre, Isabella Matthew, Olivia McAvoy, Grace Scoble, Malcolm Todd and Joseph Wright.

### Eight grade academic achievement

Eighth grade students making academic achievement are: Nelly Albitz, Logan Andrades, Andrew Buchachiy, Declan Butler, Colby Cabrini, Elliot Chaplin, Ace Charette, Weston Crawford, Logan LaPointe, Moira Long, Grace Malo, Micah Marino, Shawn McCarthy, Alexis Morrey, Jackson Parmenter, Jamison Parrish, Luke Pickard, Elise Rida, Torin Rowlett, Patrick Schmidt, Keira Tataro and Madelyn Zannotti.

## Worthington School District announces destruction of records

WORTHINGTON – This notification is to inform parents/guardians and former students at the Worthington School Districts' intent to destroy the Special Education records of students, who were no longer receiving Special Education services as of 2017.

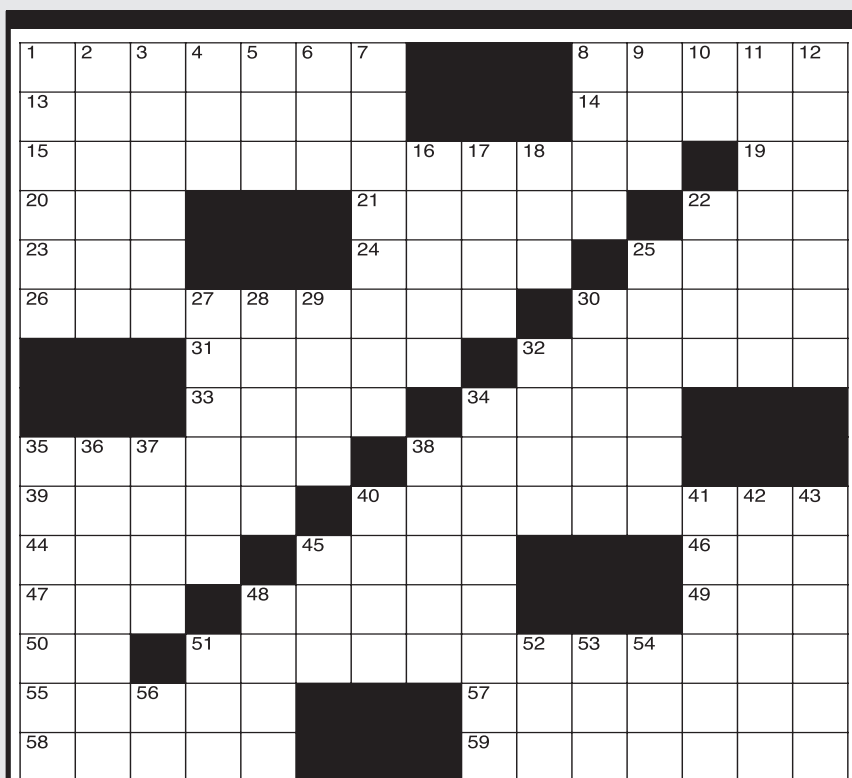
These records will be destroyed in accordance with the state law unless the parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student notifies the School District otherwise by Sept. 1.

Special education records collected by the Worthington School District related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement or the provision of the Special Education in the district, must be

maintained under state and federal laws for a period of seven 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 his or her education program at age 22.

After seven 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@hr-k12.org.

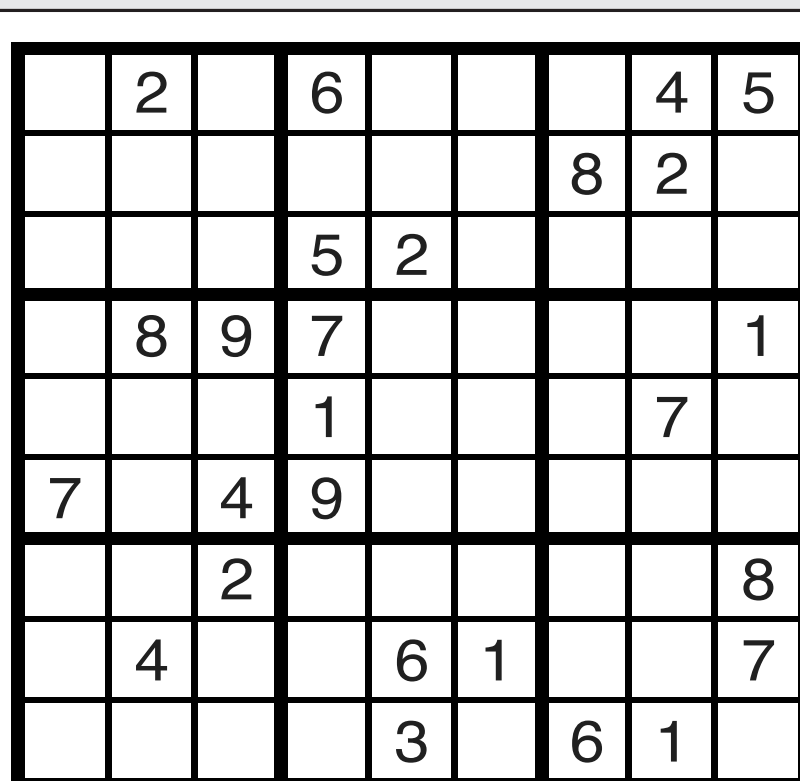




- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Book size
  - 8. Indonesian Island
  - 13. "The Sopranos" character
  - 14. Plants often found in stews
  - 15. Stern
  - 19. Atomic #52
  - 20. Often seen after a company name
  - 21. Silk garments
  - 22. Inhibiting hormone (abbr.)
  - 23. Type of beer
  - 24. Margarine
  - 25. Throw lightly
  - 26. Explains again
  - 30. Raccoon-like animal
  - 31. Sneaker parts
  - 32. Platforms
  - 33. Scored perfectly
  - 34. One's essence
  - 35. Strikes with a firm blow
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. About visual sense
  - 2. Part of a horse's saddle
  - 3. In a way,
- 38. Makes tractors
  - 39. Music term
  - 40. Lack of energy
  - 44. Vestments
  - 45. \_\_\_ and feathers
  - 46. Total
  - 47. Gobbler
  - 48. One with Japanese immigrant parents
  - 49. Type of braking system (abbr.)
  - 50. Home of Rudy Flyer
  - 51. Manageable
  - 55. Lugged
  - 57. Irritated
  - 58. Sea eagles
  - 59. Warm seasons
- interchanged
  - 4. Rocker's accessory
  - 5. Very important person
  - 6. It precedes two
  - 7. Flavored
  - 8. Musical notes
  - 9. String instrument (slang)
  - 10. Mister
  - 11. Fine, light linen fabric
  - 12. Absence of bacteria
  - 16. Discounts
  - 17. Area units
  - 18. A description of one's life
  - 22. Gazelles
  - 25. Plumbing fixture
  - 27. Makes especially happy
  - 28. One side of something many-sided
  - 29. Frosts
  - 30. Defunct monetary unit of Guinea
  - 32. Female animal species
  - 34. School terms
  - 35. Written law
  - 36. Unpleasant aroma
  - 37. Nuclear weapon
  - 38. One who challenges
  - 40. Opposite of first
  - 41. Able to be utilized
  - 42. Less interesting
  - 43. Implants
  - 45. Canister
  - 48. Gestures
  - 51. After B
  - 52. Romanian monetary unit
  - 53. Long-term memory
  - 54. Cash machine
  - 56. The Volunteer State

# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

- ARIES**  
Mar 21/Apr 20  
Aries, you may be full of more energy than you have had in a while, helping you to sail through all of your tasks this week at a record pace. Enjoy this wave while you ride it.
- CANCER**  
Jun 22/Jul 22  
Cancer, you have been working hard to make professional progress, and it might be time to think about your next step. It could be time to take your talents elsewhere.
- LIBRA**  
Sept 23/Oct 23  
Libra, you might be tempted to accept every invitation that comes your way. However, it is better to be smart about the people with whom you associate. Use every opportunity to network.
- CAPRICORN**  
Dec 22/Jan 20  
Domestic issues come to the forefront, Capricorn. You're inclined to spend time at home with loved ones. Take this time to work around the house and yard.
- AQUARIUS**  
Jan 21/Feb 18  
Aquarius, your popularity is growing and it's time to get out there and hang with the movers and shakers. Soon even more people will learn who you are.
- PISCES**  
Feb 19/Mar 20  
Strengthen your ideas with a concrete foundation, Pisces. Only then will your plan come to fruition in the right manner, leading to better success.
- TAURUS**  
Apr 21/May 21  
Heed your body's messages that it needs some rest right now; otherwise, you may not be up for social engagements that are on the horizon.
- LEO**  
Jul 23/Aug 23  
Leo, you are often drawn to unfamiliar experiences that can teach you something new. This week could provide a host of opportunities to try something new.
- SCORPIO**  
Oct 24/Nov 22  
Scorpio, take a look at how things should operate before you hit the floor running. You want to be strategic in how you expend your energy; otherwise, you may experience burnout.
- SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov 23/Dec 21  
You lean toward being one of the more passionate signs in the zodiac. That passion will be on full display this week. You'll wear your heart on your sleeve.
- GEMINI**  
May 22/June 21  
You cannot hang out with every person who is trying to get a piece of your time right now. It's likely you will need to space out socializing over a few weeks to meet with them all.
- VIRGO**  
Aug 24/Sept 22  
It is time to get off the fence and commit to one decision or another, Virgo. Your professional life hinges on your ability to take a path and then stick 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!

**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!

**answers**

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## ESTATE SALE

**ESTATE SALE**  
213 RIVER STREET,  
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Sat.-Sun., July 13-14, 8am-4pm. Mid Century bedroom sets, Temple Stuart dining room set with hutch, living room set, Mid Century Zenith stereo, Yorktown, Pfaltzgraff dishes, and Westmoreland Milk Glass, and much more.

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• 14' step ladder  
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• Hydraulic conduit benders  
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• Wire pullers  
• Assorted Knock out Punches  
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**RED BRIDGE BAIT**  
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## WANTED

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187 Main St.  
Indian Orchard, MA

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

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## NORTHAMPTON

# Forbes Library lists events

**NORTHAMPTON** – Cinema Northampton returns with free outdoor screenings of Studio Ghibli films for all ages on the Forbes Library lawn, 20 West St. This year's schedule is Friday, July 12 from 9-11 p.m. "My Neighbor Totoro;" Friday, Aug. 9 from 8:30-10:30 p.m. "Spirited Away" and on Friday, Aug. 30 from 8-10 p.m. "Kiki's Delivery Service."

Screen times are based on when the sun sets, as the film cannot be seen before dark. People are welcome to bring their own food, friends, bug spray and lawn chairs. Bathrooms will be open in the library. Subtitles will be on.

Cinema Northampton was started by Northampton Community Television, now Northampton Open Media and has grown to include the Northampton Arts Council, Forbes Library, and the Northampton Parks and Recreation Department.

Thursday, July 18 from 6:30-8 p.m. Mark Murphy will speak on his recent book, "Calvin Coolidge: The Presidency and Philosophy of a Progressive Conservative." Murphy is a political analyst who lives in Alexandria, Virginia. The talk will be held in the Coolidge Museum

and live streamed on the Forbes YouTube Channel.

Kids' Gaming Club meets Friday, July 12 from 4-5 p.m. Every Friday, children ages 7-12 can join 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.

Science Heroes Presents: "Adventure of the Lost Treasure" on 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.

Toddler Story time on Friday, July 12 from 10:30-11 a.m. They 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.

## WEST STOCKBRIDGE

# Gail Gelburd to exhibit art

**WEST STOCKBRIDGE**– The artwork of Gail Gelburd will be on view at Art on Main Gallery, 38 Main St. on Thursday, July 18 -Monday, July 29.

Entitled "The Nature of Our Mind," the exhibition creates an installation that includes mixed media work with photography, encaustics, drawing and sculpture. Opening reception is Saturday, July 20 from 3-6 p.m. Artist talk is Saturday July 27 at 4 p.m. Gallery hours are Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m. -6 p.m.

Gelburd said, "There's a Tsunami brewing. It may be personal, social, political, economic, or global. We all experience them. It's called life. But how we get through it, overcome it, is what really counts. Some of us might cry, huddle in a corner, ignore it, scream and throw things, medicate, meditate or perhaps fly fish. But we must know that it will pass and at the end we can find calm in quiet contemplation."

The "Nature of Our Mind" deals with these issues and shows people how to confront the storm and quiet contem-

plation. Nature is the analogy. A storm is one part, but so is a sunrise or gentle stream represents the mind in the same manner. Visitors to the exhibit in West Stockbridge will step into the surge of water, hear and see the sounds and images of their mind through these profound images of nature.

Gail Gelburd has a PhD in art and Asian philosophy. She has been a professor, curator, author and artist, who has exhibited extensively. Most recently she has been shown at the Cape Cod Museum of Art, Berkshire Botanical Gardens, Photoplace Gallery, Middlebury College, Sandisfield Art Center, Becket Art Center and TSL Gallery in Hudson, N.Y. She was also included in the Designer Showcase at Cassilis Farm in New Marlborough. Her work has been shown and collected in California, Colorado, New York City, Connecticut, Vermont, Los Angeles, Goa India and Melbourne Australia as well as throughout Massachusetts. For more information, people may visit [gailgelburd.com](http://gailgelburd.com) or email [meyburd@gmail.com](mailto:meyburd@gmail.com).

## LENOX

# Tamarack Hollow nature center announces upcoming events

**LENOX** – Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center, Gaia Roots World Music and the Lenox Library present: Gaia Roots World Music Concert at the Lenox Library Thursday July 11 from 1-2 p.m.

This family friendly presentation is for all ages. Inspired by roots music from West Africa, the Caribbean and around the world, Gaia Roots World Music Drum and Dance Ensemble

blends drumming, vocal harmonies, acoustic guitar, dance and story into a unique weave of traditional music and original creations. Featuring co-founders Aimee Gelinias and Shanti Starr on lead vocals and percussion with Dan Cohen on percussion and guitar and Kabisko Kaba from Guinea, West Africa as a featured dancer. This event is rain or shine; concert will be inside the library in the atrium in case

of inclement weather. The program is free, donations accepted. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Lenox Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center Saturday July 27th 8am-10:30am "Learn About Ferns" at the Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center in Windsor with Naturalist and

Director Aimee Gelinias M.Ed. Learn tips on how to identify over 10 species of woodland ferns on this easy walk. Fern guidebooks will be available for purchase at the program. \$20.. This project has been supported by a grant from the Berkshire Environmental Endowment Fund, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. To register (required) email: [full\\_circle\\_o@yahoo.com](mailto:full_circle_o@yahoo.com).

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# Ditch Lily or local wonder? Humble daylily in its thousands of varieties takes over

By Kathryn Koegel  
Correspondent

Drive any road in the Hilltowns in July and you'll not only be greeted by waves of heat and rolling thunderstorms, but masses of orange lilies sprouting by many a mailbox.

More mysteriously, they appear where no one lives. Meanwhile, in local cultivated gardens, variants in shades from scarlet to purple to lightest lemon keep pumping out blossoms, one day after another. Where did they come from, how did they get where they are?

Daylilies are actually not even lilies as Melodye Campbell, chair of archives and history at the American Daylily Society, attests. There are two different genuses of *Hemerocallis*, the oft abandoned orange ones or "ditch lilies," and the lemon lily which is most often found in people's gardens. "The ditch lily spreads underground by rhizomes while the cultivated one has tubers." And while the ditch lily is considered invasive, "it's really good at preventing erosion on banks. It's sterile and hard to pollinate to make any other varietal."

"It's unclear exactly when both types arrived in the U.S., but likely around the time of the Pilgrims," she continues. "They both originally came from Asia with the spice trade. When you see them randomly by the roadsides, it likely dates to when there was a house there." The lilies are easy to transport with just a root clump and hard to kill which is probably why they thrived so far from home.

Fast forward to 1946 when after the war, a group of U.S. daylily lovers went one step beyond corresponding by mail and joined together to form a society at a convention in Shenandoah, Iowa. Each year backyard hybridizers submit data and images (size, color, features, bloomtime) on their home grown progeny to the society and today there are over 100,000 registered distinct hybrids of the lemon lily.

What about the lilies inspires such passion? "They are so neat," says Campbell. "Every day it's different. While as perennial phlox or echinacea peak and fade, every morning a different bloom opens. It's fresh and new. Plus it's easy to hybridize."

Is it really that easy to make a new lily? "Take pollen from one plant," says Campbell. "Place it on the pistil of another. Label the plant with their cross. If it takes, save the seed pods. Next year plant it."

There are two big names in the daylily world, with one of them regional. Arlo Stout, an American botanist who worked at the New York Botanical Gardens, produced over one hundred viable *Hemerocallis* hybrids, revolutionizing nursery breeding and popular



Pam Donovan and Bill Hall of Dilly Lilly Gardens in Huntington, opened in 2013.

*Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel*

interest in daylilies. His work led to the creation of the American Daylily Society. Just north of the Hilltowns in southern Vermont, is Olallie Daylily, founded by Dr. George Darrow. He originally worked for the USDA as a breeder of small fruits and berries but turned to daylilies in his retirement. The third generation of his family grows 2,500 varieties on their farm in South Newfane. Their website ([daylilygarden.com](http://daylilygarden.com)) has information on best practices in growing them as well as eating them. Yes, some of those blossoms are edible.

For truly local options in cultivated daylilies, Hilltowners have two producers devoted to them: Dilly Lilly in Huntington and Stone Meadow Gardens in Ashfield. We checked in on the blooms at Dilly Lilly and spoke with Sandy Donovan who has been cultivating on the road to the Knightville Dam since 2013. As she recounts, daylily cultivation is a community activity. The start of her over 400 varieties garden

were gifts her children gave her from Delilah Aste in Middlefield. Others were shared from Millie Chick of Ireland Street Orchards in Chesterfield. She cites ease of growing as a plus for the hybrid lilies: "It's a lazy gardener's flower. Once established, they just continue to grow into clumps."

Any tips for making your daylilies thrive? "Once they stop blooming so much and the clumps are big, you probably need to divide them." To do that, it's best to dig out the entire clump in early spring or after blooming and split them at the tuber base. The plant just keeps expanding. You can pass on the love, or the flowers, by simply sharing those smaller clumps with a friend.

With so many lilies to choose from, how can you keep from being overwhelmed? Donovan suggests you think about three factors: bloom time (from early, which is mid June to late, which can go through first frost), color (they come in just about every color but



The "ditch lilies" that appear throughout the countryside mark areas where houses once stood. This is at the abandoned village of Dayville, from where Littleville Lake was created by the dam in the 1960s.



Spider shaped lilies have become popular.



Colors range from yellows and oranges to pinks, reds and purples

blue) and height (the tiny blooms tend to grow on shorter, fuller scapes, the tall ones have fewer scapes but bigger blooms). She cites two current trends in sought-after lilies: ruffles and spiders. Some now have ruffled edges on the blooms while there are others with dramatic, long spider-like petals. Lilies are priced from \$10 - \$25 and given their hearty nature and share ability, they may likely be the gift to yourself that keeps on giving.

## FIREWORKS BURSTING IN AIR



People view fireworks at Tanglewood in Lenox on the Fourth of July. A large audience get ready to watch the Fourth of July fireworks at Tanglewood in Lenox.

*Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel*