

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Ashfield, Becket, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Dalton, Easthampton, Florence, Goshen, Granville, Hawley, Haydenville, Hinsdale, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Peru, Plainfield, Russell, Southampton, Washington, Westfield, Westhampton, Windsor, Williamsburg, Worthington

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

July 16, 2026 | Vol. 48, No. 12 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

BLANDFORD

BFPA seeks donation for new roof

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The 2026 Blandford Fair is less than eight weeks away and the usual preparations are ongoing.

But an even bigger task might be completed soon to benefit the fair for years to come.

"If we can raise \$17,000 by this December, the agricultural hall will have a new roof for the 2027 fair," according to Blandford Fair Preservation Association President, Jacob Lemme. This non-profit organization is dedicated to improving the fair's buildings and grounds.

At its annual meeting this fall, the group will be four years old and will have raised \$53,000 for the roof so far. The successful completion of this first big fundraising project will hopefully pave the way for other exciting initiatives.

The BFPA stays in touch with current donors through a website, a Facebook page and with yearly letters. They are always looking for more donors.

Many area residents visited the BFPA tent last



Blandford Fair Preservation Association Director David Hopson with BFPA President Jacob Lemme and Clerk Michele Crane.

month during the town's 250th celebrations.

"It was a great opportunity to explain to potential donors about our goals and plans for the roof," said Lemme. There is some

urgency to the roof replacement because the adult exhibit hall on the second floor has sustained damage to its tin walls and ceiling, which can't be fixed until there is a new roof on the

building.

Over the last several years new, donated windows have been installed. That work will continue this year,

BFPA, page 7

HUNTINGTON

Subcommittee works on bullying policy changes

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The policy subcommittee of the Gateway Regional School Committee met twice so far this summer to consider changes to the district's existing bullying policy.

This work came out of the June School Committee meeting where twenty parents, alumni and current students came to express concern on this issue, stemming from an incident posted to a social media page run by district parents.

Recent graduate Ashley Tacke described an incident she'd experienced at a class fundraiser in March.

Tacke had posted the incident on the Parents of Gateway Regional Students Facebook page after graduation, which resulted in a great deal of community controversy,

disturbing responses and the page administrator pulling the post.

The post described Tacke driving herself to the fundraiser at Red Robin in Holyoke. On her way to school the next day, she noticed writing on her back windshield, which reportedly said, "I hate (racial slurs)."

She stated that she reported the incident to Dr. William Sullivan, Principal who she said was appalled. A number of people were called to the office. Tacke described the incident as a hate crime, part of an ongoing pattern of harassment from a group of her classmates over all four years.

The incident and had been previously reported. The most recent incident could have endangered her when driving around Western Massachusetts

POLICY, page 3

BLANDFORD

Select Board discuss Hazardous Mitigation Plan

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Senior Land Use and Environment Planner from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Derek Strahan met with Select Board Monday, July 6.

He presented highlights of the draft of the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan

which assessed natural hazard risks and an action plan to help "reduce the town's vulnerabilities."

The goal is to "minimize" loss of life and property damage due to naturally occurring hazards that include, but not limited to dam failure, drought, earthquake, flooding, severe seasonal storms etc.

Some things the town already does, such as using reverse 911 for emergency alerts, clearing culverts to prevent flooding, Zoning bylaws, protecting wetlands, regulating wireless communication towers, emergency shelters, wildfire management and more.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan in its entirety is on the town's website at townof-blandford.gov.

End of year transfers

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera reminded the board that departments were responsible for turning in wage and salary updates for the coming fiscal year for payroll. There will have to be two meetings with the Finance Committee for end-of-year transfers of funds, and an invoice from the Chester/Blandford Police for the end of the year. Heating fuel account is being used up and reimbursement for Americans with Disabilities Act compliant improvements at Town Hall for \$5,286.62 which included communication device upgrades in the gym and select board room, walkers and wheel chairs for use in town hall and improved signage.

Vegetation management

PLAN, page 7



Turley Publication photo by Mary Kronholm
Senior Land Use and Environment Planner from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Derek Strahan met with the Select Board Monday, July 6.

HUNTINGTON



Turley Publications photos by Wendy Long

Above, Alicia Boyer, information officer and Paul Graham, president of Gateway Little League met with the Huntington Select Board. Right, Harry Rock, Race Director of the Westfield River Wildwater Races, presented the Select Board and Fire Departments with appreciation paddles for their work and support of the 2026 races.

Gateway Little League to pay for water at Petis Field

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Paul Graham and Alicia Boyer of Gateway Little League met with the Select Board at their Wednesday, July 8 meeting, to discuss water issues at Pettis Field, where the organization maintains a baseball field.

At issue was the use of town water at the field, which the board said needed to be paid for by GLL.

Attending his first official meeting as a selectman was Rob Drabiuk. Also attending were selectmen Roger Booth, re-elected

chairman at that meeting; John McVeigh and Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin.

Graham said that the baseball field has been on Pettis field with no water meter for the past 50 years. They had just reseeded the field, but the water had not been turned on for them to irrigate the seed. They reached out to the town's Water and Sewer Department and were told that the town wanted to put a meter on it for GLL to pay for their usage.

Graham said that when the meter was installed, they

made the water line unusable for GLL. Graham is a plumber, who redid the work to make it usable. He said he would be happy to shut the water line off at the end of season and drain the meter annually.

"Anybody can go in and use the water right now," Graham said, adding that GLL would be happy to pay

WATER, page 2

PAGE 7



Becket.....	6	Hilltowns.....	2	Plainfield.....	2	South Worthington.....	6
Blandford.....	7, 8	Huntington.....	2, 3	Public Notices.....	8	Stockbridge.....	6
Business Directory.....	3	Obituaries.....	11	Puzzle Page.....	11	Westfield.....	3
Chester.....	6	Opinion.....	4, 5	Sandisfield.....	6		
Classifieds.....	10	Pittsfield.....	8	Schools & Youth.....	9		



HILLTOWNS

MassDOT announces I-90 upcoming night roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces overnight bridge repairs and bridge painting on I-90 eastbound and westbound in the towns of Stockbridge, Blandford, Montgomery and Russell.

All work is weather dependent and will take place at the following locations and times:

In Stockbridge, bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 westbound at mile marker 5.9 on the night of Thursday, July 16 from 7p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning.

In Blandford, bridge painting will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 26.2 nightly beginning now through the morning of Friday, July 17 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m.

In Montgomery and Russell, bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 36.0 nightly beginning now through the morning of Friday, July 17 from 6:30 p.m.-4 a.m.

Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work areas. Drivers traveling through the area 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 to view live cameras, travel times, real time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real time conditions.

Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

PLAINFIELD

Concerts at 7 new season begins

PLAINFIELD – Concerts at 7 announces a new season of its celebrated summer series of chamber music at the classically beautiful and acoustically magnificent Plainfield Congregational Church, 356 West Main St., Route 116.

The 2026 program of four concerts on the last four Mondays, Aug.10, Aug. 17, Aug. 24 and Aug. 31at 7 p.m. features a piano quintet, a piano trio, a string quartet and an ensemble of thirteen winds.

The concerts are offered free of charge. The venue is handicapped accessible.

They rely entirely on donations, which are gratefully accepted at the door or through their website.

For further information, people may visit their website at www.plainfield-concertsat7.org or call artistic director David Kramer at 413-464-2755.

On Monday, Aug. 10 at 7 p.m. Quartetto Mosso: Ronald Gorevic, violin; Beth Welty, violin; Delores Thayer, viola; Yoonhee Ko, cello; with Manon Hutton De-Wys, piano perform. Selections include Caroline Shaw’s “Blueprint”(2016); Dmitri Shostakovich’s “String Quartet no. 4 in D major, op. 83” (1949) and Robert Schumann’s Piano Quintet in E-flat major, op. 44 (1842).

On Monday, Aug. 17 7 at p.m.The Lysander Piano Trio: Itamar Zorman, violin; Liza Stepanova, piano; James Kim, cello perform. Their selections includes Enrique Granados’s “Intermezzo from the opera Goyescas,” arranged by Gaspar Cassadó; Franz Josef Haydn’s “Piano Trio in G Major, Hob. XV:25”; Jennifer Higdon’s “Color Through” (2016) and Arnold Schoenberg’s “Verklärte Nacht, op. 4” (1899), in an arrangement by Eduard Steuermann.

On Monday, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m. members ofThe Borromeo Quartet: Nicholas Kitchen, violin; Melissa Reardon, viola; Yeesun Kim, cello;with Raman Ramakrishnan, cello perform. Selections are form Ludwig van Beethoven’s Duet “for two obbligato eyeglasses” for viola and cello, WoO 32; Iman Habibi’s “Relics for viola and cello “(2019); Zoltán Kodály’s Duo for violin and cello, op. 7; and Anton Arensky’s String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, op. 35 (1894), scored for violin, viola and two cellos.

On Monday, Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. Winds from the Northeast: wind players from the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, the Coast Guard Band, and elsewhere in the Northeast will perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s “Serenade for thirteen winds in B major,”K. 361/370a. This seldom heard masterpiece is scored for two oboes, two clarinets, two basset horns, two bassoons, four horns and contrabassoon.

This program is supported in part by grants from local cultural councils, which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

HUNTINGTON

WATER

from page 1

for their water use as long as no one else can access it.

After the meter was installed, but unsecured, Graham said that a total of 32 gallons of water was used at a rate of \$.85/gallon and totaling \$27.

Boyer, who serves as information officer for the League, said that if the meter and water line can be locked and only accessible to GLL, they would be happy to pay for water usage.

Both she and Graham, League President) said that the water had been shut off for their All Stars Game and for the final three games at Pettis. “Shutting it off early was an incorrect move on whoever made that decision,” Graham emphasized.

Booth apologized for the miscommunication, but said that the League would have to cover the cost of the meter installation, its annual maintenance and the water usage, which ups the cost.

Graham asked if they could put it to a town vote that the town would cover the cost of Little League water. He said 30 Huntington families take part in GLL.

But Booth explained that under Federal drinking water law, it is the user only who pays for town water.

Boyer asked what the town would do if GLL didn’t use the field. “I would remove that pipe all together,” Booth answered. “I could care less if the brown grass dies every year.”

“This is for the kids of the town,” Graham said as the conversation grew more heated. “You are biting off your nose to spite your face.”

To which Booth asked if he wanted his taxes to go up or go down, adding that the budget was \$200,000 over the levy limit this year that they bought down with free cash.

Booth moved to have GLL pay for the installed meter and water going forward. Drabiuk seconded that and also voted yes. McVeigh voted no, pointing out that the town does the mowing on Pettis Field, but GLL maintains the rest. Graham confirmed this, pointing out that they had paid for redoing the infield this spring.

A second motion said that the costs would begin after Jan. 1, 2027; this one also passed with McVeigh abstaining. Graham said that the water should not be turned on next year until the cost is approved by the League’s executive board. McVeigh said he wanted GLL to pay for the water, but the Water and Sewer Department to pay for the meter.

“It’s a shame,” Graham said as he left. “What just happened is wrong, to my mind.”

Several days after the meeting, Water Commissioner Karon Hathaway confirmed that the cost of the meter installation was \$500. Because that meter is on an outdoor field, it is in an uninsulated box and the line and box also need to be drained and blown out at the end of each season, when the water line is shut off.

However, she said that the Water and Sewer Department is planning to waive the turn on/turn off fees for GLL. Once the meter is paid for, they will only be responsible for their water usage.

Presentation of honorary paddle prizes

The Huntington Select Board also met with Harry Rock, Race Director of the annual Westfield River Wildwater Races that take place every April in Huntington and Russell. Rock first presented McVeigh (Deputy Fire Chief) and Booth with honorary paddle prizes, thanking the select board and fire department for their work in supporting the 2026 canoe races, which had 283 paddlers.

Alternate river race start

Rock has been working with Police Chief Brian Kowal on an alternate starting point for next year’s Classic Race will be impacted by the work that will be underway by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation on the green bridge at the beginning of Route 112.

This has typically taken place in the Mass DOT yard below and south of the bridge; however, the yard will not be usable for next year’s race as it will be staging heavy equipment and materials for the bridge work.

Rock and Kowal shared a plan to start the race on the river behind Stanton Hall. Boats could be staged on the town green and parking for volunteers might be adequate using the public parking across the road.

All quickly agreed that the challenge for this starting point will be controlling the drop off of the boats and together the group started looking at ways to manage the flow of that part of the event.

Once dropped off, the paddlers would have to bring their cars to Strathmore Park and be shuttled back to the start. Organizers bring boats back to Strathmore Park from the end of the race in Woronoco and use a bus shuttle to reunite paddlers with their boats at the park. This will be revisited after several options are explored further.

Other business

Among other business, the board unanimously voted to up the police detail rate for Huntington officers. Currently at \$60 per hour, the rate is much lower than surrounding towns of Russell, Blandford and Chester (\$72) and Worthington (\$75).

Kowal said this is a recruitment and retention issue for his department. “Part-time officers are a hard commodity to come by these days and detail work is what attracts them,” Kowal said. A motion to raise the detail rate to \$72 an hour for the first 8 hours, rising to \$108 for hours above 8 hours in a day, and on weekends and holiday shifts passed unanimously.

The Army Corps of Engineers has its own contracted rate with the town, which would not be impacted by this.

Board of Health Administrative Assistant John Bergeron also met with the select board to look at FY ‘26 transfers that will cover an outstanding bill of \$20,951.19 with Huntley Associates, P.C.

Booth said he will have a draft procedure for the town to burn waste oil brought in from small quantity in-town businesses with a proper permit, municipal vehicles and Huntington homeowners. People can no longer drop off oil for incineration; they will need proper documentation certifying that the used oil is not mixed with gasoline or pesticides and assuming liability if that is inaccurate.



Not Just Septic Work...

EXCAVATING AND TRUCKING INC.

CALL...413-568-3164

SEPTIC SYSTEMS DESIGNED & INSTALLED

TANK REMOVAL

LAND CLEARING

SITE WORK

DRAINAGE

AND MUCH MORE!

CALL TO DISCUSS YOUR NEXT PROJECT!

Serving Hampden & Berkshire Counties

WWW.COOPEREXCAVATINGMA.COM



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine

2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom

Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

207-607-9333



LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

INFLATION

PRICE BUSTERS

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN COUNTRY STYLE POR RIBS.....

\$1.99 lb

USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.....

\$2.22 lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST

\$2.89 lb

USDA INSP. SLICED FROM OUR DELI GENOA SALAMI

\$5.99 lb

USDA INSP. SLICED FROM OUR DELI PROVOLONE CHEESE.....

\$4.55 lb

GREAT ON THE GRILL

USDA INSP. STOREMADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN

\$2.99 lb

USDA INSP. STOREMADE BOURBON BBQ MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST

\$3.99 lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOINS 10 LB. BAG

\$1.87 lb

USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB. BAG

75¢ lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE DOUGH PIE 22 OZ

\$4.99 ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN MATLAWS STUFFED CLAMS 20 OZ.....

\$6.99 ea

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 71/90 CT 1 LB. BAG

2/\$9.00

USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE

\$12.99 lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS FLANK STYLE

\$8.99 lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG

\$5.29 lb

SALE DATES: 7/16-7/22/26

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

90 Meat Outlet

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

JAMESON HIGH MEADOW FARM

Pick Your Own Big Juicy Mountain Grown Cultivated

BLUEBERRIES



410 Skyline Trail, Chester, MA 413-354-9609 Open Daily 9 am - 4 pm



BASIC PISTOL COURSE WITH LIVE FIRE

For License To Carry Permit

\$140

Call For Class Dates/Details

413-537-0620 Matt Marcinkiewicz muscione@hotmail.com

GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor



Should I claim spouse benefits now, or my own?

Dear Rusty:

I am writing to get advice on the optimal time to sign up for Social Security benefits.

I am a 64-year-old female and my birthdate is August 1961. My husband is already taking his SS benefits, so I have also wondered if it be advisable to take spousal benefits or full benefits.

Signed:
Wondering Spouse

Dear Wondering:

If you take your Social Security benefits at age 64, they will be permanently reduced.

And, for information, you cannot take only your spousal benefit; you must take your own SS retirement benefit whenever you claim and, if you are entitled to more as your husband's spouse, you will also get a "spousal boost" to bring your monthly payment up to what you are entitled to as a spouse.

If you claim at any time before your SS Full Retirement Age of 67, both your own SS retirement amount and your spousal boost amount will be actuarially reduced for claiming early.

All of which means that claiming before your FRA (e.g., at 64) will mean your monthly benefit will be less than 50% of your husband's monthly FRA amount.

Now, for clarity, it's important to know how spouse benefits are calculated: if your FRA entitlement is less than 50% of your husband's FRA entitlement, then you will get a "spousal boost" added to your own SS retirement amount.

Note that FRA amounts are always used to calculate spousal amounts, regardless of the age at which benefits are claimed. If your husband waited until age 70 to get a higher monthly benefit or even if he claimed before his FRA, your spousal amount would still be based on his FRA entitlement. If your FRA benefit is less than half of his FRA entitlement, you will get a spousal boost. If not, you won't.

Assuming you will be entitled to a "spousal boost," the decision you must make is whether to claim early (e.g., now at 64) or wait until you are 67 to get your maximum amount as your husband's spouse. The fac-

tors to consider are these:

Are you still working? If so, claiming before FRA means you will be subject to an annual earnings limit until you reach FRA. The earnings limit for early filers in 2026 is \$24,480 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (the limit increases a bit yearly).

If you substantially exceed the earnings limit by working, you may even be temporarily ineligible for SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or stop working full time.

Do you expect your husband to predecease you? If so, then your benefit as a widow will be 100% of the larger amount he is collecting when he passes provided when that occurs you've reached your FRA and your own SS retirement is less.

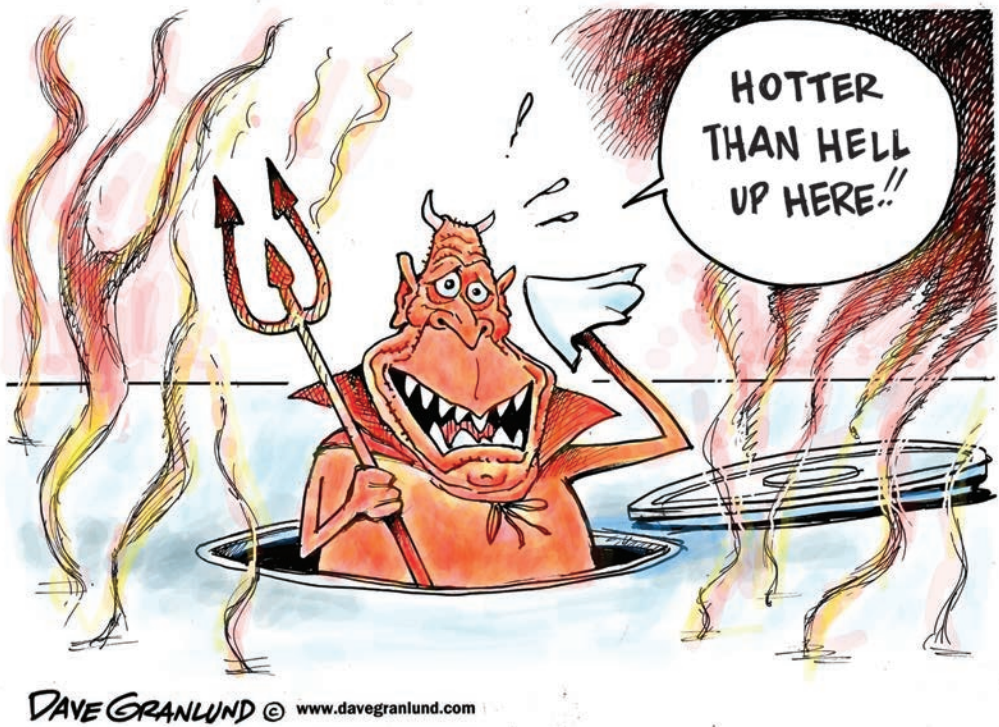
Depending on timing, that may mean that taking a reduced spouse benefit now, which will be replaced by your larger widow benefit later, is a logical choice.

What is your own life expectancy? If you have health issues or have other reasons to believe you will not achieve "average" life expectancy average is about 87 for a woman your current age, then claiming your Social Security benefits early is likely a prudent choice.

So, as you can see, you must evaluate your personal circumstances to make this decision. Although we aren't able to say exactly when you should claim your SS benefits, I hope this provides the information you need to make an informed decision.

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.

OPINION



GUEST COLUMN

Endless supply of flowers for the windowsill

I must admit that I feel unmotivated in the flower garden this summer. It took me forever to sow my seeds, and even longer to install the resulting plants.

The seedlings finally went into the ground a good two weeks after Memorial Day (gasp!) but they are making up for lost time despite my bad attitude! Just last week the first bouquet graced the kitchen window-sill.

In a few weeks I will have a collection of different vases filled with flowers in that very spot; it's something I look forward to doing every summer. But if I am going to have flowers to fill the vases, I have to keep up with maintenance.

It's not enough to sit back and watch them grow.

Here is some great advice worth repeating that will help to keep summer annuals looking their best.

Deadhead

Most annuals will continue to bloom abundantly if they are deadheaded on a regular basis. Deadheading is an entertaining term used to define the removal of spent flowers.

You see, a plant produces flowers for one purpose: to survive. Once a flower has been pollinated it will produce seed, seed that will grow future plants.

If a plant has produced enough flowers that have gone to seed it will consider its job to be done, flower production will cease and it will begin to decline.

By deadheading, we keep the plant in reproductive mode, in other words, in flower! When you remove dying blossoms, make sure to pinch off the entire flower, not just the petals, or it will do no good. Include the stem

as well to keep the plant tidy.

Petunias, marigolds, zinnias and salvia, among others, are examples of plants that require regular dead-heading to look their best throughout the growing season.

Shear them back to encourage new growth

Some annuals start to get a leggy appearance about now. Others may have brown tips. These plants require more drastic measures to bring back their youthful good looks.

Give them a good haircut. Simply look within the plant and find healthy, green growth. Cut calendulas, pansies and snapdragon back to that point.

Alyssum or lobelia can often be sheared to within inches of the ground.

Don't worry; they won't look bad for long! You can jump start regrowth with a bit of liquid fertilizer.

Feed your plants

Occasionally, even plants that are well fertilized at planting time begin to have issues. If foliage is pale and flower production is nil, pull back the bark mulch and sprinkle some organic fertilizer granules at the base of each plant.

Cultivate gently and water in.

You can also use a water soluble liquid fertilizer every couple of weeks. If going natural is your cup of tea, make some!

Compost or manure tea has long been used to keep growth lush. Steep a burlap bag of either compost or

aged manure in a large trash bucket filled with water and use as needed. Smaller batches can be made right in a watering can.

Likewise, there are numerous blends of seaweed and fish emulsion on the market that can be watered in or used as a foliar feed.

Water, water, water

If Mother Nature fails to provide at least an inch of rain each week, then unfortunately we must make up the difference. It is so easy to forget to perform this very obvious maintenance task, especially when we are busy doing other things.

If we are negligent often enough, however, our plants will suffer.

Sometimes pale green foliage is a nitrogen deficiency from simply a lack of water. When you water the garden, remember to do so in the early morning, if possible, to avoid evaporation.

Early evening is another good option, but try to get the job done with enough time for the foliage to dry before darkness sets in.

Deep waterings twice a week are far better than numerous quick showers. The former will promote deep, penetrating roots and future drought tolerance.

Well-watered, well-fed and well-groomed annuals will reward you with beautiful bountiful blossoms for another two months or more – well worth the effort for vases of flowers on the windowsill!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.


in my
BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

My daughter, Paula, saw a black and white warbler and as the name implies it has black and white feathers.

The black and white warbler is easy to spot and easy to recognize. Its former name was the black and white creeper. Like the white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches and the brown creeper, it climbs about on the trunks and major limbs of trees seeking insects in the bark crevices. It often feeds low, and nests

even lower, usually on the ground.

This warbler inhabits forests, woodlands, shrubs, Savannas, and thickets from Alaska and the north, California, eastern Canada, Florida, Great Lakes, mid Atlantic, New England, northwest, Plains, Rocky Mountains, southeast, southwest, Texas and Western Canada.

Spring migration begins rather early and takes place mainly at night. Migration is spread over a lengthy period



Black and white warbler

in both spring and fall.

The sexes are similar and are about 4.3 to 5.1 inches long. The black and white warbler feather pattern is stripes, white central crown stripe and black streaks on back and sides.

The adult male has black throat and cheeks and the female and young paler or

whitish there.

Their song is a thin, high-pitched, monotonous "weezy-weezy-weezy-weezy" like a squeaky wheelbarrow. The call is a chirp or chip.

The black and white warbler breeds in mature or second-growth forests, deciduous and mixed. Males arrive on breeding grounds in late April, before the females.

During courtship, a male chases female, with much singing and fluttering. The female lays five creamy white eggs flecked with brown in a cup shaped nest on the ground or less than two feet above under dead leaves or limbs or against a shrub or tree. They are commonly parasitized by cowbirds.

Both parents feed the young and the young leave the nest in eight to 12 days after hatching. The young are

able to fly well.

Adapted to creeping along limbs and on tree trunks to feed, they forage on dormant insects from tree trunks and branches in early spring. They switch body from side to side at each hop while foraging. Sometimes, they fly out after insects in the air.

They eats primarily insects. It feeds on a wide variety of caterpillars including those of spongy moth, beetles including bark beetles, click beetles, and wood borers, ants, flies, bugs, leafhoppers, aphids and other insects, spiders and daddy longlegs.

Massachusetts Audubon sightings

Unusual bird sightings reported in late June to the Massachusetts Audubon

Country Journal

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

The Country Journal (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.



WEB
countryjournal.turley.com



PHONE
(413) 283-8393



ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

ISSN NO. 0747-2471

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

ELECTION LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Campaign news

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

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

OPINION



your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

It's usually good news when the doctor says you or a loved one can come home from the hospital. Sometimes, though, it's a mixed blessing.

Hospital discharge sometimes means that further hospital care won't improve someone's health condition, and the hospital is eager to get someone else in that bed. People are discharged faster these days, often with significant lingering health issues that have to be seen to.

In the hospital, there's a staff of nurses, nurse aides, therapists and others to care for you or a loved one. When you get home, though, it's just you and maybe a spouse or other family member. That's why the home health industry is booming.

In 2020 (the most recent data available), approximately 3 million patients received home health care services in the U.S., often following a hospitalization or skilled nursing facility stay. They are being cared for by some 12,000 home health agencies, more than 80 percent of which are for-profit companies.

Home health is something patient advocates know a lot about – and there's a lot to know. Here are some of

the things I've learned over my years as an RN and nurse advocate.

Prepare in advance if you can

A best-case scenario is that you know you'll need some help when you get home. For every day you spend in a hospital, you lose a month of muscle tone and mobility, so depending on how long you've been hospitalized, you may need considerable help.

Will you need a walker or wheelchair? Shower chair? A first-floor sleeping arrangement? A bedside commode? These are all things that can be planned for if you know they're coming. Very often, hospitals have social workers who help patients navigate after-hospital care. Medicare has a thorough discharge planning guide on its website; search Medicare Publication No. 11376 in your browser.

Other things to think about are trip hazards like small pets and throw rugs and having some ready-made or frozen meals on hand.

Arrange for help in advance, too

A spouse may be standing by, but they may need help themselves. Adult children, friends or neighbors

Advice on care at home after the hospital

may be able to pitch in. If there's no one you can call on for help – and more than 50 million Americans over 50 are aging on their own – it's time to contact a home health agency. A patient advocate, who is likely familiar with the home health landscape in your area, is a good resource and go-between.

The cardinal rule is: Ask for assistance when you need it to avoid further complications from falls, lack of nourishment or lapses in personal care.

Understand what Medicare covers

Home health care spending grew at an annual rate of more than 10% in 2024, and shows no signs of slowing down. A significant chunk of the spending in 2023 – \$148 billion – was by Medicare. But Medicare doesn't cover everything, so you may have out-of-pocket expenses.

Medicare-covered home health services include skilled nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology services when ordered by a doctor. Part-time or intermittent home health aide care is covered only if you're also getting those services at home.

Skilled nursing care can include wound care, injections, nutrition services and monitoring unstable health conditions. Medicare also covers durable medical equipment when prescribed by a doctor, such as beds, walkers, wheelchairs, pumps and oxygen.

Medicare doesn't pay for 24-hour a day care, meal delivery, homemaker services or personal care services that help with bathing, dressing,

grooming, etc.

Questions to ask a home health agency

There are a zillion questions you could ask, but I think these are among the most important:

- How long has this agency been in business and is it licensed to perform home health care?
- Can you provide references, or can I speak with previous clients?
- Do you accept long-term care insurance, Medicare or Medicaid? If so, do you bill insurance, or do clients pay you and then file for reimbursement?
- How do you recruit and select caregivers, and do you perform background checks?
- Are your caregivers employees or contractors? Are they bonded?
- Can I meet caregiver candidates and select the ones I want?
- What should I do if my caregiver doesn't show up as scheduled?
- How often is the care plan reviewed?

- How do I communicate concerns and questions to you?

Research has found that patients who recover at home have better outcomes, which is why the hospital-at-home movement is growing. So if you're going to be recuperating at your place, don't go it alone.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have have MS is not one of them.

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at nationalmssociety.org.



BIRDS

from page 4

Society included swallow-tailed kites in Mashpee, a Mississippi kite in Harwich and a Franklin's gull and two royal terns in Provincetown.

Central Massachusetts sightings in the Ware River watershed included: a great blue heron, belted kingfisher, yellow-bellied sapsucker, two northern flickers, two eastern wood pewees, two alder flycatchers, two least flycatchers, three eastern Phoebe's, four great crested flycatchers and two eastern

kingbirds, a yellow-throated vireo, a blue-headed vireo, six warbling vireos, 110 red-eyed vireos, a common raven, two red-breasted nuthatches, two house wrens an eastern bluebird, 43 veery, a hermit thrush, a wood thrush, 34 gray catbirds and four cedar waxwings.

Also reported were a blue-winged warbler, four yellow warblers, seven chestnut sided warblers,, three black-throated warblers, three green warblers, a Blackburnian warbler, seven

pine warbles, on prairie warbler, three black and white warblers; two redstarts, 56 ovenbirds, 28 yellow-throated warblers, a Canada warbler, nine scarlet tanagers, six eastern towhees, a field sparrow, three swamp sparrow, a rose-breasted grosbeak, four indigo buntings, two bobolinks and three red crossbills..

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



NURSEADVOCATE
ENTREPRENEUR

 www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com

Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393. Corrections will be printed on page 4 or 5.

Visit us at

www.turley.com

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



Chester Baptist Church

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

First Congregational Church of Blandford

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

First Congregational Church of Chester

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

First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

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

Hilltown Community Church

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

Holy Family Parish

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

New Boston Congregational Church

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

Pioneer Valley Assembly of God

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

Pioneer Valley Mennonite Fellowship

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

Westhampton Congregational Church, UCC

Open and affirming. All are welcome.
Pastor Carol Smith
1 Tob Rd., Westhampton, MA 01027
(413) 527-4204
Sunday Worship at 9 a.m.
(Summer hours for July and August)

BECKET

Becket Art Center announces upcoming news and events

BECKET –The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, offer “Creative Modern Dance with Louise,” a gently paced movement class, on Friday, July 17 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

The instructor, Louise Heit, is a choreographer, teaching artist, certified movement analyst and performer whose work has been seen throughout New York City for those over 18.

All ability levels welcome. \$15 per class (\$5 to \$10 for Becket Arts Center members). For registration and more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org. This class will also be offered on

July 24 and 31.

At the Becket Arts Center on Saturday, July 18 from 12:30-2:30 p.m., exhibiting artists Grace Lang and Ramiro Davaro-Comas will talk about mural-making and the community in connection with their show “Super-Stories.” The presentation will also include a short history of muralism in America. Free and open to the public. For more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

The art center hosts a free opening reception for “The Chromatic Countryside,” on Saturday, July 25 from 2-4 p.m. This group show demonstrates the ways in which the

natural world can influence the visual arts, through material, subject or muse.

Participating artists are Ivor Parry, Smitha Piedilato, Amy Pressman, Ingrid Rabb and Abbie Steiner. The exhibition continues until Thursday, Aug. 13. For more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

The Becket Arts Center will host an outdoor concert featuring the O-Tones on Saturday, July 25, from 5-7 p.m. at North Becket Park on Maple Street.

A 30-year Swing, Blues and Soul/Motown band, the O-Tones trio is comprised of Mary Witt (vocals

and bass), Ben Kohn (vocals and piano) and John Cabán (vocals and guitar). Part of the Arts Center’s “Music Brings Communities Together,” series, the program is open to the public and free, though donations are always welcome.

People may bring lawn chairs, picnics, coolers, blankets and kids. In the event of rain, the concert will move indoors. For more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

The Becket Arts Center present “Channeling Rachel Carson – a Nature Love Story for Our Time” with Diane Edgecomb on Friday, July 31

from 6:30-8 p.m.

This empowering one-woman show brings to life the sense of wonder Rachel Carson, best known for her pioneering environmental book “The Silent Spring,” wrote about so movingly at the end of her life. Award-winning author and storyteller, Diane Edgecomb will weave a hauntingly beautiful tale of her own journey through the marvels of nature. She will also lead an immersive post-show workshop to encourage the sharing of personal experiences in the world around us. For registration and tickets (\$10 to \$25), people may visit becketartscenter.org.

On Saturday, Aug. 1, the Becket Arts Center will offer a Sashiko Mending Workshop, a Japanese technique for strengthening and decorating fabrics.

Instructor Rachel Barclay advises participants to bring a couple of items from home for repair or embellishment using a Sashiko pattern of their choice. All tools and materials will be provided. All skill levels welcome. Workshop fees from \$25 for students to \$80 for non-Becket Arts Center members. Pre-registration by July 25 is required. For registration and more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

SANDISFIELD

Friends of Sandisfield Fire Department to hold fundraising event July 25

SANDISFIELD – Friends of Sandisfield Fire Department hosts a fundraising event at the Sandisfield Orchard, 101 New Hartford Road, on Saturday, July 25 from noon-4 p.m.

The Heart and Soul Summer Social features real barbecue and traditional sides from Berkshires-based MadJacks, live music, games, “touch-a-truck” and an apple dessert contest. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$10 for children ages 5-12.

Friends of Sandisfield



Fire Department received official nonprofit status in February and launched

its first initiative to help Sandisfield attain a “HEARTSafe Community” designation.

Through community-wide CPR training and the placement of portable defibrillator units around the town, Sandisfield can join several other “HEARTSafe” Berkshire towns in increasing cardiac arrest survival rates.

For more information about the Heart and Soul Summer Social, people may visit FriendsOfSFD.org or call 413-441-9542.

STOCKBRIDGE

Summer Arts and Crafts Show returns

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Summer Arts and Crafts Show will return Saturday, Aug. 15 and Sunday, Aug. 16 on the grounds of the Town Offices and Old Corner House, located at 48 and 50 Main St.

Set in the heart of one of New England’s premier cultural destinations, the show attracts visitors from across the region who come to enjoy the Berkshires’ renowned summer festivals, museums, historic homes and scenic beauty. The event takes place along the town made famous by Norman Rockwell’s iconic painting, Main Street at Christmas.

The free outdoor show will feature 70 jury-selected artists and craftspeople displaying a wide variety of handmade works, including paintings, ceramics, fiber arts, jewelry, sculpture, photography, woodworking and more.

Show hours are Saturday, Aug. 15 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, August 16 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free.

Among the returning artisans is Emily Chase Wilson of Mostrom & Chase Handweavers, a family business celebrating 50 years of textile craftsmanship.

Working from home studios in the Berkshires, Emily creates contemporary chenille scarves in vibrant colors, while her mother, Diane Mostrom

Chase, produces classic cotton throws, baby blankets and table linens.

Each piece is thoughtfully handwoven, blending traditional techniques with modern design.

Also returning is Barbara Doncaster of Great Barrington, whose vivid watercolor paintings capture the serenity of landscapes, the vibrancy of gardens, and the beauty of flowers. Jeanne Tuthill of Happy Valley Fiber Arts in Amherst creates unique handmade bags inspired by her love of color and textiles.

Ariel Kessler of Medford works in painting, collage, printmaking and ceramics, using colorful imagery and rich textures to explore themes of memory, storytelling, home and nature.

Lillian Forziat of Garden City, New York, creates oil paintings that blend realism and impressionism, depicting still lifes, landscapes and seascapes with warmth and sensitivity. Also exhibiting is Julia Rose Miner of Stockbridge, whose latest collection of textured, abstract landscape paintings reflects her ongoing exploration of vibrant color, materials, scale, and the natural world. Diagnosed at age seven with Stargardt disease, a form of visual impairment, she experiences the world through a constant vibrating visual texture. Drawing on her

sense of touch as a source of sight, Miner creates distinctive works that transform her unique perspective into richly layered and expressive paintings.

Other featured exhibitors include Louis Wallach of Stockbridge, who creates one-of-a-kind pieces from sustainably sourced wood inspired by the natural environment; James Takaki of Brattleboro, Vermont, whose work includes sculpture, lighting, garden art, and custom metalwork and Lisa Anderson of Great Barrington, whose jewelry reflects a lifetime of travel and cultural exploration.

Additional exhibitors include Roxanne Parent of Conway, who creates handmade pottery and Susan Pillay, whose unique infant and children’s wearable art features hand-painted designs using eco-friendly dyes and soft natural cotton fabrics.

The Stockbridge Summer Arts & Crafts Show is organized by the Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce, a nonprofit organization representing more than 100 local businesses. For more information about the Stockbridge Summer Arts & Crafts Show, people may call the Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce at 413-298-5200, email info@stockbridgechamber.org or visit StockbridgeChamber.org.

CHESTER

Hamilton Memorial Library lists events

CHESTER – Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 Route 20, welcomes the community to the upcoming presentation, “Staying Well with Hemp” on Saturday, July 18 at 11 a.m.

An educational talk presented by Western Massachusetts Hemp Inc., discussing the basics of hemp, the endocanna-

binoid system and how hemp can be used for daily wellness. Hemp juice samples will be available to try.

Read with a Monster takes place on Tuesday, July 21 with Bright Spot a certified therapy dog. Parents and guardians can sign up to read the dog. Ties are available

starting at 3 p.m.

Upcoming music lessons have a date change. The three dates are now Wednesdays, July 22, Aug. 5 and Aug. 12 music lessons begin at 1:30 p.m. and continue through the afternoon, so RSVPs are required to schedule an exact lesson time by calling 413-354-7808.

DCR, Hilltown Hikers plan group hike

CHESTER – DCR interpretive coordinator Alec Gillman will lead a hike to Boulder Park Group in the Chester Blandford State Forest on Saturday, July 17 at 10 a.m.

Participants should park in the main lot off Route 20 at Boulder Park. The hike is an easy two mile son gravel paths, dirt ans some stone stairs and bridges

This is one of the hidden Hilltown History gems. In 1933 President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps, a federal program to provide employment opportunities for young men during the Depression.

The program’s focus was to improve the country’s forests and recreational resources. The CCC was active in Massachusetts from 1933 to 1941. At the peak of CCC operations the state had a total of 51 camps enrolling 10,000- men.

One of the most lasting contributions of the CCC was the construction of park recreational facilities. Built of rough-hewn, on-site materials, the lodges, cabins, shelters, picnic pavilions, bath houses and other structures were designed to reflect the color and texture of their surroundings.

Hiking trails, stone steps, log guardrails and stone retaining walls along roads were artfully designed to enhance the visitor’s experience of the park.

In June 1933, the 113th Company of the CCC, began work in the Southern Hilltowns region of Massachusetts, resulting in a number of facilities in



Submitted photo

This dog maneuvers some of the stone steps along the hiking trail to Boulder Park in Chester/Blandford State Forest. The hike will take place Saturday, July 17 at 10 a.m.

and around Chester, including Boulder Park.

As people walk along the paths, envision the back-breaking labor done by these young men, who chose this work as a means to provide for themselves and their families during a time of economic hardship.

The work of the CCC has left a lasting legacy of parks and other recreational resources for all to appreciate. The men who undertook these projects can be remembered with great pride.

People should register per vehicle on www.hilltownhikers.com. Maps and bottled water are provided. Well behaved dogs are welcome. Event is volunteer lead. Suggested donation is \$15.

People may email westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions.

As always be prepared for rocks, mud and roots, bring trekking poles and a snack

People who want to hike every weekend year round may opt to join the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers.

People may follow them on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube.

Tees, hoodies, hats, patches, water bottles and safety vests will be for sale by donation at the event. People may see all their events, maps, blog and photos by visiting at www.hilltownhikers.com.

SOUTH WORTHINGTON

Sevenars Academy presents concerts on July 19 and 26

S O U T H WORTHINGTON – Sevenars Academy, 15 Ireland St., presents on Sunday, July 19 at 4 p.m. an exceptionally varied “America 250” concert by the Mada & Hugh Piano Duo, the combined talents of Romanian-born pianist Madalina-Claudia Danila and Korean-American pianist, Hugh Sung.

Their dynamic and innovative 4-hand performances captivated audiences worldwide, earning them prestigious accolades, including first prize at the 2024 London International Competition and the 2023 Charleston International Competition, as well as second prize at the 2024 American International Competition.

Their exciting Sevenars program will honor America’s 250th with works of Barber, Bernstein, Carollo, Copland, Gershwin, Higdon, Persichetti, Price, Lawnhurst and Pollack and more including their own arrangements.

For more information on the program, people may visit: https://www.sevenars.

org/july19.

The Champlaine Trio performs “In Her Voice” Music by Women Composers on Sunday, July 26 at 4 p.m. The trio combines the extraordinary gifts of pianist Hiromi Fukuda, violinist Letitia Quante and cellist Emily Taubl.

All three earned degrees from The Juilliard School (among others) and hold

positions in the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Amherst College, the University of Vermont, and Middlebury College.

Among their many distinctions, they were awarded a Vermont Arts Council Grant to record the Croatian composer Dora Pejacevic’s Piano Trio, Op. 29 and that album is now out.

Their Sevenars concert will include this stunning work, along with trios by Amy Beach and Charlotte Sohy. For more information on the program, people may visit: https://www.sevenars.org/july26.

No tickets, as ever, but donations are welcomed at the door, give as you like, but suggested \$20. Refreshments are free.

BLANDFORD

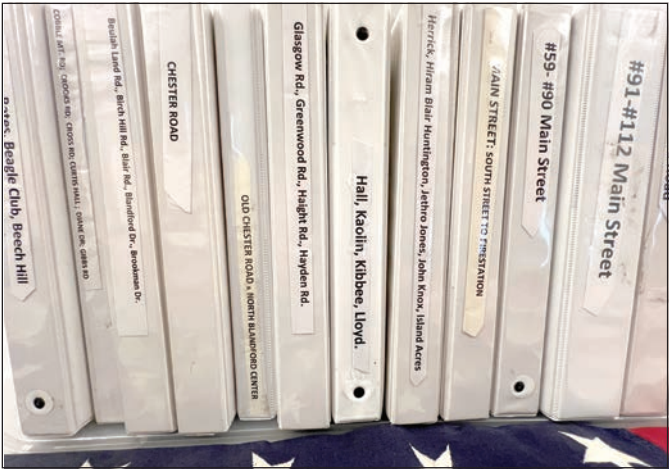
Blandford Historical Society... Did You Know?

Scottish Festival

America’s love affair with the visiting Scots and their colorful “Tartan Army” during the recent World Cup was fun to watch. But around these parts especially in Blandford it’s nothing new. In fact, members of the Blandford Historical Society were the driving force behind what has become



Pat Lucas, one of the founders of the Scottish festival, stand by the Sugar House at the Blandford Fairgrounds.



Photos courtesy of Blandford Historical Society The Porter Memorial Library has a series of Then and Now notebooks with photos by Pat Lucas of every house in Blandford.

the only Scottish festival in Massachusetts and the second-largest in New England, the Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival, this Saturday, July 18, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Look Park in Northampton. **A Wee Idea That Grew** This week also marks the ninth anniversary of the death of one of the festival’s founders, Pat Lucas, who passed away at age 76. At her funeral, Society board member Peter Langmore, a founding committee member and the festival’s longtime Event Chairman, recalled its humble beginnings. “Long ago and not so far away, in a wee town, an idea was born. The ‘Long Ago’ was 1994, the ‘Far Away’ was right here in the ‘Wee Town’ of Blandford, and the ‘Idea’ was to hold a one-time Scottish Festival, name it after the original name of our town and raise money to help restore this historic building, The White Church.” That one-time fundraiser was such a success, it became an annual tradition, now in its 31st year. More



This is the logo for the Scottish Festival.



A Pipe Band is a part of any Scottish festival.

SCOTTISH, page 8



Nancy Ackley celebrated her birthday at the Council on Aging picnic.



Joyce Kidder celebrates her birthday at the COA picnic



Daniel Kidder, Joyce Kidder’s son, celebrated his birthday.



Jim Kronholm celebrated his birthday.



Joann Martin gets ready to serve the tortellini salad. Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm



Super Griller Pat Lombardo flips the burgers and turns the dogs



Mary Powers celebrated her birthday.

COA celebrate monthly birthdays

BLANDFORD – Pat Lombardo, all-time grill master for the Council on Aging picnic, served hot dogs and burgers with or without cheese. The meats were accompanied by tortolini salad laced with myriad veggies,

potato salad, home made baked beans with different kinds of beans. Then for dessert there was either a wedge of fresh watermelon or the favorite treat, Root Beer Float, with soda and vanilla ice cream. Birthdays for Nancy Ackley, Joyce and son Daniel Kidder, Jim Kronholm and the town’s most senior citizen, Mary Powers. COA luncheons will return to the regular twice a month at noon on the second and fourth Fridays.

BFPA from page 1

with the building needing to be leveled at a corner of the sill plate in order to finish that work. This historic building was built in 1869 and has had many additions and renovations since that time. Be part of the roof project by donating funds, either on line at bfpa.net or mail a check to BFPA, P.O. Box 178, Blandford MA 01008. The BFPA is a 501(c)3 making donations tax deductible. Gifts of any size are welcome and those over \$250 are recognized on a plaque that will eventually hang in the agricultural hall.

PLAN from page 1

Eversource will be doing planned vegetation management in several areas of town and abutters have been notified. The work will be done on transmission right-of-way in town and removal of trees that have died. Work will be done on Hayden Road, South Street, Main Street, George Millard Road and North Blandford Road. Chair Jackie Coury reported that the town is seeking compensation from Eversource for legal fees accrued during Intervenor work. **Copy of Constitution** State Sen. Paul Mark hand-delivered a large copy of the Constitution of the United State to each

of the 57 municipalities in his district and Blandford is one. **Other business** During public comment Lisa Bruno, Sue Racine and Sara Melanson asked for ways to get better, more up to date information, such as agendas and meeting minutes on the town’s website and a discussion on information access improvement ensued. The board then had a roll-call vote to go into executive session to discuss strategy sessions for negotiations with nonunion personnel as proscribed by general law c.30A, sec. 21 (a)(2) and not to return to open session.

ADVERTISING SALES

HELP WANTED

➤ Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?

➤ Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?

➤ If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:

Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email:jamie@turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Chester Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing
Sunday, July 19th, 2026 10AM – 12PM,
Town Hall-COA Room
Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, the Chester Conservation Commission will review the following:
RDA submitted by Lynn Proulx, 187 RT. 20, Septic replacement
RDA submitted by Denis Proulx, 170 Johnson Hill Road, Septic replacement
RDA submitted by MassDOT Hwy Division for work on RT. 20
07/16/2026

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS
Notice is hereby given that

Gateway Regional School District Office of Pupil Services will be destroying the special education records of students who graduated or left school in 2019. If you or your child received special education services and you wish to obtain the special education file, please call 413-685-1017. Records will be destroyed on August 4, 2026.
07/16, 07/23/2026

Town of Blandford Request for Bids
The Town of Blandford is accepting bids for the Porter Memorial Library Addition and Renovation Project. Project documents available 7/8/2026 through www.biddocs.com. Please reference project B26-3Z6X. All bidders must use BidDocs.com for all bidding processes.
07/16, 07/23/2026

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS PARKING REGULATIONS
Approved by Selectboard on 5/6/2026, Effective 8/10/2026

SECTION 1 STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING
SECTION 1-1 General Prohibitions
No person shall allow, permit or suffer any vehicle registered in his name to stand or park in any street, way, highway, road or parkway under the control of the Town of Huntington in violation of any of the Traffic Rules or Orders adopted by the Selectboard and in particular in any of the following places except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the direction of a police officer or traffic sign or signal. Vehicles found parked in violation of the provisions of this Section may be moved by or under the direction of an officer and at the expense of the owner to a place where parking is permitted.

- Within an intersection.
- Upon any sidewalk.
- Upon any crosswalk.
- Upon the roadway in a rural or sparsely settled district.
- Upon a roadway where parking is permitted unless both wheels on the right side of the vehicle are within twelve (12) inches of the curb or edge of the roadway, except upon those streets which are designated as one-way streets. On such one-way streets vehicles shall be parked in the direction in which said vehicle is moving and with both wheels within twelve (12) inches of the curb. This shall not apply to streets or parts of streets where angle parking is required by these regulations.
- Upon any roadway where the parking of a vehicle will not leave a clear and unobstructed lane at least ten (10) feet wide for passing traffic.
- Upon any street or highway within ten (10) feet of fire hydrant.
- In front of any private road or driveway.
- Upon any street or highway within twenty (20) feet of an intersecting way, except alleys.
- Within fifteen (15) feet of the wall of a fire station or directly across the street from such fire station provided signs are erected acquainting the driver of such restriction.
- Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when such stopping, standing, or parking would obstruct traffic.
- Within twenty-five (25) feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing when there are no gates at such crossing, or otherwise within five (5) feet from the gate.
- On a bridge and the approach thereto.

SECTION 1-2 Penalties
Parking violations shall be subject to fines as per the current Town of Huntington Parking Violation Form used by the Huntington Police Department.

SECTION 1-3 Authorization of Police
It shall be the duty of the Police Officers of the Town of Huntington to enforce the provisions of this Article. Violators of this Article shall be punished in accordance under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 22.

SECTION 1-4 Liability for Damage During Removal or Storage
The contractor shall be liable to the owner for any damage arising out of negligence caused to a vehicle in the course of removal and storage.

SECTION 1-5 Police to Keep Record of Towed Vehicles
The Police Department shall keep a record of all vehicles towed or removed under the provisions of this Article. Such record shall be retained for one (1) year and shall contain the following information:

- The registration of the vehicle.
- The location from which it was towed, and time and date of tow order.
- The location to which it was moved.
- The fee charged for towing.
- Name of towing contractor, if any.
- Name and rank of officer who authorized towing.

07/16/2026

PITTSFIELD

Community coffee chat takes place July 21

PITTSFIELD – On Wednesday, July 22 Chat Topic, an informal drop-in session from 8-9:30 a.m. outside Dunham Mall, 100 North St., brings together downtown stakeholders to learn about opportunities for volunteerism, sponsorship, business involvement and upcoming events.

Registration for DPI Community Coffee Chats is not required but is appreciated. The registration deadline is Tuesday, July 21 at noon by visiting at downtownpittsfield.com.

“Our Community Coffee Chats are more than networking. They’re about giving small business owners practical tools, local resources and a place to connect with one another. Each session focuses

on real-world topics identified by our businesses, from insurance and workplace policies to technology, financing and volunteer opportunities. By bringing people together to share knowledge and experiences, we’re helping build a stronger, more connected business community,” saysRebecca Brien, managing director, Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.

“1Berkshire embodies our name. We believe in the value of a united Berkshire business community, and we know that the best things we do as a region, we do together. We’re thrilled to partner with Downtown Pittsfield Inc. for the Community Coffee Chats because these gatherings create real connections locally to potential collaborators, funders, mentors, volunteers, friends, and more. It’s amazing what you can accomplish over a cup of coffee,” says Kevin Pink, deputy director of Economic Development, 1Berkshire.

People may email Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. at rbrien@downtownpittsfield.com or call 413-443-6501 with questions.

Since 1983, Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. has been the recognized leader, facilitator and principal advocate for downtown. DPI has developed strategies and programs, mobilizing resources resulting in a creative, lively, sustainable environment.

DPI is a membership organization consisting of property owners, businesses,

residents, cultural & entertainment venues, restaurants and non-profit organizations who have joined forces to increase economic activity by promoting downtown as a great place to live, work, and play. DPI works in partnership with the various city departments which has led to major streetscape projects, parking improvements, and marketing initiatives.

The mission of Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. is to strengthen and promote Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.’s membership through advocacy, collaboration, and celebration.

For more information on Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., people may visit downtownpittsfield.com or call Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. at 413-443-6501.

St. Joseph’s Polish Picnic returns July 19

PITTSFIELD – The St. Joseph’s Polish Picnic returns to the grounds of St. Joseph’s Church at 414 North St., on Sunday, July 19 from noon-5 p.m., continuing a 60+ year tradition.

The Polish Picnic is one of the last ethnic festivals in the Berkshires and the event is expected to draw several thousand people. The picnic has free admission and is open to the public.

A highlight of the Polish Picnic is the homemade Polish food prepared by St. Joseph’s parishioners. The food includes Pierogi, Kapusta, Golumbki and Kielbasa. American food and adult beverages will also be available for purchase.

Entertainment, consisting of Polish music, will once again be provided by the popular Eddie Forman Orchestra beginning at 1 p.m. People should bring a lawn chair to relax and enjoy the music or get up and dance a polka.

An outdoor Polish Mass will kick off the festivities at 11 a.m. The Polish Picnic will be from noon-5 p.m.

KiddyLand will provide games and activities for children. Raffles will also be available for adults, and new this year, there will be craft vendors.

BLANDFORD

SCOTTISH

from page 7

than 6,500 people attended last year.

Named for Blandford’s original settlement, “Glasgow Lands” or “New Glasgow,” founded by Ulster Scots in 1735, the festival outgrew its hometown, moved to Westfield in 1999 and settled at Look Park in 2004.

Today, there’s something for everyone: world-class pipe band competitions, Highland dancing, heavy athletics, dozens of vendors, Celtic music, living history, animal exhibits and the ever-popular Children’s Glen. Adults enjoy sold-out whisky tastings and the lively Celtic Pub, while families return year after year. Proceeds support local nonprofits and scholarships for piping, drumming and Highland dance.

The Heart of the Festival
A proud member of Clan Gordon, Pat and her husband Bob started the dance and athletic competitions, organized the children’s games, recruited volunteers, built stages, painted walls, whatever it took.

Langmore remembered Pat’s determination.

“Pat hand-made about two dozen St. Andrew’s flags, which lined North Street leading up to the Games. Thinking the event would not recur and, Pat told me, against Bob’s advice, they sold those flags. So, the next year Pat made two dozen more.”

Their younger daughter Sheila was one of the early Highland dancers. Today, the Bob Lucas Memorial Trophy is awarded annually

The Pipe Band performs.

to the winner of the Master Athlete competition.

Beyond the Festival
Pat never rested on her laurels. During her decade as Society president, she helped build the Sugar House at the Blandford Fairgrounds, documented Blandford’s historic cemeteries and gravestone carvers and photographed every house in town, creating the foundation for the Society’s “Then and Now” library, organized by road and documenting Blandford’s homes and families.

Pat and Bob Lucas are buried in Blandford’s Hill Cemetery.

Their legacy lives on each July as thousands gather to celebrate a festival that began with one simple idea. It’s another reminder that Blandford may be a small town, but it has a remarkably big history and often its biggest ideas reach far beyond its borders.



This man participants in a competition at a Scottish festival.

→Support
Your Local
Newspaper

HELP WANTED

- Produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.
- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines.
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo.

EXPERIENCED WRITERS & JOURNALISTS

Send writing samples with resume to:
PAULA OUIMETTE
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to:
pouimette@turley.com

Turley
Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

✉ 📁 💡

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Holyoke Community College lists graduates

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community Colleges lists local graduates, who earned Associate Degrees.

They are: Kaitlyn Phillips of Blandford, Rebecca Thelma Boisseau of Chester, Ian Cartmill of Chester, Alisha M. Desnoyers of Chester, Alexandra Joanne Adams of Easthampton, Hind Bourhim of Easthampton, Scarlett Nancy Brewer of Easthampton, Gabrielle D’Amour of Easthampton, Gavin Daniel Downer of Easthampton, Chandler Morgan Frantz of Easthampton, Jeremiasz Grzegorz Galicki of Easthampton, Laura Gangne of Easthampton, Allen Hall of Easthampton, Renee Hill of Easthampton, Steven James Hoynoski of Easthampton, Elishama Idovia Jean of Easthampton, Stien Nangoi Kusuma of Easthampton, Nicole Lapointe of Easthampton, Morgan Ann Latour of Easthampton, Anna Marie Mascaro of Easthampton, Madelynn Ainsley Mathers of Easthampton, Ryan James O’Donnell of Easthampton, Shaina Rose O’Malley of Easthampton, Hannah Papadakos of Easthampton, Emma Lynn Pelletier of Easthampton, Harley River Perusse of Easthampton, Summer Rose Poudrier of Easthampton, Donna Marie Smith of Easthampton, Coreen Mary Stevens of Easthampton, Caleb Michael Subocz of Easthampton, Kyle Andrew Thoma of Easthampton, Zoe Jennelle Thomas of Easthampton, Rosio Soledad Yunga of Easthampton, Lazo of Easthampton, Leah Brooke Zielenski of Easthampton, Edward Cade Benson of Florence, Alexa Mae-Wakefield Colly of Florence, Sofya Gaybaryan of Florence, William Frank Grady of Florence, Nicholas Grimaldi of Florence, Oliver E. King of Florence, Matthew Krueger of Florence, Timothy Finch Miller of Florence, Rachel Elizabeth Olds of Florence, Liliana Grace Pollard of Florence, Jack Michael Shaughnessy of Florence, Megan Marie Tierney of Florence, Sage M. Young of Goshen, Teagan Ann Andross of Haydenville, Jadin Jean Kies of Haydenville, Colette Rose Piotrowski of Haydenville, Shaliyah Toledo-Cruz of Huntington and Jordan Elizabeth Panniello of Montgomery.

Other local students receiving Assoiates Degrees are: Sarah Kathryn Belote of Northampton, Amaranth Anders Cole of Northampton, Sophie Cronin of Northampton, Ryan Jay Gould of Northampton, Theodore Paul Guglielmo of Northampton, Lillian Alice Ionata of Northampton, Alyssa Kaylee Jost of Northampton, Lijah Sky Joyce of Northampton, Lydia Disthanusorn Ladd of Northampton, Erin Margaret Lampron of Northampton, Anna Katherine Lippincott of Northampton, Norma Alexandra Mejia Ayala of Northampton, Justin Charles Michaels of Northampton, Orlando Morales of Northampton, Beatrice Parent of Northampton,Hayley Autumn St. George of Northampton, Nathan William Wack of Northampton, Brie-Ann Michelle Wilber of Northampton, Harrison Scott Woodland of

Northampton, Nallely Maria Abreu Garcia of Pittsfield, Jennifer Labaw of Pittsfield, Ruby Stella Chicoine of Russell, Olesya Bondar of Southampton, Jessa Mae Craig of Southampton, Emerson William Folta of Southampton, Kathleen Mary Ley of Southampton, Alexander Austin Mayo of Southampton, Colin Michael Noel of Southampton, Liam Charles Packey of Southampton, Damien Einar Pearson of Southampton, Matthew Steven Riel of Southampton, Stephanie Noelle Sawyer of Southampton, \ Laila Jayne Skawski of Southampton, Ambria Lynn Stine of Southampton and Isabelle Judith Wiener of Southampton.

Local students also earning Associates Degrees are: Willa Devaux Aieta of Westfield, Josephine Marie Barton of Westfield, Dawn Lynn Bellows of Westfield, Molly Eleanor Bernardara of Westfield, Britny Linsy Bonilla of Westfield, Sean Patrick Boyle of Westfield, Abigail Beth Brenzel of Westfield, Corrin Olivia Brockney of Westfield, Sky Joyce Budreau of Westfield, Bryan Clark of Westfield, Jeffrey Michael Collingwood of Westfield, Jocelyn L. Correia of Westfield, Evander Curbelo of Westfield, Kimberly Annabell Dallas of Westfield, Zabria Ashley Davis of Westfield, Shanna Deng of Westfield, Amanda Jillian Dupelle of Westfield, Finn Evans of Westfield, Omar Fazil of Westfield, Isek Flaherty of Westfield, Laura Gilbert Willmary of Westfield, Salma Fazil Haleemdeen of Westfield, Elizabeth P. Hancharonak of Westfield, Katherine Anne Heacock of Westfield, Tahjae Neveah Hernandez of Westfield, Danielle Hctor of Westfield, Olivia Elizabeth Irving of Westfield, Cole Alexander Jasmin of Westfield, Jill Michele Krueger of Westfield, Elizabeth Sasha Kudrya of Westfield, Autumn LaFountain of Westfield, Tania C. Matos-Marcano of Westfield, Evelina Mocanu of Westfield, Anjouli Tatiana Mora of Westfield, Michael Steffan Navarro of Westfield, Solimar Navarro-Nunez of Westfield, Nereida Pagan of Westfield, Michael David Phelps of Westfield, Kyle Allen Philleson of Westfield, Gabriella Marie Rivera of Westfield, Hannah Rivera of Westfield, Noah Matthew Rivera of Westfield, Aamyli Marie Roman of Westfield, Lynn Anne Roselli of Westfield, Thomas David Russell of Westfield, Jordyn Josephine Sanders of Westfield, David Tomas Santiago of Westfield, Ivan Alexandrovich Seleznev of Westfield, Kristene A. Sporbert of Westfield, Logan Michael Symmons of Westfield, Mercedes Ann Trombley of Westfield, Stephen Walbridge of Westfield, Erika L. Whitworth of Westfield, Aimee Elizabeth Williams of Westfield, Karina Yantsevich of Westfield, Ishetia Rose Black of Westhampton, Anjou Lynn Edwards of Westhampton, Gallivan Olivia Florek of Westhampton, Anna Hlava of Westhampton, Barbara Nichols of Westhampton, Kelsey Ann Bean of Williamsburg and Geoffery John Gugeon of Williamsburg.

Colleges and universities announce graduates

- Roger Williams University**
Bachelor's Degree

Ava Cieplinski of Westfield
Thomas Vaillancourt of Easthampton
- Dickinson College**
Bachelor of Arts summa cum laude
in Spanish and Portuguese studies and political science

Sofia Rowan Marie Getoff-Scanlon of Easthampton
Daughter of Christopher Scanlon and Sarah Getoff
- East Connecticut State University**
Bachelor of Science in business administration

Sydney Goyette of Westfield
- Georgia Institute of Technology**
Master of Science in computer science

Eric Wardner of Westfield
- University of Hartford**
Doctor of Physical Therapy

Ashelyn Baran of Westfield

Master of Science in organizational psychology
Abigail Cervonayco of Westfield
- University of Tampa**
Bachelor of Science in business administration

Jessica Slowik of Westfield

Colleges and universities list President’s and Dean’s lists

- PRESIDENT’S LIST**
University of Rhode Island

Allysen Burke of Westfield
Quinn Rowe of Westfield
- DEAN’S LIST**
University of Albany

Owen Ouimet of Westfield
- University of Rhode Island**

Melanie Burek of Montgomery
Delaney Cantwell of Cummington
Julia Langenheim of Cummington
Addie Lashway of Williamsburg
Dylan Mcginn-Stevens of Easthampton
Larissa Riley of Chesterfield
- University of Tampa**

Andersen Craven of Easthampton,
Class of 2029 nursing BSN-PRE major
Riley Marney of Williamsburg,
Class of 2028 nursing BSN-PRE major

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

3 EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Current recipients of our weekly paper, receive town news, updates, local stories and articles of interest throughout the hilltowns.



Get the Country Journal mailed directly to your home

Each week you'll receive

- TOWN HALL NEWS
- BUSINESS HAPPENINGS
- AREA EVENTS
- COMMUNITY STORIES
- SCHOOL COVERAGE
- CLASSIFIEDS
- & MORE!

3 WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE

1 Use our website to securely subscribe online at COUNTRYJOURNAL.TURLEY.COM

2 CALL US 1-413-283-8393

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER!

Yes!

I want to subscribe to the Country Journal!

Enclosed is my payment for:

☐ \$311 year in state

☐ \$361 year out of state

☐ \$462 year in state

☐ \$562 year out of state

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED

☐ CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

3 Please complete the form below, and mail it in a secure envelope to:

Country Journal

24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

☐ New

☐ Renewal

☐ Gift

A GIFT CARD WILL BE SENT TO ANNOUNCE YOUR GIFT!

Name

Address

City: State: Zip:

Phone:

Credit Card #:

Exp. Date: CW2 code:

Signature:

☐ GIFT TO:

Name

Address

City: State: Zip:

CJ21TMC

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$240.00
Seasoned cut & split \$375.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: AGED HARDWOOD. cut/split 16" \$325 per cord; 2 cord minimum plus delivery. Allard Brothers 413-665-8041.

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

WANTED
WANTED! CASH for:

- Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
- Electronics & Audio Equipment.
- Sports Cards.
- 70s/80s/90s Toys.
- Antiques & Collectibles.

Much, much more!
Call/Text Sam 413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY
ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.
BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:
Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.
Call Paul 413-206-8688

Find archives of this local newspaper at
www.newspapers.turley.com

JUNK REMOVAL
A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL
Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Fully insured.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

SERVICES
**A B Hauling and Removal Service**
2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487.

ELECTRICIAN
PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN
• Licensed & Insured •
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.
NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
Call today to schedule your appointment.
(413) 366-1703
(Lic. #24046-A)

DANNY'S ELECTRICAL SERVICES LLC
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small, free estimates, service upgrades, pools, budget friendly, committed to satisfaction, dependable & insured. Master Lic. #20773-A, Business Lic. #9310-A1. Text or call Daniel at 413-218-3301 or visit my website at dannyselectricllc.com to fill an online work request

GAGNON ELECTRIC
All types of electrical work. Fully insured. All work fully guaranteed. Free estimates. Lic. #14960A. 413-533-8867

SERVICES
ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.

HOME IMPROVEMENT
HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST
Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor.
Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

LANDSCAPING
A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

HOME IMPROVEMENT
**Walker Home Improvement**
Handyman Services
Licensed & Insured
Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!
(413) 687-5552

SERVICES
****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789.

LAWN & GARDEN
HEADS UP LAWN SPRINKLER LLC.
Need sprinkler repair or complete system check? We fix leaks, replace heads, troubleshoot problems, and add zones/upgrade existing systems. Fast reliable service without big company prices. Call 413-279-4122 to set up an appointment.

MASONRY
STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PAINTING
PRO PAINTING
Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. All minor carpentry. 413-310-5099.

PLUMBING
GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

Classified Advertising DEADLINE FRIDAY AT NOON

SERVICES
PRESSURE WASHING
HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHING.
We use brushes and state of the art equipment. We remove grime and mold from homes, patios, fences, walkways, all decks, concrete & driveways. Senior Discounts. For free estimates call Bill (413)519-9800.

RUBBISH REMOVAL
BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

TREE WORK
AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

H & H TREE SERVICE All phases of tree care. Call Dave 413-668-6560 day/night.

PETS
TWO, 1-YEAR-OLD Green Cheek Conures ready for a new home. Fully acclimated to humans. Clean bil of health from VCA EL. \$350/each or \$600/pair. 413-301-1530.

HELP WANTED
SERVERS WANTED
Inquire at Girly's Grill,
1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call 413-284-0005.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**
ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

**Turley Publications, Inc.**
www.newspapers.turley.com
AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS
BARRE GAZETTE
COUNTRY JOURNAL
CHICOPEE REGISTER
THE JOURNAL REGISTER
THE LUDLOW REGISTER
QUABOAG CURRENT
THE SENTINEL
THE SUN
WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
TOWN REMINDER
WARE RIVER NEWS
 turleynews
 TurleyPublications

**STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!**
Subscribe Today!
**Turley Publications, Inc.**
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
Make checks payable to Turley Publications

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

OBITUARIES

Theodore R. Frink



Theodore R. Frink, 94, passed away at Hampden Post Acute Care in Wilbraham on Sunday, July 12, 2026. He was born in Westfield to the late Emery and Esther (Karr) Frink.

Ted served as a member of the Air National Guard for several years and was proud of his service. He was a truck driver and dispatcher for Texon for over 23 years, when he retired from there, he went to work as a custodian for Gateway Regional High School and Chester Elementary School, which he loved very much.

He was also a volunteer on the Russell Fire Department and retired from them as a Captain. Throughout his life, Ted enjoyed riding his Indian motorcycle, horseback riding, going fishing with family, doing carpentry work and playing various organs he owned over the years. He especially enjoyed sharing his love of organ music with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Sadly, Ted was predeceased by his beloved wife



of 63 years, Catherine O. (Langlois) Frink in 2020, his two brothers, his four sisters and two grandchildren, Justin Frink and Kelsey Frink. He is survived by his loving children, Samuel Frink and his wife Christine of Becket, Craig Frink and his wife Diana of Chelmsford, Dr. Timothy Frink and his wife Stephanie of Coweta, Oklahoma and Theresa M. Frink of Russell, eight grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

A Funeral Home Service will be held for Ted on Friday, July 17, 2026 at 11a.m. in the Firtion Adams Funeral Service, 76 Broad St., Westfield, followed by burial in Russell Cemetery, Russell. Visiting hours will precede the service from 10-11a.m. in the funeral home. Donations in memory of Theodore's life may be directed to the Russell Fire Department, 65 Main St., Russell, MA 01071 or to the Hilltown Ambulance Fund, 1 Bromley Road. Huntington, MA 01050. www.firtionadams.com

DEATH NOTICES

BROWN, CATHIE R.

Died June 9, 2026
July 25 at 2 p.m. Celebration of Life
Middlefield Fair Grounds, 7 Nell Road, Middlefield

FRINK, THEODORE R.

Frink, Theodore R.
Died July 12, 2026
Visiting hours July 17 from 10 to 11 a.m.
at the Firtion Adams Funeral Home, 76 Broad St., Westfield
Funeral Service July 17 at 11 a.m.
at Firtion Adams Funeral Home

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

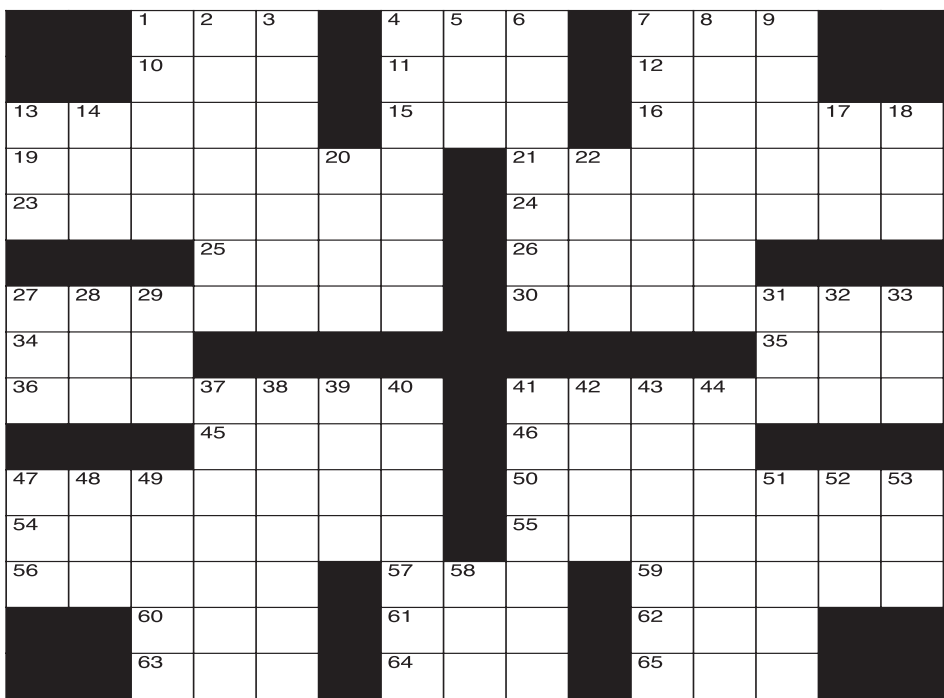
Digital Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.

\$12.50
Each

Purchase a photo that recently ran
in one of our publications.

Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request



CLUES ACROSS

- Tire pressure measurement
- Request
- Clairvoyance
- 007's creator
- Adult male
- God of battle (Scandinavian)
- Cloths spread over a coffin
- Breeze through
- Ladyfish genus
- We all take them
- Earl's jurisdiction
- Members of U.S. Navy
- Rummy-like card game
- Affected by injury
- Member of a Semitic people
- Withdrew from a union
- Woman's cloak
- Spanish river

CLUES DOWN

- Indoor plant
- Marketable
- Rather
- Collected
- A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- Irish hip-hop trio
- Ageless
- Course requirements
- Pokes at
- TV channel
- They ___
- Cooking material
- Investment account
- Iron-containing compound
- Swiss river
- Small coin (French)
- Electronic countermeasures
- Taxi
- Helps little firms

CLUES ACROSS

- Unhappy
- Midway between northeast and east
- Glowing
- Item to be addressed
- An informal body of friends
- Intrinsic nature of something
- Neural structures
- Brews
- A place for ships
- One who sings holiday songs
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Scottish town
- The most worthless parts
- Sticky
- Put to work
- Precursor to the EU
- Retrospective analysis (abbr.)

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, now is the perfect time to socialize with others. Romance is in the air and you are going to go out of your way to treat someone special in the days to come.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Your idealism is aroused this week, Cancer. This is a time for you to become more involved with others, and you might find it rewarding to work with a charity.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Expect to meet people under unique circumstances, Libra. You may engage with someone who needs your help or can teach you something new.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Look for ways to help a coworker who could use some help right now, Capricorn. You have the power to give them what they need right now, more so than others.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, some people express their affection for others by buying them gifts. You have the ability to know just what a person needs at a given time and provide that to them.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

A friendship may turn romantic, Leo. You'll have to tread carefully depending on how you want to see things go. Listen to your emotions carefully in the days to come.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, enjoy spending time with friends and other groups because this is a feel-good time for you. If you feel affectionate toward someone, those feelings will become more passionate.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

This is a time for social outings and special dates, Aquarius. Figure out how to feel sensitive to the needs and feelings of loved ones as only you can do best.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, a pleasant week awaits you, and one this inspires your compassionate and tender side to come to the forefront. You may feel unselfish and spiritual, and relationships will be easy.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

This week you are compelled to use your influence to help someone directly or indirectly, Virgo. Figure out what you can do to affect change.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

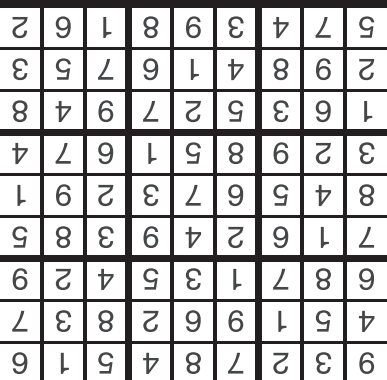
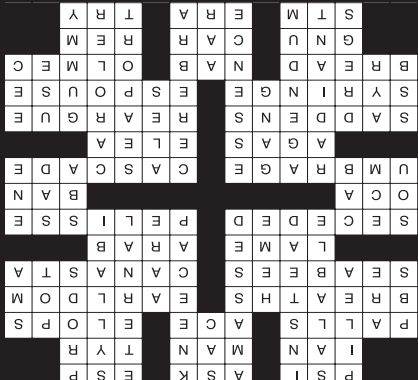
People notice you more than usual, Sagittarius. This is an excellent time to enjoy the company of others, including, friends, your partner or spouse.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

True generosity is giving what is needed, Pisces. Assist a relative as best as you can, even if that is simply serving as a sounding board.

answers



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!

WESTFIELD AUTO PARTS INC



AUTO PARTS
& SUPPLIES

NATIONALLY ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS

WHOLESALE RETAIL

- ★ Complete Auto Machine Shop Service
 - ★ Engine Rebuilding Of All Kinds
 - ★ Authorized Caterpillar Hydraulic Hose Dealer
 - ★ Hydraulic Hoses
- Call "DALE" 8-12 BIRGE AVE., WESTFIELD

Dial 568-8944 or 568-1611 FAX # 568-1554

Now stocking
Car Quest
Filters made
by WIX,
Amalie Oil,
Bailing Twine
&
Tractor Parts

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing sunglasses, a blue tank top, and black shorts, stands on a large, flat rock. She is pointing her right hand towards a waterfall in the background. In the foreground, a small, scruffy dog with tan and black fur is wearing a bright yellow life vest with blue straps. The dog is looking towards the right. The waterfall is a wide, shallow cascade of water over a rocky ledge. In the background, there are some buildings and a fence.

A photograph of two women and a dog kayaking on a river. The woman in the foreground is wearing a white tank top with the number '34' and 'KAYAK' printed on it, a white bucket hat, and sunglasses. She is smiling and holding a yellow paddle. A small black dog, possibly a French Bulldog, is sitting in the front of the kayak, wearing a red life vest and a green hat. The kayak is green and has 'BITAOSTAR' written on it in yellow. The woman behind her is wearing a blue and white patterned tank top and a pink bucket hat. They are on a calm river with green trees in the background.

A group of people and a dog are enjoying a day on a lake. In the foreground, two women are standing in the shallow water, smiling at the camera. They are wearing tank tops and sunglasses. Behind them, two inflatable rafts are floating on the water. One raft is blue and yellow, and the other is yellow and blue. A small dog is sitting on the blue and yellow raft. In the background, there are green hills and a clear blue sky with some clouds.

Hilltown Hikers take a swim in Inner Goose Pond in Becket

A woman wearing a pink hat, sunglasses, and a blue life vest is paddling a blue and yellow 'EXTRA WIDE' kayak on a calm lake. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The kayak has 'EXTRA WIDE' printed on its side. In the background, two other people are kayaking on the water, and a dense forest of green trees lines the shore under a clear blue sky.

A photograph of a person in a white kayak on a calm lake. The person is wearing a pink shirt and a white cap. The lake is surrounded by dense green forest on the right and a grassy hill on the left. The sky is blue with some clouds. In the foreground, there are several large, dark rocks in the water.

A photograph of a bridge over a river. The bridge has a large concrete arch supporting a steel truss structure. The river is calm, and the surrounding area is rocky with dense green trees. The sky is blue with some clouds.

The old bridge to Strathmore Mill crosses the Westfield River.

Submitted photos



Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Summer event
FREE OF CHARGE in our **Autumn Fest Supplement**
which will be published September 9, 2026.
Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches
over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.
Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public



**Deadline
for Calendar
submissions is
August 19.**

**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 _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

**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 "Summer Event" in the subject line of your email.**