

"One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" Neil Armstrong

# Country Journal

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## HUNTINGTON

# Paid internships for Gateway students continue through summer

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

**HUNTINGTON** – Seventeen Gateway students are continuing to take part in paid internships tied to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields this summer.

From bee keeping to manufacturing technology, students are gaining 100 hours of paid, practical workplace experience while trying out potential career fields. Directed by Gateway's Program and Communications Coordinator Martha Clark, the project is funded by a \$59,500 grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education. Employers who take on a student are reimbursed for student's pay, which is averaging \$16 an hour. The grant can also cover students' travel expenses and provide for any special equipment or materials needed for the placement, such as steel-toed shoes or medical scrubs.

Some of the internships are tied to Gateway's Career

**INTERNSHIPS**, page 7



Joey Pisani, a senior at Gateway Regional High School, is completing a paid internship in beekeeping this summer. Gateway internship

Submitted photo

## BLANDFORD

# Jimmy Roberts to perform at White Church

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

**BLANDFORD** – The range and depth of American music will be on display Saturday evening, July 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the White Church in Blandford.

Guest artist, Jimmy Roberts, famed composer of Off Broadway's second longest-running musical ever, "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," will sit at the restored grand piano to spread the joy of the Great American Songbook, its evocative lyrics and memorable melodies, to his Blandford audience.

**JIMMY ROBERTS**, page 5



Jimmy Roberts

## BLANDFORD

# Board approves MOU for Shared Water Operator

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

**BLANDFORD** – The Select Board met earlier than usual Thursday, June 29 in order to get to the Special Town Meeting.

Ultimately the board found it necessary to recess and reconvene after the STM. One of the agenda items was to review and act on the Shared Water Operator Memorandum of Understanding between Blandford and Chester water departments. The Inter-Municipal Agreement between the two towns that the Select Board

signed to create a Shared Water Operator with the Water Commissioners in Blandford and Chester was different from what Water Commissioner Brad Curry presented at the June 22 meeting.

At that time, the recommendation was for a short-term contract with Blandford taking the administrative lead or acting as Host Community. What may have changed that decision was the possibility of indirect costs rising as a result of being Host Community.

Curry reported that the commission had come to an agreement with Chester.

They shortened the term (of the agreement), cut down on some of the shared services and they would start with the shared operator and then meet as a full board monthly and discuss needs. Curry also said a new memo of understanding needed to be drafted because of the changes.

"I think with the adjustment of what we have made I think concerns were met," Curry said, and anything else that comes up within the next three to six months "we can say this is not going to work," was what he said June 22.

The shortened term of

**BOARD**, page 5

## CHESTERFIELD

# Weather fails to dampen Fourth of July spirit



This team of Brown Swiss oxen didn't let the rain bother them or their handler. See page 6 for story and more photos.

Submitted photo



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# HILLTOWNS

## Rachel's Table becomes independent organization

SPRINGFIELD – The Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, the leading Jewish nonprofit organization in the region, announces that as of July 1, its signature food justice program, Rachel's Table, will be a stand-alone organization.

This announcement marks a new beginning for both Federation and Rachel's Table that will allow both organizations to better serve Western Massachusetts. For Federation, this change is part of an overall brand and program refresh that focuses on an updated mission and includes new ways for the community to do good that goes everywhere via fundraising and volunteering. For Rachel's Table, being an independent organization with a Federation constituent agency status will allow it to expand its reach in Western Massachusetts.

In addition to a brand refresh that includes an updated logo, Federation is launching its Dignity Grows program on Tuesday, July 25. Federation's Dignity Grows program provides free hygiene products to neighbors in need while honoring the recipient's dignity. The July 21 official kick-off event is a packing party where volunteers will put together individual kits each with a month's worth of hygiene products, to be distributed through the Amherst Survival Center. Federation has also partnered with The Gray House in Springfield and will be

announcing additional partners in the coming months. Organizations and individuals interested in volunteering, partnering, or making in-kind/cash donations to Federation's Dignity Grows program may visit <https://jewishwesternmass.org/dignity-grows/>.

This fall, the community will come together for the Jewish Federation of Massachusetts' Ride to Provide 2023, a family-friendly bike ride fundraiser. Originally created by UMass Hillel, Federation was invited to take ownership and expand Ride to Provide beginning with this year's event. The reimagined event will take place on Sunday, Oct. 15 and bring together community members and Jewish organizations such as day schools, synagogues and student groups to participate in multiple bike route options, a 5K walk/run and a NEW option to participate as a Virtual Rider. There will also be a post-Ride celebration that will include food, music, presentations, and opportunities for participants to learn more about the participating groups and organizations. Community organizations, individuals, and businesses interested in sponsoring or volunteering in Federation's Ride to Provide can visit <https://jewishwesternmass.org/ridetoprovide23>.

To learn more about Rachel's Table Western Massachusetts, people may visit [www.feedwma.org](http://www.feedwma.org).

## Lawmakers see FAA bill as an opportunity to support families

WASHINGTON- Sen. Edward J. Markey and Sen. JD Vance members of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, sent a letter to Sen. Maria Cantwell, chair of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, and Sen. Ted Cruz, ranking member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

The letter urged them to include a provision in the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration to prohibit family seating fees. In their letter, the senators included legislative language which would prohibit airlines from charging monetary fees for parents to sit with their children during a flight.

In their letter, the senators wrote, «Airlines should never be allowed to force parents to choose between pay-

ing more and being separated from their kids. In extreme circumstances, parents have found themselves assigned seats many rows away from their very young children - a serious safety risk for those kids and an injustice to those families. This practice must end. The 2023 reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration provides an important opportunity to support families by banning these fees.»

Markey is a staunch advocate for consumers, from the streets to the sky. In January, he reintroduced the FAIR Fees Act, which would prohibit airlines from charging fees disproportionate to the cost of the service. In February, Markey introduced the Families Fly Together Act, which would prohibit airlines from charging a fee for families to sit together on a flight.

## State Senator Mark lists staff office hours

HAYDENVILLE – State Senator Paul W. Mark announces his staff will be conducting office hour in Williamsburg in July.

The Senator's staff will hold office hours the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. The next office hour is Tuesday, July 25 from 1-3 p.m. in Williamsburg in the Town Offices, 141

Main St., Haydenville.

Residents of any of the 57 municipalities in the Senator's Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Hampshire District are encouraged to ask for assistance with issues involving any state agency or to share ideas on current or potential state legislation. Appointments are not needed.

## Sarah Haessler MD named Chair of Baystate Health Department of Medicine

SPRINGFIELD – Sarah D. Haessler, MD, MS, whose expertise in infectious diseases has been recognized at the local, state, national and international levels, has been named Chair, Department of Medicine for Baystate Health.

Dr. Haessler, who has served as Interim Chair of the Department of Medicine at Baystate since 2022, was appointed chair after a highly competitive national search. She is the inaugural female chair of Baystate Health's largest clinical/academic department. Her tenure begins immediately.

She received her medical degree from George Washington University School of Medicine and completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in infectious diseases at Dartmouth Hitchcock in New Hampshire. Dr. Haessler is board certi-

fied by the American Board of internal Medicine in internal medicine and infectious diseases.

Dr. Haessler joined Baystate Health in 2005 and since that time has held progressive leadership roles, including as the Hospital Epidemiologist for the health system; Vice Chair, Dept. of Medicine; and Interim Chief, Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Care and most recently Interim Chair, Dept. of Medicine.

“Her strong work and expert insights have had a tremendous, salutary impact on national, state, and regional preparation and response to several biological threats, including pandemic influenza, Ebola, monkeypox, and COVID-19 - serving in critical leadership roles in these events,” said Dr. Andrew W. Artenstein, MD, Chief

Physician Executive and Chief Academic Officer for Baystate Health and President of Baystate Medical Practices.

Active in the field of academics and research, Dr. Haessler has trained and served as advisor and mentor for dozens of residents and fellows in the specialty of infectious diseases. She is currently an Associate Professor of Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School-Baystate. As either principal or co-investigator, Dr. Haessler since 2002 has completed numerous research projects and is currently co-investigator in Reducing Antimicrobial Overuse Through Targeted Therapy for Patients with Community Acquired Pneumonia.

Dr. Haessler is the recipient of several honors and awards, including Business West's Healthcare Hero Award, the Women in Medicine and Science Impact Award and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America's (SHEA) Speaker Recognition Award

and the Women in Medicine and Science Impact Award. She has held several distinct leadership roles in SHEA, including board and committee chair positions.

She has published more than 45 scholarly works in medical literature including book chapters and peer and non-peer reviewed publications and has served on several national and state expert panels and scientific review groups. Dr. Haessler has been invited to present at international, national, regional, and local symposiums and conferences on a variety of topics, such as the science of hand hygiene for preventing infections, challenging cases in infection prevention, addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women's academic and clinical advancement and many others.

For more information on Baystate Health, people may visit [baystatehealth.org](http://baystatehealth.org).



Sarah Haessler, MD

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# HILLTOWNS

## MassDOT announces roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting overnight and daytime paving operations and bridge, guardrail, and drainage repair work on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Montgomery, Russell, Lee, Becket, and West Stockbridge. The scheduled work will require some lane and shoulder closures.

Bridge repair work in Montgomery and Russell will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 36 Thursday, July 13 to Friday, July 14, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.– 5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, July 14 by 5 a.m.

Pavement milling operations in Lee and Becket will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 14.0 to mile marker 19, from Thursday, July 13 to Friday, July 14, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.–5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, July 14 by 5 a.m.

Guardrail repair operations in Lee will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 8.3 to mile marker 14, from Thursday, July 13 to Friday, July 14 during overnight hours from 7 p.m.–5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, July 14 by 5 a.m.

Drainage repair operations will be conducted daily at I-90 eastbound from mile marker 0 to mile marker 2.5, on Thursday, July 13 through Friday, July 14, during daytime hours from 6 a.m.–4 p.m. All work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, July 14 by 4 p.m.

Traffic will be allowed through the work zones.

The work will require temporary lane closures to allow crews to safely conduct the paving, and bridge and guardrail repair operations.

Drivers who are 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.

Follow MassDOT on Twitter @MassDOT to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

## Hilltown Pottery takes place July 29 and July 30

The 17 annual Hilltown Pottery Tour will take place Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30 from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. on both days.

The tour is free and open to the public. The tour also includes scheduled demonstrations. People may visit [www.hilltown6.com](http://www.hilltown6.com) for more information and for the demonstration schedule.

## BUCKLAND



This baby carriage is one of the many antiques on display.

Courtesy photo

## Historical Society to hold open houses

BUCKLAND – The Buckland Historical Society will hold open houses and barn reconstruction will on Sunday, July 23 from 2-4 p.m.

The Wilder Homestead is open to tour the furnished 1775 saltbox home with five fireplaces.

The 1790 English Barn will be under reconstruction. People can see the progress with this barn raising project.

The circa 1820 shoemaker shop, where boots could be bartered for with

bushels of apples, cords of wood or in one case, the work of digging a grave, will be open at 129 Route 112.

The Buckland Historical Society Museum, 20 Upper St., located in Buckland Center, is also open, a former school house in the Greek Revival style, which now houses three floors of artifacts and town records. There will also be a new exhibit on the Caged Man of Buckland - the Life of Josiah Spaulding.



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## OPINION

### Why can't I collect survivor benefits from my deceased wife?



Dear Rusty: I am a 62 year old widower that is still working full time. While my late spouse was in hospice, I was able to get her to apply for Social Security disability and she received one payment before she passed away two years ago. I was told that I could collect a survivor benefit, so I called my local Social Security office, but they told me that I could not collect any type of benefits from my wife and that all the money she paid into SS for all of those years was basically gone for good. Would you please advise what I can do and if this is true? I was also told that Social Security's agents will do everything they can to avoid paying out benefits.

Signed: Frustrated Widower

Dear Frustrated Widower: I suspect that the reason Social Security said you were not eligible for benefits as a widower is because you are working full time. At age 62, you are subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn while collecting early Social Security benefits. The 2023 earnings limit is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. If your earnings are high enough, that could make you

temporarily ineligible to collect benefits until 1) your earnings are less, or 2) you reach your Full Retirement Age (FRA) when the earnings test no longer applies.

Assuming you have not yet claimed your personal SS retirement benefit, you are still eligible to collect a survivor benefit from your wife when your earnings are less or after you reach your full retirement age. One strategy you may wish to consider, if you plan to keep working full time, is to wait and claim only your surviving spouse benefit at your FRA (67), thus allowing your personal SS retirement benefit to continue growing until you are 70 when your personal SS retirement benefit will be about 75% more than it would be now. Although your survivor benefit reaches maximum at your FRA, your personal benefit doesn't reach maximum until age 70, so it's possible to collect your smaller survivor benefit from your wife first and claim your higher personal benefit later.

You were apparently given some confusing information when you contacted Social Security. If you haven't already claimed your own SS retirement benefit, you are still eligible for a surviving spouse benefit from your wife but likely cannot collect a widower benefit at this time because you're working full time. However, that doesn't mean you can never collect a survivor benefit; only that you can't collect it at this time because of the "earnings test." The earnings test goes away when you reach age 67, so you can claim only your survivor benefit at that time or before if you no longer work full time and allow your

personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow to age 70 if you like.

From our experience with the Social Security Administration, the skill level of SSA representatives varies, but we have never suspected their goal was trying to avoid paying benefits due. Nevertheless, depending on the agent you spoke with, the information provided may have been less clear about the best claiming strategy for you, which is why the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service exists. Our advisors are all highly experienced and strive to provide you with complete and clear information which enables you to make an informed choice about how and when to claim the Social Security benefits you are entitled to. I hope we have succeeded.

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org).

*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

### Dog days equal a good balance of maintenance and reward



I am not sure if it is the heat or the calendar that causes my annual shift from planting mode to maintenance mode.

A cooler June extended the former somewhat, but with the last week or so of hot, sticky weather, I am mostly done planting anything but a few succession crops of lettuce or green beans. From here on out it's maintenance full steam ahead, and yet, enjoying the fruits (and vegetables) of our labors.

What have I been up to you ask? Well, here goes:

Deadheading is the number one priority in my flower gardens. We clip off old flowers to keep the new flowers coming.

If we let spent flowers form seed pods, the plant thinks it has fulfilled its job of reproducing itself and it will begin to decline. In addition to deadheading, I am ever mindful of plants that may need a little perking up.

If flowers are sparse and leaves look a

little pale, some balanced organic fertilizer applied at the base of those plants should encourage more blooms and healthy foliage. Liquid feeding can also be effective.

Brew your own compost tea by filling a coffee filter with aged manure or good compost and securing it with a twist-tie. Let it soak in your watering can overnight and then it's ready to use.

Water the foliage and also let it sink in to the surrounding soil.

Earlier today I cut back my strawberry plants. I am not doing a full renovation this year, where I'd pull up the oldest plants and replace them with newly rooted runners.

I did that last year. This year, I simply cut the plants back.

My patch isn't huge, so it was accomplished by hand with a good pair of scissors. I basically grabbed a fist full of the plant, and chopped it back to about four inches tall.

I also weeded and thinned as I went. A push style lawn mower set on the highest setting can be used to get the job done in bigger plantings.

After the plants were cut back, I loosened the soil, sprinkled organic fertilizer around the plants and had about an hour before it started raining. I'll reapply mulch to keep the weeds down and that should be all the patch requires until winter.

I have been harvesting kale and peas so far, and in abundance. I continue to shuck, then blanch shelled peas for ninety seconds before freezing, first loose on a cookie sheet then poured into plastic containers whereby I can take out what I need for a specific recipe.

I no longer do any pretreatment prior to freezing kale. I simply rinse, shake the excess water off, rip the tender part of the leaf away from the midrib then pack in baggies, approximately 6-7 leaves per bag.

I try to get all the air out of the bag best I can. Kale, frozen like this, is a wonderful addition to soups, stews and green drinks.

The more you pick it the more it grows!

My herbs are also growing well now that the nights have warmed up. This is especially noticeable with basil.

All the rain and some early thinning has produced some awesome dill foliage as well. Basil is not flavorful dried, but dill weed is.

I've been picking small bunches, securing them with a rubber band and hanging them in my hot attic to dry.

Basil, on the other hand, is best preserved in pesto. I make my own version less the pine nuts by filling a food processor with basil leaves (no stems or flowers), a few garlic cloves and olive oil.

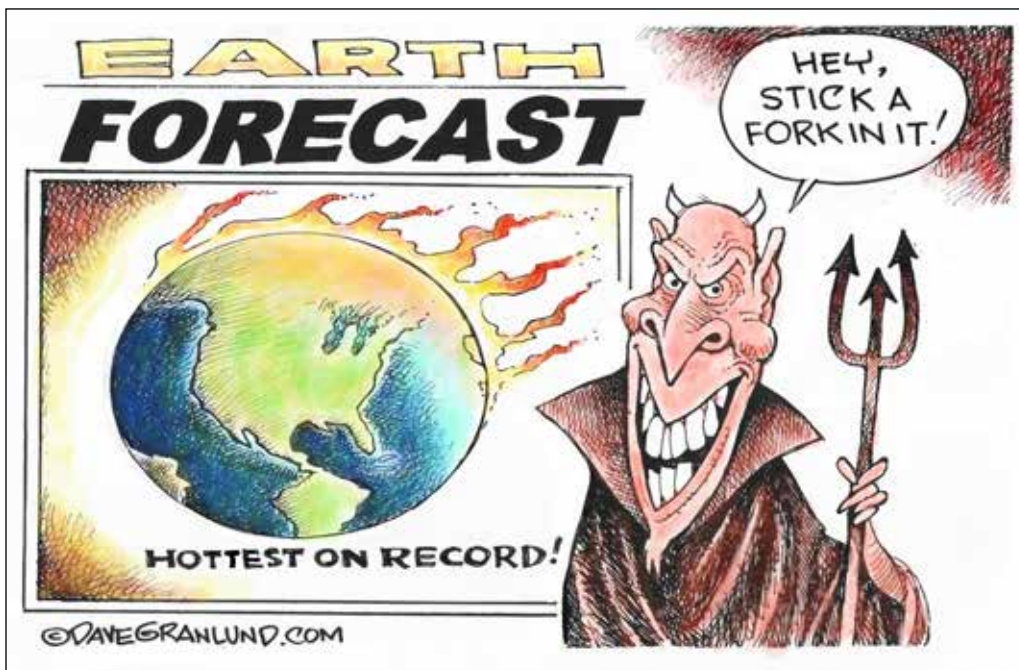
Once it reaches the desired consistency, I spoon it into ice cube trays. Once frozen, I pop out the cubes into gallon size freezer bags.

These can be added to all kinds of recipes or turned into real pesto (plus the pine nuts!) as needed. In the event that you can't harvest basil, keep that foliage coming by pinching the flower heads off, otherwise it too will think it has done it's job and it will begin to decline.

Be on the lookout for Japanese beetles on your plants- cover them if you see the foliage getting eaten up or be diligent about hand picking the insects off into a bath of soapy water.

Enjoy the dog days of summer. The maintenance outweighs the reward.

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



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BOARD

from page 1

the contract was eliminated and made into a three-year contract. This, according to Town Administrator Christopher Dunne was changed because the contract for a short term would not allow the towns to keep the grant funding. The grant is for \$178,000 for the two towns as an efficiency and regionalization effort.

The agreement is for a Shared Water Operator in Training, not a “full stop” operator.

“At the end of the day,” he said, “The select Board is the signing authority.” Chester Water Commissioners Bob Daley and Tom Bean attended the meeting as did Pioneer Valley Planning Commission’s Ira Brezinsky, who participated virtually.

Also, Blandford was no longer the administrative lead as Host Community. That task had been signed over to Chester.

The contract does provide for withdrawal from the agreement, Dunne pointed out, but written notice from the withdrawing party must be “at least six months prior to the next fiscal year.” But, contract language on withdrawal states, “Withdrawal by the Host Community shall terminate the Agreement,” and goes on to delineate financial responsibilities in that case.

The Chester Select Board had already signed the agreement earlier in the week and the deadline for submission was June 30.

Later in the week, Dunne said he had been working from an April 20 email from Water, while Curry said the changes had been agreed upon at a June 22 Water Commissioners meeting. Draft minutes of that meeting indicate Blandford would be Host Community.

The Select Board ultimately approved the Memorandum of Understanding for the Shared Water

Operator in Training.

**Electrical Inspector**

In other business, Electrical Inspector John VanHeynigen assured the board that the town does not need to purchase a new generator, “just reconfigure the wiring and add a transfer switch.”

They also discussed the problem of moisture in the basement possibly affecting the breakers.

Theodore Cousineau said, “If your guys are down there and find something questionable, I want to see it addressed.”

The board later rescinded the approval of a prior ARPA allocation for \$40,000 for a not-needed generator instead approve a \$22,900 ARPA allocation.

**Permit fee**

Building Inspector Jason Forgue discussed the building fee schedule and junk cars on George Millard Road.

The permit fee increase, according to Forgue, is to make the “department budget neutral...so what I attempted to do is set a fee schedule so that the revenue generated exceeds my stipend” and the cost of the software for permits. The board voted to update the fees “as recommended by the Building Inspector.”

**Junk cars**

Regarding the junk cars, an original submitted bylaw was rejected, but an updated bylaw regarding junk cars will be forthcoming. He would like to see a revolving account for any fines.

**Belle Fleur**

A discussion about activities at the Belle Fleur marijuana cultivation site ensued.

They are now requesting partial occupancy of one greenhouse “which is unique.” “I don’t want to get in the way of it moving forward, but at the same time I am not comfortable with that,” said Forgue.

When he asked for the contractor’s

name, he was given the name of the landscaper, and they have been pulling permits using that name, rather than a construction contractor. Forgue said this is not allowed under Mass. General Law and he is going to insist on a named Construction Supervisor License carrier before the project can move forward.

Dunne said there would have to be a “sit-down” with all boards involved and get the status.

Forgue asked how far the board wanted to go regarding a complaint for junk cars on George Millard Road. He is not comfortable singling one place out. Chair Cara Letendre said, “If there’s a problem, we need to fix it.”

**Highway Department**

Highway Superintendent Dave

Waldron reported that this year’s gasoline price is \$2.79 a gallon compared to last year’s \$4.26 and diesel fuel is \$2.78 compared to last year’s \$5.19 a gallon.

He alerted the Select Board as he said, “The numbers are changing and going lower.” A repair is in the works for the 1987 grader right wheel sealer.

Both Waldron and Dunne had their performance reviews and both passed with ranges from meets expectations to outstanding in areas that included management, communication, planning and accomplishing their goals for the year.

**Appointments**

The board appointed Jennifer Girard and Susan Racine as Election Warden and Deputy Election

Warden respectively.

JIMMY ROBERTS

from page 1

Jimmy Roberts doesn’t stop there. He uses his classical training to create unique blends of Broadway Masters with Great Masters. Thus, “My Funny Valentine” finds new meaning when it intertwines with Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata.”

Likewise “Send in the Clowns” and Bach’s “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” suddenly seem made for each other, an arrangement, which prompted Stephen Sondheim to write appreciatively to Jimmy, “Bach is as good company as one could ask for.”

Finally, through song and story, Jimmy traces a path backwards to some of the originators of the American style: George Gershwin (“Swanee,” “Rhapsody in Blue,” “Porgy and Bess” and, before Gershwin, the less well-known Louis Moreau Gottschalk, America’s first piano superstar.

From New Orleans to Paris and on tour throughout the United States, before, during and after the Civil War, Gottschalk laid the groundwork for ragtime and jazz and, incidentally, kept a fascinating diary of observations about our country during the mid-19th century.

The story of American Music is a saga that culminated in an art form that went on to captivate the rest of the world: Jazz in Japan, “My Fair Lady” in Berlin and Jimmy’s own shows, performed in both Mandarin and Cantonese. And so, Jimmy will leave the audience with a glimpse of the future: selections from his newest musical, “Welcome to the Big Dipper,” scheduled for an Off-Broadway production in 2024. Just one more stop on the journey forward of America’s homegrown wonders: music and words and the men and women who write them and sing them.



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**4p-6p**

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40 Court Street

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**JULY 26th, 2023**

**4p-6p**

**The Arbors at Chicopee**

929 Memorial Drive

**RSVP: 413-593-0088**

# Weather fails to dampen Fourth of July spirit

CHESTERFIELD – The town of Chesterfield celebrated their 76th annual Fourth of July parade.

There were other activities as well including a pancake breakfast, Hilltown

Art display at town hall, historic exhibits in the Edwards Museum, a chicken barbecue, musical entertainment by the Heritage Pops Orchestra, vendors and food booths and more.



Parade onlookers enjoy watching the floats.

Submitted photos



These Hilltown sled dogs got to ride in the back of a pickup truck instead of pulling a sled.



This antique truck had its bed filled with flowers.



No parade is complete with the fleet of fire trucks.

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Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

# BECKET

## Meredyth Babcock receives WRWA Waite Award

WESTFIELD – The Westfield River Watershed Association named Meredyth Babcock of Becket as its 2023 recipient of the prestigious Waite Award for outstanding environmental service.

President Mark Damon recognized Babcock’s exceptional efforts on behalf of the watershed and her service to the Westfield River community for the past decade. “From her first encounters with WRWA when she developed a program called the ‘Watershed Waltz,’ we have been fortunate to work with Meredyth in so many ways.

Damon said, “She is always willing to promote and support events on and around the river. Her unique blend of theater and environmental expertise benefits her work with Wild and Scenic and our watershed. We are very pleased to honor her with this award.”

Babcock’s enthusiasm for the river environment embraces everyone she encounters. She has danced in a sparkling blue canoe skirt around the parking lot to welcome paddlers to the annual Canoe Cruise, mucked through the wetlands removing invasive plants with her interns and organized a parade of fourth graders and the gigantic puppets she helped them create to celebrate the WildWater Races.

“I feel very fortunate to spend my days, and creative energy, working

for the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee. It is a joy to learn from community members, encourage river stewardship, actively restore riparian areas and introduce children to the river’s mysteries and wonders, said Babcock in accepting the award.

Babcock currently serves as Outreach Coordinator for the Westfield Wild & Scenic River Committee. One of the W&S interns, Katrina Bingham-Maas, has returned for a second year to continue working with Babcock and to help train new interns. “Every chance she gets, Meredyth invites specialists to spend the day with us teaching about the river and the natural communities,” said Bingham-Maas.

The Waite Award, established in 1981 in memory of Richard A. Waite, a long-time executive director of WRWA, honors those who have made a substantial contribution to the Westfield River Watershed. The Association began in 1952 to conserve those “resources provided by nature which may be used for the benefit of mankind: according to its history written by Waite.

The following year, it began to address stream improvement in the upper valley and pollution abatement in the river. The Westfield is now designated a National Wild and Scenic River that includes corridors stretching 78.1 miles



Meredyth Babcock of Becket, from left, shown with Westfield River Watershed Association President Mark Damon holds the Waite Award, which she recently received.

Submitted photo

along the East Branch, Middle Branch and West Branch of the Westfield River. For more information about the Westfield River Watershed Association and its activities, people may visit [www.westfieldriver.org](http://www.westfieldriver.org).

## INTERNSHIPS

from page 1

Track Training program, in which students enroll in specialized courses to prepare them for jobs in competitive fields after high school. Several towns have partnered with the high school to offer internships for students taking coursework to become municipal water system operators, and several students have already completed the coursework, internship, preliminary licensing exam and required OSHA test and have been hired following high school graduation.

Tristan Conway, a 2023 graduate who fulfilled the requirements for Gateway’s welding program—one of two vocational programs offered at the school—completed an internship with Grader Auto in Westfield during the spring semester of his senior year. For him, it was a means to test a career option for putting his welding skills into practice. His mother, Stephanie Conway, was pleased with the outcome.

“He enjoyed going every day and learned a lot,” she reported. “I’m so grateful that he was given this opportunity. His internship ended with a job offer, and he has been working at Grader since he graduated. He has a clearer vision of what he would like to do, career

wise.”

Placements are as varied as the interests of students, and the business partners who are able to accommodate them. Some students have done internships in dental, medical and animal science fields. City Center Auto and Skyline Services Diesel Trucks have also mentored students.

The Star Fires baseball organization in Westfield has a student doing game announcing and stats this summer. Two students are learning beekeeping. Chester Common Table is providing an internship in restaurant management. And an intern will create and deliver STEM programs and computer support at Hamilton Memorial Library in Chester.

Grant funding closes at the end of August and Clark is looking for strategies to sustain the program. “I hope the grant becomes available again, but I’m not sure,” she said. “We’re looking for other sources of funding and sponsorships.”

One of those efforts involves Mass Clean Energy, which is helping Clark look for businesses in the clean energy sector that might offer more welding place-

ments. MCE would cover the cost of intern stipends.

In the meantime, funding is still available for this summer and any employers that would be interested in having a high school intern that is paid by the grant may contact Martha Clark at [mclark@grsd.org](mailto:mclark@grsd.org).

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**ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

**David Wakeling and Molly Blewett**



Tim and Karen Wakeling announce the engagement of their son, David Wakeling of Utah to Molly Blewett, daughter of Mary Ellen Rose and Richard Blewett of Gloucester.

David graduated from the Art Institute of Charleston and is a restaurant owner in Utah. Molly is a graduate of the University of Utah in Psychology and works in luxury hospitality.

The wedding is set for the fall and they have plans to live in the U.K. after the wedding.

David is the grandson of Connie and Bob Dragon of Westhampton.

**Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED**

Turley Publications is looking for a “hands on” energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

**Qualifications should include:**

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

**Please send resume and writing examples to:**

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to  
ekennedy@turley.com

**OTIS**



These are some of the puppets owned by Robbins-Zust family.

Submitted photo

**Robbins-Zust marionettes to appear July 29**

OTIS – The Otis Historical Commission and Otis Preservation Trust are hosting the fourth Notice Otis Series cultural event of the 2022-23 season featuring the Robbins-Zust Family Marionettes Company on Saturday, July 29 (rain date Sunday, July 30), from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. in Otis Town Hall Green, One North Main Road.

Two shows will be performed: “Three Little Pigs” and “Rumpelstiltskin” with a one hour break at 12 noon. Picnics, blankets and lawn chairs are welcome. Ice cream will be available.

Founded in 1971 by Genie Zust and her late husband, Richard Robbins, the Robbins-Zust Family Marionettes after the couple moved

to the Berkshires from New York City. The family has used wooden and plaster puppets to bring fairy tales to life for local children. Their son Dion remains the only family member to stay with the business.

Many of the family’s 100 puppets, which vary in size from a foot to 2-feet in height, are handmade. The marionette bodies were whittled from wood by Richard Robbins over the years – a skill he learned from a book checked out from the Berkshire Athenaeum. The heads were cast in plaster molds by Robbins and Zust, who also made their clothing and wrote the scripts.

“I just turned 50 and it’s taken me my whole life to understand why my parents started this company.

Perhaps I understand because I have a son. They did it for us – their children. That’s why I keep doing it.”

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The event is in-person at the Otis Town Hall Green, One North Main Road. To register or for more information, people should visit [www.otispreservationtrust.com](http://www.otispreservationtrust.com); or [www.townofotisma.com](http://www.townofotisma.com). There is no charge to attend this event. Donations are welcome.

**Otis Recreation Committee offers kids obstacle course**

OTIS – The Otis Recreation Committee is sponsoring the kids obstacle challenge for all ages on Saturday, Aug. 5 from 9-11 a.m. in the Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road.

Children should dress appropriately and prepare to get wet. A parent or guardian must be present for the event.

People may email [townofotisrec@gmail.com](mailto:townofotisrec@gmail.com) for more information.

**JOB OPENING**

**STAFF WRITER**

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you’re a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

**Qualifications should include:**

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to

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# SCHOOLS & YOUTH

## Gateway announces honor roll for fourth term

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Principal Jason Finnie has announced the honor roll for the final term of the 2022-2023 school year. In accordance with the student handbook, honor roll status is granted to students with high academic achievement for a marking quarter.

First honors are awarded to students who receive A's in all courses taken. The following students earned first honors for this marking period: Heather McEwan, William Sharrow, Rachael Austin, Cecelia Balboni, Olivia Dame, Hailey Krassler, Liam McKellick, Nancy Mueller, Lucy Pitoniak, Amelia Wallace, Alexi Bonenfant, Elijah Gilbert, Jackson Harding, Abigail Madru, Kaitlyn Maynard, Reeghan Morawiec, Grace Plumley, Issabella Santiago, Sawyer Wilkinson, Jesse Balboni, Ivan Chepurenko, Ashley Fisk, Evan Fogue, Olivia MacIver, Cynthia Papillon, Benjamin Pritchard, Abigail Robbins, Theodore DeAngelis-Page, Kathryn Harding, Alexandra Henrichon, Eliza Mueller, Lily Peloquin, Desmond

St. Martin, Ashley Tacke and Michael Whitaker.

Second honors are awarded to students who receive a minimum of two A's and receive B's in all other courses taken. Students earning second honors for this marking period are: Annemarie Benson, Liam Bowler, Shane Cooper, Sean Fogue, Edward Harding, Audrey Saalfrank, Isaiah Solitario, Rachael Fitzgerald, Meghan Gilman, Jaylin Glenn, Matthew Kadzik, Kylie Lewandowski, Natalie Loiselle, Joseph Pisani, Kai Rahilly, Dalton Savoy, Ryan Tacke, Alexandra Zajko, Madilyn Beneway, Caleb Mann, Jeffrey Antonellis, Andrew Chepurenko, Shelby Jackman, Jake Marchbanks, Aaron Renaud, Justin Rucki and Isabella Vera-Ortiz.

Third honors are granted to students who receive a minimum of one A, with B's and no more than one C in all courses taken. Students who earned third honors for the marking term are: Dylan Buckamn, Ollie DeBarge, Andrew Nedeoglo, Nariyah Renaud, Anna Sakaske, Mason LaBranche, Bow Briggs, Elizabeth Kadzik and Hannah Primack.

### SCHOOL

## HCC offers free culinary training for English language learners

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is offering a free program for English language learners looking to begin careers in the culinary and hospitality field.

The course, "MassSTEP ESOL Culinary Arts," begins Monday, July 17, at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St. It runs Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. through Friday, Aug. 25.

The 180-hour training is designed for people learning English who are at an intermediate level. English for Speakers of Other Languages instruction is built into the curriculum. The program is free thanks to a grant from the Adult & Community Learning Services division of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

MassSTEP (skills, training, education programs) denotes a statewide network of DESE-funded pathways that prepare adult learners for promising careers with dynamic Massachusetts businesses.

In the HCC class, students will gain skills in knife techniques, cooking methods, culinary math and measurements,

workplace etiquette, resume building, and job searching, and earn workplace certifications including ServSafe Manager, Food Handler, and Alcohol. The course incorporates 90 hours of English language learning and career preparation.

The program is open to adult residents of Massachusetts who are learning English.

"This hands-on training is an exciting opportunity for students to begin a new career in culinary and hospitality, advance into higher-level roles, or continue studying culinary and hospitality at the college level," said Peshia Black, director of ESOL at HCC. "Our alumni have gone on to work in restaurants, food service, hotels, and started their own entrepreneurial ventures. We work with over two dozen local employers eager to hire qualified graduates as food preparers, line cooks, servers, bartenders, hosts and hostesses, and hotel workers."

For more information or to enroll, people may call Moira Lozada at 413-561-7280 or email mlozada@hcc.edu.

### SCHOOL

## Quinnipiac University lists graduates

HAMDEN, CT – Quinnipiac University lists students who received degrees during commencement ceremonies held in May.

Local students receiving Master's Degrees are Ahna Schlaefel of Lee, Master Health Science, Pathology;

Ryan Heng of Northampton, Angela Johnson of Pittsfield, Master of Science, Cyber Security and Cameron Davignon of Westfield, Master Business Administration.

Local students receiving Bachelor's Degrees are Karena Downs of Westfield,

Bachelor of Science, Nursing; James Hagan of Westfield, Bachelor of Science, Management; Elle Campbell Nyarady of Westfield, Bachelor of Arts, Advertising and Integrated Communications and Kaitlin Sicard of Westfield, Bachelor of Science, Marketing.

## QCC lists graduates

WORCESTER – Quinsigamond Community College announces its 2023 list of graduates.

On Friday, May 19 QCC graduates took part in its 58th commencement ceremony at the DCU Center.

Receiving certificates are Rebecca Nsiah of Westfield and Mitchell Prest of Westfield.

# 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 13, 2023.**

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

Deadline for Calendar submissions is **August 16.**

## Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

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Description \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

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MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069

or email\* them to: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

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

## HUNTINGTON

**HUNTINGTON CONCERTS HELD THROUGH AUG. 17**



The 413's kicked off the summer music series in Huntington. Concerts are free and run every Thursday from 6:30-8 p.m. through Aug. 17. Up next on Thursday, July 20 is singer/songwriter Bobby Sweet.

*Photo by Wendy Long*

## Huntington church to hold tag sale

HUNTINGTON – The ladies of the Huntington Evangelical Church will be having a tag sale on Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., rain or shine.

They will set up the “make an offer”

items in their Chapel which is located on the Route 20 green across from the church. Proceeds are used to help missionaries and where needed. There is sure to be something for all.

## Time Stretchers open North Hall Arts Festival



The Time Stretchers kick off the North Hall Arts Festival with an outdoor performance on the Huntington Town Green.

*Submitted photo*

HUNTINGTON – Local band the Time Stretchers opens the 13th Annual Historic North Hall Arts Festival on Sunday, July 16 at 2 p.m. on the Huntington Town Green, 24 Russell Road, Route 20 and 112, as part of the seven free program series hosted by the North Hall Association.

The Time Stretchers is known for strong lead vocals by all members and also its intricate and impressive vocal harmonies. Crowds will enjoy a mix of classic rock, country, swing from the 50s and 60s to now, including covers of Johnny Cash, The Beatles and more.

The band features Barry Searle and Clark Howell on guitar and vocals, Pete Rzasa on vocals, pedal steel and harmonica and Sarah Miller on percussion & vocals.

All program updates will be available by visiting [northhallhuntington.org](http://northhallhuntington.org). In case of rain this concert will be held in Stanton Hall.

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

## BLANFORD

### Select Board hear about flooding issues

**By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent**

BLANDFORD – Highway Superintendent David Waldron told Select Board Monday night that North Blandford Road had to be closed for about five hours the morning of July 10 because of flooding in the dip of the road at the bottom of the hill just before Gore Road.

According to Waldron, a tree had come down and the torrential rain brought debris to the tree blocking water flow. The tree was removed and traffic restored.

The board asked that Waldron inquire of the Beaver Solutions group about managing the cages in that area.

There are culverts on Hayden, Cobble Mountain and Crooks roads that

need to be replaced, and Waldron noted that the water level on Blair Road at the box (cement) culvert needs attention. Water level should be lowered at least four feet to eliminate flooding potential.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will provide a draft of priority roads needing attention for the second half of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant under the Resilient Dirt Roads project and then move on to beaver problems.

The board appointed Dale Buchanan to the Zoning Board of Appeals through June 2026.

The interview with the Conservation Agent was postponed until next meeting, July 24 as was consideration of Lynn Kane as Treasurer-Collector.

The board scheduled an executive session for Wednesday, July 12 to discuss contracts.

### Historical Society sponsors campers

BLANDFORD – The Blandford Historical Society will provide camper-ship for children age seven through 12 to attend the Early American Summer Days camp Tuesday, Aug. 1 to Friday, Aug. 4 at Storowton Village Museum in West Springfield.

The Historical Society will fund campers for a total of a four-day experience at Storowton.

Parents are responsible to register children online at: <https://www.storowtonvillage.com/p/learn/summer-youth-programs>. Once a child with Blandford connections has been accepted at the camp, the Historical Society must be notified so the organization can reimburse the enrollees' families.

Youngsters may participate in all four days, or choose any of the activities that interest them.

The programs include Stem and Archaeology featuring tools, paleontology and historically based science, technology, engineering and math on August

1; Toys and Games popular in New England farm history, and Nature and Art that includes New England gardens, pottery and homemade ice cream; both are half-day sessions on Aug. 2.

Homestead on the Farm, living a day in the live of a 19th century family is the August 3 program.

The final session, 19th Century Stage on Aug. 4, offers stage experience with professionals, costume, puppetry and making musical instruments.

Program days are from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. except on Tuesday, Aug. 2, when each program is half-day.

Children must bring a lunch for full day sessions and the morning half-day session. Refrigeration is provided.

Historical Society Chips Norcross said that campers must have a Blandford connection and be registered for their choice of activities. Once that has been accomplished, they should call 508-380-8845 for confirmation.

## PLAINFIELD

### Tickets on sale for annual firefighter barbecue

PLAINFIELD – Preparations are underway for the 52nd Plainfield Firefighter's Barbecue that will be held Sunday, Sept. 3 (Labor Day Weekend) from 1-3 p.m. behind the Shaw Memorial Library on Main Street.

Dinner will include a ½ barbecued chicken, local bake potato and corn on the cob all cooked on our giant open charcoal grill by volunteer firefighters. The meal also includes homemade coleslaw, dinner roll, beverage and sliced watermelon.

This year, celebrating the 70th year of the town's volunteer fire/EMS department, they will also offer a slice of cake to recognize the department.

Thanks to the support of the local Cultural Council, the firefighters have invited back the “Curtis Rich Review” to perform live music at the barbecue, starting at noon.

In addition, the annual silent auction

organized by retired firefighter and EMT Brian Hawthorne, who will also emcee. This will take place under the tent during the event. The 47th running of the 1.1-mile Plainfield Road Race will also start around 1:15 p.m on Main Street.

Other annual events including the Annual Shaw Memorial Library Book Sale as well as ‘Arts Feast’ will return during the barbecue.

Plainfield firefighters and EMT's will have tickets to sell after the 4th of July. They sell 400 tickets annually.

Due to continued growth of food cost, the tickets are \$17 per adult and \$9 per children under 12. Don't wait until it's to late, order tickets now. First Responders meet weekly on Thursday evenings at the Public Safety Complex on North Central Street, people may stop by then to purchase tickets or call 413-634-5470 for more information.

## MIDDLEFIELD

### Middlefield COA lists menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail on Wednesday, July 19 will serve lunch at noon.

The meal is eat in or take out. The choice is vegetarian chili with cornbread

or chicken enchiladas, pinto beans, summer squash and chilled peaches.

People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal the previous Monday. Bingo will be played after lunch.



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# WESTHAMPTON

## SIGNS OF SUMMER SEEN IN WESTHAMPTON



This painted old kitchen wood stove serves as a way to display flowers for people to stop and purchase on North Road in Westhampton.



This roadside stand on Stage Road in Westhampton has plants, flowers and vegetables for sale.

Submitted photos

## Westhampton church to hold blueberry supper

WESTHAMPTON – The Blueberry Supper will again be held at the Westhampton Congregational Church, located on Tob Road on Saturday, Aug. 5, at 5 p.m.

Menu is Virginia baked ham, pineapple slices, potato salad, sliced cucumbers, green beans, blueberry muffins, assorted beverages and blueberry pie for dessert.

Price is \$15 for adults and \$6 for those 12 and under. Reservations are due before Saturday, July 29. People should make their reservations early as there is only one sitting and tickets usually sell out. Reservations can be made by calling 413-584-9360 or emailing lynniesallee@comcast.net.

## THIS YOUNG MAN DISPLAYS HIS CATCH OF THE DAY



Elliott Sojkowski age 9 of Westhampton caught a large mouth bass while fishing with his uncle at the Connecticut river.

Submitted Photo

## PITTSFIELD

### KB Accounting offers QuickBooks webinar

KB Accounting announces a webinar on Quickbooks Online Basics on Wednesday, July 26 at 10 a.m.

Participants in the webinar will be shown how to record and categorize your invoices and bills using QuickBooks Online. This will make it easier for the business owner to keep track of where their organization is with their income and expenses at any point. Sarah DeZess, CPA, Senior Accountant Smith Watson & Co will join to discuss how this affects taxes and possibly give some tips on how

to save on the tax bill.

Katie Brelford, President and CEO of KB Accounting, stated, "There are so many small business and entrepreneurs that cannot afford to outsource bookkeeping services yet and we thought this webinar might help organizations avoid high costs when they start outsourcing their bookkeeping."

For more information or for additional inquiries, people may email the KB Accounting Team at info@kbaccountingpittsfield.com.

### Perry Hill Road reopens

WESTHAMPTON – Perry Hill Road has reopened to regular traffic as Monday, July 10 at 1:30 p.m.



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# GREAT BARRINGTON

## Berkshire Agricultural Ventures welcomes Martha Page

GREAT BARRINGTON – Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, a growing nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting local agriculture and a resilient regional food system, announces the appointment of Martha Page to its Board of Directors.

With her extensive experience in nonprofit, government, and private sector management, Martha brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to further strengthen BAV's mission and impact across the Berkshire-Taconic region.

Page joins the board following her successful tenure as the Executive Director of Hartford Food System Inc, where she spearheaded innovative initiatives to address food security, promote equitable access to nutritious food, and foster community development. Her deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the food system will be invaluable in helping guide BAV's strategic vision.

Throughout her career, Page has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a commitment to collaborative problem-solving. Her multi-disciplinary background has allowed

her to navigate complex landscapes and build strong partnerships across sectors which will play a vital role in helping to shape BAV's initiatives.

"We are thrilled to welcome Martha Page to the Board," Tom Gardner, Board President of BAV, said. He emphasized Martha's impressive background and steadfast commitment to enhancing food systems, which strongly resonates with BAV's mission. "Martha's extensive expertise in the government and not-for-profit sectors will help BAV foster the development of a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable food system within their service area."

Martha Page will collaborate closely with other Board members and BAV's dedicated staff to ensure that BAV continues to make a significant impact on the local agricultural communities of Berkshire, Litchfield, Columbia and Dutchess counties.

"I am so excited to join the Board of Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, I have followed the work of this impressive organization and have been a fan for several years," Martha Page said. "What they do to ensure

strong farms and food businesses in this region resonates so strongly with my ongoing commitment to help build a resilient New England food system. I look forward to working closely with Rebecca and the other Board members to promote and support the work of BAV's dedicated and talented staff."

Berkshire Agricultural Ventures is a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in 2016, working to support the development and viability of local farms and food businesses, to build a thriving local food economy, improve access to fresh food for everyone, and address climate change through regenerative agriculture. BAV brings together technical business assistance and nimble financing through low-interest loans, grants, and other professional resources for food makers in the Berkshire-Taconic region of New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

For more information about BAV, people may visit [www.berkshireagventures.org](http://www.berkshireagventures.org), email Patrick Grego, Communications & Development Associate, at [patrick@berkshireagventures.com](mailto:patrick@berkshireagventures.com) or call 413-248-6156.

## Legislation Announced on U.S. Leadership Advancing LGBTQI+ Rights on World Stage

WASHINGTON- As LGBTQI+ communities across the world gather to celebrate Pride Month, Sen. Edward J. Markey, Jeanne Shaheen and Jeff Merkley and Rep. Dina Titus reintroduced the Greater Leadership Overseas for the Benefit of Equality Act, legislation outlining a comprehensive vision for the United States to uphold and defend international LGBTQI+ rights.

The GLOBE Act would ensure equality and justice are critical components of U.S. foreign policy, reaffirm that the United States will not tolerate any discrimination, hatred, and violence against LGBTQI+ persons around the world, and develop assistance and immigration programs for LGBTQI+ individuals abroad.

The legislation would also make permanent the office of the Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons, which President Joe Biden established, as well as ensure that future administrations con-

tinue to uphold LGBTQI+ rights on the world stage by directing the State Department to document and respond to bias-motivated violence against LGBTQI+ people abroad.

The bill will implement a comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to criminalization, discrimination, and violence against LGBTQI+ people. The GLOBE Act also calls on the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to establish a permanent Senior LGBTQI+ Coordinator responsible for coordinating across the agency with respect to inclusive development programming.

"As LGBTQI+ people face rising discrimination here at home, we must use Pride Month as an opportunity to affirm our commitment to freedom and equality - regardless of gender or sexual orientation - for every person, from Utah to Uganda," said Markey.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23P1025EA  
Estate of:  
Franklin Ernest Pero, Sr.  
Also known as:  
Franklin E. Pero,  
Franklin Pero, Ernest Pero  
Date of Death: 08/12/2021  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Frank E Pero, Jr. of Chester, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Frank E Pero, Jr. of Chester, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/01/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by

an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 03, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
07/13/2023

**LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID HIGHLAND VALLEY ELDER SERVICES MILK BID**

Highland Valley Elder Services Nutrition Program is soliciting open bids for food service milk. The Program serves over 750 meals/day. Begins October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. Sealed bids must be received by August 31, 2023. For more information and a bid packet, email [kslattery@highlandvalley.org](mailto:kslattery@highlandvalley.org)  
07/13/2023

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING Project File No. 607675**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Bridge Replacements Project, W-36-011 & W-36-017, Bridge Street over the Mill River and South Main Street over the Mill River in Williamsburg, MA.

**WHEN:**  
6:00PM, Thursday, July 27, 2023

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bridge Replacements Project, W-36-011 & W-36-017, Bridge Street over the Mill River and South Main Street over the Mill River. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The proposed project consists of replacing the Bridge Street and South Main Street bridges over the Mill River and rebuilding the portion of South Main Street between the two bridges. The traffic pattern in the area will be modified such that in

the final condition both bridges and the section of South Main Street between the two bridges will create a single travel lane, one-way loop to the South Main Street intersection with Route 9 (Main Street). Shared use path accommodations will be added to the South Main Street bridge and extend through the reconstructed portion of South Main Street in accordance with the applicable design guides.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Williamsburg is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7210, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 607675. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or post-marked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT pro-

vides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation

announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

**JONATHAN GULLIVER**  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR  
**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE,**  
P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
07/13, 07/20/2023

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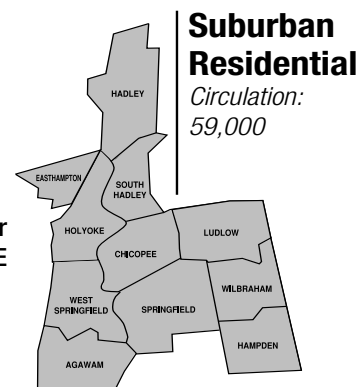
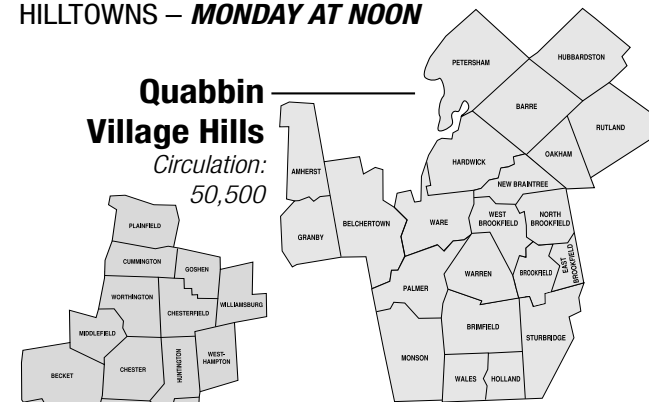
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# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

## Hikers trek to Ashley Lake

WASHINGTON – Saturday’s hike was a loop around Ashley Lake in Washington, on the edge of October Mountain State Forest.

Parking is on Washington Mountain Road/Pittsfield Road where the Appalachian Trail crosses the road with a large sign. Here you can enter on Ashley Lake Road across from parking corner of Beach Road, in 200 feet the Appalachian Trail continues into the woods, we followed the road straight in to the October Mountain State Forest.

At about 1/4 mile there is a short spur on the right taking hikers to the edge of the lake. Head right at the first large intersection to continue onto Ashley Trail paralleling the lake on a corduroy road. Trail is laid with logs because it is wet. Pass by colonial settlements until you reach another junction and head right towards the Ashley Dam.

The Hilltown Hikers did not make it through the loop, the trail was at least six inches under water at 1.5 miles after all this rain so they retraced back and entered from the other end. The Hilltown Hikers will be back on this one when things dry up and the leaves drop, many colonial buildings are here including an old tavern being it an important part of Washington history.

The tower the hikers saw from the trail is a repeater tower, privately installed on the private property across the road. The complete loop with street walking is 3.3 miles, flat terrain with very slight elevation. Ashley Lake Reservoir was built in 1901 and is 106 acres.

It was last inspected in 2016 and was found then in satisfactory condition. It has a high risk of flooding the area including Pittsfield if it was compromised.



This is a view of the dam at Ashley Lake.



Hilltown Hikers are seen on a spur trail to Ashley Lake.



The Hilltown Hikers traveled this corduroy road on a recent hike.



The Hilltown Hikers traveled to Ashley Lake, which is on the edge of October Mountain State Forest.



Here is a view of a stone spillway at the dam.